



WestsideWizards!



S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

MAY 2024

Next S.A.M. Meeting:
Tuesday, May 14, 7:00 PM
Theme: **You Opening Card Trick**
(OPICA REQUIRES MASKS)

Next S.Y.M. Meeting:
Sunday, May 19, 3:00 PM (Zoom)
Theme: TBA

Pick a Card Trick...Your Hit 'em Hard Card Trick!

We all know that if you're going to open a magic show, you want to perform something that's going to grab your audience's attention and "wow" them right away. Some magicians might do a big flashy trick on stage. Some might use fancy props or assistants and dancers to entertain the audience. And some, might do the world's most amazing card trick that will blow the audience's mind.

And that card magician is going to be...YOU! Be prepared to dazzle and amaze everyone with your sleight of hand skills (well, it doesn't *have* to be sleight of hand).

Join us for an extraordinary showcase as our talented members unveil their best-kept secrets: the card tricks they would use to open a magic show with a bang! Whether you're a seasoned pro or just dipping your toes into the mystical waters of magic, this is your chance to shine in the spotlight.

Even if you don't have a flashy trick, show off your favorite one that you know audience members love to see. We'll all have some fun getting our socks knocked off!

Mark your calendar for **May 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

May 14: Your Opening Card Trick

May 19: TBA (SYM)

June 11: Magic Castle

July: Summer BBQ (Date TBD)

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: 824 7306 9171
Passcode: 741072

[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

PACKS PETITE, PLAYS POWERFUL

David Gabbay's April Lecture Shows Coin Magic At Its Best

Coins and cards might be magic fundamentals, but there was nothing routine about them when **David Gabbay** presented a guest lecture for the Westside Wizards in April.

Gabbay, an acclaimed magician and Magic Castle performer, specializes in offering a modern twist on traditional magic, and he underscored that by astounding club members with expert manipulations that combined classic moves with his own custom accents.

Better yet, all of it was tailored to his audience, and his performing space. “That’s an interesting thing about magic: the more you do it, the more you realize what you can use in some situations and not others,” Gabbay said, while discussing a coin opener—an empty coin purse that soon produces four Morgan silver dollars.

Though Gabbay designed the effect for his Magic Castle shows, he has since adapted it for larger, less controlled viewing spaces. “That’s what I like about performing in random scenarios,” he said. “(Effects) are specific, but the more of them you know, the more you’ll be able to use in your act.”

And, he added, to use them with confidence—even if things go badly. While explaining his method for a favorite coin reappearance, he recalled seeing a performer with an egg bag “who just straight-up dropped the egg. Any other performer—and if it was me—it’d be like, ‘oh sh-t,’ but he was just [acting] like, okay, nothing happened... and so, 85 percent of the people didn’t know anything had happened.”

Gabbay also recalled an Asrah levitation where the performer ripped away the cloth but accidentally sent the form falling to the stage, where it bounced, then landed in the lap of a front row audience member. To Gabbay’s astonishment, the stage manager grabbed the form, and the audience was still baffled. “The front row didn’t even know what happened, because the woman still vanished, so it didn’t really explain anything,” he said, noting the takeaway lesson is therefore, “If you’re in trouble, don’t look at the thing, it’ll attract attention.”

Gabbay enjoys tailoring his presentations for different venues, especially when it calls for effects that aren’t intended for lay audiences. “There’s something that really tickles me about tricks that are designed for magicians, like, ‘oh this old chestnut,’ and then to be able to get laymen with it... I love that,” Gabbay says. “I love being able to make people in 2024 get wild with it.”

With that in mind, Gabbay feels magicians never lose sight of what drew them to magic. “Sometimes I take out linking rings, and people will lose their business on it,” he said. “You’ve gotta’ remember the first time you saw it. You’ve gotta’ keep thinking about what fooled you, and what resonated with you, because that still resonates with other people.”

Often times, Gabbay noted, the reason spectators gasp at sudden, magical appearances is because they recognize the elemental nature of the appearance, and it therefore holds emotional significance to them. “I like that: it’s not about you, it’s what’s occurring,” he said. “They’re really grasping onto that.”

By evening’s end, Gabbay had shown the Wizards everything from retention vanishes and coin stacks to magnet work and black art—along with effects ranging from “Sweet,” the coin-in-sugar-packet routine that generated widespread recognition when it was originally featured in Genii, to his “Coin in Purse to Box” routine that helped him win first place at the 2011 Texas Association of Magicians Close-up competition.

“As far as performing, I just try to keep it fresh,” Gabbay said. “I love magic, and I think that’s the key to anything: if you love it, the audience can read that. It’s back to that whole thing of be yourself. It’s simple, but true.” – *Dan Cray*



President's Message

A word from Dan Cray...



Hello Westside Wizards,

Were you at last month's meeting? Alas, I wasn't. As you may have heard, a bout with laryngitis and a nasty cough kept me from attending, so I truly envy the rest of you for having the chance to enjoy David Gabbay's lecture. (There was really a tea sieve involved? A tea sieve?) Many thanks to David for spending some time with the Wizards.

Seems to me Phil Goodman should be pictured at the top of this month's column, given that he's so generously filled in for me at two meetings this year. (Thank you, Phil!) He'll be up to bat for me once again in May, which is too bad because I could use some of the "Card Trick Openers" everyone will be performing at the May meeting. I'm looking forward to hearing about those (and no doubt watching the Zoom video), for sure. While I'm away, however, I'll be performing some magic for a beloved family member who's turning 95, and separately, I might have a chance to attend a bizarre magic conference. (Of course, it's a "bizarre" conference—I mean, it's me, right?) Fill you in on all of that when I get back.

Don't forget: on June 11, by popular demand, we'll be holding our meeting at the Magic Castle instead of OPICA. If you were there when we did this each of the past two years, you know the drill: the Peller Theater is reserved for Westside Wizards members, so be ready to show off your favorite new (or old) material on a stage that's truly designed for magical performances. If you weren't there the past couple years, well... here's your chance! Come on by and enjoy a magical evening at one of the world's best magic venues.

Looking further ahead, we have this year's Summer Sorcery potluck coming up in July. More on that and a few other special plans for this year as we get closer.

Talk with you soon, and be ready with those card trick openers for our next meeting: 7 p.m. on May 14!

Dan

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

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:

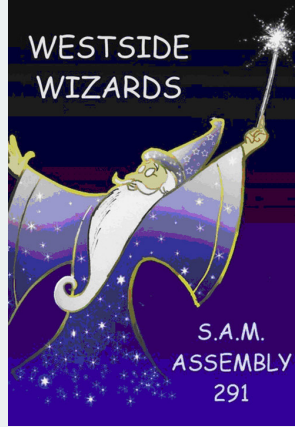
S.A.M. Assembly 22 (Duarte) meets on the third Monday of the month, sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home

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

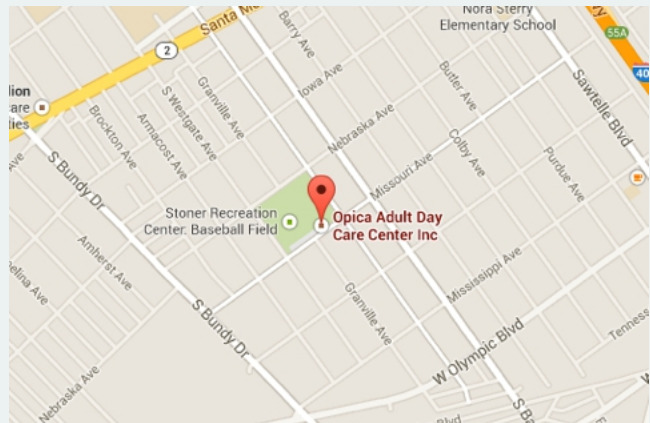
Academy of Magical Arts (at the Magic Castle), www.magiccastle.com



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