



# The Flash Paper

## April 2025

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

**Bob Gehringer, Editor**



### **Prez Adam's Antics**

Adam and Lance Burton 2017 IBM/Sam Convention

March was a whirlwind of magic, camaraderie, and collaboration! Instead of our usual club meeting, we hosted the Tri-State Magic Party at Mahoney State Park, where we joined forces with the Des Moines, Kansas City, and Omaha magic clubs for a one-day convention packed with lectures, close-up performances, and a public stage show. It was an incredible experience working alongside fellow club members and other magic leaders, including **Steve Daly**, who organizes the AbraCORNdabra convention in Des Moines. Steve has an extensive network of magician connections worldwide, and it was an honor to receive his feedback and encouragement throughout the event. He's someone I've respected for years—AbraCORNdabra was the second magic convention I ever attended, and having the chance to collaborate with him on this event felt like a full-circle moment.

Speaking of full-circle moments, my very first convention was the IBM/SAM Combined Convention in

Kentucky, where I had the unforgettable experience of meeting **Lance Burton** (as seen in the attached photo). That same convention is also where I first met **Jeki Yoo**, who—coincidentally—will be performing at AbraCORNdabra this year. It's surreal to reflect on those early experiences and see how everything continues to come together in the magic world.

Our club was well represented at the Tri-State Magic Party with **Jared Blake** leading a fantastic lecture, **Trevor Groenjes** showcasing his skills in the close-up show, and **David Fox** delivering a stellar stage performance. A special shoutout to **Roger** and **Larry**, who worked backstage during the public stage show, making sure everything ran smoothly so we could sit back and enjoy the magic. All three of them truly did our club proud, and we couldn't be more grateful for their hard work and talent.

Outside of club activities, I've been swamped with tax season at my accounting firm, but I'm excited that **Trevor** will be performing at our company party. My boss has always loved hiring magicians for our events, but for years, he kept bringing in the same performers—particularly **Joe Cole**, who has been hired so many times that even he started suggesting it was time to bring in someone new! So, after some convincing, we're shaking things up and giving **Trevor** the opportunity to perform this year. I have no doubt he'll impress, and I'm looking forward to seeing how he engages the crowd in a fresh way.

Looking ahead, April brings another unique scheduling shift. Instead of our standard club meeting, we'll be hosting **Gregory Wilson** for a special lecture on **April 1**. (No, not **Mark Wilson's** son—this Gregory Wilson is a powerhouse of creativity and sleight-of-hand) With February's meeting canceled due to snow and March



dedicated to Tri-State Magic, we're kicking off the year with a rather unconventional schedule—but that just adds to the excitement!

On the performance side, I'm gearing up for a full slate of post-prom magic shows through March and April, and I know many of you have busy seasons ahead as well. Let's keep the momentum going and continue sharing the wonder of magic with new audiences.

Thanks to everyone for your dedication and passion—see you at the April 1 lecture with Gregory Wilson!

### Tri State Party pictures



Susan, Adam and Trevor selling last minute raffles for the MAGIC book of posters



Rex and dad Ryan Chandler kicking off the show.



David the Midwest Mentalist

## Where's Dave?



You might have noticed that you didn't see the club's Executive Director **Dave Arch** at the Tri-State Magic Party. Since acquiring The Abbott House in September, 2024, his workload has increased substantially.



Consequently, in conversation with Dave, the OMS board has asked him to prioritize his time on the continued support of the OMS leadership team and successfully moving The Abbott House project forward to its completion in September, 2026. You may ask questions about this decision to any of your OMS club board members.

### 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 Gehring ..... [gehringerr@cox.net](mailto:gehringerr@cox.net)
- Secretary** - Patrice Fisher ..... [patricekfisher@yahoo.com](mailto:patricekfisher@yahoo.com)
- Executive Director** - Dave Arch ..... [dave@sandler.com](mailto:dave@sandler.com)

Check out our website:

<https://omahamagicclub.org>





## Monday Night Magic

On A  
Tuesday  
Night

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY



## GREGORY WILSON

In his first nation-wide tour since 2018, Gregory Wilson has scheduled a stop in Omaha appropriately enough on April Fool's Day!

You may want to get yourself ready for his visit by searching out some YouTube videos by this prolific performer and inventor.



**SIMULTANEOUSLY  
BROADCAST ON ZOOM**

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

**TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025**  
7-9 PM (CST)

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

No charge for attending this event.



It exceeded all expectations. The first annual Tri State Magic Party was a huge success! This was the first event of its kind attempted by the club. Thanks to our member volunteers, it is a feather in the cap of the Omaha Magical Society.

A one-day mini convention, with all the features of the much larger types. A swap meet, lectures, close up show, strolling magicians, and the crowning jewel, a grand public stage show, performed in front of a standing room only crowd!

The day began with a vibrant dealer room. Though crowded, it created a lot of excitement, and got us off to a great start. Lunch and dinner breaks were highlighted by the three clubs socializing together building a lot of camaraderie.

The clubs had 20-minute segments for each performance. We saw many talented magicians throughout the day. For our part **Jered Blake** gave a very professional, and polished lecture complete with notes. **Trevor Groenjes** had the crowd on his side for his close-up performance. the strolling magicians, **Johnny Siebel**, **Denny Rourke**, **Nathan Roberts** **Jayden Palmer**, and **Allen Koslov** amazed the crowd young, and old as did many of the attending magicians who willingly shared their magic. As usual **David Fox's** ability to read minds had the late crowd scratching their heads wondering "how'd he do that?"

Mahoney Stare Park was a perfect venue. Thanks to **Rachel Robbins** and her staff for their help throughout. Also, **Steve Daly** and the Justo Hijo club of Des Moines, and **Kelly Rusk** and IBM Ring 129 from Kansas City. We look forward attending the Tri State Magic Party in your cities the next two years,



Mikayla Oz with her silks



**Ryan Chandler** excelled as MC for the Evening Performance.

- Performers for the stage show were:
- Ryan Chandler and Rex Chandler**
  - Mikayla Oz**
  - Ben Ulin**
  - Steve Steiner**
  - George Noble**
  - David Fox**
  - Ricky Braaksma & Amanda Villines**



Behind the scenes it was the hard work and preparation of all our committees that assured a polished smooth-running day. - **Steve Lindeman**

Thank you to all of the OMS volunteers who organized their portion of the event:

Event Director - **Steve Lindeman**  
Registration - **Bob Gehringer**  
Swap Meet - **Thomas Gray** and **Tim Begley**  
Meals - **Ruth** and **Mike Bitter**  
Book Raffle - **Jan Welch** and **Susan Brown**  
Lectures – **Matt Spielman**  
Close up – **Adam Schacht**  
Break snacks - **Kiefer** and **Paola Richey**  
Strolling Magic – **Johnny Sheibal**  
Public show – **Roger Reese** and **Larry Brodahl**  
Venue Liaison and MC – **Ryan Chandler**  
**These and the many other members who chipped in as needed.**

Lecturers from the other clubs: **Jack Ackerman, Theron Christiansen, John Davis, Marcus Steven** and **Larry Warshaw**

Close-up from the other clubs: **Keith Leff, Luke Cannon, Pat Driscoll, Zeon,** and **Steve Daly**



Trevor Groenjes during his close-up performance

Find many more pictures on our Facebooks pages like these that captured the day's excitement.



Jered Schaugaard during his lecture





## Observation Test

**SUMMARY:** Six playing cards are used to test the observational powers of the group. Surprisingly, the questions become more and more difficult.

**SET-UP:** Purchase three packs of Poker size playing cards. One pack need to have blue backs and two need to have red backs. When you get home, remove from the red back decks the Five of Hearts, the Seven of Clubs, two Six of Hearts, and a Seven of Diamonds. From the blue back deck remove the Queen of Spades. Arrange these cards facedown starting with a Six of Hearts, then the Seven of Clubs, followed by the Five of Hearts, then the other Six of Hearts with the Queen of Spades face down on top of this packet. Arranged in that order bring the packet with you. Bring the Seven of Diamonds with you in another pocket for use later.



**ACTIVITY:** SAY: “We’re going to begin with a little observation test. I will show you a group of cards and then ask you a few questions about what you’ve seen.”

While you’re saying those words, hold the packet face down in one hand so that the group can only see the back of the top card (the blue backed Queen of Spades). You are beginning to unconsciously condition them to believe that all of the cards in the packet are blue backed. Now fan the cards so that the faces of the cards can be seen by

the group and walk across the front of the group being careful not to show the backs of the cards to anyone in the group.

SAY: “I’m showing you these cards and I want you to remember as much about them as you possibly can.” Now close the fan and hold them again face down in your hand with the blue back showing and gesture as you ask the following questions.

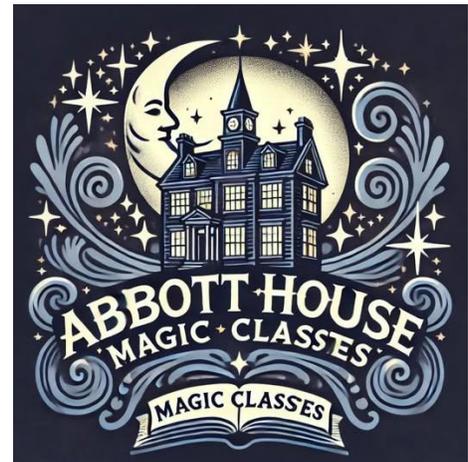
ASK: “How many cards did I show you?” Wait for their answers. “How many were red?” Wait for their answers. “Were there any duplicates?” Wait for their answers.

SAY: “Now I’m going to try something different. I’m going to take a red backed card and insert it facedown into the packet of other cards. Now as I fan the cards, can anyone tell me which card has the odd colored back?”

When you take the red backed Seven of Diamonds from your pocket only show its red back as you put it into the fan. Be careful not to show the face of this card or the backs of any of the other red backed cards. Some may even guess correctly.

ASK: My final question is this: “How many of the cards that I’ve just shown you have red backs?”

Most will believe that one card has a red back. After receiving their guesses, turn the cards around and show them the reality of the situation. Show them that they all have red backs excepting the Queen. You’ve actually conducted a fairly good demonstration of some principles used in magic to entertain us.



**Larry Brodahl** has agreed to teach an Abbott House class on April 23rd, from 7-9 (ish) PM

Those interested will pick which one(s) of his [Lybrary.com](https://www.lybrary.com) original magic routines they’d like to learn and discuss. You can see the catalog of his creations here: <https://www.lybrary.com/larry-brodahl-m-488463.html>

Let Larry Brodahl know of your interest by emailing him at: [labrodahl@gmail.com](mailto:labrodahl@gmail.com)

Thank you, Larry!



## A Magical Experience for 3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> Graders at Ezra Millard Elementary

The excitement was electrifying as 15 boys and girls arrived at the music room to learn about magic. Magicians from the club included **Steve “Lucky Lindy” Lindeman, Patrice Fisher, Mike Bitter**, and his wife **Ruth** who kept time and took pictures. The children were divided into three groups and each magician had a set of tricks to teach. When the final bell rang one hour later, the students had learned several tricks and were anxious to go perform their family and friends.



**It never hurts to have a trick up your sleeve!**

Mike and Ruth Bitter have found themselves in a couple of gatherings lately that needed a little energy. One was a Valentine’s Day Dinner Party for the residents and family members, caregivers, and friends at Wellington Senior Living in Papillion. As it turned out, the entertainment fell through but, fortunately Mike the Magician, Bitter had a few tricks handy and was able to do table magic with the guests. Everyone had a great time and thanks to Mike the night was a success!

A couple weeks later some friends from Valley, NE invited Mike and Ruth to a Community Dinner they were hosting. As people arrived it was easy to see that their plan was to eat dinner, visit a little, and leave. The surprise came when Mike grabbed some cards and started engaging people with a little magic and a lot of laughs. The kids were thrilled, the adults were excited, the evening quickly went from a free dinner to a night of entertainment.

The moral of the story is don’t miss an opportunity to share the magic. When there is a group of bored children, pull out your tricks. When the conversation goes quiet bring the room back to life with a little magic. You don’t have to have a polished show or a trunk load of supplies to bring a smile to someone’s face, a deck of cards, a couple coins, a bag of rubber bands...let the fun begin! – **Ruth Bitter**





## **My Favorite Magic Conventions by David Fox**

I am currently on a flight home from the United Kingdom, and I thought it would be a good time to do a comparison on the largest magic conventions in the world since I am sitting here for the next 9 hours. Over the last few years, I have attended **MagiFest**, **Magic Live**, **FISM**, and **Blackpool Magic Convention**. These four conventions are all amazing, but each has its unique pros and cons. I will break down each one for you and then give you my overall pick.

### **MagiFest (Columbus, OH)**

Vanishing Inc., which is run by **Joshua Jay** and **Andy Gladwin**, put on two conventions every year. The first is The Session that takes place in the United Kingdom and is generally a smaller convention. I have not attended this convention yet but have plans too eventually. The second is MagiFest. This convention typically hosts around one thousand magicians in the downtown Columbus area. The events and lectures are well spread out and there is time for jam sessions, dinner with friends, and time to browse the dealer's room. All the lectures and talks take place in a single large conference room. The talent that lectures is typically top notch, but due to the size of the room it can feel packed and be hard to get a good seat. There are two large screens on either side of the stage that help with the viewing, but I think as they grow as a convention, they will eventually need to find a larger space and break up the masses into smaller groups. The dealer's room is pretty good and typically has around 35 dealers. The truth about this convention is that Vanishing Inc. typically uses it as a chance to film projects with the lecturers that they will later release through their website or promote a book that they are publishing. Overall, a great convention but if you don't care about the "convention experience" and just want the magic content, wait about 6 months after the convention and everything will be available for purchase through their website. As the price of this convention keeps going up, you can purchase all the content later and still save money. The highlights of this convention for me are that

you get time to hang out with others, jam with friends, go to dinner with people, and browse the dealer's room.

### **Magic Live (Las Vegas, NV)**

Every year in August the Orleans Hotel (off the Vegas strip) brings in roughly 1500 to 2000 magicians making this the largest magic convention in the United States. Prior to arriving at the convention attendees have no idea who will be lecturing, giving talks, or starring in the shows. In essence, the "surprise element" is what magic is all about, right? It seems like a giant gamble since you don't know what to expect, however I promise if you attend you will not be disappointed. The typical layout of the convention breaks attendees up into two groups that switch off between shows and lectures. This format makes the convention feel smaller than MagiFest but means you might not see some people for much of the convention. With the smaller lectures and the top talent in the room, I personally enjoy these lectures more than the MagiFest lectures, and you can choose which you want to attend (which can be a blessing and a curse). You cannot attend all of the lectures and have to choose what you miss. The other bonus about the lectures is that not every one of them is pushing a new release project. The dealer's room has closer to 80 dealers in attendance and is the best dealer's hall I have seen, besides Blackpool (more on that later). You will see a wide variety of vendors and can get just about any newer release, prop, gimmick, or see demos of things that haven't hit the mainstream market yet. Since Vegas is the Magic Capitol of the world, it is not uncommon to see magic celebrities roam the dealer's hall right next to you. Expect to see **David Copperfield**, **David Blain**, **David Williamson**... **David Fox**... and other famous magic "Davids", and many more, watching every demo they can (and spending way too much money on magic. Ok, some of those Davids don't have a spending limit, but David Fox does... Since many of the best magicians in the US live in Vegas or close by in Los Angeles, many of the lecturers and performers pulled from this talent. MagicLive leaves time for dinner with friends but is not a "jamming" convention like MagiFest. There is a good "after hours" hang out session at the Orleans bar that will last until 4am though. The shows are great, and Magic Live takes the cake for my favorite convention to attend. Really, the only downside to this convention for me is that I don't get as much time with my convention friends as I would like but typically stay up late and wake up early to get the full convention experience.



## FISM (Various Locations)

FISM is basically the World Magic Olympics that takes place every 3 years. In 2022 it was held in Quebec Canada which was the first time in over 60 years that it was held in North America. The convention last 6 days and is jam packed with amazing performances (the competition). You will see magic you have never seen before and acts that took years to practice and perfect. All the performers competing from around the world are at the top of their games. Watching magic for 8 hours a day for 5 days can be exhausting, so you can skip out on the competition and attend lectures instead to keep your mind from imploding. The dealer's hall was underwhelming when we attended in Quebec. With only about 20-30 dealers (some selling the same products) it was not worth wondering around the dealer's hall too often at FISM. There is also not a lot of "jamming" or getting to know new people at this convention. The reason for attending this convention is to see the most amazing magic you will ever see on stage, and a lot of it. Most of the top performers end up attending, lecturing, and performing at other conventions over the next 3 years, so there is a chance to see them again. However, you will not have a chance to see the majority of them. The top FISM act (Overall FISM Winner) from 2022 performed and lectured at MagicLive, which was their only appearance at a magic convention since winning. Many of the others acts will likely never be seen again after the competition. FISM is an amazing convention to attend, but is probably the priciest you will go to, depending on where it is held. The next FISM is this year (2025) and is taking place in Italy. I will not be attending this one but will be going to the next one in 2028. The location will not be announced until the last day of this year's convention. Definitely put this one on you bucket list. I think every true magic enthusiast needs to see attend at least once.

## Blackpool Magic Convention (Blackpool England)

As I stated at the beginning of this article, I am on a flight back home from the UK. I had just attended my first Blackpool Magic Convention, which claims to be the world's largest magic convention. I have heard two different numbers for attendees and can't confirm either. The first number is 3500 magicians, the second is 5000 magicians. I think it is fair to say that the number is somewhere in that ballpark. Blackpool is a bit of a bear to travel to with the majority of attendees from the states flying into Manchester and taking a train over to

Blackpool. For personal reasons, I flew into London and took a 3.5-hour train ride up to the convention. The convention is a solid 4 days and is jam packed with lectures and shows. Once again, you cannot attend every lecture or every show. Once again, this is a blessing and a curse as many of the lecturers and talks are from people that I was unfamiliar with. They did not disappoint though. In fact, this convention was so jam packed with stuff to do that it was hard to leave the convention hall for food. You can always eat in the convention center, but cost a bit more and you are limited on what to eat. This convention starts at 9am and goes until 12:30am. The hotels are a few blocks away and the Ruskin Hotel seems to be the hot spot for the after-hours jam sessions. Magicians from all over the place stay up to 4 or 5 in the morning showing each other tricks and talking magic. There were shows on mentalism, illusions, parlor magic, and ventriloquism. The shows were all great and the dealer's room... oh my... the dealer's room... the most dealers I have ever seen in one place. With a whopping 150+ dealers taking up multiple rooms and multiple levels. You could buy the latest gizmos and gadgets, stage illusions, wallets, silks, props, artwork, books, or anything you can think of. The dealer's room is probably the best part, in my opinion, of this convention. As a bonus, a lot of new magic products are premiered at this convention and are discounted for the first buyers. I won't be attending this convention every year, but it is definitely a convention I will be coming back to.

In conclusion, here is the ranking of these conventions from my least favorite to favorite, but this doesn't mean they are bad, I will definitely go back to all of them if I can. 4<sup>th</sup> place goes to **MagiFest**, as much as I love attending this convention, I just feel like it can be a bit of a marketing ploy by Vanishing Inc. 3<sup>rd</sup> place goes to **Blackpool Magic Convention**, travel is a bit of a factor in this but the dealers' hall and the number of shows and lectures made this one a close one with #2. Second place goes to **FISM**, although you don't get to do much magic, the experience itself is truly amazing. Seeing acts that press the very limit of magic and is an experience like no other. This means that my number one convention is **Magic Live**. With the second-best dealer's hall, the top-level talent and shows, ease of access, and surprises around every corner this is the convention that I would like to attend every year if I can. All these conventions are worth attending, but these are my favorites. If you are considering going to one of these in the future, feel free to reach out to me to find out more.



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

**April 1st**  
**7:00 – 9:00 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).



**Omaha Magical Society -**  
**S.A.M. Assembly #7**

13405 Marinda ST.  
Omaha, NE 68144

