



# The Flash Paper

## December 2024

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

**Bob Gehringer, Editor**



### A Letter From Lindy

This is the last Letter from Lindy, as **Adam Schacht** begins his term as president of the

O.M.S. In an effort to keep the board of directors intact I will move to V.P., **Bob Gehringer**, and **Patrice Fisher**, will remain in their positions as treasurer, and secretary respectively. The last two years have been very rewarding as the club has made many strides forward. Just a few things that came about thanks to many dedicated club members: In addition to the junior magicians program, we have added an associate program for older kids. Magic in the Hospitals continues to grow. A new care team has been assembled to bring magic to seniors. Club spirit shinned through as we were able to help make Donte's Dream come true. Of course, the biggest thing to happen to the club has been the acquisition of the David Abbott House of Mystery. A gigantic undertaking. With so many creative ideas coming from club members, I know this is a project we can be proud of far into the future!

Two days after Christmas you can keep the spirit of the season alive by joining other members at the annual Boys Town holiday event. While the kids of Boys Town enjoy a spaghetti luncheon, you'll stroll table to table amazing them with your close-up magic. It all takes place at the Great Hall on the Boys Town campus, Friday, December 27, starting at 11:00. It promises to be a great time, ask anyone who helped last year. If you're

able to join us, please contact me to sign up and get additional details.

For the last two years, I have highlighted a different magician at the top of all my columns. As this is the finale edition, I thought I'd feature an up-and-coming magician. In fact, I chose three of them. That's my three grandsons pictured above. Brothers **Connor** and **Callen**, and cousin **Steven III**. They have been taking lessons and performing for years, and now open many of my shows. Connor and Callen placed first in the Omaha Show Wagon talent contest. At a different location, Steven placed second with his solo act. Last year Steven and Connor teamed up in the Kernals Showcase at AbraCORNdabra, and got rave reviews. They all entertain at school talent shows. It will be fun to see where their magic takes them next.

I hope everyone has a great holiday season and looking forward to a fantastic 2025.



We are so looking forward to having the roaming magicians at our pasta lunch this year. This special event is for the residents that are not able to go home for Christmas break. The event is scheduled for Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, with the first service starting at 11:30 and the second service beginning at 1:00 PM. The location is The Great Hall, 13747 Flanagan Blvd (the same location as last year). Your participation makes this a very festive event.





### November Re-Cap

By  
**Matt Spielman**

Kicking off the November OMS meeting was an abbreviated voting session for next year's board of directors with the current board running unopposed. Due to a 2-year limit for the role of President **Steve Lindeman** was moved to the role of Vice President with **Adam Schacht** taking over as President of the club. **Bob Gehringer** will continue his role as Treasurer along with **Patrice Fisher** as Secretary. Everyone in attendance took part in a vote and made the changes official, congratulations to Adam in his new role and thank you to everyone on the board for all of the behind-the-scenes effort you put in to keep the club moving forward every year. Before moving on to the main event **Steve Lindeman** announced that the annual Boys Town luncheon will take place on December 27th at 11:30AM at the Boys Town's Great Hall. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Steve at [amazinglindy@gmail.com](mailto:amazinglindy@gmail.com), it is a great event and the residents of Boys Town are a tremendous group to perform for.



**Travis Nye** was the focus for the rest of the night with performances and breakdowns of a few items from his popup shop. Travis has over 17 years of experience performing magic and currently owns and operates his own venue in Sioux Falls, SD. A few classic card and coin tricks (mental photography, marked cards, scotch and soda, etc.) were performed and along the way Travis went over his changes in patter and routine to make them fresh and fit his performance style. He also went over pocket management and few items he likes to keep on him along with tips on transitioning between tricks that allow for seamless deck switches when using gaffed items. Rounding out the night everyone in attendance was offered a discount to items in the popup shop



complete with demonstrations and honest reviews prior to purchase. Thanks again to Travis for the wonderful performance and his honest take on items in the shop, I will be performing a few of my purchases at the Boys Town luncheon and encourage everyone to volunteer if they have the time. See you there.

## Discover Magic Families Discover the Abbott House



The Christmas tree sparkled invitingly next to the cozy fire awaiting the arrival of the Discover Magic students and their parents. **Steve Lindeman** and **Patrice Fisher** had extended an invitation to tour the Abbott House as a holiday "thank you" to all. Now it was just a matter of seeing who would arrive at the designated time on a beautiful, albeit brisk Sunday afternoon in November. Soon, nine guests, kiddos with their folks, arrived!

We began outside, walking around the side, passing the hitching-post for horses that still stands strong after a century of Omaha weather. Just imagine the tales it could tell of guests and magicians arriving, for a show perhaps? Walking around to the front of the house, we took a moment to admire the roomy front porch with its unique "icicle" shaped light. We opened the front door to an entryway or front vestibule that could be used for whatever purpose, but now has our guest book perched near the French doors that open into the parlor. The parlor is where most of the magic happened, in front of a still beautifully tiled fireplace.



For those of you who are reading about the Abbott House for the first time, we recently acquired the property, with the goal of creating an homage to Abbott and the incredible illusions that he invented and performed only in the confines of his comfortable, Craftsman.

As our guests stepped inside, as if frozen in time, we highlighted the many original details that have been kept in pristine condition in this century old home. In the dimly lit parlor the amazing inventor and magician, **David P. Abbott**, and his “confederate” assistant and wife, **Fannie**, would perform for their guests. Abbott built this beautiful brick home in 1913-14, and it became his main stage when hosting magicians visiting Omaha after they performed at the Orpheum Theater. The home was tricked it out with his illusions like the Talking Tea Kettle, Floating Ball, and Spirit Pictures (spiritualism being a huge curiosity and interest of that period). During our walk-about, one of our young magicians named **Noah Kroeger** was very interested in the details of how the home was set up to hide the secrets of



Abbott’s illusions. As a student of the magical arts, Noah is fascinated with the science and engineering of a magic effect. Was his wonderment first cultivated during the annual Christmas shows performed as part of the festivities at Noah’s home by their family friend, **Walter Graham**? Yes, Noah, as a wee lad of single digits, was privy to the magic of our life-long member and major character in the story of the Abbott house and the Omaha Magical Society.

house. He gingerly handed the bulb to one of our students, Drew, and told him to be careful with that delicate artifact and to hold it “away from your body.” Actually, holding it out was a better visual for what was to come...Lindy instructed Drew to pull the invisible cord from the bottom of the bulb and ZAP the bulb turned on and glowed brightly, until, with another pull, it obediently turned off. Our guests were delighted to have magic as an appropriate end to their tour.

After our tour concluded, while unplugging the tree, it occurred to me that we had come full circle. Yes, we were back in the parlor, but that is not the full circle that I mean. If it were not for his curiosity about David Abbott, Walter Graham would not have discovered a lost Abbott manuscript that he proceeded to complete and publish to honor the man that he so admired. The book that was self-published in 1977 was entitled **David P. Abbott’s Book of Mysteries** and promoted by Graham in the Society of American Magicians magazine.

That was only half of our full circle. The rest of the circle was completed by our benefactor for the house, Teller, from the Penn and Teller master magician team. Years earlier, as a young student of magic, Teller read Walter’s book (whom Graham attributed to Abbott as the original author) and wrote him a fan letter. That book sparked Teller’s interest and his research about David Abbott, and in the years to follow, a steadfast friendship grew between Teller and our O.M.S. member Walter Graham. So, the circle was made complete with our student tour. The relationship between our beloved member Walter Graham and Teller had led to Teller’s acquisition and donation of the Abbott House to our Society. Now, it is our club’s mission to recreate the atmosphere of the “House of Mystery” and make it a destination for magic in the Midwest, dedicated to the legacy of Omaha’s own David P. Abbott.

*The Omaha Magical Society has published a book about the man and his house, written by a local investigator with the pseudonym Miss Cassette. The book is entitled **Mysteries of Omaha: The House on 3316 Center Street**. It is a well-researched account about the house, known as The David P. Abbott House of Mystery and the man who built it. It is available through our Omaha Magical Society for a donation of \$135, or more, of course, if you desire.*

For a magical finale, The Amazing Lindy showed everyone an “old” light bulb found in the bowels of the



*Monday Night*  
*Magic*

# 2024

3RD ANNUAL  
**HOLIDAY PARTY**

In honor of the holidays, we've ransacked the club's magic closet and gathered armloads of holiday presents for those who attend December's Monday Night Magic.

Everyone joining (both in-person or on Zoom) will go home with at least one magic book or DVD. Plus ... it'll not only be fun when we first open our gifts but also when we successfully swipe a gift from another.

Simultaneously broadcast on Zoom:

**[zoom.us/j/4028718108](https://zoom.us/j/4028718108)**

No charge for attending this event.

**Monday, December 16, 2024 | 7-8 PM (CST)**

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



## The Year in Review – 2024

See past issues for full articles.



Visiting the Penguin Magic Studios while at Magifest.



February's impromptu restaurant magic, brainstorming, and performance session was won by the group with Trevor Groenjes demonstrating.



Members demonstrating favorite sleightless card tricks



Dan Fleshman as our guest lecturer.



To help introduce more young magicians to the Art of Magic, we hosted “Super Saturdays



OMS Associate Magicians



We demonstrated favorite tricks from Mark Wilson's book.



Our club hosted an excellent evening pizza party with lots of camaraderie, sharing, laughter and excitement at this year's **AbraCORNdabra** Convention.



Our magic club shares with other magic clubs meeting themes, meeting activities, and leadership strategies. In June we shared our 400<sup>th</sup> Blog Post.



Pizza and Prestidigitation



**Emilia Puertas** and **Easton Boettcher** were awarded Scholarships to Tannen's Magic Camp provided by **Doug Taylor** and his company.





**Doc Eason** was our lecturer in June thanks to the generosity of **Doug Taylor**.



**CARE**

The Omaha Magical Society



Our CARES project for performing magic in retirement centers is starting to bear fruit, performing at Rose Blumkin, the Florence Home and Ovation Heartwood Preserve



Roger and Jered



Dave awarding the trophy to Larry  
The Anti-Competition Competition



Ryan Chandler assisting Dirk Losander



Thank you to our many article authors this year without whom the Flash Paper issues would not be able to express the enthusiasm of the Omaha Magical Society. They are: **Steve Lindeman, Matt Spielman, Neil and Jill Bable, Steve Osborn, Dan Rasmussen, Burke Groenjes, Roger Reese, Steve Nespore, Tom Gray, Adam Schacht, Patrice Fisher, Dave Arch and Larry Brodahl** who completed his over two years of articles on **Larry's Logic**.



## ANNUAL PICNIC



Thank you, Teller, for entrusting the Abbott House to  
The Omaha Magical Society



## Snippets from Facebook



Dave Arch

Admin · November 12 at 5:29 PM · 🌐

Yesterday a reporter stopped by the Abbott House to gather information about the house's architecture for an upcoming feature article. She was accompanied by an architect from the Abbott House neighborhood who specializes in vintage architecture.

It's amazing for me to see the different reasons The Abbott House captures people's interest.



OMS member **Jered Schaugaard** has volunteered to teach a series of Basic Card Sleights classes starting in January.

Please contact him to express your interest at:  
[jered.incredible@gmail.com](mailto:jered.incredible@gmail.com)

Those who are interested will determine amongst themselves the most convenient day, time, location, and number of sessions to fit their schedules.



Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



Watch for information on our  
2025 January Membership Drive

## Monday Night Magic

**Monday December 16th**

**7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Cross Training Center  
5030 N. 72<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE

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

### 2024 OMS Officers

**President** - Steve Lindeman ..... [amazinglindy@gmail.com](mailto:amazinglindy@gmail.com)  
**Vice President** - Adam Schacht ..... [schacht2222@gmail.com](mailto:schacht2222@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer** - Bob Gehring ..... [gehringerr@cox.net](mailto:gehringerr@cox.net)  
**Secretary** - Patrice Fisher ..... [patricekfisher@yahoo.com](mailto:patricekfisher@yahoo.com)  
**Executive Director** - Dave Arch ..... [dave@sandler.com](mailto:dave@sandler.com)

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