



The Flash Paper

September 2020

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Presidential Ponderings

I pay attention when a magician who has been honing his magic over decades decides to put into print some of those audience-tested routines. Our own **Larry Brodahl** has been quietly doing that at <http://Lybrary.com> to the point where he now has over 30 proven routines available there . . . and some of them are FREE. Most cost around \$10.

SCRIPTED!

#22: Vanishing Figure 8 Knot

by **Larry A. Brodahl**

Everyone probably knows how to vanish an overhand knot, or even a Chevalo knot. But how many know how to vanish a FIGURE 8 Knot?



How to tie a TRUE Figure 8 knot as well as the FALSE Figure 8 knot are both shown and are virtually identical.

The script provided shows how it can stand on it's own, but it would also fit nicely into a routine with knots.

An audience member can even help you tie the knot, and they'll be none the wiser.

Best of all, it's

FREE!

Difficulty: ★★★★★
Complex Routine: ★★★★★
Method Explained: ★★★★★

Although you can read more about Larry and his extensive experience in **Patrice Fisher's** column elsewhere in this issue, starting at our October monthly meeting, we're going to have him share some of these routines with us during several of our monthly meetings. It has been said most often in joking manner that "an expert is someone more than 100 miles from home," we have one right here in Omaha. What might be the best part of Larry's offerings is that when you purchase one of his routines, he'll work with you - answering your questions about it. What a great resource. Thank you, Larry, for your generosity.

Also, this month we welcome a new columnist. OMS member **Theron Christensen** begins sharing with us bite-size snippets from his excellently reviewed book *Plotting Astonishment*. After reading some of his thoughts, his book might be one you'll want to add to your magic library. It's available on Amazon.

Finally, at our September monthly meeting (Monday, September 21), we do have a treat as the Kansas City magic club visits us online to present several lectures and shows. This is in response to shows and lectures performed for them by **David Fox**, **Larry Brodahl**, and **Jered Schaugaard** earlier in the month. THANK YOU to David, Larry, and Jered for representing our club in that show for the KC club. Details about this month's club meeting can also be found elsewhere in this issue. So much happening!

- **Dave Arch** (2020 OMS President)

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



September Meeting

This month we have a very exciting meeting planned. Something that we have never done before at an Omaha Magical Society meeting. Earlier this month

Jared Schaugaard, Larry Brodahl, and myself performed a zoom show for the Kansas City Magic Club. Each of us performing around 10 to 15 minutes of magic followed by detailed instruction of the acts that we performed. This month we are going to have the favor returned by 3 of the KC club members. They will perform a zoom show for us and then give us detailed instruction on the tricks they performed followed by a Q and A for anyone wanting more information. I am extremely excited to see what they bring to the table. If you are a member of the OMS Facebook group, you probably have seen some of the post about the zoom show and a few new members that have joined our club out of KC. I hope you can join us online this September 21st at 7:00pm to enjoy some mini-lectures from Ring 129! – **David Fox**

Kansas City Magic Club Zoom Show



David Sandy and Lance Rich, hosting from the Egyptian Hall Museum

What's in a background? It's the setup to a series of events. It's what gives a story relevance. The 2020 world's background is a pandemic that has put the variety entertainment arts on the endangered species list. But to quote Dr. Ian Malcolm, "... life, uh... finds a way." And

this is exactly what magicians are doing. Welcome to the digital age of magic.

Originally, the Omaha Magical Society, SAM Assembly No. 7 (yes, 7. If you don't know the history of the Assembly, do yourself a favor and check it out here: https://davearch.com/oms_history.pdf) was going to do an in-person show/lecture swap with Kansas City, IBM Ring 129, but that's all in the background. Not to be deterred, the clubs Zoomed together and magic prevailed.

The show commenced on Zoom (if you don't know Zoom, you don't know quarantine) and was hosted by David Sandy and Lance Rich, of Ring 129. One of the benefits of "online" is you can be "anywhere" and in this case, the hosts "anywhere" happened to be in Pasadena, California, in a little spot called the Egyptian Hall Museum, a magical portion of the home of magicians Tina Lenert and Mike Caveney (for a bit of history on the Egyptian Hall Museum, check it out here: <http://www.mcmagicwords.com/egyptianhall.html>).

After a bit of Ring business, which included news of an upcoming John Carey lecture and a really cool opportunity to participate in a onetime only "magic for video" competition (if you've ever wanted to get involved with another club, they don't get any better than Ring 129: <https://ring129.com/site/>), the show kicked off with the OMS's very own **Larry Brodahl**, followed by **David Fox**, and finally **Jered Blake**.



Larry Brodahl

Larry Brodahl opened with a stunt rather than a magic trick and showed how, with a little pressure, a coin could

stick to your forehead. If you haven't seen the stunt before, I don't want to give away the climax, but let's just say, he nailed it. Next using a handful of jumbo cards, he proved that lying is the magician's most powerful tool. Not only was this a trick **Billy McComb** would have been proud of, but as magicians, we were left with a couple of sleights that would have made even **Alex Elmsley** and **Charles Jordan** stand up. Showcasing Larry's story telling skills, the next trick took us on a fishing trip where young Larry attempted to use magic, to fix his father's fishing foul up. When the magic failed to impress his father, Larry suggested he should learn to be a better fisherman; coincidentally, this is also the same trip where young Larry learned how to swim. His final trick showed just how lazy Omaha magicians are, eschewing clever and elegant sleight of hand for invisible powder. On a side note, I misplaced my



David Fox

invisible powder years ago and it hasn't stopped me from being lazy.

The next performer was **Midwest Mentalist, David Fox**. David attended the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts and during this time, developed an academic love of movies. In his opening shot trick, David showed us 35 of his favorite movies (and yes, *The Princess Bride* was on the list, as it should be on everyone's list) and asked a spectator to choose his most favorite.

Whether it was clever psychological foreshadowing or the spectator was truly psychic, David wrapped up the trick showing his and the spectator's "most favorite" movies matched. The Abbey Singer trick showed us how David has spent more than a socially acceptable

amount of time with a deck of cards. Let's just say, if **Ed Marlo** and **Fredrick Braue** were playing cards, the game would be Faro. The only thing that would have made this trick better is having a method for getting into the trick, right in front of the spectator, which SPOILER ALERT, David showed two methods. In the Martini trick, David managed to pluck a child's memory from an adult mind, as he revealed the name of a spectator's first crush. This trick was really a mini-masterclass in video billet work.



Jered Blake

The last performer was **Jered Blake**. He opened with an ode to Carl Andrews' trick *Déjà Vu* and given the fact that Mr. Andrews had lectured for Kansas City, in the recent past, it did feel as if everyone had seen this before. If you haven't seen it performed, the trick is filled with clichés, a drunk child, a selected card (I did say clichés) and an awkward moment between the magician and a spectator that may or may not have happened. Jered closed with a demonstration of skill, using a puzzle that was originally called the Magic Cube (there's bound to be some irony in that).

After the show, the performers gave a lecture. I'm going to skip the details and jump to the end. Everyone rocked it and as a direct result (so sayeth [archaic third-person singular simple present indicative form of say] me) three magicians from the Kansas City Ring joined the OMS.



Kansas City IBM Ring 129 – Zoom magic show/lecture 09/03/2020

We are looking forward to you all reciprocating on September 21st. Thank you Ring 129 for hosting and thank you to all of their members who supported the OMS show/lecture.

Final thoughts: Video-magic is a thing and even if the new normal, looks close to the old normal, video-magic isn't going anywhere. I will leave you with Arthur C. Clarke's Third Law, which given the current background (refer back to the beginning), feels like it has multiple nuanced meanings: Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic. – **Jared Schaugaard**



International Brotherhood of Magicians - Ring 129
 Meetings are held the
 1st Thursday of each month at 7:00pm
 Hampton Inn Meeting Room
 7400 West Frontage Road, Merriam, KS
www.ring129.com

THREE LECTURES and a SHOW!

A team from the Kansas City magic club joins our September monthly meeting - bringing with them **THREE LECTURES and a SHOW!**

If you can help it, don't miss it.

Monday, September 21 from 7-9 PM

Click <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108> to enter our online meeting room that evening



What's Your Magic Story?

by

Patrice Fisher

Larry Brodahl

There are several key principles of magic. Three of these came to my mind as I learned **Larry Brodahl's** magic story: *Confidence, Preparedness and Giving*.

When he was about five years old, Larry put on magic shows for the neighborhood kids. The ten to twenty cents he would earn charging a penny admission fee could buy a lot of candy at the one cent candy shop! His courage cultivated his confidence.

However, that confidence was really shaken when he faltered as the emcee for his school choirs in seventh grade. There were two separate choirs that would perform that evening. He knew his lines, so his first introduction would surely go smoothly. Larry proudly walked out onto the stage, shoulders back and head held high. With confidence he asked the audience to please welcome the seventh-grade choir. Expecting applause, he was aghast when, after what seemed like an eternity of silence, laughter erupted from the school auditorium. Turning around slowly, hoping he could somehow magically disappear, he realized that he had just introduced the wrong choir! His surprise allowed an expletive worthy of any seasoned sailor to slip out of his eleven-year-old mouth. After an audible gasp from the audience, laughter roared through the hall. Thinking back, his impromptu exclamation actually described his situation perfectly. But, at the time, Larry was very embarrassed and wondered if he could ever walk out on stage again.

With his confidence shaken, Larry knew he had to get

over it if he was ever to perform for an audience again. So, with lots of practice, Larry mastered his slight-of-hand skills and created several routines on his journey to become an accomplished performer. All of this attention to detail taught him one of the most important qualities of a successful magician--preparedness. Practice built back his self-confidence. Preparedness proved to be the key.

To that end, Larry has developed a systematic method to create his various routines. First, he practices and analyzes every aspect of the trick until he can do it by heart and with ease. Then, Larry develops his banter, story or a theme while watching the nuances of his trick in his mind's eye. Ideas for a script begin to unfold. He thinks of jokes to include with his humorous, laid-back style and begins writing point-by-point to match each piece of his performance. That is his process. This extremely detailed orientation reflects the cross-over skills he has built during his career as a computer programmer and analyst.



Which brings me to the third tenet of magic--giving. If you visit the website Lybrary.com and type in Brodahl, you will pull up a treasure trove of Larry's magic that he is sharing. **Hints and Tips** is his forty-page free e-book to aid the struggling magician. In addition, you will find e-books he has written and videos he has created for various tricks. Some are free, and others are for sale at incredibly reasonable prices. He even has a series of his



original scripts for 38 of his tricks. Two of his most popular e-books are [How to Write a Script](#) and [Deliberate Magic](#).



It is a rarity to have a magician disclose information, which makes **Larry Brodahl** unique in sharing his scripting and routining techniques. His precision in the field of magic has been honed carefully and thoroughly during his many years successfully entertaining audiences of all ages. It was a real pleasure to interview a magician who so clearly embodies such authenticity, creativity and generosity in sharing his talents!

2020 OMS Officers

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



Copy Cats Assembly 7 Omaha, NE

The Omaha Magical Society's August monthly magic meeting theme was "Copy Cats." Four of our members each performed the *Cut and Restored Rope Trick*, giving us their version of this classic of magic. First

up, **Bruce Jacoby** performed in the style of the Panama Rope Trick, cutting the rope a number of times before restoring it back into a single piece. **Larry Brodahl** shared the impromptu version he uses early on in his show that features a flash restoration and patter that helps establish his character. **Travis Nye**, owner of Spellbound Magic Shop in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was invited to demonstrate and review some of the magic that has come in to his shop and then performed his rope routine highlighting the cut and restored portion of the effect that those familiar with Fiber Optics would recognize. **Theron Christensen** combined two Tarbell methods for a clean handling that used a device often associated with the cut and restored ribbon and combined it with a handling of the Grandmother's Necklace. Each member was asked why they choose their method, what inspired their routine, and where in a show they placed their routine and why? It made for an interesting night where it was fun to see how a similar trick can have many different variations, each lending itself to presentations that were as varied as the performers who presented them.

- **Steve Nespor**





Creative Conjuring

Working out a Method

“There is almost no challenge too great when we let our minds soar to dream impossible dreams. Years ago, I took on the challenge of how to make the moon disappear and eventually developed seven different methods.” –**Andre Kole**

I wrote *Plotting Astonishment* to obtain some understanding of the elusive secrets behind creating original magic. I borrowed much of what I eventually published from magician authors of the past—including this archaic promise: “You can almost always work out a method for your imagined effect.”

At first, I was unconvinced by the promise. It was simply a proposition that was repeated frequently enough by various authors to catch my attention. I found it in such tomes as *Our Magic*, *Neo Magic*, and *The Trick Brain*—just to name a few. But I was sure it was wrong and that I would eventually find an example contradicting it. That, however, was almost three years ago, and so far, I have come up empty-handed. I have, in the meantime, found methods for such impossible dreams as summoning a flown helium balloon back to the earth, tying a shoe trapped in an impossible bottle, and restoring a smashed birthday cake. Maybe there is something to the promise after all.

If you would like to get better at thinking up methods for your imagined effects, here are a few exercises you should try:

- Challenge yourself to find multiple methods to accomplish every classic effect in magic (such as the linking rings, the cut and restored rope, or the color changing handkerchief, etc.). Remember that although classic methods are classic for a reason, they are not the only way to do things.
- When you read magic instruction books, read the effect description first, then list all the possible methods you can think of on a sheet of paper.

When your imagination is exhausted, turn the page and read the author’s chosen method.

- When you read magic magazines, make a list of unfamiliar effect descriptions. Take your list of effects to a small group of fellow magicians and discuss possible methods for accomplishing them.
- Get in the habit of compiling multiple methods for any given effect you are working on. You can’t be sure one method is better than another until you have at least two methods to compare against each other.

Remember that although you can often reuse old methods to accomplish new effects, there may be methods yet to be discovered, and you could be the lucky explorer to chart a course to them first.

Theron Christensen

September 2020

Magicians In The Making



**Classes**
View class schedules and availability

**Register Now!**
You can now register online or by mail

**Subscribe to Our Email List**
Receive timely updates from OHL/C staff

Under the sponsorship of the Omaha Homeschool Learning Center, 500 homeschool students will gather at St. Peter’s Church to participate in a variety of twelve-week classes starting Wednesday, September 2nd.

Among those classes listed on their website (<https://omahahomeschool.com>), you’ll find a class entitled *Magicians In The Making* hosted by our own Steve Nespor and Dave Arch - giving budding magicians from ages 8-14 their first taste of performing magic and enjoying the reactions of their audience.

Eleven students from throughout the Omaha area have registered for this introduction to magic class.



September's Club Online Video Library Addition

Although this multi-phased ring and rubber band routine will require some practice, once mastered you'll have a routine that just might serve you well for years to come.



As you may have read in last month's Flash Paper, the OMS Junior Magicians online magic group will be awarding twelve-month scholarships from the Pete Petrashek Scholarship Fund to homeschool students ages 8 to 14 who would like to pursue learning the art of magic.

We are currently in the process of interviewing young people who submitted the written portion of the application, and we have had a number of candidates come forward.

We would like to thank the two club members who donated two additional scholarships and look forward to bringing you updates about this exciting news.

Omaha, NE 68144
13405 Marinda ST.

