



# The Flash Paper

## June 2024

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

Bob Gehringer, Editor



### A Letter From Lindy

Our first "Super Saturday" came to fruition on May 11th at St. Roberts church.

I think I can speak for **Steve Nespor**, **Patrice Fisher**, and myself when I say it was a huge success. The kids came excited and eager to learn. Rubber bands, mini rubber ducks, cards, and coins were the props they had to work with, and their enthusiasm was contagious. They learned the secrets, practiced the moves, and worked on their patter. As the afternoon wound down, and parents returned to pick up their children, they were treated to a mini magic show. Each student presented one of the tricks they had learned. At the conclusion, all the kids joined "**Mr. Steve**" Nespor on stage for a grand finale that was "knot" to be believed. As a bonus to the day some of the new magicians will be joining our junior Discover Magic program. We plan to continue "Super Saturdays" with a new group every 3-4 months.

One of my favorite weekends of the year is AbraCORNdabra weekend in Des Moines, IA. **Steve Daly**, **Mikayla Oz**, and all their hard-working volunteers put in many hours to produce their Crown Jewel of magic conventions. OMS was well represented with over 20 magi, and family members enjoying all the activities. Three of our members competed in the MagiMasters competition held Friday afternoon. Though I didn't arrive until after the show, I was not surprised to hear **Jered Schaugaard**, **Tim Begley**, and **Neil Babble** did themselves and OMS proud with the acts they put together. (Spoiler Alert: if you also missed these shows,

you may have the chance to experience them later in the year-stay tuned).



Easton

We were also represented in the Kernels Showcase. Three of our junior magicians **Connor Lindeman**, **Steven Lindeman**, and **Easton Boetcher** wowed the crowd with their acts. Cousins Connor, and Steven performed their Water Wizzadry routine with a twist at the end. Easton showed a lot of creativity routing his performance around the corn theme. Dare I say it was very "corny" Easton. Start making plans to attend next year, and be sure to sign up early as attendance is limited.



Conner and Steven

Monday Night Magic brought us the Mark Wilson treasure hunt. The Cross Training Center was transformed into an art gallery of magic genres. Each section of the Mark Wilson Complete Course of Magic was highlighted in the gallery. Every member present (live or on zoom) selected a section they wanted to



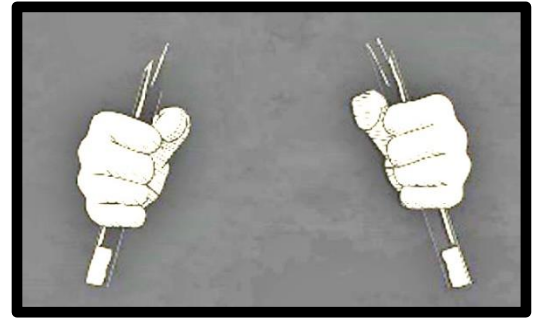
explore. From self-working card tricks to large stage illusions, and everything in between. Working in teams we perused the pages to find the trick we enjoyed the most and shared our discoveries with the larger group. Sprinkled throughout the night three members performed their favorite trick for the entire group. Awesome job **Matt Speilman**, **Thomas Gray**, and **Neil Bable**. As a bonus for anyone who does not have the Complete Course of Magic in their library, the club offered copies for only \$10. a piece! Also, congrats to **Tim Begley** who left with a 4-volume set of Bill Malone DVD's.

A common theme seemed to appear throughout the month. We use the "Mark Wilson Complete Course of Magic" in teaching our junior magician classes. This book that has sold over a million copies was also the subject of our monthly adult meeting. Finally, lecturing at AbraCORNdabra was Mark's son Greg. This is the reason I have chosen **Greg Wilson** as the featured magician for this issue. Along with his parents **Mark Wilson** and **Nani Darnell**, Greg appeared on 'The Magic Land of Alakazam'. The pioneering television show created by his father, and also starring **Bev Bergeron** as Rebo the clown. Since that time Greg has performed magic around the world, winning many prestigious awards and accolades. You may have seen Greg walk off with the "FU" trophy for his appearance on Penn and Teller's Fool Us. It was great listening to Greg's stories about his families' magic history.

In my March Letter my featured Magician was **Rocco Silano**. From an article in *The William Peterson Beacon* of April 22, 1980 there is a story about his performance and a bit of his mentor. The article states: "As Silano's sorcery continued, it was obvious that he was well taught. For the last four months Silano has taken private lessons from **Bill Wisch**, the successor to **Slydini**, the famous 83-year-old magician. Slydini, 'who is one of the best' according to Silano, does not teach any more. One of the routines Silano has learned from Wisch is Slydini's cigarette production routine known as poetry in magic."



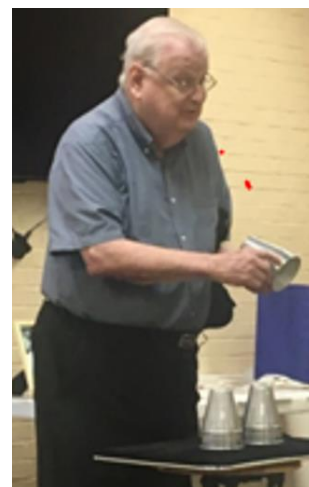
**Bill Wisch** lectured at our club in November of 2019.



Sad news regarding one of our club's Lifetime Members: Please pray for the family of **Dr. Thomas Zepf**, professor emeritus of the Physics Department at Creighton University. Dr. Zepf passed away on June 2, 2024. In memory of Tom, we are reprinting an interview from the April 2019 issue of the Flash Paper.



Tom was the photographer at our yearly Magic banquets. Here he is pictured with our wizard, Dick Sanders.



Tom was always willing to share with us. At one of our monthly events, he demonstrated a very unique set of cups and balls that incorporated a lota bowl design that would allow the performer to end his routine by pouring liquid out of the cups.

There was a very heartfelt funeral Mass for Tom at St. John's Catholic Church, Creighton University, on June 7th. Rest in Peace Tom.



## What's Your Magic Story?

by Steve Nespor

This month it was my pleasure to sit down to lunch at Petrow's with **Tom Zepf** for what I hope will be the first of many such opportunities. He caught the magic bug as a young boy of 10 in Cincinnati, OH and would go on to join the IBM's Cincinnati Ring 71 in 1954 at the age of 19. He is a member of the Order of Merlin Excelsior.

**Tom** did his undergraduate studies at Xavier University in Cincinnati and his graduate studies at Saint Louis University and moved to Omaha to take a position with Creighton University. Before retiring at the end of the 2001-2002 academic year he gave 40 years of service to their physics department. During that time, he chaired



**Professor Emeritus Tom Zepf,  
Department Head**

the physics department from 1963 to 1973, served as the chief health professions advisor for the College of Arts and Sciences in 1975 to 1981 and again chaired the department from 1981 to 1993, receiving Creighton's Distinguished Faculty Service Award in 1987 and the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1997. His research focused on condensed matter physics and laser optics (I hear the theme from the Big Bang Theory each time I read that sentence.)

When he moved to Omaha, he became a member of the Omaha Magical Society, SAM Assembly 7 in 1962, and served as President of the OMS in 1963-64 and 2014, receiving the Omaha Magical Society's David P. Abbott Award in 2010. It is safe to say he strives for excellence in everything he does. In talking to him about the various

presentations he has done over the years, there were two in particular that stood out. The first was one of his favorite programs to present, "The Mind's Eye: A Lighthearted Look at Extra Sensory Perception" in which he guides participants through various ESP-like experiences where the spectator is the one to accomplish seemingly impossible feats. His favorite closer was an effect so astonishing that it elicited a very strong reaction from the participant, often a startled scream of utter disbelief.



The second is the 40+ year tradition of the **Haunted Physics Lab** at Creighton presented every year for the Halloween season. Many of our OMS members have witnessed first-hand this testament to

Tom's passion for physics combined with magic principles. The four decades old tradition consists of 30 stations which showcase different physics phenomena. Zepf puts it best himself in an article published in the Physics Teachers Journal early in 2000, "Halloween celebrates a frightful, irrational confrontation with mystery, whereas in physics we approach the mysteries of the universe rationally." But words cannot describe the Haunted Lab sufficiently.



**Tom performing at a 1956 Dance Party**

A regular attendee of monthly meetings and lectures, Tom is a wonderful example of how magic can transcend any one discipline and delight both the young and young at heart. –

**(Reprinted from April 2019 Flash Paper)**



## May Re-Cap by Matt Spielman

*Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic* was the focus for our May OMS meeting. More than 300 tricks ranging from coin, stage, card, mentalism, and beyond are taught in this book targeted to the beginner magician. Despite being written for a beginner the book contains solid ideas and routines that even an intermediate or master magician can appreciate and slip into their routine. Kicking off the night **Neil Bable** performed "Million to One" (pg. 325) with a slight twist using cheese slices instead of cards. It was a fantastic mentalism routine that allowed the audience to pick a number between 1-10 and somehow choose the one cheese slice out of the 10 with a blue back.



After the first performance everyone in the group was provided a copy of Mark Wilson's book and was instructed to pick their favorite section from the table of contents which is broken down by the different genres of magic covered. Once a selection was made, we broke off into groups to illustrate our

favorite trick from that genre on a large piece of paper along the walls. Before continuing further, we gathered for **Thomas Gray's** performance of "The Card Through Handkerchief" (pg. 70). After having a selected card buried in the deck it was then wrapped in a handkerchief seemingly lost and sealed. Thomas was able to put a fun story to the trick and even got the group to chant "heaven and demons" summoning the culmination of the trick with the selected card melting through the handkerchief and on to the floor.



Our last group activity had each group go over their favorite trick chosen from the book and why it was important to them. Despite the illustrations ranging from good to bad the group discussions reaffirmed what a great value the book is and many examples were given of how the book has impacted their journey in the world of magic. I performed the final trick of the night, *New Card Monte* (pg. 117) using UNO cards. Two cards were chosen from the pack and then inserted back into the empty card box. I then openly showed the audience my selection and placed it into my pocket. After asking the audience if they paid attention, I then revealed the cards swapped places with my selection returning the card box and the other in my pocket. *Mark Wilson's Complete Course in Magic* is a great collection of magic and can somehow be found for \$10 or less, it comes highly recommended from our group.





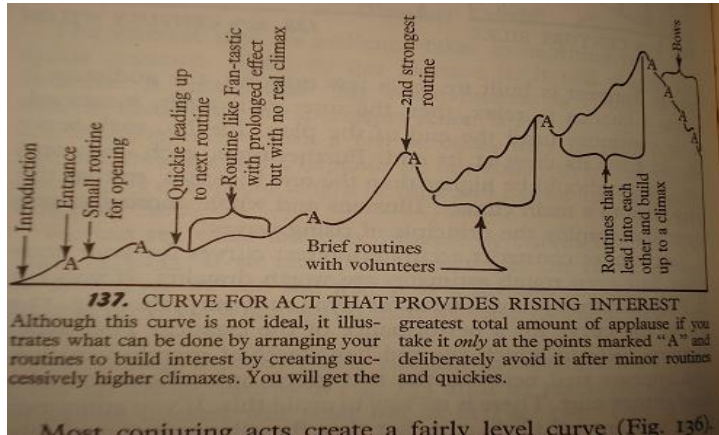
## Larry's Logic

### Middle of the act

For me, the middle of the act starts after the second trick, and extends to the next to last trick of the act.

This is where it's easy to put new material in. If it's super-long (and for me, that's 7 minutes or so), I'll shove it toward the back of the act.

Other than that, just about anything goes.



BUT...you want to remember your Henning Nelms' INTEREST CURVE from his book "MAGIC AND SHOWMANSHIP – A HANDBOOK FOR CONJURERS".

Now, I don't agree with EVERYTHING about this 'curve' but it definitely provides value as you build your act.

Now my act doesn't exactly follow this curve, but the idea of planning for ups and downs is something I like to do. So, in between 2 UP points is where I'll stick a new piece. That way, the potential disappointment of a failed routine will be lessened by having 2 GOOD routines bracketing it.

Another thing I tend to do is stick almost ALL of my spectator assisted tricks in the middle and late middle, since I've already proven myself.

I did a survey of my own once. Now, this may surprise you, but people I've known through my professional life and not through magic usually don't know that I do magic. I keep this on the down low.

Even people that have known me for +20 years, and know I do magic, probably haven't seen me do a trick, since I don't just "spontaneously" do tricks.

So, some dear friends of mine (+20 years) asked me to perform at a party they were having. Many of their friends I knew and had worked with. So, a total VIRGIN group for me.

I did my show.....and then....1 year later, I sent everyone I knew who was at the party a survey. I asked them to tell me what I had done.

The most anyone remembered was 3 tricks. In total, removing duplicates, the ENTIRE group remembered 5 items. AND IN EVERY CASE, they remembered WHO helped me more than they remembered the trick itself.

For example, almost everyone remembered the EGG BAG. But what they said was, "You did a trick with Sharon and a bag. I don't remember the exact trick, but I remember Sharon's face at the end."

So, my act went from about 60% spectator assisted to closer to 85% assisted.

And this is what's in the MIDDLE.



#### 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)
- Executive Director** - Dave Arch ..... [dave@sandler.com](mailto:dave@sandler.com)



## Monday Night

## Magic

THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

# DOC EASON

For 27 years Doc was the featured entertainer at John Denver's World Famous Tower Comedy/ Magic Bar in Snowmass Village, Colorado and now author of his new book entitled Cocktails and Doc Tales.

Widely recognized as one of the premier bar magicians of our time, he has lectured on the subject all over the US as well as Australia, Canada, England, Scotland, Netherlands, Austria, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway and most recently Japan.

Experience his performing style using the QR code at the bottom of this poster.



**SIMULTANEOUSLY  
BROADCAST ON ZOOM**

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

**MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024**  
**7-9 PM (CDT)**

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

There is no charge for attending this event thanks to the sponsorship of OMS member Doug Taylor and his company Taylor Made Home Solutions.





### AbraCORNdabra 2024

As seen by  
Neil and Jill Bable

The convention was held at the Ramada Inn Des Moines on 17,18 and 19 May. The OMS was well represented with 22 magicians attending from the club. There were so many wonderful lectures and acts; **Ray Pierce**, **Alex Ramon** and my personal favorite, the hilarious **Dana Daniels**...and his parrot Luigi! Also, legendary magician, author, inventor the iconic **Jim Steinmeyer**, who had the rooms full attention! The mystery magician was **Joseph Gabriel**.



The two contests were the Magi Masters and the Kernels. We had **Neil Bable**, **Jered Schaugaard** and **Tim Begley** performing some excellent routines for the Magi Masters.

The Kernels consisted of **Easton**, and **Steve Lindman's** grandchildren **Connor** and **Steve** who performed some wonderful routines as mentioned in Steve's letter.



On Friday evening, after everyone had settled into the convention, the club hosted an excellent evening pizza party with lots of camaraderie, sharing, laughter and excitement. We also had a surprise visit from **Theron Christensen!** Super fun time.



There were the usual vendors from the surrounding area, Minnesota and Iowa. There was also a silent auction and the Gala show on Saturday night where we were asked to dress up in our best attire. They also announced the winners of the two contests, the Magi Masters and the Kernels (young magicians).

Jim Steinmeyer

Sunday was the wrap up with **Joseph Gabriel** giving a very nice and informative lecture.





Rather than a series of magic tricks that can be done ON your smartphone with a special app, this periodic series in The Flash Paper will contain magic tricks you can do OVER your smartphone - calling another person and performing the magic with them. Since the person on

the other end of the phone won't be able to see you, one of the better parts is that each of these columns will be the actual script you could read in delivering your magic.

## Magic At the Dinner Table



Before we begin, I need you to place on a table in front of you a knife, a fork and a spoon. You can place them in any order. However, they do need to be in a row. You could put the knife on the left or the right or in the middle. The same could be said for both the spoon and the fork. Place them carefully in a row.

Now we're going to mix them up as I give you some brief instructions. All I ask is that you simply listen carefully and follow my instructions exactly.

First. . . exchange the spoon with the item on its right. If there is no item on the spoon's right, just leave the spoon where it is. Again, let me say it slowly . . . change the spoon's position with the item on the spoon's right. If there is no item to the right of the spoon, just leave the spoon where it is. Have you done that? Good.

Secondly. . . exchange the knife with the item on its left. If there is no item on the knife's left, just leave the knife

where it is. Again, let me say it slowly . . . change the knife's position with the item to the left of the knife. If there is no item on the knife's left, just leave the knife where it is.

Finally . . . exchange the fork with the item on its right. If there is no item to the right of the fork, just leave the fork where it is. Again, let me say it slowly. . . change the fork's position with the item on the fork's right. If there is no item on the fork's right, just leave the fork where it is. Now take the item on the far-left end of the row and carefully sit on it. Again, let me say pick up the item on the far-left end of the row and carefully sit on it. Then pick up in your right hand the sharper of the two 2 objects remaining on the table. Pick up in your right hand the sharper of the two items remaining on the table.

Finally, hold the last object in your left hand. Hold the last object in your left hand.

Now. . . please stare at the object in your left hand. I will attempt to pick up your thoughts. Concentrate on that object. In fact, if you could picture yourself using it, it would help me lock onto your thoughts. I'm receiving an image of you eating a bowl of breakfast cereal. No one eats breakfast cereal with a knife or fork. . . so you must be holding the spoon in your left hand.

Now. . . shift your focus to your right hand. Picture yourself using that utensil. OW! I'm seeing a stabbing motion. That could either be a knife or a fork. However, I believe that it's the knife! No wait . . . I'm seeing it clearer now. It's the fork! Am I right?

Then you must surely be careful as you reach underneath yourself and remove the knife. Careful! Careful!

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



Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>





### The Omaha Magical Society

#### A Standing Ovation



It was a beautiful sunny, Sunday afternoon at our latest CARE Team magic outing. **Tim Begley, Nathan Roberts, Denny Rourke, Thomas Gray, Neil Bable, and Patrice Fisher** entertained about forty residents of the Ovation Heartwood Preserve.

Ovation has been opened almost three years as a retirement community with both assisted and memory care facilitation. Their building is beautiful in both design and décor.



Our location in the lounge area was perfect for our close-up, walk around magic as there are several conversation areas, and separate tables, and comfy chair arrangements, between a coffee bar area and a living room/great room space.



Our team had a good time performing for the folks who enthusiastically interacted with us as we joined them in their various seating areas. The reviews were great, and they are looking forward to another afternoon of magic soon.

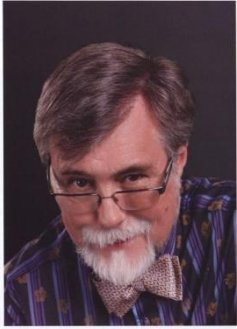


#### OMS Leadership Transition Announced

With the understanding that the role of the OMS Executive Director is filled by appointment of the board on an annual basis, current director Dave Arch indicated to the board at their June board meeting that he does not wish to serve in that position after 2026.

The board now begins working with Dave - implementing a transition to another person(s) between now and the end of 2026.

Feel free to ask one of your board members **Steve Lindeman, Adam Schacht, Patrice Fisher, or Bob Gehringer** questions that might come to mind in the light of this announcement.



DOC EASON

Want to read more in anticipation of this month's Monday Night Magic lecturer on Monday, June 17th? Click here:

<https://bit.ly/3x7qQ0h>

## Monday Night Magic

**Monday June 17th**

**7:00 – 9:00 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).

13405 Marinda ST.  
Omaha, NE 68144

