



# WestsideWizards!

S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

AUGUST 2024

Next S.A.M. Meeting:  
Saturday, **August 13, 7:00 PM**  
Theme: **Hardware Store Magic**

Next S.A.M. Youth Meeting:  
Sunday, **August 11, 4:00 PM (Zoom)**  
Theme: **TBA**

## Hardware Store Magic...

And now for something a little different... We're so used to performing and seeing magic with cards, coins, and traditional magic props. We thought it would be a little fun this month to have our meeting focus on magic using props from a hardware store.

Feel free to visit a Home Depot, Lowes, Ace Hardware or even your own garage to find some unique tools and gadgets and build a trick or two. Let's stay away from using a power saw to cut an assistant in half but perhaps any off the shelf tools could inspire you to create something original.

Mark your calendar for **August 13, 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

- August 11: SAMY (TBD)
- August 13: Hardware Store Magic
- September 20: TBD

### 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: 846 6467 3475**  
**Passcode: 487567**

[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

# COME SIT A SPELL

## Wizards Enjoy – And Perform – Summertime Sorcery

The magic of cooler temperatures prevailed for the Westside Wizards, who enjoyed their Summer Sorcery potluck amid mild July weather even as the rest of Los Angeles sweltered.

Held at **Dan and Jane Cray's** "Cottage of Conjuring," the annual event centered on good food and a great magic show—performed, of course, by several Assembly 291 members.

New member **Vincent Carden** warmed up the crowd with a captivating nautical rope routine, transforming the various ropes to identical length and then back, all of it perfectly themed to his job as a mate on a container ship.

The club was then treated to quantum entanglement lessons from **Brian Schwartz**, whose folded playing cards kept changing from red to blue backs. The science shifted to mystery as **Mel Agcaoili** linked and unlinked keychain rings in multiple, baffling ways.

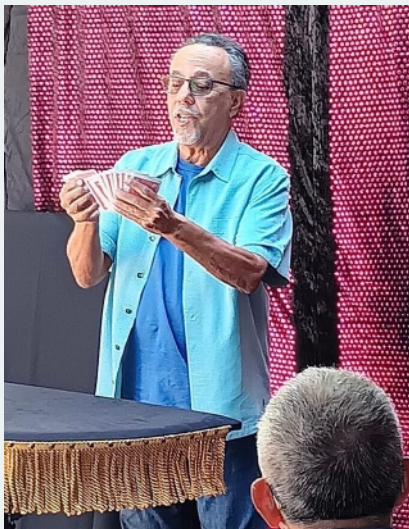
**Alex Scianna** fried minds by having four volunteers each choose a playing card, then revealing that their selected cards matched predictions already sitting atop the performing table. Not to be outdone, **Howard Paris** used a prediction board to forecast audience members' school colors, a random number, and a selected playing card.

When **Dan Cray** launched into a card act, **Jane** locked him into a set of wooden stocks as "punishment" for violating a family rule that he never perform card tricks. Undaunted, Dan magically freed himself and was therefore granted permission to finish his routine... at which time he revealed that a volunteer's selected card matched a giant card that was held by an audience member the entire time.

Club founder **Les Cooper** was set to serve as the show's closer, but decided to "force" **Evan Cray** into performing a trick first. Evan, a former S.Y.M. member who recently performed in the Magic Castle's Close-up Gallery for Future Stars week, created a "clock face" from playing cards to predict a volunteer's randomly chosen hour... then revealed that the card at that hour's location matched the only card at the center of the clock.

Les then went forward with his set, which wrapped up with volunteer **Bill Bedecarre** somehow picking a queen from a hand of aces... meaning Les' prediction card—a stage-sized ace—was wrong! Only for a moment, though, as Les magically (and visually) transformed that ace into a queen, sending the Summer Sorcery crowd home on a sunny note. – *Dan Cray*





# President's Message

## A word from Dan Cray...



Hello Westside Wizards,

I don't know about you, but I ate leftover Zankou chicken and pizza for two days in the aftermath of last month's Summer Sorcery potluck, and yes, it was delicious! I hope everyone took enough home to do the same.

Big thank you to everyone for making last month's potluck a success. So much food (in some cases homemade from family recipes), and so much fun! This was the second time hosting for me and Jane, and we really had a good time, hopefully you did too.

I know it's still summer, but Halloween season is on the horizon. If you don't believe me, have a look in stores, where spooky décor is already appearing. I went to Home Depot to prep up for this month's "hardware store magic" meeting theme (details on that elsewhere in this newsletter) and was surprised to find autumn lights, ghouls, and other fun merch. (It's a little too soon, honestly.) I found the same thing at Michael's. The stores really make budgeting difficult for Halloween fans.

Anyway, I bring this up because the tentative plan is for our club to perform a public magic show (stage or parlor effects) this Halloween season, probably on one of the final Saturdays in October. Our October meeting will be used for rehearsals, and to gather constructive comments from fellow club members. Participation in the show itself is voluntary, but I hope you'll consider performing, or emceeing, or even just coming by to enjoy the show and offer encouragement to fellow members.

In the meantime, we have hardware store magic coming up this month. Anything home-made, or even partially home-made, is perfect! And of course, you're always welcome to perform whatever magic you'd like, whether it fits the theme or not.

See you on Tuesday, August 13!

*Dan*

# Membership News

by Les Cooper

## Welcome new member Vincent Carden

The Westside Wizards would like to welcome our newest member, Vincent Carden. Vincent took time out of his busy schedule as a Merchant Marine to make it to the Westside Wizards Summer Potluck. When you see Vincent at a meeting, be sure to say hi and welcome him to the Westside Wizards.

Congratulations to Joel Ward for five years membership in the S.A.M.

## Former S.Y.M. member Evan Cray

Way back in September 2013, our current President, Dan Cray and his son Evan attended their first S.Y.M. meeting. A month later Evan joined the S.Y.M. and eventually Dan became one of the adult leaders of the group. Evan has been active in magic ever since.



Evan Cray

When Evan turned 13, he tried out for the Magic Castle Junior Program and was accepted on his first try. (Other former Westside Junior Wizards members who also made it on their first try are Andrew Goodman, Nathan Bustram, Sebastian Hochman, Satori Adler, Ziv Bard and Oz Shemesh).

In December 2022, Evan attempted to set a world record and holds the first “Guinness World Record for the most stage illusions tricks performed in three minutes.”

After graduating high school Evan enrolled at UC Berkeley. This past semester he participated in the study abroad program in London, England. While in London, he became a member of the Magic Circle.

And now another first for Evan. During Future Stars Week at the Magic Castle, Evan is the first former Westside Junior Wizards member to be scheduled in a room at the Magic Castle. For four nights Evan was one of the featured performers in the Close-Up Gallery.

In case you have not guessed by now, I am very proud of Evan for his achievements and his dedication to the art of magic, and I see a magical future for him. As I told Evan at the Summer Potluck, “Now it’s the student teaching the teacher.”

Congratulations Evan, and I look forward to seeing many more firsts from you.

None of this would have been possible without the help and support of the other S.Y.M. Leaders: Egbok, Phil Goodman, Raul Fernandez and Dan Cray.

# 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!

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# Selected Upcoming Magic Events

## July 2024

July 10-13 - **IBM Convention** in Tacoma, Washington. Websites: [www.ibmconvention.com](http://www.ibmconvention.com) and [www.magician.org](http://www.magician.org)

July 22-28 - **Future Stars of Magic** at the Magic Castle, Los Angeles, Website: [www.magiccastle.com](http://www.magiccastle.com)

July 31-Aug 3 - **Abbott's Get Together** in Colon, Michigan. Website: [www.magicgettogether.com](http://www.magicgettogether.com)

## August 2024

Aug 4-7 - **Magic Live** in Las Vegas, Nevada, Website: [www.magicconvention.com](http://www.magicconvention.com)

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](http://www.fism-nacm.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:

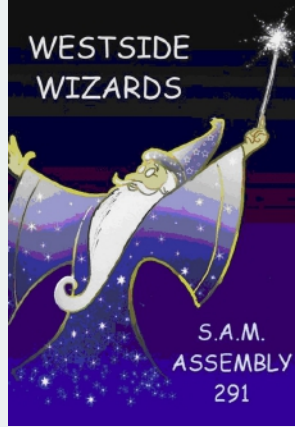
**S.A.M. Assembly 22** (Duarte) meets on the third Monday of the month, [sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home](https://sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home)

**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)

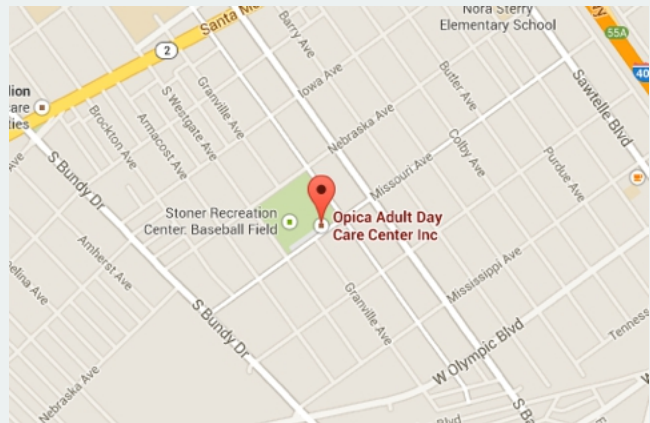
**Academy of Magical Arts** (at the Magic Castle), [www.magiccastle.com](http://www.magiccastle.com)



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