



# THE TARBELL TRIBUNE

DEC. 2024

## IBM RING 43 NEWSLETTER

### The Month & Upcoming

Next Meeting: Friday,  
December 13th at 7:00 pm  
**Holiday Party @ Mr. Beef  
and Pizza in Mt. Prospect**  
(bring a guest for free, add'l guests  
are \$15/per.)

As any Game of Thrones fan jumps at the opportunity to say "winter is coming", it feels as if it's already arrived. Hopefully the holiday season is a busy time for our professional ring members, and for our entire ring family; we hope you find opportunities to spread the joy of magic with your family and friends.

We are very excited for our annual Ring 43 Holiday Party, hosted by our friends at Mr. Beef and Pizza in Mt. Prospect. Join us for an evening of good food, great friends, and fantastic magic by our very own members. Please respond to the evite emailed separately if you haven't already.

Personally, I'm reaching my one year mark since I answered a post on Instagram from our VP Brielle to (attempt to) fill the massive shoes of our former newsletter editor, Danny Rudnick. I want to express my own gratitude for the support and open arms I've experienced since joining the ring and contributing. I decided to become more involved in Ring 43 because I wanted to hold myself more accountable to magic and learn from the community. While magic remains a hobby for me, I have aspirations to cross the line into the professional realm in 2025.

I am thankful for the support of Ring 43 of myself and all members. I strive to uphold our mission of lifting up all magicians that come through our doors, and creating a safe place for all members to achieve their goals in magic.

## Last Month: EDC / Impromptu Magic

The meeting began with a Magic, Incorporated Dealer Demo by **Pedro Nieves**. He had a card selected (2H) and brought out his assistant, a mechanical chicken, which correctly found the card.

Next came a rope trick where two assistants grabbed the ends of a long rope. Pedro bundled up the middle in his fist and, when he opened his fist the rope was a fraction of its original length (The Idiot's Rope Trick).

Next he did Bob Brown's Four Card Monte. Finally, he caused a rope to penetrate through his waist!



First up was **Terrence Hunter** who vanished a small silk with an eye printed on it. He also did the Mismade Bill, which featured a triple change. Finally, he got John Sturk to assist and did a torn and restored sweetener packet.

**Mike Kamlet** showed a psychic dollar bill. His volunteer selected a digit from the serial number, which appeared in a little word balloon next to the picture of George Washington. He also showed how to make Washington smile or frown on command.

Mike then performed a card trick using Steve Youell's presentation and Cervon's Perfect Speller for the ending. Mike had a card selected and lost in the deck. He then asked the spectators a series of questions, to which the answers would spell/count down cards, eliminating all possible explanations as to how he was able to get the spectator to deal to their selected card.



**John Hutsebaut** did his Eye Ring routine where a finger ring with a small eye on it penetrates onto a rubber band and then off again. He also demonstrated and explained Touch, an effect where he wraps a rubber band around his hand, and then it jumps onto a spectator's hand when they say "Jump"!

**Paco Perez**, with his daughter's assistance, asked three questions and spelled out the answers with cards. They used the cards chosen to find the final card (the Houdini Card) and then showed their prediction in the envelope, which matched.



**Craig Reeder** placed eight objects on the table and he and Pedro took turns eliminating objects. Pedro was finally left with a matchbox which matched the prediction.

**Asher Stuhlman** always carries a deck of cards and he picked John Sturk to help. He held the deck in his left hand and John held his wrists apart and closed his eyes. When John opened his eyes, the deck was teleported to Asher's other hand!

**John Sturk** was next. He did the Three Ball Transposition where three balls jumped from one hand to the other and finally they all vanished. He then showed an ultra-bright self-lighting LED light bulb (Shine 3.0).

Finally, Mike did a Back Table presentation on Martin Gardner's "Encyclopedia of Impromptu Magic" and showed off both the Magic Incorporated version of the book as well as the Commemorative Edition, which was ten years in the making.

After the meeting some of the members adjourned to Primo Chukies Mexican Restaurant for additional fun and fellowship.

-John Hutsebaut



## Prez Says...



### *Unreasonable Hospitality...*

I recently finished reading *Unreasonable Hospitality – The Remarkable Power of giving people more than they expect* by Will Guidara. Yes, I read non-magic books too. This book shares how Will took Eleven Madison Park (a 2-star restaurant in New York) to four stars that was ultimately named the top restaurant in the world. While the food of course was very good, what takes a restaurant “over the top” is the service. The author also shared lessons from running the café and gelato cart at MOMA showing the concepts are not confined to fine dining and can be applied to almost any business.

They talk about “the last inch.” Each dish takes a long time planning and training, but could be ruined if a garnish falls off, a smudge on the plate, etc. I experienced this while dining at Next (Paris 1902 menu). My wife and I saw the server coming with the next course and just as he’s close to the table he turns and returns to the kitchen. Moments later he returns, apologizing and explaining that one of the flower garnishes (which was very, very small) had fallen off and it needed to be fixed. Another example is to provide seamless service. The author describes how they used hand signals so right after the host seats the table, the server immediately comes with the correct type of water; or how they developed a check-less coat check system.

I experienced this when I dined at Alinea – yes the food was good with some memorable dishes including the edible helium balloon. But the thing I still talk about is the end of the meal. When we were finished, the server thanked us for dining (the bill was pre-paid) and said he were welcome to stay or leave at any time. We walked downstairs where the host also thanked us for dining and as we walked outside, there was our car waiting at the valet – it felt like a magic trick. The book also briefly describes a magic trick they developed with Dan White and Theory 11 for a dessert course (so magic does seep into my other reading).

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## Lightning Round Q⚡A

**Joshua Jay**



*As Joshua officially releases his long awaited *Particles System* this month, we caught a few moments of his time*

**Q: What was the most challenging skill or principle you had to master, and how did overcoming it shape your growth as a magician?**

A: If we're talking about sleights, certainly a double lift unlocks the most possibilities for great card magic. People fuss about faro shuffles and bottom deals, but those two sleights aren't required for most hard-hitting magic. A double lift is a sleight you can't live without.

If we're talking about "skills," for me the skill I fuss about most is assembling a show that isn't just a collection of tricks. This is something I have spent my whole life trying to master, and I don't feel I have grasped it. But maybe some day...

**Q: Can you share a moment where a performance went completely wrong? How did you recover, and what did you learn from it?**

A: Probably the most high-stakes failure I've had was when I got busted doing a Vernon Transfer on the TODAY Show. Totally, utterly humiliating. I was young and naive about what to do on TV, and Holda Kotb was an obnoxious host--but it was my fault for trying a new routine on TV and not road-testing it. After that, I haven't put anything on television that I haven't seriously road-tested for weeks or months or longer.

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Q&A continued...

**Q: How do you balance technical mastery with storytelling to create a truly memorable experience for your audience?**

A: My advice here is to be ruthless with your material. I see magicians who take the brave step of pairing their magic with a personal story or a beautiful presentation...which is a fine first step. But at some point you have to ask...is the magic actually **ENHANCED** by the presentation? And if it's not, it has to be cut.

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*Happy Birthday*

John Huebler  
Todd Jabaay  
Pedro Nieves



Please join us in welcoming our newest Ring 43 member, **Ian Murray**, when you see him at our monthly meetings.

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*Unreasonable Hospitality Continued...*

I'll leave you with one last story showing the critical importance of hospitality (doesn't matter how good the product is – sorry it's another restaurant example). There was a restaurant that closed 10 years ago called Hot Doug's (we were regulars). Even though it was a very successful business (lines down the block), Doug decided it was time to step away. Doug chatted with everyone as he took their order (despite the long lines), and as it was a cash only business he seemed "flexible" with his pricing especially for his regulars.

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## Events Calendar

**Dec 13** Holiday Party\*  
**Jan 17** EST-Content Night  
**Feb 20** TBD

Meeting location is graciously  
hosted by



1838 W Lawrence Ave. Chicago, IL 60640

\*Location at Mr. Beef & Pizza in Mt. Prospect

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**Chicago Magic Lounge** - Shows Every Night!  
[chicagomagiclounge.com](http://chicagomagiclounge.com).

**Magic Inc.** - Support your local magic shop!  
For more info, call 773-334-2855 or  
[magicinc.net](http://magicinc.net).

**Club Meetings:**

**S.A.M. Assembly 3**—Now meeting at Magic Inc, first Monday of the month 6:30pm.  
[www.magicalchicago.com](http://www.magicalchicago.com)

**Conjurer's Corner Magic Club**—Fourth Monday, Mr. Beef & Pizza, 1796 S. Elmhurst Rd., Mt. Prospect.

**Magic Masters**—Fourth Wednesday, The Station Pub & Restaurant, 6657 South Street, Tinley Park.

**Mazda Mystic Ring**—Second Thursday, Knights of Columbus Hall, 10 Villa Court, Elgin.

**S.A.M. Assembly 106**—Second Monday, The Timbers, 1100 N. River Rd., Shorewood.

**S.A.M. Assembly 148**—Third Monday, Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church, 314 W. Valette St., Elmhurst.

### *Unreasonable Hospitality Continued...*

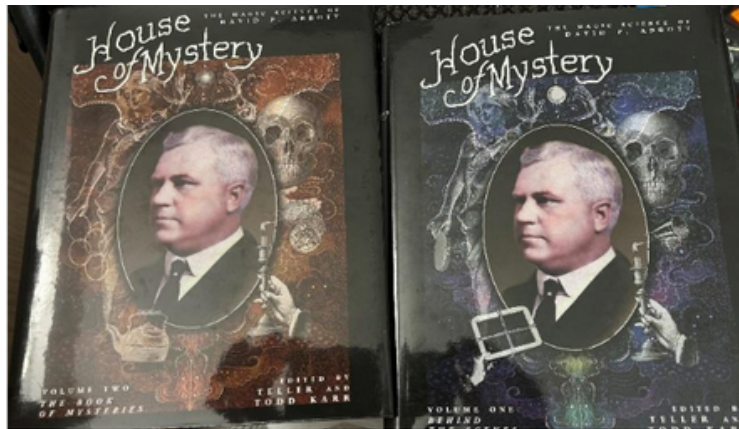
On weekends, it was not uncommon to wait over an hour to order (remember this is for a hot dog), and there usually was a small line waiting even before they opened. The place had such a fanatical following that some regulars got a tattoo of the Hot Doug logo (which did get them a free hot dog every time they came in – now that's brand loyalty).

After it closed, two of the cooks (with permission) opened their own version called Hot G dogs (down the street from the Magic Lounge) – using most of the same recipes. While the food was still good (maybe not quite as good as the original), the business didn't survive very long. It didn't have the same "vibe"; the same hospitality and was never crowded. When Doug announced he was closing, the wait times increased to several hours (I waited over 2 hours on a weekday) and the final week was even more crazy with people waiting in line overnight (some even ordered, ate and got back in line, while others brought a smoker and cooked a brisket while waiting). Some of the patrons made a sign which I think sums up the experience: "Fries good. Sausages great, but our friend Doug is why we wait."

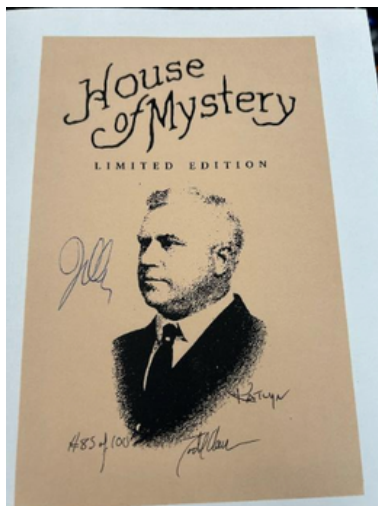
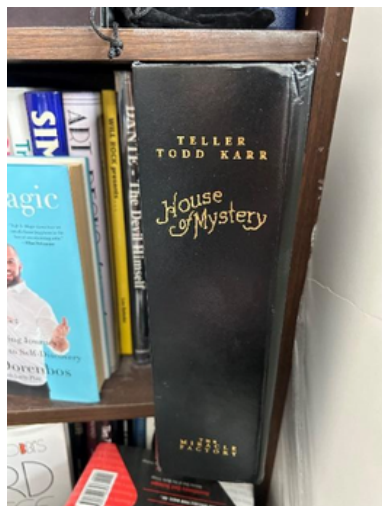
– Mike Kamlet

## House of Mystery

David P. Abbott may not be a household name, but his legacy has resurfaced recently (more on this later). Abbott was a well-to-do amateur magician from Omaha Nebraska who gave performances in his home (the Mystery House) in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to all the famous magicians at the time: Houdini, Keller, Okito, Ching Ling Foo, just to name a few. Abbott's home had built-ins to allow for various effects including his Talking Teakettle. Abbott published his first book, *Behind the Scenes with the Mediums* in 1907. Another manuscript (thought to be lost), *The Book of Secrets*, was published by Walter Graham in 1977 after finding it stored in the Abbott home (Abbott passed away in 1934).



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In 2005, Todd Karr (The miracle factory) and Teller, published a two volume set called *The House of Mystery*.

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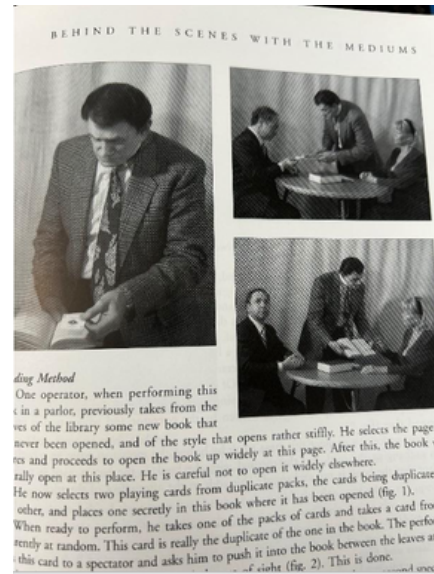
## House of Mystery Continued...

While out of print, these books do appear from time to time in auctions. The deluxe edition (which I have a copy in my collection) commands higher prices and comes with a shell case, DVD, and a signed title page. The books reprint all of Abbott's publications including some lesser known ones such as *The Wonder Girl*, a short overview of psychic Eugenie Dennis and *The Marvelous Creations of Joseffy*, a pamphlet about the inventor of "Balsamo, the Talking Skull"

In the *Behind the Scenes with the Mediums* reprint, photos were added to explain the effects. The "models" that were used were Johnny & Pam Thompson and Teller. Besides the "spirit" effects, there are methods for the linking rings, coins through table, and cut and restored turban (used by Penn & Teller). The books also have historical information on Abbott as well as commentary from Teller.

While this book is almost 20 years old, David Abbott has been in the news recently. In September, the Omaha magic society, in partnership with Teller, purchased the Abbott home (for \$387,000) with the goal of opening in 2026 to carry on Abbott's legacy and be able to show Abbott's creations in the original setting. The November issue of M-U-M details how the Omaha magic club reached out to Teller and more information can be found on their [website](#).

- Mike Kamlet



Trinity Services of New Lenox is joining with the Magic Masters, a Tinley Park, IL group of magicians, to present "Magic of the Holidays". This is a show of professional magic presented by members of the Magic Masters, which was founded in 1944 and is a club whose members perform in nursing homes, senior citizen facilities, and charitable organizations.

Trinity Services, Inc, founded in 1950, is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization that provides the highest quality person-directed services and support to people with developmental disabilities and mental illness so that they may flourish and live full and abundant lives. Their services are partly funded by entertainment programs at the ROXY THEATER in Lockport, IL.

Professional magicians from the Magic Masters will be presenting two shows, a 3:00 pm matinee and an evening show at 7:00 pm.

Tickets may be purchased by clicking the QR code.

## IBM Ring 43 Board of Directors

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