



# WestsideWizards!



S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

NOVEMBER 2023

Next S.A.M. Meeting:  
Tuesday, **November 14, 7:00 PM**  
Theme: **Mike Pisciotta Lecture**  
(OPICA REQUIRES MASKS)

Next S.Y.M. Meeting:  
Sunday, **November 19, 3:00 PM**  
Theme: **TBA**

## Mike Pisciotta Fries Our Brains!

If you've ever been to the Magic Castle, you know that one of the highlights is visiting the Hat & Hare bar. That's where **Mike Pisciotta** has carved out his place of residence as the featured weekend bar magician. Mike has been fascinating his audiences for years even before joining the Castle and has since become a legend of bar magic. He has won AMA Close-Up Performer of the Year twice and AMA Parlour Performer of the Year twice, and is no longer eligible to win those awards — otherwise he would continue to do so as he routinely defies logic and destroys minds daily.

We're lucky to have Mike as our November lecturer where he will regale us with tricks and stories. Make sure to come to this meeting to see some of the most "mind-blowing" magic this side of Franklin Ave.

Mark your calendar for **November 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM** and, as usual, we'll be meeting at OPICA (meeting location on the last page). Note that OPICA requires masks.



### Upcoming Meetings

Nov 14: Mike Pisciotta Lecture

Dec 12: Holiday Show with Paul Green

### No Zoom This Month

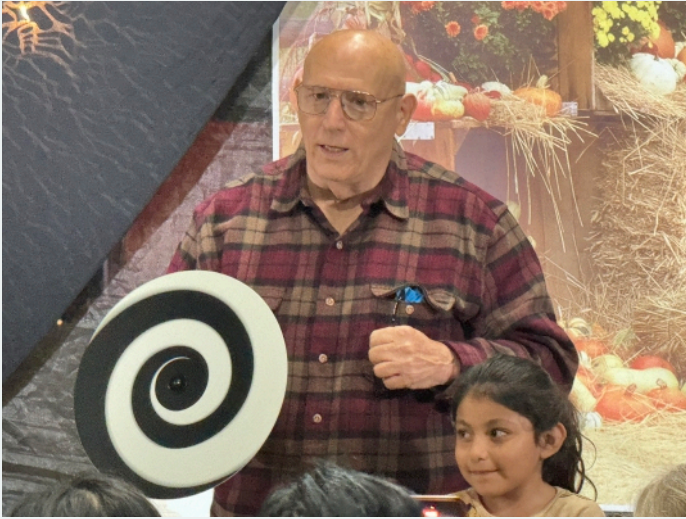
As we'll be having a live, in-person lecture, we'll have no Zoom meeting this month. This will be a great opportunity to meet in-person and have fun with our members.

Please come support our group and our wonderful lecturer by showing up in person!

If you're not a Westside Wizards member and want to attend, there will be a \$10 charge at the door, cash or Zelle.

# Magic at the Pumpkin Patch....

Performing for the Community and Creating Halloween Magic



# President's Message

## A word from Dan Cray...



Hello Westside Wizards,

Hope you had a great Halloween with plenty of treats—and maybe some tricks too. I mean, we are magicians, right?

Last month's pumpkin patch meeting was great fun, and such a different ambience from our other meetings. My thanks to everyone who performed or contributed... in other words, everyone who was able to attend, because all of you made the night a success. The magic went well, and it's nice having a random, public audience enjoy what we do now and then.

To that end, I'm glad I joined **Les Cooper** and **Doris Roach** at the Heyler Realty Harvest Festival last month, where we had a chance to represent the Westside Wizards by performing a show and some impromptu magic for a public block party in West L.A. The enthusiastic reactions were another great reminder of how much people love watching magic.

This month, we welcome an incredible guest lecturer: **Mike Pisciotta**, a resident magician at the Magic Castle who literally leaves mouths agape whenever he performs. It's not often I get to welcome an AMA Close-Up Magician of the Year, or for that matter an AMA Parlour Magician of the Year, but Mike has won each of those awards... twice.

You know that dream we all had when we first took up magic, where we're so crazy good at what we do that audiences act like we're a second coming of Elvis? I've seen Mike have the chance to live that dream during some of his Castle performances... so yeah, I'm really looking forward to his lecture, and this meeting.

Gazing into the crystal ball, I'm seeing a lot of green at our December meeting... specifically, the one and only **Paul Green!** Paul will be performing both his walkaround material and his regular 20-minute show for us as a holiday treat!

The crystal also offers hints about the coming year... and a guest who uses your five known senses to "build" a sixth sense. More on that at this month's meeting.

See you at OPICA on November 14!

# WESTSIDE WIZARDS 2024 DUES ARE PAYABLE NOW USING ZELLE

Last year we asked our members to pay their dues by using Zelle. It was very successful, and we would like to continue this process for collecting your 2024 dues.

Zelle is FREE and available at most local banks, including, Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, One West Bank and more. Zelle is usually located in the Pay & Transfer section of your account. This is an instant transfer and is not reversible, so be sure to send your payment to the phone number listed below.



When you are ready to pay your Westside Wizards dues, set up a recipient in Zelle in the name of **Les Cooper** and phone number **310-621-8104**.

**Westside Wizards dues remain \$25 and \$5.00 for your spouse or partner.**

We will also accept checks made out to **Les Cooper** and sent to our home address, **1937 Midvale Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90025**, or you can pay your dues in cash or by check at our monthly meetings.

Thanks in advance for your continued membership in the Westside Wizards.

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## 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

## 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>

## March 2024

March 15-17 - **Poe's Magic Conference**, in Baltimore, MD. Website: <https://poesmagicconference.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/> May 2024

May 17 - 19 - **AbraCORNdabra** in Des Moines, Iowa - Website: <https://www.AbraCORNdabra.com>

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# 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:

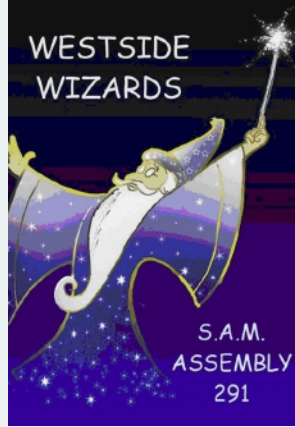
**S.A.M. Assembly 22** (Duarte) meets on the third Monday of the month, [sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home](https://sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home)

**IBM Ring 21** (North Hollywood) meets on the first Thursday of the month. [www.ibmring21.org](http://www.ibmring21.org)

**IBM Ring 96** (Seal Beach) meets on the third Saturday of the month. [www.ring96.com](http://www.ring96.com)

**IBM Ring 280** (Santa Clarita) meets on the second Thursday of the month. [www.ibmring280.com](http://www.ibmring280.com)

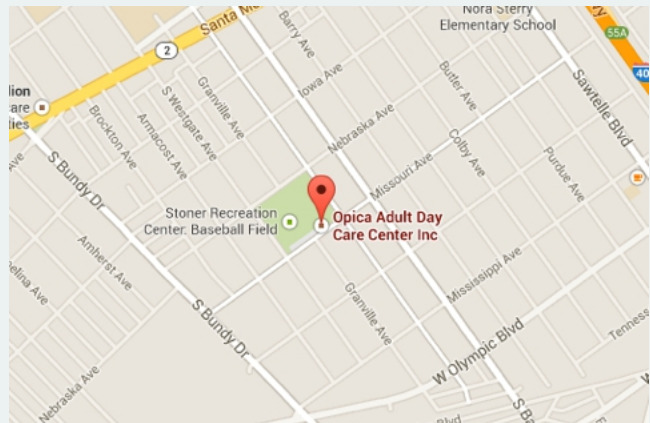
**Academy of Magical Arts** (at the Magic Castle), [www.magiccastle.com](http://www.magiccastle.com)



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