



WestsideWizards!



S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

SEPTEMBER 2023

Next S.A.M. Meeting:

Tuesday, **September 12, 7:00 PM**

Theme: **Your Favorite Card Trick**
(OPICA REQUIRES MASKS)

Next S.Y.M. Meeting:

Sunday, **September 17, 3:00 PM**

Theme: **TBA**

Pick a Card...Trick!

Join us for a spellbinding spectacle at our next Westside Wizards meeting on **September 12 at 7:00 PM**. Dust off your wands and unleash your imagination as we conjure up a magical extravaganza like no other!

Are you ready to unlock the mysteries of card magic? Our next meeting will allow you to do that as the spotlight is on YOUR favorite card trick!

Perform Your Go-To Card Trick! Showcase your signature move! Stun fellow magicians with your skills! Share tips and tricks with like-minded conjurers! Get ready for an evening of wonder and enchantment!!!

Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting in the world of magic, this is your chance to shine! Bring your deck of cards, your best tricks, and prepare to leave everyone spellbound.

Join us for an unforgettable night of card magic and camaraderie. Mark your calendar and, as usual, we'll be meeting at OPICA (meeting location on the last page). Note that OPICA requires masks.



Upcoming Meetings

- Sept 12: Your Favorite Card Trick
- Sept 17: TBA (SYM)
- Oct 10: Halloween Magic at the Pumpkin Patch

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: 891 8395 7043
Passcode: 910110

[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

From the Eyes of A Wizards Wars Judge

Les Cooper

It's been more than eight years since the Westside Wizards hosted a Wizards Wars night.

I honestly have to say that I don't remember much of the 2015 edition, but we have stored the box of 99¢ Only Store "crap" since then. We used pretty much the same stuff again. I did add a few extra goodies to make the 2023 challenge a bit more fun.

There were two teams with four members each.

The Diamonds Team

Bruce Schroffel

Andrew Goodman

Don Schuster

Andrew E. (guest)

The Spades Team

Phil Goodman

Alex Scianna

Jim Witoszynski

Oz S. (S.Y.M. member)

The Judges

Dan Cray

Les Cooper

Andrew E., on The Diamonds Team, was a visitor for the first time (and hopefully not the last), and he played an integral part in the presentation.

Because there were only two teams, the allotted time to come up with a routine using all the "crap" in the box was 45 minutes.

Since I knew what was in the boxes beforehand, I had some thoughts about what possible effects could be presented. However, the two teams had totally different thoughts and ideas. It was okay to use almost any other item that team members brought in for their routine.

Times up...time to present your routine.

I thought I was a Judge on AGT, but no buzzers. The Diamonds Team was first.

Their routine was well thought out and used every item in the box. It was a fun routine to watch, and I think that allowing Andrew E. to use the so-called magic wand, a far* gun, was ingenious, and he had his timing down just right and used the sound effects at just the right moment. Bruce was the storyteller and presented the routine in a very confident manner.

Next up was The Spades Team. Jim brought in a bag of "useful" items that made the routine come together. All the team members participated and used every item in the box, plus many of the items from Jim's bag of surprises. Instead of an expensive Tannen's Mystery Box, Phil came to the rescue with an inexpensive Magic "Crapple" Box. Nice job Team Spades.

Judgement time.

Being the softhearted person (Judge) I am, how could I not give both Teams a perfect score.

My counterpart was a bit more critical and gave the Teams a slightly less than perfect score.

Les to the rescue. When I explained my reasoning to Dan, he caved in and gave both teams a perfect score.

The unexpected happened...two first place winners, but only four first place prizes. The solution was to put all the prizes on the table and let one person from each Team choose a prize in an alternating manner.

From the Eyes of A Wizards Wars Judge, Les (cont.)

If you missed the meeting, you missed being part of a fun, entertaining evening for everyone present. If you are on the Westside Wizards Discussion Board, look for an email from Phil Goodman on August 16, 2023, to a link on YouTube of the meeting. Move the slider to about 1 hour and 7 minutes to see the Wizards War competition.

Nice job everyone and congratulations to all the winners.



President's Message

A word from Dan Cray...



Hello Westside Wizards,

It's hard to believe, but autumn—the peak time of year for magicians—is fast approaching.

With that in mind, what a perfect month to show off “your go-to card trick” (our September meeting theme) to your fellow Westside Wizards. Even your humble columnist, not a particularly notorious card man, will have a couple of my most reliable pasteboard effects at the ready for this month's meeting. Should be fun.

Speaking of fun, last month I was shocked to learn that my presidential predecessor, club founder Les Cooper, is quite possibly the least critical magic judge ever. I mean, there I was, scrutinizing the techniques and performances of our two Wizard Wars teams, when I discovered Les, my co-judge, quickly awarding perfect scores to both teams, in every category! (See Les' Wizard Wars article elsewhere in this newsletter.)

I had to wonder: did team members have the goods on him? Was he currying favor for another run at club president? (“No,” he insists!) Is his gracious acceptance of hasty, heartfelt magic the only reason he likes my routines? ☺

Les' scoring prompted me to re-evaluate my hardline scoring approach... and I'm glad I did, because both teams not only assembled solid routines but were great sports about competing despite being given very little to work with. (I believe the term Les used was “crap.”) The result: a well-earned tie, and prizes for all. Big thanks to everyone who participated.

This month, my peek into the Westside Wizards' crystal ball hints of a pumpkin patch, and offers the fuzzy visage of audiences applauding a magic show starring... our entire club?

All shall be revealed at the upcoming meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing you, and your go-to card tricks, on Tuesday, September 12.

Dan

Westside Wizards Membership News

I have been informed by National that our President, Dan Cray, has been a member of the Society of American Magicians for ten years.

In other Westside Wizards news, the Westside Wizards would like to congratulate charter member and former treasurer, Stephen Levine, on becoming the International Brotherhood of Magicians Vice President. Stephen moved to Tucson and is active in IBM Ring 172.



Open Mic Magic!

Do you want to perform magic with magicians from around the world, including the United Kingdom, Canada, Iceland, India, Germany, and other locations?

Do you want to watch other magicians perform live?

You can sit back, relax, and watch a free magic show, or if you prefer, perform for other magicians from the comfort of your home.

Every Wednesday at Noon, local time (8:00 PM in the UK), Kevin Peel hosts OPEN MIC MAGIC via Zoom. Shows usually last a little over one hour and feature magicians performing with cards, coins, silks, some parlour and more. Here is the link to get your free tickets:

Tickets are FREE

Get your weekly dose of live magic in your home.

So, get your FREE ticket NOW! The link is:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/open-mic-magic>

Open to beginners, hobbyists, semi pros, professional magicians, and anyone who loves magic.

And if you are a magician, hang out with other magicians for lively discussions about magic after the Zoom show.

Hope to see you soon on Open Mic Magic!



Selected Upcoming Magic Conventions

November 2023

November 2-4 - **TRICS** (Carolina Close-Up Convention) in Charlotte, NC - Website: <http://tricsconvention.com>

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

January 2024

January 25-27 - **MagiFest** in Columbus, Ohio - Website: <https://www.vanishingincmagic.com/magic-conventions/magifest>

February 2024

February 16-18 - **Blackpool Convention** in Blackpool, England. Website: <https://blackpoolmagicconvention.com>

April 2024

April 24-27 - **Obie's 4F** Convention (Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolic, Invitation Only) in Buffalo, New York - Website: <http://www.ffffmagic.com/>

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:

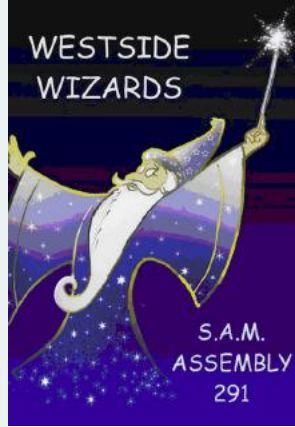
S.A.M. Assembly 22 (Duarte) meets on the third Monday of the month, sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home

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



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
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