

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

Michael Priestap, President

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Helene was charging through the Gulf of Mexico causing surges to the Tampa area as eighteen magicians gathered in Knoxville for the September meeting. We welcomed first-time guests Hollis Chaffer and Pigeon Forge headliner, Jason Hudy as well as four who tuned in via Zoom: Tom Raidy, Tom Vorjohan, and Jason & Danny Justice. Sadly, we announced the sudden passing of Dave Hill who was going to be a dealer at the upcoming Winter Carnival of Magic.

Prior to the official start of the meeting, Tim Pressley brought a couple tubs of magic that needed a new home...free of charge. And Nick Roberts was giving away several Devil's Hooks at the end of the meeting. Getting ready for the upcoming magical month, our theme for the evening was Spooky Magic; we had nine performers for the evening. Deciding to set the bar high to open, Roy Schubert did two pieces for us. First, he had President, Michael Priestap, think of one of a handful of cards that he cut to, and it matched the front side of a prediction...while the back said, "Foretells romance for Michael." Then, using Jim Stott to assist, Roy had a mini-Zoltan machine and a small stack of fortune cards that the Zoltan would customarily spit out; Jim set the Zoltan on the ribbon-spread cards, and the one slip it was on said, "Spiritual Fulfillment" on the front, and "JIM" on the back! That was indeed Spooky!

Tim Pressley showed a new effect that he has come up with for school & library shows with a red and blue book and an appearing pickle...ending with "Reading is a Big DILL." But the spooky thing he shared is the fact that he ordered a stack of morgue Toe Tags from Amazon! Who new?! Michael Priestap played Michael Jackson's "Thriller" in the background as he scratched with a mini Ammar hand. Ray Adams brought the "Box of Death" for a sock puppet, and he put his arm into a cardboard sleeve and proceeded to jam six spikes through his arm. Bill Osburn shared a work-in-progress with an ominous looking haunted doll house with spooky shadows showing through the windows, then he produced a ghost (rather tongue-in-cheek) named "Wanda" from a handkerchief.

Our treasurer, Jack Wilson, had Sherman Wires assist him to do a "haunting with a deck" that he masterfully adapted from May's *The Linking Ring* "Joseph Bruno One-Man Parade" – the Joker Clock Dial – trick with a clock and a randomly selected number from 1 to 12 which matched the prediction. Taking a month off from performing, Jim Stott shared one of his first Scholastic Book Fair purchases: "Spooky Magic" which was in its 14<sup>th</sup> printing in 1973. He also shared a rare copy of "A Few Favorites" by our own Roy Schubert. From Zoom, Tom Vorjohan described the other "Spooky Magic Tricks" from 1994 by David Knoles. Our one-and-only card artist, Andrew McGrath, had assistance from a ghost, Jose (his "ghost writer") to put an "X" on a randomly selected card...and the deck was examined! To end the evening's performances, program chairman, Andrew Hyder showed and taught Bill Simon's "Prophecy Move" to have the prediction card correctly identify the two playing cards on either side where it was inserted into the deck. A great night of magic!

Tom Vorjohan