

WestsideWizards!



S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES

JANUARY 2023

Next S.A.M. Meeting:
Tuesday, January 10, 7:00 PM
Theme: **Eric Buss Lecture**
(Masks Required)

Next S.Y.M. Meeting:
Sunday, January 15, 3:00 PM
Theme: TBA

Shenanigans with Eric Buss!

If you haven't seen **Eric Buss'** show, you're missing out. Eric is one of the most original comedy magicians working today and his talents are always on display when he performs with fun, crazy and original props he creates. We're very lucky to have Eric live here in L.A. so he can lecture and entertain the Westside Wizards.

Our next meeting will be at **7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 10 at OPICA**, as usual (address and directions on the last page). **Masks required.**

When Eric was born, the doctors all laughed at him. That laughter gave Eric a rush, and at the age of seven seconds he knew he wanted to make people laugh when he grew up... Later at the ripe age of 8, he learned how to tinker in his dad's workshop. Then, at age 16, he started learning magic tricks. When he successfully merged his passion for building with his magical skills he knew right then and there that he wanted to be a professional comedy magician who would build his own original props. He has never looked back.

Although most would agree that his gadgets are totally awesome, it's Eric's personality that wins audiences over. His high-energy, and hilarious act has been called, "Pure Art, Pure Madness!" It combines crazy inventions and Eric's high-octane sugar rush of comedy into a non-stop ride of mischief and magical gadgetry that most people could never imagine. Eric not only imagined it, he turned it into an award-winning act that he has performed around the world and on "The Late Show" with David Letterman. In fact, Letterman called his performance "Tremendous, sensational, and beautiful." And, as 10 million people watched, he managed to win over one of the most difficult audiences in television- the audience of "America's Got Talent."



Upcoming Meetings

January 10: Eric Buss Lecture
Masks required

January 22 (SYM): TBA

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

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: 893 2538 5470
Passcode: 723142

[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 Second City Comedy School graduate, he has performed on five continents and on TV in seven countries, including a one-hour Korean television special solely dedicated to his performance. Other career highlights include appearances on the "Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon" and the "Just for Laughs" Comedy Festival in Montreal, and entertaining U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

DEALING AN “ACE”

Wizards Enjoy A Magical December Show From Johnny Ace Palmer

Festive activities are common at year-end club meetings, but the Westside Wizards’ December meeting was something more: a celebration of Assembly 291’s successful restart from virtual to in-person meetings during 2022, punctuated by a special performance by the one and only **Johnny Ace Palmer**.

Palmer, who was the first close-up magician to earn FISM’s Grand Prix award, performed an hour-long show exclusively for Westside Wizards members. Already known for being one of the nicest people in magic, he graciously took time out of his busy December schedule to entertain the Wizards with sleights, thrills, and quite possibly the cutest, calmest rabbit ever to appear out of a hat.

The show was the capstone for a year in which circumstances forced the Wizards to continue meeting online as recently as April. The Assembly then came roaring back with a gathering at the Magic Castle, meeting themes that reinvigorated Zoom-fatigued members, an October public performance at a pumpkin patch, and numerous guest lecturers.



Johnny “Ace” Palmer

As Palmer prepared his stage for the December meeting, the club saluted one of the Wizards’ founding members, **Raul Fernandez**, who is leaving the Assembly’s board. One of the most active, knowledgeable members of the club, Raul’s presence on the board will be missed.

Also noted was **Evan Cray**’s forthcoming brunch performance at the Magic Castle for the Castle Juniors Society. Evan started out as a member of the Westside Junior Wizards (SYM Assembly Y141) at age 9 and now, at 19, will become their first “graduate” to perform at the Castle. He and other Y141 members are on the Castle’s horizon thanks in part to magic foundations built by **Les Cooper**, **Phil Goodman**, **Raul**, Doris Roach, the late **Kobge Egbok**, and other Westside Wizards members who volunteered with SYM.

The evening’s club business finished with the membership ratifying the Assembly Nominating Committee’s recommended slate of officers for 2023-2024... clearing the deck for Palmer, who did exactly what he is known for: mesmerizing closeup, stage and parlor magic that’s as enchanting as his wonderful personality.

Whether using ropes, cards, or his signature, surprise appearances of fluffy, adorable chicks, Palmer made every moment memorable... and offered hope that 2023 will hold more fun surprises for the Westside Wizards. – *Dan Cray*



President's Message

A word from Dan Cray...



Happy New Year, Westside Wizards!

Here's wishing you a healthy, successful, and *magical* year.

I'm still thrilled that **Johnny Ace Palmer** performed a show exclusively for our club members last month. If you missed it, I'm not going to sugarcoat it: you missed something special. Johnny was first-rate as always, and he brought his entire one-hour show—so much that it took a full 30 minutes of setup time beforehand so he could give us professional sound and staging, right there inside our OPICA meeting site. Many thanks to him for such a great show, and to **Les Cooper** and **Doris Roach** for approaching him with the idea.

One memorable, post-show moment that I just have to share: Les and Doris presenting Johnny with one case of peach Perrier—one of Johnny's favorite beverages—as a holiday treat. Every club member in attendance received some Perrier as well, and Johnny seemed truly flattered by the gesture.

And now, we kick off 2023 with another special guest, the very talented and entertaining **Eric Buss**, on January 10!

That will be followed by a themed meeting next month: "Valentine's magic." Feel free to have fun with producing magic with love, romance, hearts and whatever ideas your imagination can come up with. Also note that due to a conflict with Valentine's Day, our February meeting will be held one week earlier, on Tues., Feb. 7.

Finally, from the "things move slowly, but they do move forward" department, I took a peek at my column from this time last year and it finished with me saying that I'd see all of you at the monthly online meeting. Happily, thanks to vaccine boosters, plentiful masks, and rapid tests, that changed to in-person last May. So even though the post-holiday illness wave is now hitting Los Angeles yet again, things have progressed and hopefully we can fully turn the corner, away from the pandemic, soon. In the meantime, don't forget we have a virtual option if you're a bit under the weather but would still like to attend our meetings.

Once again, Happy 2023! See you at the January 10 meeting.

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.



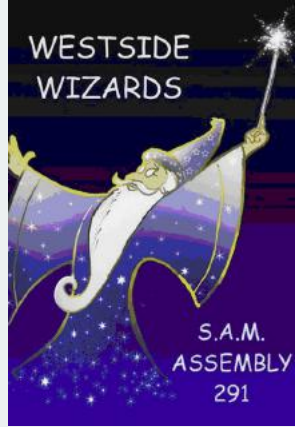
When you are ready to pay your Westside Wizards dues, set up a recipient in Zelle in the name of **Les Cooper** and phone number **310-621-8104**.

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 (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**