



WestsideWizards!



S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

APRIL 2023

Next S.A.M. Meeting:
Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 PM
Theme: **Magic With Precious Metals**
(Masks Required)

Next S.Y.M. Meeting:
Sunday, April 16, 3:00 PM
Theme: TBA

Magic with Precious Metals

Our next meeting is going to be a thrilling one! We are delighted that the topic is "Magic with Precious Metals," where we will explore magic tricks and illusions with these fascinating objects.

We invite all members of the Westside Wizards to showcase their unique talent in performing magic with precious metals. This will be an excellent opportunity to share your knowledge and expertise, as well as learn from other members.

We encourage all members to bring along their favorite props and routines that involve precious metals and coins. This could include classic coin tricks, sleight-of-hand routines, and illusions with gold and silver (or any other types of) coins.

We will also have a discussion on the various techniques and methods used to create magical effects with precious metals and coins, as well as share tips and tricks on how to make your performances more effective and captivating.

As usual, we'll be meeting at OPICA (meeting location on the last page) on April 11 at 7:00 PM. Note that OPICA requires masks.

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to expand your knowledge and skills in the world of magic. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!



Upcoming Meetings

- April 11: Magic with Precious Metals (Coins OK!)
- April 16 (S.Y.M): TBA
- May 9: At the Magic Castle

Using Zoom

If you don't already have Zoom installed, go to 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: 863 5658 6192
Passcode: 706854

[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

HOUSE OF (ENCHANTED) GLASS

Wizards' Glassware Skills Are Crystal-Clear At March Meeting

Whether it's wine decanters, mirrors, or the classic crystal ball, many of magic's most elegant effects feature glass... so for the first time, the Westside Wizards featured it too, centering their March meeting on "Magic With Glass."

Alexander Scianna not only used a crystal ball to identify cards randomly distributed to eight people, but to offer fortune-like insights into each individual's future. **Jim Witoszynski** followed by making a miniature Statue of Liberty appear within a translucent cube, an enchanting Tenyo classic.

A good drinking toast is certainly magical, as **John Engman** demonstrated by placing an ace inside four empty wine glasses, along with 12 other random cards. The toasts ensued; suddenly, the four aces had magically assembled in a single glass.



John Engman performing McDonald's Aces with Wine Glasses

Fun fact: **Brian Schwartz** has a "Third Eye." After having a volunteer place three random playing cards into a paper bag, he used that glass "eye" to name the three cards inside the bag. As Brian put it, "The eye has done it again!" **Dan Cray** only has two eyes, but he used them to watch miniature aces appear within a champagne glass as he discussed the uneasy connection between circus performers and playing cards in a presentation of Aces Front.

Phil Goodman brought "special eyeglasses" to locate a marked card within a blue-backed deck... but in this case, the glasses helped everyone in the room since the "marking" was the card's red back. Or was it? Without the glasses present, the card had—gasp!—a blue back.

Did you know the Queen of Hearts enjoys swimming? **Les Cooper** did, and proved it by adding a "magic potion" to a clear lake (an empty glass) to reveal her "swimming" within. But the Queen prefers bigger lakes—in this case, a glass bowl filled with nothing but clear stones (Jelly Marbles). "More magic potion," Les said, transforming the stones to water as the Queen appeared inside the bowl, "and that's my Lady in the Water!"

Other "glassic" treats included **Adele Friel Rhindress**, best known as Blackstone's "Elusive Moth," sharing a glass ornament with an etched butterfly, and **Bruce Schroffel** sharing his first childhood magic prop: a confetti glass he used for producing jelly beans when he was just eight years old.

The club also recognized **Oz S.**, a longtime member of the Wizards'-affiliated Society of Young Magicians Assembly Y141 who was recently accepted into the Academy of Magical Arts Junior Society on his first audition. Oz becomes our sixth (!) SYM member to earn "Castle Jrs." admission, a credit to the magical mentorship of SYM Youth coordinators Les and Phil.

Les noted that former SYM and current Castle Jrs. member **Evan Cray** has now performed more than thirty Castle brunch shows, and recently became a Guinness World record holder for most stage illusions performed in three minutes.

The club itself also received a wonderful surprise: certificates from the national S.A.M. "for participation in Magic Week Activities that further the art of magic" by performing at Shawn's Pumpkin Patch last October.

– Dan Cray



It's official, **Oz S.** auditioned for the Magic Castle (AMA) Junior Society and was accepted into the program on his first try. We CONGRATULATE Oz for his achievement and continued success in both the S.Y.M. and Junior Society programs.

Oz is also on the National S.Y.M. Executive Board, representing other S.Y.M. members with input and suggestions that are discussed at Board meetings.

In last month's newsletter we congratulated former S.Y.M. member, **Evan Cray**, for being the first magician to earn a Guinness World Record for the most stage illusion tricks performed in three minutes. Evan has received his Guinness Certificate and a photo is copied here. Again, we CONGRATULATE Evan on his World Record Title. Oz is the sixth Westside Junior Wizards member to become a Castle Junior on their first tryout.

Evan is also a member of the Magic Castle Junior Society and performs at the Castle for weekend brunches.

The next Online S.Y.M. meeting is **Sunday, April 16, at 3:00 PM.** The Zoom meeting information will be in the S.Y.M. National Newsletter.



Evan Cray with his Guinness World Record Certificate

President's Message

A word from Dan Cray...



Something's been missing.

I've had that thought after each of our meetings this year. Couldn't put my finger on what it might be, but something about our monthly meetings had changed from the way they used to be, pre-pandemic, and I couldn't imagine what.

After our last meeting, I mentioned it to a few people. Other than the winter storm waves (which kept some people from attending the meetings), no one had noticed anything different.

Then, the next day, I received a message from one of our members... someone who had performed the night before. They were looking for constructive feedback on their routine—the good, the bad, maybe a few ideas on what might take it up a notch.

And there it was: the missing ingredient. I suddenly realized we used to give feedback after each magician's routine, as a group, for any performer interested in hearing it. Then the pandemic hit. Suddenly, we grew accustomed to watching via Zoom, with our mouths shut, our microphones silent. And when we finally returned to in-person meetings... nothing changed. We watch, we applaud... we generally stay silent.

Sometimes performers aren't interested in feedback, and that's certainly fine. Also, with our meetings now "simulcast" on Zoom, some magicians might not want to discuss their methods in a forum where someone could potentially record them—again, very understandable.

But in most cases, count me among the magicians who want to hear your thoughts after a performance. Half the joy of our meetings is workshopping effects, so your expertise and your trained eyes are really helpful. Ideally, each of us walks out of that meeting with ideas on how we can take an already good performance and bring it up yet another notch.

Honestly, such feedback was always my favorite aspect of the club, and I can't imagine how I, of all people, could have lost sight of that. But no longer. Starting in April, with our "Precious Metal Magic" theme, I'll be encouraging feedback for any performers who are interested.

So... see you on Tuesday, April 11, for (drumroll) the return of what's been missing.

Dan

Special Auction — This Month Only!!

A few months ago, we auctioned off a hardcover book and said there would be more in the future. The future is now. For the April meeting (we postponed this last month), the book up for auction is:

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF DEREK DINGLE BY RICHARD KAUFMAN

This is a First Edition book, copyright 1982.
Hardcover and 219 pages.

The book is in very good condition and no longer in print.

This book is a collectable.

On Amazon this book is listed for \$200.00 plus shipping.

Yes, we could sell this book on Amazon, but would rather sell it to people we know and the Westside Wizards will benefit from this sale.

Half of the sales proceeds will be donated to the Westside Wizards.

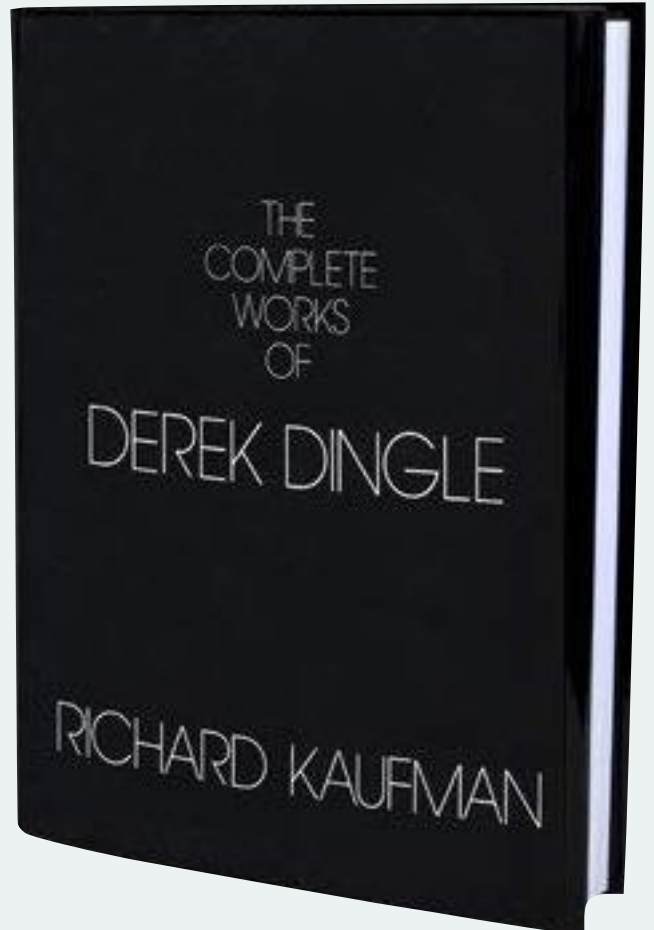
We found these prices in a Google search for this book:

EBay – used - \$199.95 plus \$9.95 shipping.

The bidding will start at **\$75.00**.

Will you be the new owner of this book?

More great books to come in the future



Magic Conventions through 2023

April 2023

April 13-16 **MZvD Jugendworkshop** in Bielefeld, Germany. Website: www.mzvd.de/jugend/jugendworkshop

April 20-22 - **The Senior Tour** in St. Louis, Missouri. Website: www.baskervilleproductions.com/seniortour

April ? - **WonderBash** in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Website: www.morethantricks.com

April 21-23 - **52 Friends Magic Convention** in Hamburg, Germany. Website: www.52freunde.de

April 26-29 - **Obie's 4F** Invitation Only Convention (Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolic) in Buffalo, New York
Website: www.ffffmagic.com

April 29-May 1 - **MagiCon** in Belfast, Ireland. Website: www.online-usm.com/magicon2022

April 30 - **MAWNY** (Magician's Alliance of Western New York): Batavia, NY Website: www.mawny.org

May 2023

May 9-11 - **Collector's Expo** in Cleveland, Ohio. Website: magiccollectorexpo.com

May 19-21 - **AbraCORNdabra** in Des Moines, Iowa - Website: abracorndabra.com

May 28 - **The Darlington Magic Circle May Day** of Magic in Darlington.
Website: www.thedarlingtonmagiccircle.co.uk/news.html

May 11-14 - **Master of Magic** in Turin, Italy. Website: mastersofmagicconvention.com/en/home-english-2023

July 2023

July 11-15 - **IBM Convention** in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Websites: www.ibmconvention.com and www.magician.org

July 23-25 - **Society of American Magicians (S.A.M.)** in New Orleans, LA - Website: www.samconvention.com

July 23-25 - 42. **Magische Sternfahrt** in Saalbach, Austria. Website: www.zaubern.at/magische-sternfahrt.phtml

August 2023

August 6-9 - **Magic Live**, Las Vegas, Nevada Website: www.magicconvention.com

November 2023

November 9-12 - **Pacific Coast Association of Magicians (PCAM)**, Carlsbad, CA
Website: <https://magicshopsandiego.com/collections/new-collection/products/pcam2023>

Other Los Angeles Area Magic Clubs

The Westside Wizards is not the only magic Assembly in the Los Angeles area. Several other Assemblies, Rings and clubs are in Los Angeles. Here is a list of other local organizations:

S.A.M. Assembly 22 (Duarte) meets on the third Monday of the month, sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home

IBM Ring 21 (North Hollywood) meets on the first Thursday of the month. www.ibmring21.org

IBM Ring 96 (Seal Beach) meets on the third Saturday of the month. www.ring96.com

IBM Ring 280 (Santa Clarita) meets on the second Thursday of the month. www.ibmring280.com

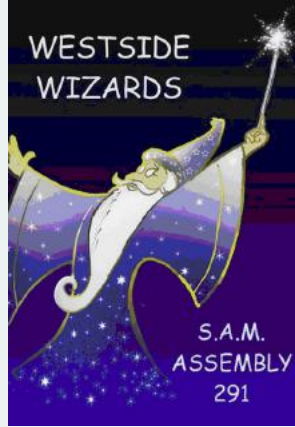
Academy of Magical Arts (at the Magic Castle), www.magiccastle.com

Magic Castle Swap Meet

The annual Magic Castle Swap Meet has been announced for **Saturday, May 6**. Traditionally, this happens in the morning and the best deals area available the earlier you get there. Although the swap meet is open to AMA members and their guests (entry fee required), only AMA members will be allowed in for the opening hours with their guests allowed to enter a bit later.

This is the time to look for great deals on books, props, tricks, cards and more and wonderful gems are found each year. Don't miss it!





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.

Westside Wizards Officers (2023-2024)

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



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

2021-2022	Dan Cray
2015-2020	Les Cooper
2013-2014	Bill Bedecarre
2011-2012	Frank Padilla, Jr
2009-2010	Raul Fernandez
2008	Les Cooper

Contact us: WWW.WESTSIDEWIZARDS.ORG
INFO@WESTSIDEWIZARDS.ORG OR SYM@WESTSIDEWIZARDS.ORG FOR THE JUNIORS