



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

A Monthly Journal of News & Upcoming Events • Vol 11, Issue 11 - NOV 2006

"ROO's" BOOS - Notes from Kelly

I cannot believe it, but I think I am still sane. After two full months of lectures, haunted dining's, bus tours, etc. It is finally time to relax and take some much-needed down time.

We had a great time at Rick Fisher's Fright Night held on October 21 at the Rail Road House in Marietta. There were some great costumes and our very own Eileen Edwards son, Justin won the prize for the best costume. He came as the Invisible man (right in photo). Many people got up and told their true tales of hauntings and mysterious experiences.

I have been overwhelmed with e-mails and readings after the show ran again Sunday October 29, and things went crazy. I have enough readings from around the country to last me for almost a month. I am surprised at how many people googled me and sent messages, stories and readings. It was a great experience from beginning to end.

Charms and Symbols for Good Luck

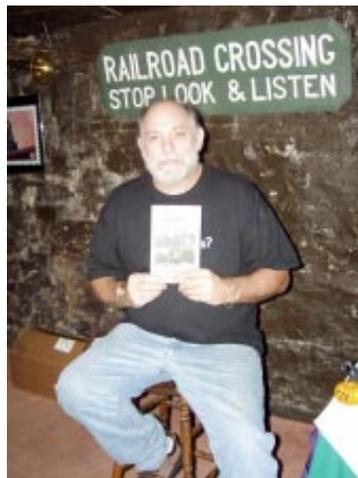
A monthly column about rituals and objects dealing with good luck

Apple In the Islamic world, there is an old tradition that apples have the power to cure almost any ill. In the Western world, we say that an apple a day keeps the doctor away. However, apples can do much more than you cure what ails you. In many parts of America, they can help you discover if you will be lucky in love, especially at Halloween. One tradition says that if you twist the stem of an apple, assigning a letter of the alphabet to each turn, the stem will break off when you have reached the initial of someone who loves you. Another says that if you peel an apple and toss the skin over your left shoulder; it will land in the form of the initial of your true love. Yet another belief holds that if a group of people each tosses an apple into a tub of water and everyone takes

turns trying to pick one up with his or her teeth, the person whose apple you catch will be your partner in marriage.



Amongst the SSP members in costume for Fright Night at the Railroad House were Lori, Gail, Melissa, Justin & Craig Telesha, straight from Johns Hopkins University Hospital's Gender Re-Assignment Center. Many thanks to Rick Fisher (below) and the Paranormal Society of PA for hosting this great event, which also featured the release of Rick's long awaited first book, *Ghosts of the River Towns*.



Tradition had it that the basil would wither if a girl was not as advertised. On the other hand, it was also common for married women to wear basil in their hair as means of perpetuating the love of their husbands.

In Elizabethan England, the herb served as a lucky charm for bachelors looking for a wife. It was customary for these men to carry basil leaves in their pockets when courting because they were believed to attract sympathy. But if they should inadvertently pull the herb from their pocket in the presence of their love, it would attract scorn instead.

In Africa, basil is widely used to ward off bad spells and to cure traumatic shock. Some African people also carry basil as an antidote for scorpion bites.

A form a basil called tulashi was imported to America in the 1960's by the Hindu-inspired group known as "Hare Krishna's." This close relative of basil, common to India, is believed to bring luck to devotees of the sect. Sprigs of tulashi are kept in their homes on velvet cushions, and gifts of flowers and incense are presented to it every day to acknowledge the herb's luck-bringing qualities. (Cont. on Pg. 2)

Arch For generations, the English have believed that walking under an arch formed by intertwining blackberry bushes will cure rheumatism, boils, blackheads and whooping cough. In Bulgaria, they say the arch should be made by the overhanging branches of a willow tree, and walking under one will cure just whooping cough. Arches formed by the branches of an ash tree are favored in both France and Germany as a way to make dry cows produce mils again. All that is necessary, they say, is to drive the cow under one.

Basil In central Europe until a few generations ago, young girls wore sprigs of basil on their chests as a sign that they were virgins.

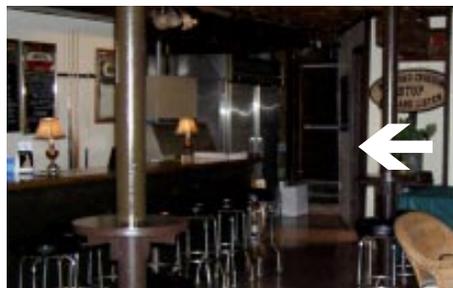
Bead The power of beads to bring good luck or to ward off bad luck is among our most ancient beliefs. In general, beaded necklaces have been most commonly used to ward off the evil eye. In most religions they have been used in worship because of a very old belief that beads of glass or stone have occult power. The type of stones strung together usually determines what kind of luck the beads will bring. Amber, for instance is believed to have the power to cure a host of ailments when fashioned into a necklace. Beads made of aquamarine can bring luck in love, Onyx, believed to inspire deep thoughts, is usually used for rosary beads in the Catholic church.

Beans Ancient tombs the world over have contained beans, either real or as representations, because they were believed to contain the basic spark of life. The belief stems from the observations that beans kept in the dark for years will sprout when they're brought back into the sun. The Egyptians believed that beans were a symbol of immortality. The Romans thought they had the power to repel ghosts. In medieval Europe, beans were worn to repel witches. In southern United States, it is customary to eat black-eyed peas for luck on New Year's Eve. In many parts of Europe, a bean or a dried pea is baked inside a Christmas cake and the person who finds it in their piece can look forward to good luck all year long.

Source: *An A-Z Guide to Charms and Symbols* by Bill Harris Ottenheimer Publishers 1996

TERRY KROUCH, one of our original members, recently had knee replacement surgery and is doing well. (Tonight is one of only a handful of CGF/SSP meetings she & Ray have missed over our 10 year history.) Terry asked us to pass along her thanks for all the cards and well-wishes she received!

SHADOW FIGURE SEEN IN R.R. HOUSE 10/21



No, the shadow figure is NOT in this photo and I AM kicking myself as I did not have a camera or camcorder in my hand! (Of course I was here for a party, not an investigation) This is the bar side of the R.R.H. basement (Rick's events are held on the other side) I was looking to see if the bar was manned as I wanted to order some drinks, when in the area denoted by the arrow, I saw a distinct shadow figure, perhaps 5 ft. in height, move from the storage area on the Rt (the light from that room is reflected on the floor) toward the bar at left. I've had prior "fleeting" visions of such figures, but this was clearly more intense - until it vanished within 2 seconds, I thought it might have been a real person! I immediately mentioned it to Rick who said both he and Scott Ditmer have seen similar figures here. Surveillance cameras have been placed down here before, but uncertain if this precise spot has been targeted. Obviously, I think it will at next opportunity! - JDW



Spirit Society of PA.

APPARITIONS

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:

John & Kelly Weaver, 43 Essex Rd, Camp Hill, PA 17011

E-mail: weaviate@aol.com

S.S.P. Website: www.spiritsocietyofpa.com



This bi-monthly series of lectures brings nationally recognized paranormal experts, authors & investigators to south central PA at the Railroad House in Marietta. All proceeds from the series will benefit the forthcoming National Museum of Mysteries and Research Center.

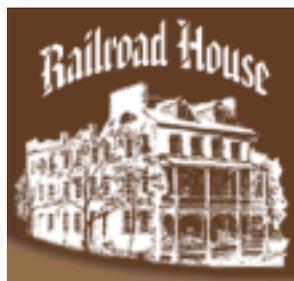
**Next Program: Dec. 2, 2006
10:30am-Noon featuring Internationally Noted Author and Researcher LARRY ARNOLD**



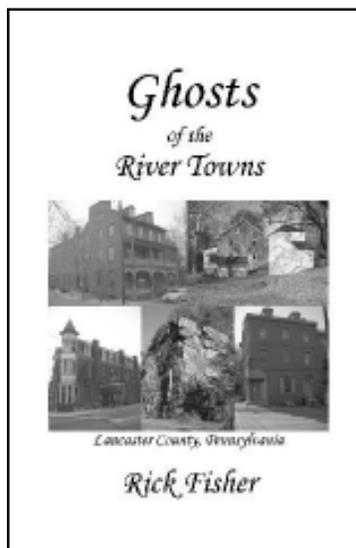
Perhaps the world's leading authority on SHC - Spontaneous Human Combustion - and a dedicated paranormal researcher, Larry is a long-time supporter of local groups such as SSP, S.E.A.R.C.H. and the former Harrisburg SKYWATCH. Larry's website is www.parascience.com



\$20.00 per person does not include lunch. \$35.00 per person (includes lunch - enjoy a delicious lunch and talk with our speaker from noon - 1:30) Menu offers your choice of sandwiches, or burger and one drink coffee, tea, or soda. Seating limited to 40 people, no registration will be accepted at the door unless seats available. Send check or money order to: Rick Fisher, 109 South Second Street Apt. 2 Columbia, PA 17512 (Visit www.paranormalpa.com for more details)



As a board member of the NMMRC, I would like to thank the new owner of the Railroad House, Raphael Augon, for the support he has shown for Rick's vision of the museum and his support of the paranormal community in general. Be sure to check it out for a fine dinner or a romantic weekend getaway at www.therailroadhouse.com - JDW



**Now Available:
GHOSTS of the
RIVER TOWNS
by Rick Fisher**

No one knows more ghost stories from Lancaster County's river towns of Columbia, Marietta & surrounding areas than PSP founder Rick Fisher, and his first book is full of fascinating accounts from this historic and haunted region of South Central PA. To order, send check or money order for \$6.00 (includes postage and handling) to Rick Fisher 109 South Second St. Apt. 2 Columbia, PA 17512

Musings of a Ghost Adventurer

By Melissa Griffith

Mind Over Matter

I remember in high school my Psychology teacher was conducting his own experiment. He was determined to go all winter without wearing a coat by simply telling himself “Boy, it’s hot. I’m warm.” I don’t remember how long his success lasted, but I do remember one day he started class by saying, “Well, today I told myself, “Damn it, it’s really freezing and I need a coat!”

Regardless of his lack of success, there have been many such experiments that have worked. Many studies have been done using placebos for patients and we’ve all experienced this in small ways. The person next to you says, “Geez, it’s stuffy in here.” and suddenly you’re thinking, ‘Yeah, it *is* stuffy in here.’ and you even begin to actually physically feel the stuffiness. Funny, perhaps those symptoms weren’t there a few seconds ago.

My point is this: Are ghosts merely the power of suggestion?

Last Halloween season I watched a program where two investigators took a group of people to an old, dilapidated house (if I remember correctly, it was actually only ever used as a movie set) and were asked to fill out some papers (a not paranormal related survey). The one man “accidentally” mentions about some horrible murders that had taken place there and how there were rumors of the property being haunted while the “good cop” pretends the loose-lipper should keep his trap shut. This was a lie. There were never any murders and the place certainly was not haunted.

No matter—it wasn’t long before individuals in the group began hearing strange, unexplained noises and ‘feeling’ things. Most of the young women in the group were soon clinging to each other and emitting blood-curdling screams.

Eventually, the scientists informed the group of the “true study” and instead of feeling as though they had been duped, they were actually just relieved that they were not in a haunted house. It wasn’t revealed on the program, but I’ll bet those ‘strange noises’ suddenly disappeared.

If, by the power of suggestion, humans can hear noises that do not exist and feel things that are not there; could visual ‘personal hallucinating’ be far behind?

I recall reading years ago about a group of people at a haunted location in London (for the life of me, I cannot remember the location—but regardless) some group members saw what they claimed was a ghost while others saw absolutely nothing. This event begs the question: Were some easily influenced by one person being the catalyst or are some people’s brains simply more open to the experience? Are some brains “conditioned” to see ghosts or spirits? It boils down to—was there physically a ghost present and some could see it while other could not or was there never a ghost present and some ‘chose’ to see it?

There is no doubt that the brain’s workings are powerful and mysterious. Could mind over matter work the other way around? Can the brain or our “thought power” affect physical objects? This energy is commonly known as “psycho-kinesis” (or PK) or kinetic energy.

Dean Radin (Princeton’s Psychology Department) and Roger Nelson (Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research Lab) conducted an experiment in 1989—the results of which were published in the “Foundations of Physics.”

The experiment consisted of what is termed as Micro-PK. Subjects were asked to influence the random output of small electronic devices using only psycho kinesis (or their own thoughts). The conclusion of

this study “dramatically provided powerful evidence for micro-PK ... the result of chance being 1 in 10 to the 35th power” or to quote again from www.alternativescience.com—“Psychokinesis—Mind Over Matter:”

“To understand how unlikely it is that this result was obtained by chance, it is like finding a lottery ticket in the street, finding that it is the winning ticket and you have won first prize of millions—and then continuing to find the winning lottery ticket in the street every week for a thousand years.”

Does the brain make us experience things that are not really happening or do our brains MAKE things happen? I suppose the brain and mind will continue to keep us in the dark for now.

The Real First Thanksgiving? by Gail Dull

As a frequent visitor to Williamsburg, I spent one afternoon traveling along route 5 through Charles City County to visit the homes of several presidents. One of them was Berkeley Plantation.

Berkeley Plantation was the birthplace of Benjamin Harrison, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and his son, William Henry Harrison who was the ninth President of the United States. William Henry Harrison’s son, another Benjamin Harrison visited as a child and went on to become the 23rd President.

What does this have to do with Thanksgiving you ask? As I looked over the brochure it proudly stated, “*Berkeley Plantation-site of the first Thanksgiving.*” There were no Pilgrims in Virginia and the Thanksgiving we celebrate took place in Plymouth, Massachusetts, or did it?

According to Berkeley Plantation, the first Thanksgiving had nothing to do with turkey, mashed potatoes, Native Americans, or pumpkin pie. It was a short religious event on December 4, 1619 a full year and seventeen days before the Pilgrims even *left* England. It was on this day that Captain John Woodlief and 37 other colonists arrived at what is now Berkeley Plantation and gave thanks for their safe arrival.

While not popularly known, it was recognized officially by President Kennedy 1963 as the site of the first Thanksgiving. While the Pilgrim’s celebration included a feast with turkey, seafood and other delights, the Virginian Thanksgiving was nothing more than a day set aside for religious thankfulness of reaching their new colony safely and alive.

Berkeley Plantation is open to the public and is worth a stop if you are in the area. In addition to it’s recognition as the site of the first Thanksgiving and a home to two Presidents and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, it also has several other “claims to fame”:

- It was home to over 14,000 Union Soldiers during the Civil War. During the encampment, Union General Daniel A. Butterfield composed the song “Taps” which was used as the “lights out” bugle call.
- The mansion is believed to be the first brick three story house in Virginia whose age can be authenticated.
- It was reportedly the site of the first distilled bourbon whiskey in the America. It was made by a missionary, George Thorpe.
- 16th President Abraham Lincoln visited with General George McClellan here twice during the encampment.
- A total of 10 Presidents have visited Berkeley Plantation.
- The Coach House Tavern. The former coach house is now a restaurant where excellent food is served, I highly recommend it.

So, if you ever travel between Richmond and Williamsburg, instead of taking I-64, may be take a slower more scenic trip down Route 5 and visit the site of the “original” Thanksgiving.

HAUNTED SPOTS & COOKING POTS FROM THE SSP -- ONLY \$6.00



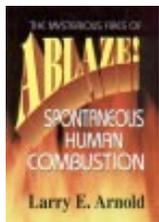
Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots reveals fascinating true ghost stories and local legends of PA. Combined with delicious recipes from SSP members, friends and families, this book will entertain you for years to come. Discover which local establishments and eateries have more than food on their menu!

Savor recipes that run the gamut from appetizers, main dishes and desserts all the way to yummy treats for your furry friends. *Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots* will delight your spirit *and* tummy with spooky superstitions pertaining to the spirit world *and* its relationship to food. (Available at SSP Meetings & Kelly's Magical Garden All proceeds benefit the Spirit Society of PA)

S.E.A.R.C.H. Meeting November 15, 2006 - 7pm (At the Colonial Park East Shore Branch Library) This month, S.E.A.R.C.H. will continue last year's presentation on the **John F. Kennedy Assassination** and the mounting evidence that the alleged murderer, Lee Oswald, may not have acted alone or, perhaps, is innocent as he claimed. Last year we ended with the coroner who attended Oswald's body claiming in an interview that it had been tampered with *after* it was buried. At this meeting, photographic evidence will be shown supporting aspects of the Warren Commission's conclusions as well as those of conspiracy proponents.

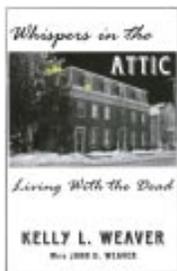
Also included will be filmed interviews with handlers of the president's body who describe wounds that are at odds with the official autopsy conclusions. Finally, see a taped interview with a convict who claims to be the "man on the grassy knoll" and fired the fatal, final shot.

BOOKS AUTHORED BY S.S.P. MEMBERS



Ablaze by Larry Arnold Perhaps the world's leading authority on SHC - Spontaneous Human Combustion - and a dedicated paranormal researcher, Larry is a long-time supporter of local groups such as ours, S.E.A.R.C.H. and the former Harrisburg SKYWATCH. Larry's site is www.parascience.com

Whispers in the Attic - Living With The Dead by Kelly Weaver Look for upcoming signings at Mark Nesbitt's Ghosts of Gettysburg store on Baltimore St. and at her NJGH & ERPC appearances in Spring & Summer '06. Also available locally from Civil War and More in Mechbg.



Ghosts, Legends, Mysteries and Rogues of Mechanicsburg by Melissa Griffith Melissa is the SSP Activities Director, and planning another great "Haunted Tent Event" in Sept 2006 at Little Buffalo Campground in her native Perry County. Her book can be purchased locally at Civil War and More in Mechanicsburg

Ghosts at Carlisle Barracks by Allen Campbell is also available locally at Civil War and More. (Had no image of Allen's book, thus I chose the famed MP LeTort photo rather than a really scary one - Allen himself! - JDW)



WHAT IS THIS ? Every so often, I find a photo on my hard drive that I can't recall how, or why, it got there. (Craig T - is this another one of your inventions?) Some of these photos clearly demonstrate just how, uh, unusual the world of the paranormal can be. For your amusement and amazement, I present this image which was filed simply under "**Mind Reading Machine**" (and I can imagine the thoughts this fellow's grey cells might hold)... Enjoy! JDW



2007 PARANORMAL CONFERENCE NEWS

6th Annual PA PARANORMAL CONFERENCE hosted by Rick



Fisher at historic, haunted **BUBE'S BREWERY** (Lt.) in Mt Joy, PA on **April 14, 2007**. Speakers include Rick Fisher, Stan Gordon, Rosemary Ellen Guiley & Karl Petry, Mark Nesbitt, Ed Okonowicz, Kelly Weaver & Patty Wilson. Buffet luncheon included with admission. Ghost tours of the brewery will follow the conference at 7pm (free to first 20 conference registrants) and at 8:30pm (\$3 per person) Full event details can be found online at www.paranormalpa.com

HAUNTEDAMERICA CONFERENCE with Troy Taylor and the AGS June 22-23 at the Lincoln Theater in Decatur IL. Speakers include Troy, Derek Bartlett, Vince Wilson, Jeff Belanger & John Weaver. Kelly Weaver will be hosting another seance in the theater Friday night. Details on line at: www.prairieghosts.com/conference.html



GHOST WORLD CONFERENCE Vince Wilson has joined with NJGHS founder L'Aura Hladik, Ghostvillage.com founder Jeff Belanger to offer a new "mega-event" in Gettysburg **July 20-22, 2007**: The first Ghost World Conference. Speakers include Vince, L'Aura, Jeff, Charlie Adams, Rosemary Ellen Guiley, Mark Nesbitt, Troy Taylor, Kelly Weaver & John Zaffis. Details on line at www.ghostworldconference.com

