



The Flash Paper

March 2026

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

Bob Gehringer, Editor

Adam's Antics



Picture is Adam with his mom and dad, Cindy and Dave and his mom's cousin Janet that lives in Austin Texas!

A Night with Christopher Carter

February kicked off with a great lecture from **Christopher Carter** at the Joslyn Castle Carriage House. I've followed him for a while online - he shares a lot of real, behind-the-scenes thoughts about touring, refining material, and what it actually takes to make a living performing. It was cool to see that same depth in person.

After the meeting, some of us continued the conversations and later had the chance to hang out with him at Meadowlark Lounge. Those casual moments are often my favorite part - less formal, more honest magic talk. It's always refreshing to connect with working professionals who are generous with their experience.

March Meeting + After Hang

March is going to be a fun one. We're going to learn five hands-on magic tricks from the 100+ videos in our online club library. **Mike Ware** will be hosting, and each trick selected will be easy to perform yet have a strong impact on your audience.

Our Monday meeting runs 7:00-8:00 PM, and we'll plan to be cleared out of the Carriage House by around 8:30. After that, we'll head over to Big Grove Brewery (4601 Catalyst Ct, Omaha, NE 68106) and plan to meet there around 8:30.

If you're hungry, Big Grove stops serving food at 9:00 PM, so they recommend calling in an order around 8:30. They'll continue serving beer and cider cocktails until 10:00 PM. It's a great casual spot to share tricks, jam ideas, and just enjoy being around other magicians outside the formal meeting space.

The Secret Supper - The First Step

I've talked for a long time about the idea of a magic dinner theatre in Omaha. Something immersive. Something elevated. Something that blends storytelling, food, and close-up magic in a way that feels intentional - not just "a show during dinner," but an experience built around it. Well... this month is the first real step toward that vision.


I'm partnering with another local business to produce The Secret Supper: Course Zero - an intimate, 50-seat dinner experience where magic is woven into the evening from cocktail hour through dessert. It's not flashy. It's not stage-heavy. It's thoughtful, immersive, and built around atmosphere.

 Thursday, March 19, 2026

 Cocktail Hour – 5:30 PM

 Dinner & Show – 6:30 PM

 The Block Culinarium

 Limited to 50 Guests



This is the beginning - testing the concept, collaborating with other businesses, seeing what Omaha responds to. If it resonates, it grows.

If you're curious or want to support the first chapter of this idea, you can find tickets by searching "The Secret Supper" on Facebook or visiting:

adamagic52.com/secretsupper

This one matters to me. It's a small step toward something I've envisioned for a long time.

A Full Month On and Off Stage

February also brought a wide mix of shows - school assemblies, corporate events, kids' birthday parties - and I'm grateful to still be able to fit meaningful performances into my schedule while working evenings at the steakhouse. It keeps life varied and creatively sharp.

On a personal note, my parents were traveling through Texas, and in true Adam fashion, I accidentally requested the wrong days off from work. Rather than miss them, I flew down to Austin, met up with them, and rode back with them on their leg of the trip to Omaha before they continued to Michigan. It turned into a spontaneous little road adventure.

We explored Smash Park, Draftcade, and along the way stopped at what is apparently the world's largest casino in Oklahoma - 600,000 square feet. We didn't even make it through the whole thing.

All in all, February was full - creatively, personally, and professionally. I'm grateful for this club and the momentum we continue building together.

See you at *A Night From the Movies*.

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:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



February Re-Cap by Matt Spielman

Christopher Carter has taken his minimalistic approach to mentalism around the world for the last 35 years and is considered one of the best modern performers to do so. Carter is transparent about the fact that he isn't psychic; instead, he attributes his skills to an expert understanding of body language, non-verbal communication, and human behavior. Hot on the heels of the recent release of his book "In the Spotlight" the Dunninger Award winner graced our club with a 2-hour lecture at the Joslyn Castle covering material and insights from the book.



When I arrived for the lecture, I took a front row seat to get some good photos for this article. Christopher instantly greeted me and asked me to shuffle a brand new deck of cards. I spent a few minutes shuffling the deck, even passing it around the table for good measure. Once Christopher introduced himself, he promptly brought me in front of the group with the deck of cards and went into his take on the tossed-out deck. From the deck 4 cards were chosen by 4 different members of the audience and one by one he was able to divine which cards were chosen simply by "reading" our body language. During the explanation of the routine Christopher started off by saying he prefers performing tricks where the effects are believable and by using small basic props that can play big to a large audience. Tossed out deck routines are typically quick. Carter chooses to stretch this out to around 8 minutes to draw in the crowd in a slow build. Using a shuffled deck from the crowd increases the



credibility that all cards are truly random and in play, reading body language for tells instead of reading their mind is more believable to skeptics in the crowd. During their interrogations the audience is encouraged to recognize the tells and by constantly stepping through the routine and reporting back the information he is “finding”. He is taking a simple 4 card revelation from a visible trick to an audio trick that can play for an entire theater.



The rest of the lecture was filled with a wide variety of routines ranging from Russian roulette with stapler guns to memory divination using Scrabble pieces. Every routine Christopher explained had the same requirements, small simple props that created an emotional and interactive experience for a big crowd. Most, if not all, of the routines proved to be extremely simple in terms of difficulty and could fit into a small bag with little to no setup. “The reveal is more important than the peek. The magic doesn’t happen when you get the information. It happens when you give it back”. Thank you to the OMS leadership team for hosting Christopher Carter and his amazing lecture. Look for his book “In the Spotlight”, and if you prefer visual learning look for his live lectures from Penguin Magic.

Fantastic
February
Treats



Pictures from Chris Carter’s event with the Abbott members and Monday Night Magic for the club.



Monday Night

Magic

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY



Come tonight and go home having learned FIVE hands-on magic tricks from the 100+ videos in our online club library with each one selected for their ease of performance while still having a strong impact on the audience.

You'll be amazing and amusing family, friends, children, and grandchildren in no time!

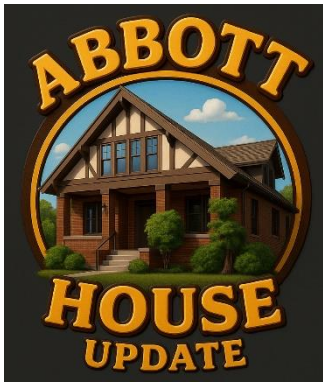
Monday, March 16, 2026 | 7-8 PM (CST)

The Joslyn Castle Carriage House • 3902 Davenport Street • Omaha, Nebraska

Simultaneously broadcast on Zoom

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

There is no cost to attend this event. You don't need to be a club member to attend.



The Donna Roth Little Theater Update

As you can see from the pictures, work has begun on The Abbott House second floor Donna Roth Little Theater.

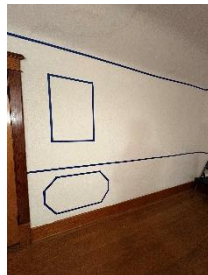
The tape line shows where the chair railing will be placed on the black walls with accent designs under the chair railing and framed posters of magicians who were contemporaries of David Abbott above the chair railing.



The domed ceiling will have a trim piece around it with the ceiling having a gold leaf motif.

The 14'x6' carpeted stage will be about 4-5" off the floor with drapery behind it lit by four canned spots on a light bar attached to the ceiling.

However, first things first. Since the room has only one electrical outlet, on March 18th the electrician comes to install six more.



Then it's full steam ahead!



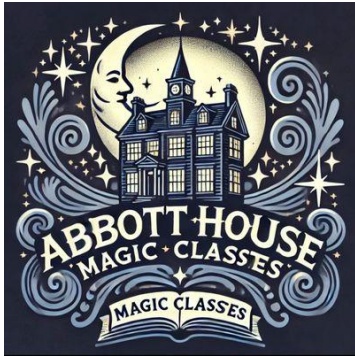
Bagels and Books

If you're one of those donating \$15 per month to help defray the ongoing expenses of the magic club, please accept our thank you invitation to come down to **The Abbott House** (3316 Center Street) on Saturday morning, **March 28th from 10-12** to be among the first to settle back in a soft chair - reading books from our club's six hundred volume library housed down at the house. Unfortunately, we won't be ready for borrowing the books yet. However, if you bring your curiosity, we'll supply the bagels!

P.S. You can still become a 20/15 donor and here is a link to do so: <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/donate>



Anne Baumgartner has a Master of Library Science degree, and **Ruth Bahr** has a Bachelor of Science in Education, Library Science. They began volunteering to catalogue The Abbott House Library so that later this year the 600+ volume library can be opened as a lending library for our club members. Thank you, Ruth and Anne.



“The card conjurer’s repertory is never complete without employing the prearranged deck to some extent.” - S. W. Erdnase

On February 23, 2026, the Abbott House hosted its inaugural Memorized Deck (memdeck) Magic class. I’ll admit, I’m anthropomorphizing the house here, but if you’ve never stepped inside, you wouldn’t understand - the building has a soul, and you can practically feel the judgmental gaze of the past masters lingering in the rafters.



The session wasn’t a traditional “hands-on” workshop; instead, it was designed as an evidentiary deep dive to spark interest in the memdeck - and it clearly hit the mark. Since wrapping up, I’ve received several messages from attendees eager to start their own journey with a memdeck.



We opened with a four-part performance, with each effect highlighting different principles of memdeck:



- **The Weighing of Cards:** A demonstration of skill.
- **The Selection Lesson:** A “history lesson” (of my own invention) regarding the two officially recognized ways to have a card chosen.
- **The Total Shuffle:** Yes, we let several audience members thoroughly scramble the entire “memorized” stack.
- **The Ultimate Location:** We concluded with a three-card location that is impossible to achieve through any other branch of card magic.

From there, we transitioned into a study of Simon Aronson’s seminal pamphlet, *Memories Are Made of This*, breaking down the core principles and their practical applications. We finished by deconstructing the mechanics of the four opening effects. The engagement was fantastic - the questions were sharp, insightful, and kept the energy high throughout the night.

As an instructor, I consider the evening a success. My primary goal was to garner interest in a powerful, underutilized tool of our craft, and I believe we’ve set a few more magicians on that path.



CARD REVELATIONS 2.0

I don't think a force followed by a card revelation is particularly strong magic. It's a little too much like... Set Up

- Punchline. "You picked a card. And that's the card that's on the back of my shirt." It's too tidy for my tastes. I don't really have catch-all revelations that I use frequently. Revelations that can be used in any situation tend to feel generic (because... well... being able to be used anywhere at any time is almost the definition of generic).



But there are some directions you can go in to create stronger card revelations.

First, let's imagine the most basic card reveal. They pick a card and you turn over an index card that was on the table and written on it is the name of the card they chose. If that's the most "basic" reveal we can imagine, what directions can we take it to make it more powerful?

Here are some directions I've explored and what I've learned from them. I'll finish with my favorite technique.

Make It Bigger - The larger the *physical* revelation is, the greater impact it tends to have. Not because the trick becomes dramatically more impossible (though it does become harder to imagine switching a large, committed prediction), but because large revelations are inherently more *memorable*.



When I revealed a force card with 100 candles, the moment stuck far more than it would have with a simple written prediction. The scale of the reveal creates its own memorable atmosphere and ambiance. People don't remember the specific card necessarily, but they remember the feeling of walking into that candlelit room.

This works as a way to build up an otherwise standard card trick. But I think you really only get one of these moments per person you perform for. I used to think if their card appeared on a billboard one time, and then in skywriting another, then spelled out in seashells another, it could "feel" like three different types of tricks. But I

think audiences are savvier than that. Unless you have a really compelling storyline that goes along with the reveal, I think they see them as similar effects.

Make It Permanent Another direction to go in is to make your reveal permanent:

- A tattoo
- Etched in marble
- Carved into a tree

The fact that the revelation is going to live on long after the trick has ended gives the trick more resonance.

This works fairly well to lend weight to a reveal. But it can feel sort of arbitrary on its own. Ideally, the permanence has some purpose. Otherwise, they'll feel like, "Wait... why *didn't* he just write that on an index card?"

Make It Personal - I've found that the more the spectator is integrated into the revelation, the stronger it is. For example, turning over a matching card on the table is nowhere near as strong as revealing that they're *sitting* on a matching card.

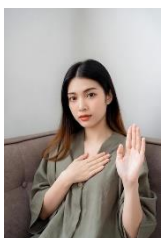
Other examples where the spectator is "close" to the revelation in some way:



- You ask them to close their eyes while you put a necklace on them before the trick. At the end they pull the necklace out from behind their shirt and see that the pendant matches the card they selected.

- In Joshua Quinn's Penguin Live lecture, he has the participant repeat a specific sentence, which he records on his phone. The spectator then selects a card. When the sentence they spoke earlier is played *backwards*, it reveals the card they selected.

- You tell them you'll teach them a trick but they have to take an oath not to tell anyone how it's done. You take a picture of them taking the oath.



After that, they select a card, the 5 of Hearts, for example, without you seeing it. You "read their mind" and say they're thinking of the 5 of Hearts. "Want to know how I did it?"



you ask. And you reveal they didn't *freely* select that card. They were drawn to it because you planted the seed, which they picked up on earlier in the interaction. And you draw their attention back to the photo.

People *expect* to be part of the selection of the card. Being part of the *reveal* of the card is unexpected and makes the whole thing feel a little more intimate and personal. Especially when compared to pulling out your Magician's Insurance Policy or something like that.

All of these techniques work to some degree. But my favorite approach, which gets the most affecting reactions is this:

Make It Old When I can make the revelation feel like the culmination of something that began days, weeks, or years earlier - that's when I get the strongest reaction.

Examples: - In my last book, I had a trick where the prediction was found in my old high school yearbook in the message left by this "weird kid" I went to school with. (That trick wasn't strictly a card force/revelation, but it's close enough.) Making the prediction something that is decades old gives a whole new feel to it.

- Get an old photo of you as a kid sitting at a table. Photoshop a playing card on the table and then get a hard copy version of the photo printed out and display it somewhere. You can now offer to show someone the first card trick you ever learned. They select any card and before they turn it over, you say, "I already know it's the 10 of Clubs." You then explain it's always the 10 of Clubs and bring their attention to an old framed photo of you on a bookshelf with you and the 10 of Clubs on the table in front of you.

- Sit down with your friend, chat a bit. At some point say, "I'm having the weirdest sense of *deja vu*." Shake it off. Have them shuffle and deal off some cards. "Wait," you say, "Did I already show this to you?" Your friend doesn't think so. "Huh, it's that weird *deja vu* again." They finally select a card, turn it over. It's the 4 of Diamonds. You look at it. Furrow your brow and say, "No way I remember what it is now." You bring them back to your bedroom and dig in your nightstand. "Last year I was keeping a dream journal for a few months. I sort of gave up on it because it wasn't that interesting but look..." You flip to an entry you made 14 months ago about a dream you had where your friend came over and they picked a card and it was the 4 of Diamonds.



You can leave some blank spaces and write in Frixion pen or erasable ink so you can re-use that entry for other friends. You can leave a blank for what they're wearing as well, which you fill in earlier in the night before you do the trick.

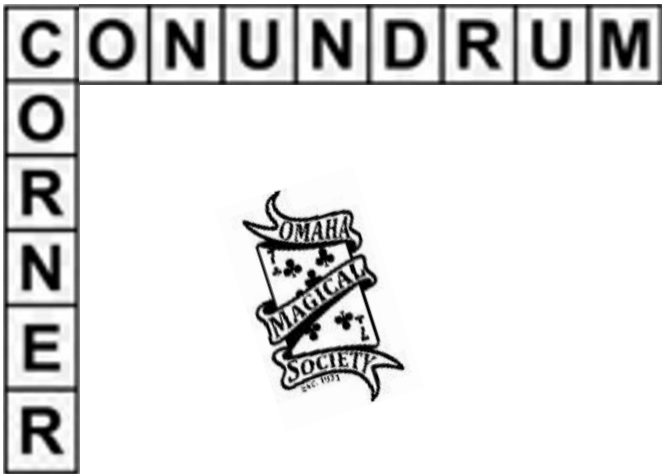
Old children's drawings, letters from deceased relatives, a voicemail or answering machine tape, doodles in a school notebook, inscriptions in a book, etc. Anything that feels like it's been around for a while could make a good "substrate" for a prediction that seems old. With planning, you can do something that genuinely *is* old.

Whenever I'm visiting friends or family with very young kids, at some point I will secretly shoot a video with the kid where I spread a deck and have them take one. I'm talking about young children, as young as little infants who have to crawl to the cards. I'll say, "Okay, Timmy. What card is she going to choose?" In some manner the kid will identify a card. Either by picking one up or moving it or whatever.

I will then wait as long as possible to perform a trick for their parent. The longer you wait, the stronger it is. I've waited years to finally perform this. The longest I've waited is 14 years. I had my friend pick a card and I said, "And Tim [her son] is going to tell you what it is." I called Tim into the room. "What card did your mom pick?" Tim, who is in high school now, is like, "I have no clue." "You forgot?" I say, "Oh, come on. Well... you knew it at one point, dude." I shake my head. "Hmm... maybe I still have that video." I look through my phone. "Yup, here it is." Now I'm showing him and his mom a video of him in his playroom as a kid crawling up to a spread of cards, pulling out some and chewing on one. The same one his mom would pick years later.

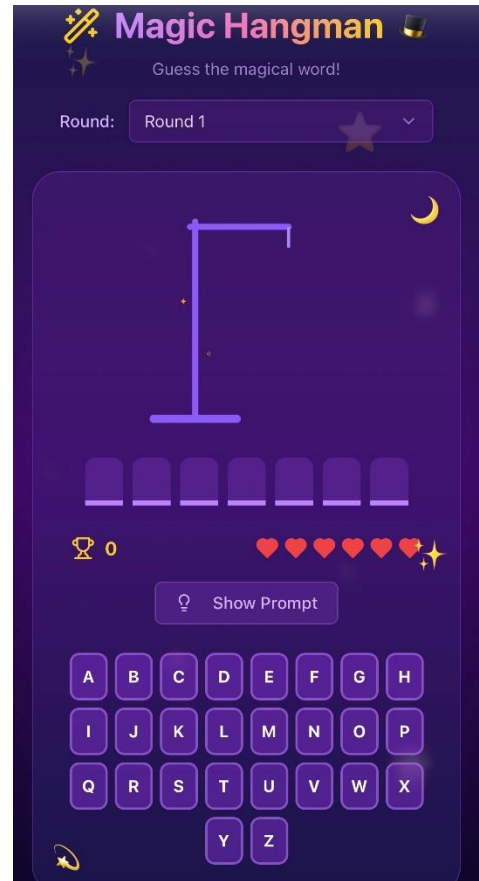
You might say, "Well, the reason that got such a good reaction was because of the emotional element of seeing her child from all those years ago." Yes, of course that's true. That's a particularly personal usage of the technique. But even with the less personal examples cited above, there's something about the apparent weight of time behind a prediction that makes it more intriguing. Whether they fully believe the "age" of the prediction or not, it can make people feel as though they've been swept up in a story that was already in motion. And that's a much more powerful place to land than, "Here's something I just wrote down about that thing you just did."

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PUNCTUATION PUZZLER

<https://punctuation-puzzler.base44.app>



<https://magic-hangman.base44.app>

From Donna Roth
You know you are a magician if ...

1. Your best pickup line is "pick a card."
2. You use the word effect rather than trick.
3. You pay \$50 for a \$1 coin.
4. A "shell" is not something found on a beach.
5. All your friends call you when magic is on TV.



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

March 16th
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Joslyn Castle Carriage House
3902 Davenport Street

Or just click on this link:

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

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