

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics  
Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7:00 PM each month  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tenn 37919

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Our November meeting was a big deal as we were totally changing the format for the performances. We had fourteen members, one visitor and two guests. We started the evening with new name tags for everyone, we did quick introductions, and then Tom Vorjohan was our featured performer for the evening. Tom has been working restaurants since 1985, and he showed how he approaches tables differently. While performing, he also added some annotated comments for others to learn from. After the performance, we took a social break to have some cake as we celebrated Bev Coffey's 81<sup>st</sup> birthday that evening!

The new format for the performances had four different categories. Up first was the tried-and-true "themed performances" – and tonight's theme was Purple People Puzzle Eater (magic with something purple, or a puzzle, or food, or using people!). Michael Priestap did a silent piece to music using a vanishing and reappearing purple die. Using a balloon that didn't need to be tied, John Hopper puzzled us and then got several people involved in Knot a Chance where he kept his \$10 bill. Jack Wilson showed off a Tic Tac Toe prediction that he learned at one of the lectures at the Unconventional Convention earlier in the month.

For our "Show & Tell" portion of the meeting, Michael Priestap showed an old sewing case as well as a coin purse/pill box made from silver dollars that he found at recent estate sales. David Case has made several things that he's not been able to show off, and he brought them with him tonight. He had a great performing table with a speaker built in, a magic wand, several boxes, and an awesome sefalalja where a ball went into a glass inside of a box. Mike Stratman brought in a Haen Chen Production Box made in the '30s with the side that all fall down.

"Works in Progress" had Tom Vorjohan showing a couple color changing pencils and an idea for a color changing knife. We had some great discussion about ways to take each of these to the next step in performance. The last portion of the meeting was the most popular "Open Mic" format. Pan Walker showed how he comes up with a story from a shuffled deck. We went back memory lane with Harold Whipps telling how he got started in magic with a box top and a quarter that he sent in to get a Ball Vase. Ed Ripley made a plea for ideas of tricks that don't need props. Jason Murphy discussed the principle of the magic wand for misdirection and to cover something else that is in your hand. And finally, Ben Young presented a solid routine with a pen and its cap that moved, appeared and puzzled us all. Judging by this first meeting, this new format is going to be great!

Tom Vorjohan