



The Flash Paper

October 2020

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Presidential Ponderings

Here's a visual that helps me keep track of the big picture with what's going on in the various aspects of our club's activities and growth. Would you come with me on a tour of the club house?

Monthly Meetings

In this room you'll find themed meetings held on the third Monday evening of each month with as broad an appeal to the general membership as possible - incorporating multiple features within each meeting.

The Flash Paper

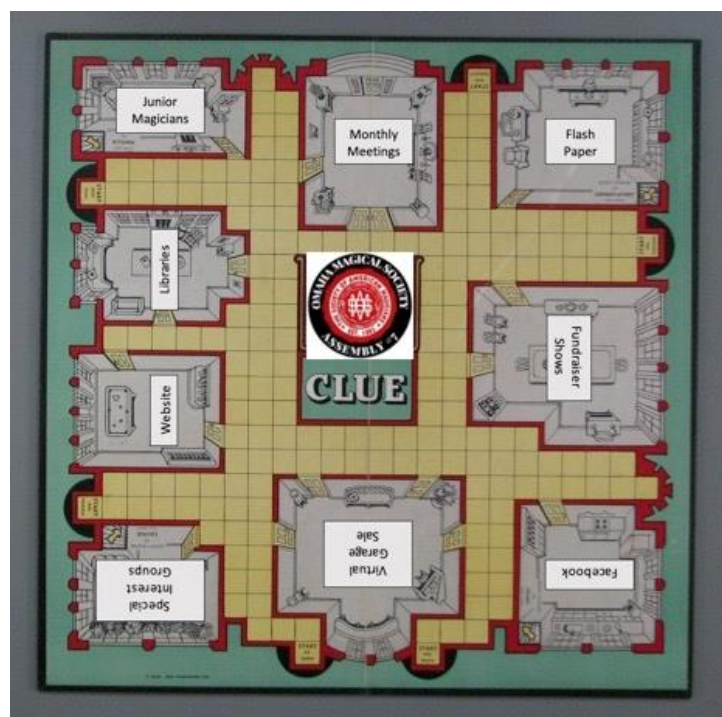
Under the consistent leadership of our editor, **Bob Gehringer**, along with his team of columnists, this publication helps keep us all up to speed about what's happening (and what might have just happened) within our organization's activities and members.

OMS Junior Magicians

With **Steve Nespore** and his team leading this important component of our club, weekly meetings are held online - guiding the young magicians through a four-year Discover Magic™ curriculum complete with magic kits and online video tutorials.

Through gracious donations of scholarships from other club members, the club has grown to nine consistent participants.

Eleven other young magicians are also being taught through a twelve-week homeschool class sponsored by The Omaha Homeschool Learning Center.



Libraries

Although COVID has postponed until the end of 2021 the full online cataloging of the club's physical library housed at UNO, our online members only video library has expanded to seventy videos teaching magic routines at a variety of skill levels and contributed by multiple members from their particular areas of expertise.

Website

Continuing to serve both as a central repository for information useful by the members and as an introduction to those from the community who have yet to become members, the website has recently expanded with not only a page about our own club's nearly one hundred year history but also a page with short articles about the significant national and international contributors to the art of magic over the past 100 years.



Facebook

Both OMS members and non-members use our Omaha Magical Society Facebook page to share real time news, opinions, and event announcements. Although it is a private page, anyone can join by visiting the page and requesting to join.

Special Interest Groups

Using the club's Zoom account, these groups spring up as members wish to get together on a specific more specialized topic (i.e. mentalism, showmanship, coins, etc.). Any OMS member may start a group - inviting others with similar interests to join.

Fundraiser Shows

With so much performing expertise in one place, here's an opportunity for our members to perform, the club's treasury to remain solvent, and oftentimes a worthwhile charity receiving much needed funds too. One show was presented at the end of 2019 and one is scheduled for the Spring of 2021. COVID has indeed slowed down the consistent implementation of this initiative.

Virtual Garage Sale

To be explained at our November monthly meeting, this member only resource will allow us all to, with minimal effort, shed some of the magic that we own but also know will never find a place in our shows. And no doubt we'll pick up some bargains from others. Due to the fact that "*porch pick-up only*" will always be a seller's option, the idea of putting the purchased item out on the front porch for pick up as opposed to packing and shipping it also might make this club resource attractive. More information to come.

Thank you for taking the tour this month. My hope is that there might be aspects of the club about which you didn't know but might wish to access. As the late magician and author Eugene Burger said it so well, "Magic is a very large house with many rooms. There's a place for all." - **Dave Arch**

October's Monthly Meeting

On Monday evening, October 19th, from 7-8:30 PM, we'll be hosting **Jon Marshall** from the UK as he shares with us through video and pictures his collection of

magic illusions once featured as circus sideshow attractions.

You can download an article about Jon from the Magic History section of our club's website.

In addition, Travis Nye will share with us a couple of the latest releases from his Spellbound Magic Shop and Larry Brodahl will teach one of the thirty time-tested routines he's been quietly releasing over at <http://lybrary.com>.

You can also view a video highlighting this Halloween meeting in the Monthly Meeting section of our club's website (<https://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>).

At 7:00 PM that night just click on the following link to join us via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>

Hoping you can make this Halloween meeting.



OMS Executive Director Appointment

In an effort to maintain the momentum of growth being experienced by The Omaha Magical Society particularly as we transition to an IRS recognized 501C3 non-profit corporation, the OMS Board has asked **Dave Arch** to assume the role of Executive Director on January 1, 2021. Dave has accepted.

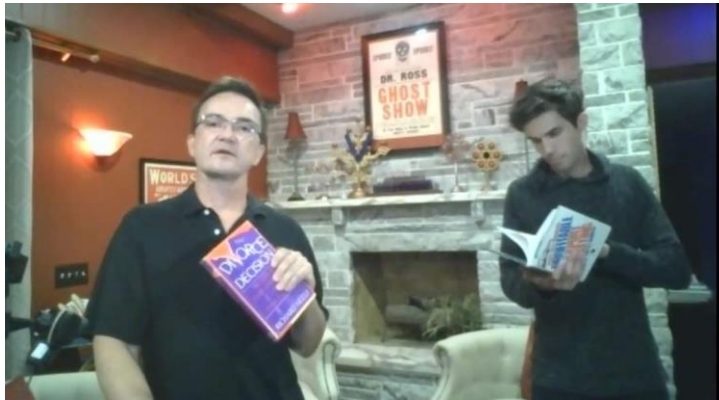
The appointment of an Executive Director within an organization does not change the governance of that organization. In accordance with our constitution, 2021 OMS Board members will be elected by the general membership at our November monthly meeting with the Executive Director serving under the direction and authority of that board.

You can download a copy of the Executive Director's Job Description from our website: (<https://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>) under the **Club History** tab in the menu (at the bottom of that page).



Magic Exchange Program Assembly 7 Omaha, NE September Meeting

This month we tried something new for our magic club meetings in the age of Covid. **Jared Schaugaard, Larry Brodahl, and David Fox** performed a Zoom show for the Kansas City Magic Club, each performing around 15 minutes of magic followed by tutorials and instruction of the effects performed. For our September OMS monthly meeting The KC Club returned the favor.



David and Lance

A big thank you to **David Sandy, Lance Rich, Todd Lamanske, and Tom Burgoon** for coming to us from Kansas City IBM Ring 129 via Zoom. They performed a show for us and then gave some instruction on the tricks they performed followed by a Q and A session for anyone wanting more information.

Here is a small sampling of what they shared. **Todd Lamanske** kicked things off by sharing some of his favorite strolling magic routines that were time tested and real workers. **David Sandy** showed us a close-up effect with Jokers that used nothing more difficult than a Jordan Count to get a lot of entertainment from a small packet of cards. We found out **Lance Rich** has his own bobble-head doll in the bit he shared with us. Tom Burgoon closed out the evening in his one-of-a-kind style of unique comedy and magic with bits like Crazy Eyes and Geller's Baby Bottle to his Clear Chop Cup, closing out with one of his original poems.

This begins a new tradition for our club as we look forward to setting up many such Magic Exchange

Programs in the future. A thoroughly enjoyable evening in the safety of our own homes.

- Steve Nespor



Todd and David



Tom

2020 OMS Officers

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

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



**What's Your Magic
Story
by
Patrice Fischer**

Recently I read an article in the New York Times that reminded me of the healing ability of magic. The piece was about how a community centered around magic was created in the corridors of confinement in prisons around the world.

It began when an inmate wrote to a magic magazine for tips after studying magic in the prison library. Through the good will of magician Joshua Jay, a group of inmates learned "the magic of magic."

One letter started a connection that traveled around the world, from America to Australia, giving those incarcerated for various crimes a life-line through learning magic. As word spread, correspondence expanded, and as the group enlarged, a community was created. Inmates exchanged letters sharing ideas and tips. New friendships were formed. For some, caring was cultivated and became comfortably commonplace. That support and enthusiasm for learning new skills gave life behind bars a more positive perspective. Still, within the prison walls, some necessary tools to perform various tricks were difficult or impossible to get.

Not surprisingly, many of the magician's basic props, such as ribbons, coins and knives, understandably are not allowed in prison. But, with the help of Jay, the group developed a list of acceptable replacements, such as toothbrushes, cigarettes, and plastic bottles. This newly formed group of "pen pal" magic students shared other creative ideas using all sorts of commonly used, acceptable items in their environments. Cards were made using the panels of milk cartons. While in solitary confinement, an inmate wrote a step-by-step guide after he fashioned a thumb tip from toilet paper, water and

glue. These props were often confiscated during routine searches and the prop-making would begin again. So, along with card tricks, focus on more psychological magic like mind-reading and hypnosis that don't require additional tools of the trade became popular.

Magic was a type of therapy for coping with incarceration. It helped build self-confidence, social acceptance and self-worth within a system that can challenge those basic humanities. Hope and redemption became possibilities.

Concentrating the mind on the intricacies of magic can and has encouraged inmates to pursue all sorts of new vocations. Just as skills in problem-solving, creative thinking and physical dexterity are all instrumental in occupational and physical therapy programs, magic can be curative as well. It can be one of the building block programs for rehabilitation within the prison system. In those surroundings, shifting the focus and energy to learning magic is to capture a bit of freedom within confinement. Some control over chaos. Sunlight within a windowless cell.

For a decade before running out of funds in 2007, the Hocus Pocus Project sent magicians into juvenile detention centers as part of rehabilitation. Their goal was to use magic to support the power of education as a pathway toward a better life, and ultimately a better society.

Like our Omaha Magical Society, giving the gift of helping one another to build banter, learn a new move, make a new prop or share a new twist on an old trick can make isolation in or out of prison not only bearable, but cathartic.

(For those who are interested in reading the full article, go to The New York Times article published on August 14, 2020, entitled [In Prison, Learning Magic by Mail](#), written by Analisa Quinn.)



Ideas



"The work of imagination may arise from some outside source – as indeed it must, for nothing can come from nothing and even a conjurer's brain cannot work without raw material." – S.H. Sharpe

For the creative magician, there is nothing quite so frustrating as staring at a blank piece of paper, pen in hand, waiting for ideas to come. Without anything more to actively stimulate your imagination, the wait for ideas can be very long – even perpetual. If this becomes the norm, the process that should be a playful and explorative journey transforms into an irritating, gritty state of consternation.

Instead of waiting indefinitely for a bonfire of ideas to light itself on the bare pavement of your empty mind, it is best to gather a few elements to serve as kindling, ignite the raw materials with imagination, and fuel the flame with collaboration as the idea grows into an original and meaningful piece of magic.

To this end, I dedicated approximately one third of *Plotting Astonishment* to identifying the most fruitful places to find kindling for ideas. Here are a few of my favorites:

- **Building on Forgotten Effects:** Engage with long lost ideas recorded by conjurers of the past. You can find these ideas in magic history books, out-of-print magic instruction books, and antiquated magic magazines.
- **Effects from Outside:** Engage with ideas from non-magician artists who imagine up impossible worlds in their own mediums. You can find these ideas in ghost stories,

fantasy, science fiction, films like *The Twilight Zone*, abstract paintings, and more.

- **Effects with Interesting Objects:** Engage with objects that inherently possess a magical quality. Thinking about the magic that can be done with puzzle boxes, spyglasses, and lightbulbs, for example, is sure to stimulate an idea or two.

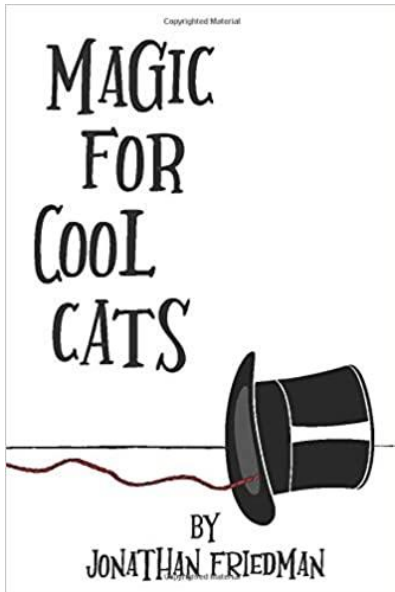
As your imagination engages with the kindling, be sure to record the ideas that come to you. The incredible thing about fodder for the imagination is that it can be reused repeatedly. If you collect your ideas in a journal or in a box of index cards, for instance, you can return to them after months or years of reading new things, seeing new things, and having new experiences. An old idea seen in new light is essentially a new idea.

Theron Christensen

October 2020



We received a letter from the IRS on October 13, 2020 stating *"We are pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106 or 2522."* We now will be able to let people know that we are a certified 501(c)(3) and any contributions are considered tax deductible. Thank you to Dave Arch and the Board for getting this implemented. - **Bob Gehringer, Treasurer OMS**



We have so many talented magicians that have come thru Omaha....but one of the most creative in my book was **Jonathan Friedman**. When I worked with Jon at "Magic and Mirth Magic Shop" in the 90's he was always coming up with new material that was outside the box! And he's done it again with his third book that I just received yesterday

called, "Magic for Cool Cats". Not only does Jon have a love for magic but he has a love for felines and it's expressed in this book in a humorous way! Many of the top names in magic are quoted in this book and contribute their spin. I'm totally enjoying this book and the humor he brings along with it...even though I hate cats! So, go support one of our once local magicians and buy this book! Also check out his other two books, "The 80's Called....They Want Their Magic Book Back - Volume 1" and "The Magic of Jonathan Friedman The Musical Book"

You can find these books on Amazon...ENJOY!
(Jon now resides in Seattle, WA with his family and runs The Market Magic Shop).

Here's the original write up:
"Magic For Cool Cats" Written and Illustrated by Jonathan Friedman. At long last, Jonathan Friedman's eagerly-awaited release "Magic For Cool Cats." 24 dazzling close-up miracles, 250 pages, and over 274 glorious illustrations, guaranteed to put a flick in your mystical whisker. Quirkastic magic with cards, coins, Sharpies, gum, Hall and Oates, cinnamon bears, stick figures, 80s one-hit-wonders, sponge balls, shopping lists, ABC's and 1,2,3's, business cards, and lollipop drawings. Featuring the magical cats of Max Maven, Mat Franco, Rocco, Richard Kaufman, Andi Gladwin, Chad Long, Dan Harlan, Tomas Blomberg, and many, many more." - **Joe Cole**



NEW Video Releases

Two new releases were added to our online video library this month. Member **Jered Schaugaard** released the first part of his four-part tutorial series on his advanced card handling in his routine entitled *Slightly Advanced*, and **Dave Arch** presents a trick using only a piece of rope and a borrowed watch - proven to keep at least the person whose watch has been borrowed intensely engaged.



Although you will need the password provided with your OMS membership payment, the video library can now be accessed directly from our club website through the VIDEOS tab in the menu.





All current members of The Omaha Magical Society are encouraged to email their nominations for next year's officers to a member of our club's Nominating Committee:

Joyce Chleboun (jddiamondmagic@gmail.com)

Ryan Chandler (oldmarketmagician@gmail.com)

Nominations are open for:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Sgt. at Arms

Per our club's constitution, the Nominating Committee will announce the nominations they've received at our October club meeting (October 19th) and voting by the membership will take place at our November meeting (November 16th).

New officers (elected by a majority of the Omaha Magical Society members present at the November meeting) will then begin their one-year term on January 1, 2021. - **Dave Arch** (OMS 2020 President)

p.s. Per our constitution, all nominees for club officers must be members in good standing of the Society of American Magicians and The Omaha Magical Society. Please receive the permission of any person prior to submitting their name into nomination.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAGIC OF THE NIGHT:
ALONE AT LAST**

**An Online
Halloween
Experience**

**Featuring
magicians Ryan
Chandler • David
Fox • Theron
Christensen
Dave Arch, MC**

**Saturday, October 24, 2020
8-9 PM**

**Register for your FREE tickets at:
OldMarketMagician.com**

Registrations limited

Joe Cole's Weekly Schedule

Sunday – Good Life Sports Bar
5:30 – 7:30 pm Elkhorn 208th and Maple

Monday – Good Life Sports Bar
6:00 – 8:00 pm 180th and Pacific

Wednesday – Good Life Sports Bar
6:00 – 8:00 pm 96th and Hwy 370 Papillion

Thursday – Upstream Brewery
7:00 – 9:00 pm Downtown Omaha

You can also see my schedule here:

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