



The Flash Paper

April 2026

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

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Adam's Antics

March was a really meaningful month - a mix of new ventures, familiar spaces, and some fun surprises along the way.

The biggest highlight for me was hosting my very first dinner theater - Secret Supper: Course Zero. We capped ticket availability at 50 and ended up with around 30 guests - and honestly, it felt just right. It created a more intimate atmosphere, which is exactly what I was hoping for with this concept.

For those who came out, thank you. It meant a lot to have that kind of support for something that's been in my head for a long time. And for those who reached out but couldn't make it, I really appreciated hearing from you as well. This is just the beginning, and I'll definitely keep everyone posted as we plan the next one.

This project is still very much in its early stages, but it felt like a strong first step toward building something unique here in Omaha - blending magic, food, and atmosphere into one cohesive experience.

Performances Across the Board

March also brought a great variety of shows.

One that stood out was a kids' birthday party at the Field Club. What made it especially interesting was that the client had no idea about the Abbott House or any connection there - it was purely a coincidence. But it was really cool to see that space being used in a completely different way and still serving as a place for magic and celebration.

I also had the opportunity to perform for the Creighton Scott Scholars, which was a fun challenge. It's always interesting performing for a group like that - incredibly sharp, analytical, and maybe a little more focused on figuring things out than reacting. The responses were different than a typical audience, but in a way, that made it even more rewarding.

Omaha Broadway Bar

Another highlight this month was getting the chance to perform and sing with Omaha Broadway Bar. I believe Dave shared a clip of me singing in our Facebook group if you want to check that out! It's a project run by local creative, music teacher, and pianist Curtis Reynolds that I've been working alongside since he started it!

It's a really unique concept in Omaha - blending live performance, music, and community in a way that's accessible and high-energy. Some nights include full



band performances, others are more intimate with show tunes or themed sets, and occasionally they incorporate food and a more immersive experience.

If you haven't checked it out yet, I'd highly recommend searching "Omaha Broadway Bar" on Facebook or online to see what they have coming up. It's quickly becoming a really fun and creative space for performers and audiences alike.

Club Notes & Looking Ahead

A big thank you to **Mike Ware** for running the March meeting while I was away performing at Creighton. From everything I saw and heard, it looked like a great turnout and a really smooth transition into the Castle space.



Looking ahead, I'm excited for our April 20th meeting featuring the **Flea Circus**. We have a few surprises planned, and I'll be back in attendance this month. The plan is to be in the Carriage House, but as always, stay tuned in case anything shifts.

Joe Cole's flea circus will be a main feature.

March was one of those months that reminded me how many different directions this art can take - from intimate dinner experiences to birthday parties, from academic audiences to collaborative performance spaces.

Grateful to be part of all of it.

Start now to plan for our **Tri-State Magic Party** in Des Moines on May 16th.

See you on the 20th of April for our Monday Night Magic.

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 Lindeman** At (402) 681-4917



March Re-Cap by Matt Spielman

“Lights, camera, magic! Last month, the OMS crew transformed the historic Joslyn Castle into a private cinema of illusions for our 'A Night from the Movies' themed meeting. Surrounded by the castle's storied architecture, we stepped away from the silver screen and into our own digital vault with four easy to learn effects from our 100+ video Vimeo library:

(<https://vimeo.com/album/5526403>). Access to the library is included in your annual membership to the club and the password to access it is included in your confirmation email. The video library covers a wide array of magic effects with demonstrations and step by step tutorials given by club members along with a ranking system letting you know the difficulty level before diving in. A great advantage to the library is if you happen to get stuck or need more clarification you more than likely can get some hands-on help at one of our monthly meetings or reach out to the trainer in the video directly.



The “World's Fastest Card Trick” was our table's first effect for the night. A chosen card is selected and lost in the deck; next the performer boasts that they can find the card behind their back in record time. In less than five seconds the deck is brought back to the table and the chosen card is reversed in the middle of the deck. **Tim Begley** covered all of the basics for the effect showing how to perform it with a borrowed shuffled deck, a bonus multi card selection version of the trick popularized by **Simon Lovell** was also covered for the group.



Mike Ware was our next hands-on performer covering the “Houdini Rubber Band” routine. Just like Houdini a rubber band was shown to pass through impossible physical restraints and disappear from the hand entirely only to reappear around

his ear. Multiple handlings were demonstrated along with different ideas for revealing the new location of the rubber band. This is a great routine for kids using an everyday object and is an easy way to transition into more intermediate rubber band magic or between different effects.

“Hank the Mind Reading Rabbit” is an effect that starts off with a chosen card being lost and mixed into a deck. Next the cards are spread onto the table and “Hank” (a handkerchief puppet) is introduced and is



able to single out and find the spectator's card. **Patrice Fisher** covered all of the intricacies of the trick and demonstrated an easy way to spread the cards while keeping control of the face down chosen card throughout the spread. Using this method, you could easily incorporate this style of spread for a casino wash and keep tabs on a certain card.

To round out the evening **Steve Lindeman** covered an impromptu torn and restored tissue effect to our group. At its core it is a very simple torn and restored effect that can be taught to just about



anybody in less than a minute but there is a nice wrinkle included in the routine that gives it a nice kicker ending. During the performance a tissue is torn and balled into the performer's hand and with a few words and a gesture the tissue is restored back to pristine shape. During the restoration the original torn tissue is sloppily hanging out of the other hand revealing how the transformation is done. To everyone's surprise the original torn tissue is brought out and revealed to be restored as well.

These 4 tricks were chosen as a simple introduction to the club's library, as mentioned before there is a wide array of effects complete with tutorials and demonstrations and videos are added through the year. Do yourself a favor and take a peek, I have recently looked over the card splitting tutorial and am now going through the rabbit hole of custom card gaffing. Good luck.



Monday Night
Magic

A NIGHT AT THE FLEA CIRCUS!

If you research the term "Flea Circus" on Wikipedia, you'll discover its rich entertainment history - featuring one of the smallest animals purportedly performing astonishing feats of circus derring do including tightrope walking, strong man stunts, and high dive exhibitions.

In addition, the flea circus theme has proven itself a delightful premise for many of magic's classic effects.

Come and experience four of our members using the flea circus premise with magic tricks they perform; learn to perform one yourself; study a DIY flea circus created from a cigar box, and leave with a seven-page manuscript by **OMS Executive Director Dave Arch** with not only suggested tricks that easily incorporate the theme but also includes a suggested opening speech to set up a flea circus performance for maximum impact.

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026 | 7-8 PM (CST)
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.

Willy Monroe



In a special event held for 20 X 15 and Abbott House members, on the evening of April 6, the Abbott House was filled with a rare kind of electricity as we were both surprised and honored to welcome Willy Monroe into its walls. A great crowd gathered, representing the spirit and passion of the Omaha Magic Society, and from the very first moment, Willie transported us into his world. With the ease of a seasoned traveler of illusion, one who has performed across the globe and even fooled Penn & Teller, he opened the night with a stunning display known as “Cards 505.” In what felt like pure impossibility, he produced two full decks of cards from a single box, later revealing that for fifteen quiet minutes beforehand, he had been calmly palming an entire deck by hand. It wasn’t just a trick; it was a philosophy. Magic, he told us, is rooted in relaxation, in balance, in

letting go. “Don’t grip the cards,” he said softly. “Just be natural.” Words passed down, he explained, from his Zen master teacher.



For the next two and a half hours, Willie guided us on an unforgettable journey where wonder and wisdom intertwined. Each effect felt less like a performance and more like an invitation to slow down, to observe, to believe in the impossible just a little longer. One of the most captivating moments came when he crafted a card puzzle right before our eyes, then challenged us to unravel its mystery. Laughter, concentration, and quiet determination filled the room as only a few managed to crack it. Yet, in true magician’s fashion, Willy didn’t leave us empty-handed; he offered the very trick itself at the end of the night, giving everyone the chance to carry a piece of that magic home. It was more than a show; it was an experience. – **Mike Ware**





Self-Care through Magic

Approaching the front of Ezra Elementary, the glass doors and dim lighting showing through from the lobby looked like a storefront that needs an “Open” sign. Maybe it was the stark red brick interior walls that were absorbing the sparse overhead lighting or maybe it was my mood. It was March sixth, less than a week after we invaded Iran, seemingly to me, without much discussion or attention to what our nation had begun. Despite trying to refocus my energies, the weight of continued silence through this reboot of constant chaos had prevented me from preparing for our *Teach a Trick* class.



I had decided to teach the trick *Jumping Rubber Bands* which was the first trick I learned from Dave Arch when I joined our club. Simple enough to be confident without practice and always fun for the kidlets.

It was good to see **The Amazing Lindy**, and **Mike and Ruth Bitter**. I knew their energy would be good for me. There is always a smile and good humor when we get together. That day was no exception, as I had hoped it would be, while dragging myself to meet at the school. Soon it was time to be shown our classroom.



The four of us glanced at each other with trepidation as we entered a room that was already crowded with two

teacher’s desks, a series of shelves housing a small library along one wall, and two tables with eight chairs filling this small learning space. We were all thinking of the logistics of the situation, as we wondered how many children would soon pack the room.

Soon, eight, then twelve, then eighteen enthusiastic children crowded around the tables. The floor space next to each student was taken up by their knapsacks which provided challenges as I moved to help with hands-on-training. With each step, I proceeded to trip over one and then, another of the rock heavy knapsacks that cluttered the floor around each chair. My mind envisioned a silent picture scene, but with none of the grace of Charlie Chaplin’s ballet-style pratfalls and sight gags.



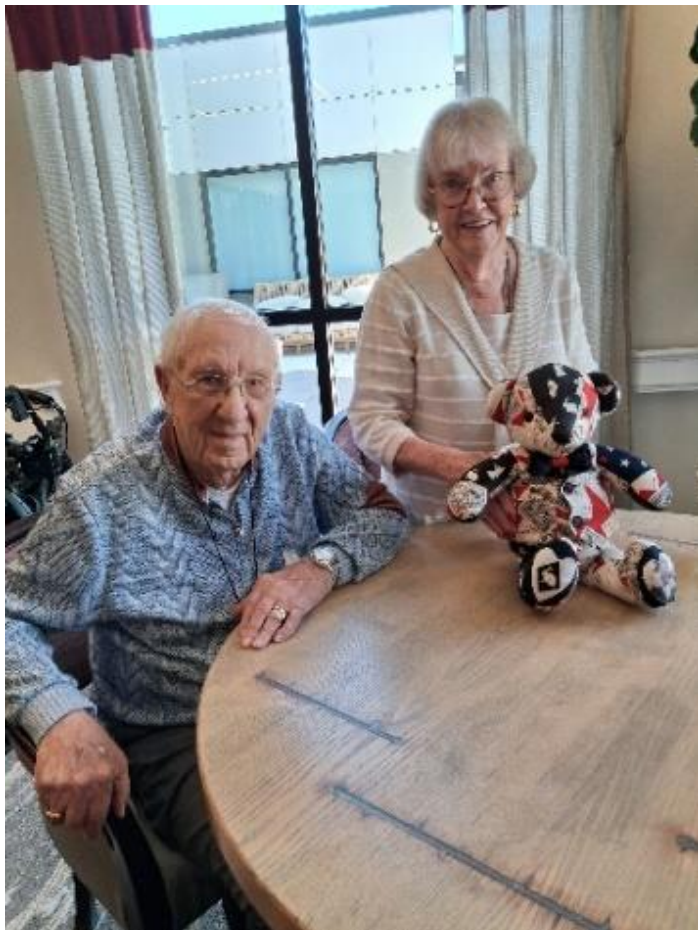
Mike Bitter was a big hit with teaching the *French Drop* with the classic behind-the-ear kicker. **Lindy** is always so good with the kids with his fine teaching and funny jokes. **Ruth** is probably the most critical character of our group, as she keeps us on track by timing us. After all, it is never hard to get a magician to do a trick, but, getting them to stop can be challenging. Soon, tricks were taught and tried. Proudful smiles replaced furrowed brows to master the illusion that only moments before had amazed them!

The kids were not the only students learning something that day. My day began with a heavy fog zapping the energy I was trying to muster. But sometimes you just need to get through the day. And so often, I find that connecting, instead of disconnecting, makes all the difference. Reflecting back, showing-up changed my attitude and the day became one of immense gratitude.

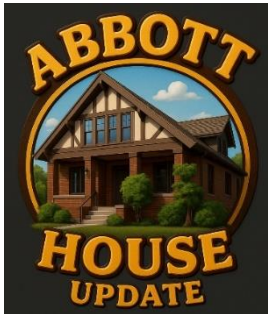
- **Patrice Fisher**



A new year has begun of entertaining for the folks at **Ovations Senior Living** with **Tim Begley, Nathan Roberts, Neil Bable, Thomas Gray, and Patrice Fisher.**



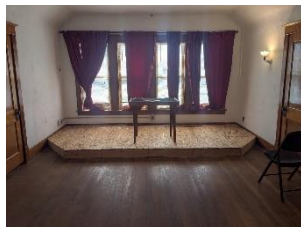
Babe Petrashek has a teddy bear that was made using **Pete's** stage show vest.



This month the Donna Roth Little Theater down at The Abbott House got electricity and a stage. Now it continues to move ahead nicely with the installation of the stage and metal ceiling



The magic posters went to the framers for exhibiting in the Donna Roth Little Theater.



Painting comes next with a gold ceiling and black walls - exhibiting gold framed show posters from David Abbott's contemporary magicians. Stay tuned!



Darren Kauk and Deb Perez install the ceiling.

ABBOTT HOUSE
MAGIC CLASSES

MAGIC CLASSES

Would you use the proven and classic technique of equivoque (aka. magician's choice) more often if you could simply read your pre-printed script as an integral part of your performance, show the script to your participants, and ultimately give them a copy so they could even do it again later?

With an official looking 1940's Compatibility Quiz from the popular *Life Magazine*, all of the above works just as stated. By carrying the script on your smartphone, you'll be ready to perform this classic piece of mentalism with any six objects anytime and anywhere.

PRE-PRINTED EQUIVOQUE

THURSDAY, APRIL 30 - 6-8 PM
THE ABBOTT HOUSE

Click here: <https://www.lybrary.com/pre-printed-equivoque-p-922998.html>

Then again if you come, you would save yourself \$25 and get a free app for your smartphone developed since the routine was first introduced.

I hope you can join me down at the house later this month to talk about "Magician's Choice" - finessing it during our time together.

Please let me know if your schedule will allow you to attend (SamAssembly7@gmail.com).



John Bannon's Directed Verdict 2.0

You claim to have real magic powers and you perform a trick for people. Afterwards, the audience weighs their two choices: "Either we look up how he did that on YouTube, or we give him a wedgie."

My point is, playing it "for real" is a losing proposition, particularly for the amateur performer. Perhaps you could convince some people you have extraordinary memory skills, or gambling skills, or even some sort of low-level psychic powers, but what's the long-game there? You're just going to pretend for the rest of your life that you're an expert at cheating at cards or you have psychic abilities? Instead of using this hobby to entertain people, you're going to do it to try and make yourself feel special? How many gambling routines do you think your friends and family want to sit through the rest of their lives?

A lot of amateurs get this concept but then swing too far the other way. "If people aren't going to believe it's real, then why bother?" And their tricks become meaningless demonstrations that are technically magic in the sense that they *fool* people, but there's nothing thrilling or romantic or mysterious about it.

I believe you can have it both ways. I think you can acknowledge that yes, of course, this is not "real" magic. But the experience can still have thrilling, romantic, and mysterious moments. Or, to put it another way, *magical* moments.

This entire blog is an exploration of that idea.

One way of imbuing your performance with a greater sense of the unknown is to mess with people's understanding of magic secrets.

When people think of magic secrets, they think of a series of steps that one follows which allows them to apparently do something incredible or impossible. And most people's understanding of magic is that if they followed those same steps, they could do the same thing, at least with enough practice

But I like to imply that there's something more going on behind the scenes. Not something supernatural, per se.

Just something they can't wrap their heads around. So, when people ask me, "How do you learn this stuff?" I'll say something like, "Oh, well, there's books and DVDs that teach, like, beginner's stuff. But once you get past that, it's all just passed on person to person. You can find tutorials on the internet, but that's all basic type stuff. You know, you follow some steps and do the trick. But this sort of thing we're about to do is a few levels beyond that."

Messing with people's perception of the nature of magic secrets can become an addictive little sub-hobby.

One time I was doing a somewhat involved, process-heavy card trick for a couple friends. Because this was my first time performing it (or so I told them), I had the magic book in front of me and was reading out the process step-by-step. The trick worked. It was a decent enough card matching type effect. I set the book aside and we went on with our evening.

Later that night one of my friend's said, "I looked at your magic book while you were in the other room."

"Okay," I said.

"The pages are blank," she said.

"Huh?" I replied. "Oh, yeah. I mean, it's not made to be read by everyone. It's not that type of book. It's for a specific reader." I didn't explain beyond that because I'd already "said too much."

If that seems too fantastical for you, you can try this other variation. Same set-up, I'm reading the instructions from an old looking magic book. Later, when I'm out of the room, someone's curiosity gets the better of them and they take a peek at the book and find... it's *The Count of Monte Cristo* (or whatever). When they mention this, I say, "Oh, yeah... they don't just write up these secrets, they always code it into another text." They'll start looking at the book wondering how the hell it could be a magic book in code.

You may think they'd obviously see through this as just another part of the deception, but because you don't present it that way (it's just something they stumble on, apparently) it doesn't necessarily feel that way.



Here's another idea. Send yourself a deck of cards (minus the four aces) and a sheet of instructions in the mail. You don't open this envelope until someone else is in the house and you want to perform for them.

You grab the envelope off the table. "Oh, I think I know what this is."

You open up the envelope, dump out the deck, and open up the instructions.

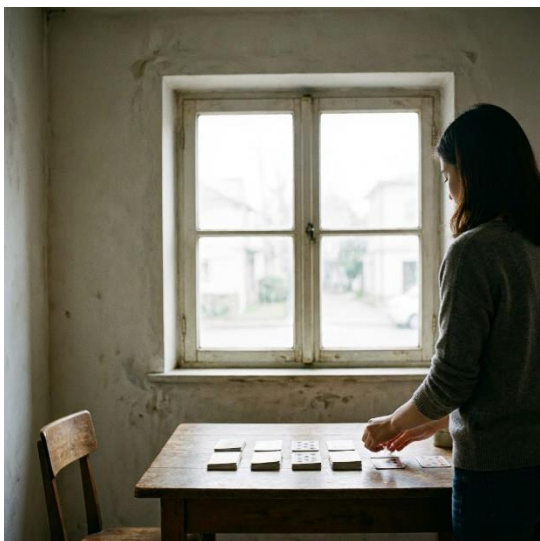
"Interesting..." you say, "Can we try something. I want to see if this works."

You spread the deck towards you and rearrange the order a little. Then you give the deck to your friend and ask her to shuffle it four times.

Then you take the cards and cut and shuffle them a little yourself.

You have your spectator cut the deck into four piles. She turns over the top card of each and it's an ace.

Now, this is just John Bannon's Directed Verdict, which is described in a lot of places. Including *The Jerx*, Volume One (with John's permission).



In this version, the aces aren't in the deck at the beginning. So you don't have to palm them out. You just have to palm them in after her shuffling. Which is not overly difficult. You could even have them under the instructions at some point and get them on the deck while readjusting the items in your hands.

But what takes this from an impressive trick to something truly strange and mysterious is when, at some point later in the evening, your friend picks up the instructions you left on the table and reads them to herself.

The Four Ace Cutting Trick



Step One - Situate the sitter so he/she is facing the largest window in the room.

Step Two - Place the aces at the following positions. 1st ace - 43rd card in the deck. 2nd ace - 45th card in the deck. 3rd ace - at the numerical position in the deck that corresponds with the day of the month the sitter was born in. 4th ace - anywhere in the top half of the deck.

Step Three - Allow the sitter to shuffle the deck. Three times if the sitter is male. Four times if the sitter is female.

Step Four - Cut and shuffle the deck yourself. Set it on the table, untouched by anyone for at least 5 seconds.

Step Five - Allow the sitter to cut off three packs of cards.

Step Six - Allow at least 15 seconds to pass before the sitter cuts a final packet. (You may shuffle at this point)

Step Seven - Have the sitter cut off the final packet.

Step Eight - If the sitter is male, have him turn over the top card of each packet from right to left. If the sitter is



female, have her turn over the top card of each packet from left to right.

Step Nine - The first three cards turned over will be aces. The fourth card will *appear* to be an ace to the sitter as well. (Be sure not to mention what the actual card is or the illusion will be broken.)

Now, to be clear, you're not reading these instructions out loud as you do the trick. You're just reading them to yourself. Then you leave them out, folded up on the table. Then go take a long break at some point. Your friend will read them.

And when they do...?

It's not what they expected. It gives them no answers. Instead, it brings up a bunch of different mysteries. Why do they need to face a window. Why have you put the cards at specific locations only to have the deck shuffled? And how could the person's birthday matter to this specific placement? Why does the deck need to be left untouched for a period of time? Why the gap in time before the last cut? Why do men and women need to do the procedure differently? And what's this about the last card *appearing* to be an ace?

You return to the room. "I'm back.," you say, referring to your absence.

She'll ask you about the instructions. You admonish her for not respecting your things. She presses further.

You say, "Look, I don't know, really. It's not that kind of trick. This isn't like something you find on YouTube or even at a magic store. Remember once I told you this sort of thing is passed from person to person? Well, to ingratiate yourself into that inner circle of secret caretakers, you can't ask too many questions. I mean, ultimately, they're just tricks. But honestly, half the time, I have no clue how they work."

This is a mind-bending notion. And if you consider the whole thing a performance, it's interesting to think of structurally. The trick itself is part of the set-up. The **magic** really happens when they learn the "secret."



April's Monday Night Magic will include a special guest. The current **Speaker of the Nebraska Legislature** will visit to read a resolution from the unicameral honoring the club's work on preserving **The Abbott House**.

From Donna Roth
You know you are a magician if ...

6. You never play card games with your cards.
7. While watching a movie or TV, you have card in your hands.
8. You pose for a photo with one eyebrow raised.
9. You pay \$60.00 for a book and get, possibly, one or two useful things from it and you are happy.
10. Your Christmas/Birthday wish list looks like a magic catalogue.





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

April 20th
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

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

If you wish to receive the Flash Paper via a mailed hard copy, let Bob Gehring know.

Email: gehringerr@cox.net

Text: 402 690-5146

Everyone will continue to receive the emailed version.

13405 Marinda ST.
Omaha, NE 68144

