

No. 58, KNOXVILLE, TN – Smoky Mountain Mystics  
Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 6:45 PM each month  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
6900 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

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The November meeting was again back to Zoom even though the church had (at the time) lifted the restrictions on the number of people assembling for meetings in the fellowship hall. We agreed that it was the safer thing to do, but only seven of our members came on line to join in safely. The Ring voted to suspend dues for a year for all of the existing members, so that's one positive thing that came of Covid for Ring 58.

Earlier in the month, on Wednesday November 4, members got together via zoom to make some very difficult decisions pertaining to the 47<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Carnival of Magic; ultimately, we decided that the biggest perk of our convention is the fellowship, and there is no way that by March 2021 we could be back up to speed. Unanimously, we decided it was best to cancel the 2021 convention and do everything we could to make 2022 spectacular.

As far as making some magic, our theme was wide open this month, and Steve Jerden started things off by showing a new LED lightbulb that he found at Home Depot for just \$10 that is battery powered for up to three hours with the flip of a switch. The magic possibilities had everyone talking about it. Mike Stratman did a comedy prediction and a lock ended up locked around a wine glass stem.

By luck of the draw, Jack Wilson performed another effect straight from the pages of *The Linking Ring* (p. 85 of the October '20 issue): "Princess Zoom." Following Jack, Michael Priestap performed a very similar effect...so Jack as delighted he went first! To end the sharing of magic in record time, Michael Messing had a Zimmerman Egg that he showed and is willing to sell.

Yes, it is getting difficult to have energy and enthusiasm going forward with Zoom meetings, but it looks like we will be this way for a few more months at least. Our Program Chairman, Tim Pressley, met with Tom Vorjohan after Thanksgiving to discuss some innovative ways to breathe some life into Zoom coming in 2021.

Notes by Jack Wilson...report by Tom Vorjohan