



# WestsideWizards!



**S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES**

**JANUARY 2024**

Next S.A.M. Meeting:  
Tuesday, **January 9, 7:00 PM**  
Theme: **Magic You Got for the Holidays**  
(OPICA REQUIRES MASKS)

Next S.Y.M. Meeting:  
Sunday, **January 21, 3:00 PM**  
Theme: **TBA**

## Post-Holiday Magic!!

The holidays are over and we've been entertaining lots of family and friends with some wonderful magic for the last few months. But, there's always NEW stuff that we either get ourselves or are gifted for the holidays and it's always fun to expand one's repertoire. You might have taken advantage of some Black Friday sales, you may have finally bought that magic book you've been wanting for so long, or someone special may have given you a wonderful magic-related gift. In any case, you've got something new and we would love to see you perform or talk about. Even if it's something you are just getting started with, feel free to play show-and-tell and let us learn about your new acquisition.

Mark your calendar for **January 9, 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

- Jan 9: Magic You Got for the Holidays
- Jan 21: TBA (SYM)
- Feb 13: Mark Gibson Lecture

## Using Zoom

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: 885 6965 7360**  
**Passcode: 860093**

**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**



# KERMIT WAS WRONG: IT'S EASY (AND MAGICAL!) BEING GREEN

## Local Magic Legend Paul Green Treats Wizards to a Holiday Show

The Westside Wizards embraced a green and red theme for their December meeting, hosting guest magician Paul Green along with a surprise visit from the American Red Cross in honor of Green's extensive work for their blood drive efforts.

Green, a legend in the Los Angeles magic scene (and beyond), is vice chair of the Academy of Magical Arts' Board of Trustees and a past winner of both Lecturer of the Year and Closeup Performer of the Year at the Magic Castle. He generously drove more than an hour—and arrived 90 minutes early to make certain the dense traffic wouldn't delay him—to perform a holiday show for the Wizards.

And what a fun show it was. Green began by using his early arrival to entertain the staff at OPICA, the adult daycare center that generously provides the Wizards with their "clubhouse." Later, at the meeting, he started with table-to-table walkaround routines filled with classic magic, plenty of laughs, and a lighthearted approach that made even the Magician's Insurance Policy seem fresh and fun.

He followed the walkaround by performing a twenty-minute show that he often performs at the Magic Castle, working his stellar magic with ropes, cards, and an egg bag routine that's so smooth it must be witnessed to be believed.

But the most poignant moment came when Westside Wizards founder Les Cooper and club president Dan Cray introduced the evening's surprise guest: Sean Inoue, an executive director with the American Red Cross in Los Angeles.

Inoue presented Green with a certificate honoring his vital volunteer work for the Red Cross, particularly noting Green's efforts in founding the Magic Castle's blood drive program thirteen years ago. Green has performed magic for donors at every Castle blood drive since. Inoue also had a certificate of appreciation for Richard Costantinou who has been instrumental in assisting Paul in the Magic Castle's blood donation program.

Green, clearly touched by the gesture, explained that his own life was once saved by blood donations, the reason he considers the ongoing blood drive effort "my most important work."

For the Westside Wizards, it was a Green-and-red combo that made for a truly magical holiday event. –  
*Dan Cray*



Paul Green always has your card



Les Cooper and Doris Roach arranged a surprise to have Sean Inoue present Paul Green with a certificate of appreciation from the American Red Cross

# President's Message

A word from Dan Cray...



Happy New Year, Westside Wizards!

I'm looking forward to our club activities in 2024, with loads of fun meetings, guest speakers, and the chance to add some offsite events and meeting locales that we haven't tried before.

And of course, please let me know if you have any ideas. This club belongs to all of us, and your magic and creativity makes us that much stronger.

So... did you receive (or treat yourself to) any magic tricks this past holiday season? Or maybe just taught yourself something new from a book or video? If so, our January 9th meeting should be a perfect chance to workshop your spiffy new effect. For my part, I was lucky enough to receive a Tenyo "Mister Danger" that I hope to get your thoughts on the next time I see you. (Tenyo items always hold that sweet spot of being both toys and magic, and therefore a perfect holiday gift!)

Looking ahead, mentalist Mark Gibson will be lecturing for us on February 13th, fresh off of an extended cruise ship booking and ready to offer plenty of insights about all things Mentalism. Mark will be discussing routines and principles designed for Close Up, Parlor and Stage, whether you are a seasoned Mind Reader or just getting started. As he recently told me, "I look forward to meeting and working with you all soon!"

On a personal note, life takes me elsewhere on our meeting night this month but I'll see you at the February meeting. In the meantime, you're in good hands with Phil Goodman running the January meeting.

I look forward to creating magical experiences with you throughout the new year. Happy 2024!

# 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:

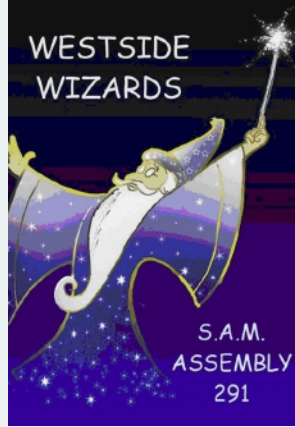
**S.A.M. Assembly 22** (Duarte) meets on the third Monday of the month, [sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home](https://sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home)

**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