



The Flash Paper

November, 2019

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Presidential Ponderings

Thank you for your indulgence in allowing me to wax philosophical this month as we approach our umpteenth annual magic club garage sale on Monday, November 18th.

We'll get together - bringing the tricks that we can't see a use for

and purchase tricks that another member couldn't see a use for in spite of the fact that at one point in time there was a hope that the trick would find a place in our permanent repertoire. I love this aspect of magic. Every successful magician tells the same story. They had to try many different tricks/routines to find the ones that ultimately would fit them. I wish there was another way in magic . . . and in life. But unfortunately, I haven't found one.



In order to select the magic that best fits you (like a well-tailored suit), you have to know yourself. In order to know yourself, you must try lots of magic that doesn't fit. Starting this inevitable magic cycle early in my life

and continuing it now for fifty-three years has given me a familiarity with its accompanying feelings that help in other areas of my life too.

I once owned a four-drawer file cabinet. I would often muse about the fact that the bottom three drawers were filled with manila file folders full of ideas that didn't work out. The top drawer held the file folders out of which I made my living.



HARALD DREIMANIS/LINCOLN JOURNAL

Dave Arch of Omaha frees himself Wednesday from a straight-jacket while hanging upside down 40 feet in the air from a crane at 43rd and O streets Wednesday. This picture was taken by a camera attached to the crane's hoist and controlled remotely by a photographer on the ground.

A trick that no longer works for me.

Although the learning and performance of magic teaches many things (i.e. discipline of practice, attention to details, empathy for others etc.), I hope you can come on Monday evening, November 18th as we celebrate through our Garage Sale this foundational aspect of magic (and life) that the only way to truly find what work bests for you is to be willing to try many that don't.

- Dave Arch



What's Your Magic?

by

Patrice Fisher

Interview with Ron Gerard

Practice, practice, practice. That is just one of the many take-aways I gleaned from a fascinating lunch with **Ron Gerard**. As I sat down at the table, Ron smiled and handed me his business card, which disappeared before my very eyes when I reached to take it from him. Without hesitation, he showed me how he did that trick and a few others before the interview concluded! This was not a surprise, though. Ron was one of the first people I met at my first Magic Society meeting last year. He is such an enthusiastic, supportive person. I can count on him to explain things and help me fumble through trying to learn the most basic magic tricks. I was very much looking forward to learning his magic story.

Ron has quite a long and interesting history with our Magic Society. Since the 1980's, he has been a member in several roles, such as membership chairman, banquet coordinator and performer for our annual banquet, and served a stint as club President. He first caught the magic bug in a very interesting way while he was working as a pharmacist.

His drug store was among the first in Omaha to obtain a new blood pressure device that attracted a long line of patrons outside the store. Several men standing in line were obviously friends. They were practicing something using hand gestures, definitely not sign language, as they awaited their turn at the newfangled B.P. machine. Curious, Ron was drawn to that unique group, who seemed to be having a pretty fun time manipulating cards and coins while in the queue. His assistant coworker, **Connie Tushner**, was the wife of one of the men in this

group and introduced Ron to the mix. They just happened to be several magicians! (Thank goodness they weren't clowns...I am kind of creeped out by some clowns. Think IT.)

Soon, Ron was welcomed into the world of magic by these very fine professionals, who became his mentors and introduced him to our Omaha Magic Society. **Walter Graham, Denny Rourke, Pete Petrashek, Mike Tushner** and other esteemed magicians took Ron under their wing. Thus, began his magical journey and transformation into the comedic magician, **Dr. SpooF**.



Ron's tricks were honed on his drive to work. In his car, he would practice slight-of-hand card, coin and rope tricks. Immediately, I had a vision of Ron being pulled over for a minor traffic violation. The officer sees coins and ropes on the passenger side of the vehicle and arrests Ron on suspicion of either being a bank robber or a serial killer. Oh, Ron, you are a very lucky man indeed. Through lots of diligence and support from his new group of friends, Ron expanded his repertoire into a myriad of magic, including skills involving disappearing, misdirection, escape and levitation. One of his first major tricks was the Floating Woman. **Walter Graham** generously taught this trick to Ron. You've probably seen this performed. A hoop is passed through the elevated, prone body of a volunteer or assistant to prove that no other support besides the air and the power of concentration was used.

Throughout the years, **Dr. Spoo** has enjoyed a career entertaining both adults and children with comedic magic at many venues, producing laughter and then surprise. Nowadays, Ron has rekindled his love of guitar and singing by reuniting with his long-time musical buddy. They play mainly folk music (like Peter, Paul and Mary, James Taylor, Simon and Garfunkel...) at open mic nights, coffee shops and cafes around town as well as in Lincoln and other places. I'll be waiting to hear where his next gig is located so I can be in the audience!



Spooky Magic: Our October meeting was an entertaining mix of the fun, the spooky, the weird, and the odd. First up, **Neil Bable** shared some personal history and solved an heirloom mystery by letting the past speak to him through a locket.

Next up, **Travis Newcombe** performed some sideshow magic and became a Human Blockhead by hammering a nail into his nose as well as other geek stunts. He finished up with a classic blowoff.



Anne Rourke assisting **Travis Newcombe**

Amjad Alawimari asked a volunteer to name someone they knew and then proceeded to have some spooky fun with the Pocket Voodoo effect.



Dave Arch broke us into groups with pre-printed paper and glue sticks and led us through the creation of a prop that resulted in a magical paper-folding visual ghost story from his Oralgami series.

Steve Nespor taught a variation of the Sheep and Thieves using a George Sands variation and miniature skulls to tell the story of some late-night grave robbers. He also showed a child-friendly version with small candies and a Trick or Treat theme.



Bob Gehringer performed with his miniature slate / Ouija board to predict a card.

Steve Nespor
and his
miniature skulls.



Our magic club Dean, **Pete Petrashek**, joined us for the evening and member **George Huffaker** brought up a volunteer and performed the Pete's Purse trick in honor of our esteemed guest.



Pete modeling his famous torn and restored hat and purse.



Per our club's constitution at our October's monthly club meeting, **Ryan Chandler** reported for the nomination committee (including himself and **Joyce Chleboun**) that the slate of nominations for the 2020 club officers included: **Dave Arch** (President); **David Fox** (Vice-President); **Bob Gehringer** (Treasurer); **Steve Nespor** (Secretary); and **Amjad Alawamari** (Sgt. at Arms). A vote of the attending members will be taken at our November club meeting on Monday, November 18th

Christian Engblom Lecture



The **Christian Engblom** lecture on October 24th was, as **Larry Brodahl** described it, "A master class in routing, scripting, and thinking!" Shown here with member **George Huffaker**, it was an engaging evening that had something for beginners and experts alike with his stunning effects.

Bill Wisch Lecture



On Monday, November 4, the OMS hosted **Bill Wisch**, personal student of the legendary sleight-of-hand artist, **Slydini**, as our final lecturer of our 2019 lecture series. It was soon obvious that he's been a life-long student of our art - having arguably forgotten more about sleight-of-hand than collectively all of us will ever know.



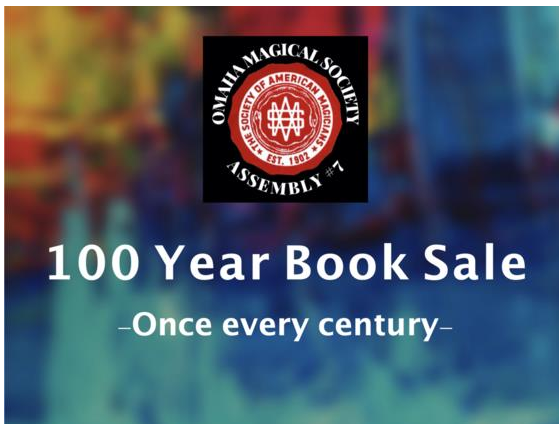
This month the Annual Omaha Magical Society Garage Sale on Monday evening, November 18th at the Southwest Church Of Christ (124th and Center

Hours are from 7-8:30 PM. It's an ideal time to thin out those drawers containing magic tricks you know you'll never use. Bring them, put them on a table and state your price.

Whether you're buying or selling (or both) past years have proven there'll be magic bargains galore!



This month we've added a video of OMS member Denny Rourke performing and teaching his Ambitious Card routine honed through decades of use and feedback from performance in front of "real non-magician people." Thank you Denny for sharing your experience on this classic with the rest of us. Also included this month is what has to be the easiest key bending routine ever.



The OMS board has approved the sale of the club library's duplicate books. The sale will be opened to both members and non-members alike.

You can download the full price list and instructions for purchasing any of the 100+ books by clicking [HERE](#).

Dave Arch (2019 OMS President)

Check out our website:
<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

- 2019 OMS Officers**
- President** – Dave Arch.....(dave@sandler.com)
 - Vice President** – David Fox.....(hotsy@windstream.net)
 - Treasurer** – Bob Gehring.....(gehringerr@cox.net)
 - Secretary** – Steve Nespor...(omahamagician55@gmail.com)
 - Sgt.-at-Arms** – Neil Bable.....(rutiger@hotmail.com)
 - Flash Paper photographers** – Tom Zepf & Neil Bable



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.



Joe Cole's Schedule.

Sunday - Good Life Bar (Elkhorn) 6 -8pm

Monday - Good Life Bar (180th and Pacific) 6 to 8pm

Tuesday - Upstream (Downtown) 7 to 9pm

Wednesday - Fernando's (114th and Dodge) 6 to 8pm

Thursday - Upstream (Downtown) 7 to 9pm

Saturday - Fernando's (76th and Pacific) 6 to 8pm

You can also see it here:

<http://omahamagic.com/weekly-shows/>



Ryan Chandler's

Schedule

I have all my upcoming public shows posted at

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

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