



# WestsideWizards!

S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

JULY 2022

Next S.A.M. Meeting:  
Tuesday, **August 9, 7:00 PM**  
Theme: **Packet Tricks**

Next S.Y.M. Meeting:  
Sunday, **August 21, 3:00 PM**  
Theme: **Close-Up Magic**

## Is that a Packet in Your Pocket?

There was a time when packet tricks were all the rage. Although they've come in and out of style, there are a few standards that are always favorites.

Whether your packet trick has just a few cards or a good number of them, our next meeting is going to give you an opportunity to showcase your favorites.

Because packet tricks often can be quick, feel free to do more than one! We'll be looking forward to hearing your fun stories behind your tricks, too!

If you don't know any packet tricks, feel free to learn a few. Do a Google search for "magic packet tricks" and you'll get a treasure trove of results with videos and links to fun resources. The best part is that they're often easy to perform and they can be very entertaining. And, they're something you can carry around with you all the time!



Our next meeting will be at **7:00 PM on August 9** at OPICA and, once again, at OPICA's request, **masks will be required**. Directions on the last page of the newsletter.

## Upcoming Meetings

- August 9 - Packet Tricks
- August 21 - Close Up Magic (SYM)
- September 13 - TBA

## 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: 881 8172 8454  
Passcode: 970384



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.

We have been notified from National that **Susan Dynner** has been a member of the S.A.M. and the Westside Wizards for five years. Congratulations, Susan!



# TURNING A CORNER

## Club Revisits A Favorite Theme—“Four Corners”—At July Meeting

Are monthly in-person meetings routine yet?

Maybe not, but July’s Westside Wizards meeting felt like a solid step in that direction as club members continued their return to the pre-pandemic rhythm of gathering in-person on the second Tuesday of every month. While members continued to wear masks out of respect for everyone’s health, the magic and camaraderie more than made up for any inconvenience, and those unable to attend in-person were able to participate on Zoom.



Wizards gather to learn 10-Card Poker

The performing theme was a longtime club favorite: Four Corners, where four members teach four different effects while the rest of the club rotates to each station. With the partial Zoom audience in mind, the Wizards chose to have the “teachers” rotate instead, so members viewing online could also enjoy the lessons.

**Raul Fernandez** led off with a version of Rustlers and Cattle. He knew his audience, since his story for the one-ahead trick centered on a magician with six bunnies (represented by six coins). Fearful that rustlers might swipe the bunnies, he cast a spell to protect them. Sure enough, after one bunny (coin) seemed to go missing, the “spell” kicked in. All six bunnies returned... with the rustlers (two additional coins) mysteriously caught in Raul’s left hand.

A showdown followed all that rustler-talk, as **Christopher Cory** and volunteer **Bill Dow** each dealt four card piles for a supposed competition. Chris turned his piles over to reveal the bottom cards were four-of-a-kind; Chris’ magic, however, made Bill the winner, since Bill’s top cards also turned out to be four-of-a-kind: the four aces. The effect generated a great deal of discussion about variations with fewer reveals or matching mates; Bill and Raul performed two such variations on the spot.

**Alexander Scianna**, the Man of Mystery, treated everyone to a no dialog, moves-only instructional session of his three-ball mystery routine, one of his signature acts. Seeing him make multiple balls appear and vanish was only topped by subsequently seeing his skilled moves—borrowed from Dai Vernon, Tommy Thompson, David Roth, and others.

Following an intermission and club raffle, Raul nicely channeled Juan Tamariz (second month in a row!) while **Phil Goodman** demonstrated Ricky Jay’s Ten Card Poker and later returned for an oil & water card trick that was pure, compelling fun to watch (and much more difficult to perform than he made it appear).

The meeting’s finale: a special auction of *The Complete Illustrated Book of Card Magic*, by the legendary Walter B. Gibson! (Congratulations, Chris.) More special auctions, and performing themes, in the months to come! – *Dan Cray*

# SYM News...



The next S.Y.M. online meeting will be **August 21, 2022, at 3:00 PM** Pacific time.

Due to the overwhelming response, the theme for this meeting is again, any close-up magic. You are not limited to cards or coins. It could be cups and balls, dice, dominos, sponge balls, silks, newspaper, thimbles, or rubber bands. The choice is yours. Attend the meeting and surprise us with your prestidigitation.

Don't forget that S.Y.M. members are invited to any of the S.A.M. meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at OPICA. If you are unable to make it to the meeting, you can join us on Zoom. The link is on the front page of the newsletter each month. The meetings start at 7:00 PM. Read the first page of this newsletter to find the theme for the August meeting.

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

Magically,

*Les*  
S.Y.M. Leader

# President's Message

## A word from Dan Cray...



Hi Westside Wizards,

It seems strange, and satisfying, to realize that we've now held in-person meetings for a quarter of the year. Performing together in our club environment has been such a nice shift from screen-based magic.

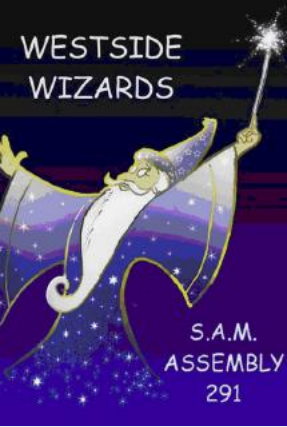
In the coming months I'm hoping we can bring in a guest lecturer or two, continue with interesting performance themes, and maybe hold an outdoor meeting like we did last fall. Looking further ahead (with hopes of healthier times), I can envision us honing our skills by having our club perform an occasional magic show for charitable causes. We definitely have the talent, now we just need the community health conditions to improve.

Right now, Los Angeles is once again a high-risk region for COVID (sigh), but we'll continue doing what we can to stay healthy while keeping the Westside Wizards fun—and safe—for all of us. And, if you prefer, you can still join us on Zoom. Fingers crossed, the disease numbers (which are leveling as I write this) will diminish. In the meantime, I truly thank you for respecting your fellow members (and OPICA's rules) by continuing to wear a quality, medically approved mask at our meetings.

This month our meeting theme is Packet Tricks, so dust off your favorites and come on by!

Would you rather polish an existing routine, or test out new material? That's fine too. I've always found the Westside Wizards to be a relaxed, informed, constructive environment. So, if it's magical and you want to give it a go, feel free.

I look forward to seeing you on August 9!



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        |

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