

# WestsideWizards!



S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

JUNE 2022

Next S.A.M. Meeting:

Tuesday, June 14, 7:00 PM

Theme: **The Trick That Fries People Every Time!**

Next S.Y.M. Meeting:

Sunday, June 12, 3:00 PM

Theme: **Rope Tricks and Share Your Magic**

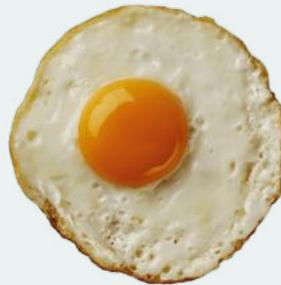
## We're baaaaack!

A return to OPICA in person for some incredible magic...

This is your brain.



This is your brain after attending our next meeting.



Some magic is just always fun to do and, of course, we all enjoy watching a trick we know done well. But some magic is so mystifying that even seasoned magicians ask "how was that done"? Sometimes, the best tricks have our audience members hit so hard they don't even know how to react and, often, they are still thinking about it hours, or even days, later.

Our next meeting will be all about magic that will fry the audience members' brains. It's OK if it's a new trick for you or if it's something you've been doing for years. Just come with something that is really going to fool us all.

We're going to be back at **OPICA at Stoner Park in West LA** (see address and map on the last page) for the first time since our break due to Covid. Let's get together at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, June 14** (second Tuesday, as usual) and have some fun. If you're lucky, perhaps you'll go home with some ideas for tricks you'll want to learn to fool your family and friends.

For those of us who are unable to come in-person, we're going to try to broadcast this meeting via Zoom. We're not sure how well this will work based on the WiFi at the location and sound issues, but it will be worth a try (we're not recording it). So, use the link to the right to try it out but we're not promising it will be studio quality. The best way to see everyone perform is to actually come to the meeting!

**At OPICA's request masks will be required!**

## Upcoming Meetings

June 12 - S.Y.M. Meeting (Online)

June 14 - Fry the Audience's Brains!  
**(In-Person!)**

July 12 - Four Corners

August 9 - Packet Tricks

## Using Zoom

This month, we're going to try to simulcast our meeting via Zoom (with an emphasis on "try").

If you don't already have Zoom installed, go to [zoom.us/download](https://zoom.us/download) to get the free Zoom application for your computer or download it from the App Store for your mobile device.

**Note: Our meeting will start at 7:00 PM, but we will start letting Westside Wizards in around 6:45 PM before opening it up to the public at 7:00 PM.**

**This month's Zoom meeting info:**

**Meeting ID: 853 7662 6405**  
**Passcode: 132100**

[JOIN NOW](#)

**Click on the link above and it will open Zoom and take you to the meeting. You will be then let in by the meeting host.**

# IN-PERSON AT LAST!

## Westside Wizards Reunite At the Magic Castle For May Meeting

After more than two years of virtual meetings, S.A.M. 291 —our own Westside Wizards—relaunched the club’s monthly in-person meetings with a special May 10 gathering at... the Magic Castle!

Assembly president **Dan Cray** had the long-awaited honor of welcoming Wizards members to the Castle’s Albert Peller Theater, which was reserved exclusively for the club. For some members, it was their first-ever opportunity to perform effects for their clubmates on a Magic Castle stage. For two of the members—**John Engman** (also a longtime Assembly 22 member) and **Don Schuster**—it was a chance to meet their fellow Wizards in-person for the first time, since they had joined the club during the virtual years.

As another bonus, S.A.M. member **Woolf Canter** joined the Westside Wizards that day, and **Cydney Kaplan** signed up just prior to the meeting, so everyone was able to welcome the newest members at the very first return to in-person meetings. Club founder/past president **Les Cooper** and treasurer **Doris Roach**, who couldn’t attend, were still able to join in briefly via conference call. Les got the evening’s magic started with his performance of Eugene Burger’s Telephone Card Trick, with some expert on-stage card handling from **Sirinda Sincharoen**.

The meeting’s performance theme was, naturally, “Magic You’ve Been Working On Since 2020!” Heather O’Conner served as emcee, and between the two-year preparation time and club members’ talent, the group was treated to great performances from **Chris Cory, Dan Cray, Raul Fernandez, Brian Schwartz, Alex Scianna**, and two Westside Wizards members who have been featured performers in the Castle’s showrooms: **Cydney**, and **Phil Goodman**.

The night was also a celebration of everything Assembly 291 accomplished during the past two years: having visitors from all over the world attend our club’s meetings, new members joining even though we were online, and hosting guest lecturers in an astonishing 23 of 26 months... including **Paul Draper, Bruce Gold, Shawn Farquhar, Misty Lee, Andrew Mayne, Ice McDonald, David Parr, Alex Ramon, Jim Steinmeyer, Suzanne the Magician**, and **Joel Ward**... oh, and **David Copperfield** popped into our December 2020 meeting. Quite honestly, there are magic conventions with lesser talent lineups than that, and we’re grateful to everyone who spent time with us. – *Dan Cray*



The Magic Castle shows its support during Pride month

# **SYM News...**



**The next online S.Y.M. meeting is Sunday, June 12, at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

There will be some rope magic and an open meeting for you to perform, ask questions, or teach a trick.

If you have read a magic book or received a new trick, we would appreciate if you could write a review to be included in the S.Y.M. newsletter.

We will continue to meet online for the summer.

You will receive a link to the meeting via a separate email.

Enjoy the summer and hope to see you at the meetings.

*Les*  
S.Y.M. Leader

# President's Message

## A word from Dan Cray...



Hi Westside Wizards,

How's this for magic: this month, in-person Westside Wizards meetings return to our usual meeting location at OPICA, in West Los Angeles! Pandemic permitting, that's where we'll be from here on out, on the second Tuesday of every month. My sincere thanks to Executive Director Mary Michlovich and everyone at OPICA for generously allowing us to continue using their facility.

I'm not going to lie: there were months during these past couple years when I began to wonder whether they and the many other treasured places in our city would have an opportunity to reopen. Some didn't, so it's such a relief that OPICA weathered the storm and that our club is now returning to monthly meetings at their outstanding (remodeled!) facility. If you had a chance to join us for last month's special in-person relaunch at the Magic Castle, you know how good it felt to reunite, performing and enjoying magic as a group once again.

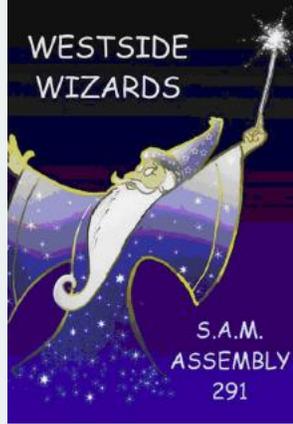
Speaking of our Castle night, holding a Westside Wizards meeting there has been on my personal wish list for, well, *years*, so I'm thrilled it finally happened. Yes, we have many Magic Castle (AMA) members in our club, and yes, I'm one of them, but that's not why I was interested. Enjoyment aside, I feel it's important that our club provides opportunities for our many non-AMA members to visit or perform on Castle stages. It is, after all, one of the world's premier magic locations, and it's right in our backyard. Why *wouldn't* we meet there from time to time? If all goes well, we'll hold a meeting there every year or so. (And maybe sometimes at other magical locations too? Stay tuned...)

But just to be clear, you don't have to perform to share the joy of magic, and that's what I love about our club: we welcome non-performers too. As I've said in past months, we each approach magic from different interests or performance levels, but on any given day every one of us has the ability to lift people's spirits through knowledge and/or presentation of magic.

And now we'll do it again at our June meeting. The performance theme: "The Trick That Fries People Every Time." (Sounds like a can't-miss to me!)

I look forward to seeing you, in person, at the OPICA building in West L.A. on June 14!

*Dan*



The **Westside Wizards** was formed to give the West Los Angeles area a Magical presence and hopes that you will participate and be active in Assembly 291. We also welcome your participation in the youth program with the **Westside Junior Wizards**, Assembly Y141.

## Westside Wizards Officers (2021-2022)

President	Dan Cray
Vice President	Phil Goodman
Treasurer	Doris Roach
Secretary	Brian Schwartz
Member at Large	Raul Fernandez
Member at Large	Jim Witoszynski
Immediate Past President	Les Cooper
M.U.M. Editor	Dan Cray
Newsletter Editors	Phil Goodman & Dan Cray



### Westside Wizards Meeting Location

Stoner Park OPICA Adult Day Care Facility,  
11759 Missouri Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Between S. Bundy Drive and S. Barrington Avenue. Park off Missouri Avenue, next to the ball field

## Past Presidents

2015-2020	Les Cooper
2013-2014	Bill Bedecarre
2011-2012	Frank Padilla, Jr
2009-2010	Raul Fernandez
2008	Les Cooper

**Contact us:**

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[INFO@WESTSIDEWIZARDS.ORG](mailto:INFO@WESTSIDEWIZARDS.ORG) OR [SYM@WESTSIDEWIZARDS.ORG](mailto:SYM@WESTSIDEWIZARDS.ORG) FOR THE JUNIORS**