The Flash Paper
November 2026

"Enjoying magic...with others...for others."

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Adam's Antics

A Month Full of Magic!

October was an incredibly magic-filled month! Between performing shows, spending time with family, and enjoying some great moments with fellow magicians, there was certainly no shortage of magic.

One of the highlights was having my parents visit and experience Vala's Pumpkin Patch for the first time. It was especially fun getting to perform for them and share a little more of the world I spend so much time in.

Wedding Bells & Magical Moments 💍

I also had the opportunity to perform at a wedding reception at Le Bouillon in downtown Omaha. I wanted to mention this one specifically because, surprisingly, I don't get hired for weddings nearly as often as you might think!

I imagine most couples tend to stick to traditional wedding entertainment, but this couple wanted something a little different. It was an adults-only celebration, and they were such a fun, enthusiastic group. I love seeing couples break away from tradition and create an experience that reflects their personalities.

Who knows? Maybe they're starting a new trend. More magic at weddings, please!

Pizza, Prestidigitation & a Packed House! 🍕

October's Monday Night Magic meeting was another huge highlight. Pizza & Prestidigitation was a tremendous success, with one of our highest attendance numbers! A huge thank-you to every magician who volunteered their time and talents to make the evening so special.

Something I think is worth recognizing is just how generous these performers are. Many of the magicians who entertained us that evening regularly command hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars for their performances. Yet they showed up simply to share their love of magic with our club members, both young and young at heart.

For those of us who perform professionally, it's a wonderful reminder of the caliber of magic we're all striving toward. And for those just beginning their magical journey, what an incredible opportunity to see firsthand what years of practice, creativity, and dedication can produce.

That's really what makes these club gatherings so valuable. We get to learn from one another, appreciate the craft, and hopefully leave a little more inspired than when we arrived.

Big Illusions & Pumpkin Patch Magic 🎃

My shows at Vala's Pumpkin Patch were also a blast this year! I had the chance to feature some larger illusions, including my Zig-Zag and Palanquin appearance illusion. The audiences really seemed to enjoy seeing

some larger-scale magic, and I love that it brings a different flavor to the entertainment lineup.

Speaking of that lineup, I think one of the things that makes Vala's so special is how different each performer is.

Arthur brings his incredible yo-yo skills, juggling, and seemingly superhuman feats, while Jeff Quinn has his quick wit, fantastic audience engagement, and routines that fit the pumpkin patch atmosphere perfectly.

Jeff performs an incredible number of shows throughout the season, and I always find it inspiring how he manages to breathe new life into every performance. It's a great reminder that even when we're doing the same material over and over, every audience deserves to experience it as though it's the first time.

When Magic Meets Science 🔬

Another fun October event was performing at the Luminarium for their Halloween celebration. The museum welcomed its young members for a day of exploration, with a little magic sprinkled throughout. What an inquisitive group of kids!

I did find it amusing that these children were spending their day in a science museum learning how the world works, while I was standing there seemingly breaking all the rules they were learning!

Naturally, that only made them more determined to figure everything out. Sometimes the more curious the audience, the harder we magicians have to work. Haha!

Taking a Bite Out of the Big Apple! 🗽

Looking ahead, Lane and I have a fun trip planned to New York City in early November. We're going to see *Stranger Things: The First Shadow*, a production I've wanted to experience for quite some time, especially before it closes.

While it's not a traditional magic show, it's packed with theatrical effects and illusions, and I cannot wait to see what they've created. I'll be sure to report back with my findings!

I'm also hoping to visit a magic shop or two and soak up as much of the New York magic scene as possible.

MAGI-Fest, Here We Come! ✨

I also recently registered for MAGI-Fest in Columbus, and I'm incredibly excited about the lineup and seeing so many familiar faces.

If any OMS members are considering attending but have questions or are hesitant about making the trip, please reach out! I've attended around four times now and would be more than happy to share my experiences and help you navigate the convention.

It's an incredible opportunity to learn, connect, and recharge your enthusiasm for magic.

Your Turn to Share the Magic!

Finally, our upcoming November meeting should be a lot of fun! The idea is simple: bring a trick you've been working on and share it with the group. Whether it's something polished and ready for an audience or a work in progress that could use a little feedback, this is exactly the kind of environment where we can help one another grow.

Fortunately, I'll be able to attend this month's meeting, and I hope everyone takes advantage of the opportunity. Some of the most valuable lessons in magic come from simply sharing ideas, trying things out, and getting feedback from people who appreciate the art as much as you do.

Thank you all for continuing to make the Omaha Magical Society such a wonderful community. October was a great reminder of how lucky we are to be surrounded by people who share this strange, wonderful passion of ours.

Keep the magic alive!

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

The Flash Paper

November 2026



Patrice Fisher

October is always a busy month for magicians. So, for our strolling-magic evening, we feared first, that we would not be able to get volunteers to perform and second, that our member turnout would be small. Those worries were put to rest when some of our best magicians stepped-up to entertain members, their families, and friends. **David Fox, Jered Schaugaard, Bruce Jacoby, Neil Babel**, and even one of our junior magicians joined in the fun! Our President, **Adam Schacht**, corralled 65 adults along with several young magicians-in-training as folks settled on a table to wait for the "Let's Eat" que. The pizzas were exceptional with many choices for everyone's taste. Cookies were consumed quickly as the table magic began.







David, Bruce and Neil performing.

This year our junior magicians were invited as a new start from their summer vacations. Would they enjoy and hopefully benefit from the evening? The pizza would be a hit, but what about their attention to the performances? That trepidation was allayed when one student's mother wrote her impression of the evening:

It was a stroke of genius to include the Discover Magic class to the event on October 19th at the Joslyn Castle Carriage House! The kids were able to see professional magicians up close, in their element, who love what they do, and who are good at what they do. It gave the kids the opportunity to envision themselves as magicians in adulthood. Learning to do the techniques well requires perseverance, so being able to look ahead into the future can be motivating. Seeing things from the audience's perspective could help them think about their own performance techniques, remind them of tricks they would like to work on, give them ideas for new tricks, and how they would like to interact with their own audiences one day. Also, letting the kids have a night of just enjoying magic brings the 'magic' of the magic alive!

It was a very enriching opportunity for the Junior Magicians, and wonderful to see how much they enjoyed it. I really appreciate the teachers who volunteer their time and put their hearts into what they do. They are top quality, and the magicians who performed in the carriage house did a fantastic job of helping the Junior Magicians feel included and entertained. Thank you to the magicians of the Omaha Magical Society for all that they do in supporting the Junior Magicians!

Let me echo the Thank you to the magicians and a fantastic audience! Thank You for the leadership of our OMS magicians. Their energy, creativity, and the active mentoring that they give to others, makes our club events so successful, and fun! Our CARE Team has been very active this year. We have added two new assisted living facilities! That makes three new groups of seniors to give our gift of strolling magic every month!



The team is very dedicated and we would welcome new volunteers. New magicians would not only perform new illusions for folks, but we hope to add more locations to bring more joy to those who really look forward to our magic once every month. Here are shots from our recent Sunday at our newest senior living facility.

If you would like to join our group for an hour of magical fun at different places in Omaha (and get some good practice from supportive folks) please contact us!

Your good works are so appreciated. Thanks, **Patrice Fisher, Tim Begley, Neil Babel, Tom Gray,** and **Nathan Roberts.**





Tom, Nathan and Neil performing as Care members.


Monday Night
Magic
SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY
SHOW AND TELL
Bring some cool magic tricks you've bought or learned, or just come to see magic tricks you might want but just don't own yet!
Of course we'll have our prize raffle drawing AND the unveiling of our Abbott House historical plaque too.
THIS PROPERTY
HAS BEEN PLACED ON THE
NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES
BY THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Monday, November 16, 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.

MORE ROPE MAGIC



As you can see from the picture, the last time we had Bruce Jacoby come and teach a class on rope magic the response was so positive that we've invited him back for another class!

Monday, November 30, 2026 • 6-8 PM • The Abbott House (3316 Center Street in Omaha).

There is no charge for this class. You don't need to be a club member to attend.

ABBOTT HOUSE MAGIC CLASSES

MAGIC CLASSES



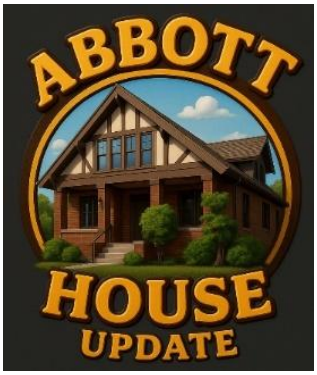
Abbott House Performance Series

in the Donna Roth Little Theater



Our first performer is
The Amazing Arthur
Saturday,
November 21

The Flash Paper
November 2026



Darren Kauk deserves a shout out for spending fourteen hours of his day on Monday both supervising a team and using his own hands-on knowledge and skill to install a much-needed new furnace and air conditioner at The Abbott House!









The basement floor has been resurfaced and the ceiling and walls painted to create our "Speak-Easy" atmosphere in the basement which we have named "*The Cellar*".

Abbott House Charter Member Reception

On Friday evening, November 6th, Abbott House Charter Members met at the Field Club Country Club for a reception and unveiling of a plaque honoring their willingness to financially support The Abbott House at its very inception back in September, 2024.

As you can see, the plaque is framed in the same style as our club charter (signed by Houdini), and both will be displayed in The Abbott House.

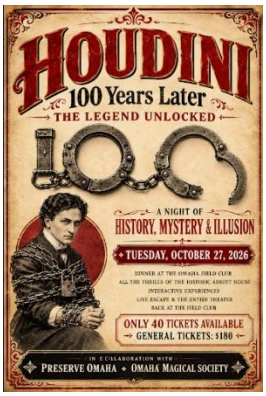






The Flash Paper

November 2026



Thirty-three guests got all dressed up in commemoration of Houdini's 100th Anniversary of his passing with a delicious meal at the Field Club Country Club and then experiencing three events held in different parts of The Abbott House.
THANK YOU to **Steve Lindeman**, **Thomas Gray**, and **Tim Begley** for performing close-up magic for the guests during dinner and **Patrice Fisher, Adam Schacht**, and **Mike and Trina Ware** for their parts in the three features at the house!
When guests tour the house for the first time, I'm always encouraged by their consistently pleasant surprise at what they experience.
AND we were able to use The Cellar with its new floor for the first time too!















As one of our three Abbott House features, an actor named **Dennis Stessman** did a one-person ten-minute monologue as Houdini. Dennis plays Bob Cratchit in The Omaha Community Playhouse's production of A Christmas Carol.

The Flash Paper November 2026

The One-Ahead Principle

The one-ahead principle suffers the indignity of being explained in nearly every beginner magic book, always sandwiched between a trick that requires cutting a trapdoor into an oatmeal container and instructions for turning a length of dowel into a magic wand. Surrounded by company like that, it's easy to file it away as something you're meant to outgrow. I certainly did at one point.

But one-ahead is far more powerful than its humble surroundings suggest.



I have a couple of different approaches I use, but I'll give you the easiest and most universal one.

Billets: I just use small slips of paper. Or, if I'm somewhere that has blank-backed business cards on display, I'll take a few of those.

Labelling: I don't bother with any subterfuge that allows me to label each billet #1, #2, #3, or otherwise identify them. The best methods for doing this typically require some prep and working off a stack of business cards—two things I want to avoid. And the versions that *don't* require preparation tend to feel more suspicious to me than simply *not* labelling them.

In fact, I'm not sure labelling makes a ton of sense logically. There's no real *need* to know the identity of the billet from the outside. In a sense, they're already labelled **on the inside** with the information we were supposedly writing down in the first place. So labelling just highlights the idea that maybe you're going to try to pass one off as another—which is not something I think you want to plant in the spectator's mind.

Handling: I don't do any sleight-based switching either. This is all I do…

I write down the force item on the first slip, fold it into quarters, and ask my friend to put it in their pocket.

I have them name the first item.

I write that down on the second slip, fold it into quarters, and have them put it in their pocket with the other one.

They name the second item.

I write that down on the third slip, fold it into quarters, and have them put it in their pocket.

Now we go through the force procedure.

I have them pull the slips out of their pocket and dump them into my cupped hands.

Letting them hold on to the slips feels like you're being extra fair. When really, having them put the slips in their pocket, remove them, and dump them into your hand is a natural way to confuse which slip is which.

I open all of them toward myself.

Then I recap. *What did you name first?* Lay that one down. *Second?* Lay that one down. *And for the first time, what was the* [card you chose, item at your number on the list, word in the book, or whatever]? Pause a beat, then lay down the final one.

This, to me, feels about as straightforward as it gets. There's no overproving and nothing that feels oddly structured for the sake of making the trick work.

The mistake people make with the one-ahead structure is treating the force at the end as the price they have to pay to clean everything up. So they'll do some quick Cross-Cut Force or something just to get it out of the way.

When really, the procedure lives and dies on the strength of the force. I think you should consider a one-ahead structure as a way to **build out a really strong force**. You might have an incredibly deceptive force, but on its own, it's over too quickly to really resonate. Making it the finale of a one-ahead routine gives that force the buildup it needs to really register as impossible. But if the force is weak, it can make the method behind the entire routine transparent.

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

The Flash Paper
November 2026



This month's Magic Event is on Monday

November 16th
7:00 – 8:00 pm
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).

Nominations for club officers can be made by contacting Joyce Chleboun at jddiamondmagic@gmail.com or Ryan Chandler at oldmarketmagician@gmail.com. Voting will take place at our December meeting.

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