



# The Flash Paper

March, 2020

Bob Gehringer, Editor



### Presidential Ponderings

I believe the Art of Magic when well-presented is one of the few art forms where both children and adults can share together in its joy and wonderment without either needing to fake enthusiasm. If you've ever attended a children's movie with some children, you know this is not always the case.

However, the above also means that learning magic together has the potential of drawing families closer together. With family schedules pulling members in many directions, it is my belief that the common experience of learning magic together can help counteract that fact of life.



Consequently, starting the last Monday night of this month (March 30), we'll be offering an event that will occur on the fifth Monday night of every month - conducting family magic classes where entire families can come together at no cost with other families - sitting around tables to learn and help each other perform magic tricks.

Our OMS Junior Magicians staff (i.e. **Steve Nespor**, **Steve Lindeman**, **Amjad Alawimari**, and **Patrice Fisher**) will be leading this evening of learning from 5:30-6:45 PM at the [Southwest Church Of Christ](#) (2600 S.124th Street in Omaha).

I don't suppose you know of a family who'd join your family for an enjoyable evening of learning magic tricks together?



In keeping with best practices for our organization's soon-to-be non-profit (501C3) status, current OMS members will vote on adopting some board recommended constitutional amendments at our March regular monthly meeting (Monday, March 16th). If you are a 2020 paid member of the Omaha Magical Society and have not received the recommended amendments, you may submit a request for a copy through our club website's homepage. – **Dave Arch**

### 2020 OMS Officers

**President** – Dave Arch .....([dave@sandler.com](mailto:dave@sandler.com))  
**Vice President** – David Fox.....([Dfox1902@gmail.com](mailto:Dfox1902@gmail.com))  
**Treasurer** – Bob Gehringer.....([gehringerr@cox.net](mailto:gehringerr@cox.net))  
**Secretary** – Steve Nespor .....([omahamagician55@gmail.com](mailto:omahamagician55@gmail.com))  
**Sgt.-at-Arms** – Amjad Alawimari .....([mrwho.magic@gmail.com](mailto:mrwho.magic@gmail.com))



## Wizard Wars Goes Impromptu!

**Monday night (March 16<sup>th</sup>)** we will be meeting at the Southwest Church of Christ for our monthly get together! Looking forward to the creativity that is brought about this year by members that wish to participate in this year's fun competition.

For the past several years we have conducted the **OMS Wizard Wars**. This is a friendly and fun competition based off of the TV show "Wizard Wars" where teams will be presented with a handful of objects that are un-gimmicked. Their goal is to come up with some magical routine utilizing those objects. I am always amazed to see what other magicians come up with when given these interesting props.

With time at a premium for most of our members, next Monday night's (March 16th) meeting is going to take our annual **Wizard's War** theme to an **impromptu** format.

- Everyone who attends the meeting will become part of a small group - mixing magic beginners and veterans;
- The group will select one of five different colored sacks;
- They will then be given thirty minutes to create a magic routine using all four props in their sack;
- They will also decide who will be involved in the performance of the routine. Not everyone needs to perform; and
- Following the performance, all other meeting attendees will brainstorm ideas for taking the routine to even the next level.

I know, it sounds stressful, but it is all just for fun. I hope you consider participating, and I will see you Monday night! – **David Fox**

## February Meeting Mental Magic Night

Our February meeting featured the branch of magic that creates the illusion of mind reading. The evening included both performances and explanations of some classic effects in both mentalism and what would better be called mental magic.

Club President **Dave Arch** kicked things off by getting our group interacting with one another after handing out a Discover Magic packet trick called **Funny Fortune Teller**. We were given time to study the instructions and then found a partner to take turns performing the simple effect for each other. While it was a children's magic trick, the principle is used in many forms and was a great warm up for the evening to come.



Next up our own **David Fox, the Midwest Mentalist**, who performed and taught an entertaining version of the 8 Card Brainwave.

**Steve Nespore** shared an idea for mind reading magic with children using equivoque, three paper bags and an eight-foot straw.

**Tom Neddo** showed us a stage filling, multiple-participant version of the Truth Teller and Liar plot. He showed us how six volunteers could be used in a simple, direct handling of the premise.

Newcomer **Aleister Knight** shared a Torn Corner to Impossible Location that he then walked us through and first-timer **Dan Castagnoli** performed his favorite pet trick, Card Warp.

The evening concluded with a brief discussion proposed OMS Constitution changes. Members received copies of the changes to be voted on by members next month. - **Steve Nespore**



## What's Your Magic?

by

**Patrice Fisher**

### **Poppin Penelope Fratelli**

When I sat down with **Poppin' Penelope (Fratelli)**, I had no idea the woman across from me was a stilt-walking juggler, balloon artist and magician!

Her many talents seem to run in the family; her brother is **The Amazing Arthur**, an Omaha magician. In 1998, he bought her a magic kit that began her journey into adding magic to her repertoire. Under **Arthur's** tutelage via phone, **Penelope** put on her first show at Kirkland Air Force Base in New Mexico, where she lived at the time. Yes, believe it, she learned an entire magic show practicing by phone with her brother!

**Penelope's** interest in magic continued while living in Norwich, England, where she joined two magic clubs! Those English magicians were real task-masters, teaching their European style and techniques. They expected practice in return and, although it was a lot of work, **Penelope** met the challenge and learned many new skills.

When **Penelope** returned to the states, joining the Omaha Magical Society was a natural fit for her. She has been a member of the club for twelve years. **Penelope** told me how indebted and thankful she is for the support she received early on and continues to experience from our members. Two mentors really stand out from her first few years attending meetings. She is indebted to **Peter The Near Great**, for taking her under his wing. **Jeff Quinn** welcomed her to the group and proceeded to give her several of his tricks and helped her learn them.

Adding balloon tricks and art to her shows really took her to a new level and **Poppin' Penelope** was born.

Currently, she maintains a full-time career with family friendly shows at county fairs, and company and other private events where she also performs mentalism and hypnosis.



But the pinnacle of her many talents just might be highlighted in an exciting new juggling, comedy, escape show that she and her fiancé and juggler, **Peter Brunette**, are creating. In the footsteps of Houdini, she will perform **Metamorphosis**. **Denny Rourke** sold her his custom-made escape box for that routine and has assisted her with that difficult trick. Also, **David Arch** has been instrumental with the rope and other important elements and props for her upside-down, straight jacket routine, rope escape from 20 feet high!

**Poppin' Penelope** must maintain great physical strength and mental stamina for her shows. **Penelope Fratelli** exudes enthusiasm and energy for her profession. It was so interesting interviewing her for this article. She is a true Renaissance woman.

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>





## OMS Junior Magicians

by Steve Nespor

OMS Junior Magicians  
Road Trip and Magic Show



On Saturday, April 25th, adults, youth, and parents from The OMS Junior Magicians group will be travelling together to perform at **The Little Red Hen Theatre** in Wakefield Nebraska. Young people will be helping backstage and as assistants for the stage shows, as strolling magicians beforehand, and will perform alongside the adults at a show for a local care facility.

Interested OMS Junior Magicians can contact **Steve Nespor** for more details.



Each month our club's membership grows. With each new member, there's also a new challenge to provide resources for that member regardless of their magic interest/passion

niche (i.e. performing, collecting, serious mentalism, challenging card or coin sleights, etc.).

To view a video that might spark ideas for using this new resource to grow in your own magic interest area visit <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/learning-center>

Mentalism for children? Member **Steve Nespor** believes it works and works well. Added to our club's online video library this month are several videos including a routine with member **Steve Nespor** exemplifying how to use mind reading themes with children and also a video showing how adding an imaginary spool of thread and needle adds much to the interaction surrounding the classic Coin Through the Handkerchief trick.

Note that we also have videos in our growing collection of our beloved **Walter Graham** performing.



### Walter Graham Performance (His Toa...

Dave Arch

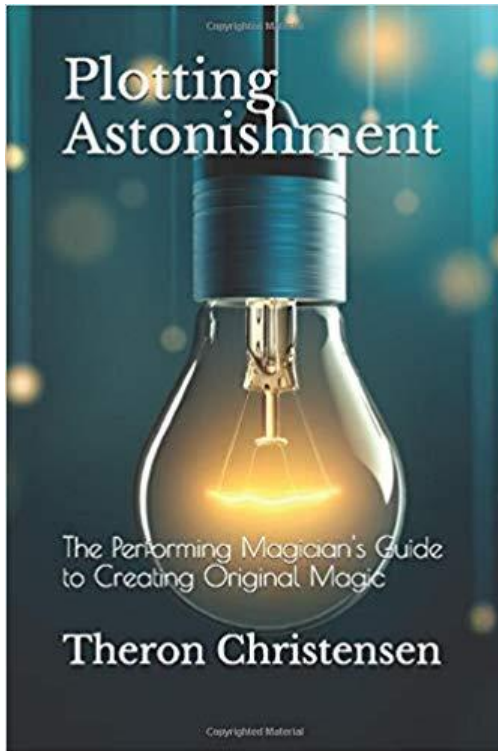
Former Dean of the Omaha Magical Society, Walter Graham, delivers his signature toasts as George Huffaker plays the



### Walter Graham Performance (Cards T...

Dave Arch

Here former Dean of the Omaha Magical Society performs one of his signature routines The Cards To Pocket at one of the club's



## March Book Lecture Theron Christensen

I had read OMS member **Theron Christensen's** new book *Plotting Astonishment* so was more than a little excited that we were going to hear directly from him on the theories he espoused about maintaining originality in creating our magic routines. I wasn't disappointed. In addition to projected videos demonstrating his emphases, he led participants through a process of collaboration in applying his creative-generating strategies to create original material.



**Theron stimulating our discussion.**

His approach proved itself by doing just that by the amount of fresh ideas it produced. Thank you, **Theron**, for not only making your thinking on this under-explored topic available to the magic community through your writing but also for coming to Omaha and helping us connect the dots of your thinking even closer together. -  
**Dave Arch**



**An evening to remember filled with creative conversation and collaboration.**





## Joe Cole's Schedule

- Sunday:** 6 to 8pm **Good Life Bar & Grill**  
20231 Manderson St, Elkhorn, NE
- Monday:** 6 to 8pm **Good Life Bar & Grill**  
180th and Pacific
- Tuesday:** 7 to 9pm **Upstream Brewery Downtown**
- Wednesday:** 6 to 8pm **Fernando's** 114th and Dodge
- Thursday:** 7 to 9pm **Upstream Brewery Downtown**
- Friday:** 7 to 9pm **Elkhorn's St. Patrick's Catholic Church Fish Fry (During Lent)**
- Saturday:** 6 to 8pm **Fernando's** 76th and Pacific

You can also see my schedule here:  
<http://omahamagic.com/weekly-shows/>



## Steve Lindeman

I have been doing strolling magic at **Texas Roadhouse** in Council Bluffs from 6:00 to 8:00 every Tuesday for years. All other shows for the month are not open to the general public. It would be fun to see any members in the restaurant some Tuesday



## Ryan Chandler's Schedule

I have all my upcoming public shows posted at

<https://www.oldmarketmagician.com/shows>

13405 Marinda ST.  
Omaha, NE 68144

