



The Flash Paper September 2025

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

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Prez Adam's Antics

What a magical month
it has been!

We kicked things off
with our Boys Town
Magic Show. A huge
thank you to all of our
close-up performers,
and to those who

brought food and side dishes to share. After the close-up performances, we moved the students into the beautiful theater, where I had the pleasure of producing my first full stage show since college (for those who may not know, I hold a degree in Theater Management - so it was great to put that to use again!)



Our lineup was nothing short of first-class: **Ryan Chandler, Amazing Arthur, Fantastic Jack, the Lindys, and Dave Arch** all gave stellar performances

that made the evening shine. If you missed it this year, don't worry - I have a feeling we'll be doing it again next year!



Teller was glad he was able to reconnect with Carl Schrat, the previous owner of the Abbott House.

The magic didn't stop there. The very next week brought one of the most special experiences of my life: spending time with **Teller** at the Abbott House with our core donors. It was an unforgettable moment to ask questions directly to such an iconic professional. The following day's show with the pre-show meet and greet was equally memorable. My favorite part? Watching everyone interact with **Penn & Teller** - it was hilarious when they walked in and the room went completely silent, everyone expecting them to perform, when in reality, they were just there to hang out!



The show itself was incredible. It was nearly identical to the one I saw in Las Vegas this past May, but I didn't mind seeing it all again. What stood out most was Penn's absolute mastery of misdirection, banter, and improvisation—he truly bends the show to his will. And seeing Teller transform from his conversational, thoughtful offstage self to the silent onstage persona was surreal.



That Saturday, we celebrated with **Phil and Suzanne Hardiman** for their generous donations to the Abbott House: authentic ivory, and contributions to the Okito Room: a beautiful kimono, and a multigenerational bed, among many other items. They also pledged annual contributions to the House. It was an emotional, heartfelt day for all who attended.

On a personal note, my family from Michigan came to visit and even joined me for a show in western Nebraska. It was invigorating to hear their feedback—they especially noted how much my humor has grown in the act. I've always just tried to make sure the show works, but as Penn demonstrates, humor is such a powerful tool for misdirection and guiding an audience. To hear my family recognize that was very meaningful.

And finally, looking ahead: mark your calendars for our September Monday Night Meeting—pizza, fellowship, and the 2025 AbraCornDabra close-up competitors! Join us on September 15 at 6:30 PM to witness **Brian E., Trevor G., Jared B., and Denny R.** It promises to be another great night of magic



August Picnic by Matt Spielman

In lieu of our typical monthly meeting, members of the OMS club hosted a picnic and magic show for the residents of Boys Town. Prior to the stage show a fried chicken lunch was provided by the club along with side dishes from members in attendance. Thanks to **Beth Boettcher** for managing the food line.

Several volunteers performed close up magic during the lunch which for many of the residents was their first time seeing magic up close and in person. Thank you, **Neil Bable**, for assembling the close-up magicians and for providing a great first impression of our club at the Great Hall, a fantastic venue for walk around magic.

After our luncheon the group moved to the Boys Town Music Hall. This was my first time stepping into the historic building which was constructed in the 40's and I was impressed by the scale of the building and the care that went into recent renovations. **Adam Schacht** provided emcee duties and kicked off the stage show for the final event of the day. **Ryan Chandler, The Amazing Lindy's (Connor the Magnificent, Steven the Great Lindini, and the lovely Miss Ella)**, along with **Arthur and Jack Fratelli** and their *Amazingly Fantastic Show* wowed the crowd for over an hour with their professional stage acts.



We were treated to fantastic renditions of the zig-zag lady illusion, mentalism crowd work, precision card throwing, self-illuminating lightbulbs, and a juggling routine among other entertaining acts.

Adam's Zig-Zag Lady routine



Rex and his dad, Ryan



Author and his son Jack



The Lindys



Everyone singing Happy Birthday to Pete.

Rounding out the afternoon **Dave Arch** performed a routine that was popular in the vaudeville era but seldomly seen in the last few decades, a version of David P. Abbott's *Spirit Paintings*. An empty wooden picture frame and light bulb were presented to the audience, Dave then brought up **Pete Petrashek's** daughter to the stage to examine and sign two blank picture canvases. The crowd was then informed that the performance was dedicated to Pete's upcoming 100th birthday as Dave placed the empty canvases into the frame along with a warning of paranormal influence. The stage lights were cut off and all that was in view was the backlit picture frame and blank canvas, slowly but surely an image began to emerge. As the image came into view Pete's daughter confirmed that the signed canvas now contained a painting of **Pete** and his wife **Babe**, the canvas was given away as a souvenir and is currently on display in their home. Thank you to the OMS club and all the volunteers that put together a memorable afternoon, this is one of my favorite events for the year and the feedback from the Boys Town residents echoes the same.



A special shout-out also goes to **Dave Arch** for the extra time, effort, and thought he put into the *Spirit Painting Illusion* and gift for our 100-year-old member, **Pete Petrashek**. It was a very emotional moment and a beautiful tribute to Abbott.



Some of our walk-around magicians in action at our Boys Town Picnic!





Monday Night

Magix

**3RD
ANNUAL**

SPONSORED BY
THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY



FEATURING PIZZA AND PRESTIDIGITATION

A Godfather's pizza buffet combines with sodas and an hour of Close-Up In The Corners™ - featuring the acts of our members who entered in the close-up competition at the 2025 AbraCORNdabra Convention.

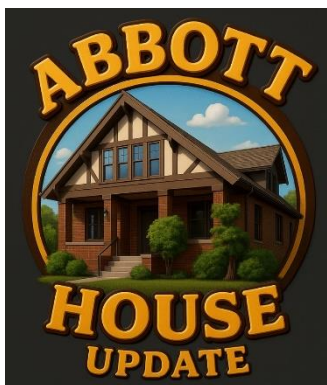
Each close-up performer presents in one corner of the room;
the audience will be divided into four groups;
and each performer rotates to a new group at the conclusion
of their fifteen minute routine.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED TOO!

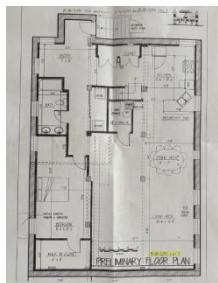
SIMULTANEOUSLY BROADCAST ON ZOOM:
<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>

\$3.00 SUGGESTED DONATION PER PERSON
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 | | 6:30—8:00 PM (CDT)

The Cross Training Center • 5030 N. 72nd Street •
Omaha, Nebraska



APARTMENT BIDS GATHERED



Contractors are being asked to submit bids during the month of September for construction of the apartment on the lower level of The Abbott House.



Teller sharing while visiting the Abbott house
Check this Face Book link for his interview.

Teller's Interview At The Abbott House

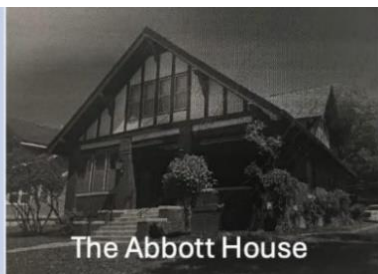
STAY UP-TO-DATE ON YOUTUBE

Be sure and follow our Abbott House YouTube channel for regular video updates.



Abbott House Update with Patrice

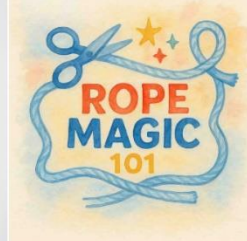
<https://youtube.com/@abbotthouse>



The Abbott House

Part Two (10 minutes) of the Abbott House interview with the Omaha Public Library podcast is now available at:

https://youtu.be/jQfrem5_DQU?si=7N2gnDDRbGxuvAxP



The next Abbott House class is Sunday, September 21, from 2:00 - 3:30 PM led by Bruce Jacoby.

There is no charge for any of our Abbott House classes. You don't need to be a club member to attend.

To let Bruce know of your interest, just message Bruce at bruce@colorfulmagic.com

THANK YOU, Bruce!



OMS 2026 Projects and Initiatives



MONDAY NIGHT MAGIC

On the third Monday night of each month, the OMS will sponsor an event entitled Monday Night Magic at The Cross Training Center (5030 N. 72nd Street) in Omaha.

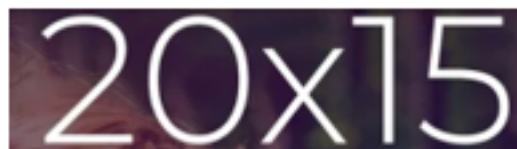
We will refine the themes from the past that met with strong positive reaction from the membership and replace those that didn't.

Each event will involve a learn-a-trick section, a 2026 continued emphasis on improving our performance skills and another ever-changing twenty-minute component. Some events will encourage family attendance.

Events will last from 7-8 PM except for lectures which would last from 7-9:00 PM.
<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org>

20 x 15 Funding Initiative

Considering the board not wishing to raise our annual membership fee from \$20 per year (so anyone may join), a challenge will be extended in October 2025 to identify 20 members who'll commit \$15 per month for a year to cover the club's on- going monthly operating expenses as seen on the next page.



Contributors will be thanked with three exclusive events throughout the year. Dates to be announced.

<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/donate>

Hall Rental - \$50

Monthly Snacks - \$27

Associate Members Rental - \$4.00

Constant Contact Database - \$35

OMS Website - \$17

Newsletter - \$125

Online Membership Directory - \$8

Liability Insurance - \$79

Non-Profit Association of the Midlands Membership Fee - \$4.00

TOTAL - \$349 per month



Abbott House Classes



Building on the strong response in 2025, we will continue offering adult magic classes down at the Abbott House once per month on a variety of magic-related topics.

There will be no charge for these classes.

<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/magic-classes>

Long-Term CARE Facilities Performances



Continuing to build on the strong growth of this initiative in 2025 we will continue to expand the number of members on the CARE team – bringing close-up magic to long-term care facilities.

<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/care>

Magic In the Hospitals



We will add two videos in 2026 to our Magic in the Hospitals twelve-video library for the twenty children's hospitals who have joined our network.

<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/hospitals>



Abbott House Apartment



Helping to ensure the Abbott House's financial viability for many years to come, the apartment on the lower level will be completed.

It is projected that rent from the apartment will pay for 90-100% of the Abbott House's on-going fixed expenses.

Abbott House Little Theater



When we secure a \$10,000 donor/sponsor, an intimate theater space will be created in the second-floor master bedroom – installing for performances of some of David Abbott's inventions and featured performers.

Abbott House Members' Events



The twelve Abbott House memberships have been purchased.

In addition to using the house for their private events at no charge, there will be three Desserts and Deceptions events held during the year for members and their spouses/partners – featuring nationally acclaimed magicians. See the Enhanced Lecture Series entry for more information.



Endowment Fund



The establishment of an endowment fund will help stabilize the financial solvency of the club for decades to come by building a fund where the principle is not touched but the interest is invested back into the club's special projects.

<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/donate>

Non-Profit Partnerships Fund Raising



In 2026 we will partner with a non-profit on three events to help them raise funds through hosting an Open House at The Abbott House.

<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/fund-raising>

Junior Magician Discover Magic™ Programming



As the local licensee of the Discover Magic™ curriculum for the State of Nebraska, we will continue expanding our teaching and leadership team of Junior Magicians between the ages of 8-12.

<https://discovermagic.com>



Enhanced Lecture Series



Due to the partnership with The Abbott House, the club's lectures in 2026 will all be those of international reputation.

Those members who attend magic conventions regularly will be scouting for lecturers with national notoriety.

The three 2026 lectures will have the lecturer present to the club on the third Monday of a given month and perform for Abbott House members the Sunday night before.

Due to the sharing of expenses between the club and The Abbott House, we will be able to bring in the lecturers – selecting them based on their expertise as opposed to only their availability.

AbraCORNdabra Convention Attendance



In 2026 we will continue to promote attendance at the AbraCORNdabra magic convention in Des Moines as a cost-effective way to continue exposing our members to a wider sense of community with others outside of our immediate area.

<https://abracorndabra.com>



AbraCORNdabra Convention Attendance

Tri-State Magic Party



In 2026, we'll be joining magic clubs in Kansas City and Des Moines for the Tri-State Magic Party in Des Moines. Date to be announced.

Abbott House Lien Forgiveness



In September 2026, we will hold a celebration of Teller's forgiveness of the lien on the Abbott House (with the club then owning the house free and clear).



Magic Club Leaders' Blog

In 2026, we will continue documenting what we're learning about maintaining a successful magic club and for sharing ideas with other magic clubs, we will continue to add to our blog.

Magic Club Leaders

<https://magicclubleaders.com>

When you visit the blog, you'll see 300+ magic club leadership posts as well as two catalogs of additional club resources.

<https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/resources-for-magic-clubs>

2026 Membership Drive

Between January 1, 2026, and February 1st, we will be promoting the \$20 annual membership in The Omaha Magical Society. As a thank you for either joining or renewing their membership, each person will receive the following:



100% Impromptu!

EFFECT: The magician begins “What parent hasn’t wished they could tell whether their child was lying or telling the truth?”

I recently took an online course that advertised that they were able to teach me to do just that.

May I try out with you the principles they taught me? I think I’m getting better.”

With that introduction, the participant decides in the privacy of their own mind to either be an obedient or a disobedient child.

The magician then gives the spectator a ring to hold behind their back. In the role of the parent, the magician now gives a series of commands in a very parental voice which the participant either obeys or disobeys – depending on which type of child s/he chose to be.

As they bring their hands from behind their back, the magician asks only one more question and immediately not only knows which hand holds the ring but also whether or not the participant chose at the beginning to be an obedient or a disobedient child.

Bad Boy may become your go-to magic trick when asked to do some magic, and you forgot your deck of card.





THE FALL AWAY RING

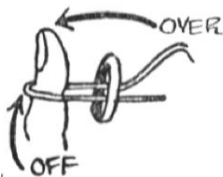
A ring is placed on a loop of string and the ends of the loop are set over a person's fingers.



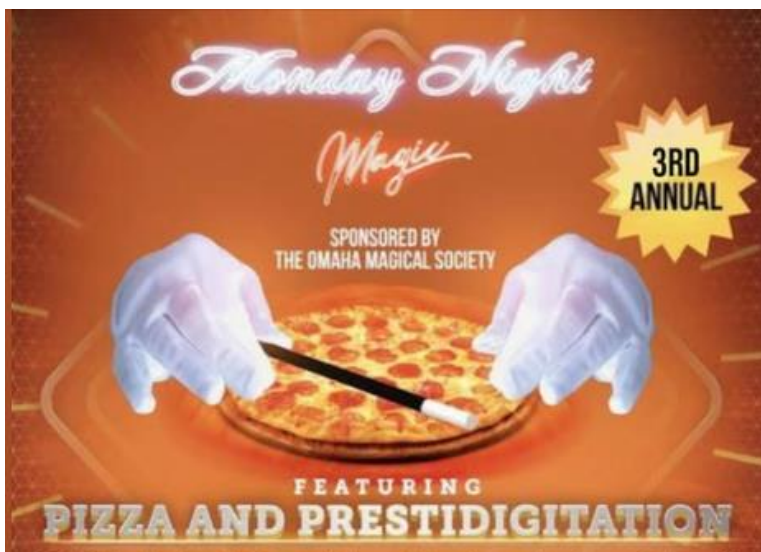
The ring seems to be there to stay.

Yet without taking the string from the fingers, the magician causes the ring to fall off the double loop!

The Secret: Slide the ring to a finger. Put one strand of the string over the finger and past the loop, then remove the loop already there. The ring will drop.



From *Magic Made Easy* by Walter Gibson. Used with permission



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

September 15

6:30 for pizza

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Or just click on this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108> (which is the same link we use for all of our monthly meetings).



[Omaha Magical Society -
S.A.M. Assembly #7](#)

2025 OMS Officers

President - Adam Schacht schacht2222@gmail.com

Vice President - Steve Lindeman amazinglindy@gmail.com

Treasurer - Bob Gehringer gehringerr@cox.net

Secretary - Patrice Fisher patricekfisher@yahoo.com

Executive Director - Dave Arch samassembly7@gmail.com

Check out our website:

<https://omahamagicclub.org>