



# WestsideWizards!



S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

JANUARY 2025

Next S.A.M. Meeting:  
Tuesday, **January 14, 7:00 PM**  
Theme: **Andrew Goldenhersh Lecture**

## The Man with the Golden Hands...

Renowned for his extraordinary skill and captivating performances, **Andrew Goldenhersh** has dazzled audiences across the globe, including some of the most distinguished names in the entertainment industry. He is celebrated for his innovative magic effects and mind-bending illusions leaving his audiences spellbound with his seamless execution and charismatic presentation.

His performances are marked by a finesse and elegance with his "Golden Hands," a testament to his unmatched dexterity and artistry. His unique style and masterful showmanship have not only garnered him a dedicated following but have also positioned him as a sought-after performer.

As Andrew visits the Westside Wizards, we anticipate an inspiring lecture filled with insights, stories, and perhaps a glimpse into the magic that has enthralled audiences the world over.

Mark your calendar for **Tuesday, January 14, 2025 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

January 14: Andrew Goldenhersh  
February 11: Magic for a Proposal

## 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.



# A HAPPY RETURN

## Wizards' Holiday Potluck Brings Food, Fun, and Magic

For the first time in five years, the Westside Wizards gathered for a festive holiday potluck and magic show at their monthly OPICA meeting site.

The event came together thanks to the holiday spirit of OPICA Director **Mary Michlovich**, who made a generous exception to the adult care center's food restrictions and medical mask requirements so the Wizards could revive what was an annual tradition prior to the pandemic. Credit also to club founder **Les Cooper** and treasurer **Doris Roach**, who approached Michlovich with the potluck idea.

The potluck doubled as the Assembly's December meeting, at which members voted in favor of the Nominating Committee's recommended slate for the upcoming two-year Board term. Westside Wizard Officers for 2025-2026 will be President **Phil Goodman**, Vice President **Brian Schwartz**, Secretary **Doris Roach**, Treasurer **Les Cooper**, Members-At-Large **Bill Dow** and **Jim Witoszynski**, and Immediate Past President **Dan Cray**.

With club business finished, the meeting shifted to food and fun. The after-dinner magic show kicked off when Dan used a "card sandwich" to find two randomly selected cards, jiggling the entire deck out from between two slices of bread before revealing that only the selected cards remained. Phil also did a little mind reading and showing his predictions for three selected cards (one was selected, one was just looked at and the last was just thought of) were right on target, then proving his guesses correct using giant cards and a white board.

**Bruce Schroffel** brought some Vaudeville to the room by presenting three "grandpa jokes" and a holiday version of the "chopsticks" waltz that he sang while cutting paper into the shape of a Christmas tree! **Alan Litteneker** followed with some paper mysteries of his own, using scissors (and hocus pocus) to form three astonishing shapes. The group then learned that **Howard Paris** can magically produce any box found at a grocery store... or at least, produce laughs, as he did by "proving" he'd known about a chosen box of Cheerios by showing a giant, generic bar code.

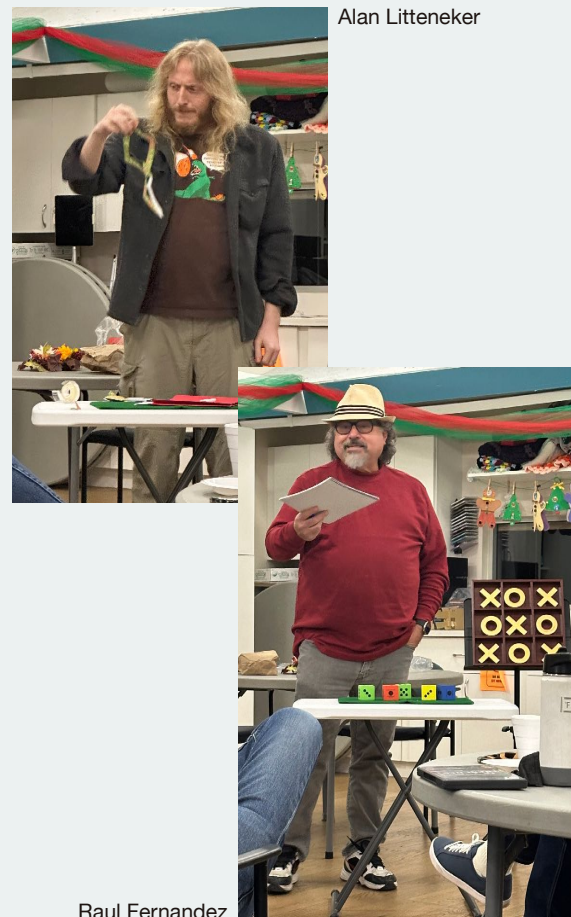
The evening's closer, **Raul Fernandez**, brought his A-game, first by playing Yahtzee with giant foam dice and then showing that his prediction matched the 14-7 final score. He also demonstrated his mastery of Tic Tac Toe—not just with the game itself, but with a certificate proclaiming him "undefeated" that also had an illustration matching the outcome of that evening's game.

With so much entertainment and the return of the holiday potluck, the holidays were especially magical for the Westside Wizards. – *Dan Cray*



Dan Cray

Bruce Schroffel



Alan Litteneker

Raul Fernandez

# President's Message

## Keeping in touch...from Phil Goodman



Hello Westside Wizards,

It's 2025!! Wow...another year of fun with the Westside Wizards! And with a new year, we have a new President (no, not that President... our magic club president), me. If you attended our December meeting, we participated in our club elections for new officers, as we do every two years. I'm humbled to have been nominated and elected and I'm especially looking forward to working with our other board members Brian Schwartz, Les Cooper, Doris Roach, Jim Witoszynski, and Bill Dow. Of course, I would also like to thank past President Dan Cray immensely for all the hard work he has put in the last 4 years. But, we're not rid of Dan so quickly as the Past President is also a board position so we can continue to rely on him for guidance along the way.

I'm very honored and feel privileged to help run our group and I'm interested in providing some new and some favorite experiences along the way. But this is YOUR club. If you have any favorite activities, themes, lecturers or topics to discuss at future meetings, please let us know. We want to make the Westside Wizards meetings a can't-miss event each month and, by providing us some input, we hope to make our meetings more exciting for everyone!.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting on January 14th!

# 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!



**IBM Ring 2100** invites all magicians to join them for the monthly meeting on **January 18, 2025, at 11 AM**, Los Angeles time. The theme is “My favorite New Magic from 2024”.

This is another Open House gathering, so all in the magic community, especially our friends in the Society of American Magicians, are welcome and encouraged to attend. Membership in the IBM is not required

Zoom information is below:

Saturday, January 18, 2025, 11am in LA / 2pm in New York / 7pm in London.

<https://zoom.us/j/95063172293?pwd=RjY1UkZaQW9zWW1FRnducTFuQUFKQT09>

Meeting ID: 950 6317 2293

Passcode: 2100

Hope to see you there to be part of the fun and magic.

**IBM Ring 2100**  
LINKING MAGICIANS  
AROUND THE GLOBE

**OPEN HOUSE** My Favorite New Magic From 2024

**Saturday, January 18**  
11am LA / 2pm New York / 7pm London

# Selected Upcoming Magic Events

## January 2025

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

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

## February 2025

Feb 14-16 - **Blackpool Magic Convention**, Blackpool, England. Website: [blackpoolmagicconvention.com](http://blackpoolmagicconvention.com)

## March 2025

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

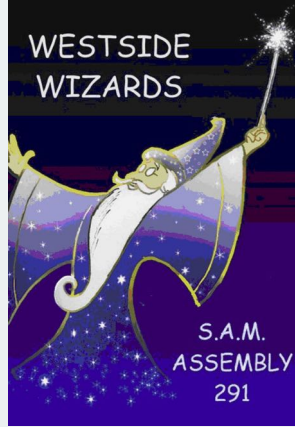
**S.A.M. Assembly 22** (Duarte) meets on the third Monday of the month, [sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home](https://sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home)

**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 (2025-2026)

President	Phil Goodman
Vice President	Brian Schwartz
Treasurer	Les Cooper
Secretary	Doris Roach
Member at Large	Jim Witoszynski
Member at Large	Bill Dow
Immediate Past President	Dan Cray
M.U.M. Editor	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

2021-2024	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