



The Flash Paper

August 2026

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

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Adam's Antics

Beating the Heat

Summer has definitely arrived! July has been a hot one, and staying inside where it's cool has been the goal whenever possible. Even so, I had two outdoor performances this month - **John C. Fremont Days** in Fremont and the **Pawnee County Fair**.

Outdoor shows always bring a unique set of challenges. I already tend to sweat during indoor performances, so I have to rethink my costume with lighter clothing, like a short-sleeve dress shirt paired with a nice tie or bow tie. I've always said I wouldn't take outdoor shows...until the right opportunity comes along! When the price is right, it's hard to say no.

Another challenge with outdoor shows is the wind. Every performance requires adjustments - not only to what you wear, but also to the show itself. During one performance, we had some strong wind gusts, and I ended up making an impromptu repair using a flexible bandage from my car's first aid kit. I tied the ends together to create a giant rubber band that held one of my props securely to its stand so it wouldn't blow away. You really can't plan for everything, and sometimes improvisation starts before the magic even begins!

Crossing the Finish Line

Outside of magic, I checked something off my bucket list this month by completing my first sprint triathlon! I only trained for a couple of months, while many of the people I met had been preparing much longer. Thankfully, the sprint distance is much shorter than the Olympic version, which made it a little less intimidating for a first race.

The swim was definitely the toughest part. Between the open water, waves, and just the mental challenge of it all, I learned a lot about pushing through discomfort. Crossing the finish line made every workout worth it, and I can confidently say I'll be doing another one in the future!

Learning from the Best



Props from Jim's presentation on mediums for Abbott Members

Our July lecture with **Jim Kleefeld** was a tremendous success and very well attended. Jim has spent decades entertaining families and children, and it was a real privilege to hear not only his stories from the road but also the countless practical tips and

insights he's picked up throughout his career. It's always refreshing to hear from someone who continues to perform at such a high level while remaining approachable and willing to share what they've learned. A big thank you to Jim for making the trip and spending time with our club. I think everyone walked away with ideas they can use in their own performances.



August Event – Boys Town

We're excited for our August show at Boys Town. It sounds like we'll once again have access to the theater for our **afternoon** performance, which should make for another great event. We hope to see a great turnout for another fun day of magic!

Abbott House Updates

I hope everyone is enjoying the coin magic classes that Jered has been teaching at the Abbott House. I've heard great things and know there's been a lot of valuable information shared. Unfortunately, my work schedule has kept me from attending, but I'm looking forward to hearing what everyone has been learning.

There are several exciting things planned for the Abbott House, so be sure to check out the other articles in this month's *Flash Paper* to stay up to date.

Final Thoughts

There isn't a lot of magical news from me this month, but I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer - staying cool, keeping busy, staying active, and most importantly, staying healthy.

Lane and I are looking forward to a Disney and Orlando vacation in September. It's always nice to have something exciting on the calendar!

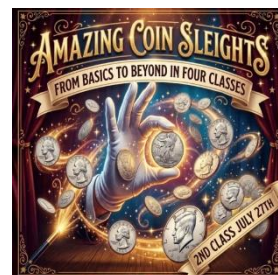
As always, if there's anything I can do to help, or if you just want to talk magic, don't hesitate to reach out. Have a fantastic August!

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>

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



Session Goal: Link mechanics into seamless sequences. Script the accompanying story or "patter" for each effect.

Supplemental Video for Coin Class #2

Jered Blake. (2026, July 9). Coin Class #2 Three Effects [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eTMRSMzkFPk&list=PL11V84ChrfjPuv6sfXvi7ugBjDeSAimun>



Tim Begley and his video of his Cross of India*



John Sheibal and his coins across

* Tim's Video Link Here: <https://bit.ly/4pOJvHF>



November Re-Cap by Matt Spielman

At our latest club meeting we had the privilege of hosting **Jim Kleefeld**, a full-time children's and family magician for over 50 years. Utilizing his Bachelor's degree in Theater and a Master's degree in Education Jim brings a rare blend of stagecraft and child psychology to the craft. Jim developed his act for school assemblies and library shows performing them hundreds of times a year across the state of Ohio and gave us some great insights on how he maintained his success.

"You are buying a problem when you buy a trick". Jim kicked off with a hard truth some magicians need to hear. Buying an off-the-shelf trick isn't the finish line, it's the starting point and you need to modify it to make it work for you. Transform basic utility props into something visually simple enough for a kid to instantly understand and pair it with a familiar story. "Incongruence is funny", unexpected over the top visuals and out of place logic are instantly funny for a kid and keeps their attention. As an example, Jim performed the classic stratosphere routine utilizing apples in place of the colored balls and paired it with a story about Johnny Appleseed.



Jim also demonstrated his version of the 4-Way magic coloring book. He custom made the book by scanning his own drawings to help differentiate his prop from the

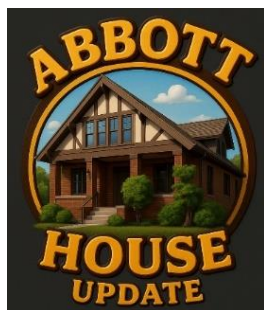
standard one that people in the crowd may have seen before. He starts off by inviting everyone to erase the scribbles from all the pages, after a quick gesture the coloring book was magically reset. Next up the crowd imagines the completed drawings and the book is magically colored in. After skipping for a beat he notices someone in the crowd trying to be funny by erasing away the drawings and to round out the routine shows the book to be completely blank. He says by reacting to them erasing the book on their own you create the illusion that the events were driven from their actions and not from a script.



Keeping a room full of children locked in also requires deliberate language techniques. Jim highlighted several literary tools to keep patter sharp and engaging. Poems and rhyme schemes instantly pull kids in and

hold their attention. Use alliteration (Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers), diacope (Bond, James Bond), antithesis ("That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind"), hypotaxis (When I snap my fingers, the picture will change), and exaggeration to give your voice texture and rhythm. Using natural rhythms like iambic pentameter ("I **wave** / my **wand** / to **make** / a **rab** / bit **hop**) makes your patter feel musical and effortless to follow. Fun fact, most of the dialogue in the TV series *Deadwood* was written in iambic pentameter.

Lastly Jim emphasized the importance of strong stage habits and establishing your character to keep the audience's focus. Younger crowds should clearly know who you are, why you are there, and what you are going to do. Avoid unnecessary fidgeting or pacing, frequent movements distract children and will bleed power from the effect. Strategic pauses will help reset attention, especially as you approach the climax of a routine. Look out for his book "*Kidshow Matters*", it compiles 36 of his monthly columns for "Not Just Kid Stuff" which ran for 3 years in the M-U-M magazine. The hard cover contains 46 tricks and routines, 200 illustrations and dozens of essays on performing for families and children.



**It is official.
We've reached another milestone!**



Thank you, Lexi and Shelley, with the City of Omaha Zoning and Historical Preservation Department for your tireless work over the past eighteen months in gaining this recognition for The Abbott House. You can view their thorough and informative 42-page document which was submitted for the application here:

<https://bit.ly/4pItFy6>



Susan Brown has accepted the position of the Donna Roth Theater Manager!

“I couldn’t be more pleased to have her in this role. Live shows begin this Fall down at The Abbott House! Thank you, Susan.” – **Dave Arch**



Some of the Abbott House members enjoying **Jim Kleefeld’s** lecture on mediums.



Hospital Video Project Completed!

With the help of our partners at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Omaha's Children's Hospital, six show videos and seven teach-a-trick videos have brought to completion our club's video library for children's hospitals.

Twenty children's hospitals nation-wide already have taken advantage of our complimentary offer.

Do you know of a hospital who might be interested? Please copy and paste the following link and password - sending them to the person in charge of their younger patients.

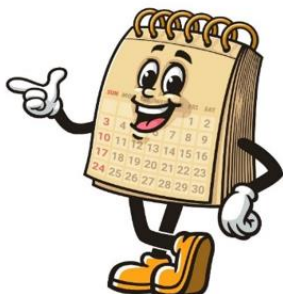
Link

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/10296239>

Password children

We have built it into our club's online homepage (towards the bottom under the heading of Upcoming Events) - hoping to help keep all of us on the same page.

<https://OmahaMagicClub.org>



AbraCORNdabra 2026 is September 11-13 in Des Moines, Iowa.



<https://abracorndabra.com/>

There is a new venue this year, the airport Holiday Inn. If you plan on attending, you'll need to register soon. Not only to take advantage of early discounts. Registration is limited to 200 people, and they do sell out.



For those who took advantage of the van ride to the Tri State Magic Party, you know what a great time it was. We are again considering renting a 15-passenger van to ride as a group to Des Moines. The plan would be to leave early Friday morning and return home Sunday. **Kevin James** will be driving back with us, so we'll leave after his master class ends at 3:00.

Please text **Steve Lindeman** to sign up for the van ride at (402) 681-4917. If there is enough interest we'll move forward.

Note: This event will take the place of our September meeting.



Black Noise Magic Generator

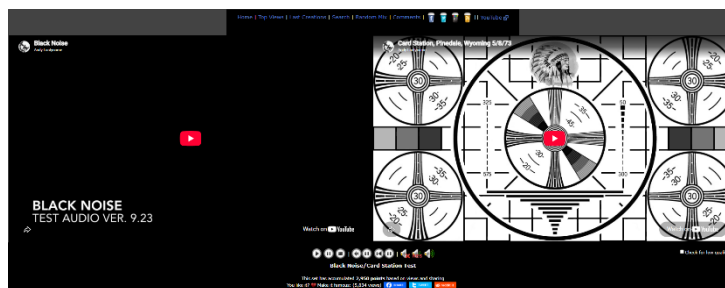
Have you ever thought about using a background of ambient noise as the cause of a magic trick working?

“It only seems to work when this sound is playing in the background. I don’t know why,” the magician says.

This framing helps get the oftentimes uncomfortable focus off you as “the all-powerful magician.”

You might consider using the Black Noise generator found at this link:

<https://www.youtubemultiplier.com/59272c040fcbc-black-noise-card-station-test.php>



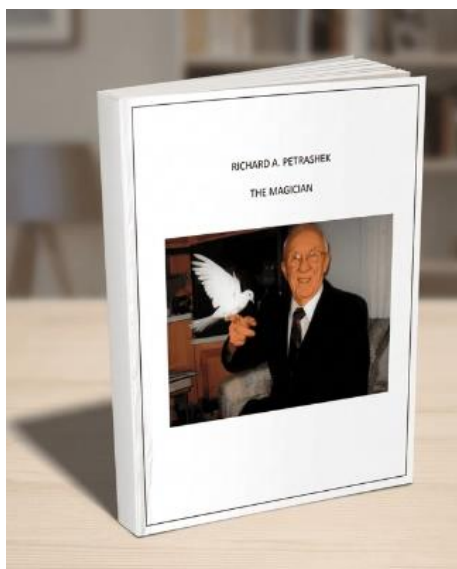
The Lie Detector App

Released into our club’s magic App Library in August is a smartphone Lie Detector magic app that supposedly works off voice recognition to tell when a volunteer is lying or telling the truth.

It comes complete with flashing lights and buzzer sound as well as a five-minute routine for using this app with a child.

You can find it in our club app library here:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/12164137> - using the same password you use as a club member for our online video library. After entering the library and watching the video explanation scroll down to access the app link to open the app.



Here is Pete Petrashek with Babe signing his book for those who wish to purchase an autographed copy at the Boys Town Picnic,



Monday Night
Magic

OUR 16TH YEAR

PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE!

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY

**BOYS TOWN
PICNIC AND SHOW**

If you'll bring your family and a side dish, the club will provide the chicken as we feed and entertain Boys Town residents.

As you can see, you'll feel transported into a scene right out of a Harry Potter movie.

First close-up magic will entertain the residents, and then a stage show **at the Boys Town Theater** will complete the event.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2026 • 12 -2PM (CDT)

**Boys Town Great Hall – 13747 Flanagan Blvd
Boys Town, Nebraska**

No charge for attending this event.

Boys Town Picnic and Magic Show hosted by the Omaha Magical Society



Save the Date!
Magic Club Picnic
with walk-around magic
is back at the
Boys Town Great Hall.
Saturday, August 8th
Noon to 1:00 pm



**with our stage show at the
Boys Town Music Hall –
from 1:00 to 2:00 pm**

This will be our August meeting.

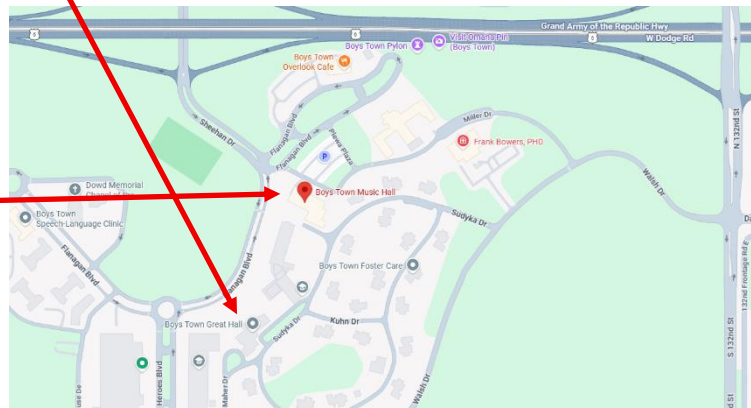
Please RSVP using the Google Sheet

Name	Will Attend	Number Attending (including yourself)	Sides(s) and/or Dessert(s) I will bring	Popular Side Dishes	Popular Desserts
Adam Schacht				7-Layer Dip	Apple Crisp
Angela Alesandrini				Antipasti Salad	Bite Sized Candy Bars
Anthony Vetrone				Baked Beans	Brownies
Bake Thornton				Chicken/Meats/Steaks	Cake
Brian Berger	Yes	3	Mandarin Orange, Jello with cream	Chips/Dip	Cornut Cake
Bob Miller				Colicaine	Cheesecake
Bob Perlin				Cucumber Salad	Cobbler
Bonnie Chacker				Deviled Eggs	Cookies
Brian Engelman				Fruit Salad	Crumble Bars
Bruce Jacoby				Four Bean Salad	Caprese
Sybil Heller				Fruit Salad	Amers Bars
Carl Brand				Hawaiian Pates	Pie
Charles Lark				Onions	Pudding
Chase/Kathleen Hasty				Jello Salad	Rice/Kingdom Bars
Cindy Anington				Lettness Salad	S'mores
Dan O'Connell				Macaroni Salad	
Dan Ruomsussen				Olive Salad	
Darren Kaul				Pasta Salad	
Dave Arch				Potato Salad	
Dave Madison				Toad Tacos	
David Fox				Vegetarian Dip	
Dwight Dwyer				Wakrout Salad	

OMS Boystown Picnic 2026
docs.google.com

We hope you can join us for the Boys Town Picnic and we ask that each family attending bring a dessert, side dish, and/or chips to share with the group. The club will provide the chicken. To RSVP, please enter your information into the shared Google spreadsheet at the link below. We need to have the number attending so we know how much chicken to purchase. We would appreciate having this information by **Wednesday, August 5th**.

If you cannot access the google sign up sheet, you may email **Bob Gehringer** with the number in your group and your side dish. Bob's email is: gehringerr@cox.net





2161 Broadwater Drive
Papillion, NE. 68046

402.714.0337
SAMAssembly7@gmail.com



An endowment is a fund established with financial gifts that generates income for The Omaha Magical Society forever. Interest from the investment of the gift continues to financially support the club in the area(s) of the donors' passions while the investment itself remains untouched.

The above illustration is based on an 8.8% investment return with 5% used by the club in the form of grants and 1% used for administrative costs.

"10% of my estate will go to The Omaha Magical Society."

When I heard that one of our members had told that to a Board Member, I had two thoughts.

First, I was overwhelmed with gratefulness that to the best of my knowledge the club for the first time in its one hundred plus year history was being remembered in someone's Will.

Secondly, I felt remiss in not making the offer to participate to each of our club members and friends.

Consequently, the Omaha Magical Society Board of Directors has established an Endowment Fund. The chart at the left taken directly from our club's website explains how it works.

I don't suppose you'd consider including us in your estate planning?

Please contact our Treasurer Bob Gehring (gehringerr@cox.net) with your questions and/or interest.

Dave

Dave Arch
Executive Director
Omaha Magical Society
402-714-0337
OmahaMagicClub.org



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

August 8th

Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Boys Town Great Hall

13747 Flanagan Blvd.

Boys Town, NE 68010

There will be no Zoom link for this event

13405 Marinda ST.
Omaha, NE 68144

