



The Flash Paper

February 2026

"Enjoying magic...with others...for others."

Bob Gehringer, Editor

Adam's Antics

A Month of Magic, Connection, and Momentum



Adam, Bill Malone and Tim Begley

We kicked off the month with an impromptu get-together of local magicians and club members, joined by friends who traveled in from Sioux City and Lincoln. The occasion was seeing [Jason Ladanye](#) perform at the Funny Bone. His show was incredibly skillful and laugh-out-loud funny - definitely intended for a mature audience. The jokes landed hard (even if none of them are ever making their way into my act).

After the show, we all hung out next door at the Draftcade, where local magician **Joe Cole** - who also does maintenance work on all the machines - gave us a behind-the-scenes tour. It was one of those relaxed, community-building nights that really highlights how special our magic community is.

Much of the month also revolved around planning and ramping up for our new event space at [Joslyn Castle](#).

Along with that, **Dave Arch** and I scoped out a new location for our after-meeting hangouts: Big Grove Brewery (4601 Catalyst Ct, Omaha, NE 68106).

A few logistics to note: Big Grove is open until 10:00 PM, but the kitchen closes at 9:00. They recommend calling in food orders around 8:30–8:45 so everything is ready when we arrive. They also offer house-made seltzers and beers. Unlike Brazen Head, which previously let us linger, Big Grove has a firm 10:00 PM cutoff - good to know going forward.

I may plan to call ahead and order a few shared appetizers so there's some food for everyone to enjoy. If you partake, feel free to throw in a few bucks - I'll handle paying up front. I tried a few things last visit and now know exactly what to get... and what not to get.

The Joslyn Castle event itself went amazingly well. The turnout was fantastic, and it was great seeing so many people engaging with the activities and castle tours. Huge thanks to everyone who helped with decorating and setup - it truly elevated the experience. I also had a blast running video and music for the night. When someone asked if I could handle it, I said, "Sure - I have a degree in theater." It felt good to finally put that to use in a very OMS way.

Outside of magic, I managed to catch two Broadway shows this month - one in Lincoln and one in Omaha. I saw [Hadestown](#) for the fourth time, and it remains one of my all-time favorite productions. If you've ever seen it (or want to talk about it), please chat with me - I'll happily nerd out. I also saw [Shucked](#) at the [Orpheum Theater Omaha](#). It was very funny, though less of a spectacle than many of the musicals I personally gravitate toward - not my favorite, but I know it's been well-received by many.



We also made the trip to [MagiFest](#) in Ohio, which was a great time. Several club members joined us, and there's a dedicated article next that dives deeper into everyone's experiences and takeaways - so be sure to read on.

Many members have also been buzzing about [Justin Willman](#)'s show at the [Astro Theater](#) on February 7. This article will likely land after that show has already happened, but I can't wait to hear how it was. Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend, so please fill me in!

Looking ahead, I'm especially excited about our upcoming time with [Christopher Carter](#). He's a true mastermind when it comes to mentalism and showmanship and, in my opinion, one of the most successful entertainers in the industry today. I follow him closely on social media and learn a lot from the lessons he shares. I've started his recently released book and plan to finish it before our meeting. I'm really looking forward to soaking up his insights with all of you.

Here's to a month full of magic, momentum, and meaningful connections - and to even more ahead.

MagiFest 2026

OMS Perspectives from a Weekend of Inspiration



Each year, MagiFest brings together a remarkable cross-section of the magic world, and 2026 delivered in a big way. This year's lineup included legendary performers, respected creators, and innovative voices such as:

[Bill Malone](#), [Jon Dorenbos](#), [Daniel Garcia](#), [Taylor Hughes](#), [Helge Thun](#), [Alyx Hilshey](#), [Felice Ling](#), [Alex Linian](#), [Henry Harrius](#), [Eric Mead](#), and [Jason Latimer](#), among many others.

Several members of the Omaha Magical Society made the trip to Columbus, Ohio - including **Tim Begley**, **Trevor Groenjes**, **Mike Ware**, **Steve Osborn**, and **Adam Schacht** - and each returned with a unique perspective on what made this year's MagiFest special.

Trevor Groenjes' Perspective

This was Trevor's fourth time attending MagiFest, and once again, it lived up to expectations.

One of the things Trevor appreciates most about MagiFest is discovering performers he may not know well going in. This year, that performer was Helge Thun. Helge's magic was deeply fooling, but what stood out just as much was how genuinely funny he was. It was the kind of performance that reminds you how powerful strong technique becomes when paired with great comedy.

Another standout for Trevor was Jon Dorenbos. With a background that includes a 14-year NFL career and a Super Bowl win, Jon brings a rare perspective to magic. His performance was excellent, but his motivational talk left an even bigger impression, resonating emotionally with much of the audience.

Beyond the scheduled events, Trevor loved the time spent connecting with other magicians—sharing tricks, learning from peers, and running into well-known figures who simply showed up to enjoy the convention. For him, MagiFest continues to be as much about the people as it is about the magic.

Adam Schacht's Perspective

This marked Adam's third MagiFest, and this year he approached the convention with more intention. Rather than trying to absorb everything at once, he focused on taking notes, reflecting, and paying attention to what resonated most.

One of Adam's favorite moments of the weekend came during the gala show with Felice Ling's Starry, Starry Night routine. Performed entirely to music with no spoken words, the piece was deeply emotional and earned a standing ovation. It was a powerful reminder of how moving magic can be when presentation, pacing, and intention align.

The gala show overall was definitely a highlight of the convention. Jason Latimer's work stood out in particular. Known to many as a former judge on Wizard Wars, Jason also runs Impossible Science, a mobile



science-and-magic museum that travels to schools around the world. His effects blended curiosity, science, and illusion in a way that felt both smart and inspiring. (If any OMS members are interested in hosting Impossible Science at a school, Adam is happy to share the information and steps Jason discussed.)

Comedy was another major takeaway. Observing timing, structure, and subtle joke construction throughout the weekend paid off - Adam tested a few new ideas at a show shortly after returning, and they landed extremely well.

Steve Osborn's Perspective

For Steve, one performer stood above the rest: Jon Dorenbos. His combination of strong magic, storytelling, and inspiration made a lasting impression and was Steve's clear favorite of the weekend.

Steve also described Bill Malone as truly iconic. Seeing someone whose influence has shaped generations of close-up magicians was a highlight, and Malone's presence added real weight to the convention. Helge Thun also ranked highly for Steve, thanks to his blend of technical skill and comedy.

Overall, Steve felt the schedule was exceptionally strong from top to bottom. While he regretted missing the finale, the quality and consistency of the performances throughout the weekend made MagiFest 2026 a memorable experience.

Tim Begley's Perspective

When Tim reflected on MagiFest, it wasn't the big, headline moments that stood out - it was the small, unexpected ones.

Before one lecture, Tim sat down at a table with a man casually sharing photos he'd taken near his home. A few minutes into the conversation, he realized it was [Gene Anderson](#), the man who literally wrote the book on newspaper magic.

Throughout the weekend, Tim found himself in similar moments - meeting a young magician from Canada who performed an exceptional Any Card at Any Number, chatting with a young inventor experimenting with a breakaway marker, and having conversations with people deeply involved in the magic community, including the organizer of the Gateway Close-Up Convention in St. Louis.

Traveling to and from the convention with friends was a highlight all its own. The laughter, conversations, and shared experience made MagiFest feel less like an event and more like time spent with a community.

Mike Ware's Perspective (First MagiFest)



Daniel Garcia and Mike Ware

This was Mike's first MagiFest, and experiencing it through fresh eyes was a joy for everyone traveling with him.

Mike approached the convention with genuine excitement and curiosity, quickly realizing just how vast the world of magic really is. From sleight-of-hand to modern and electronic effects, the scope of what's possible was eye-opening.

What stood out most was Mike's thoughtful approach. Rather than feeling the urge to buy everything in sight, he expressed a desire to slow down and truly master the material he already owns before moving on. That balance of enthusiasm and intention made his first MagiFest especially meaningful and set the tone for how he hopes to grow as a magician.

Looking Ahead

MagiFest 2026 once again showed why conventions matter. Beyond the lectures, shows, and dealer rooms, it's the shared experiences - late-night conversations, unexpected encounters, and time spent with fellow magicians - that leave the biggest impression.

Here's hoping even more Omaha Magical Society members can make the trip next year.



January Re-Cap by Matt Spielman

Constructed in 1903 for a cool \$250,000 the Joslyn Castle lies on a 5.5-acre plot complete with a garden, library, ballroom, reception hall, and just about any other extravagant room you would want in your dream house. Today the mansion is listed as a landmark historic structure and is run by a non-profit organization that hosts events throughout the year and maintains the garden that is open free to the local community. What a fitting new home for our club meetings as we kicked off the new year with a celebration at the Joslyn Castle's carriage house. Club members along with friends, family, and the group of people working behind the scenes at the Abbott house gathered to celebrate the forgiveness of **Teller's** loan on the property.



The carriage house is a unique space sitting across the driveway from the mansion. Artwork from local artists cover the wall and the vaulted ceilings with large wood beams created a grand atmosphere for our evening. Walking into the event we were all greeted to take a seat at one of the many decorated tables or peruse the wide array of magic booklets for sale at the club table for \$3 apiece. **Dave Arch** was our host for the evening and wasted no time kicking off the festivities by

 walking the entire room through an illusion that was provided for everyone in attendance followed up by a social game of bingo, the grand prize for the winner was a large coffee table book of classic magic posters. Dave then introduced everyone to the members behind the scenes of the Abbott house team and their roles in acquiring and maintaining the home. A video presentation was then played for the group that covered all of the developments stemming from the Abbott house over the last year including renovations to the home, recent events hosted (Junior Magicians, group lessons, private performances, etc.), community response and outreach, and a look at future plans for the rest of the



home that are nearing completion. Also, the Donor Dozen, the small group that provided financial donations for the home were recognized. Everyone experienced the ceremonial shredding of the loan documents before throwing the pieces in the air.

At the end of the night after watching the presentation and mingling with club members and the team behind the Abbott house it was very clear that the club has seen some tremendous progress over the last year. Thank you to the OMS board and all of the volunteers that help make our meetings and events memorable experiences. I look forward to future events at the Joslyn Castle and all of the future milestones for the Abbott house in the upcoming year.



Here's the closing ceremony when we shred the mortgage with the Club and Abbott House boards on either side. OMS club board members include **Adam Schacht, Mike Ware, Patrice Fisher, Bob Gehringer, and Steve Lindeman**. Abbott House board members include **Carl Braun, Kim Isherwood, Mike Ware, Darren Kauk, Bob Gehringer and Dave Arch**. Thank you, **Nathan Roberts**, for the video.

<https://vimeo.com/1162268306/f7803dfa5a>



Sponsored by **The Omaha Magical Society**

THE **CHRISTOPHER** CARTER LECTURE



Monday, February 16, 2026 | 7-9 PM (CST)

Joslyn Castle Carriage House

3902 Davenport Street - Omaha, Nebraska

SIMULTANEOUSLY BROADCAST ON ZOOM

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

Christopher Carter has been called one of the world's greatest mind-readers. And now he's released a book entitled "**In The Spotlight**" - containing his proven routines.

Christopher has entertained around the world. From Finland, to Mexico, to Qatar, to every state in the USA. He has amazed corporate, college, and theater audiences with his astonishing feats of apparent mind power.

Christopher has been featured on the cover of **American Corporate Entertainment Magazine**, been awarded **Campus Entertainer of The Year** by **Campus Activities Magazine**, and has presented over **5000** live performances.

“ No charge for attending this event. ”
You don't need to be a club member to attend.



Another Youthful Year Making Magical Memories



January has arrived and with it began our new session of *Discover Magic*. Our Omaha Magical Society has a program for young aspiring or just plain enthusiastic, student magicians. For those of you who already know about our Junior Magician Mentoring program, please, indulge me as I describe of our curriculum for those who may not have heard about this OMS opportunity for young people.

We use a program called *Discover Magic*, which is a one-of-a-kind program, created by some of the top magicians in the country. It includes magic secrets file folders, videos, and custom tricks that you won't find anywhere else. Also, these classes provide mentoring and unique opportunities to boost self-confidence, build communication skills, and make new friends.

Junior Magicians of the ages seven years to fourteen years old are taught a new trick every month and can view videos of each illusion and additional supplementary lessons included with enrollment. In addition to magic, life skills such as preparedness, respect, and the importance of giving the joy of magic to others, are also taught.

There are four different wands awarded for each kit completed. Each magic kit has a year of curriculum.

Tim Begley, Tim Kroeger, and I are happy to have two new students to join the others for our Blue Wand classes this year. The picture with this article shows one of our new students. She looks quite serious, about holding such a big book that she does not have to return after class. Surprised and wide eyed she asked, "Is this mine to keep?" "Yes, this is all yours to keep!" I smiled back as I gave her the Mark Wilson magic book that we give to each junior magician when they join our program. The illusions in the book compliment and help to supplement our curriculum perfectly.

We just began our classes for 2026. So, it is still a perfect time to join now for this term.

Here is a link to our website. It will guide you through our Discover Magic for Junior Magicians information and how to purchase the kit of materials for the year. Just use PayPal or Venmo and mention magic classes in the comments.

<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/youth-classes>

If you need assistance or would like to know more about our program, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 402-557-5737 and leave a message. I will call you back as soon as I can.

Patrice Fisher - Omaha Magical Society Instructor

2026 OMS Officers

President - Adam Schacht schacht2222@gmail.com
Vice President - Mike Ware mike.ware@betteromaha.com
Treasurer - Bob Gehringer gehringerr@cox.net
Secretary - Patrice Fisher patricekfisher@yahoo.com
Executive Director - Dave Arch samassembly7@gmail.com

Check out our website:

<https://omahamagicclub.org>



Alain Nu
The Man Who Knows
Delivers a Mind-Blowing Experience
at the Abbott House
by Ruth Bitter



On Tuesday, February 3rd, members of the Omaha Magic Club were treated to an extraordinary evening at the Abbott House with the one and only **Alain Nu**, *The Man Who Knows*. The *OMS 20 x 15* donors had the privilege of spending two engaging hours with this remarkable performer.



Alain Nu is an American mentalist, illusionist, television personality, author, and speaker, renowned for his astonishing demonstrations of mind reading, metal bending, and mind-over-matter feats. With a career spanning more than three decades, Alain has performed

and appeared across the United States and around the world, captivating audiences wherever he goes.

In addition to his performance career, Alain is the author of several acclaimed books, including *State of Mind: The Man Who Knows Reveals the Secrets of Mind Over Matter!* and *Reveal Your Hidden Powers* with “The Nu ESP Test,” both available on Amazon.

The evening was far more than entertaining - it was an insightful and generously shared lecture. Alain revealed many of the tips, techniques, and secrets he has learned and refined throughout his career. His presentation offered valuable guidance on elevating performance and presentation, all while weaving in humor and fascinating stories about his life and friendships with some of the world's greatest magicians.



It was, without question, an unforgettable night of magic, insight, and inspiration for everyone in attendance.



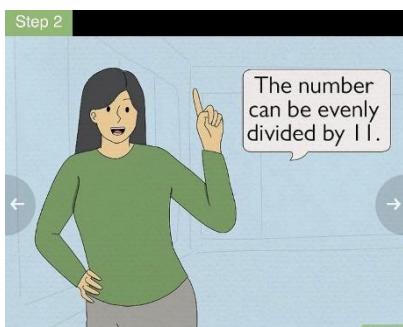


MATHaMAGIC

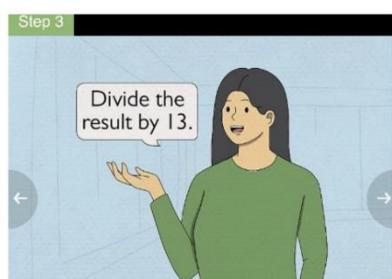
Although I'm not particularly attracted to math tricks, standing across the room from your volunteer while they do all the work on their own phone's calculator this one I believe has some potential.



Tell someone to secretly select a 3-digit number and enter it twice into a calculator. Make sure they don't show you the calculator's display. Stand across the room from the person and make it seem like you are trying to read their mind. For example, they could enter "123123."



Announce that the number can be evenly divided by 11. Dramatically announce this from across the room. Have the person verify this with their calculator and confirm to the audience that you are right. For instance, if they entered "123,123 ÷ 11" into their calculator, they would get 11,193 (a whole number rather than a decimal).

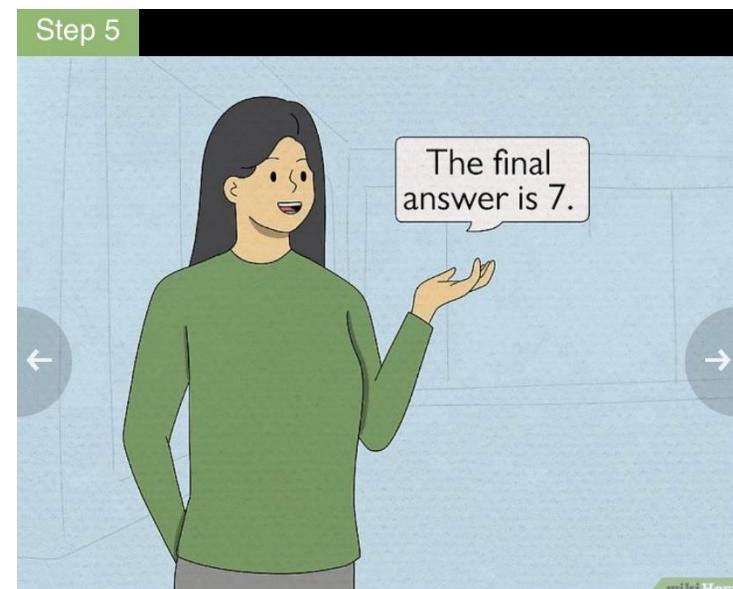


Tell them to divide that result by 13. Announce from across the room that the result is divisible by 13. Tell them to crunch the numbers on the calculator to prove it.

Example: If their last result was 11,193, then they would divide it by 13 and get 861.



Tell them to divide the result by the original 3-digit number. Remember that they chose a 3-digit number and entered it twice. Make sure they only divide the result by 3-digits, rather than the 6 they entered at the beginning. **Example:** If their last result was 861, and the original number was 123, they would divide 861 by 123

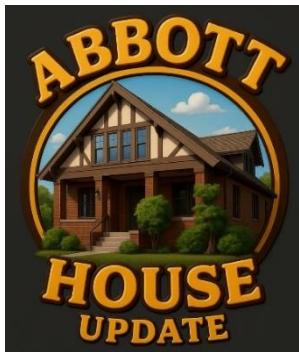


to get the number 7.

Announce that the final answer is 7. Tell them without looking at the screen. Have them show the audience, if you have one, to prove that you are right.

Want to give this magic trick a fortune-telling twist? To give a "good" fortune, tell the person to divide the final number by 13—this gives them lucky number 7 as a final answer. To give a "bad" fortune, tell the person to divide the final number by 7 instead, which gives them unlucky number 13 as a final answer.

Co-authored by Kevin Wang and Janice Tieperman and used with permission.



QR Code

Shredding Of The Abbott House Mortgage

↳ <https://vimeo.com/1162268306/f7803dfa5a>

Tap on the poster to read more about the performer.

OmahaMagicClub.org

Want to learn more about some of the magicians who visited **The Abbott House** - learning from magical inventor David P. Abbott?

Use this link:

<https://magic-memories-6f8ee33b.base44.app/>

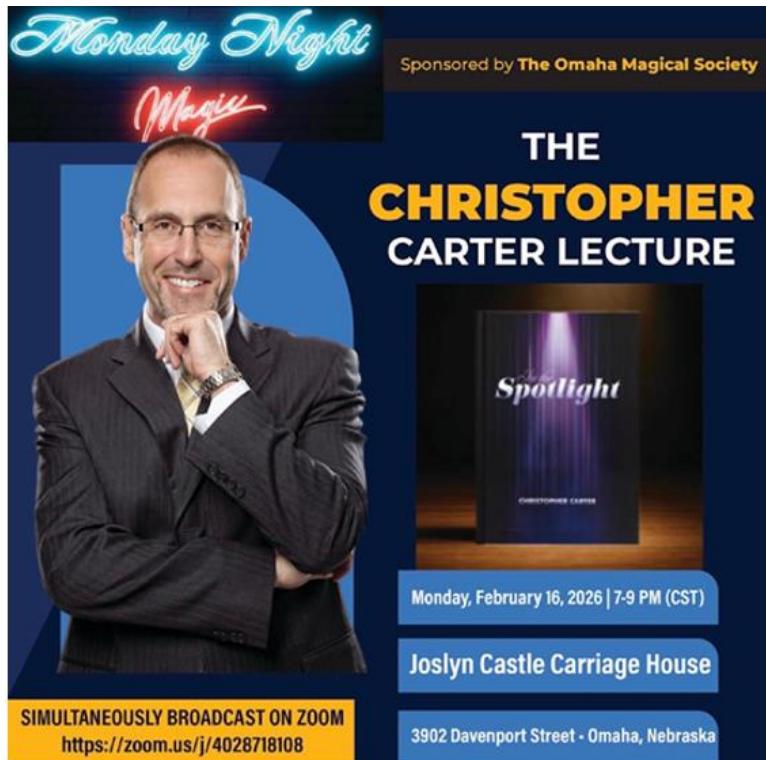
And play a game of Concentration/Memory on your Apple or Android phone
- tapping on the poster to learn more about that magician!



Website

Magic Memories

↳ <http://magic-memories-6f8ee33b.base44.app/>



Monday Night Magic

Sponsored by The Omaha Magical Society

THE CHRISTOPHER CARTER LECTURE

Spotlight

CHRISTOPHER CARTER

Monday, February 16, 2026 | 7-9 PM (CST)

Joslyn Castle Carriage House

3902 Davenport Street - Omaha, Nebraska

SIMULTANEOUSLY BROADCAST ON ZOOM
<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>

This month's Magic Event is on **Monday**

February 16th
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Joslyn Castle Carriage House
3902 Davenport Street

Or just click on this link:

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

If you wish to receive the Flash Paper via a mailed hard copy, let Bob Gehringer know.

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Everyone will continue to receive the emailed version.

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