



The Flash Paper

March, 2019

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Presidential Ponderings

I'm probably getting an inquiry every other week from someone who discovers the OMS website. Most of the time the theme I hear is the same: "I'm afraid I'll come to a meeting and look stupid." Certainly not unique to magic clubs the challenge of how to

keep the veterans challenged without leaving behind those newer to magic constantly faces us.

In Omaha, we've chosen a six-pronged approach:

- We still have our monthly themed meetings which tend to be more geared towards the middle of our primary demographic – challenging the veterans (mostly with creative presentational elements rather than methodologies that would necessarily be new to them) without overwhelming the newcomer;
- Publishing an annual pictorial membership directory with contact information *and* areas of specific interests in the magic world provides yet another tool for enabling members to connect with other members of like interests;
- Implementing Interest Groups where members can get together outside of the monthly meetings to focus on a much smaller

niche of magic's extensive body of knowledge (i.e. beginning magic, mentalism, card flourishes, magic history, collecting, etc.). Combining member resources and resources purchased from the club treasury, these Interest Groups meet as frequently as members want and end when the members are (dare I say) no longer interested;

- Scheduling a diversity of internationally-recognized guest lecturers with some focused on the veterans and some on those newer to the art;
- Encouraging private lessons where members work on specific areas with other members (and those not even in the club yet) in the area(s) of their expertise; and
- Providing *both* a physical library and an online video library.

Online videos provide a safe way for someone new to the Art of Magic to learn some of the basic magic tricks many of us learned years ago – laying a foundation of successful accomplishment that can then be built upon as their knowledge and skill level increases. Any additional ideas are always welcome! Thank you for your participation and contributions. - **Dave Arch**

2019 OMS Officers

President – Dave Arch(dave@sandlers.com)
Vice President – David Fox...(hosty@windstream.net)
Treasurer – Bo Gehringer.....(gehringerr@cox.net)
Secretary – Jeff Sikora.....(jqmagic@cox.net)
Sgt.-at-Arms – Neil Bable.....(rutiger@hotmail.com)



Last Month's Meeting

Our minds were blown at the last meeting with a wide array of demonstrations of mentalism.

David Fox led things off with a wonderful talk on mentalism that involved billet switches. He showed several different methods to switch one billet for another and treated us to a great routine in the process.



Theron and his stamp collection. Photo by **Neil Bable**

Mind magic continued with **Theron Christensen** amazed everyone with a trick involving the Art of Magic postage stamps that were released last year. Five stamps were behind a frame and once a spectator chose a stamp, it mysteriously vanished from the frame only to be found on an envelope the spectator had been holding the entire time. It was a brilliant piece of magic. **Neil Bable** and **Bob Gehringer** both performed mental magic with smartphone apps. **John Sheibal** and **Ryan Chandler** used cards to intrigue us and **Denny Rourke** put his spin on mental magic with card manipulation. It was wonderful to see everyone so active.

At the end of the meeting, David left us with some ethical questions to ponder. First, should a mentalist give a disclaimer or any kind during his show? Secondly, should cards be used in mentalism or are they too associated with "regular" magicians? There was a lively discussion and lots of great thoughts about both of these matters.

Just a reminder that there are TWO great magic events coming to within driving distance of Omaha and Lincoln. AbraCORNdabra is May 17-19 and the line-up of talent is stellar! There will be acts from around the world both performing and lecturing this year. I'm looking forward to it. www.abracorndabra.com.

Also, make plans to attend the Chicago Celebration, June 27-29. The S.A.M. is celebrating Assembly #3's 100th birthday with a party filled with magic, lectures, dealers, fun...and the chance to visit the famous Chicago Magic Lounge. Visit www.magicsam.com for more information.

I'm looking forward to see everyone at the Wizard Wars meeting on Monday!

-Jeff Sikora, Secretary - S.A.M. Assembly #7



Our ethical questions discussion. Photo by **Neil Bable**



Attentive audience. Photo by **Tom Zepf**



This Month's Meeting



The **OMS Annual Wizard Wars** event is coming on Monday evening, March 18th from 7-8:30 PM at the Southwest Church Of Christ in Omaha. What is Wizard Wars you ask? Wizard Wars was a hit magic TV competition show that aired on the SIFI channel several years ago. For the March meeting I am looking for people to compete in the Wizard Wars Competition. It will only take place during this one meeting this year and the winners will receive free tickets to any of the upcoming Lectures. If you would like to compete, please let me know ASAP! There is a lot of work going into this competition and I want to make sure everything runs well. Two teams have signed up, and I have had a few people inquiring that need partners as well, so if you want to be teamed up with someone, that is a possibility!

How it works:

Once teams of 2 magicians are chosen, I will send out an email going over the rules.

3 days before the March meeting, I will email the teams individually with a photo of the props they will be receiving to perform with.

The goal here is to take the objects they are given and come up with a fun magical performance.

Once the teams show up to the meeting, they will receive their bags and have 15 minutes to go into the hallway and practice their routine.

After round 1 is complete, we will have everyone at the meeting that is not part of the competition vote (Abracordabra style).

The top two teams will compete in the last round of Wizard Wars.

They will be given new props (both groups will have the same props), and given 25 minutes to come up with a new routine.

Once performances are over and voting will take place again. At the end of the meeting we will announce the winners and award the prizes!

We did this last year, and it was a great time for everyone involved! If you aren't quite sure if you want to try it or not, I encourage you to go for it... What do you have to lose?

P.S. if you're interested in participating, just email me and let me know. Thanks.

David Michael Fox – hosty@windstream.net

Private Magic Lessons



Have you ever considered taking a private magic lesson or two? When you consider the fact that a lesson might be as singularly focused as working on your double lift, a private lesson is arguably among the most efficient ways to learn the art of magic. With FaceTime and Skype so popular, it might also be conducted online. In spite of the fact that a lot of help occurs informally between members, there might be a moment when a more formal arrangement would be appropriate. If you have an area of interest, but don't know who in the club might be well-informed in that area, you can put in a request through our website's homepage. We'll help make connections, and the two parties can work out the details.



This has proven itself to be one of the closest, finest, and most cost-effective conventions around with magic dealers, shows, lectures, and always a special guest of national or international prominence.

Held in Des Moines, Iowa from May 17-19, you can read more about it and register by going to its website: <http://abracorndabra.com/>

Many OMS members attend, and we encourage you to seriously consider it for this year.

Video Library Additions



This month we've added a video by OMS member, **Jered Schaugaard**, as he teaches his handling of Dai Vernon's classic routine *Twisting The Aces*. Thank you **Jered**.

All OMS members have access to these ever-growing resources with teaching videos for Easy, Intermediate, and Advanced performer.

If you have yet to renew your membership for 2019, you can do also do that on our website. If you are a member and don't yet have your credentials, please let us know by contacting us through the homepage of the website.

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The Omaha Magical Society website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



Interest Groups

Would you want to get together with others in the club and pursue a specific interest area in

magic (i.e. magic history, collecting, card flourishes, mentalism, etc.) outside of the regular monthly meetings? If so, please let us know of your desire through contacting us through the homepage of our website.

Correction: In the last Flash Paper is the following statement: "Donna Roth and Roger Reese did an excellent job on our decorations."

Roger states that "I had nothing to do with the decorations as they were all hand crafted by Donna. My wife Nancy and daughter Victoria helped Donna setup the decorations for the banquet." Thank you for your help Nancy and Victoria.

Some new faces from our February meeting:



Amjad Alawimari: "Mr. Who"

photo by Neil Bable



Michaela Gutierrez

photo by Neil Bable

What's Your Magic Story?



by
Steve Nespor

This month: Joyce Becwar Chleboun

When I was invited to write a monthly column about members of the Omaha Magical Society, **Joyce** was one of the first people who came to mind, especially as “women in magic” is a topic in the forefront these days.



Joyce, who goes by the stage name **J D Diamond**, was one of the first people I met when I joined the club and her infectious good humor was immediately evident. Although she has an extensive library of magic

books, lecture notes, videos, and magic magazines - dating back to 1929 (any of which she would gladly loan out) – she does more than collect magic, she is a performer whose magic roots go way back.

Magic was a family passion. Her parents **LeRoy** and **Irene Becwar** performed magic shows that included the whole family in the act and to this day, Joyce and her four siblings still perform. Her father gave **Joyce** her first deck of cards at a young age when she told him she wanted lots of diamonds. She has been performing ever since.

Magic Conventions were a regular family ritual that gave them all an opportunity to meet and learn from many a famous magician. Whether sitting next to **Dai Vernon** as he taught a card trick or going up on stage with **Al Goshman** - who knew he could count on her surprised exclamations of joy and laughter at his magic.

Her magic is delightful and light-hearted, combining grace, emotion, and skill that create an air of charm and mystery. She has her own unique style of performing that combines familiar magic tricks, a dose of humor and plenty of audience participation woven into a very feminine style. And she continued the tradition of involving the family in magic. She once made her daughter (who was just 3 months old at the time) magically appear on stage.

Her signature effect was born out of the reality of a busy, performing magician. She found that after a hectic schedule of Parlor, Stage, and Gospel Magic - with lots of doves and rabbits being produced – one of her biggest wishes in real life was to come home to a clean house and clean clothes. This sparked the creation of her signature act that includes *producing a new washing machine* and doing multiple effects that weave in and out of a clothing theme. The next time you see her; feel free to ask her about this trick as she loves to talk about it.

It's safe to say that Joyce believes in magic and in the magic of making people happy, and reminding others that there is magic in believing in yourself. True Magic is in each of us. I'll close with a quote from Joyce, “I want to thank all of you for *your* magic in *my* life. I appreciate all of you, sharing illusions and ideas, teaching, and your friendship. Magic is not just about what the audience sees, but about what they experience. Thank you for the beauty of your magic in my life.”



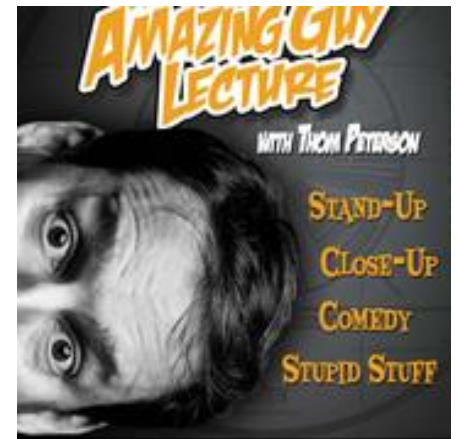


Monday, April 1st: 7:00 p.m.

Southwest Church of Christ

Lecture with Thom Peterson: The Amazing Guy!

A one-man flash mob of magic and comedy. Laugh as he turns your lecture experience into a slumber party of fun and mystery. You'll learn magic that will blow spectator's hair back, and comedy that's illegal in five states (or at least... frowned upon.) In this lecture Thom will be drawing on his 30+ years as a fulltime performer to provide a great mix of Stand-Up and Close-Up material. Not stuff that was developed just for a lecture, but the stuff he actually uses day in and day out. No knuckle busting pipe dreams here, but stuff you can immediately slot into your regular performing repertoire! There is something for everyone in this lecture. Whether you are a seasoned pro or just getting started in magic, you're sure to get something fun and functional out of Thom's lecture. Join Thom for an evening of fun explanations, and find out why he truly is, "The Amazing Guy!" (<https://AmazingGuy.com>)



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