

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics
Meets 4th Thursday at 7:00 PM each month
Messiah Lutheran Church
6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tenn 37919
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There were five Thursdays in January, so we moved the meeting back a week so we could have a little extra time to get the Winter Carnival flyers and schedule ready. What a great convention number 41 is going to be! We took the first part of the meeting to stuff and stamp about 350 envelopes, then we did a little business (mostly about the convention) before doing some magic for each other.

We had one guest, Steve Burgess, a couple family members and nineteen members; since the theme was “Everyone Share Something” it turned out to be a great meeting full of stories, magic, and jokes. Mike Stratman talked about pulling together his biggest show in 1981 with Louise Mandrell. Dawson Parker works with a friend, Kip, and he made a plea for more shows and sponsorships. Roger Reeves talked about the reward of performing at Victory Junction in South Carolina for about 80 children with stage four cancer. David Case talked about seeing Shimada while spending 1985 in Bogota, Columbia and then bumping into him at the airport.

Derek Gramfield caught us all off guard with his stories of growing up in London and seeing Hitler’s bombers flying over his house. John Hopper told the story from the Unconvention where Vorjohan’s hat made a surprise appearance in the evening show, and John also shared a trick where he ripped the center out of a bill and restored it. Bill Sturgis shared the story about being in Korea and being a part of the talent show, then he had a card selected and it matched the prediction when he flicked off the extra pip. Marty Iroff has performed hundreds and hundreds of school shows, and he shared four great stories with us.

Carol Vinson talked about some of the magic he does on mission trips and shared one of the tricks where torn paper turned into a message and a cross. Bill Osburn told a story about a once-in-a-lifetime outcome to his Square Circle, then he did a trick with two borrowed bills. Steve Jergen did the classic bow into knot that vanished. Ed Ripley spelled to two named cards in the deck. Tom Vorjohan did Hotel 52 from David Regal’s DVD. Michael Priestap talked about his one attempt at “street magic” and his first pet, Freddy the rabbit. Michael Messing talked about the kid who darted off the stage and ran smack into his speaker pole. Jack Wilson sought out some help on a one-handed riffle shuffle. Ben Young was the only one left to tell a story or do a trick, but we had to run out of the church before the alarm automatically set! It was a great meeting!

Tom Vorjohan