



The Flash Paper

June 2026

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

Bob Gehringer, Editor

Adam's Antics



OMS Member, Trevor Groenjes, Celeste and Lane with me on a bike trip!

Another Trip Around the Sun

May was a fairly quiet month for me on the magic front, but it was still a busy and enjoyable one.

First, it was magically my birthday month! Lane and I took an overnight trip to Lincoln to try Aragon Tavern, the sister restaurant to Casa Bovina. We had heard great things and had seen plenty of photos, and it definitely lived up to the hype. It was a nice little getaway and a fun way to celebrate another trip around the sun.

Tri-State Magic Party

I heard the Tri-State Magic Party was another great success this year. Unfortunately, I had another commitment that evening and wasn't able to attend, but from everything I've heard, everyone had a wonderful time.

A big thank-you goes out to **Steve Lindeman** for putting the event together. These gatherings take a lot of planning and coordination behind the scenes, and we're fortunate to have members willing to put in that effort for the benefit of the magic community.

Life on Two Wheels

Outside of magic, I picked up a new hobby this month: biking.

Omaha has an incredible network of trails and cycling events, including the Bellevue Berry Farm Taco Ride and countless scenic routes throughout the metro. I've really enjoyed getting out and exploring. In one week alone, I logged over 50 miles on my bike, and it's quickly becoming one of my favorite ways to stay active.

It's amazing how much of the city you can discover when you slow down and see it from a bike trail instead of a windshield.

The Challenge of Repeat Audiences

I have several shows coming up in June and I'm looking forward to getting back in front of audiences.

One challenge that comes with repeat bookings is making sure I don't repeat too much material. You'd think after a year people wouldn't remember much, but magic tends to leave a lasting impression. Audiences may not remember every detail, but they often remember certain effects, moments, or reactions.

It's a good problem to have, and one that keeps me thinking creatively as I continue developing new material and refining existing routines.



Busy Times in Omaha

May was also a busy month at the steakhouse. Between college graduations and Berkshire Hathaway weekend, Omaha was packed with visitors and activity.

Now we're rolling right into June and the College World Series, which always brings another wave of excitement and energy to the city. It is one of my favorite times of year in Omaha, and I'm looking forward to seeing the city come alive once again.

Behind the Scenes at OMS

May is also an important month for OMS because it marks nonprofit tax filing season.

Bob and I were able to get the Society's filings completed, which brought an interesting challenge this year. For the first time, we now have the Abbott House to account for as an organizational asset.

That's certainly a good problem to have.

The Abbott House continues to be one of the Society's most important assets, and it's exciting to see the progress being made as we preserve and improve this incredible piece of magic history. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the House and the Society through your time, donations, and volunteer efforts.

June Monday Night Magic

I'll keep this month's meeting teaser short since you'll find more details elsewhere in this issue, but June's Monday Night Magic is shaping up to be a unique one.

How often do you leave a magic meeting with something new to perform already loaded on your phone?

Whether you're a fan of technology-based magic or have never explored magic apps before, this month's program promises to be entertaining, surprising, and interactive. Come prepared to learn a few things, experience some modern magic, and maybe even discover a new secret weapon that's been hiding in your pocket all along.

I have a feeling this is going to be one of those meetings people will be talking about afterward.

Until next time,



May Re-Cap by Matt Spielman

Last month, the Des Moines Justo Hijo Magic Club (IBM Ring 167) rolled out the red carpet for our annual Tri-State Magic Party. Magicians from the Omaha, Kansas City, and Des Moines area converged for a jam-packed day of camaraderie, secrets, and incredible performances. For a modest \$10 admission, attendees were treated to a full day of magic that proved the Midwest tri-state scene is thriving, innovative, and deeply supportive.



The day kicked off at 11:00 AM with a multi-room magic swap meet, where hidden treasures changed hands and old props found new homes. After working up an appetite hunting for rare gems, attendees enjoyed a pizza and soda lunch provided by the hosts. This was a great opportunity to meet up with members of the other clubs and discuss any new ideas or routines we were working on.

At 1:30 PM, the formal events began with the **"Teach a Trick"** session. Members from all three clubs spent 6 minutes demonstrating their routine along with a lecture on the inner workings of the trick. I apologize up front for the rest of the article, most of my notes were commandeered by my youngest daughter, I am writing most of this off of memory so I apologize if I didn't get everyone's full name and club right along with their routine:

- **Marcus (Des Moines):** Broke down a deceptively smooth palming technique to control a card to the top or bottom of the deck.
- **Kelly (Kansas City):** Put a nostalgic twist on a self-working multi-selection card routine by swapping standard playing cards for vintage Blockbuster Movie cutouts.



- **Mike Bitter (Omaha):** Showcased his "Priceless" coin routine, elegantly multiplying a single Kennedy half dollar into two, and then transforming them into a silver dollar. Mike also shared a Juan Tamariz subtlety of using simultaneous, natural hand movements to mask the dirty work of ditching a coin.
- **Dennis (Kansas City):** Demonstrated a very visual penetration of a solid block of wood using a single piece of yarn. Very simple and yet still hit hard.
- **Dr. Jack:** The "Magic Mentor" brought whimsical, impromptu magic to the table, teaching a "circus trapeze act" utilizing just two paper clips and a rubber band.
- **John (Kansas City):** Streamlined a classic, showing a simple, elegant setup to get into the first phase of the Professor's Nightmare rope routine.
- **Steve Osborn (Omaha):** Wowed the card mechanics in the room with the visual poetry of the Somersaulting Aces card routine.



- **Thomas Gray (Omaha):** Combined the chaotic randomness of dice rolls with the rigid structure of the Aronson stack, proving that even a heavily mixed deck is no match for a master memorized-deck worker.

Following a brief afternoon intermission, the energy shifted to an intimate **close-up magic show**. Three representatives from each club stepped into the spotlight for a five-minute set.

While the backstage duties and performance schedule kept me from catching the acts from Kansas City and Des Moines, the Omaha squad showed up in peak form:

- **Mike Ware** delivered a hands-on demonstration of fate. After a small pack of cards was shuffled, a volunteer distributed the cards in pairs to the audience. In an impossible display of control, every single pair handed out turned out to be perfect color matches.
- **Tim Begley** brought the comedy with a signed, torn card to an impossible location. After following a series of "broken" instructions from his new trick he ended up eating the torn portion of the spectator's signed card. Next an audience member selected a random box of candy from Tim's bag and inside the sealed box was the missing, matching corner.
- **Matt Spielman (Myself)** presented a different approach to the classic hopping halves coin routine. Playing it under the guise of completely forgetting how the trick worked I was able to snap my fingers and reset the coins back into my hand after each set back. After ditching the original trick I transitioned the coins into a follow the leader card routine to close out the set.



After a well-deserved dinner break from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, the doors opened to both the magic community and the general public for "**Abacadazzle**," a spectacular evening stage show that featured a massive, diverse lineup of regional talent:



- **Mikaela Oz (Des Moines)** opened with an elegant, classical billiard ball routine, culminating in a stunning ball-to-live-bird transformation finale.
- **Larry Brodahl (Omaha)** took to the stage with his "faulty fish net" routine. Larry leaned into comedy, accidentally dropping cards left and right while counting them into a net, only for more cards to miraculously multiply inside it, ending with a slick cards-to-dollar-bill finale.
- **Bruce (Des Moines)** channeled classic clown-car energy, taking a single magic hat and systematically pulled out an impossible volume of items until his entire performance table was completely overflowing.
- **Gene Turner (Kansas City)** started with a sponge ball routine before bringing volunteers on stage for a masterclass in pickpocketing. Cleanly lifting wallets, credit cards, and wristwatches right out from under their noses.
- **Ken** who is a spectacular 11-year-old performer with a stage presence that rivaled the veterans, had an audience member name a card, only to flawlessly produce that exact card from a series of nested envelopes.
- **Nathan Roberts (Omaha)** brought a spectator on stage and transformed their birthday into a mind-boggling, lightning-fast Magic Square routine.



- **Neil Bable (Omaha)** brought up a brave volunteer for a classic water bag penetration. Pushing pencils cleanly through a Ziploc bag

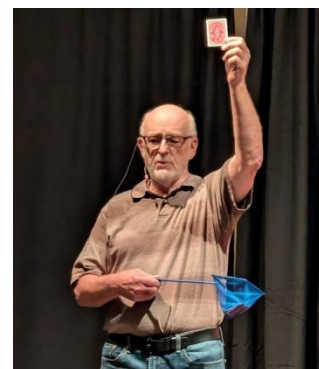
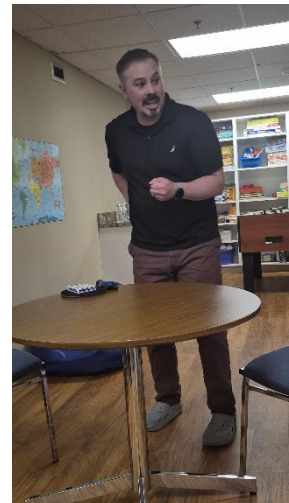
directly over the spectator's head, Neil kept the mood light by handing them a tiny cocktail umbrella for "protection."

- **Lucas (Des Moines)** added some high-stakes mentalism to the night. After an audience member chose three cards, Lucas moved into the middle of the crowd, blindfolded himself, and had three more cards selected, successfully reciting all of them back to the amazed audience.
- **Red Sipe** brought incredible energy to the stage, interacting with delighted children chosen from the crowd for a whimsical routine of wands and ropes.
- **Travesty** took a thought-of card and gave it a literal "formal name." The reveal killed when the exact name he guessed was found boldly written across the back of the spectator's mental selection.
- **Sven & Teller** brought the rock-and-roll attitude, dressing up as magic's most famous duo to perform a highly entertaining, rhythm-infused Three Card Monte routine set to Run DMC's "Tricky."
- **Jayden and Isabelle (Des Moines)** closed out the night in spectacular fashion with a metamorphosis routine made famous by Houdini. Jayden was handcuffed and locked inside a wooden trunk, only for Isabelle to step on top, raise a curtain, and instantly switch places with him in the blink of an eye.

From the granular sleight-of-hand breakdowns in the afternoon to the grand illusions of the evening public show, the Tri-State Magic Party was an entertaining evening. A huge thank you to the Des Moines magic club for hosting, and to everyone from Omaha, Kansas City, and Des Moines who made the drive, shared their secrets, and for keeping the magic community thriving. Thanks also to **Steve Lindeman** for renting a van and driving a small crew from Omaha (myself included), I enjoyed the discussions in the van along with sharing a dinner with everyone. If you missed it this year, make sure you don't make the same mistake next time!



More Highlights of the Tri-State Adventure





Monday Night

Magic

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY



MAGIC APP NIGHT

Ever wonder if any of the smartphone magic apps were right for you? Here's an evening to check them out and know for sure BEFORE you spend your money.

If you have a favorite smartphone app, bring it along to share with your fellow club members, experience the performances and reviews of two of the best-selling apps, and leave with THREE new apps (at no charge) on your phone (iPhone or Android) released exclusively through the Omaha Magical Society.

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026 | 7-8 P.M. (CDT)
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.



NEW Abbott House Magic Classes!

Are you ready to begin and/or elevate your "coin" sleight of hand? It's time to turn basic moves into polished theater.

Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned veteran, master the art of heavy silver. We are launching an exclusive Four-Part Coin Magic Masterclass Series.

We will meet inside our club's historic house of mystery - The Abbott House (3316 Center St). Come session where **David P. Abbott** astounded **Harry Houdini** over a century ago!

Mark Your Calendars

- Class 1 (The Building Blocks): Monday, June 22, 6-8pm
- Subsequent Classes: One month apart (Dates TBA)

What You Will Master

We are not just teaching secrets. We are building a real routine. Over four sessions, you will move from basic mechanics straight to the spotlight.

- Flawless Sleights: Master the Classic Palm, Finger Palm, and French Drop.
- High-Impact Routines: Learn Coin to Elbow, Copper/Silver Transposition, and 3-Coins Across.
- Performance Confidence: Class 3 is a dry-run rehearsal. Learn sightlines, angles, and script timing.

- Showcase Finale: Class 4 culminates in a live parlor show at the Abbott House!

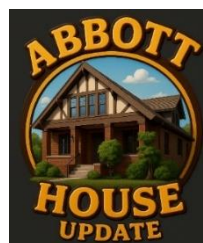
Exclusive Materials Included

- Complete Technical Guides
- Optimized Practice Schedules
- Professional Evaluation Rubrics
- The "Oops" Troubleshooting Handout (how to save a dropped coin!)

P.S. There is no cost for the classes. You don't need to be a club member to attend.

Please let me know of your interest and/or questions by replying to this email: jered.incredible@gmail.com

Jered Blake
Abbott House Classes Coordinator



The Donna Roth Little Theater Completed!



By the time you read this we anticipate completion of transforming David and Fannie Abbott's second floor primary bedroom into The Donna Roth Little Theater with lighting installed, the stage draped and carpeted, and the vintage posters hung. Watch for upcoming announcements about when you might be able to see in person what has turned out to be a crown jewel of The Abbott House.



The Bazillion Dollar Bill Mystery



Please note: The following has been edited for space. If you find it interesting, you can read it in its entirety at: <https://www.thejerx.com/blog/2015/7/26/the-bazillion-dollar-mystery>

Effect

Two bills are borrowed and torn in half. Each spectator keeps one half of their bill. The other halves disappear and are transported to two different places.

Method

Set Up: Take a dollar bill, tear it in half. Make it mostly straight except for a tiny jagged tear at the bottom. Seal one half of the bill in an envelope and seal that envelope in another envelope. This is the "target" envelope set up.

Take the other half of the dollar, and put it ANYWHERE YOU WANT to find it later.

Handling: This effect could be done on stage, close-up, parlor or whatever. It's really very practical. I will tell

you how I did it in a casual performing environment and you can figure out the particulars that will work well for you wherever you perform.

I sat on a couch *between* my two spectators.

I introduced the envelope as in the presentation, and I truly don't ever touch it again. That's one of the beautiful parts of this method. That envelope is prepared as I mention in the description of the effect and set aside somewhere.

I then ask to borrow two dollar bills. I put them back to back and tear them in half. The choreography of what follows is this (and it matches perfectly what you would do in real life). You hold the bills in front of your chest to tear them; you tear the bills into four pieces, two pieces in each hand; then your arms unfold, christ-on-the-cross style, to offer each spectator a piece of their bill. *But* as you do, your left 1st and 2nd fingers turn over its bills. That's all there is to it. It all happens in the movement from your arms going from bent-in at the elbow to opening up and straight at the elbow. The flip of the one packet is completely lost in the overall movement. Your arms should be mirroring each other at the end with your hands holding the bills, fingers on the bottom, thumb on top.

I now say this, I thought a long time about the wording, and I'm not even sure it's grammatically correct but it cements what the situation should be and I think clarifies everything going forward. I turn to the person on the right and extend my right hand to them, "*Okay, now you take the half of the bill on top,*" then I turn to the person



on my left and extend my left hand to them, "*and you take the half of the bill on the bottom.*"

From the way you tear the bills, to how you give out the pieces, to what you say -- everything is in keeping with how it would happen for real. But the actual condition is that they are both holding halves of **the same** bill. And you are holding two halves of another bill.

I tell them to put their pieces of the bill in their pocket just because that seems more "secure" and I don't want the remote possibility that one of them might notice the other half has the same serial number.

Then I vanish the other two halves. Burn them, flush them down a toilet, send them into the air in a helium balloon. Whatever you want.

After I vanished the two halves, I had the envelope retrieved, opened, the other envelope dumped out, opened, and the half bill dumped out.

Now comes the next and final move. It's not even really a move. What you need to do, under the actions of comparing one person's half-bill (either person's) to the half-bill that fell out of the envelope, is switch the two. Here's how I did it. I asked Michelle for her half-bill and took it with one hand while taking the half-bill from the envelope with the other. Then I stood up from the couch and turned to face them. In the process my hands come together to match up the bill. I see that it doesn't match and I gave Michelle back the half that had come from the envelope *as if it was the half she just gave me*. You can really just take the two half-bills, try to line them up, then put them flat against each other and examine the torn

edges, turn them over once or twice in the process and hand her back the opposite piece. Whatever feels right. The fact is that when you hand the other piece back and keep all attention on the piece you retain, it's going to feel like that's the important piece that we've been dealing with the whole time. You then say, "If this isn't part of her bill, then it *must* be the other half of yours," and hand it to the second spectator. He gets to take the bill and match it up with the piece he retains. The "magic" moment is the one you're not involved with. It's very deceptive. The other half can now appear wherever you want it to. In fact, the only place it *shouldn't* appear is where it does in UF Grant's original, i.e. in the same envelope as the first piece.

From The Jerx blog. Used with permission.



OMS APP LIBRARY GRAND OPENING

Eight years after beginning our club online video library (now with 100+ magic teaching videos), we open our club's online app library with exclusive magical apps for your smartphone (iPhone and Android).

The Grand Opening will occur as part of June's Monday Night Magic event.

You can read more on the club's website (<https://OmahaMagicClub.org>) under the "Videos and Apps" tab in the main menu.



Check out our website:

<https://omahamagicclub.org>

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

June 15th

7:00 – 8:00 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 Gehring 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 to 2:00 pm

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

13405 Marinda ST.
Omaha, NE 68144

