



# The Flash Paper

## February 2025

**“Enjoying magic...with others...for others.”**

**Bob Gehringer, Editor**



### Prez Adam's Antics

As we step into February, it's time to reflect on the magical moments that January brought to our society. Despite the frigid temperatures and below-zero wind

chills, the Omaha Magical Society kept the spirit of magic alive with a series of engaging events that brought together both seasoned magicians and enthusiastic newcomers.

We kicked off the month with our Saturday Magic Jam on January 4th at the Mill Telegraph in Lincoln. Starting at 2 PM, we delved into the intriguing world of séance magic shows. This event marked a significant transition, as we announced the discontinuation of the Omaha magic jams. However, we encourage everyone to stay connected via Facebook for updates on the Lincoln jam's dimensions and locations moving forward.

On January 20th, we held our Monthly Monday Night Magic Meeting at 7 PM. Despite the harsh weather, we had an impressive turnout! This meeting was particularly special as we focused on beginner magic tricks, allowing newer members to experience these routines for the first time. It was a fantastic opportunity to bridge the gap between our experienced magicians and those just

starting their journey. The laughter and camaraderie during the impromptu jokes added a delightful touch to the performances. Congratulations to Team Hopeful, led by Matt Spielman, for their outstanding routine!

From January 23-25, four of us—Steve Osborn, Trevor Groenjes, Jared Blake, and myself—attended Magifest in Columbus, Ohio. This event showcased top talents like Justin Willman and David Ben, featuring a spectacular array of illusions, lectures, and workshops. The diverse performances, from close-up card tricks to grand stage acts, highlighted the evolving landscape of magic. Stay tuned for more in-depth coverage of this magical gathering later in this newsletter.

Lastly, we convened a meeting with our community chairs for the Tri-State Magic Fest, scheduled for March 8 at the Abbott House, starting at 11 AM. Following lunch, we will transition to Mahoney State Park for lectures, close-up shows, and stage performances. The Abbott House, a historical gem built in 1913 for magician David P. Abbott, is currently undergoing tours for potential donors. The goal is to remodel the living quarters in the basement, ensuring that someone can reside there and help preserve this magical landmark.

Even as we face the cold of winter, let us remember that we can keep the warmth of magic alive indoors. Whether it's diving into magic books or practicing our routines, there are countless ways to nurture our passion for magic during these chilly months.

Thank you for being a part of our magical community. Let's continue to support one another and keep the fire of magic burning bright!



## January Re-Cap By Matt Spielman

For our January OMS meeting members gathered for a “Holiday Leftovers” competition. Members were split into 4 teams and given a beginner’s magic kit from Five Below (discount retail store) along with 20 minutes to plan and perform a routine for the room.

Included in the kit were playing cards, cups and balls, ropes, a wand, and a sorcerer’s hat. The quality of the props was questionable for a few members but for \$5 you can’t expect cards with an air cushioned finish or coreless braided rope.

Everyone was slightly caught off guard putting together a routine, this competition was a great way of testing everyone's impromptu abilities and challenged everyone to focus on the performance and not the props.



The Four group leaders that were chosen to help prep and perform routines were **Jered Schaugaard, Roger Reese, John Sheibal**, and myself. A few of the performances were bungled by some of the lower quality props but performers were able to inject some comedy and recover for the rest of their act. It was a great lesson for our newer performers to prepare for any future mishaps and learn how to not let a small hiccup disrupt the rest of your performance.

Every group was able to perform an engaging routine for the crowd and after a group vote “Team Hopeful” led by myself was able to sneak out with a win. Our group’s



members were presented the club's coveted golden rabbit award to proudly display in our homes, mine sits proudly on top of my bookshelf. Thank you to the OMS club for providing the kits for the competition and for the members in attendance for creating a positive environment to share ideas and perform in front of others.







Hey fellow magicians! Adam Schacht here, just got back from Magifest and I'm still buzzing from the incredible experience. This year's convention was packed with amazing performances, insightful lectures, and great opportunities to connect with other magic enthusiasts.

Let me walk you through some of the highlights, starting with the fantastic lineup of lecturers we had this year.

**Ricardo Rosencrantz** kicked things off with a thought-provoking session on the power of narrative in magic. He emphasized how our personal journeys shape our performances and the importance of authenticity in connecting with audiences.

**David Ben's** lecture was a deep dive into the wisdom he's gained from magic legends. He shared invaluable insights on the importance of mastering fundamentals and the role of etiquette in a magician's career.

**Axel Hecklau** brought his unique perspective to the stage, demonstrating some mind-bending routines and breaking down the psychology behind effective misdirection.

**Joshua Jay's** lecture was definitely a highlight. He shared his new insights on his particle system. If you do not know about it, I would look into it. It is a special type of stack that has tons of versatility.

**Carisa Hendrix's** dove into the world of rapid prototyping in magic, showing us how to quickly develop and refine new ideas. Her innovative approach

to prop design led to her innovation of a new borrowed ring that links to any object.

**John McLaughlin's** lecture was a unique treat. Drawing from his 32 years of experience at the CIA, he explored the fascinating intersection of magic and espionage. His stories about using magic techniques in intelligence work were thought-provoking of how Magic was involved in a lot of military missions.

And of course, there was the always-entertaining **Mahdi Gilbert**. His lecture on sleight of hand was a masterclass in technique and showmanship. Greg's ability to overcome physical limitations and still perform at such a high level is truly inspiring.

**Javi Benitez** wowed us all with his innovative approaches to classic effects. His session on creating and maintaining audience interest throughout a routine was particularly enlightening.



A gathering with Joshua Jay



**Justin Willman's** talk was a highlight for many. He discussed the challenges of translating magic from live performances to television, and how he keeps his material fresh and relevant.



Jared assisting Justin Willman

**Jonathan Levitt's** lecture focused on the power of observation and connection in magic. His interactive exercises really got us thinking about how we engage with our audiences.

The convention wasn't just about lectures, though. The evening shows were spectacular, featuring a diverse range of styles and approaches to magic. From close-up miracles to grand illusions, there was something for everyone.

One of the best parts of Magifest is always the chance to connect with other magicians. The lobby was constantly abuzz with impromptu performances and passionate discussions about our craft. It's inspiring to see so many people dedicated to pushing the boundaries of magic.

The dealer room was a treasure trove of new effects and classic props. I picked up a few new items that I can't wait to incorporate into my act.

All in all, Magifest was an incredible experience. The mix of education, entertainment, and networking opportunities make it a must-attend event for any serious magician. The energy and creativity on display were

truly inspiring, reminding me why I fell in love with magic in the first place.

I left the convention feeling reinvigorated and full of new ideas. It's events like these that keep our community strong and our art form evolving. I'm already looking forward to next year's Magifest! - **Steve Osborn, Trevor Groenjes, Jared Blake, and Adam Schacht**



### 2025 OMS Officers

**President** - Adam Schacht ..... [schacht2222@gmail.com](mailto:schacht2222@gmail.com)  
**Vice President** - Steve Lindeman ..... [amazinglindy@gmail.com](mailto:amazinglindy@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer** - Bob Gehringer ..... [gehringerr@cox.net](mailto:gehringerr@cox.net)  
**Secretary** - Patrice Fisher ..... [patricekfisher@yahoo.com](mailto:patricekfisher@yahoo.com)



Boys Town kids sent thank you cards to the Holiday Luncheon walk around magicians.





Come and not only learn a DIY system for building a deceptively easy-to-read deck of marked cards, but go home with your own deck and four proven favorite marked card routines taught by four of our members!



**SIMULTANEOUSLY  
BROADCAST ON ZOOM**

<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>

Please note: If joining the fun on Zoom, have available your own deck of red backed Bicycle playing cards and a safety pin.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2025**  
7-8 PM (CST)

The Cross Training Center  
5030 N. 72nd Street  
Omaha, Nebraska

No charge for attending this event.



### That's Odd!



As I've mentioned elsewhere, sometimes the self-working or mathematical effect gets a better response than the more difficult sleight-of-hand routine. This is true, of course, when the self-working effect is properly presented.

This mind-reading feat is similar to the preceding one in that it's purely mathematical. It's also much easier for me to describe.

"Sometimes, if I can force you to think of one single, simple thought, it may be possible for me to intercept that thought mentally. Here—let me demonstrate."

You need a handful of coins. Just toss all your loose change on the table, or borrow some coins. The number of coins is immaterial; but for appearance's sake there should be a minimum of 6 or 7 and a maximum of 15 or 16.

As they're tossed to the table, do a fast mental count of the heads (or tails) that are showing. Since this shouldn't be obvious, I'll tell you what I usually do. One fast glance tells me which there are fewer of, heads or tails. That's what I count.

You don't really need the number of heads or tails; what you need to know is whether it's an odd or an even total. It's sometimes easier to pair them mentally. I'll leave this to you; just know whether there's an even or an odd number of heads or tails.

Turn your back and tell the spectator he's to turn one coin at a time—any coin, as often as he likes. He may turn the same coin; it doesn't matter. He must say "turn" each time he turns a coin. (He's turning a coin from head to tail, or vice versa, each time.)

Let him do this for as long as he likes (within reason). All you have to do is say, mentally, odd, even, odd, even, odd," etc. For example, say you've counted 6 heads before turning around. That's even. The first time he says "turn," you think "odd." The next "turn" is even, then odd, even, and so on. (Had you started with "odd" in your mind, you'd think "even" on his first turn, then "odd," and so on.)

He stops, and you've ended on, say, "even." That's all you need to know. Because that tells you (assuming you counted heads originally) that there are now an even number of heads showing!

Before you turn around, say, "All right, if you're finished, slide one coin, any coin, toward you. Look at it to see whether it's head or tail, then place one hand over it so that I can't see it. Can I turn around now?"

When you turn around, unobtrusively count the visible heads; all you need to know is whether the total is odd or even. Once you know that, you also know if the coin he's covering is head or tail! Simple. Assume you ended on "even" when he finished turning coins. You know that there has to be an even number of heads. So, if you see an even number now, he's covering a tail. If you see an odd number, he's covering a head. It's all quite simple. Just try it once or twice, and you'll see what I mean.

At the end of the effect it should appear as if all you have to do is stare into his eyes and concentrate. The way I usually do it is to push the visible coins aside, as if they have nothing to do with anything. It's as I push them aside, and as I'm talking, that I casually get the necessary count.

Now read his mind. Stare into his eyes. Tell him to concentrate on the coin he's covering. visualize head or tail. Finally, tell him that he's thinking of a head (or tail)!

Afterthoughts: The important thing is to try to hide the fact that this is based on mathematics. So, build up the mind-reading aspect of your presentation as strongly as you can.

One other point: If you're doing this on a hard surface, it's almost impossible for your spectator not to make noise each time he or she turns a coin. If you don't make the turning important, there's no reason for the spectator to try to cover the sound. Anyway, if you think you'll hear the coins turning, you don't have to ask him to say "turn" each time!

From *The Magic Book* by Harry Lorayne. Used with permission.





### A Standing Ovation



Our CARE Team came together to start the New Year with compassion for magic and for those who live in assisted living residences. A relatively new senior residence here in Omaha, is Ovation Heartland Preserve. It is an assisted living community that our Omaha Magical Society has been ask to entertain once a month!

They enjoyed our magic last year and have invited us back on a regular basis in 2025! Every fourth Sunday of the month our crew will perform close-up magic in Ovation's large, comfortable common area. The venue is perfect for walk-about because of the separate areas where people can perch as we rotate from table-to-table around a cozy fireplace and a counter of cookies, and other goodies for an afternoon treat.

January 26<sup>th</sup> was our first visit and it was great to get the band back together after a few months hiatus. There were four tables of about six to eight people at each. Our magic was first on the playbill of a 95<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. Cake and live music by an excellent singer, entertainer followed our hour of illusions. We were a fine warm-up act for guests arriving for the big birthday. Our magic got the party rolling with oohs and aahhs, laughter, and applause.

Thank you, **Tim Begley, Tom Gray, Neil Bable, and Nathan Roberts** for spending time on your Sunday afternoon to bring some magical mischief to the Ovation senior living community.



**11:00 AM - 1:00 PM** – SWAP Meet  
at the Abbott House  
3316 Center Street Omaha

**1:00PM - 2:30 PM** – Pizza Party  
at Mahoney State Park hosted by OMS

**2:30 PM – 3:30 PM** – Lectures  
(Each club provides 20 minutes.)

**3:30 PM – 4:00 PM** – Break

**4:00 PM – 5:00 PM** – Close-up Shoe  
(Each club provides 20 minutes.)

**5:00 PM – 6:30 PM** Dinner Break

**6:30 PM** – Doors open for public show  
With strolling magic

**7:00 PM – 8:15 Public Show**  
(Each club provides 20 minutes.)

Announcing a change in schedule for the Tri State Magic Party. There will be no Friday night event. Instead, the swap meet has been moved to the Abbott house. This will kick off the festivities Saturday morning from 11:00 -1:00. The change will give visiting magicians a chance to tour the Abbot home, then move onto Mahoney State Park for the remainder of the day. The committees are working hard behind the scenes to put together a fun day of lectures, magic shows, food, fun, and fellowship. Circle March 8th on your calendars. This is a party you don't want to miss.



## Monday Night Magic

**Monday February 17<sup>h</sup>**

**7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Cross Training Center

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

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

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