

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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We met a week early in November to avoid getting gravy on our magic! Fifteen members attended, plus two joining via Zoom; it was a great meeting full of magic. We will be doing an exchange show once again with Nashville's Ring 37 for our respective holiday parties, and after discussing some area news (like the new location for Terry Evanswood as well as the final show at the Gatlinburg Space Needle for Erik Dobell after eight seasons there) we had thirteen members share some Holiday Magic – Any Holiday!

Mixing in a historical story about the “first” Thanksgiving, Ed Ripley did an excellent version of the Cannibal Cards with his tongue securely tucked into his cheek. Bill Osburn, aka “Magic Bill,” turned back to Halloween as he shared a package he won from David Orthodoxy that included a “Haunted Key – Blood Edition” which flipped over in Sherman Wires’ hand. Going back to some dated book or notes, Mike Stratman did a mathematical effect with a penny and a nickel that accurately relied on the presumption that we are not good at doing math in our head.

Jim Stott used a trepidatious Roy Schubert as his “child assistant” to help with a 4th of July routine (our next 4th will be our 250th celebration!) using a variety of fun wands – including Jim’s own creation of a gorgeous Flower Wand – along with some funny glasses and a LIT firecracker. This was a fun routine with the silk appearing where the firecracker was, and the firecracker appearing on Roy’s back. We were glad to have Tom Raidy up from the Chattanooga area to show us something he is working on with a sea story of an old sailor...as he presented a fun story in conjunction with Tenyo’s Excalibur ring penetration.

Traveling through space and time, Roy Schubert had a chosen page torn from a book along with a randomly called-out year arrive in just one of five possible envelopes – to the dumbfounded silence of the group’s appreciation once again. Roy also did a stunning card effect with a chosen and sticker-clad card proving Card Insurance is good to have. Jack Wilson proclaimed that “people lie more during Christmas than other holidays,” and proved it with a smooth version of Nick Trost’s Lie Detector. Having reworked an old lollipop trick, Bill Sturgis showed a stand with six colored Christmas lights and removed three...only to have them reappear moments later.

Preparing Bill Abbott’s Sock Appeal with all Christmas socks, Tim Pressley had seven fairly eliminated only to have the remaining sock match the single one he was wearing. Michael Messing shared and recommended Jim Kleefeld’s book “Halloween Magic” for inspiration about holiday themed performances. We were glad Ray Adams made the trek from Pigeon Forge so that he could share his three-phases of Slydini’s Silks which he did very smoothly; he was asking for presentational ideas. To end the evening, Tom Vorjohan was on Zoom and did a little show and tell pertaining to three great products he just purchased from David Garrard. This evening was a magical celebration of a fun collection of our holidays!

Tom Vorjohan