

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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Kicking off 2020 with just a dozen members at our January meeting was a lot of fun. The first order of business was to get volunteers to do a show for the ladies of the Messiah Lutheran Church where we meet...and Roger Reeves, Tim Pressley, “Magic Bill” Osburn, and Michael Messing happily stepped up. There was considerable discussion about the Winter Carnival of Magic (we even got Tom Vorjohan on FaceTime to fill in some details), and Ray Adams explained the VIP program that will be offered. March 12-14 will be an awesome 46th annual convention for us!

Now on to the magic. Sadly, our illustrious and trusted treasurer, Jack Wilson, had to miss the meeting tonight ending his 67-month streak of perfect attendance and 100% performances because of his plight with The Stones. We are sorry, Jack, and mega-impressed all the same; hope you can beat your own record again! Roger Reeves talked about his trip to Colon, Michigan when he visited the FAB Magic Shop, Abbott’s, and taking a tour of the Lakeside Cemetery where over 30 magicians are buried including Harry Blackstone Sr. & Jr., Karrell Fox, Duke Stern, Tom Mullica, Phil Willmarth, and most recently Denny Haney and David Linsell.

Carroll Vinson went with our “Mental Magic” theme and read Tim’s mind to identify the card he was thinking of. Michael Priestap had the crowd shout out names of celebrities that he jotted down on slips of paper; when he made a prediction it matched the name of the chosen personality. Victor Agreda performed an old Tenyo effect called “The Third Eye,” that was an impressive piece allowing a spectator to identify a chosen card.

Ray Adams showed a gorgeous Wizard hat that he is making by hand by a process called “wet felting.” Then he did a book test using a random page number made by three audience members and he could divine the image on that page. As we headed toward the finish of the performances, Mike Stratman used the entire audience to discern a selected card using a vintage Abbott’s color wheel. Using just a flashlight a pair of 3D glasses, Bill Osburn was able to identify someone’s thought of card. There was a lot of “thinking” and mental workout this month!

Tom Vorjohan with Tim Pressley