



The Flash Paper

May 2026

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

Bob Gehringer, Editor

Adam's Antics



Adam accepts the proclamation from the Speaker of the Nebraska Legislature, **John Arch**.

Personally, This Month

April gave me one of those “full circle” moments that really sticks with you. I had the opportunity to perform at an event for Child Saving Institute here in Omaha - an incredible organization dedicated to supporting children and families through mental health services, early childhood programs, and community outreach.

During the cocktail hour, something pretty surreal happened... I ran into about six different people or groups that I've previously performed for at other events around the city. It hit me in real time just how small - and connected—our community really is. It felt like a milestone moment, realizing I'm truly making my rounds and becoming a familiar face in these spaces.

That kind of organic connection is what makes performing so meaningful.

Flea Circus Fun

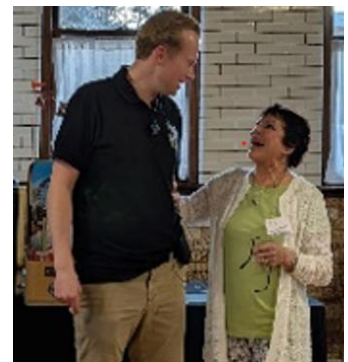
I had a blast this month diving into the Flea Circus theme - both behind the scenes and on stage. Huge shoutout to **Joe Cole** for trusting us with *Omaha's biggest flea circus* - such a fun and unique piece of magic history to carry forward. Also, major credit to **Mike Ware** for jumping in, learning the controls, and absolutely crushing it during the event. We spent time rehearsing together, and it paid off. It's always special when collaboration clicks like that.

Monday Night Magic – Flea Circus Theme

Our April Monday Night Magic event brought the Flea Circus to life, and it was a hit. The theme created a playful, engaging atmosphere, and we received a lot of great feedback from attendees.

Be sure to check out Matt Spielman's recap later in the newsletter for a deeper dive into the night!

A very special thank you as well to **Donna Roth** for attending. She took time to share more about her story and contributions, and it gave all of us a chance to express our appreciation for everything she's done for the Abbott House. Moments like that really ground what we're building as a community.





Abbott House Momentum

There's a lot of exciting forward movement happening at the Abbott House right now. If you've been following along on Facebook, you've likely seen updates around the Donna Roth Little Theater - it's inspiring to watch these ideas come to life and evolve into something tangible for the club and the city.

Looking Ahead

Early May is shaping up to be a busy one for me personally, with the Berkshire Hathaway Annual Meeting bringing a lot of energy (and guests!) into town - especially at the steakhouse.



In place of our Monday night Magic at the Joslyn Castle, I'm looking ahead to the **Tri-State Magic Party** in Des Moines. I'm doing my best to attend, though I may not be able to make it this year. Either way, it's exciting to see this tradition continuing to grow. We've got a great lineup of performers and strong representation from our club.

To everyone attending - thank you for supporting something new, trying new things, and most importantly... having a great time doing it.

As always, thank you all for being part of this community. It's truly something special to watch it grow not just in numbers, but in connection.



The Tri-State magic party is right around the corner. It's May 16 this year in Des Moines. See the schedule above. The club will be renting 1 or 2, 15 passenger vans so we can all carpool together. Please let me know right away if you'll be riding down so I'll know how many vans we need.

Each club can have 6 strolling magicians. If this something you'd like to do, let me know ASAP so I can put you on the list.

If you attended last year at Mahoney State Park you know what a great event it is. A full day of magic and camaraderie with our friends from Kansas City, and Des Moines.

For only \$10 you'll see some great magic, have a free pizza lunch, and learn 9 tricks to take home with you. Oh, and don't forget the swap meet. (a chance to sell your unwanted items, and pick up some real bargains) Make plans now to attend this annual magic party!



TO RESERVE VAN SPACE, OR VOLUNTEER TO PERFORM STROLLING MAGIC CALL OR TEXT STEVE AT (402) 681-4917



November Re-Cap by Matt Spielman

Popular in the 1830's through the 1960's the flea circus and



its miniature marvels provided a show fit for the big top all within a suit case. Watchmakers and blacksmiths would harness fleas to tiny, hand-crafted gold chains and locks to show off their extreme precision in metalworking as advertising for their services. Louis Bertolotto and his "Exhibition of the Industrious Fleas" came along in the 1830's and was one of the first to create a flea circus act which featured chariot races and famous battle reenactments. While the golden age of live flea performances lasted until the mid-20th century, the art form lives on today primarily as "Humbug" circuses, where mechanical and magnetic effects bring the invisible tiny performers to life. For our meeting last month, we all gathered to look back at the history of the flea circus and learn a few impromptu routines.

The evening began with **Dave Arch** introducing us to his brother **John Arch**, Speaker of the Nebraska Legislature. Speaker Arch read and presented the club with his legislative resolution 378 which commended our club for its preservation and restoration of the Abbott House and for keeping the history and magic of the house alive. We are proud of all of the work the Abbott House board and club volunteers have put in to get the house to where it is today. Look into our monthly lessons at the

Abbott House to get a front row view of the progress along with a 2-hour class on a variety of magic topics. Once the formal proceedings concluded we jumped right into the warmup to the main event.



To get everyone's creative minds moving 3 easy impromptu miniature themed tricks were demonstrated and taught to the group. Members practiced "catching" invisible

fleas in paper bags, mastered the physics of the rubber band climbing ring, and the classic rising card from a deck. The finale of the night was the unveiling of the Flea Circus from a briefcase - a fun display in miniature engineering and showmanship. **Adam Schacht** first introduced the daring High-Wire Tommy and Splash Gordon's high dive acrobatics. Next up were the juggling Fazoli Brothers and Spinny Minny on the spinning ball. The amazing Fleadini pulled off his signature box escape before the show finally concluded with a fireball stunt and Cannonball Carl's explosive (when it works) ending. The flea circus was a nice whimsical and comedic break from some of the more serious mentalism or card routines you might see in the wild. A special thanks to **Joe Cole** for providing his personal flea circus for demonstration and to the OMS club for putting together a fun evening for everyone in attendance





Nebraska Legislature



Resolution 378

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION
Introduced by Speaker John Arch

WHEREAS, in 1923 a house was designed and built at 3361 Center Street in Omaha for David P. Abbott and his wife, Fannie; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Abbott was an inventor and magician and the home located in the historic Field Club neighborhood served as his laboratory and theater; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Abbott is the father of many classical tricks and illusions such as the floating ball, the talking tea kettle, and spirit paintings; and

WHEREAS, the Abbotts entertained guests in the parlor of the house, known as the House of Mystery, putting on magic shows that lasted into the evening; and

WHEREAS, other renowned magicians of the time were guests of the House of Mystery, including Harry Houdini, Harry Kellar, and Howard Thurston; and

WHEREAS, in September 2024, Teller, of the famous illusionary duo Penn and Teller, purchased and donated the house to the non-profit Omaha Magical Society, with the agreement that the House of Mystery would be restored to a theater of the impossible and a place to gather for magicians and fans of the illusionary arts; and

WHEREAS, the Omaha Magical Society, with the help and generosity of local donors and volunteers, is working to bring the house back to its 1920s splendor; and

WHEREAS, the Abbott House of Mystery was featured in the January 2025 edition of Omaha Magazine and a June 2025 Nebraska Public Media article and was the subject of a monthly public service announcement on Fox 42; and

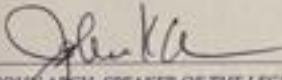
WHEREAS, in addition to the preservation of the Abbott House, the Omaha Magical Society's preservation initiative included assembling twelve hundred volumes into a magic research library housed at the University of Nebraska-Omaha; and

WHEREAS, the Omaha Magical Society hosts monthly magic classes at the House of Mystery, including a class specifically for junior magicians; and

WHEREAS, the Omaha Magical Society, established in 1920, will maintain the Abbott House of Mystery for the purpose of "enjoying magic...with others...for others".

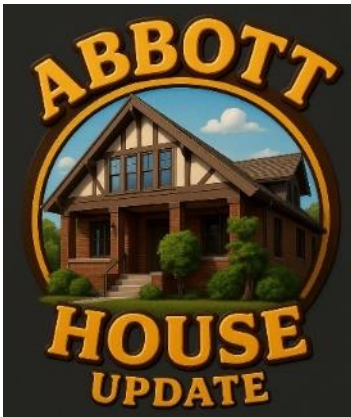
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature commends the Omaha Magical Society for its preservation of a unique part of Nebraska's history and for keeping the magic alive.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Omaha Magical Society.


JOHN ARCH, SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATURE

I, Brandon Metzler, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Legislative Resolution 378, which was passed by the Legislature of Nebraska in the One Hundred Ninth Legislature, Second Session, on the 30th of March, 2026.


BRANDON METZLER, CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE



THE DONNA ROTH LITTLE THEATER

Progress continues to be made on the second-floor theater with the stage built, the ceiling installed and painted, and the twelve vintage magic posters back from the framers to soon exhibit in the theater.



Darren Kauk handmade art deco 1920's wooden wall designs ...

and with our Abbott House designer **Deb Perez** artfully positioned them on the walls of the **Donna Roth Little Theater** down at The Abbott House.

Above the designs will run a chair railing with crown molding around the top of the room between the gold ceiling and the black wall (still waiting to receive a second coat of paint).



The golden ceiling is looking magical.



The framed posters have arrived.

CARE TEAM

April at the Homestead



It was another gray day, raining on and off, pretty much all week. Sunday looked the same, about to burst any moment. Energy was probably at a premium for the CARE TEAM, but you would not know it. The guys brought it...as they do every month!

April's magic was at a new venue. We visited with the folks at Homestead Assisted Living in La Vista for the first time. The atmosphere was very inviting. The staff and residents were delightful. We may need more seating as we get to know people, but we'll figure that out.

Neal Bable took the lead for our magic at this new venue. He was familiar with their amazing team and connected us to this new senior community.

Thomas Gray was the first to arrive and was visiting with a resident. Thomas was intently in conversation when **Tim Begley** came on the scene. **Nathan Roberts** soon arrived as lunch was ending and the room soon had twenty well fed seniors filling the space and anxiously waiting for what would happen next.

Each of our magicians have their own style, but the attribute they have in common is their love of sharing magic and the friendly warmth they give to these seniors. It is wonderful to watch! This is the second year we've been together doing table magic at senior living facilities. Our goal is not just to perform magic, but also to spend time getting to know folks. Magic illusions can always bring smiles and laughter. But this OMS CARE TEAM gives much more than an hour or two of fun for the group, they cultivate a friendly atmosphere of mutual respect, interest, and companionship as well.

We are looking for more volunteers as we have added 2 more facilities that would appreciate some magic.

PATEO and The Magician's Choice



It was a week night seminar at the Abbott House and to my surprise, the room was packed. As I perused the parlor, there were probably half a dozen new members waiting to see exactly what type of moves encompass “The Magician’s Choice”.



Lary Brodahl, a past president of OMS, took the reins for **Dave Arch**, to teach the concept of the magician’s choice. Unfortunately, Dave was under the weather, but

when called upon, Larry was there to substitute and to teach the class. If you ever get the chance to see one of Larry’s seminars or any of his rope illusions...you must. He stepped-up and taught a fine lecture and practice session using PATEO.

Those initials stand for “**P**ick **A**ny **T**wo **E**liminate **O**ne, PATEO. In this type of maneuver, the magician lays out several items and asks the volunteer to pick one item and the magician will predict, supposedly ‘ahead of time’, which item was chosen. The key to the moves to eliminate those items not chosen until the only item left is the one predicted by the magician and which was chosen by the volunteer.



Larry began by showing us this PATEO principle with an illusion using M & M candies. You can find this trick if you look up magic by **Hector Chadwick**. It is a force technique that every magician should learn. Larry walked us through the concept of forcing an individual to think they are choosing freely, but are actually being forced to pick whichever item the magician has already predicted would be chosen. His smooth, friendly and always humorous teaching technique had everyone fully engaged.

Another one of our members, **Scott Klinger**, attended and showed a couple of other forces. He used the ribbon spread to misdirect and force a card. He mentioned **Ricky J.** and **Max Maven** as other resources for more information.

It was good to see the usual suspects attending a week-night soiree and it was especially good meeting the new members of our club. Thank you to **Dave Arch** for his concept for this class and lecture notes to support **Larry Brodahl**. Larry came through for everyone and filled in easily when needed. Larry, we can always count on you and we are all so much better for that. - **Patrice Fisher**

SOAP ON A ROPE



A bar of soap with a hole through it hangs around your neck, knotted onto a rope. You tell the story about the frustration of dropping the bar of soap in the shower until you heard about this “Soap On A Rope” idea. But now there’s the equal frustration of washing your feet with such a short rope. Suddenly the soap appears to melt right off the rope. It looks like the soap comes right through the rope. The audience can examine both soap and rope at the end and find no trace as to how you did it

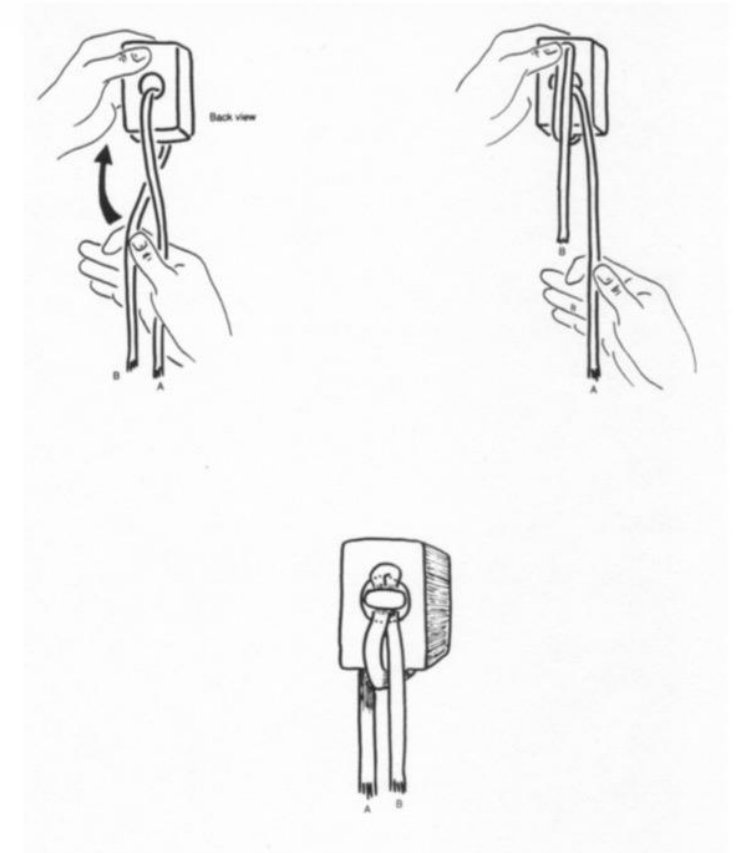
The following moves must be practiced until you can do them smoothly and deliberately, without hesitation.

Start by showing the soap tied on the rope. Untie the top knot, unloop the rope, and remove the soap. After explaining about how the rope keeps you from losing the soap in the shower, tie the soap back on the rope.

Hold the soap upright with your left hand, fingers at the front around the left edge and thumb at the back just above the center hole. Take one end of the rope with your right hand and push it through the hole from back to front. Draw the rope out until the two ends hang even at the bottom. Move your right hand, with it palm toward you, down about two inches below the bottom of the soap. Bring that hand around both parts of the hanging rope so they hang down through your fingers.

Grip the part of the rope that hangs down from the front of the soap between your right thumb and first finger and move your right hand straight up against the back of the

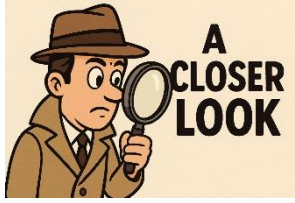
soap to just above the center hole. This forms a little loop across the top of your right first finger. Put that loop under the tip of your left thumb and hold it with that thumb against the back of the soap.



Leave that part of the rope hanging and slide your right hand back toward you along the other part of the rope to the end of it. Take that other end around the loop and push that end from back to front through the left side of the hole in the soap. Pull the end out through the hole to the front until it draws the little loop into the hole. Continue to pull that end gently forward until the little loop is jammed inside the hole.

Bring both ends of the rope to the top, tie them with a knot, and put the loop over your head so the soap hangs on the rope in front of you. Joke about the problem of trying to wash your toes while the soap is tied around your neck.

Take the bar in your right hand. “Of course, you could just use magic,” you say as you pull the bar out toward the right, away from the rope. It will come free, leaving the tied loop around your neck.



The Beta Test Performing Style is a training-wheels performing style that can get you off Facebook, off the magic café, and off YouTube and out showing people stuff. With the Beta Test

style, you say something like, “Could I get your help with something? I’ve been asked to test out a new trick on a few people. Can I try it with you?”

Now, this assumes you’re saying it to someone who already knows you have an interest in magic. If you were just approaching someone at a bar or café or something, then you’d need to do a little more groundwork first.



This performance style is *so low stakes* that you can use it without feeling like you’re making yourself vulnerable in any way.

The subtext is: “This isn’t my idea, someone else asked me to do it. This isn’t my trick; it’s another guy’s trick that I’m testing for him.”

Your ego is not on the line at all. If they say the trick sucks, then you can be like, “Yeah, it does! I can’t wait to tell **that other guy who is not me** that his trick sucks!”

I hope you see how low pressure this is and that this can get some of you on the road to performing more. Don’t cloak yourself in this style all the time. As I said, use it as training wheels. Once you realize people are happy to watch something interesting and happy to engage with you via magic, then you can transition on to other styles.

Even if you’re someone who finds it easy to perform, there are a couple benefits of this style that you can take advantage of.

First, it broadens the world of magic for the person you’re performing for. It’s not just you learning tricks out of books or on YouTube. You’re testing out a trick for someone else. Who is this person? How did you two link up? From there, you can further broaden the scope of the magic world to talk about things like conventions and mentors and secret organizations and stuff like that.

Second, it frees up the spectator to be a little more generous with their criticism. If you say, “This is something *I’m* working on,” the majority of people will still be hesitant to tell you how they really feel - especially if you’re performing for friends or family. But if you tell them you’re testing out something for *someone else*, they usually feel a little freer to tell you what they really think, which can be helpful when you’re testing something new.

From The Jerx blog. Used with permission.

- From Donna Roth
You know you are a magician if ...
11. If you’ve ever been asked the question “can you make my wife disappear?”
 12. You’re back-ordered for rabbits and doves at the pet store.
 13. 75% of your patter consists of lame one liners.
 14. You drive 300 miles round trip to visit a teeny-tiny store.
 15. You have over 100 responses to the phrase “How did you do that?”



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OMAHA, NEBRASKA **DES MOINES IOWA** **KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**

TRI-STATE MAGIC PARTY

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH, 2026
COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1025 - 28TH ST. WEST DES MOINES, IOWA 50266

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM - MAGIC SWAP MEET
 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM - *FREE* PIZZA & POP PARTY LUNCH
 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM - "TEACH-A-TRICK"
 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM - BREAK
 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM - "CLOSE-UP MAGIC SHOW"
 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM - DINNER ON YOUR OWN
 6:30 PM - STROLLING MAGIC FOR PUBLIC
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM - "ABRACADAZZLE!
 AN EVENING OF MAGIC!"
 \$10 PUBLIC SHOW.

DETAILS
 WILL BE SENT
 TO EACH CLUB
 SOON.

No Zoom this month.
 We are attending the
TRI-STATE Magic Party
 in Des Moines

2026 OMS Officers
President - Adam Schacht schacht2222@gmail.com
Vice President - Mike Ware mike.ware@betteromaha.com
Treasurer - Bob Gehringerr gehringerr@cox.net
Secretary - Patrice Fisher patricekfisher@yahoo.com
Executive Director - Dave Arch samassembly7@gmail.com

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

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