



Centennial Anniversary
1921-2021

The Flash Paper

January 2022

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Prez Sez

It was an honor to receive the Top Hat award from the club and it is a privilege to serve another year as President of Omaha Magical Society. I would be remiss if I did not take time to talk about the group effort that is required for both. The Omaha Junior Magicians Group has been especially on my mind as we look forward to having **Michael Ammar** as our Zoom guest for this month's meeting, more on that below. I am thankful for **Steve Lindeman, Patrice Fisher, and Amjad Alawimari** for their support as we have worked with our budding young magicians over the last couple of years, especially with the adaptations required by Covid and the unique challenges that Zoom has presented in teaching magic. If you would like to know what it is like, the next time you are on Zoom with a friend or relative, try teaching them the Scissor Shuffle.

As some of you had a chance to see last month, we have been using the Discover Magic curriculum that **Michael**

Ammar helped design. Besides the props that you saw, there are videos, full color instructions, and "Top Secret" file folders with bonus effects and magic history. The bonus videos cover magic with common items like cards, coins, rubber bands and the like. We have explored classics like Clippo, Mental Epic, Salt Shaker thru Table, Thieves and Sheep and so much more. If you know of a young person who is showing an interest in magic, feel free to tell them about us and point them toward the Youth Classes portion of our website. Who knows what can happen when you mentor a young person on their magical journey?

See you online for our Zoom gathering with **Michael Ammar** on January 17th at 7:00 p.m. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our December Meeting



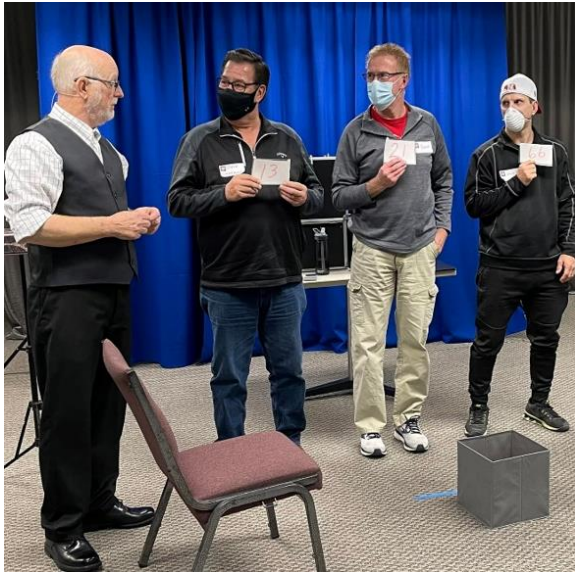
Two Acts in the Gift of Giving

Act One - Our last meeting of the year went off with a bang, or should I say pop. This refers to the rope illusion, Pop off the Head, performed by magician

Larry Brodahl, the featured magician for our December monthly magic event. He entertained us with his masterful sleight-of-hand using ropes and scarves, and, after each, he graciously explained the effect. It was billed as a lecture but was actually a really fun, interesting master class.



Larry began with his twist on The Professor's Nightmare, followed by Grandma's Necklace, both using a white rope and a red rope tied together. Magically, he separated these two ropes, or did he? His technique is so smooth and effortless it didn't matter because of our sheer joy in watching him.



Larry working with Steve, Bruce and John

Not only do we know Larry for his tight scripting of humorous banter, but we learned that he makes his own props. He created his own gimmick rope for the two routines he performed and then described how it was designed and how to handle the transfers from hand to hand. In addition, he explained the psychology behind using different colors for the ropes or scarves or any other props for these types of effects. The red and white colored ropes are visual cues that convince the brain that there are two separate ropes.

Last, we were entertained with a scarf illusion called Knot, Not Knot. The props are two plastic bowls, two red scarves, two yellow scarves (again with the psychology!) and one clip for chips. The tricks are essentially the same, just scarves versus ropes, but Larry's matter-of-fact delivery makes his audience not realize it or just not care because he is so good. His Andy of Mayberry persona is well honed after thirty years as a professional magician.

It was great planning to sponsor Larry as our last act for

the year. He is very active in the club, so folks knew his set was not to be missed. Even with the busy schedules that the holidays bring, his act drew twenty-seven members (17 in person and 10 on Zoom) to our new location and stage. After he performed each effect, he taught us, step-by-step, the skilled techniques to practice in order to become such a smooth entertainer. Thank you, Larry, for giving your magic to us as we bring in a new year.

Act Two - Another highlight of the night was our OMS members celebrating our President, Steve Nespor. He was awarded our Top Hat Award for his consistent service to our club and to the art of magic. We congratulated Steve for building our Omaha Junior Magician training program. Teaching twice a week for the past two years, he is the lead for a team of three teachers. Drawing upon his experience with other youth programs, Steve provides an organized, detailed, and fun approach to the Discover Magic curriculum. We appreciate his skills with children aged seven to thirteen. Despite the hurdles produced by a prolonged pandemic, we have not missed a beat. Our classes have continued thanks to the use of ZOOM as a critical tool.

This accomplishment is evidenced by the fact that we have doubled program participation. There are more than fifteen students now, due to the excitement for magic that Steve brings to teaching. This enthusiasm is evident by the consistent attendance every week.

At the beginning of this year, I interviewed Steve. His hope was to grow the excitement of new magicians through various avenues of opportunities and learning. He has certainly accomplished those goals with our junior magician classes as well as with the prideful participation and collaboration he practices as our OMS President. If you know Steve, please send him a note of congratulations for the leadership and expertise he brings to the Omaha Magical Society.

Between the entertaining show and lecture by Larry Brodahl and our pleasure in recognizing Steve Nespor, December was indeed a gift of giving. - **Patrice Fisher**



Our Monday Night Magic meeting on January 17th is a Zoom meeting.

Monday Night Magic

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY

Featuring
MICHAEL AMMAR

Since his FISM win in 1983, Michael's impact on the world of magic has been indisputable. Searching his name on YouTube only provides additional examples of his skill and well-earned reputation. Now thanks to the magic of Zoom he will be with us - sharing a few of his favorite things from decades of creating his vast and diverse body of work.

Broadcast Exclusively on Zoom
<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>
No charge for this event.
MONDAY, JANUARY 17 | FROM 7-8 PM (CST)

Taylor Made Home Solutions

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE ZOOM MEETING](#)

With a **THANK YOU** to our sponsor Taylor Made Home Solutions™ (Doug Taylor), we will be hosting **Michael Ammar** as our **Zoom** guest for January's Monday Night Magic! January 7th from 7:00 – 8:00PM

2022 OMS Officers

- President – Steve Nespor omahamagician55@gmail.com
- Vice President – Bruce Jacoby..... bruce@colorfulmagic.com
- Secretary – Patrice Fisher patricekfisher@yahoo.com
- Treasurer – Bob Gehringer gehringerr@cox.net
- Sgt-at-Arms – Tim Begley tpbegley@cox.net
- Executive Director - Dave Arch dave@sandler.com



ON THEIR OWN PHONE a volunteer freely and secretly selects a single word from a list of 100. No force. Nothing spoken. Nothing written down.

The volunteer then reads to the performer a list of ten words drawn from the full list of 100 that includes their chosen word - trying not to indicate to the performer which word is their word.

In spite of reading the ten words in any order they wish and trying their best not to give the performer a clue, the performer successfully determines the word on which the volunteer is thinking **WITHOUT ANY FISHING**.

- The performer's phone is NEVER in play throughout the performance.
- Can be performed over Zoom.
- May be performed in close-up, platform or stage settings with multiple volunteers involved in the experience at the same time!

Online video tutorial explains ALL.

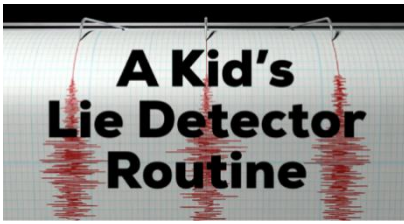
Works deceptively on both Android and Apple phones.

\$20 from Our Club's Online Magic Store or FREE when you pay your 2022 dues on the website.





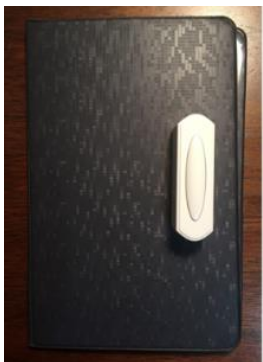
January Flash Paper Routine



With the purchase of a wireless doorbell and a two-fold stenographer's pad, you have makings of a fun routine for your children's and family audiences.



I use the Hampton Bay doorbell Model 1001 411 364 with a white finish. I like this particular model because it has both the option of a bell only but also a bell and flashing light. The child holds the doorbell between his (I think it works better for me with a boy) hands with the light facing the audience.



I then attached the doorbell button to the front right edge of a stenographer's two-fold pad. Here you'll see a picture of the front cover. The front cover opens from right to left on the binding which in this picture is to the left side.

In the open position, the button is now sandwiched between the covers, and a slight squeeze on the covers will push in the button – causing the doorbell to ring.

With the covers open, my scribbled notes face me, and I read off the notes as I ask the child questions. No memorization required. My questions follow in the sample script. A Kid's Lie Detector Routine -Sample Script-

"Hi Sinclair. Thanks for joining me up here on stage. Please carefully hold onto this for me." You gingerly hand the doorbell to him as if it was very delicate and valuable.

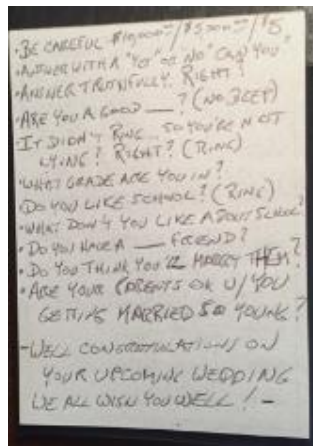
Give him the doorbell to hold between his hands with the

light pointing towards the audience. You then pick up your already opened pad – being careful to hold it so that the button hidden between the covers doesn't show.

"Please hold onto it carefully, Sinclair, as it's a very expensive Lie Detector Machine and will be able to tell me anytime you might not be telling me the truth up here. I'm asking you to hold it carefully as it cost me A LOT of money. Ten thousand dollars (the doorbell rings). OK. Five thousand dollars (The doorbell rings). Alright . . . alright . . . \$5 on eBay." (No bell sounds).

"Now, Sinclair, I must ask you if you're going to answer truthfully to every question that I ask you?" The boy answers "yes," and the bell rings and the light flashes.

"But you are basically a good boy, aren't you?" The boy answers "yes" and the bell doesn't ring. You let out a sigh of relief as you say something like "Well the bell didn't ring that time so I'm guessing you were telling me the truth, right?"



The boy answers "yes" and the bell rings.

"What grade are you in?" The bell doesn't ring as s/he usually tells you the truth.

"Do you like school?" The bell rings if they answer "yes."

"What don't you like about school?" The bell doesn't ring.

"Do you have a boy/girl friend?" If they answer "no," the bell rings.

"Do you think you're going to marry him/her?" The bell rings when they answer "no."

"Are your parents ok with you getting married so young?" The bell does or doesn't ring depending on the answer and the humor you can get from the situation.

"Well we all want to congratulate you on your upcoming wedding. All of this applause is our way of wishing you and your future husband/wife well!" as the child returns to his/her seat in the audience.

CONFLICT/RESOLUTION -Dramatizing Content-



If you've ever started reading a book or watching a movie late at night and then found yourself unable to stop and go to bed at a reasonable hour, you already know firsthand the power of this common narrative technique. First there's the conflict and then there's the curiosity about the resolution.

Think for a moment how much of our life is spent being caught up in its involving power. It engages us when we watch the news, read the newspaper, watch a sitcom, a game show or attend the circus.

Who hasn't leaned forward in their seat as the trapeze artist misses the triple somersault -- bouncing into the net below? Then they try and miss again encountering the same fate. Finally, on the third attempt they successfully complete the maneuver to the exuberant applause of the audience. I'm confident that the applause would have been only a mere shadow of itself had the performer simply accomplished the feat the first time. The failed attempts heightened the conflict and made the resolution of that conflict so much more satisfying.

Hidden from the audience by a screen, that master showman and escape artist Harry Houdini would often escape from his restraints literally fifteen to twenty minutes before he would come out from behind the screen. Once he even sat back there reading the newspaper. One of his stagehands came and told him that the newspaper was making too much noise and could be heard in the audience. Houdini replied that then the band should then play louder. Like the trapeze artist, Houdini knew the power of building suspense through protracting

the distance between the conflict and the resolution.

In the stage play *Frankenstein*, the monster ominously threatens to return on his creator's wedding night. The audience anticipates that return. In one of the final scenes of the play, the bride is getting dressed for her wedding and moves towards a large wardrobe closet to open the door and get her veil. You can feel the audience tense. However, an interruption prevents her from opening the door. This same pattern of movement towards the wardrobe followed by an interruption occurs two more times. With each interruption, the suspense builds. The audience becomes convinced the monster lurks inside the wardrobe. Finally, she does open the doors and . . .

"Make them care and then make them wait" is the way Darwin Ortiz in his book entitled *Strong Magic* describes this important element of drama.

First the playwright made us care about the bride, Elizabeth. If we didn't care about Elizabeth, we wouldn't care if the monster jumped out of that closet or not. We too as magicians must also begin by helping our audiences care about us. We do this in most cases by sharing our personality with them through being vulnerable to the point that they can identify with us. Then we will be in a much better position to help them care about our performance.

Excerpted from the book *Showmanship for Presenters* and used with permission.





Remember to update your membership online before February 1st when the password to the online library will change - making it accessible only to those who have 2022 memberships

in The Omaha Magical Society.

Nest Of Socks



With an obvious play on words, this month's 101st addition to the club's online video library is entitled *Nest of Socks* in which a pair of socks substitutes well for the classic Nest of Boxes plot.



Here's hoping that you can attend what should be an interesting evening on Monday, January 17th from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. When you're ready to join, just click on this link <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108> (which is the same link we use for all of our monthly meetings).

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Omaha, NE 68144

