

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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Our May meeting was rescheduled to Monday a week earlier than normal so that we could host visiting lecturer Francis Menotti. Fifteen members and three guests were at the meeting including long-time member Don Cox and his wife, Judy. Don has been battling illness, and this was a great treat to have him joining us this month. We took a few minutes at the beginning of the meeting to conduct the officer installation, then we were treated to about two and a half hours of excellent magic by Francis.

Francis did some great effects, but along with strong magic, he has a philosophy of how to create magic moments through his presentations. He kicked off the lecture with one of the only pieces that he didn't explain – his mixed up deck and mixed up words effect. What a great way to establish his character as his words came back to comprehensible and he found the missing card from a deck which was back in new-deck order. He then did a dollar bill changing into a silver dollar and back, his “shuttle pass” (caught many of us in the funny bone!), and a great sequence with a coin and marker including pieces of “nothing.” Just before the break, Francis did his presentation of Fleeting Thought (a Cards Across effect).

We came back to a 15-minute act where Menotti did four effects in a very entertaining sequence including an effect that will soon hit the market with Scrabble tiles, a coin in envelope that matched the type of coin and date called out, a coin penetration through his shirt, and his “Anti Prediction” where the number matched his “shoes” prediction. He finished the lecture with some solid advice about creating magic moments and also some great marketed effects like Dissolve and Smack! His sales after the lecture were strong, and he was enjoyed by the group. We strongly recommend Francis' lecture.

Tom Vorjohan