



WestsideWizards!

S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

DECEMBER 2024

Next S.A.M. Meeting:
Tuesday, **December 10, 7:00 PM**
Theme: **Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner & Show**

Next S.A.M. Youth Meeting:
Sunday, **December 8, 4:00 PM (Zoom)**
Theme: **TBA**

Annual Holiday Potluck

By special arrangement, we have a one-time invitation to have our potluck at OPICA this year.

It's flu season and Covid is still a concern for many of our members and for OPICA. Masks are not required for this meeting, but are encouraged while not eating.

December 10, 2024 is the **Westside Wizards Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner and Show**. Mark your calendar now and think about what you would like to bring. The Westside Wizards will provide the main course, drinks and paper goods. Be creative this holiday season. So, that we don't get too many desserts, side dishes or appetizers, we are asking you to bring something from the chart below, depending on your last name:

Name Starts With

- A - C** Appetizer (Chips & Dips, Veggie Plate, etc.)
- D-L** Dessert (Something Sweet)
- M - R** Side Dish (Vegetables, Pasta, etc.)
- S - Z** Salad (Green Salad, Potato, Pasta, etc.)

Please make/bring enough to feed 6 to 8 people.

The OPICA kitchen will not be available for our use, so plan accordingly.

During cleanup, we need to dispose of our trash in the outside park trash cans. Please, no trash is to be left in the building. OPICA is gracious enough to allow us to use their facilities so let's please respect their wishes. Thanks for your understanding.

After dinner, there will be a holiday themed show for anyone who would like to perform. This is the one time of the year where we open up the doors, and everyone is invited to attend this meeting. This includes your spouse/partners and family. If you are a guest, please bring a dish as outlined above, and there will be no charge. Otherwise, there is a \$10 door charge.

RSVP to Les or Doris by email to cooperl@ucla.edu by December 5. In order to adequately provide the main course, let us please let us know how many people will be in your party and what you plan to bring for the potluck. Thank you!

Upcoming Meetings

December 10: Holiday Get Together at OPICA (directions on last page)

January 14: TBA

No Zoom This Month

As we'll be having a live, in-person potluck and show, we'll have no Zoom meeting this month. This will be a great opportunity to meet in-person and have fun with our members.

Please come support our group by showing up in person!

GOING IN BLINDFOLDED

Wizards Perform Magic While Wearing Blindfolds At November Meeting

Continuing a run of new meeting themes, the Westside Wizards experimented with “Magic While Blindfolded” in November, as a means of honing non-visual ways to connect with an audience.

Dan Cray, using a red bandana for his blindfold, started the night with an act that is banned at the Magic Castle: the Smash and Stab, where one of five paper bags contains a hidden spike and the performer slams a hand upon any four bags that the audience requests. Since Dan was performing Scott Alexander’s version (“Nailed It,” with the addition of the blindfold), his hands came away from the performance just fine.

A medical face mask served as **Alexander Scianna’s** blindfold. After having volunteer Brian Schwartz pick a card, Alex reshuffled the deck then dealt more than thirty cards, until he placed one of them aside, face down. Sure enough, the face-down card was Brian’s.

Les Cooper, wearing a scarf folded into a ninja-style bandana (which turned out to be a cherished scarf from his service time with the Navy), introduced three ropes hanging from a handheld, wooden bar. The left-side rope had a large brass ring that “jumped” to the right-side rope. Just a gag... or so it seemed, until Les magically made the ring jump to the center rope.

Success was in the cards for **Mel Agcaoili**, who displayed a random jack of hearts, then had a volunteer (Alex) shuffle the deck and name a number between 10 and 20. The blindfolded Mel dealt to that number and found... the jack of hearts.

For **Alan Litteneker**, blindfolds represented a chance to explore secrets close to our hearts, which he emphasized by magically separating the heart cards from the rest of a deck. Using the remaining cards, Alan had one shown to everyone but himself, another shown only to his volunteer, and two more that only Alan would know. Soon, Alan revealed that the four secret cards... were all fives!

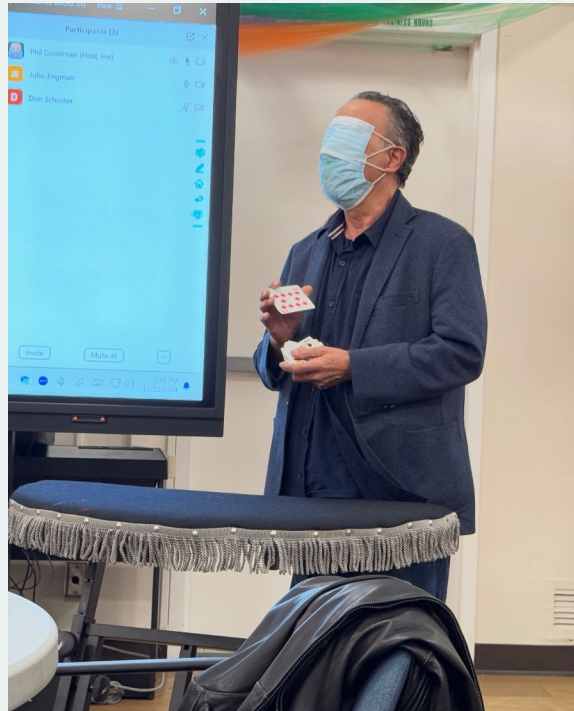
Do red playing cards and black playing cards enjoy sticking together? **Phil Goodman** proved they do by performing “Oil and Water” blindfolded. With his eyes covered by a blue bandana, Phil dealt out six cards—three red and three black—mixed them, then turned them over to reveal the matching colors had magically found one another... a feat he then replicated twice.

The blindfolded Wizards not only applied some new approaches to their magic, but realized that blindfolds, like magic, come in many patterns and styles! – *Dan Cray*

GOING IN BLINDFOLDED (cont.)



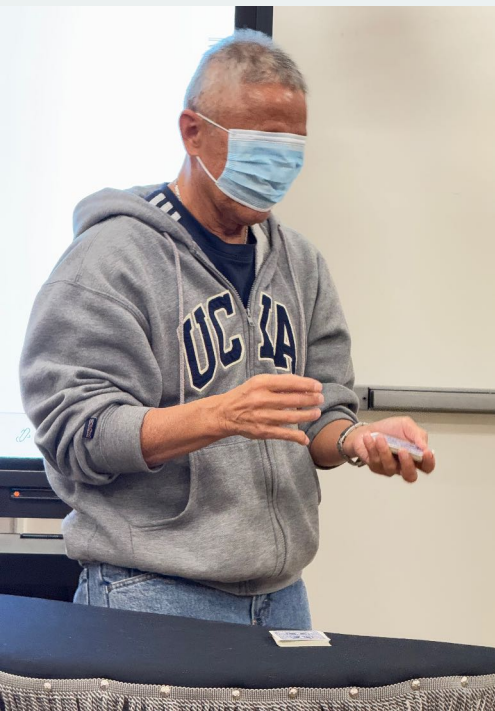
Dan Cray



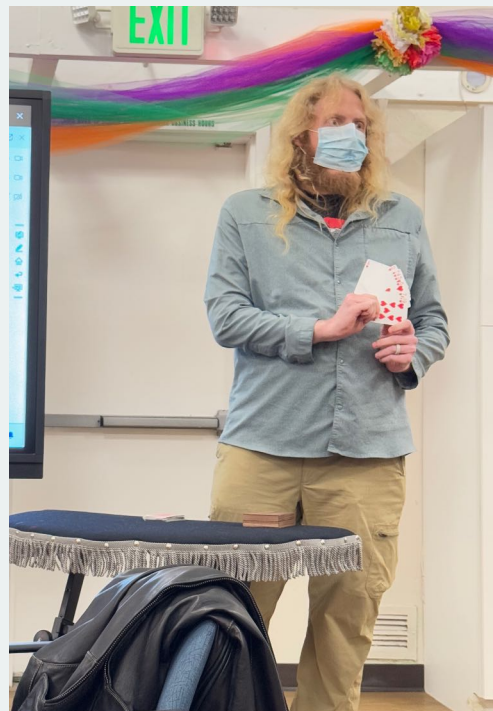
Alex Scianna



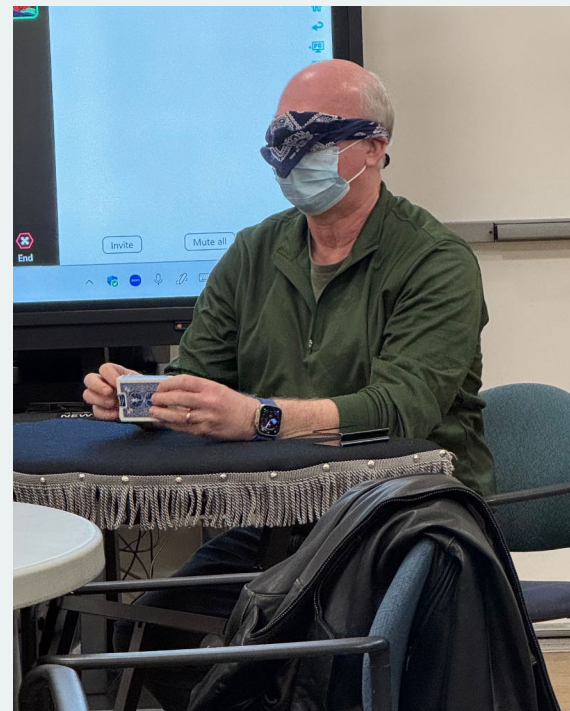
Les Cooper



Mel Agcaolli



Alan Litteneker



Phil Goodman

President's Message

A word from Dan Cray...



Holiday season is perfect for group celebrations, so I'm thrilled that for the first time in five years our club will be able to gather for a holiday potluck at OPICA.

My sincere thanks to OPICA Director Mary Michlovich and her staff for making an exception to their no-food policy and mask restrictions so we can hold our potluck. Thanks as well to Les Cooper and Doris Roach for approaching Mary with the idea. One of my goals as president has been to help steer the club out of the pandemic, and the return of our holiday potluck was one of the few remaining items on my checklist.

As you know, my four years (two terms) as Westside Wizards president wraps up at the end of this month. I truly appreciate the chance to have held the position, and for your guidance and patience as I grew into the job during less-than-ideal circumstances. Holding our meetings online until May, 2022, certainly made things more difficult. I'll always be grateful that our members stuck with the club during such a challenging time.

Another credit to you, and our entire membership: since returning to in-person meetings, we've cheerfully abided masking, food, and beverage restrictions that most S.A.M. Assemblies have never faced, all with the gracious understanding that, by day, our "clubhouse" is a daycare facility for older adults.

I'm therefore proud that we've added a few variations, notably our meetings at the Magic Castle and the Halloween magic shows at Shawn's Pumpkin Patch. The taco truck was a lot of fun too, as was the opportunity to have everyone visit my Cottage of Conjuring for two straight Summer Sorcery events. Holding one-quarter of our meetings apart from OPICA is an important new aspect to the club.

And yes, I'm also proud of the unusual meeting themes we tried. Whether it was Magic With Glass, Birthday Magic, Magic While Blindfolded, or any of the others, we learned something (and enjoyed some good laughs) from all of them. I'm also told that in the past four years we've had more guest lecturers than any other Assembly—and that doesn't even include the in-person shows performed for us by Johnny Ace Palmer and Paul Green.

President's Message (cont.)

None of that happens without my friends and fellow board members, so huge thanks go out to Phil Goodman, who always has great ideas and even greater magic; Brian Schwartz, who brings everything the club could possibly need to our meetings; Jim Witoszynski, for his wealth of knowledge and the most satisfying Tommy's burger I've ever tasted; Doris Roach, who holds crucial, sage advice for difficult situations while somehow monitoring the cost of rotisserie chicken; and of course, Les Cooper, who remains the backbone of our club and performer of the joyful, prop-based parlor magic that we all hold dear.

But really, my thanks go out to you. What makes this club go is the membership: Chris Cory's intricate card (and raffle!) skills, Bill Bedecarre's hilarious emcee moments, and the Alex Scianna sleight and story talent that I'll always envy. Our meetings wouldn't be the same without Valerie Repnau's insightful perspectives, or Bill Dow making closeup effects play big... and what about Howard Paris, wowing us with gizmos we never knew existed? I could go on, but you get my point.

This has been an amazing ride, and an honor, and mostly just a great time learning and performing magic while getting to know everyone in our club. I'm looking forward to seeing you at Westside Wizard meetings in 2025 and beyond, and to serving as the board's Past President.

See you at OPICA on December 10, at 7 pm, for our holiday potluck!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the start of the "D".

WESTSIDE WIZARDS 2025 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.

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

January 2025

Jan 12-14 - **The Session** in London, England - Website: www.sessionconvention.com/

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

March 2025

Mar 10-12 - **Mystify Magic** in Las Vegas, NV. Website: mystifymagicfestival.com/

April 2025

Apr 19 - **Magic Castle Swap Meet**, Hollywood. Website: www.magiccastle.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:

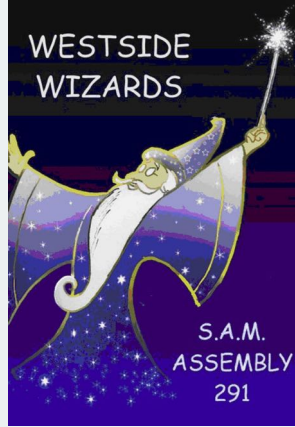
S.A.M. Assembly 22 (Duarte) meets on the third Monday of the month, sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home

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