



The Flash Paper

July 2026

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

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Adam's Antics

Happy Fourth of July to all of our OMS members and friends! I hope everyone has a fun, safe holiday and finds a little time to share some magic with family and friends.

A Magical Meeting with Practical Takeaways

June's meeting at the Joslyn Castle was a unique one as we explored ways to use our smartphones to always have a piece of magic ready to perform. Whether it's a utility app, prediction effect, or digital tool, it was a great reminder that one of the strongest props we carry every day is already in our pockets.

Along with launching our OMS Bookstore, we're excited to announce the launch of our **OMS Apps** initiative. If you're interested in learning more or have questions about getting started, please reach out to **Dave Arch**, who has been leading this exciting new resource for our members.

Looking Ahead to July

Our July meeting is one you won't want to miss! We're excited to welcome **Jim Kleefeld**, one of magic's most respected performers, authors, and lecturers. Jim has spent decades entertaining families and inspiring magicians around the world, and we're thrilled to have him joining us in Omaha. Whether you perform for children, families, libraries, schools, or simply enjoy learning from a seasoned professional, this promises to be an evening packed with practical ideas and

inspiration. Be sure to check out the event flyer elsewhere in this newsletter for all the details!

Abbott House Update

I'm incredibly excited to see the continued progress on the Abbott House project. It's been fun talking about it with guests during my shifts at the steakhouse. Whenever people ask about my background in magic, the conversation naturally turns into sharing the vision for the Abbott House, and it is amazing how interested people become once they hear the story. Every conversation helps spread awareness, and I can't wait until we can invite everyone to experience it for themselves.

Boys Town Show – August 8

We're already looking ahead to our **August 8 Boys Town performance**. We'll be entertaining during the luncheon before moving into the theater for our stage show.

We're still looking for **strolling magicians** for the lunch portion, and I currently have **one stage performance spot** that may still be available. If you'd like to be involved in either portion of the event, please reach out to me soon!

Reflections on Magic

This month I had the opportunity to perform at a friend's birthday party. It wasn't a paid show, but it gave me the chance to test a few new routines in front of a live audience.

One of the new pieces I tried was a mentalism prediction. The reaction afterward caught me off guard. Instead of asking how the trick worked, several people just told me



it was creepy or asked if I was a witch! It made me realize that mentalism can hit people a little differently than traditional magic. I took it as a compliment and a reminder of just how powerful that style of magic can be.

Finding Magic in Wicked

I also had the chance to see *Wicked* this past month. One thing I always enjoy is spotting practical magic effects woven into the production. They aren't there just to fool the audience—they help tell the story and bring the world of Oz to life. As magicians, it's fun recognizing methods and techniques that most audience members don't even realize are magic. It's a great reminder that some of the best magic isn't presented as a magic trick at all.

As always, thank you for everything you do to support the Omaha Magical Society. I hope to see many of you at our July meeting and again in August for Boys Town. Until then, keep practicing, keep performing, and being awesome!



With this month bringing to our Monday Night Magic an expert in the field of children and family entertainment, introducing an app containing 3 narrated stories about a bird named Petie seemed like a good idea.

The narrator tells the story, and your fingers do the magic!

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.



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 pm to 2:00 pm

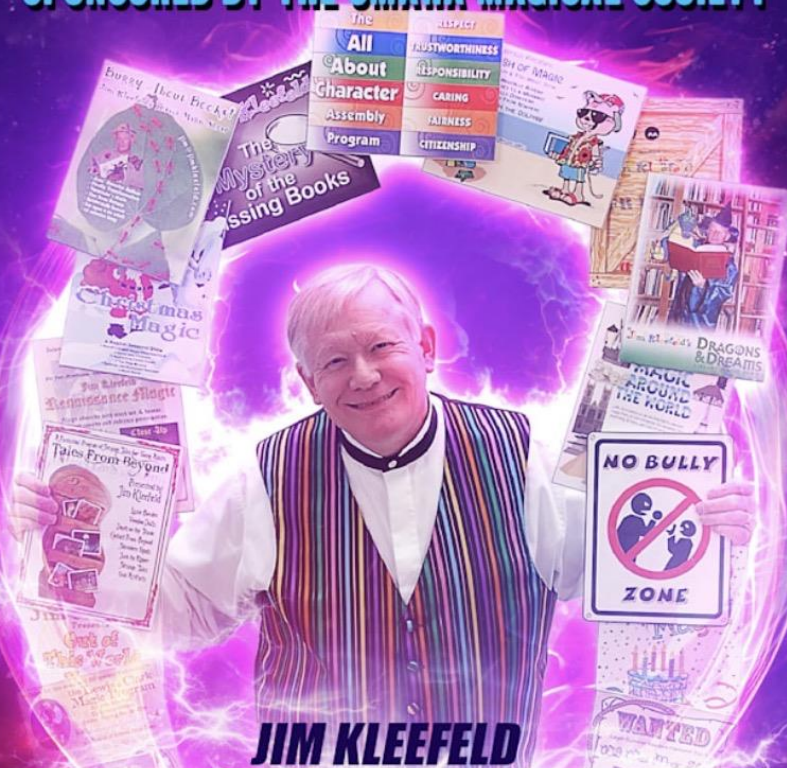
This will be our August meeting.
Watch for more information.



Monday Night

Magic

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY



JIM KLEEFELD

A full-time children's and family magician for fifty years **Jim Kleefeld** specializes in school assemblies and library shows, but has also worked fairs, festivals, community events and birthday parties.

As a prolific author, Kleefeld has authored over 30 books (i.e. *The Lock Book*, *The Book Test Book*, and *Kidshow Matters*). In addition he has literally written hundreds of articles for magazines like *M-U-M*, *The Linking Ring*, *Laugh-Makers*, *Funny Paper*, *MAGIC*, *Apocalypse*, *The Minotaur* and *The New Invocation*.

As a result of his recognized expertise, Kleefeld has been a featured lecturer a dozen times at conventions like *Kidabra* and *Magi-Fest*.

Monday, July 20, 2026 | 7-9 PM (CST)

The Joslyn 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.



June Re-Cap by Matt Spielman

Members of the Omaha Magical Society gathered at the Joslyn Castle carriage house for a fascinating and tech-forward Magic App Night. Thanks to a full year of dedicated development by our very own **Dave Arch**, the OMS online library has officially expanded. In addition to our video collection, members can now access a suite of specialized magic apps directly at:

theomahamagicalsociety.org/videos-and-apps.



To kick off the night everyone in attendance was handed a sheet featuring 6 QR codes that allowed them to instantly pull up an app on any mobile browser. Every app in the lineup was tested by **Roger Reese** to ensure seamless performance. **Dave Arch** then took the floor to demonstrate the six new additions:

- **A Tale of 2 Fish** - A digital variation of the classic "baffling boomerang" optical illusion using two fish, perfectly paired with an optional custom narration by **Dave Arch** to help drive the routine.

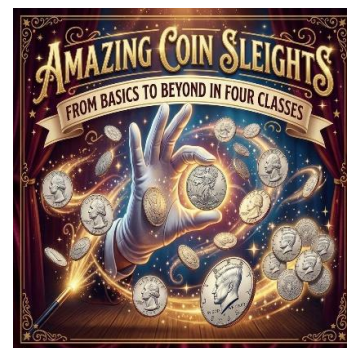
- **The Vanishing Leprechaun** - A digital spin on a classic paradoxical puzzle. The spectator counts 15 leprechauns on the screen, but once the pieces of the scene are rearranged, one completely vanishes—leaving only 14 of the wee little sprites.
- **The Vanishing Bunnies** - Shifting gears into a dexterity challenge this app tasks users with tapping as many fast-appearing bunnies as possible in 45 seconds. The room got incredibly competitive as a copy of *The Book of Secrets* by **Walter B. Gibson** was put up as a grand prize for the top score of the evening. I happened to take home the prize with a record of 82, I will be sure to update the skills section of my resume.
- **Magic Memories** - A custom, two-player memory matching game designed for history buffs. Players take turns flipping cards to find pairs, with each card featuring portraits of the legendary magic contemporaries of Omaha's own **David P. Abbott**.
- **Ask Pete** - Bringing modern technology to magic history, this interactive AI tool lets you submit questions or magic topics to a digital version of our own beloved **Pete "The Near Great" Petrashek**. Pete then instantly analyzes the request and generates a direct YouTube link to a relevant lesson or demonstration.
- **Magic Birthday Square** - An absolute crowd-pleaser for close-up workers. Starting with a number generated from a spectator's birthdate, the app then allows you to complete a custom magic square where all columns, rows, corners, and quadrant sections add up to the spectator's unique number. Best of all, an image of the custom magic square can be texted directly to the spectator as a digital souvenir. The app takes care of the math behind the magic square method allowing for a self-working routine to help you get comfortable performing a magic square until you develop your own method.



We are planning on updating the digital library every month with new apps. Do you have an interesting concept or a classic routine that needs a digital face-lift? **Dave Arch** is looking for fresh inspiration, so submit your app ideas for a chance to see your concept developed and featured in the OMS library! A huge thank you to Dave for his incredible work over the past year building these apps and to Roger for his thorough testing. Be sure to log into the website using your credentials from your annual membership email and take a look around the OMS library to incorporate something new into your next performance.



Members are diligently trying to master the apps.



On Monday, June 22nd, the Abbott House was buzzing with energy... and the distinct sound of clinking metal as 23 members gathered for the first installment of a special three-part course on fundamental coin magic.

The series is spearheaded by **Jered Blake**, who is generously donating his time to teach these sessions free of charge to all OMS members. For Jered, the motivation behind the course is simple: he wants to inspire members to step out of their comfort zones and hopes these lessons ultimately lead to everyone "doing more magic in the club."



Jered designed the first lesson to establish a rock-solid foundation, guiding everyone through a progressive sequence of essential palms, productions, and vanishes:

- **The Finger Palm:** Starting off with a simple sleight, Jered challenged everyone to learn the finger palm using their *non-dominant* hand.



While trickier at first, he emphasized that mastering this opens up far more advanced routines and possibilities down the road.

- **Finger Palm to Fingertip Production:** Next up the group practiced transferring the coin from finger palm to the finger tips, back and forth. At this point in the night the soundtrack of the evening became the sound of falling and rolling coins over the wood floors.
- **The Multi-Palm Sequence:** Progression moved quickly as Jered introduced the thumb palm, practicing the fluid transition from thumb palm to finger palm, and finally to a fingertip production.
- **The French Drop:** When transitioning to vanishes, Jered provided crucial psychological advice: practice actually *taking* the coin first. By analyzing your natural movements, you can do your best to perfectly mimic those exact actions when executing the actual French drop.
- **The Classic Palm:** Described as the bedrock of coin magic, Jered urged everyone to build comfort and avoid awkward hand positions by simply palming a coin during normal activities daily at home or work.
- **The Retention Vanish:** The teaching portion concluded with this visual powerhouse, which Jered described as creating "the perception of a vanish."



To complement the physical training, longtime member **Steve Osborn** brought in a fantastic curation of books covering coin magic. For those looking to dive deeper into the craft, Steve highly recommended adding these foundational texts to your library:

The New Modern Coin Magic by J.B. Bobo

Expert Coin Magic by David Roth

Rubinstein Coin Magic by Dr. Michael Rubinstein

Destroyers by Troy Hooser

Before opening up the Abbott House for an informal post-lesson magic jam we were told "*you will fail, and you will drop coins a lot*". Jered's parting advice to make practicing coin magic less painful is to practice in an area where dropped coins are easy to find and to focus on learning in small, incremental chunks rather than rushing the process. Our next upcoming class will showcase 3 classic coin routines using the basic sleights covered in the first class. Thank you to Jered for an incredible first session, and to Steve for the library recommendations. Stay tuned for details on part two of the series—and until then, keep those coins palmed!

Class 2 is officially locked in for
Monday, July 27th, 6-8pm!

Class 2: The Routines (Constructing Magic)

Students combine the sleights from Class 1 into three distinct, high-impact routines. Each routine teaches a different performance concept.

Routine 1: The Simple Vanish & Reproduction:

Uses the French Drop. A coin vanishes and reappears from a student's elbow. Teaches basic framing.

Routine 2: Copper/Silver Transposition: Uses the Finger Palm and two different colored coins. The coins swap places in the spectator's hands. Teaches audience management.

Routine 3: Coins Across: Uses what we've learned up to this point. Coins travel invisibly from one hand to the other. Teaches rhythm and blocking.

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



A Most Unique Magic Book

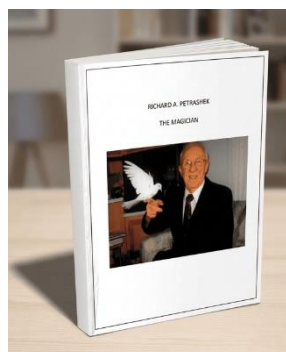
I've had fun with this! Order your own magic book from Amazon with a title of your choice:

<https://www.amazon.com/Grimm-Personalized-Book-Custom-Stamped/dp/B001EAS5V6>

I've included a picture of our Abbott House guestbook ordered from this site. As you perform a magic trick you act like you're reading the instructions from the book (not showing the blank pages). When done with the trick, you just leave the book out where someone will surely pick it up surprised to see only blank pages.

"That's how they used to do it. Magicians would learn how to read the book, but if it was just laying around non-magicians couldn't see the secrets. The Internet sort of made that process obsolete."

Say it with a straight face and enjoy!



A Book by Pete Petrashek!

"Our oldest club member Pete Petrashek's daughter Jennifer found a 55-page manuscript written by her dad about his magic performances and passion for the art."

We're waiting for the first copies to return from the printer. Stay tuned for more details."



"You get more milage from a....**RED NOSE!!**"

I was in my doctor's office the other day, for a routine procedure. She came into the room with the nurse. She asked me to have seat at the examination table. When they both turned around to consult my health chart, I sprang into action! In a blink of eye, I quickly donned my red nose I carry with me. You see, it's my EDC, (everyday carry). They turned around and burst into laughter!! They said, "You made our day".

Checking out at the grocery store, my cashier was an older fellow, kind of grumpy, he looked like he was having a bad day. We exchanged some pleasantries and small talk. He when he turned to bag my groceries, yep, out came my nose, he turned around and I said "now I need to get serious about paying you." His huge smile said it all!

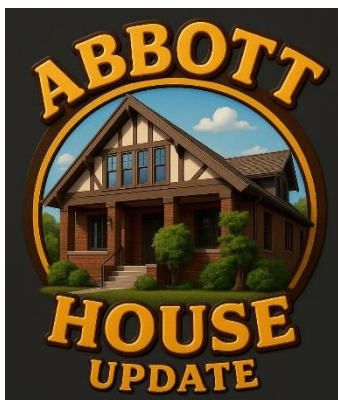
I've had plenty of other opportunities similar to these using this simple prop! At the airport, at a hospital, a post office, a bank, the mall, pretty much anywhere. I am amazed at how much it can brighten someone's day. Occasionally, someone won't outwardly show their amusement, but deep down I'm pretty sure I may have tapped into something.

I've performed shows for disabled folks and produced about 60 noses from a large grocery bag full of novelty noses I bought off Amazon. Everyone got one as shown in the picture. They roared with laughter and were so excited to get their own red nose.

Billy Joel once sang, "you get more milage from a cheap pair of sneakers."

I say "You get just as much milage out of a **RED NOSE!!**"

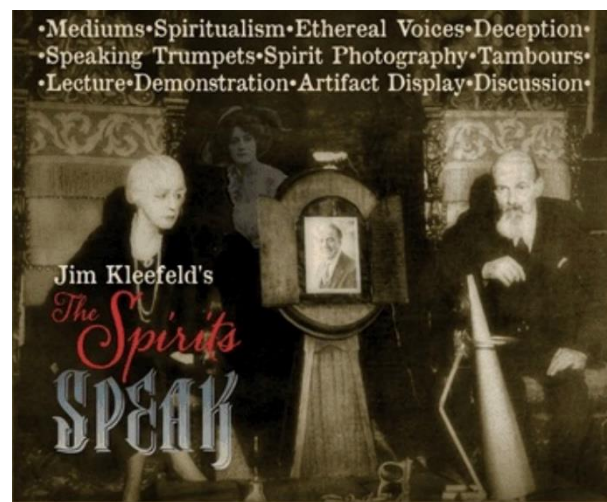
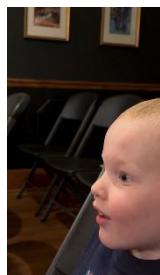
Laughter is the language of the soul. – Neil Bable



THE DONNA ROTH LITTLE THEATER RENOVATION COMPLETED!

We already took it for a test drive with some up and coming young magicians, and it's going to work just fine!

Be watching for upcoming events in this unique performing space on the second floor of The Abbott House!



On Sunday evening, July 19th, **Abbott House Members** (those who donate \$2500 per year for the support of the on-going expenses of The Abbott House) will meet down at the house from 6-8 PM for **Jim Kleeefeld's** presentation and display of Spiritualism artifacts.

Fourth of July Parade



The Abbott House is fast becoming recognized as a member of the Field Club Neighborhood. As a representative of the Abbott House, I was asked to be a judge in their 4th of July parade. Hundreds of people participated with over 30 group entries in the event. Above is the grand prize award recipient, "***The Field Club Neighborhood is out of this world***". From the moon, to aliens, to astronauts the group really had fun! We are fortunate to be part of this vibrant neighborhood. Thank you, **Pam and Bob Johnson**, for including us.
- **Bob Gehringer**



Tidbits From Our Facebook Page



The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Board voted unanimously to recommend to The Department Of The Interior that The Abbott House be placed on the federal registry of historical properties.

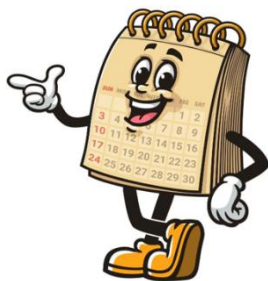
Fingers crossed.



With the club continuing to grow ...

(Two new members just joined) and a growing diversity of events for an expanding variety of magic interests, a Club Online Master Calendar has now become indispensable.

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>



Douglas County Historical Society's Second Sunday Talk

What an incredible afternoon!

A huge thank you to **Dave Arch** and everyone who joined us for the Second Sunday Talk, *Secrets of the House of Mystery: Omaha's Hidden Magic & Legendary Visitors*. From stories of **Harry Houdini's** visits to Omaha to the fascinating history of **David P. Abbott's** legendary House of Mystery, attendees were captivated from beginning to end.

One of the greatest joys of the Douglas County Historical Society's Second Sunday Talks is discovering the stories hiding in our own backyard. Time and again, we're reminded that Omaha's history is filled with remarkable people, surprising connections, and fascinating chapters that deserve to be remembered.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS

IN THE MAKING



At the age of
one hundred,
'Peter The Near Great'
(Pete Petrashek)
releases a fifty-five page
paperback book -
sharing in pictures and
text his passion and
performances as
a magician.

\$15

postage paid CONUS

*Every copy
autographed by
the author.*



PLEASE USE THIS VENMO CODE TO ORDER:

Jennifer Gray

@Jennifer-Gray-42194

jenniferlgray1123@gmail.com



venmo



Check out our website:

<https://omahamagicclub.org>

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

July 20th

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).

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



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 pm to 2:00 pm

This will be our August meeting. Watch for more information.

13405 Marinda ST.
Omaha, NE 68144

