

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics
Meets 4th Thursday at 6:45 PM each month
Messiah Lutheran Church
6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

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Hello 2019! We met on the last day of January with two dozen in attendance: 20 members plus one guest-turning-member (who joined at the meeting) and three other guests. We had to stuff 275 envelopes for the Winter Carnival flyers, then we talked about the upcoming convention for about an hour. We were glad when we got to do some magic. Evan Bishop, a recent Purdue graduate who started working as an engineer at Tate & Lyle, did his initiation performance to get us started. Even with less than 24-hours of notice, Evan did a great job with producing the Aces, moving the Aces, and intentionally being sloppy to find a selected card. We welcomed Evan unanimously!

Our youngest member Samantha Rieger kicked things off showing a Rubik's Cube themed magic kit that she received for Christmas and performing a quick routine with the Cups and Balls from that set. Carroll Vinson performed a great message along with three different colored ropes that were tied into individual loops and then became one large loop. Jason Rieger performed a miniature root beer Topsy Turvy Bottles effect.

Our theme for the month was "Squishy Magic" and our members came on strong...and squishy. Tom Vorjohan did the squishy parts of his Sponge Rabbit routine and discussed how he had taken this from normal sponge ball moves; he also did a see-through card effect that he got at the KAX convention the previous week. Barry Mitchell had a container that squished flat and was full of sponge balls and a big smiley-faced silk. Michael Messing did one of his favorite routines: the Needle thru Balloon. Bill Osburn took the squishy center out of an Oreo and put it back in and then took a watch battery to miniature size and back. Harold Whipps took a silk and made a knot appear on it (and he taught this effect, too!). Bill Sturgis had a large box that he used to blend red, white, and blue silks into an American flag. John Hopper had a fun Change Bag routine and Michael Priestap squished a Hot Rod through his hand.

Ed Ripley showed an amazing balancing effect at the tip of his finger with business cards and a dollar bill. Roger Reeves has developed a new gimmick for the Silk to Egg and he discussed and taught this effect and the deceptiveness of the 3-D gimmick. Tim Pressley outdid himself for our Show & Tell with a plethora of squishy props that he makes like donuts, baby carrots, Christmas lights, eggs, and even oversized books...that he gave away! Then Michael Priestap talked about his trip to the Houdini Museum in Budapest (where Houdini was born...but never performed).

Kyle Copeland did one of his pet effects that he learned from Paul Green called "Jeopardy" with prediction after prediction about a shuffled deck of cards. Carroll Vinson was assisted by Donna for another fun card routine. And our treasurer, Jack Wilson, finished out the evening with a handkerchief covered deck of cards that was cut and it matched the prediction using the "Zebra Code Prediction."

Tom Vorjohan