



# WestsideWizards!



**S.A.M. ASSEMBLY 291, LOS ANGELES**

**DECEMBER 2023**

Next S.A.M. Meeting:

Tuesday, **December 12, 7:00 PM**

Theme: **Holiday Show with Paul Green**  
(OPICA REQUIRES MASKS)

Next S.Y.M. Meeting:

Sunday, **December 17, 3:00 PM**

Theme: **TBA**

## Holiday Show with Paul Green!

Our next meeting will be treat for all of us. Magic legend **Paul Green** will be entertaining us with his uniquely smooth style at our holiday show on **December 12**.

As a California native, Paul Green has been a fixture in the Los Angeles Magic Scene for quite a long time. He has "done it all", from restaurants, trade shows, cruises, film consultations, and private parties. He is a favorite performer at the World Famous Magic Castle® and currently serves as the vice chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Academy of Magical Arts.

Paul has been awarded Lecturer and Close-Up Magician of the Year from the AMA. Additionally, he has been nominated for Parlor Magician of the Year three times. He has published two sets of lecture notes, *Take a Stroll With Me* and *Nothing Up My (Green)Sleeves*. His DVD/downloads include *The Classic Force* and *In the Trenches*.

He has been married (to the same woman) for almost half a century! Paul has one daughter, Rebecca and one granddaughter, Scarlet.

Mark your calendar for **December 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM** and, as usual, we'll be meeting at OPICA (meeting location on the last page). Note that OPICA requires masks.



## Upcoming Meetings

Dec 12: Holiday Show with Paul Green

Jan 9: Magic You Got for the Holidays

## No Zoom This Month

As we'll be having a live, in-person show, we'll have no Zoom meeting this month. This will be a great opportunity to meet in-person and have fun with our members.

Please come support our group and our wonderful lecturer by showing up in person!

If you're not a Westside Wizards member and want to attend, there will be a \$10 charge at the door, cash or Zelle.

# STUNNING SLEIGHTS, BAR NONE

## Bar Magic Maestro Mike Pisciotta Wows Wizards at Nov. Lecture

It's not often you get to enjoy an instructional lecture from an Academy of Magical Arts Close-Up Magician of the Year, or for that matter an AMA Parlour Magician of the Year, but that's what happened when Assembly 291 welcomed Mike Pisciotta to their November meeting.

Pisciotta, a resident bar magician at the Magic Castle, has won each of those prestigious awards twice, and regularly inspires rapt audiences to cheer like they've just witnessed a second coming of Elvis. Would performing for a room of jaded magicians—in this case, the Westside Wizards—make any difference?

The short answer: not much. Pisciotta warmed up by presenting a smooth-as-butter coin routine where the sleight skills—which he methodically demonstrated subsequent to the performance—launched a night of audible, admiring gasps.

From there, Pisciotta treated everyone to "The Time Lord," where a chosen card "time-travels" by switching places with the ace of spades. A related effect, "Jokers Through Time," features a chosen card reappearing face-down amid four face-up jokers. The lecture also saw a chosen card magically appear between black aces, an innovative card-through-box routine, and a sleight-of-hand version of the classic rising card.

One of Pisciotta's showstoppers was the clever "Simple Evanescence," a no-palm, repeat card-to-wallet that incorporates a simple yet genius method. An alternate version had the memorable premise of Pisciotta discovering a torn-off card corner, with an accompanying ransom note demanding money to get the rest of the card back. His creative setup is rewarded by seeing the ransom payment transform into the restored card.

Pisciotta joked that he constructed the menacing-looking ransom note—a scary mishmash of glued-on alphabet letters—by going through magazines "and cutting them out, like a psychopath!"

The evening's finale, where a Chinese coin unexpectedly transforms into a quarter that appears in a volunteer's hand, carried the same title that the Westside Wizards later used to describe their entire evening with Mike Pisciotta: "Real Magic." – Dan Cray



**Mike's sense  
of fun is quite  
contagious!**

**We loved him!**



# President's Message

A word from Dan Cray...



Hello Westside Wizards,

As we approach the heart of holiday season, there's magic everywhere. It's in the sparkling eyes of children as they gaze into seasonal lights; the nightly aroma from our neighbors' kitchens as they bake beloved holiday dishes; and of course, in the smiles we receive in the aftermath of demonstrating even the simplest of sleights.

Case in point: while visiting a lighted yard display near my home, I noticed a captivated family so I "pulled" the color from a glowing red light, tossed it around for a bit, then returned it to the light strand. "Awestruck" doesn't begin to describe their reaction.

Scoff all you want at the trick's simplicity (and bear in mind that no one likes detailed, thematic illusions more than I do), but the chance to create an unexpected, unforgettable moment for complete strangers is among the most special benefits of being a magician.

So, this holiday season I wish you peace, joy, good health, and ample opportunities to bring memorable, magical moments to the many people who will never forget the talent you share.

I also want to thank you for being a Westside Wizards member. We've had some great events this year (a Magic Castle night, Summery Sorcery, Shawn's Pumpkin Patch), and memorable guests (the hilarious Eric Buss sharing his creative process, AMA Close-Up and Parlour Magician of the Year Mike Pisciotta, and now another AMA Close-Up Magician of the Year, the wonderful Paul Green, at our forthcoming meeting).

We've also had a lot of good theme nights and great conversations in between. For me, getting together to share our enjoyment of magic is the best part of Westside Wizards.

So, once again, here's wishing you a wonderful holiday season. I look forward to seeing you for our special holiday performance and visit with Paul Green on Dec. 12.



# WESTSIDE WIZARDS 2024 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 2024 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.

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## Open Mic Magic!

Do you want to perform magic with magicians from around the world, including the United Kingdom, Canada, Iceland, India, Germany, and other locations?

Do you want to watch other magicians perform live?

You can sit back, relax, and watch a free magic show, or if you prefer, perform for other magicians from the comfort of your home.



Every Wednesday at Noon, local time (8:00 PM in the UK), Kevin Peel hosts OPEN MIC MAGIC via Zoom. Shows usually last a little over one hour and feature magicians performing with cards, coins, silks, some parlour and more. Here is the link to get your free tickets:

**Tickets are FREE**

Get your weekly dose of live magic in your home.

So, get your FREE ticket NOW! The link is:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/open-mic-magic>

Open to beginners, hobbyists, semi pros, professional magicians, and anyone who loves magic.

And if you are a magician, hang out with other magicians for lively discussions about magic after the Zoom show.

Hope to see you soon on Open Mic Magic!

# Selected Upcoming Magic Conventions

## January 2024

January 25-27 - **MagiFest** in Columbus, Ohio - Website: <https://www.vanishingincmagic.com/magic-conventions/magifest>

## February 2024

February 16-18 - **Blackpool Convention** in Blackpool, England. Website: <https://blackpoolmagicconvention.com>

## March 2024

March 15-17 - **Poe's Magic Conference**, in Baltimore, MD. Website: <https://poesmagicconference.com>

## April 2024

April 24-27 - **Obie's 4F** Convention (Fechter's Finger Flicking Frolic, Invitation Only) in Buffalo, New York - Website: <http://www.ffffmagic.com/> May 2024

May 17 - 19 - **AbraCORNdabra** in Des Moines, Iowa - Website: <https://www.AbraCORNdabra.com>

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# Other Los Angeles Area Magic Clubs

The Westside Wizards is not the only magic Assembly in the Los Angeles area. Several other Assemblies, Rings and clubs are in Los Angeles. Here is a list of other local organizations:

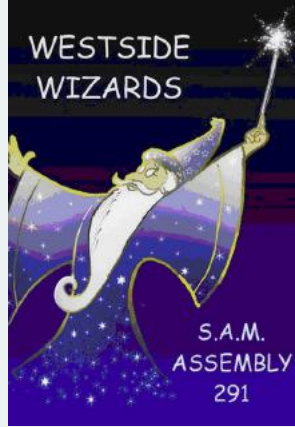
**S.A.M. Assembly 22** (Duarte) meets on the third Monday of the month, [sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home](https://sites.google.com/view/magicsam22/home)

**IBM Ring 21** (North Hollywood) meets on the first Thursday of the month. [www.ibmring21.org](http://www.ibmring21.org)

**IBM Ring 96** (Seal Beach) meets on the third Saturday of the month. [www.ring96.com](http://www.ring96.com)

**IBM Ring 280** (Santa Clarita) meets on the second Thursday of the month. [www.ibmring280.com](http://www.ibmring280.com)

**Academy of Magical Arts** (at the Magic Castle), [www.magiccastle.com](http://www.magiccastle.com)



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](http://WWW.WESTSIDEWIZARDS.ORG)

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