



WestsideWizards!

S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

APRIL 2024

Next S.A.M. Meeting:
Tuesday, **April 9, 7:00 PM**
Theme: **David Gabbay Lecture**
(OPICA REQUIRES MASKS)

Next S.Y.M. Meeting:
Sunday, **April 21, 3:00 PM (Zoom)**
Theme: **TBA**

Gabbay, Gabbay, Hey!

David Gabbay, an acclaimed magician and Magic Castle performer, offers a modern twist on traditional magic with his innovative techniques and original effects. His accolades include winning first place for Close-Up Magic at the TAOM convention in 2011. With a reputation for captivating performances filled with cutting-edge techniques and misdirection, Gabbay's magic is both unpredictable and original. He has garnered attention for his visually stunning effects, showcased in his sold-out Hollywood theater show "Caught In A Miracle." As a sought-after performer at the Magic Castle, Gabbay's expertise extends to lecturing on his original effects and creative process, catering to magicians of all skill levels. Through his interactive lectures, he shares insights on character development, trick selection, and stagecraft, drawing from his own experiences creating his character "Bijan the Magician." David's interactive lecture is meant to be an entertaining, informative discussion on some of his original effects and creative thinking



Throughout the lecture David will discuss his experience on topics ranging from timing & misdirection, keeping a magic journal, goal setting, blending techniques, connecting with the audience, managing the peaks and valleys of your performance, tips on beginning and ending a show, and routining an act that flows and blends to keep audiences fully engaged in this tik tok age.

Mark your calendar for **April 9, 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

- April 9: David Gabbay Lecture
- April 21: TBA (SYM)
- May 14: TBA
- June 11: Magic Castle

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.



ICING ON THE CAKE

Wizards Provide “Birthday Magic” At March Meeting

The Westside Wizards celebrated two members’ birthdays at the club’s March meeting by presenting “Birthday Magic”—effects intended for an adult friend or relative’s birthday party.

You read that right: an adult friend or relative... meaning, no coloring books! Best of all, the meeting night just happened to fall on **Jane Cray**’s actual birthday, while VP **Phil Goodman**’s birthday was the same week. That truly made it a party, and the Wizards were ready.

Bruce “El Moldo” Schroffel kicked things off with humor, producing faux dog poop inside a “chafing dish” (our old friend, the dove pan) during a routine inspired by an A.I. software search that gave him patter with the magic words “sim-sala-bim, poo-ff!” (A true story!)

Howard Paris opted for charm, performing a blushing rose routine in which his white rose transforms into a cheerful pink. His true gift was outlining his home-designed method, which included innovative use of ammonia, a filter, and a thumb tip.

Credit to **Don Schuster** for turning to some of his best material, performing a trick he used when he auditioned at the Magic Castle. A skilled woodworker, Don placed his woodworking tools in a paper bag, crushed the bag... and suddenly the tools magically morphed into a handmade, wooden pen. (As a classy finish, both Jane and Phil received pens as birthday gifts!)

Of course, you can’t have birthday magic without birthday wishes, which **Alex Scianna** offered by having Jane pick a random card from a mixed deck, only to turn it over and discover the card said “Happy Birthday!”

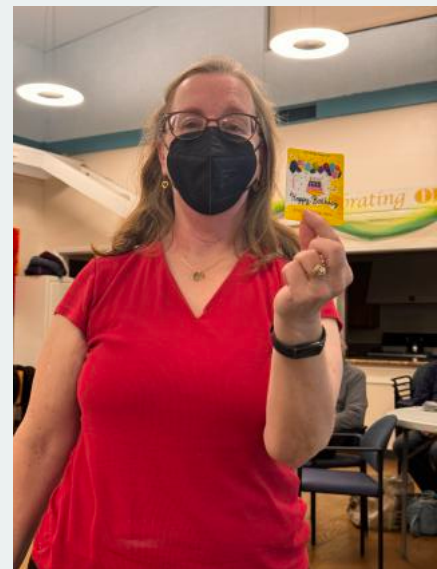
Alan Litteneker had a similar concept in mind, as he had Jane select several index cards—which had arrows drawn on them—and then spread the remaining, blank index cards on the table. Starting at the center card, he instructed Jane to place each of her index cards on top of the corresponding card on the table, based on the direction of the arrow card in her hand. Several up, down, left, and right arrows led to the final card... which read “Happy Birthday!” when turned face-up.

After a raffle break, **Bill Dow** found a randomly selected card by having his volunteer assemble a series of card piles that led to the chosen card. Phil Goodman also located a chosen card—but this time the magic happened via telephone when he called a random number and reached “Scott in San Diego,” who not only guessed **Mel Agacaoili**’s selected card but—gasp!—happened to share the same September birth date.

Dan Cray brought a locket enchanted by a ghost with an affinity for classic magicians, as evidenced by photos of Houdini and Dai Vernon inside. When Dan asked the ghost to show everyone her favorite 2024 magician, the photos changed to none other than... the birthday boy, Phil Goodman!

Dan then demonstrated how birthday celebrants—in this case, Jane—can mysteriously identify dangerous garden herbs from safe ones. He later had Jane choose one of six gift boxes and revealed all were empty... except for her chosen one, which was filled with Hershey’s Kisses. Jane then selected two of the Kisses, which Dan magically transformed into Hershey’s Kiss earrings.

Who better to close out the evening than the man who dressed with a party hat and a giant, matching tie: club founder **Les Cooper**. After performing Needle Through Balloon, he revealed that a packet inside the balloon read

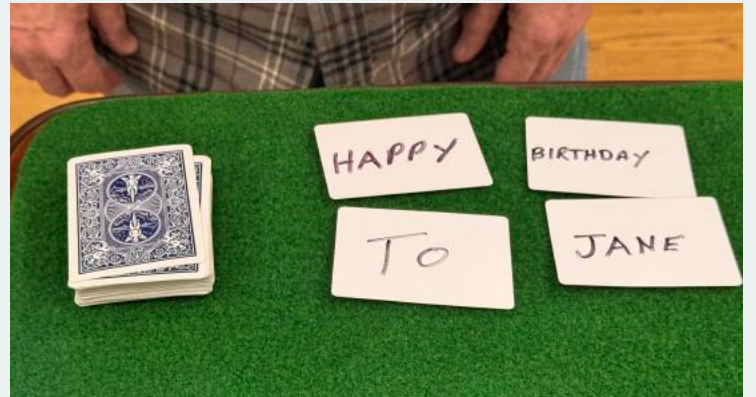


ICING ON THE CAKE (cont.)

“1,000” when he asked Jane’s age... then transformed to 100, 10, and 1, before becoming a “Happy Birthday” sign. After more birthday themed card mysteries, Les capped things off by producing a giant cake from a pan—with plenty of spark from his fire wallet.

Of course, the evening’s biggest birthday was for the club itself, now 16 years young! This may have been the first meeting devoted to birthday performances, but given the energy behind the evening’s magic it might not be the last.
– Dan Cray





President's Message

A word from Dan Cray...



Hello Westside Wizards,

I guess we now know the Westside Wizards can throw a good birthday party. Last month's "birthday magic" meeting was a lot of fun, with décor, cupcakes, and of course great magic. Thanks again to everyone for playing along with a slightly different angle as our meeting theme. And once again, since our club just turned a very sweet 16 this year... happy birthday to us, the Westside Wizards!

Does that mean we're in our awkward teenage years right now? If so, we're doing pretty well at experimenting to see who we are as a club. As you know, I really like mixing in different approaches to our meetings, whether that be through unusual themes, occasionally shifting to different meeting site locations, or whatever captures our fancy and makes things interesting for us as a group. My approach is that if we're getting together to enjoy magic, let's try whatever strikes us as a fun way to do so.

Which reminds me: this June, for the third year running, we'll be meeting at the Magic Castle. It's a rush-hour drive but a great evening once you're there, and a night when anyone in our club can perform onstage in the Castle's Peller Theater—and as you know, our club members have plenty of talent for performing on a Castle stage. So, mark your calendars for June 11 and consider prepping a routine you've been hoping to try out onstage. Or, go with a proven winner! Either way, it's a great chance to hang out with fellow magicians at one of the world's best magic venues. Should be a great time.

This month we have David Gabbay coming by as our guest lecturer. You can read about him elsewhere in this newsletter, but here's some Westside Wizards trivia for you: in our 16 years, he's our very first returning lecturer. Long-time members might remember he lectured for the Wizards in October, 2012. (Paul Green has also joined us twice, as a lecturer in 2011 and again last December as a performer; Paul Draper returned as a lecturer, but via Zoom during the pandemic.)

I'm looking forward to welcoming David back, as well as seeing our members and guests, at 7 p.m. on April 9!

Dan

Congratulations to Evan!

Our own **Evan Cray**, who started as a young member of our Society of Young Magicians (SYM, now SAMY), has grown up — and how! After several years in the SYM, Evan auditioned for the Academy of Magical Arts' Junior Society at 13 years old and, very impressively, got in on his first try. In recent years, he has become a featured performer of the Magic Castle's brunch circuit performing several shows each month in the Close-Up Gallery, Hat & Hare Lounge and Cellar Theater. As Evan is now a sophomore at UC Berkeley and spending part of this year studying abroad in London, England, it was only natural that he get his magic "fix" while away from home. Soon after attending the Blackpool Magic Convention between classes in February, Evan passed his examinations at the prestigious Magic Circle in London!

He's a rising star in the magic world and we can all say "we knew him when....". A huge congratulations to Evan!



Magic Castle Swap Meet

The annual swap meet is upon us on the morning of April 20 at the Magic Castle. If you are a member of the Academy of Magic Arts, entrance is free and you may get in starting at 8:00 AM.

S.A.M., I.B.M, Elders and member guests can get in at 9:00 AM for \$10 fee.

As always, valet parking is \$8 for AMA members and \$10 for non-members.

Lunches will be available for sale.





Don Kenney



Don Kenney was a charter member of the Westside Wizards and passed away in March.

We send our condolences to his wife Karen and the rest of the Kenney family.

Rest in peace and leave them laughing with your entertaining magic.

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 Events

April 2024

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

April 20 - **Magic Castle Swap Meet**, Los Angeles

May 2024

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

June 2024

June 22 - 29 - **Tannen's Magic Camp** at Brun Mawr College, Philadelphia - Website: www.tannens.com/pages/magic-camp

July 2024

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

July 31-Aug 3 - **Abbott's Get Together** in Colon, Michigan. Website: www.magicgettogether.com

August 2024

Aug 31-Sept 2 - Combined **S.A.M, Texas Association of Magicians (T.A.O.M.) Convention** and **FISM North America Championship** in Dallas, Texas. Website: www.fism-nacm.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:

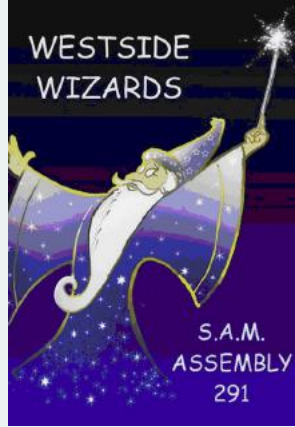
S.A.M. Assembly 22 (Duarte) meets on the third Monday of the month, sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home

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