



The Flash Paper

August 2025

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

Bob Gehringer, Editor



Prez Adam's Antics

July has been a month of motion - new settings, familiar faces, and a healthy dose of magical mischief.

Abbott House Workshop: Cups & Balls

On July 13, we held a special Cups and Balls class at The Abbott House, led by **Ryan Chandler** and **Theron Christensen (both whom have been on Penn & Teller Fool Us as featured acts)**. It was part hands-on, part history lesson, and all heart. A huge thank you to **Scott Klinger** for bringing in his wide collection of Cups and Balls sets, which gave everyone a chance to see different styles and learn their backstories.

If you didn't own a set, you likely went home with one thanks to a generous donation from **Louis Villamonte**, a fellow club member - another example of how our community supports each other's growth in the craft.

Anti-Competition Recap

Our July 21 meeting featured the return of the Anti-Competition - a fan favorite that highlights what *not* to do in a performance. Thank you to our three brave performers (Matt, Mike & Neil) for putting themselves out there for the sake of laughs and learning, and **congratulations to Mike Bitter**, who was crowned “Best of the Worst” by popular vote. (See above picture.)

Thank you to **Roger Reese** and **Steve Osborn** for setting up the performance backdrop, **Bob Gehringer** and **Jan Welch** for managing check-in and name tags,

and **Bob Miller** for bringing refreshments. And thanks to **Steve Lindeman** for sharing a clear and detailed rundown of the upcoming Boys Town show and **Matt Spielman** for pictures and the monthly report. Let's not forget **Nathan Roberts** and **Tim Begley** who run the Zoom broadcast hosted by **Dave Madson**. Lastly, congrats to all our **raffle prize winners** - you know who you are!

From Desk Job to Chophouse

In personal news, I've transitioned from my former desk job into a new role at **801 Chophouse**. It's been a whirlwind of learning, hospitality, and deep dives into the food and beverage world. During my interview, I shared a magic trick, and since then I've been given tentative approval to carry a deck of cards once training is complete. While nothing is set in stone, I hope to gradually introduce magic to enhance the guest experience in a meaningful, unobtrusive way. This shift isn't just a job change - it's part of a broader vision. I continue to dream about someday launching a magic dinner theater in Omaha, inspired by venues like The Magic Castle and House of Cards. We'll see where the road leads.

And remember: you don't have to be a seasoned pro. Whether you're trying close-up magic for the first time or have done it for decades, you're welcome to jump in and be part of the fun.

Looking Ahead

August and September are already stacking up with shows for me, including returning dates at **Vala's Pumpkin Patch** and a variety of birthday and bachelorette parties. Magic continues to open doors, start conversations, and bring joy - and I'm grateful for each opportunity to keep it alive in Omaha.



Theron Christensen and **Ryan Chandler** met with **Dave Arch** in the Abbott House space that will eventually become The Abbott Little Theater (still looking for a sponsor) to discuss the installation of Abbott's Floating Ball in that space.

Theron has constructed a ball that follows the directions given by **David P. Abbott** in his manuscript discovered after his passing.



Ryan, Dave and Theron



We have issued our tenth bond. Both the OMS board and the Abbott House board have now approved the buildout of the apartment on the lower level of the Abbott House.

The architect is working on the construction blueprints. More details to come.



Mike Ware and his wife have filled our twelfth Abbott House member slot. Welcome. Mike has also agreed to be a new member of the Abbott house board.



Abbott House members may use the house at no cost for personal events and three times per year bring their spouse to the house for a performance of a nationally acclaimed magician at an event we call Desserts and Deception.



Might you know of a worthy non-profit in need of funds? Both the OMS club board and the Abbott House board have approved the use of The Abbott House to help other non-profits with their fund raising. We still have two openings available in 2025. You may read more and even have the organization apply on our website here: <https://bit.ly/44xppIT>



On Saturday, July 19th, magicians gathered at the Abbott House to focus on what many refer to as the oldest trick in the book, "The Cups & Balls." The class started out with introductions followed by a demonstration by locally renowned cups & balls artist, **Ryan Chandler**.



Though Ryan taught one of his original routines, it appeared as though a spell had been cast within the house, for everyone in the room was able to perform the routine smoothly... except Ryan. Fellow "Fool Us" alumni, **Theron Milo Christensen** then took over the reins by displaying his two-cup & ball routine which showcased how to direct an audience's attention exactly where it needs to be at the right moment. Theron then led a discussion on thoughts and approaches to building and presenting an original routine. After the discussion, Ryan was able to finally shake off the curse of the cups and perform his street routine featuring wand spin ball vanishes and multiple final loads.



To end the day, sorcerer historian, **Scott Klinger**, reached into his endless bag of mystery to bring out his cups and balls collection while providing context as well as a dash of history to each set. The course was fun-filled and time seemed to disappear as if by magic. A huge thank you to **Louis Villamonte** for donating sets of cups and balls to those who attended.

NEW Abbott House August Class

When a magician says anything like "Here I have an ordinary deck of cards. Now I'm going to have you pick one ...", no audience can stay awake. We know that.



However, did you know that our own **Larry Brodahl** has written an eBook on the subject of how to get the most out of entertainingly scripting your magic routines for maximum audience engagement?

On **Thursday evening, August 28th from 7-9 PM**, he'll be teaching strategies from his book down at The Abbott House and giving each participant a copy of his book when the class is over.



Might any of your routines benefit from some freshening? Let Larry know of your questions and/or your intention to attend by emailing him at labrodahl@gmail.com.

There is no charge for this Abbott House class.



[Steve Nespor](#) and **[Joe Cole](#)**

have agreed to join our growing Abbott House faculty with both Steve and Joe agreeing to teach a magic class down at the house this Fall.

Thank you, Steve and Joe.



Monday Night

Magic

OUR 15TH YEAR

PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE!

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY

BOYS TOWN PICNIC AND SHOW

If you'll bring your family and a side dish, the club will provide the chicken as we feed and entertain Boys Town residents.

As you can see, you'll feel transported into a scene right out of a Harry Potter movie.

First close-up magic will entertain the residents, and then a stage show **at the Boys Town Theater** will complete the event.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 2025 • 12 -2PM (CDT)

**Boys Town Great Hall – 13747 Flanagan Blvd
Boys Town, Nebraska**

No charge for attending this event.



Boys Town Picnic and Magic Show hosted by the Omaha Magical Society



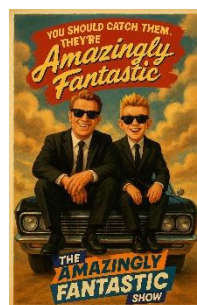
Save the Date!
Magic Club Picnic
with walk-around magic
is back at the
Boys Town Great Hall.
Saturday, August 9th
Noon to 1:00 pm



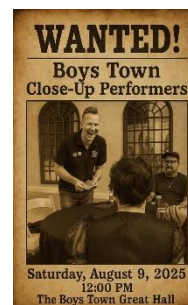
with our stage show at the
Boys Town Music Hall
from 1:00 to 2:00 pm

This will be our August meeting.

The stage lineup includes **Arthur and Jack Fratelli**, **Steve Lindeman** and his grandsons, **Ryan Chandler**, and a special tribute featuring **The Spirit Paintings**.



Boys Town Music Hall



Please **RSVP** using the **Google Sheet** that will be emailed and posted in the OMS Facebook group. If you're planning to do **close-up**, send Adam a **text** at +1(402) 719-1178 - nothing formal, just want a general sense of who will be performing from **12:00 to 1:00**.

We hope you can join us for the Boys Town Picnic and we ask that each family attending bring a dessert, side dish, and/or chips to share with the group. The club will provide the chicken. To RSVP, please enter your information into the shared Google spreadsheet at the link below. We need to have the number attending so we know how much chicken to purchase. We would appreciate having this information by **Wednesday, August 6th**.

Name	Will Attend	Number Attending (including yourself)	Sides(s) and/or Dessert(s) I will bring	Popular Side Dishes	Popular Desserts
Adam Schadt	Yes	0		7-Layer Dip	Apple Dip
Alexander Knight		0		Antipasti Salad	Brownies
Amjad Alawami		0		Baked Beans	Cake
Bob Gehring	Yes	0	1 Fluff Jello Salad	Chorizo/Meat/Cheese	Chocolates
Bob Miller		0		Chips/Dip	Chocolates
Brian Englemann		0		Cobbler	Cobbler
Bruce Jewell		0		Cucumber Salad	Cookies
Carl Brahm		0		Doritos Eggs	Crumble Bars
Charles Link		0		Fluff Salad	Cupcakes
Chase/Kathleen Healy		0		Poor Boy Salad	Pie
Dan O'Connell		0		Peas Salad	Pudding
Dan Rasmussen		0		Honeydew Pops	
Darren Kalk	Yes	0	2 Beef Bean/Chips	Jello	
Dave Arch	Yes	0	1 Potato Salad	Jello Salad	
Dave Mathias	Yes	0	2 Fresh Fruit Salad	Lettuce Salad	
David Michael Fox		0		Mexican Salad	
David Sandy		0		Olive Salad	
Denny Rourke	Yes	0	2 Potato Salad	Potato Salad	
Donna Roth		0		Potato Salad	
Patricia Taylor		0		Spinach Salad	

[OMS Boys Town Picnic 2025](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Rkhjxh11NEaEtAaXuhAxXh_K3tQAJ1P--D5IpJZnzW4/edit?usp=sharing)

or type in this link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Rkhjxh11NEaEtAaXuhAxXh_K3tQAJ1P--D5IpJZnzW4/edit?usp=sharing



July Re-Cap by Matt Spielman

We gathered on a nice muggy July night for our 2nd Annual Anti-Competition Competition which pitted 3 club members against each other to put on their best “worst” magic routine. Members in attendance were given a performance feedback form to help track down which principles were violated in each performance. At the end of the night the winner by popular vote would be awarded the “What’s Missing” trophy, which may or may not be cursed.

First up for the night was myself, **Matt Spielman**, performing a confabulation routine in which a dollar in plain view throughout the performance is handed out after a series of questions and mysteriously has every answer written correctly on the back of the bill. Audience members correctly pointed out the unnecessary lengthy talk about work (vulnerability) along with other principles I didn’t plan on breaking (mumbling, props too small). All in all it was good to get up and perform for the crowd and get immediate feedback to target areas to improve upon for future growth.



Mike Bitter was up next to perform Daryl’s great rope routine “*The Acrobatic Knot*”. Mike kicked off the performance by dropping his ropes (prop management) and knocking his head on the table in the process of recovering, somehow he managed to get back on his

feet to continue the show. As soon as he got back on track he took a loud phone call from his mother breaking up the pacing of his routine, despite all of the antics he was able to get the knot to jump rope to rope rounding out his performance.



The What’s Missing Trophy

Neil Babel rounded out the night with his delightfully odd collection of tricks. Neil brought up Linda, an audience member, and produced several colored eggs while incorrectly calling out the colors during his long winding story about his color blindness (instructional clarity). During his card performance he gave wildly unclear instructions to the trick but with the right amount of crazy he kept it funny and entertaining with a whiteboard reveal of their chosen card.



At the end of the night **Mike Bitter’s** performance was chosen by popular vote to have the best of the “worst”. It takes a great amount of skill to keep a routine entertaining while purposefully bombing, Mike’s personality and skill were on full display and was well deserving of the trophy. I am looking forward to a 3rd annual competition and hopefully we can see some new performers on stage showcasing their skills.

And welcome to our new member, **Joyce Hansen**.



FOUR KINGS



Use a paper lunch sack instead of a hat, and you'll be able to show your audience how you warm up before you begin performing card tricks.



The magician shows four kings from a pack of playing cards. He puts them in a hat with the pack.

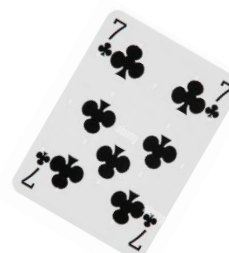


The hat is shaken and the cards are mixed; yet the magician reaches in and brings out the kings (maybe after two failed attempts?)!



The Secret: Affix a paper clip to the four kings. Hold your thumb over it. You can find those four kings any time you wish!

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





PENN & TELLER

50TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR



AUGUST 14 | ORPHEUM THEATER

**TICKETS
AVAILABLE
NOW**

orpheum
omaha
performing
arts

TICKETOMAHA.COM



The rumors are NOT true! Penn and Teller's show in Omaha is NOT sold out. And they will be using large video screens to ensure every seat's a good seat!

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1CghDGamUT/?mibextid=wwXIfr>



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Popular comedy and magic duo **Penn and Teller** are celebrating their 50th anniversary together with a tour that brings them to Omaha's Orpheum theater.

The duo will be coming to Omaha on August 14. They are also set to have [stops](#) in Chicago and Indianapolis. Tickets are [available online](#), and start at \$64.75.

This event will be supporting the [Omaha Magical Society](#), with a portion of each ticket going to help fund Omaha's [Abbott House](#).



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

August 9th
Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Picnic at
Boys Town Great Hall
followed by show at
Boys Town Music Hall

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>

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