



The Flash Paper

May 2021

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Prez Sez



Recently I was talking with club member **Steve Lindeman**, and he recalled a relatively

impromptu routine that could be done with the help of another OMS club member, if that member remembered the "secret code." Of course, it works even better if your unsuspecting volunteer did not know the other person was also a magician.

The magician would force the 7 of Clubs on a spectator and then with the appropriate flare, would tell the volunteer that not only did they know what card the spectator had chosen, but that they were certain enough of their own mental abilities that they believed they could project a thought to someone else and that person would know what the selected card as well.

Staring intently at the other OMS member, the magician would ask them to say which card the volunteer was merely thinking of in their mind and it would be announced to the amazement of the volunteer.

At the time, all OMS members knew that the secret code card was the **Seven of Clubs**. The simple mnemonic? Our **CLUB** is S.A.M. Assembly #007.

May Meeting

Looking forward to the day that we can gather in person, but until then, we'll see you at our next online meeting on May 17th when we will ask our members, **"What's in Your Pockets?"** Is there a trick you always carry with you when you head out the door? If you're doing walk around, what is one of the tricks you would have on you? Is there a favorite effect you like to do in family Zoom gatherings? You can either simply name the effect or share a short routine. You don't need to perform to join in the discussion.

Travis Nye will also be popping in from the **Spellbound Magic Shop in Sioux Falls** to share a few things that have come into his shop that would be good pocket tricks.

Should be a fun evening, hope to see you then.

- **Steve Nespor, President**



2021 OMS Officers

President – Steve Nespor omahamagician55@gmail.com
Vice President – Jered Schaugaard... jered.incredible@gmail.com
Secretary – Patrice Fisher patricekfisher@yahoo.com
Treasurer – Bob Gehringer gehringerr@cox.net
Sgt-at-Arms – Amjad Alawimari mrwho.magic@gmail.com
Executive Director - Dave Arch dave@sandler.com

A Virtual Trip to England to visit The Professor's Nightmare



Attending our April OMS monthly meeting via ZOOM, I was transported across-the-pond. A foggy London night provided a perfect virtual setting for **Lady Sarah** and **Keith Fields** since they are both from Britain. That was their first illusion for the evening as they were actually joining us from Michigan from their home-base in Troy. Before beginning their act, Keith provided his number some tips for a performing magician; smile, make eye contact and enjoy yourself. It was clear the moment Sarah and Keith greeted our club members, that they were enjoying themselves and it made the meeting most memorable.

Lady Sarah's persona is that of a scatter-brained, wacky side-kick to **Keith Fields**. Keith, with his British accent, English bowler hat, and large, round rimmed glasses partnered with her for hilarious banter to open their performance. I hope he found the missing mouse that escaped from his cage and I think Lady Sarah would agree.



Keith performed The Professor's Nightmare rope illusion with the skill and agility that has earned him a piece of

historical note as an award-winning street magician. After showing us the trick, he walked us through the intricacies step-by-step. During his explanation of the rope handling, he made sure to give credit to **Duncan Trillo** for the loop fold move that he invented. One would only hope to mimic his dexterity that he made seem so easy to learn.

It would be worth a watch on You Tube or a visit to **Lady Sarah's Magic Soiree Theater** Facebook page! If you like collecting magic books, please check-out Fifty Ways to Improve Your Magic written by Keith Fields.

Many thanks to Sarah and Keith for giving us their time and talent. The Omaha Magical Society was very fortunate to spend an evening with such entertaining magicians! - **Patrice Fisher, Secretary**

Meet Pete



Be watching for our new club mascot appearing soon at a community event near you!



What's your Magic Story? by Patrice Fisher Interview with Neil Bable

His stage name, **Rutiger the Magician**, was waiting in the wings until **Neil Bable** discovered his passport and adoption papers with his given last name of Rutiger listed after his mother passed away. Born in West Germany, Neil was adopted by an American diplomat who worked for the CIA in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). This is an agency that I had never heard about. It isn't in the news like the Peace Corps or AmeriCorps. The government website explains its mission is to advance U.S. national security and economic prosperity by cultivating paths to self-reliance and determination for the countries we support. Wow, it made me feel patriotic just reading about the USAID, and it started me thinking about a spy novel with a CIA agent posing as a USAID volunteer...hmmm, I think that premise has been played-out a few times, though.

One could say that Neil's life growing up was a product of international development. His father's life as a "diplomat" gave Neil a very cosmopolitan upbringing as they lived in Africa, Italy, the Philippines, Laos, and Spain.

While living in the Manila, at around six or seven years old, Neil experienced his first magic show. His mother hired a magician to perform for his birthday. The magician performed the *Miser's Dream*, also known as *Perpetual Coins*. Neil loved what he saw and began to teach himself magic. Magic became a grounding constant and a way to make friends in his many moves to different countries.

After attending high school in Rome, Italy, Neil traveled to America and attended college in Utah. He studied languages in college and remembers connecting with a magician who came to entertain. Standing at the back of the stage, Neil was determined to introduce himself and gain some magic tips. The visiting entertainer showed

Neil how to do a *French Drop* and coin and sponge ball sleight-of-hand maneuvers.

A career in the Air Force followed college, and Neil was able to again travel the world and fuel his wander-lust. He performed magic in the various USOs in airports while awaiting his next flights to wherever. Those clubs are where he developed a real affinity for entertaining kids. One indelible memory was when he performed magic for the handicapped daughter of a U.S. soldier serving in Iraq. The sheer delight and amazement on that little girl's face was worth more than he could have ever imagined. Thank you so much for your service!



Neil and Jill

Neil was able to further his skills after retiring from twenty-three years in the military when he joined Continental Airlines as a ramp agent at Eppley Airfield here in Omaha. He would practice while waiting to sling passenger bags into the cargo hold.

Most of the magic that Neil had learned was self-taught until he joined the Omaha Magical Society. Here's when the usual suspects of our club come into Neil's Magic Story. Like the pitcher for the team, **Dave Arch** was the speaker at the first meeting Neil attended. The line-up consisted of Bob Buczkowski, Tom Neddo, Walter Graham, Jeff Quinn, Larry Brodahl, and Scott Klinger. All club All-Stars. Each one serving up various skills to share with Neil.



Neil at one of his shows.

Bob Buczkowski was a major influence, mentor and friend. He provided performance tips for children's magic shows and valuable feedback on performances that Neil video-taped. Some words of wisdom from Bob that really enhanced the entertainment value for the audience was the difference between a magic routine and a magic trick. A routine, as Neil noted, is a story linking to the illusion, with the scripted banter essential to winning over an audience. The illusion is merely performing the mechanics of the trick.

Tom Neddo taught Neil various card tricks when they met at Mangelson's Magic Shop on 84th Street. **Scott Klinger** gave him a copy of Wilson's Magic book, which is well known in our club and which we use as an added teaching tool for our junior magicians. **Jeff Quinn** gave advice on magic venues in the area as well as other support for this new member. And of course, **Larry Brodahl**, one of our all-around best players on the field, assisted Neil with his story-telling as a key to excellence

in not only performing, but in misdirection. During our interview, Neil expressed his thanks to our magical society members for their help, feedback and most importantly their friendship.

There is another key person for whom Neil expressed special gratitude. That would be Jill, Neil's wife, who has been a huge part of their life in magic. They have traveled all over Nebraska and Iowa performing for children, families and day centers for adults with disabilities. Jill ran lights and any other show responsibilities that were needed. Her encouragement throughout the years has been amazing!

Today, Neil looks toward a life after COVID-19 where he can once again perform his magic. One of his favorite venues is performing at Boy's Town. His persona as a buck-toothed professor in a lab coat with a German accent and a Groucho Marx mustache served to get the kids laughing from the moment he took the stage. It was a favorite annual show for the kids as well as for Neil. Quarantine has been relatively busy for him. Neil has continued his love of flying by making model airplanes as a pastime. Some of his models are on display at Hobby Town in La Vista. His pièce de résistance is an aircraft carrier with all of the different planes on its flight deck. This was commissioned by an 80-year-old customer, and it took Neil a good six months to build. Strolling magic is what Neil hopes to do next. It will be challenging because magic in Omaha has some stiff competition. But, as he looks toward his next magical challenge, I bet some of our OMS All-Stars will again be there to give him their support.



An example of Niel's meticulous model work



In honor of our club's one hundredth birthday year celebration, we had reproductions made of an old con game used to take money from unsuspecting players. Then we had the props miniaturized for easy carry.

Every 2021 OMS club member will receive three sets of the con game with their hard copy of May's Flash Paper. That means if you wish you'll have two sets to give away to family or friends.

A three-phase routine has also been uploaded to the OMS online video library. If you're a member but have forgotten your credentials for accessing the library, please email **Dave Arch**, and he'll send you the link and current password.



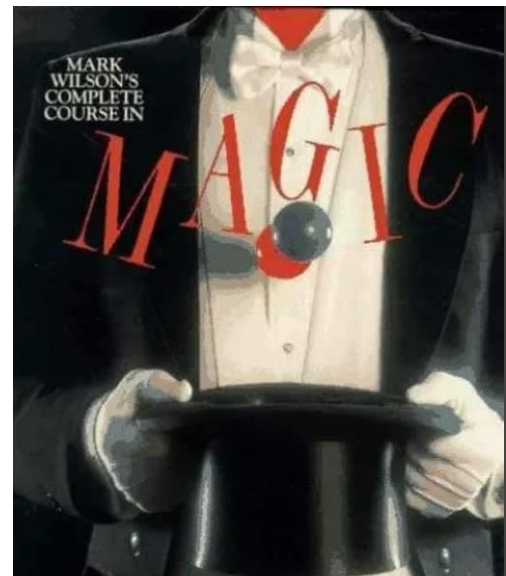
Fake Coin Vanish Explanation

While explaining a magician's use of misdirection, a coin does disappear. Based on work done by **Kenton Knepper**, the moves are easy but the impact of this impromptu mystery has proven psychologically strong.

A couple of weeks ago on Tuesday evening the club's board met over Zoom. For the first time since being elected club Secretary **Patrice Fisher** joined President **Steve Nespor**, Vice President **Jered Schaugaard**, Treasurer **Bob Gehringer**, and Sgt. at Arms **Amjad Alawimari** for the meeting.

As the club's Executive Director, I couldn't be more pleased to be working with such a diversely gifted and caring group of people.

Besides hearing updates from the various club groups (including seeing a highlight video from our Junior Magicians most recent recital), topics included approving a club project using the **Mark Wilson** classic book to impact area libraries and generations of upcoming magic enthusiasts; our club's Centennial Year release of exclusive magic tricks to members beginning this month; possible joint promotional ventures with Werner Park during their upcoming games; Magic Week festivities already in the planning stages for October; an upcoming article in Omaha Magazine on one of our club's charter members David P. Abbott; and even the approving of a soon-to-be-revealed club mascot.



With a current membership of 40 strong, a spirit of forward-looking optimism seemed to be the theme of the evening.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to any board member with your ideas or concerns. –

Dave Arch, Executive Director



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When ready to join, just click on this link <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108> (which is the same link we use for all of our monthly meetings).

Here's hoping your schedule allows you to attend. Should be a fun evening, hope to see you then.

13405 Marinda ST.
Omaha, NE 68144

