



The Flash Paper

June, 2019

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Presidential Ponderings

We'll be looking back over the first half of 2019 and forward to the second half of the year with a process we call

START,

STOP, and

CONTINUE:

- What do we as a club want to **START** doing that we aren't doing?
- What do we want to **STOP** doing that we are doing right now? and
- What do we want to **CONTINUE** doing that we are currently doing?

If you have *any* ideas (good, bad, or even half-baked) along these lines, please don't hesitate to let one of the board members know by reaching out to them either in person or using their contact information you'll find in the box on page five. You don't need to have figured out how it could happen. We'd just like to hear the idea.

PLEASE don't allow your brainstorming to get started with the question "How much would it cost?" More great ideas have been killed before their prime with that single question than any other question I know. I personally believe we can *always* find money for truly inspiring solid ideas. My encouragement is to start there. My encouragement is to send board members even the earliest beginnings of your thoughts now (the

rest of this column will still be here) before the idea(s) slip your mind.

One of those big ideas of mine is that one day sooner rather than later we will have our own club meeting space with walls lined with shelves containing the books in our 1000+ library. To my knowledge we own the largest library in the possession of a local magic club in the United States! With our own space, members could conveniently check out books before and after each monthly meeting. Right now, the library sadly languishes in a series of boxes in a member's basement. There's a solution to this problem. We just haven't seen it yet. Maybe your own creativity and/or personal contacts could help us out here.



Please remember my previous encouragement to not get sidetracked with the question "How much would that cost?" Allow any idea you have to grow into what such a space might look like, where it might be located, and how much it would add to the Art of Magic's prestige in the Omaha area. I know that's how I'm thinking.



Last month's meeting



Our May meeting started with many members giving their thoughts about the AbraCORNdabra magic convention. Overall, the opinions were very positive. People liked the shows, lectures, dealer room and the general

atmosphere of the convention. AbraCORNdabra is always a great time and we're very lucky to have this annual event in our own back yard (well, a two-hour drive isn't bad.)

On a more somber note, we learned that long-time member and dear friend, **Bob Pitlor** had passed away in Lincoln. Many of us who knew him remember Bob as a generous man who lived a fun life and always had a twinkle in his eye. Bob will be missed by the magic community.



The main part of the meeting revolved around brainstorming to "fix a trick." Penelope brought a routine that she felt just wasn't working. It involved reading a story while children played the parts of farm animals mentioned in the story. The trick concluded with the appearance of a cartoon bunny. After watching the trick, we broke out into groups and brainstormed ways that this trick could be improved. Some of the suggestions included using masks, microphones and making an actual bunny appear instead of a cartoon one. It would take a little effort, but the general consensus was that the trick could be turned into something good.

Theron Christensen performed and taught his coins to a bucket routine with **Penelope's** assistance. Not only was it entertaining, but his instructions were clear and initiated some good discussion.

Jeff Sikora - Secretary



This month in our video library, **THREE** new additions have been uploaded. First is a card trick by Al Koran entitled *The Fourth Try* that has proven itself a consistent crowd-pleaser as it happens

in the hands of the spectator; secondly is a floating silver ball that will prove its strength to you when you hear the groans from your audience when you reveal to them its simple method; and finally we're putting into the library the tested routine from our member **Theron Christensen's** own repertoire as performed and taught at the May magic meeting. These new videos will bring the online video library to just over 40 teaching and historical videos. All current OMS members should have the URL and password for getting in. If not, just send a message through our website. **Dave Arch**



June Meetings

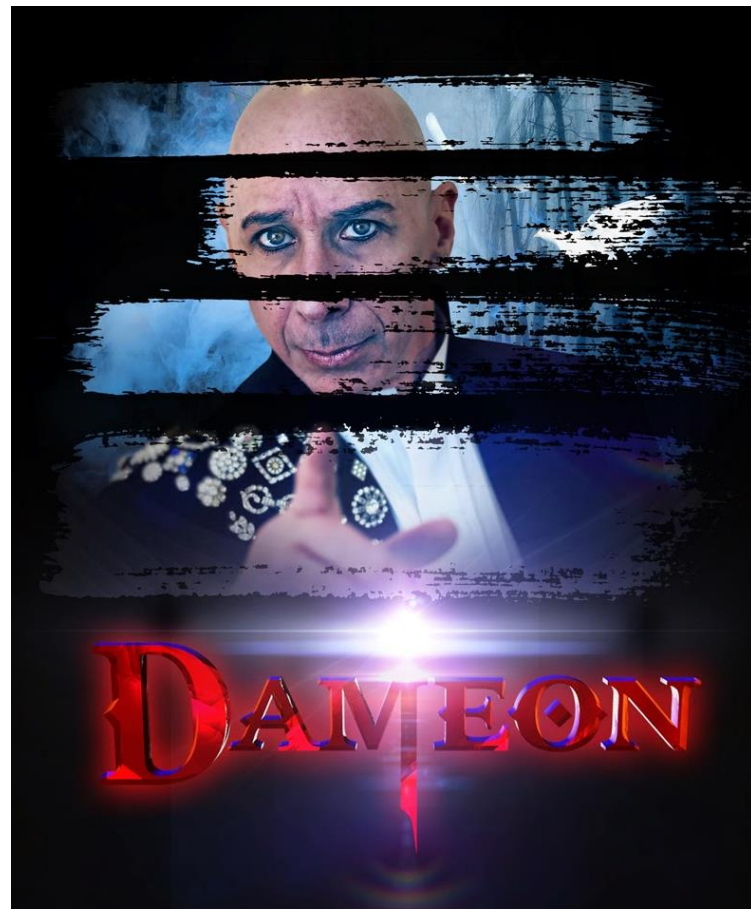
We kicked off this month with a lecture by **Dan Fleshman**. This was a low-key lecture that was very laid back and conversational. Don't let that fool you though,

Dan had so much magic packed into his 2-and-a-half-hour lecture that there is no way you could retain every bit of information he presented. You could sense his mastery over what he was showing everyone as he talked about all of the finer points showing that he had performed these tricks thousands of times for live audiences. Dan is a wealth of knowledge and could tell you where his inspirations for his routines came from and credit every magician (to his knowledge) that influenced his approach. Most of Dan's material was close up magic, ranging from cards to coins to his classic ring on string routines. Dan even presented some parlor rope magic and showed his routine for the ninja rings. It would be a disservice not to mention Dan's unique style of table hoping. Not a single routine that Dan showed/taught lasted more than 2 minutes. He does this to get his audiences attention quickly in the beginning, but he also has formulated all of his routines to be astonishing for the audiences if he is interrupted by the wait staff half way through a routine. All of Dan's sets were immediately reset once he left the table so he was set and ready to amaze at the next. Truly a great performer and a genuinely nice guy!



Our OMS Monthly meeting will be held on Monday, June 17th in the normal gathering place. The theme for

this month is "Your Short Shelf of Books". We are asking you to bring a book that has influenced your magic in some way and talk about it. If there is a specific trick that you want to show out of the book, then bring what you need to perform. If there is an interesting piece of knowledge that you got from the book, feel free to read us a passage. If there is an effect in a book that you want to model your own version of... let's discuss it! We will be giving a limited amount of time per speaker, but you are allowed to bring multiple books and present multiple ideas/effects. I am looking forward to it and I can't wait to see you all there!



If you missed Dan's lecture, make sure you make it to our next lecture on **July 1st** as we host **Dameon (Hal Meyers)**. For more information on his work, check out the link we have on the website calendar, or keep your eyes peeled on our Facebook page as we get closer to the lecture.

David Michael Fox - Vice President



What's Your Magic Story?

by Steve Nespor

For this month's "What's Your Magic Story" I'd like to give you a peek

into what it is like to be at the beginning of someone's story as I talk about our young people involved in our SYM (Society of Young Magicians).

It began in 2012 when Greg Schuerman, Jeff Sikora, and Scott Klinger started a group that would become SYM #144 in July of 2013. That original group of nine young people included Duncan, who is still an active member, and over the years upwards of 50 young people have been a member at one time or another. As this is being written, the club has grown to a dozen young people and there are several more who will be joining us later this month yet. The SYM is designed for those ages 7-17 and our current roster includes ages 7-15 from youngest member, Drew, to Micah, a high school student who does strolling magic for a local restaurant.



When talking with the youth in the group, the reasons they got interested in magic are as diverse as you would think. Here is a sample of some of their comments:

- We found an old magic kit in an antique store
- My neighbor showed me magic
- My cousin has been going to this class and her mom told my mom about it
- Watching Grandpa do magic tricks

And when asked about what their favorite trick is, those answers are just as varied:

- A card trick my brother showed me
- The Bermuda Papers" (aka the Buddha Papers)
- My favorite trick is "Pinchy"
- "The rope trick we just learned (the Cut and Restored Rope)
- Sponge Ball Tricks



Young people come to us through many avenues; grandparents, other SYM members, teachers who know that one of their students is in the group, a cousin, a neighbor, a friend of the family, magicians they've seen who invited them to become involved, parents searching the internet, and many more. But somewhere along the line it comes down to personal contact.



Quite often we look at magic only as entertainment, but it can be edu-tainment as well.



Magic can also be used to teach life skills and experience personal growth, as some of the parents have explained:

- Georgie comes up with new tricks even when she hasn't been at class recently. She tries to be very creative. I love the tricks she comes home with.
- This is a wonderful opportunity for young people to get involved in the Magic community and it really helps with problem solving skills. I like that it encourages Eve to talk to people
- Connor is very analytical and follows directions well. He wants to be an opening act for the Amazing Lindy! (AKA Grandpa)
- Our child is incredibly excited every time to come to meetings This is the first time he has been involved in something where I have not had to beg him to leave the house. He jumps right in the car. He is eager to practice at home as well. Thank you for offering this opportunity!

The enthusiasm and excitement that I witness at each meeting since I became a Group Leader alongside Jeff Sikora and Denny Rourke has been very energizing. The club is using Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic and the Discover Magic curriculum designed by Michael Ammar in our twice monthly sessions on the 1st and 3rd Mondays. You can learn more by going to the OMS website and clicking on Young Magicians in the drop-down menu where it will also provide a link to get in touch and get a young person involved.



Front from the left: Eve, Georgie, Liam, Drew, Max, Connor

Back from the left: Duncan, Micah, Tucker, Ethan, Ella, Ada



Here's hoping that, if you aren't already, you'll get to be the relative, family friend, magician next door, someone they saw in a restaurant, or at their school when they were younger and have your own place in the beginning of a young person's magic story.



2019	OMS	Officers
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Flash Paper photographer – Neil Bable		

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



If your home was on fire (God forbid) . . .

. . . , and you could only save two or three of your magic books or DVD's, which one(s) would they be?

On Monday evening, June 17th, from 7-8:30 PM at The Southwest Church Of Christ, in Omaha please bring them with you to the meeting to pass around so others can see what and why you picked them. Or you could perform something from one of them if you wish.

If you don't have a favorite book or DVD, please come anyway and hear what others have to say. You may have a favorite by the time the meeting is done. **Dave**

P.S. In addition, "Penn and Teller Fool Us Member," **Ryan Chandler**, is also going to perform and teach a proven and tested routine from his repertoire too! You can read more about Ryan and his magic at <http://OldMarketMagician.com>. Hoping your schedule will allow you to attend.

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