

# WestsideWizards!



S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

DECEMBER 2022

Next S.A.M. Meeting:  
Tuesday, **December 13, 7:00 PM**  
Theme: **Holiday Show**

Next S.Y.M. Meeting:  
Sunday, **December 18, 3:00 PM**  
Theme: **TBA**

## Elections & Holiday Magic Time!

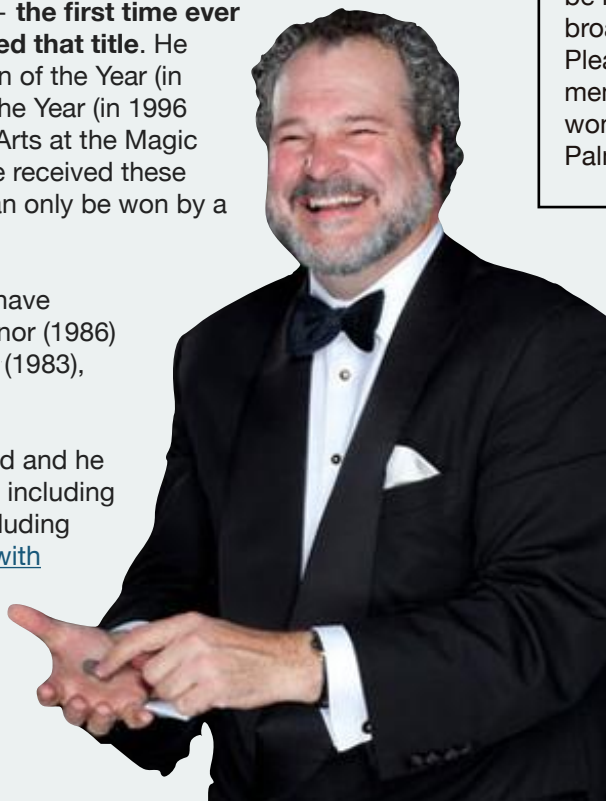
So you thought elections are over? Well, local, state and national elections may be. But there's one more election we need to address. Our local Westside Wizards officer election is this month so the elected board members can serve a new two-year term. The Nomination Committee will, once again, review the proposed slate at the upcoming meeting on **December 13 at 7:00 PM** prior to holding our elections. **You must be present to cast a vote so please come to the meeting!**

What a way to close out our year. As we've been enjoying in-person magic at OPICA, our December meeting will feature a wonderful magic show. This time, we will be treated to a holiday show by the one and only **Johnny Ace Palmer!** Please note that only paid Westside Wizard members and their immediate family members will be admitted.

In case you've never seen him perform, Johnny has been named #1 among the top 10 best close-up magicians (about.com) and is a Magic Castle favorite. In 1988, Johnny earned the Grand Prix award at the International Federation of Magic Societies (FISM) — **the first time ever that a close-up magician was awarded that title.** He has also been voted Close-Up Magician of the Year (in 1987 and 1988) as well as Lecturer of the Year (in 1996 and 1999) by the Academy of Magical Arts at the Magic Castle. It's possible Johnny would have received these awards several more times but each can only be won by a magician twice.

In addition, both the S.A.M and I.B.M. have awarded Johnny the Gold Medal of Honor (1986) and the Gold Cup Award of Excellence (1983), respectively.

Johnny has performed all over the world and he has appeared many times on television including several commercials and TV shows including Masters of Illusion and the [Late Show with David Letterman](#). This is a can't miss



## Upcoming Meetings

December 13: Holiday Show with  
Johnny Ace Palmer  
& Office Elections

January 10: Eric Buss Lecture

## No Zoom This Month

Because we're not having a lecture this month and our holiday show will be in person, we won't be broadcasting our meeting via Zoom. Please join us in person (paid members only!) to enjoy the wonderful magic of Johnny Ace Palmer!

# MAGIC, WITH A DASH OF KAFKA

## Siegfried Tieber Shows Wizards How To Turn Their Magic Into Art

When you hold a meeting just eight nights after Halloween, discovering that your guest lecturer brought a realistic-looking skull to use during his presentation doesn't seem surprising.

The surprise, as award-winning magician Siegfried Tieber proudly explained at the Westside Wizards' November meeting, was that the skull wasn't part of a magic routine. "I brought this skull *just because*," said Tieber. "It doesn't have anything to do with the lecture."

The skull, he clarified, represents his determination to inject who he is as a human being into his magic performances. "What I love about presentation is that it gives me an excuse to talk about death," Tieber said. "I kid you not, I think about death every single day of my life... but for me, talking about death is a way to emphasize the beauty of life."

He illustrated the point by focusing his lecture on just one effect: Tantalizer, from *The Royal Road to Card Magic*. The book presents the trick as a game, but Tieber has elevated it to art by framing the revelation of a participant's selected card as an example of fortune's capricious whims, replete with references to Julius Caesar crossing the Rubicon and novelist Franz Kafka's contention that "the meaning of life is that it ends."

"To me," Tieber said, "this is an excuse to remind people we are all going to die, we're all on borrowed time, and isn't that amazing—and I genuinely think it is."

His compelling lecture examined methods for presenting magic as a narrative art form. For Tieber, the allure to regard magic as art was inspired by Lou Reed of the 1960's rock band Velvet Underground, who maintained in a written interview that song lyrics should be able to stand alone before marrying them to music.

"This blew my mind," Tieber said. "On that short passage, you have a sound philosophy to approach our beloved art form." He began writing his scripts from that perspective, convinced that magic should be able to engage an audience on a narrative level first and foremost, while continuing to offer enchanting moments. "It'll always be a work in progress," he said, "but if I can accomplish this for most of my work, I'll be able to die in peace."

Tieber is aware that others wouldn't necessarily endorse his magical style. "Juan Tamariz would probably tell me, 'Siegfried, you are talking too much, yap-yap-yap, and you are distracting from the magic,'" Tieber said. "And I *know* that in telling a story, I am pulling attention away from the impact of the magic. But this is what I want my art to be. Sure, you should focus on the impossible thing, but what if the words are as important as the action?"

Siegfried encouraged magicians to consider their shows more than entertainment. "Whether we're doing this professionally or not, magic is an art form," he said, "and my hope is that the work stays with you."

– Dan Cray



Siegfried Tieber

# President's Message

## A word from Dan Cray...



Hi Westside Wizards,

As our year wraps up, it's hard to believe we were meeting online as recently as April. Launching our year with memorable lectures from seasoned pro **John Guastafarro**, the hilarious **Robert Baxt**, **Chris Herren (Faust!)**, and **Andy Deemer** (or was he a deep state imposter?) went a long way toward easing Zoom fatigue.

Those virtual lectures feel like they happened soooo long ago—in part because it seems as if we've had month after month of memorable meetings ever since, starting with our gathering at the Magic Castle's Peller Theater in May.

Our "back to normal" summer meetings at OPICA, with performing themes like "tricks that fry people" and "four corners" turned out to be a blast—especially when it came to the August night devoted to packet tricks. Who knew that we all had so many packets stowed and ready?

More recently, in October, we performed at a pumpkin patch and, in November, enjoyed one of our best lectures ever, from **Siegfried Tieber**. I'll never forget **Jim Steinmeyer** night, especially since the delightful **Adele Friel Rhindress** may continue joining us via Zoom as our club's first honorary member.

And now, what a finale for 2022: the one and only **Johnny Ace Palmer**, performing a show exclusively for the Westside Wizards at our December 13th meeting.

I can't thank all of you enough for making this such a great year for our club. Here's wishing a wondrous holiday season to all who celebrate, and a healthy, prosperous 2023 to the entire Westside Wizards family. I look forward to seeing you at this month's meeting, and again in the new year.

# WESTSIDE WIZARDS 2023 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 2023 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.



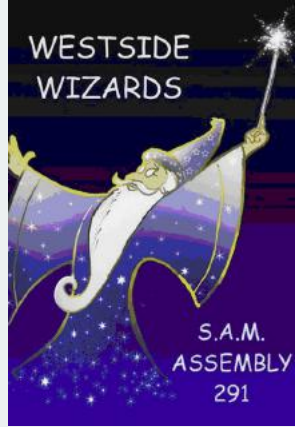
When you are ready to pay your Westside Wizards dues, set up a recipient in Zelle in the name of **Les Cooper** and phone number **310-621-8104**.

**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.





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 (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](http://WWW.WESTSIDEWIZARDS.ORG)  
[INFO@WESTSIDEWIZARDS.ORG](mailto:INFO@WESTSIDEWIZARDS.ORG) OR [SYM@WESTSIDEWIZARDS.ORG](mailto:SYM@WESTSIDEWIZARDS.ORG) FOR THE JUNIORS