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David P. Abbott House FAQ's

By Dave Arch (OMS Executive Director)

We attempted to anticipate some of the more frequent questions that might arise after the announcement of the club acquiring ownership of The Abbott House in partnership with Teller. The following questions were our best guess. Others will be included in the October issue of The Flash Paper.

Q. Where is the David Abbott House located?

A. It's located at 3316 Center Street in Omaha, Nebraska.

Q. What's so special about the Abbott House?

A. This article from the Omaha World Herald expresses it better than I could: <https://bit.ly/3z6oEtv>

Q. Why would the club want to own the house?

A. With the acquisition of the house, the club expands its base to include both those who enjoy magic as well as those who enjoy the preservation of Omaha history. The OMS board believes this heightened public visibility for the club will continue achieving the purpose of our club as stated in our constitution:

“To promote and advance the art of magic and to secure its
general recognition as one of the performing arts.”

A partial vision for ways we hope to use the house in fulfillment of that purpose can be found on our website at: <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/mystery-house>

Q. Will we hold our Monday Night Magic events in the house?

A. Due to the house's room configurations and the limited off-street parking, we will not be holding our monthly events in the house but will instead be using the house for special occasions throughout the year.

Q. Did Teller really give the club the house?

A. Not exactly. Teller purchased the house from the seller and put a lien on the house for the amount of his loan to the club. If The Abbott House is a self-sustaining tribute to David and Fannie Abbott after twenty-four months, his loan will be forgiven, and the house will be fully owned by Omaha Magical Society, Inc.

Q. So will the club need to make payments on Teller's loan?

A. No. There are no payments required and no interest accumulates for the twenty-four months.

Q. What happens if the venture fails?

A. In a worst-case scenario, ownership of the home would transfer to Teller.

Q. Is there an Abbott House board?

A. Yes. There is a group of five members on the Abbott House board primarily selected due to their relationships within Omaha's philanthropic community and their willingness to make introductions to those foundations for donations to the house.

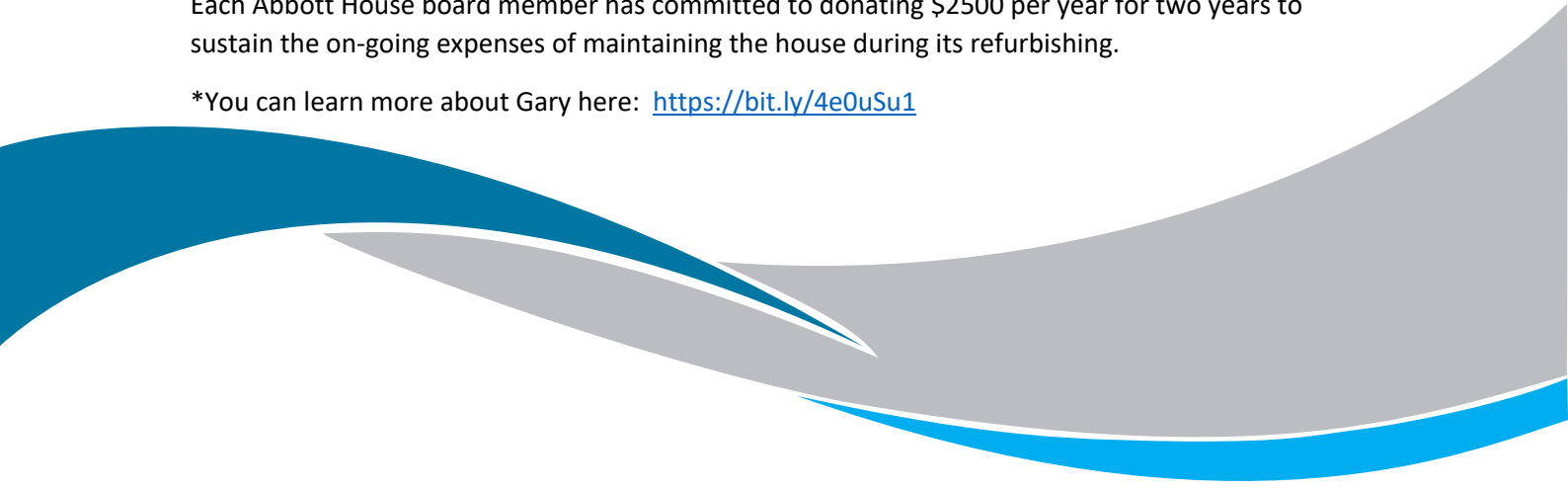
Gary Gates*, a member of the Omaha Magical Society has been taking private magic lessons from me for the past four years and serves as the Chairman of the house board. Our Treasurer Bob Gehringer serves as ex-officio member on that five-member board and a liaison between the house board and the board of the club. He will keep the books for both entities.

I also serve as an ex-officio member of the house board, and the primary person who will approach the various charities for donations to the project.

Since the house is owned by the Omaha Magical Society, the Abbott House Donor Board serves under the authority of the magic club's board.

Each Abbott House board member has committed to donating \$2500 per year for two years to sustain the on-going expenses of maintaining the house during its refurbishing.

*You can learn more about Gary here: <https://bit.ly/4eOuSu1>



Q. How will the club pay for the refurbishing the house?

A. If you visit <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/abbott-donation> you can see the various ways finances will be raised to refurbish the house in addition to the foundation grants for which we'll be applying.

Donation of furnishings will also be needed. As you look at the various pictures of the house in its original state, you might even think of some vintage furniture you would be willing to donate in support of the house?

Q. Who will ultimately decide on how the house will be refurbished?

A. Although we are working with an interior designer, Teller has the final word on the refurbishing of the house to bring it back authentically to the time when David and Fannie Abbott lived in the house (circa 1920's).

Q. Will there be someone living permanently at the house?

A. Yes. The club will have a Resident Property Manager living in an apartment at the house on a full-time basis. It will be announced when that person has been selected.

Q. When will club members get to tour the house?

A. The twenty donors and their spouses/partners who have contributed to the club's 2024-25 annual 20x15 fund raiser will be the first to tour the house with a set of two thank you receptions hosted by the OMS board scheduled for the evenings of Friday, November 1, and Saturday, November 2. You can read more about that fundraiser on our website at: <https://theomahamagicalsociety.org/donate>

More Questions?

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