



The Flash Paper

January 2026

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

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Prez Adam's Antics

**Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays,
and Happy New Year!**

By the time you're reading this, we are officially into 2026 - and I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season filled with good food, good magic, and good company.

Since our last monthly meeting, the club wrapped up the year with a fun and festive Magic Bingo night. Once someone called "Bingo!", they were invited up to the table to select a gift - which made for a great mix of suspense, laughter, and friendly competition. A special thank-you goes out to **Trina** and **Mike Ware** for putting together gifts that were perfect even for our non-magician winners, **Ruth** and **Mike** for organizing a great snack assortment, and **Dave Arch** for pulling together the book giveaways and hosting the meeting on Zoom. It was a great way to close out the year.

Outside of OMS, I had the opportunity to demo Fantasma Magic products at the new Toys "R" Us location. I'm happy to report that I hit my sales quota and built a really solid relationship with both Fantasma Magic and the Toys "R" Us team. While they're still

figuring out what future demos look like (it seems they may focus more on the holiday season), it was a great experience and one I'm grateful for.

On a more personal note, my parents - who live in Michigan's Upper Peninsula - came down to visit right after Christmas and stayed through New Year's. We spent a few days living the downtown life while staying at the Farnam Hotel, enjoyed some great meals at places like Memoir and 801, but honestly my favorite moments were the simplest ones: cooking meals at home, exploring new spots together, and just having quality time. It's always hard when they leave, but there's exciting news ahead - my dad officially retires this January! (Congrats again, Dad, if you're reading this.) He and my mom are planning to be snowbirds, alternating between family visits and warmer states like Arizona, Florida, and Texas - which means more stops in Omaha for us too.

Looking ahead, I'm really excited for our January meeting at **our new venue, the Joslyn Castle**. Please be sure to read the event flyer for full details. While the private tour of the castle does have a cost, this month's meeting is extra special as we celebrate Teller's forgiveness of our loan - a huge and meaningful milestone for the club.

Here's to a fresh year, new magic, and great things ahead for the Omaha Magical Society. I can't wait to see you all at the castle!

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



Monday Night Magic

Sponsored by The Omaha Magical Society
JOSLYN CASTLE TOUR AND CARRIAGE HOUSE RECEPTION

You're invited to begin your evening at 6:00 PM for an optional \$20 private tour of Joslyn Castle before walking over to The Joslyn Carriage House at 7:00 PM to experience at no charge our new Monday Night Magic event venue with a magic-themed reception - celebrating Teller's (of Penn and Teller fame) unexpected and generous forgiveness of our Abbott House loan!

There will not only be refreshments but also video reminiscences with backstory interviews and acknowledgements of key players too.

There will be prizes and gifts as well as the much anticipated \$3 Club Table should any of the magic booklets displayed on the table pique your interest.

Monday, January 19, 2026 | 7-8:30 PM (CST)
The Joslyn Castle and Carriage House • 3902 Davenport Street • Omaha, Nebraska

You do not need to be a club member to attend.

However, please do RSVP by January 12th to samassembly7@gmail.com.



December Re-Cap by Matt Spielman



Our 4th annual **OMS Holiday Party** was held last month in place of our typical meeting and to celebrate the occasion we all gathered for a chance at a secret gift and a wide selection of snacks and drinks provided graciously by the **Bitter's**. Straight from the club's secret library a wide range of magic books were on display in the middle of the room giving everyone a chance to peek through and put together a gameplan on which one to chase when it was their turn to pick.



Before prize selections commenced our election of the OMS 2026 board took place and congratulations to the following: **Adam Schacht** (Club President), **Mike Ware** (Vice-President), **Bob Gehringer** (Treasurer), and **Patrice Fisher** (Secretary). Looking forward to the next year and what great events will be planned up by the committee.



One by one as each person completed their bingo card they got to choose from the collection of books and with each choice a few oohs and ahhs were shared along with advice on which

page you could find a golden nugget.

While gathered around it was nice to also reflect back on the year and to remember all of the great events that took place. **Gregory Wilson** and **Rick Holcombe** visited the club giving their signature lectures and demonstrations of their own routines, an amazing chance to see high level sleight of hand up close and personal straight from the creators themselves. The Midwest Magic Showcase hosted at Mahoney State Park featuring the Omaha, Des Moines, and Kansas City magic clubs. My personal favorites are the walk around and stage performances at Boys Town, an amazing experience to perform for the residents and all for a great cause. All in all, I am grateful that we have an amazing group of people in the club and I look forward to sharing another year with you all. See you in 2026.



Remember that from now on, our Monthly Magic will now be held at the Carriage House at the Joslyn Castle, 3902 Davenport Street



Boys Town Christmas Dinner



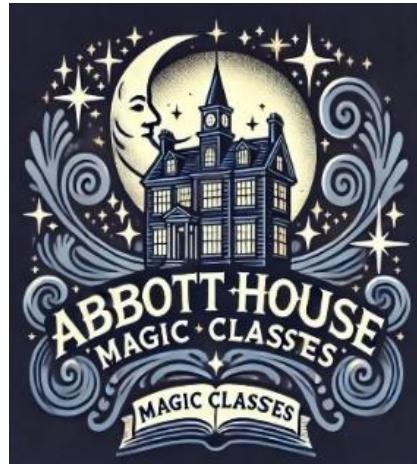
Every year near Christmas time, The Omaha Magic Society has the pleasure of performing table-to-table magic for the boys and girls at Boys Town here in Omaha. Two dinner seatings

are arranged with about one hundred boys and then the same number, or a bit larger, of girls, who file into The Great Hall on their campus.

After a prayer and while the teens enjoyed a catered Christmas dinner, served by staff and other volunteers, OMS provided some magic. Seven of our member magicians volunteered to entertain with walk-around magic as we rotated from table to table. **Steve Lindeman** organized and performed with **Patrice Fisher, Nathan Roberts, junior magician, Steven Lindeman, Jr. Mike Ware, Matt Spielman, Neil Bable, and junior magician, Drew McIntyre**. The hall was filled with tables seating eight, so our gang really had to hustle to get to everyone.

It is always a magical evening to perform at the Great Hall, with its Hogwarts style architecture, especially at this festive time of year. All of the tables are covered with crisp, white table clothes with sparkling silver center pieces facing the warm, comforting fireplace. The fireplace mantel is adorned with pine branches made into a sweeping garland. Red bows and white ribbons, paper snowflakes and shiny ornaments transform the gathering space for a night of magic and fun. Holiday decorations are bright with twinkling lights and create a joyful holiday atmosphere.

Our society takes great pride in our tradition of making magic for the youth at Boys Town each year. There is a real miracle that occurs for us as we prepare to entertain those who do not go home for the Holidays. Each December, our club solicits volunteers to entertain at Boys Town. And each year, we worry that we won't have enough magicians to entertain the students at their big holiday dinner. This year was no exception, but like all the years in the past, when the party starts, enough of our magicians always show up.



THANK YOU,
LARRY BRODAHL

for teaching your Abbott House class on the subject of "Fixing Broken Magic Tricks."

Thank you for not only the time you volunteer to teach but also the time you spend to thoroughly prepare.

Your thorough preparation is always a theme of the feedback received from your classes.



The class was on fixing tricks that weren't delivering the response you hoped for.

The 2 hour lecture included PHYSICALLY fixing a trick, redesigning the flow, methodologies, and presentation of tricks, and designing tricks without any props.

There were 10 members in attendance with lots of information to improve your magic.

Larry is sending all attendees notes and additional materials.



Three Days to Showtime by Patrice Fisher

'Twas the week before Christmas and Quanza and Hanukkah were through.

Then came the request, one more magic show, could you do?

Well, sure was my reply, thinking February might be possible,

If our CARE Team magicians were not performing at a hospital.

But, a show in three days at the Jewish Community Center's behest.

Well, it is a challenge, but the Omaha Magical Society will do its best.

Start calling our members, even our Discover Magic junior magician class.

Can we actually pull-off a show this close to Christmas?

My panic rose up from my toes to the tip of my nose,
Is anyone available this late...who knows?

The goal is a show before Christmas Eve
Now this short timing is hard to conceive.
But the passion we have, it makes me believe

That no matter how hard, whatever the challenge may be,

Our club would come through; someone had to be free



One call and to the rescue
came our member
Lindeman, Steve.
The Amazing Lindy, we
need not a reprieve!

Now, one more magician
would round-out our
crew.
So, I sent out an email to
our junior magician,
Drew.
Maybe he could also
perform some of his own
tricks... just a few

The Great Drewdini was excited to help, the short notice, no matter,
For Drew is always prepared with a trick and fine patter.



That completed our troupe,
we could put on the show.
Yes, we would, with less than
three days to go!

The JCC would have eighty
youth gathered and waiting to
be amazed.

Lindy and Drew were a lively
team, smiling and funny and
totally unfazed.

The show went off without a hitch,
Lindy led the way, with perfect pitch.
While The Great Drewdini followed, performing
without a glitch

For an hour, laughter and clapping filled the hall.
After that short notice, we all had a ball!

With our Amazing Lindy and junior magician, Drew
Their dedication to magic and giving their time truly
came through.

From the Omaha Magical Society, we offer our
gratitude and most sincerely, Thank-you!



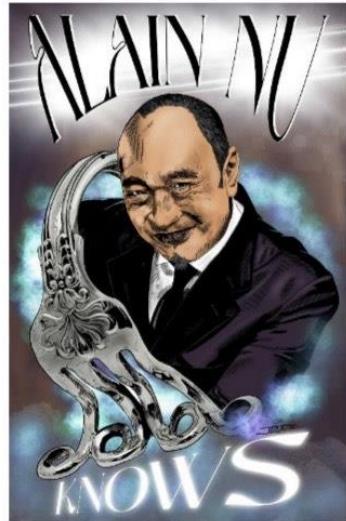


20x15 Members Exclusive No Charge Lecture

If you're among the people who in 2026 donate \$15 per month to support the club expenses, you're invited to a lecture with mentalist Alain Nu down at The Abbott House on Tuesday, February 3rd from 7-9 PM.

Watch Alain on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/5hC7L3aCzdw?si=aBVJaBRmNhWQQT34>

And it's not too late to join the 20/15 group for 2026 here: <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/donate>



Alain Nu Bending Expectations Lecture Tour

Alain Nu, The Man Who Knows, has entertained audiences worldwide with his uncanny feats that blur the line between science and the paranormal. He utilizes his untold powers to foretell our actions, reveal our unspoken thoughts, and create seemingly unexplainable phenomena. Captivating audiences with his talent to amaze and marvel using mentalism, mind power, consciousness, and mysticism, he holds any sized audience rapt with intrigue.

This international man of mystery has appeared on such television shows as NBCUniversal's "Judge Jerry" and VICE TV's "The VICE Guide to Vegas," plus his own TLC network mini-series "The Mysterious World of Alain Nu."

What You Will Learn

- ✓ Top secret work on bending spoons and forks
- ✓ A calculator effect that involves the entire audience and always works
- ✓ A completely impromptu (no switch) serial number revelation of a borrowed bill
- ✓ An amazing clairvoyance demonstration with a few randomly drawn pictures
- ✓ A multiphase book test using a book that can be given away as a souvenir
- ✓ On predicting a person's name and thought of two-digit number
- ✓ A completely impromptu magic square prediction

Every effect is either minimal preparation or completely impromptu, every presentation is carefully thought out and it all plays extremely strong!

Testimonials

"Throw out all the rules of physics!" - *The Washington Post*

"Absolutely extraordinary!" - Wolf Blitzer, *CNN*

"Most Intriguing!" - *Las Vegas Review-Journal*



For more information on Alain Nu, "The Man Who Knows", visit his website at:
<http://www.themanwhoknows.tv/>



Judging Your Presentation

Imagine we judge a presentation on two criteria.

- 1 - Is it interesting or not.
- 2- Is it unbelievable or not.

In my opinion, the best intersection of these possibilities is in the green square here:

	Believable	Unbelievable
Interesting		
Uninteresting		

When your presentations are too believable, I think it can put your spectators in an awkward position. If they don't believe your believable presentation, they may assume you *want* them to believe it. Which is uncomfortable for them.

If they *do* believe your believable presentation, then you have a weird situation where your friends/family are walking around thinking you can *really* psychologically influence them. Or that you can *really* memorize a deck of cards in a manner of moments. This should put *you* in an uncomfortable position. You shouldn't want people thinking you can *actually* do things you can't really do. So, when a premise is too believable, I think it's often uncomfortable for the performer or the participant or both. Especially, if you're performing for friends or family. (It's a different dynamic if you're performing professionally.) And there are ethical questions tied up in it.

For that reason, the "believable" column is not something I pursue.

That leaves us with "Unbelievable-Interesting" and "Unbelievable-Uninteresting."

You would think people would want to avoid anything uninteresting. But many of the presentations in magic *are* uninteresting. They wouldn't be a story you'd tell *without* a magic trick attached to them.

"The Ace of Spades is the leader ace and the other aces follow him."

"This big rope is the daddy bear, this medium rope is the mommy bear, and this little rope is the baby bear."

"This ace is going to do a somersault in this little packet and turn face up."

These are all uninteresting stories. I think everyone - even the people who use these types of presentations - would agree to that.

I think their argument would be, "Yes, the presentations aren't interesting. But it doesn't matter. I'm doing the impossible. *That's* the interesting thing. The presentation is just there to give it a little storyline."

For them, the "impossible" is interesting enough. If someone sees cards changing into other cards, it doesn't matter what the premise is.

To a certain extent, I agree.

But with social magic, where you're often performing for the same people with some frequency, the "impossible" becomes less interesting over time. For most people, seeing something impossible loses its impact the more they're exposed to it. Depending on how often you perform for someone, you can't rely on demonstrating something impossible to carry their interest.

But if you put the trick in an unbelievable, interesting context then you are essentially using the trick as a tool to tell a fun or bizarre or compelling story. And an interesting story never gets old.

Now, getting back to the original question, let's say I'm telling someone about something weird that's been occurring recently with someone who I *thought* was an invisible friend I made up in my childhood. Does anyone ever stop me and say, "Hey, wait. Isn't this just a magic trick?"

No. For the same reason when a magician says, "The Ace of Spades is the leader ace," no one stops that person and says, "Hey, wait. Is that true? Isn't this just a magic trick? Or is the Ace of Spades really the leader ace?"

People understand there's a layer of fiction on top of magic tricks. The goal, I believe, is to make that layer as interesting as possible.

From *The Jerx Blog* used with permission.



Three Card Monte



You drop a face-up King of Diamonds onto a face-up King of Clubs, with a face-up Queen of Hearts on top of the kings. You pick up the three cards openly and gingerly - letting everyone see that the Queen is the face card.

You turn them face down and take them into the left hand from above, thumb on the right edge, fingers on the left edge, curled under the packet.

You reach with your right forefinger and thumb to slide out the bottom card. As you do this, your left third finger slides or glides the bottom card back half an inch toward your body. The protrusion at the inner end is hidden by your left hand. The right fingers make a move as if sliding out the bottom card from the front of the deck. Actually, they are sliding out the middle card.

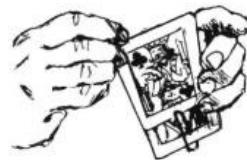
The right fingers put down the King of Clubs as you say, "First, the Queen of Hearts."

You reach under the packet of two cards just as you did before, this time taking the Queen of Hearts. "Then the King of Diamonds," you say, putting down the Queen of Hearts. "And lastly, the King of Clubs." You let the spectators get a flash of the King of Clubs as you put it down.

"Now, watch closely. We move the Queen of Hearts to the right end and the King of Clubs to the left end." You deliberately transpose the two cards. "And now, find the lady - the Queen."

If you've done the glide move easily and naturally, they will pick up the card on the right end, being sure that it's the Queen of Hearts. Actually, the Queen is in the middle and has been from the start.

Continue, "I'll try to make it easier for you. This time, we'll put a paper clip on the inner end of the Queen of Hearts." You do so. You pick up either of the kings and hold it face down in the left hand, just as you held the three cards when you did the glide move.



"We'll put the paper-clipped queen of Hearts in the middle." You put it beneath the King that's already in your left hand. "And we'll put the other King on the bottom." You slide the remaining King onto the bottom, from the front, but you slide the rear end into the paper clip, along with the Queen of Hearts. This is no problem. It's more difficult to keep the rear end from going into the paper clip than it is to insert it.

Now, reach with your right fingers for the bottom card, just as before, and just as before, glide the bottom card back half an inch with your left third finger. It takes the paper clip back right along with it. Pull out what is actually the second card from the bottom, the Queen of Hearts, now free of the paper clip. "A King," you say as you lay the card down, "then the Queen of Hearts." You pull out the card that is now on the bottom, the King with a paper clip on it. "And the last King." Again, you give the spectators a flash of the last King as you lay it down.

You shrug your shoulders. "This time, of course, I have no chance of fooling you. But the old Three-Card Monte man let his victims win occasionally, to keep them betting.

Naturally, you know which one is the Queen this time. The one with the paper clip on it.

Right?"

You pick it up and turn it over. "However, the Queen is now over here."



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You pick up either of the Kings and hold it face up in your left hand. Then you put the Queen of Hearts on top of it, fanned to the right, also face up. Your thumb is on top of both cards and your fingers are beneath them.

With your right hand, you put a paper clip on the right side of the face-up Queen, about half-way down its length. You put it on only about half-way, so that about half of the clip protrudes from the right side of the card.

Then you turn your left-hand face down, shoving the fingers forward and pulling the thumb back. This is done while you're turning over the cards. By the time the two cards are face down, the paper clip is on the King instead of on the Queen. As the hand comes to a rest, palm down, you drop both cards side by side onto the table. Your right hand puts the other King in line with them, and you ask the spectator to pick the Queen.

You then dispense with the paper clip and put the two Kings face down onto your palm, putting the Queen of hearts face down beneath them, very openly. You slowly turn the hand palm down, which leaves the Queen of Hearts facing the spectators, face up. The three cards are neatly squared.

Now, the left third finger pulls back the bottom King, in the glide movement. The Queen of Hearts and the King just beneath it are lifted as one card and moved, still face up, beneath the remaining face-up King. You square up the three cards, make the glide move with the third little finger again, and again move two cards as one from top to bottom. To the spectators, it seems that the Queen of Hearts is now sandwiched between the two face-up Aces. Actually, it is the bottom card. You turn your hand over, fan the cards, and put them out in a face-down row. After the spectators have picked the middle card as the Queen of Hearts, you may pick the cards up face-up again, leaving the face-up Queen on top. You make the glide movement again, apparently putting the Queen at the bottom but actually moving the top two face-up cards to the bottom. You turn the cards face down. The spectators should think the Queen is the top face-down card.

Actually, it is in the middle.

From *Magic Digest* by George Anderson. Used with permission.



Abbott House Update with Patrice

Have you subscribed to our YouTube channel for the latest on The Abbott House developments?

<https://youtube.com/@abbotthouse>

Next month:

APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE!



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*Monday Night
Magic*

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JOSLYN CASTLE TOUR AND CARRIAGE HOUSE RECEPTION

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

January 19th

**6:00 Joslyn Castle Tour
Celebration 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Joslyn Castle Carriage House
3902 Davenport Street**

Check out our website:
<https://omahamagicclub.org>

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Omaha, NE 68144

