

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics  
Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7:15 PM each month  
Knoxville First Seventh Day Adventist Church Annex  
3625 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee

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The Ring pulled off a fantastic 39<sup>th</sup> Winter Carnival of Magic in March, and that was the subject of a lot of our discussion later that month at our meeting. We are already working on the talent for the big 40<sup>th</sup> (or in Roman, that's "XL") including arranging for some of the first acts to appear at our convention...like Pop Haydn and Brian Gillis!

We also took nominations for officers. Running unopposed are President Michael Priestap, Vice President John Hopper, Treasurer Mike Stratman, Secretary Tom Vorjohan, and Sargent at Arms Bill Sturgis. We will be deciding between Pan Walker and Ben Young for our Program Chairman, and four of the following seven will become our Board of Directors: Jack Wilson, Michael Messing, Ed Ripley, Bill Osburn, Ed Denny, John Bloor, and Wayne Bromberg.

We started the performance portion of our evening with an initiation performance by Donald Berry. Don did the Cups and Balls, an Okito Box, and a vanishing coin in a folded paper. The members unanimously voted Don to be our newest member. The theme for the rest of our meeting was "Easter Performance" since we were meeting the day before Good Friday. Michael Priestap had a recording that walked him through Goshman's Sponge Rabbits...very funny. Keith Branch showed a fabulous way to update "Will The Cards Match" for nearly any occasion, and he did it with the Easter theme. Pan Walker told a story – a sort of death and resurrection – of how he failed at a magic performance and then stunned at the following one.

As Tom Vorjohan was about to start, a surprise guest arrived at the meeting: David Fee. David wanted to thank the Ring for all they did for him and making him the "Guest of Honor" at the Winter Carnival. David then reminisced about his start in magic and this Ring. It was nice to have some of our "old timers" at the meeting like John Bloor and Ed Denny. David also updated us on what's coming this season in Pigeon Forge with his theaters and restaurants. Time flew, and then Tom got to do his card trick that he learned on vacation from Harry Lorayne's "Reputation Makers." Ed Denny followed with some squeaking Easter eggs. Mike Stratman had a chosen card appear inside an egg in a little plastic chicken's beak. And to end the performances, Bill Osburn showed the Gravity Tube, Andy Dallas' Suspended Wand, and also a floating cane.

Afterwards, David Fee picked up the tab (thanks David!!) at Applebee's for ten of us that hung around until midnight telling more stories and enjoying the food and fellowship.

Tom Vorjohan