



WestsideWizards!

S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

FEBRUARY 2023

Next S.A.M. Meeting:
Tuesday, January 7, 7:00 PM
Theme: **Valentine's Magic**
(Masks Required)

Next S.Y.M. Meeting:
Sunday, February 19, 3:00 PM
Theme: TBA

Valentine's Magic

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and what better way to celebrate love and magic than by joining us at the next Westside Wizards meeting! This month, we have a special theme dedicated to the **holiday of love**.

Our members will be performing romantic illusions, spellbinding magic acts, and heartwarming activities that are sure to leave you enchanted. Whether you're a seasoned magician or just starting out, you're sure to enjoy the variety of magical performances we have in store for you.

And of course, what would a Valentine's Day celebration be without a little bit of socializing? After the workshops and performances, we'll mingle with fellow magic enthusiasts and share your love for magic.

As usual, we'll be meeting at OPICA (meeting location on the last page). But this month, we'll be meeting one week early on **February 7 at 7:00 PM** since the following Tuesday is Valentine's Day and we know no one will want to miss that! **Note that OPICA requires masks.**

So whether you're single or taken, come along and join us for a night of magic, love, and friendship. We promise you won't be disappointed!



Upcoming Meetings

February 7: Valentine Magic
(note one week earlier than usual)

February 19 (S.Y.M): TBA

March 13: Magic with Glass

Using Zoom

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: 811 1243 9644
Passcode: 473463

[JOIN NOW](#)

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

A FUN STOP FOR THE NIGHT “BUSS”

Eric Buss Delivers A Memorable Lecture For The Wizards

The Westside Wizards kicked off the new year similar to the way they wrapped up the previous one: by welcoming a talented guest, in this case **Eric Buss**, who brought his A-game of innovation, humor, and of course magic, to the January meeting.

Buss, a Magic Castle regular who has appeared on the *Late Show with David Letterman* and *America’s Got Talent*, was ready with a wall covered in lecture topics for club members to select. “I feel like the magicians who lecture all the time have it down pat, where it’s almost a show,” he said. “For me, tonight, we’re going to keep it casual.”

So casual, in fact, that Buss opened with “Stuck Up,” a fun, captivating trick centered on a bottle of glue with a nozzle that always winds up pointing upward. “This was a pandemic project for me,” Buss said. He shelved it until the pandemic eased up, then polished both the working and the gimmick.

Buss also demonstrated iCut, a torn & restored iPhone charger routine, and iMeasure, in which he is able to “prove” there is a secret, physical tape measure embedded into any wireless phone. He also performed two prototype effects, generating back and forth with several Westside Wizards on how he might be able to fine-tune his solid concepts.

Then there was his “trusty magic wand,” which “failed” to locate a selected card three times before Buss “suddenly realized” his wand was actually a rolled-up piece of paper. Naturally, the unrolled paper revealed the name of the chosen card.

The wand trick came about when Buss and his wife thought about rolling paper into scrolls while planning their wedding. “Once we started talking about rolled up tubes, I went ‘hey, wait a minute...’” Buss said. “So, at the wedding everyone took a wand from a top hat and that was the program for the wedding... and I just want to pause for a moment to say that I have a wife who allowed me to make magic wands as wedding favors!”

Buss also told fascinating, albeit sobering stories about his TV appearances, where he performed a synchronized, fireworks-style routine with canned, spring snakes. Though grateful for the visibility, the experiences weren’t what he had anticipated. He did, however, make the number one slot on David Letterman’s “Top Ten Signs You’re Not Going To Win A Nobel Peace Prize: You’re on Letterman playing with a bunch of spring snakes.”

Buss laughed about the needling from Letterman. “Yes, I’m number one!” he joked. “Mission accomplished.” All joking aside, the Westside Wizards would certainly agree. – *Dan Cray*



Eric Buss

President's Message

A word from Dan Cray...



Hello, Westside Wizards,

I know we've had a lot of rain and cold temps (for Los Angeles, at least), and people are wondering where the sun went, but I'm just going to say: I really love winter.

Okay, I suppose I should clarify by saying I love mild winter—full-blown Nor'easters don't sound like a lot of fun. But believe it or not, there are a few of us here in SoCal who like colder temps, snow on the local mountaintops, the sound of evening rain on the roof, and headlights glistening in the roadway puddles.

Cold, rainy nights are also a great time to rehearse our magic routines... or see some new ones at our club meetings. Which reminds me: many thanks, once again, to Eric Buss for last month's lecture. I particularly loved that he included some of his prototype material, which gave all of us a chance to weigh in on what worked well and offer our ideas for what could perhaps make the effects go even more smoothly. Not all performers are willing to open up their thought processes like that, so kudos to Eric for taking that risk.

It was also good seeing Stephen Levine, our friend and one of the Westside Wizards' founders, in attendance at the January meeting. As you'll see elsewhere in this newsletter, this month marks our club's fifteenth anniversary—wow, fifteen years. Happy Birthday, Westside Wizards!

A little breaking news for you: this May, for the second year in a row, we'll be holding our club meeting at the **Magic Castle**. My thanks to Ben Roman, their director of club experiences, for helping me secure the arrangements. More details on this as we get closer, but mark your calendar for **Tuesday, May 9**.

In the meantime, our meeting theme this month is "Valentine's Magic"—but please feel free to use your creativity. Valentine's is everything from nostalgic to offensive, bittersweet to depressing, so while the stereotypical imagery is romantic, and maybe you are too, that's not necessarily the tone your magic needs to convey. Show us whatever this month, or this particular holiday makes you feel (pardon me for saying this) in your heart.

Remember, this month's meeting is a week earlier than usual due to Valentine's. See you on Tuesday, Feb. 7, for some Valentine's Magic.

A Puzzle...

Can you solve it?

Greeting Wizards,

Below are two magic squares.

Can you tell us what they represent?

See next to the last page for the answer.

2	7	6
9	5	1
4	3	8

7	7	1	0
0	1	6	8
2	3	5	5
6	4	3	2

Magic Conventions through July 2023

(Accurate as of this writing, January 2023)

(Source: <https://www.themagicwordpodcast.com/>)

March 2023

March 17-18 - **Magic Capital Close-Up Convention** in Colon, Michigan. Website: magiccaptalcloseup.com

March 17-19 - **Portland Magic Jam** in Portland, Oregon. Website: pdxmagicjam.com

March 23-25 - **Houdini Festival of Magic**, Historic North Theater, Danville, Virginia. Website: thehoudinifestival.com

April 2023

April 1 - **Michigan Magic Day** in Marshall, Michigan. Website: www.eventcreate.com/e/michigan-magic-day?fbclid=IwAR1gJIA9vwPdPWbnjmyBazdeglPX7-BRF765_TSK8OmFFy-ok5z0eglxE9I

April 13-16 **MZvD Jugendworkshop** in Bielefeld, Germany. Website: www.mzvd.de/jugend/jugendworkshop

April 20-22 - **The Senior Tour** in St. Louis, Missouri. Website: www.baskervilleproductions.com/seniortour

April ? - **WonderBash** in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Website: www.morethantricks.com

April 21-23 - **52 Friends Magic Convention** in Hamburg, Germany. Website: www.52freunde.de

April 26-29 - **Obie's 4F** Invitation Only Convention (Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolic) in Buffalo, New York
Website: www.ffffmagic.com

April 29-May 1 - **MagiCon** in Belfast, Ireland. Website: www.online-usm.com/magicon2022

April 30 - **MAWNY** (Magician's Alliance of Western New York): Batavia, NY Website: www.mawny.org

May 2023

May 9-11 - **Collector's Expo** in Cleveland, Ohio. Website: magiccollectorexpo.com

May 19-21 - **AbraCORNdabra** in Des Moines, Iowa - Website: abracorndabra.com

May 28 - **The Darlington Magic Circle May Day** of Magic in Darlington. Website: www.thedarlingtonmagiccircle.co.uk/news.html

May 11-14 - **Master of Magic** in Turin, Italy. Website: mastersofmagicconvention.com/en/home-english-2023

July 2023

July 11-15 - **IBM Convention** in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Websites: www.ibmconvention.com and www.magician.org

July 23-25 - **Society of American Magicians (S.A.M.)** in New Orleans, LA - Website: www.samconvention.com

July 23-25 - 42. **Magische Sternfahrt** in Saalbach, Austria. Website: www.zaubern.at/magische-sternfahrt.phtml

August 2023

August 6-9 - **Magic Live**, Las Vegas, Nevada Website: www.magicconvention.com

Other Los Angeles Area Magic Clubs

The Westside Wizards is not the only magic Assembly in the Los Angeles area. Several other Assemblies and Rings abound 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

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.



Happy 15th Birthday Westside Wizards

Yes, both magic squares on Page 4 total **15**, and they REPRESENT the 15th Birthday of the Westside Wizards.

February 12, 2008, was a DARK AND STORMY NIGHT in Los Angeles... and you have heard the story many times. If you haven't heard the story, ask Les at an upcoming meeting and he'll happy to tell you all about it!

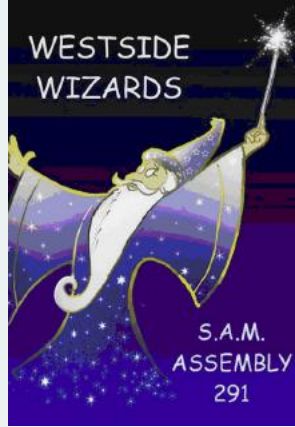
We would like to THANK all present and past members for their support over the last 15 years. Without you there would not be a Westside Wizards.



Lets have a toast to celebrate!

Happy Birthday Westside Wizards and many more!

Les and Doris



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