



# The Flash Paper

## January 2024

**Bob Gehringer, Editor**



### A Letter from Lindy

Happy New Year to all!! With all the gatherings, celebrations, and parties winding down, I hope everyone enjoyed the

holidays with their loved ones. Looking back, 2023 was a banner year for the Omaha Magical Society. So many projects and initiatives got off the ground. Thanks to all the members who got involved to see they were successful. There will be plenty more opportunities to help out in 2024.

Our last meeting of the year was dominated by the gift exchange. We opened the closet to bring out some great magical gifts. **Santa** made an appearance (even a little flat on his sleigh wasn't enough to keep him away).

A second Santa, **Travis Nye**, arrived bearing gifts. Travis brought a lot of

his inventory and made sure everyone left with additional gifts. Thank you, Travis that was very generous. A fun twist to the rules this year, if you stole an item during the exchange, you agreed to perform the effect at a future meeting. I for one, am looking forward to these performances.



On December 27<sup>th</sup>, Boys Town and sponsoring partners put on a special meal in the Great Hall. It was for those residents who didn't, or couldn't for whatever reason go home for the holidays. To help make this a special event for the kids, several O.M.S. members provided strolling magic for approximal 250 people over two seatings. During such a busy time of the year, and with people out of town or other commitments, we were a small but mighty group. Judging from the smiles, laughter and applause the residents really enjoyed the magic. I know the magicians got a lot of pleasure from seeing the impact they made on the kids. Thank you O.M.S. members, **Tom Neddo, Matt Spielman, Patrice Fisher** and junior magicians **Drew** and **Steven III**, for giving your time and talents at this time of the year. I even got to try out some one handed (or no handed) magic, due to my recent carpal tunnel surgery.

Last year, I had the pleasure of meeting **Gabriella Lester** on a visit to the Magic Lounge in Chicago. Hailing from South Africa, now living in Vancouver B.C. she is very accomplished for her age. Only 21 years old, she appears even younger. She performs around the globe from New York, to London, to Las Vegas. She has appeared at the Magic Castle, and on Penn and Teller's Fool Us. A self-described "Adrenaline Junkie", she also races motorcycles. She is one of the youngest escape artists to perform Houdini's upside-down straight jacket escape. Gabriella has a very entertaining stage show. Destined to be a star, if you get the chance be sure to attend one of her appearances.

Stay tuned. We're looking forward to an exciting 2024.





### December Re-Cap

by  
**Matt Spielman**

For the last OMS meeting of 2023 the group gathered

for an end of the year holiday party complete with refreshments and gifts for everyone in attendance (in person and on Zoom). One by one each member was given a turn to select a gift from the center of the room or “steal” a gift from someone that has already chosen. The only caveat with the “stealing” route was any gift that was stolen must be utilized in a performance for the group in 2024, there should be a handful of performances in the next few months. There was quite a range in high quality gifts for every performance style from beautiful wood chop cup sets, discrete long-range thumpers, flame shooters, and even a Rocky Raccoon which was demoed out for everyone by the man in red himself. After the last gift was settled, we were all informed that Travis Nye was gracious enough to set up a few tables of items hand selected from his shop that were up for grabs. It was a lovely evening to catch up with everybody and head home with something new to try out.



people learned in first grade which was met with a long and drawn out “booooooring”. I decided to step up my game and after a few Google searches I found myself at Penguin Magic snagging a few beginner tricks. After a few days of practice, I was able to turn a bouncy ball into a quarter and back, make a toothpick float in the air, and perform the invisible deck correctly about 95% of the time. The 5% failure rate on the invisible deck bothered me so I searched Google again and came across the Omaha Magical Society. I was a bit hesitant about signing up for the club but I gave it a shot, luckily, I showed up on "Bring a Trick Day" and the person I sat next to happened to be Jered. Turns out my hands were too dry and I just needed lotion to get the invisible deck down 100% of the time. Since then, I have been hooked and thoroughly look forward to every monthly meeting. Thank you all for a great year, here's to looking forward to the next.



I wanted to end my article with a special thanks to everyone in the club for being a wonderful source of knowledge, experience, and teaching in my past year with the club. 11 months ago, my daughter asked me to do a magic trick after watching **Jered the Incredible** perform at an event earlier that day. All I had in my arsenal at the time was the detached finger trick that most

#### Video Library Log-In Credentials



Did you pay your dues without receiving the updated log-in credentials for the club's online video library - containing 100+ proprietary magic teaching videos at all skill levels? If so, please send an email to [samassembly7@gmail.com](mailto:samassembly7@gmail.com)

If you haven't yet paid your \$20 dues for 2024, you can do it online here: <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/membership>



## What's Your Magic Story by Patrice Fisher

*O.M.S. Keeps on Giving*

Omaha Magical Society just kept on giving this season. On December 27<sup>th</sup>, with most of our magicians already set for family festivities, four of our members and two of our junior magicians volunteered to bring magic to the young residents at Boys Town.

The Great Hall was bursting with laughter and chatter from over 125 people, primarily boy and girl teenagers awaiting dinner. There were two separate dinner seatings, with probably 10 to 12 round tables with groups of ten hungry youths at each. Seemingly quite daunting, but no problem for our team of magic-makers.



**Matt Spielman, Tom Neddo, Patrice Fisher**, and two of our *Discover Magic* students, **Steven** and **Drew**, joined *The Amazing Lindy* for a night of close-up table tricks. Each of us brought different types of illusions.

The evening was pulled together by *The Amazing Lindy*, despite his being in a hand and wrist cast from just having hand surgery! Being a professional, he relied on his mystical, mind-reading abilities to astonish his tables and left the card coordination to others. Through his years of magic for restaurants, Lindy knows how to put everyone at ease with those talkative teens being no

exception. He put his cards literally in the hands of any volunteer willing to perform for the table, making them the hero of the act! He said "It was great seeing all the smiles and hearing all the laughter, knowing we help brighten the holidays for all of these kids." It was clear he was in his element.

Two of our youngest junior magicians showed off their card skills, one-handed rope-knotting, and a coloring book transformation from blank pages to colored ones. These were just a few tricks among other cool illusions in their repertoire. One of our students was asked how he knew magic and he proudly told them about our *Discover Magic* program for kids aged 7 to 13 years old. Maybe we will have some new students for the new year!

**Matt Spielman** bounced between illusions such as B'Wave, Blizzard, Tiny Plunger, and a voodoo needle card prediction. He was a big hit! Matt observed that "The Boys Town group was extremely fun to perform for, and for most of the kids, this was their first time seeing a performance up close, and their reactions were incredible. Seeing how happy and excited they were for us was an amazing experience for me."



**Tom Neddo** tried out a new effect that he had been working on. The Great Hall, packed with a ready audience was just what he needed to try out his new magical illusion. We were very happy that he decided to help entertain quite a large array of young people.

The novice in the group was Patrice Fisher, who made her magic debut. To her pleasant surprise, she was actually able to speak and to remember her *Legendary Loops* maneuver. Her *Out-to-Lunch* routine and patter brought wide eyes and some "no ways." Of course, she had help from Santa's elves, who wrote holiday greetings on seemingly blank cards that were first initialed by her unsuspecting teen volunteers, only to have an elf send them a message of peace joy, and love.



## The Omaha Magical Society

### CLUB BEGINS NEW 2024 INITIATIVE

Under the leadership of **Steve Osborn**, the club has begun assembling a team of members for the performance of close-up magic at long-term care facilities.

Read more about it on our website at:  
<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/care>

Reach out to **Steve Osborn** if you're interested in being part of this team or have additional questions:  
[sosborn@cox.net](mailto:sosborn@cox.net)

Executive Director **Dave Arch** added the following clarification of this initiative to our club's Facebook page: "As a club, we have members who work long-term care facilities for pay. They perform mainly stand-up shows where a group is brought together for their performance. The club never wants to find itself in a position where it competes with its members. Consequently, in the long-term care facilities, we will not be performing stand up. Rather we will be doing what our members are not doing (i.e. close up magic and/or teaching magic tricks to members) in small groups or one-on-one situations where they might learn to show their grandchildren a magic trick the next time they visit."

Thanks.

Dave



## 2024 MIDWEST MAGIC COMPETITION

Might you want to compete in either close-up or stage?

Here are the dates to keep in mind:

- Your twelve to fifteen-minute audition video is due by April 1, 2024, submitted to [samassembly7@gmail.com](mailto:samassembly7@gmail.com);
- Up to six contestants will be selected from the submitted videos to compete at our two-hour Monday Night Magic event on Monday, June 17, 2024;
- With the top four performers from the semi-finals competing at the finals in October (location and date still to be determined).

Visit <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/competitions> for more information.



## Monday Night Magic

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY



**CANCELLED**  
DUE TO WEATHER



## WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

Come and experience three of our club's performers kick off 2024 presenting three entirely different yet painfully weak routines.

I mean the tricks work well enough. However, the presentations leave much room for improvement. Can your table team figure out what might be wrong in each routine . . . and how to fix it? We'll see.

**SIMULTANEOUSLY BROADCAST ON ZOOM:**  
<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>

**MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024 | 7-8 PM**  
The Cross Training Center • 5030 N. 72nd Street •  
Omaha, Nebraska

No charge for attending this event.



## Larry's Logic

### Picking a volunteer

The skill of picking a volunteer is fortunately a very easy art to acquire. And I don't mean just ANY volunteer, I mean the RIGHT volunteer. You just need to pay attention.

Notice that I don't say "ASK for a volunteer" ... PICK THEM!

The people, especially kids, that clamber over each other to be picked are the exact opposite of the volunteer I want. So, I don't EVER pick anyone that acts like they want to come up.

Instead, as I'm performing, I watch the audience. I see who is paying attention, who is reacting to my jokes, who appears pleasant. Then, when I need a volunteer, I say, "I need someone from the audience. Would you please come up."

Now, as I say this, I've walked near them, I point at them, and I hold my hand out as if I'm going to help them up. Which I rarely do, especially if I'm on stage and they aren't.



If they seem hesitant... even just a little... I ask the audience "Could we have a nice round of applause for our volunteer." Most people cave under the applause and come up.

If the person vehemently hesitates.... shakes their heads no, turns their face away from you, etc. I simply say, "OK" and I turn to my second-best choice and ask them to join me.

I RARELY have anyone refuse, and I've NEVER had both choices refuse.

Now some of you may want to do more wheedling and begging to get the person on stage, but I don't believe in it. Being on stage is a **privilege**, and if you turn it down, the offer doesn't get re-extended. And I have had some people come up afterwards and express regrets about not agreeing to "volunteer", and I simply say, "Well, it was your choice."

Another couple of tips for volunteering, especially if you actually have a stage.

If you're going to have someone join you, make it someone in the first 2 or 3 rows. Unless there's something special about the guy in row 15, you don't want to just stand there while he fights his way to the stage.



HOWEVER, this rule is flexible in one way. If you're doing a multi-volunteer trick, say with 5 people, then you can pick 2 from the back, 1 from the middle, and 2 from the front.

But you pick them in that order. That way, by the time the back guys are reaching the stage, you've just finished picking the front guys and everyone arrives at the same time. And the constant walking back and forth, and talking to the volunteers keeps this from being a dead spot.

So, that's some tips for volunteers. And at first, you'll probably pick a few losers, but take heart. Each loser is a lesson in picking a winner.



## THE MIRASKILL PRINCIPLE

By Stewart James

If you are not familiar with the Miraskill principle, here's your chance to familiarize yourself with it. Like paints and a blank canvas many different presentations can be used with the principle.

You have the cards (**minus the jokers**) shuffled, and fan them to your audience, showing that they're not in any set order. Say, "I'm going to write a prediction," and put the deck into the card case. You want two red cards at the top of the deck and two black cards at the bottom, or vice versa. You should never have to rearrange more than two cards to get this result.

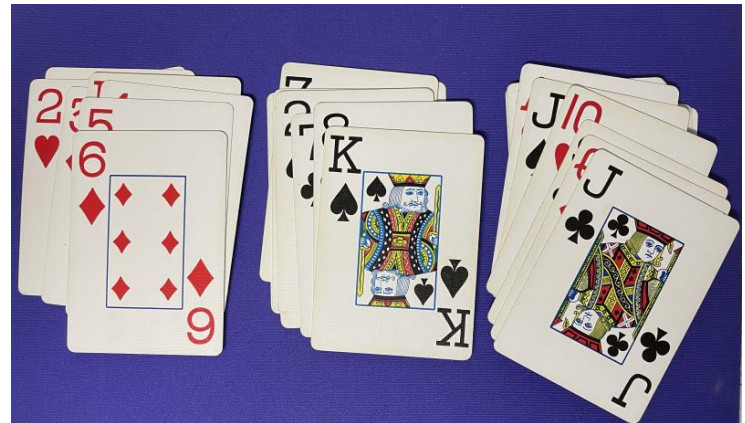
"I'm going to write a prediction," you announce, and pick up a slip of paper and pencil. You put the piece of paper on the back of the card case, see that it's too flimsy to write on, and shove the deck into the case to give it solidity. You write on the slip, "You will have two cards less than I do."

Fold the slip without showing it, and put it on the table. You're holding the card case, flap toward yourself.

"Here's what's going to happen," you announce. "You'll deal off two cards at a time from the deck, face up. If both cards are red, they go into the red pile. If both cards are black, they go into the black pile. If you deal off a red and a black card, they go into the discard pile. Now, tell me which color you want for yourself, red or black."

You're holding the card case in your hands, flap toward your body.

If the spectator chooses red, pull out the deck minus the two red cards at the top. If he chooses black, leave the two black cards on the bottom behind. Toss the cards to him and say, "Shuffle the deck again before you start dealing. Shuffle as much as you like. Cut, too. Whenever you think the cards are thoroughly mixed, start dealing. A pair of reds go into the red pile, a pair of blacks go into the black pile, and one of each puts the pair of cards into the discard pile."



He deals off the cards, counts the number in the red and black piles, and then opens your prediction slip, which proves to be correct.

Put the cards back into the case and write another prediction. This time you write, "We will both have the same number of cards in our piles."

Hand him the card case, have him remove the deck, shuffle to his heart's content, and deal out the pairs. Again, your prediction will prove correct. You've given him a free choice of color both times and have never touched the cards once he starts dealing. He shuffles and cuts, for both deal-throughs.

From the book *Magic Digest* by **George Anderson**.

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



### The Use Of AI/Chat GPT in a Magician Industry

By Adam Schacht

I have found a way to help my repetitive tasks with running a magic business disappear or be reduced to seconds vs. minutes. That is by harnessing the power of Chat GPT. At first, I was very unsure of how this could help me because I've run into chatbots before that offer conversation that can be interesting but never a conversation that takes me to the next level or can understand what I'm getting at quickly instead of having to type every single detail. I will list some real-world examples that helped me book leads quicker, rewrite bios, and give constructive feedback. I was getting to the point where I had so many leads that I would push off till later to respond and then either A) I never get to it or B) Someone else got to them first. Now, a disclaimer is to proofread something before you send it. I would describe Chat GPT as a Google search for someone new to this. If that doesn't resonate, think Ask Jeeves. If that doesn't resonate, think about cave drawings and how... well... never mind.

Recently, I had a conversation with **Dave Arch** about Chat GPT, where he learned about a structure using it where you should include **ROLE**, **TASK**, and **PERSPECTIVE** when you send a template. The **role** is what role you want GPT to play, the **task** is what you want it to accomplish, and the **perspective** is in which style such as 1<sup>st</sup> person, 3<sup>rd</sup> person, etc. You will find your prompt responses to be much more effective if you consider these three points, but I find myself not always doing it, which can cause some strain once you get responses from GPT.

Here are three scenarios I've used and would recommend using as a professional magician.

#### Client's Notes:

Hillcrest Country Club is hosting its annual Halloween Extravaganza! It is a kid-friendly event. One of our themes is Side Show Attractions and having a magician would add so much to that theme! Please let me know if you have the availability for this event. 10.29.23 it is from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm.

#### Scenario 1 – Lead Response:

Situation: I get a lead from a lead website; their formatting is all over the place and looks something like the images to the side.

**Date of Event:**  
Sunday,  
10/29/2023

**Venue**  
Hillcrest  
Country  
Club

**City & State**  
Lincoln, NE

📍 (46 miles from Omaha)

**Vendor Start Time**  
5:30 PM

**Length of Service:**  
3 hours

**Number of Guests:**  
200-299

**Services Needed:**  
Magician

**Vendor Budget:**  
\$201 - \$300

Reasoning for Chat GPT: To help move past the basics: read, comprehend, type draft, review, retype, final review, and send. I can bypass most of those steps and go right to review by copying and pasting the info (as is) into GPT with a bit of a prompt.

My Prompt: I am a magician, and I would like you to respond to this lead and let them know I am available and that I would recommend 2 hours of strolling magic for \$X, which would include travel. Also, give them an option for 3 hours for an additional \$X. Here is their info: *[paste info note and anything else missing from event details]*

GPT Response: Thank you for considering my services for Hillcrest Country Club's annual Halloween Extravaganza! I would be delighted to be a part of your event and provide magical entertainment to enhance the Side Show Attractions theme. I am pleased to inform you that I am available on the requested date, October 29, 2023. I offer a rate of \$X for the 2 hours and \$X for each additional hour of performance. These prices also include travel expenses. Please let me know which option you would like! I will bring my expertise as a magician to create an enchanting and memorable experience for the attendees, particularly the young audience. I will tailor my performance to align with the kid-friendly nature of the event and the Side Show Attractions theme.

If you would like to proceed with booking my services, please let me know, and I will provide you with further information regarding the next steps and any specific requirements you may have.

Thank you once again for considering me as a magician for your Halloween Extravaganza. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the success of your event.

Best regards, [Your Name Here]





## Scenario 2 – Rewrite/Reword Website:

Situation: Somethings I've typed on my website before chat GPT existed, just seem dull and boring I want to spice it up!

Reasoning for Chat GPT: By copying and pasting something you've already typed, it will pick up on what you are going for, use better words, and fill in details you may have never thought about!

My Prompt: How could I re-word this to be more concise in hiring me for a corporate event? I'm a magician. This is what's currently on my site, but I don't love it: For your next corporate event, allow magic to wow even adults! Not only will you entertain your audience with stunning tricks, you'll find that Adam does an amazing job accommodating each occasion. Based on the mood you tell us you want your entertainment to achieve, we'll plan a show that fits perfectly! Write it very concisely.

GPT Response: "Celebrate your next corporate event with a touch of magic that will leave your guests spellbound. Adam's captivating performances are tailored to your desired mood, ensuring an unforgettable experience. Book now to witness his stunning tricks that will entertain even the most discerning adults."

## Scenario 3 – Providing Constructive Feedback:

Situation: I was asked to give feedback about someone's show, and I have a lot of thoughts, but I don't want them to come off rude, and I also want all my ideas to be laid out in a concise order

Reasoning for Chat GPT: It can add what you never thought of by reading between the lines. I use voice to chat to help get all my thoughts out, and then it rewrites it using proper grammar etc. (You can even do this for your own show and personal feedback).

My Prompt: Please write some constructive feedback for a magician who asked me to give him some. I am also a magician. I saw his 25-minute show and really liked the energy he gave to the audience. His stunts were really well timed and comedic. Timing was really good to build up those moments. The magic tricks were really good but lacked purpose for some items used. They seem kind of

random, but I thought they were good effects. [I then went into more detail about specific effects]

GPT Response: " Dear fellow magician, I had the pleasure of watching your 25-minute show recently, and I must say, your energy and ability to engage the audience were truly impressive. Your stunts were well-timed and infused with a delightful sense of humor. The way you built up those magical moments was particularly effective and kept the audience captivated throughout the performance.

Your magic tricks were skillfully executed, and I appreciated the quality of the effects. However, I felt that some of the items used lacked a clear purpose or connection to the overall performance. While they were good effects individually, their inclusion seemed somewhat random. To enhance the coherence of your show, I suggest considering a stronger thematic thread or storyline that ties the tricks together.

[details about specific effects were here, omitted, so nothing seems personal as this is just an example]

Overall, I genuinely enjoyed your performance and found it highly entertaining. Your energy and comedic timing were standout qualities that made the show truly enjoyable. By refining the purpose and coherence of the magic tricks and considering a stronger thematic connection, I believe you could take your already impressive show to the next level.

Keep up the great work, and I look forward to seeing more of your magic in the future!

## Conclusion:

By using GPT, I have found incredible time savings and some tasks that seem like you'd never utilize GPT; but once you do, you can't go back (it was even tough not to use it to write this article!) There are continuous moral dilemmas with Chat GPT; ultimately, using it is up to the beholder. Please let me know if you have any more questions on how I use it, and brainstorm how you can uniquely use it!



Of historical interest, when Hitler was at the peak of his power during WW II, there circulated a derogatory “magical” puzzle - expressing a growing disgust with the dictator and his ways.

**We have located that puzzle.**

Each person attending this month’s Monday Night Magic (either in person or on Zoom) will receive a reproduction of this historical curiosity.

## Monday Night Magic

### Monday January 15th

**CANCELLED**  
DUE TO WEATHER

Or just click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>  
(which is the same link we use for all of our monthly meetings).

#### 2024 OMS Officers

- President** - Steve Lindeman ..... [amazinglindy@gmail.com](mailto:amazinglindy@gmail.com)
- Vice President** - Adam Schacht ..... [schacht2222@gmail.com](mailto:schacht2222@gmail.com)
- Treasurer** - Bob Gehring ..... [gehringerr@cox.net](mailto:gehringerr@cox.net)
- Secretary** - Patrice Fisher ..... [patricekfisher@yahoo.com](mailto:patricekfisher@yahoo.com)
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