



Wizards!



S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

SEPTEMBER 2024

Don't Toss that Trick!

Calling all Wizards! Our next meeting is going to be a special one, dedicated to dusting off those old tricks and props that have been sitting in your magic drawer for too long. Whether it's a classic effect you've mastered and no longer perform or it's something that's never quite fit into your act, now's the time to bring it out and share it with the group!

Show & Tell: Bring along any magic tricks or props you haven't used in a while or are considering parting with. You'll have the opportunity to show them off and even perform them if you'd like. It's a great chance to see some forgotten gems and perhaps get inspired by how others present these effects.

Swap Meet: After the demonstrations, we'll open up the floor for a swap meet! Members can sell or trade their older magic tricks and props with each other. This is a fantastic way to give your unused magic a new home or find something new to add to your collection.

Note: Only members can sell, but all attendees are welcome to purchase. Bring cash or be prepared for some magical bargaining!

Don't miss out on this unique evening of magic, camaraderie, and the chance to refresh your collection. See you there!

Mark your calendar for **September 10, 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

September 8: SAMY (TBD)

September 10: You Might Get Rid Of & Swap Meet

October 8: Halloween Show Run-Through

October 18: Halloween Show

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: 880 2343 2255
Passcode: 703377

[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

NUTS AND BOLTS MAGIC

Wizards Show Off Their DIY Magic Skills At August Meeting

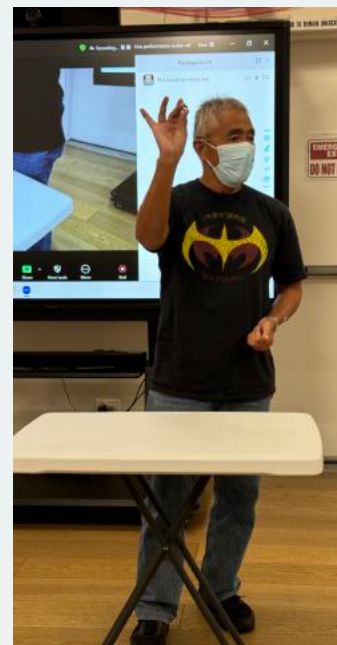
Summer is home improvement season, so the Westside Wizards decided to honor that with an unusual performing theme for their August meeting: hardware store magic! All routines were centered on home-made effects that rely on components found at a hardware or home supplies store.

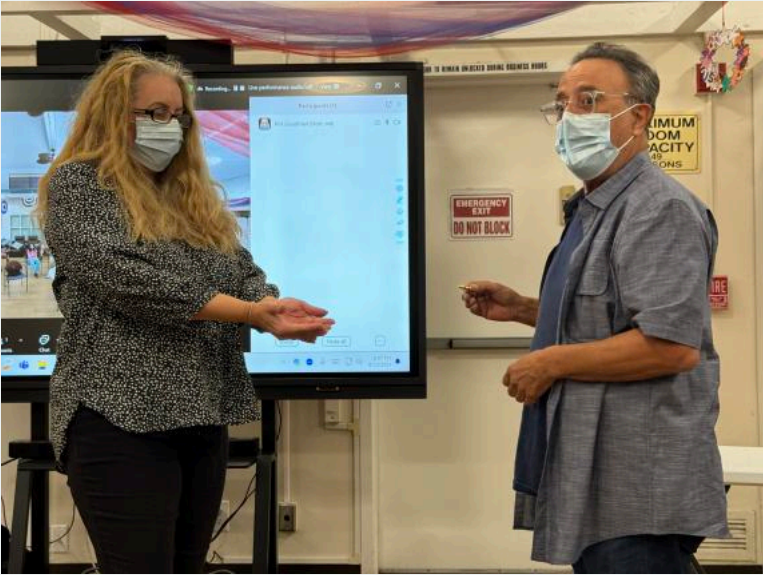
The evening kicked off with a surprise visitor: founding member **Raul Fernandez**, who had a night away from his duties at the AMA's Magic University and came by to reconnect—and to show everyone how a hardware store washer strung on a rope has startling magical qualities.

Dan Cray used an empty, orange “Homer bucket” for something Home Depot executives never envisioned: a magic ritual. After adding water and dirt to the bucket, Dan had three members select a playing card from a blue-backed deck, then dumped a separate deck of red-backed cards into the muddy water. One by one, he found the sopping wet cards that matched the selected cards... and even when the third card had—surprise!—a photo of Lego bricks instead of a standard playing card image, Dan still produced a handful of Legos from the bucket.

Mel Agcaoili, **Alex Scianna**, **Brian Schwartz**, and **Bill Dow** all amazed using nuts, bolts, and cards, while **Howard Paris** impressed everyone with a set of 3-D-printed, engineering wonders that had to be seen to be believed. After an intermission raffle, club founder **Les Cooper** used a trio of stage tables to display item after item of magical props “built from wood that I got from the hardware store... but you're magicians, so it wouldn't fool you.” He of course proceeded to fool the magicians... and also thrill lucky member **Valerie Repnau**, who took the stage tables home with her as an unexpected prize.

Summer meetings also mean reports from magic conference attendees (in this case, a MagicLive rundown from **Phil Goodman**), and visits from SAMY members with school-free time for evening magic—which gave us some time with **Oz**, who is also a member of the AMA's Magic Castle Juniors program and a 2024 Tannen's Magic Camp attendee. Les' private magic student **Blue** (age 10) also attended... and performed for the club! — *Dan Cray*





President's Message

A word from Dan Cray...



Hello Westside Wizards,

Have you noticed the days are getting just a little bit shorter?

Most people aren't thrilled by the prospect of earlier sunsets, but for me it instills a sense of excitement that autumn, Halloween, and Thanksgiving are in the offing.

You may have noticed that we're trying something different at this month's meeting: "Tricks You're Thinking of Getting Rid Of." Bring a new or used magic trick you've had cluttering a shelf for years, and either sell it or give it away. (Or if you change your mind, keep it!) If you want to go the extra mile, perform the trick first so we can all see the magic in action. Should be a lot of laughs, seeing the crazy tricks we unearth from our magic junk drawers.

The second half of the meeting will be an actual mini-swap meet, with whatever props or marketed effects our members want to sell. All paid Westside Wizards are welcome to market their magical wares.

Next up... as you may have heard, there's an Election Day this fall. No, not the huge one this November—but please, vote in that one too. I'm talking about the Westside Wizards Board Elections, which will take place at the December meeting.

I'm looking for a volunteer from the general membership to serve on the three-person Nominating Committee, which will select and present their recommended slate of Board officers at the November meeting. If you're interested, please message me asap or talk to me directly at our September meeting. Being part of the Nominating Committee doesn't mean you have to run for a Board position, or exclude you from running, it just means you're helping our club assemble a slate of candidates.

Our other big autumn news is (drumroll)... the Westside Wizards will be performing a pair of 15-minute magic shows for the public this Halloween season, on Friday evening, October 18th, at Shawn's Pumpkin Patch! The Halloween season ambience at Shawn's is always a lot of fun and I'm excited that this year we'll be there on a Friday, when the patch stays open an hour later (until 9 pm), and it'll be closer to Halloween.

We'll discuss the details at this month's meeting. See you on September 10 for "Tricks You're Thinking of Getting Rid Of" and the swap meet!

Dan

At the Pumpkin Patch in October

Big autumn news: the Westside Wizards will be performing a pair of 15-minute magic shows for the public this Halloween season!

The shows will be on Friday evening, October 18th, at Shawn's Pumpkin Patch. This will be in addition to our regular October meeting. Our showtimes will be at 7:15 pm and 8:00 pm., for family audiences of pumpkin shoppers who will be eager to see some Halloween magic, so please consider performing! Think large, visual magic—these shows will be outdoors, for a crowd that needs to see the magic from considerable distances.

We'll devote our standard October meeting (on Tues., Oct. 8) to rehearsing, and to gathering constructive comments from fellow club members.

Participation in the show is voluntary, but even if you choose not to perform, we welcome emceeing, audience management, or even just having you come by to offer encouragement to fellow members. Shawn's is at 3443 S. Sepulveda, near the corner of Sepulveda and Palms. (Note that the pumpkin patch has moved from the Santa Monica Blvd. location it was at the past two years.) Be sure to mark this special night on your calendar! – *Dan Cray*



Reading to Kids

This is a fantastic program, but sadly, I will not be able to participate in it this year.

When asked to volunteer for this year's event, you should step up and be one of magicians who performs at one of the Los Angeles schools near downtown.

All you need to do is perform a quick 15-minute routine. Your 15 minutes of fame will delight many kids and volunteers.

So, when the announcement is made at the September meeting, be the first to stand up and say "Count me in." You'll be glad you did. — *Les Cooper*



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

November 2024

Nov 7-9 - **TRICS** (Carolina Close-Up Convention) in Charlotte, NC, Website: tricsconvention.com

Nov 7-10 - **PCAM** (Pacific Coast Association of Magicians), Victoria, British Columbia, Website: pcammagic.com/2024-convention-2

January 2025

Jan 25-27 - **MagiFest** in Columbus, Ohio - Website: www.vanishinginmagic.com/magic-conventions/magifest

February 2025

Feb 14-16 - **Blackpool Magic Convention**, Blackpool, England. Website: blackpoolmagicconvention.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:

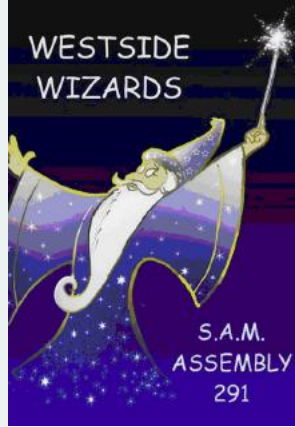
S.A.M. Assembly 22 (Duarte) meets on the third Monday of the month, sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home

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
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