



WestsideWizards!



S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

JULY 2022

Next S.A.M. Meeting:
Tuesday, **July 12, 7:00 PM**
Theme: **Four Corners!**

Next S.Y.M. Meeting:
Sunday, **July 17, 3:00 PM**
Theme: **Close-Up Magic**

Four Corners is Back!

No, we're not taking a field trip to a favorite tourist attraction where four southwest states meet. Instead, we'll be enjoying four of our members who will be in separate corners of our meeting room while presenting and teaching a trick.

Be prepared to take some notes while you learn four great effects that you can add to your repertoire. We'll cover cards, coins and more and perhaps we'll even have time for a show and tell. This is one of our favorite meetings of the year!



We're going to be back at **OPICA at Stoner Park in West LA** (see address and map on the last page) for the first time since our break due to Covid. Let's get together at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, July 12** (second Tuesday, as usual) and have some fun. If you're lucky, perhaps you'll go home with some ideas for tricks you'll want to learn to fool your family and friends.

Last month, we had great success using OPICA's smart board with computer and web camera built-in. This allowed us to host our meeting via Zoom. Since we're going to be running 4 simultaneous mini-training sessions during the evening that isn't really going to be Zoom friendly, we'll kick off the meeting with announcements and we may just end it there as our group splits up into various parts of the meeting room.

The best way to participate in each group and learn some magic is to actually come to the meeting!

At OPICA's request masks will be required!

Upcoming Meetings

- July 12 - Four Corners
- July 17 (S.Y.M.) - Close-Up Magic
- August 9 - Packet Tricks
- September 13 - TBA

Using Zoom

This month, we're going to kick off the meeting with Zoom but we may end it soon after we split into groups for our Four Corners event. 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: 899 0037 0018
Passcode: 598666



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.

WIZARDS RETURN HOME

Club Meets At OPICA For June Meeting, Will Now Be There Every Month

The Westside Wizards enjoyed a June reunion when, for the first time since February, 2020, club members returned to their in-person meeting location at OPICA (“Optimistic People In A Caring Atmosphere”) in West Los Angeles.

OPICA Executive Director Mary Michlovich, who oversees the organization’s day program for older adults with memory loss, has generously allowed the Westside Wizards to hold monthly meetings in the organization’s spacious central room for several years and didn’t hesitate to invite the club back when OPICA reopened.

OPICA’s pandemic remodels include a touchscreen monitor for Zoom, allowing Raul Fernandez, Brian Schwartz, and Jim Whyte to attend the meeting via Zoom (in Brian’s case, all the way from Florida), which could not have happened pre-pandemic and may become a monthly option for members.

Founder/Past President Les Cooper began the June meeting with a brief ceremony, presenting the President’s wand and a S.A.M. Assembly President’s pin to Dan Cray. The wand hand-off mirrored one they conducted virtually in January of 2021, when Dan became Assembly 291’s president, but Les recreated it since Dan was hosting an in-person meeting at OPICA for the very first time.

The evening’s enticing performance theme was “The Trick That Fries People Every Time,” and the magic, with emcee Bill Dow, was just as enticing. Chris Cory showed how a randomly selected card can be found magically, even though participant Valerie Repnau was the only one shuffling, piling, and cutting the deck.

Jim Witoszynski followed by reviving a cut-and-restored rope classic, a time-honored “mind-fry” inspired by Mark Wilson’s Complete Course In Magic. Howard Paris was feeling insightful, as he proved by matching Andrew Goodman’s five, randomly placed ESP cards in precise order.

Raul Fernandez used his Zoom appearance to channel Juan Tamariz’ longtime “magic over the radio” performances, replicating one of Tamariz’ card effects virtually. Alex Scianna embraced his performing character, producing and vanishing coins as a means of revealing his enigmatic stage identity as “The Man Of Mystery.” And Les Cooper, loaded with compelling magical apparatus as always, relied on framed number



Former Westside Wizards President Les Cooper handing the official wand to current President Dan Cray



Raul Fernandez and Jim Whyte (and later, Brian Schwartz from a taxi in Florida!) join the in-person meeting via Zoom

WIZARDS RETURN HOME (Cont.)

sticks and random selections from Don Schuster to create a six-digit number... which just happened to match the number Les already had on his notepad.

Dan Cray used ten cards and a startling reveal of Jim Witoszynski's name to show Eugene Burger's go-to effect "Destiny Has A Name." The night's closer was bonus performer Andrew Goodman (visiting during college break), who put his college coursework to use by demonstrating the scientific principle of density: three red and three black cards continually separated, no matter how well they were mixed.

Raffling magic books and tricks added to the fun of resuming regular in-person meetings, which will be held on the second Tuesday of every month, as always. (Masks are required inside the building.) – Dan Cray



Members come together to say "hi" to everyone on Zoom!

SYM News...



We hope that everyone had a wonderful 4th of July celebration.

The next S.Y.M. online meeting will be July 17, 2022, at 3:00 PM local time.

The theme for this meeting is any close-up magic. You are not limited to cards or coins.

It could be cups and balls, dice, dominos, sponge balls or even Buddha Paper Mystery. The choice is yours.

How many S.Y.M. members would like to have a real in person meeting after summer vacation? Please let me know so I can add it to the OPICA calendar. I am thinking either August or September.

Please email me and let me know if you're interested and which month would be better for you. Please email cooperl@ucla.edu and be sure to copy one of your parents on the email.

Looking forward to hearing from you and/or your parents.

Don't forget that you are invited to any of the S.A.M. meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at OPICA. Now that school is out for the summer, it would be nice to see some of you attend these meetings. The meetings start at 7:00 PM. Read the first page of this newsletter to find the theme for the July meeting.

This month I had a performance at OPICA for the clients and was joined by past S.Y.M. member, Evan Cray. Evan has performed at OPICA several times in the past. Thanks Evan.

If any S.Y.M. member would like to perform at OPICA, I have another show on July 26, at 1:00 PM. Parlour magic works best for this show. Cards and coins or other close-up magic does not work well. It is a great experience, and I welcome any of you to entertain the clients of OPICA. They love to see the youth perform.

If you think you can make it, email me, and let me know what you would like to perform and how much time you need. Please email cooperl@ucla.edu.

That's it for this month, be safe and stay healthy.

Magically,

Les
S.Y.M. Leader

A Word about Raffle Prizes



It was great seeing so many members of the Westside Wizards back at OPICA for the June meeting.

OPICA has opened their doors for our meetings and has made some simple requests. For the foreseeable future they have asked us to wear masks while in the building. I am sure that when the day comes that they do not require masks, I will be informed and will pass the good news to the members.

The other request is to reset the room after our meeting. It is appreciated that many members of the Westside Wizards stay after the meeting and help reset the room.

If you were at the June meeting, and you were a paid member of the Westside Wizards, you got one free raffle ticket for a special raffle where everyone was a winner. Some of the items in this raffle were nice and some were so-so. Let me explain about these items.

When we were actively running our business, Magic and More, we were often asked to bid on some estates of magic, and over the years we picked up lots of magic from several estates. A lot of this magic was offered on Amazon and eBay. There were some great finds and oodles of not-so-great finds. Most of the items did not have instructions, so we did a lot of research to try and find the instructions or videos of the effect.

So, we have loads of magic to offer as raffle prizes. Again, some good and some not so great. Perhaps in their day they were fantastic, but now they are used and need to find new homes. So, if you are the lucky recipient of one of these effects, know that at one time, it was a top-of-the-line effect and may have been used many times in magic shows.

We can tell you that we got some great books and effects that we will auction off to the highest bidder, with half of the winning bid going to the Westside Wizards. Some examples of the book titles are:

The Magic of Michael Ammar, First Edition, 1991

Coin Magic by Richard Kaufman, First Addition, 1981, autographed to previous owner

Mystery School, Eugene Burger and Jeff McBride, First Edition, 2003, Autographed to previous owner

The Complete Works of Derek Dingle by Richard Kaufman, First Edition, 1982

Some of the titles will have a minimum starting bid.

We will also have some magical items for sale at terrific prices.

So, make your plans now to attend the future Westside Wizards meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at OPICA.

Les and Doris

President's Message

A word from Dan Cray...



Hi Westside Wizards,

We're already halfway through 2022, and yet in many ways we've just started anew. It feels nice that, as a club, we're already beginning to settle back into the fun routine of monthly in-person meetings.

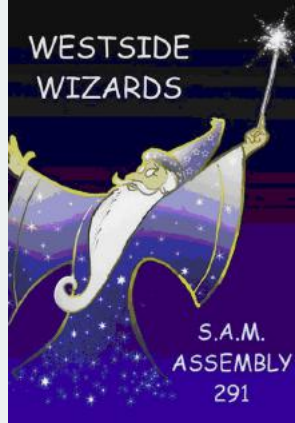
Month One back at OPICA went well, with a nice first-month turnout and some great raffles (including free raffle tickets as a special prize for everyone in attendance). The chance to perform among friends was always one of the highlights of being part of the Westside Wizards, and after two in-person meetings (if I count our May relaunch at the Magic Castle, which I absolutely do) that's still very much the case.

June was also the first month of our trial run at holding the meeting both in-person and online. In some ways, it was a definite success: three members who were unable to attend in-person were instead able to join us via Zoom, something we couldn't offer at our pre-pandemic meetings. I'm a huge fan of continuing that, since it gives members who live outside our region (or are traveling, or develop a sniffle on meeting day, etc.) an option for joining us from afar.

The downside: some poor staging on the part of yours truly, which led to the impression we only had a couple members attending in-person! Balancing the need for online viewers to see our performances up-close while still giving our in-person audience the correct viewing angles and "elbow room" between seats proved a challenge... but we'll try a different seating layout this month as we experiment with making Zoom versions of our meetings a monthly option.

This month we have "Four Corners" as our meeting theme, always a club favorite.

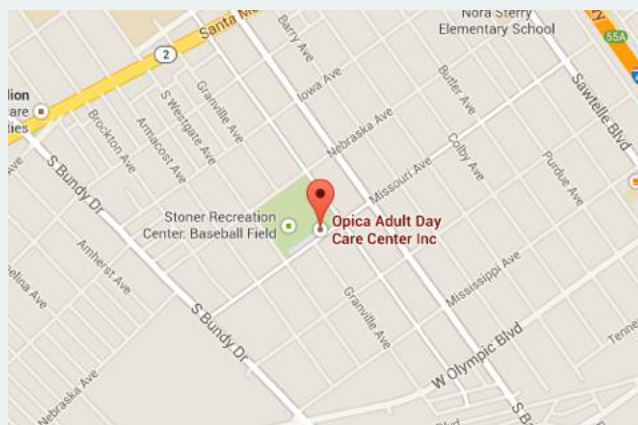
I look forward to seeing you on July 12!



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. We also welcome your participation in the youth program with the **Westside Junior Wizards**, Assembly Y141.

Westside Wizards Officers (2021-2022)

President	Dan Cray
Vice President	Phil Goodman
Treasurer	Doris Roach
Secretary	Brian Schwartz
Member at Large	Raul Fernandez
Member at Large	Jim Witoszynski
Immediate Past President	Les Cooper
M.U.M. Editor	Dan Cray
Newsletter Editors	Phil Goodman & Dan Cray



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

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**