



# The Flash Paper

## July 2024

“Enjoying magic...with others...for others.”

Bob Gehringer, Editor



### A Letter From Lindy

I was very sad to learn of **Tom Zeph's** passing last month. To anyone who had the chance to see his Haunted Lab at Creighton University during Halloween season, it was a treat for young and old alike. We took the grandkids a few years ago. It really captured their imaginations, and Tom enjoyed showing and explaining the different exhibits as we walked around the rooms. Even though I missed it, the broken wand ceremony was a very fitting way to honor Tom at our meeting. Tom left his magic collection to the O.M.S., which had to be picked up and transferred to a storage unit. Thanks to **Dave and Sue Arch**, their friend **Deb**, their grandson **Noah**, his three friends, **Joe Cole**, **Bob Gehringer**, **Denny Rourke**, **Ryan Chandler** and **Steve Nespore**, for handling this task.

New polo shirts with the O.M.S. logo are now available. (Thank you **David Fox**.) This is a great way to show your allegiance, and let people know your interests in magic. This logo design was chosen by vote of the membership. For newer members or those who may have forgotten, there is a reason the card in the logo is the seven of clubs. If a member calls on you to choose a card, you should pick this one. He will be ready with a reveal, or mental prediction. To help you remember which card: we are a magic CLUB, and we are assembly number SEVEN. I didn't know who to credit for the original idea. In speaking with other members there is some confusion on this. If you know who was responsible for

the idea, please let me know so we can recognize their contribution.

Members **Ruth**, and **Mike Bitter** brought our attention to *Donte's Dream*. A fund-raising project to help a deserving young man fulfill his dream of being adopted. At the June meeting members had a chance to meet Donte in person and hear his story. I'm sure this touched something in many of you, and perhaps prompted you to help this worthy cause. If you would like to donate an auction item, bring it with you to the next meeting. You can also make arrangements with Ruth and Mike to have it picked up. If you would like to make a monetary contribution, send it to: Mike and Ruth at Martinwood International 21747 Martinwood Drive, Council Bluffs, Iowa 52503. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

The featured magician this month, **Ruby Coby**, first performed nearly 50 years ago. He's been around the globe performing as his alter ego *Lab Man*. Live on stage, and on television specials. The self-described Coolest Magician on Earth uses magic and pseudo-science to entertain. His four-legged routine is unique and hilarious. In 2014 every room in the Magic Castle was transformed into a science lab as Rudy presented his *Magic v. Science* show to rave reviews. I wonder if **Tom Zeph** ever had the chance to see Rudy perform.



Editor's Note:

This is the picture of **Greg Wilson** that did not replace the picture for *Letter from Lindy* last month.



### A Broken Wand Tribute to Tom Zepf

Our May meeting began with the Broken Wand Ceremony in honor of a beloved Omaha Magical Society member **Dr. Tom Zepf**. Tom's first love and career was teaching Physics. In his physics laboratory, he often illustrated scientific concepts using his second love, magic.

During his forty years at Creighton University, Tom became known for his Halloween Haunted Physics Laboratory extravaganza! It drew students from our various college campuses in the area and became a Fall highlight for our community.

His study and practice of theatrical magic led him to create a presentation on psychic phenomena and ESP that he performed often for students and at Omaha area venues. Professor Zepf was not only a devoted teacher, but also a creative student of the art and science of magic. In fact, he was a well-known practicing stage magician.

Tom was recognized as a **Lifetime Member of S.A.M.** and was awarded with both the **Excalibur and Excelsior distinctions** from The International Brotherhood of Magicians, for his sixty years of support.



**Dave Arch** officiates as **Adam Schacht** breaks the wand.

The Omaha Magical Society wishes to acknowledge our friend and colleague, lifetime OMS member **Dr. Tom Zepf**, for his life-long love of magic, and for the scholarship and devotion he gave to his students, several magical societies, and to the city of Omaha. –

**Patrice Fisher**



Dear Omaha Magical Society,

Thank you so much for providing me with this amazing opportunity to attend Tannen's magic camp! I had an amazing time and met so many incredible people. Every day we learned something new and got to see some really great performers as well as jam and share tricks with other kids.

It was really fun to be able to do magic starting from 8am and going until - far too late, and to have everyone around me doing the same! It was awesome to be surrounded by people who love magic and who love learning as much as I do.

My favorite class was probably the workshop about creating magic held by **Danny Garcia** and **Blake Vogt**. We got to go through the thought process of ideas, starting from just one object and going to methods of accomplishing a trick stemming from that idea. We also learned how to create gimmicks, split cards, and create a first draft to demonstrate the concept.

During the day, I was in a class taught by Paul Vigil and Tatanka Tan, I learned a lot in this class and have so many notes. We learned mostly card effects and different controls, but we did a little rope magic too.

I had an incredible time at camp meeting so many new people and fueling my love of magic. Thank you again for making this incredible experience possible.

Sincerely,  
**Emilia Puertas**





### June Re-Cap by Matt Spielman

**Doc Eason**, the Rocky Mountain Magician, was our guest lecturer for the June OMS meeting. Doc is

a legend in the magic community and is considered the best bar magician in the world. For 27 years he was the feature performer at John Denver's Tower Magic Bar in Snowmass Village and has traveled the world giving lectures on bar magic. His main philosophy that he mentioned multiple times to the group was "it's not about the trick, it's about the connection".



Doc wasted no time engaging our group with one of his favorite openers "All Screwed Up", a two in the hand one in the pocket routine with nuts and bolts. He pointed out the importance of getting the audience's attention quickly and connecting with them on a personal level.

Doc's ability to weave jokes and misdirection in his storytelling was incredible to see in person, he showcased this with his card under glass routine. He boldly told the group that he was going to place a card without us catching him and after a few jokes and misdirection he was able to sneak a card under the glass without getting caught.

Another staple of Doc

's repertoire is the ability to engage and disarm his audience simply by addressing them by name. He quoted Maya Angelou, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel", and proceeded to go around the group asking for names. Once a small group was selected every individual made a card selection that was returned to the deck. With the greatest of ease Doc addressed everyone by their name and was able to produce their card each in a unique way closing his set. Doc Eason was an amazing guest and the information from his lecture is something we can all incorporate into our performances and daily lives. My interaction with him is something I will never forget.



Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



## Monday Night

## Magie

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY

# THE ANTI-COMPETITION COMPETITION

Come and watch three of our members go head to head in what promises to be a fierce competition to see who can violate the most principles from The OMS Performance Feedback Form while performing a routine where all the tricks successfully work.

You can check out The OMS Performance Feedback Form by using the QR code on this poster.

The winner by popular vote will then not only have bragging rights but also soon thereafter no doubt display the above trophy in their home for others to admire.



 SIMULTANEOUSLY  
BROADCAST ON ZOOM

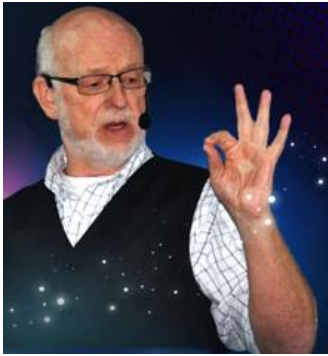
<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>

**MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024**  
7-8 PM (CDT)

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

No charge for attending this event.





## Larry's Logic

### How do I fit a trick into my show? WRAP UP

For me, the WRAP UP is the most important part of the act. It's where I remind the audience that:

- they've been great
- we've all had fun
- I thank various volunteers by name and by trick (Sarah helped with the Rings, etc.)
- my name
- I thank them all.

Remember Maya Angelou's advice:

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but **people will never forget how you made them feel.**"

So, I *remind* them that we've all had fun. And even if we didn't (which happens), I'm going to pretend we did so that they think I liked them. (Which I usually don't if the show doesn't go well.)

I *remind* them that members of the audience helped, and did a great job. I mean, who doesn't like being complimented? And it hammers home that their friends/family/acquaintances got to see the magic up close – and were still fooled!

And I *remind* them of WHO I AM!

Now I actually consider the last TWO tricks in my show to be in the WRAP UP.

Trick #1 is where I usually put a very strong/very funny piece of magic with a volunteer. I have about 3 tricks that I rotate into this position, depending on my mood and the audience

Trick #2 is the FINALE. This is a duplicate of my opener in INTENT.

Magic must occur quickly. Not within 10 seconds, but not much past that either. Again, the routine can be long, it just has to have something happen quickly.

It must be obvious. It must fool the audience. Be funny. And it **MUST** be just me and small non-magical looking props.

My FINALE has been the same trick for the last 35+ years. For my "B" and "Q" shows though (See previous articles), I have tried other tricks. And 2 of them got strong enough reactions to be FINALES for my "A" act.

Which is what I wanted.

I have quite a bit of material for the MIDDLE of the act. But the opener and closers are so important to me that replacing them is nigh impossible. So, I'm always on a chase for new material that will fit the bill. And I'm crazy enough to think that as I get better, smarter, more experienced, I'll find more.



### Our 400th Blog Post!

As you might know, our magic club shares with other magic clubs meeting themes, meeting activities, and leadership strategies that we find working well for us. We do this through maintaining a blog. Last month we reached our 400th blog post. In celebration we created a video to help promote the blog - getting word of its existence out to other magic clubs.

Here's where you can view this one minute and forty-six second video:

<https://vimeo.com/971027438/d22fa889b6>



### MODELS MEETS MAGIC

by Neil Bable

I met **Sunny** back in early 2020 when COVID had just begun. He got my name and contact information from my model building business

card I keep at HobbyTown LaVista. He commissioned me to build him a 1/350<sup>th</sup> scale USS Hornet WWII aircraft carrier; that's over 28" long! This was to be my most ambitious model kit I'd built to date, as I had very little experience with ship models as I build mostly aircraft.

This initial meeting would blossom into a wonderful "magical" relationship. We began meeting monthly for lunch, first at Bailey's on 120<sup>th</sup> and Pacific and now we meet at Jimmys Egg on 132<sup>nd</sup> and Center.

To date I've built him 10 different models.

Sunny was a combat Korean war veteran who ran a successful recycling business after leaving the service. He was married 69 years, has two grown children, has several health issues but he still insists on having me build him models, meet for lunch and have wonderful discussions. He's 93 years old!



As our relationship grew, I would perform magic tricks for him, cards and coins and sponge balls. His big smile and wide-eyed amazement showed me he enjoyed what I was doing. He wanted to learn some tricks so that's when I began teaching him some easy card tricks. I taught him the key card principle and a false transfer of a

coin. Recently I taught him a self-working trick I learned from our club meeting a few months ago on self-working magic.

Both my favorite hobbies, models and magic have been instrumental in my personal growth. I never would have thought that the two would converge and become such a wonderful life experience. On a side note, but relative to this article, I met **Steve Osborn** at a Ft. Crook model club event, and we got talking about magic and now he's in the OMS club! Then I met **Tim Begley** in the OMS club, and we got talking about model building and now he's in the Ft Crook Model club!

By the way, being a part of the CARES team motivated me to write this article as I think it fits in well with our mission.

I feel tremendously blessed to be able to have the abilities, knowledge, people skills, and most importantly, my super supportive wife **Jill**, to make long lasting friendships and wonderful memories. Magical!



**Save the Date!**  
**Magic Club Picnic is back at**  
**the Boys Town Great Hall.**  
**Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Noon to 2:00 pm**

**This will be our August meeting.**  
**Watch for more information.**



Yet another in our series of scripts for magic tricks that can be performed over the phone.

## Magic Poker

"Please take a pack of playing cards and begin to shuffle them thoroughly so that neither you nor I know where any card in the deck might be. I will attempt to read your mind as you play a game of psychic poker. Let me explain the rules.

First, I ask that you deal face down two piles of cards on the table. Each pile must have five cards. Let me repeat. Please deal two piles of cards face down on the table with each pile having five cards in it.

Please place these two piles side by side.

Now turn over and look at the top card of the right-hand pile. Stare at it so that you won't forget it. If anyone else is in the room, show it to them too. Then place it back face down on top of the pile from which you removed it.

Then pick up the left-hand pile of cards and I'm going to give you a choice. You can discard one, two, three, or even four cards from that pile. Just remove one, two, three or four cards from that pile and put them way over to the side out of the way. Place what remains in your hand face down onto the right-hand pile.



You have now buried your card. And you'll have to admit that it would be nearly impossible for me to know exactly how deep in the pile your card now resides.

Well, we're about to mix the cards even further. Please listen carefully to my instructions.

I want you to pick up the pile that contains your card and turn it face up in your hand. Deal what is now the face up top card onto the table. Have you done that?

Good.

The next face up card I want you to take and place it onto the bottom of the stack in your hand.

Then deal the next card onto the other face up card on the table with the next card going under the hand-held stack. The next card goes onto the growing table pile with the next card going under the hand stack. Continue this alternating process until you have all the cards from your hand pile face up in a stack on the table.

You have now mixed the cards.

Please pick up the pile from the table and turn it face down in your hand.

Now I want you to try and send me a picture of the card you first looked at in the beginning of this trick. Do this by taking the first card on top of the facedown pile and looking at it. If it's your selected card, think "yes." If it is not your card, think "no." I'm definitely getting a "no."

Please put that card aside.

Now turn over the next card and hold it up in your hand. Again, think the word "yes" if it is your card or "no" if it is not. Please put that card aside, it is not your card.

Try it again with the next card. Please think "yes" if it is your card and "no" if it is not. Wait a minute! I'm definitely getting a different signal this time! That is your card! Am I right? I thought so."

From the book *Magic Tricks to Amaze Yourself*. Used with permission.

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>





## Monday Night Magic

**Monday July 15th**

**7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Cross Training Center  
5030 N. 72<sup>nd</sup> 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).

### 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 Gehringerr ..... [gehringerr@cox.net](mailto:gehringerr@cox.net)

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