



The Flash Paper

July 2022

Bob Gehringer, Editor

Prez Sez

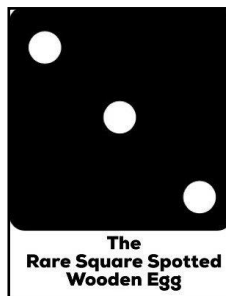


So excited that **TRAVIS NYE** will be performing for us and bringing his Pop-up Shop to demo and sell some magic. He is one of the best people around in terms of knowing what new tricks are being released and I appreciate his honest feedback about the strengths and weaknesses of an effect. He is not just in it to make a buck; he really strives to help you make an informed decision. I watched him talking with our Junior Magicians on a road trip a few months back and was pleased with how gentle, but direct, he was in speaking to them. He also took them into his theater and taught them how to throw playing cards and let them practice to their hearts content. This is going to be a fun night on so many levels!

Please don't hesitate to use the QR code elsewhere in the newsletter to visit his online shop and let him know of any tricks you'd like him to bring with him for this very special event. I've already put my order in and look forward to what else he is bringing. Hope to see you there.

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



Waiting for you in the club's online video library is a routine inspired by **Dave Mayer** entitled *The Black Spotted Wooden Egg* referenced by name only in a 1989 *IBM Ring* report. This five-minute routine for the venerable die box that has now entertained audiences for two decades. Between two volunteers

acting out their parts on stage, and the entire audience creating the sound effects necessary for the story, no one is left without a part to play in this routine. It just might bring your die box out of the drawer.

2022 OMS Officers

President – Steve Nespor omahamagician55@gmail.com
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Monday Night

Magic

SPONSORED BY
THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY
FEATURING

TRAVIS NYE

• Having performed magic professionally for over 17 years, Travis' diverse repertoire includes close-up, parlor, stage and a variety of "geek magic" (i.e. swallowing needles, fire eating, walking on broken glass, etc.).

As owner of The Spellbound Magic Shop & Theater, he is also one of the most knowledgeable people in the midwest in terms of knowing what new tricks are being invented and released as well as being willing to talk honestly about each effect's strengths and weaknesses.

In addition to his performance, he'll be bringing a pop-up shop to demo and sell some of his personally recommended magic.

Please don't hesitate to use the QR code below to visit his online shop and let him know of any tricks you'd like him to bring with him for this special event.

Simultaneously broadcast on Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>

No charge for attending this event.

MONDAY, JULY 18, 2022 | FROM 7-8 PM (CDT)

The Cross Training Center • 5030 N. 72nd Street • Omaha, Nebraska





Summer Night of Baseball and Magic

Our Omaha Magical Society had a very talented Ambassador performing magic for visitors to our city for the College World Series Tournament. **Ryan Chandler** is the well-known street magician who is a popular pause while strolling the Old Market cobblestone streets on any given evening in the summertime. His illusions with a baseball theme, of course, were no doubt a highlight for tourists who came to see the games.



As the latest recipient of our **David P. Abbott Award**, we were happy to host Ryan as our spotlighted magician for our Monthly Magic Event. Knowing he would be the evening's talent, the room was filled, along with a respectable viewing by Zoom attendees. Wearing a baseball jersey, he graciously gave us a sampling of his well-honed tricks of our trade.

Ryan began his set with his masterful manipulation of the messed-up mix of several dice on the table that disappeared beneath the cup and reappeared neatly stacked one on top of another when the cup was lifted up. But before that graceful finale, he delighted us by making a pool ball and a small bowling ball magically appear out of that same dice cup.

Another highlight was his cups and balls handling. Our junior magicians were given a master class on how to set up the cups and load them with each small sponge. The effect that follows gives the audience the impression that each additional ball placed under the top cup passes through and onto the bottom cup until all are neatly nested in a group. To keep with the baseball theme, the very bottom cup revealed a baseball that would be too difficult to have been hidden in a pocket. Walking us through that effect was a special gift to all in attendance.



Ryan and Steve Lindeman

Ryan's introverted and slightly nervous with performing magician persona is a perfect ruse for the artistry of his routines. He moves smoothly from working with cups and balls to the practiced dexterity needed to shift to card tricks. His creativity with making some simple card tricks more impactful was fun to watch live and can also be found as part of our O.M.S. library on our website.



These videos were created to help enhance the talent and growth of our member magicians. We are very thankful for Ryan's ongoing support and for his time and energy to make our monthly soiree a success! To learn more about **Ryan Chandler**, visit his website at <https://www.oldmarketmagician.com/> - Patrice Fisher



Larry's Logic Buying a Trick

Ok, now we're talking magic, eh? Let's go get a trick. BUT....before we do that, let's figure out if we **should** buy it.

There's a ton of reasons to buy a trick, and often a person has more than 1 reason.

But I want to talk about buying a trick for a magician that wants to perform.

Not a collector. Not buying a trick to find out how it works. Or buying it because it's the latest "hot" item.

And all of these reasons are good reasons to buy a trick. But in this case, I'm talking about a trick that you **actually** want to perform.

Now ideally, you already have a script written for it, you figured out the blocking and staging, and all you need are the props/method.

And as strange as it may sound, you can often do this, even if you don't know how the trick works. This can also bite you in the butt when you're wrong on the method.

So, before you buy, I recommend doing the following:

- **WAIT.** Wait until reviews for it start showing up, which can give you clues as to how useful it really is. A good reviewer can tell you if the prop is a quality build, if it's practical, etc.
- Figure out **WHERE** it will **FIT** in your show. In my show, for example, I have an opener that is a perfect opener. And I can't imagine replacing it. So, if the new trick has to be done as an opener, there's not much sense in me getting it. *Caveats apply.

- Try to estimate **HOW OFTEN** you'll be able to do the trick. I have some wonderful tricks that I can't often do, since sometimes my audience is sitting within a foot of me. *See my article on venues.
- I also sometimes pass on a trick if I can't comfortably carry it in my act. If I can't get the trick to the show, I certainly won't use it.
- Try to figure out if it's **APPROPRIATE** for your audiences. Most little kids are probably not a good choice to do a guillotine effect. And if that's your primary audience, the trick is useless.

Notice that I didn't say to worry about your skill level. You can learn just about anything. And the things you can't learn, you can think of ways to bypass them.

So to me, skill level is somewhat irrelevant. "Somewhat"!! If a trick requires 3 perfect Faros, 2 passes, and a diagonal side steal, I'm probably not going to burn **THAT** much effort for a trick.

Another thing I frequently do is buy the same trick over and over. Why? If I have a trick that I **LOVE** the premise of, but hate the methodology, I will continue to buy versions to see if I can't find one that works, or can be modified to work.

***CAVEATS APPLY.** Even though you already have a great opener, you may want another just so that you can perform **REPEAT** shows without actually repeating your act.

I myself have 3 shows.

- My 'A' material which is my absolute best show.
- My 'B' material which is a little of my 'A' material mixed with some fairly new material that needs polishing.
- And finally, I have a 'Q' act. Which is composed of relatively new and untested material.

So, if I get a new trick, it goes into my 'Q' act for a trial run. Assuming it goes well, it migrates to the 'B' act for more run throughs.

A Very Adaptable Card Trick

Is it fair to include a card trick in a book about Craft Store Conjuring just because Hobby Lobby sells playing cards? Only once in this series ... I promise.

I selected this one due to its ability for customization to your performing conditions and the simplicity of the method – allowing you to focus on your audience members and having fun with them.

The magician hands a borrowed deck of cards to a volunteer for shuffling. While the magician turns his back, the volunteer looks at a card, shows it to the audience, and remembers how many cards from the top it is in the facedown deck.

For instance, the volunteer might remember the Three of Hearts, and that it is three cards down from the top in the facedown deck.



Instead of using a blindfold the magician asks that the cards be handed to him behind his back.

“Now without the use of sight, I am going to move your card to a very memorable spot in the deck,” the magician declares.

In only a moment, the magician says he’s done and brings the deck from behind his back.

“How far down in the deck was the card?” the magician asks. The magician counts three cards into the hand of the volunteer only to find the card is no longer where it was.

The magician takes the three cards back putting them underneath the deck and asks the volunteer for his/her first name. One at a time he spells the person’s name as he again deals cards into the volunteer’s hand. On the very last letter of the name, the chosen card appears.

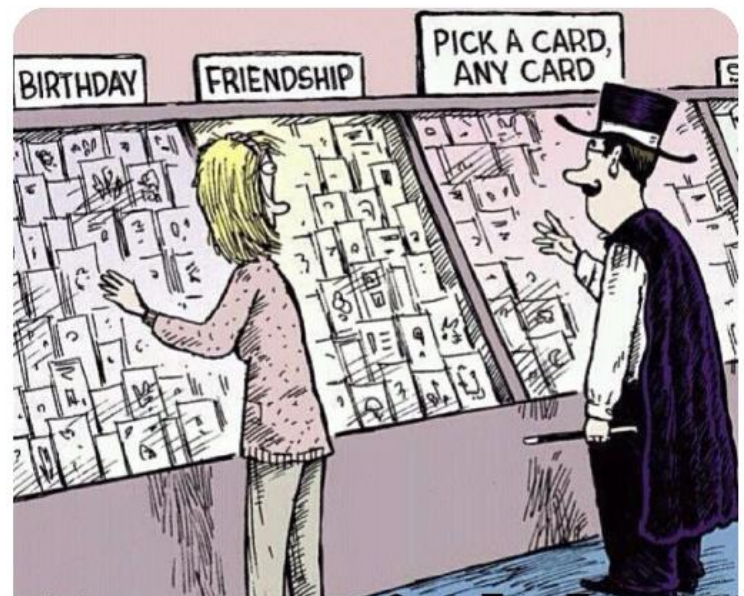
The Method: When the deck is behind your back just remember to move from the bottom of the deck the same number of cards as there are letters in the last word you wish to spell. If their first name is Sarah, you would move five cards from the bottom to the top of the deck.

Then follow the above routine, and it will work every time.

One thought about the italicized phrase above. You will make it seem that instead of using a blindfold and doing the card manipulation in front of you, you will do it behind your back (since you presumably don’t have a blindfold).

The assumption planted by this phrase in the audience’s mind is that you could have done the card movement in front of you with a blindfold on when of course nothing could be further from the truth. I believe this psychological ploy obscures the method, has many applications, and is under-explored.

Excerpted from the yet to be published book *Craft Store Conjuring*. Used with permission.



THE ENCORE -Adding Value-

A friend attended a famous Las Vegas performer's stage show for the very first time. He came back to report in glowing terms how the performer had said, "This show is running overtime but since you're such a great audience, I'll do one more song!" The crowd went wild!

After two or three numbers, the performer glanced at his watch again and said, "The showroom manager must be fit to be tied with how far overtime we've gone now!"

After two more songs, the performer finally said, "We're so far overtime now. . . I guess it just doesn't matter anymore!"



The crowd stood to their feet in applause!

The next time my friend returned to Las Vegas there was no question about it. He had to go back and see this generous performer again!

Imagine his surprise when this famous entertainer used the very same lines to lengthen his show. He finished this show at exactly the same time as the first show my friend had seen three years before!

Nevertheless (or possibly because of this), this showman fills Las Vegas showrooms night after night year after year! He has learned to use the power of an encore without even waiting for the audience to ask for one! He used a form of planned spontaneity.

The tactic he used made every audience feel special! It gave the show an air of unpredictability. Each person felt lucky to be a member of the audience that specific night!

The performer knew how to give each performance a sense of immediacy -- giving his audience members unexpected added value.

That's what we love about encores! The performer is giving us a song we wouldn't have received if we hadn't been there that night standing to our feet and applauding wildly.

Where does this powerful piece of showmanship fit into a magic show? Here are some ideas waiting for your own words:

- "I have a special trick I perform only when I have a particularly responsive audience!"
- "When a spectator makes a comment or does something, play off that comment as though the person gave you an idea for your next trick!"
- "I debated with myself throughout the show whether or not I would perform a certain trick. I've decided that you're an audience who might enjoy it."



The next time you perform . . . why not try an encore?

Excerpted from the book *Showmanship for Presenters*. Used with permission.



What's Your Magic Story by Patrice Fisher

A Magical Summer at Camp

Tannen's Magic Camp is world renowned. It is a beautiful campus where kids come to learn magical arts and have, hopefully, an experience well remembered with happiness in their adulthood. Located on the campus of Bryn Mawr College in Philadelphia, the setting itself is quite magical and just the place to get emersed in studying magic. The college grounds are enchantingly beautiful and welcoming for junior magicians to learn. For one week every June, teachers, staff and award-winning magicians share their enthusiasm and invaluable expertise in a series of master classes in the art (and science) of magic.

The generosity of one of our anonymous donors, has allowed our Omaha Magical Society to award scholarships to Tannen's to sponsor two students. One recipient is a member of the Kansas City club and the other is a member of our club.



Jane Rohling is one of our junior magicians, currently attending our *Discover Magic* program. She is thirteen going on twenty-one and a delight to teach. Jane enjoys amazing her friends and family using everyday objects that are available. She displays a real talent for storytelling and always entertains us with every tale she spins while performing a trick. Her dedication is evident by her well-practiced preparation. Telling a

scripted story while doing the illusion is a key skill that Jane is developing nicely. We know that she will have a great time learning and making more magic at Tannen's Magic Camp. We are looking forward to sharing her experience in the Flash Paper when she returns!



Our other scholarship winner is from IBM Ring 129 of Kansas City. **Matthew Bartlett** is eleven years old and already has four years of experience in the magical arts! Surprisingly, he starting learning magic as an elective in Cub Scouts. Then, at ten years old, his brother,

knowing his desire to learn more, gave him Joshua Jay's *Magic: The Complete Course*. **Joshua Jay** is many a young magician's mentor. Card tricks are Matthew's favorite. He has even developed his own card trick! He named it "Here and There". At the monthly club meeting, Matthew was told that he was receiving his scholarship with a phone call from **David Copperfield!**



David Sandy and Mathew talking to David Copperfield on the cell phone.

He was wide-eyed and speechless, of course, but quickly regained his composure and showed his excited appreciation to the group as well as a giving big "thank you!" to the famous magician at the other end of the phone. Matthew will be

telling us all about his adventures at the camp in our Flash Paper, so stay tuned!





Monday Night Magic

Monday, July 19th - 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Cross Training Center

5030 N. 72nd Street

Omaha, NE

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

13405 Marinda ST.
Omaha, NE 68144

