

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics
Meets 4th Thursday at 7:00 PM each month
Knoxville First Seventh Day Adventist Church Annex
3625 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee

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Jason Rieger outdid himself as he planned a covered-dish dinner and new-officer performance program for his first meeting as our new Program Chairman. All of it came together very smoothly as 28 members and eight guests enjoyed the May meeting. The past year saw ten new members join our Ring! But one of the highlights of the evening was a surprise visit from our oldest member, Elbert Lockhart, who was celebrating his 90th birthday with us that evening. We were also excited to have recent college grad, Caleb Bailey, attending with his parents, and Ben Young who just graduated from high school was there along with his dad. What a great celebration!

After enjoying the food and fellowship, some door prizes were given out to both our guests and our members. Our incoming officers were announced, and then the magic began. The theme for the meeting was “Change” and our new President, John Hopper, started things off with a torn and restored paper effect where a strip of paper with our out-going President’s name was torn up and restored with “John” on it. Our new Vice President, Pan Walker, did a card prediction where a five-leaf clover revealed the chosen card. Our returning Treasurer, Mike Stratman, did a fun change-bag routine using color-changing handkerchiefs.

Jason Rieger followed the theme with his performance of Color Brass Deception. Incoming Secretary, Tom Vorjohan, was assisted by his daughter, Jennifer, with a presentation of the Comedy Card in Balloon. Jennifer seemed to enjoy shooting a gun at balloons to reveal the chosen card. Board Member Michael Messing did his smooth handling of Copper, Silver and Brass. Ken Muller gave us all a lesson in alchemy where copper and silver coins transformed and then even turned into gold.

One of our newer members, Jack Wilson, did a fun prediction effect with a pocket full of change. Ed Ripley did the first part of his contest act with coin productions and transformations along with his Hopping Half routine using jumbo coins. Roger Reeves borrowed a twenty-dollar bill and told a touching story about the Titanic and a prediction in an envelope matched the serial number on the bill. To end the magic, new Board Member, Bill Osburn, did a series of effects with a quarter including it vanishing from a Crystal Casket and appearing inside of his iTouch...but he shook it out! We were sad to learn that Akal Singh Krau will be leaving the area to pursue his law career in Oakland, California. He has been a great contributor to the Ring since he joined in March, 2001.

Tom Vorjohan