



WestsideWizards!

S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

FEBRUARY 2024

Next S.A.M. Meeting:
Tuesday, **February 13, 7:00 PM**
Theme: **Mark Gibson Lecture**
(OPICA REQUIRES MASKS)

Next S.Y.M. Meeting:
Sunday, **February 18, 3:00 PM**
Theme: **TBA**

Mark Gibson Will Make You Mental

Our lecturer this month will be **Mark Gibson**. Mark is a full time Mentalist from Pasadena, CA, who makes his living traveling the world performing for colleges, cruise ships, corporate events, and theaters. He has been a performing member of The Magic Castle for the past 17 years, and is thrilled to be sharing his creations and thoughts with you!

Mark's lecture will focus on a wide range of Mentalism techniques and routines designed for Close Up, Parlor, and even Stage. This will be a refreshing look at the methods, presentations, and performance of Mentalism for modern audiences, and will equip you with the tools and confidence to get out there and start sharing some powerful Mentalism with your audiences. All of the material taught comes from Mark's own repertoire, and are designed to be streamlined in method, and big on impact. Whether you are a seasoned Mentalist, an accomplished close up worker, or even a stage illusionist, there will be something here for everyone!

Mark your calendar for **February 13, 2023 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

Feb 13: Mark Gibson Lecture

Feb 18: (SYM) TBA

Mar 12: Birthday Magic

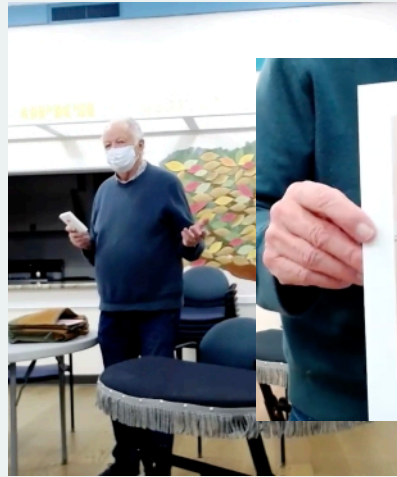
No Zoom This Month

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.

ALL I GOT FOR CHRISTMAS WAS A NEW MAGIC TRICK...

Members Showed Off Bright & Shiny New Magic!

We had a lot of fun playing Show and Tell at our January meeting. Several of our members including Jim Witoszynski, Bruce Schroffel (and his grandkids), Phil Goodman, Brian Schwartz, Alan Litteneker, and Howard Paris performed some great magic! Adele Zoomed in and regaled us with another of her fun stories, too!



President's Message

A word from Dan Cray...



Hello Westside Wizards,

As I write this, Los Angeles is in the midst of a second-straight day of nonstop rain and I find myself thinking, “what a nice excuse to stay inside and rehearse some magic.”

Admittedly, that’s not something most people think about when it rains, but having never lived in Seattle or any other wet locale, I’m that rare person who actually likes rain. I particularly enjoy the way it brings a fresh start by cleaning the dust from our city and the smog from our air. And, with the rain arriving not long after the start of a new year, it ties in nicely with the season when I like to experiment with new effects.

So, for me... rain equals magic.

I experienced a bit of both recently, when family events prompted a visit to rainy London. (Many thanks to VP Phil Goodman for stepping in to host our January meeting.) Though the late, legendary Davenport’s magic shop closed in 2020, I instead found International Magic, which has “only” been open for 60-plus years. I also had a chance to see Gandalf’s staff from the Peter Jackson films (it’s covered in runes!), which was part of a fantasy display at the British Library.

Several years had passed since my last overseas trip so I’d forgotten how deeply magic, as a concept, is embedded in English culture. Small magic cabarets (not to mention our friends at the Magic Circle) are easy to find, as are exhibits with magic-themed paintings and engravings.

Historical sites tied to England’s magical lore are everywhere as well—especially since John Dee, who supposedly possessed a “magic mirror of obsidian,” served as an astrologer for Queen Elizabeth I. Then there’s Treadwell’s bookshop, which offers spiritualism and tarot readings for “modern esoteric society.” To my surprise, the shop was less about rituals and more about the history of worldwide magical beliefs and practices.

Maybe that summarizes magic in England. One gets the sense that while people there enjoy a good show, they also feel a deeper connection, rooted in a history that’s replete with druidic ceremonies, generations of superstitious charms, and the fact Stonehenge is a train ride away. It’s different from magic in the U.S., which is generally considered pop culture entertainment rooted in children’s birthday parties.

Our guest lecturer this month, mentalist Mark Gibson, is changing that by combining thrilling entertainment with the introspection that mentalism inspires. Rain or no rain, get ready to learn new, entertaining techniques that will add exciting dimensions to your magic.

See you at 7 p.m. on February 13!

Dan

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.

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

February 2024

February 16-18 - **Blackpool Convention** in Blackpool, England. Website: blackpoolmagicconvention.com

March 2024

March 15-17 - **Poe's Magic Conference**, in Baltimore, MD. Website: poesmagicconference.com

April 2024

April 24-27 - **Obie's 4F Convention** (Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolic, Invitation Only) in Buffalo, New York - Website: www.ffffmagic.com/ May 2024

May 2024

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

July 2024

July 10-13 - **IBM Convention** in Tacoma, Washington. Websites: www.ibmconvention.com and www.magician.org

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:

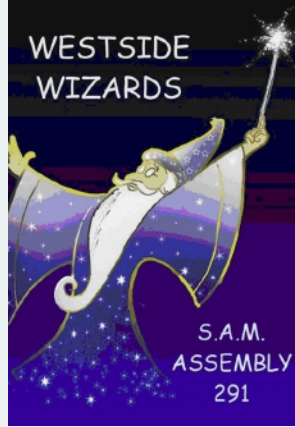
S.A.M. Assembly 22 (Duarte) meets on the third Monday of the month, sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home

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

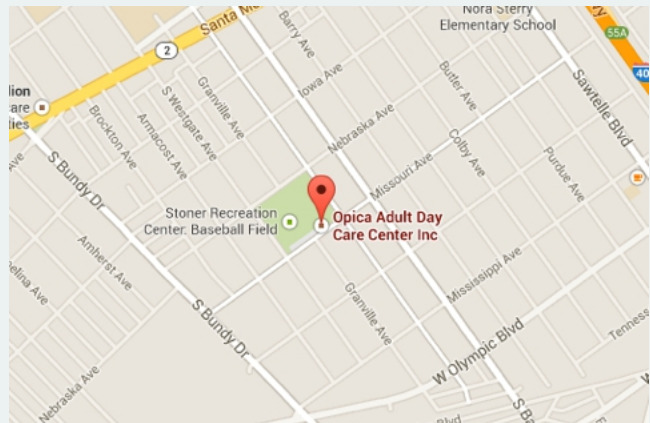
Academy of Magical Arts (at the Magic Castle), www.magiccastle.com



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
INFO@WESTSIDEWIZARDS.ORG OR SYM@WESTSIDEWIZARDS.ORG FOR THE JUNIORS