

Ghost Hunters Continued from page 1A.

The teacher opened the present and one book after the other was about UFOs, ghosts, witches ... that's when I decided to go home and look at the titles of the books on his bookcases and, uh-oh, that's when I started asking him questions about what he did for work and I did my own snooping."

Holzer's parents had attempted to shield her from her father's work. Holzer had his office, "I called his lair," which was sacrosanct - a place where he was not to be disturbed, she said.

The supernatural and paranormal were common topics of discussion when guests visited her father. Holzer said her grandmother, who exhibited psychic abilities, also talked with her about the supernatural and paranormal - although, in the Holzer house, the paranormal was the normal.

Holzer, who is an artist, like her mother, appeared with her father on a New Wave Entertainment 25th anniversary DVD for the movie, "Poltergeist," and she appeared in Katdo Media's film, "Shattered Hopes: The True Story of the Amityville Murders." A guest judge on a recent episode of the Travel Channel show, Paranormal Challenge with Zak Bagans, she has also been a guest on more than 100 radio shows and was co-host for a CBS Powered Para-X Radio show.

"During the last two years of his life, as I became more prominent and wanted to physically get out there and investigate, rather than just be a writer, we would argue about technology because I started to utilize things he looked down on as nonsense," Holzer said. "The reason he

was a pioneer and modernized a part of our culture that had been around since Victorian times - with the table knockers and seances, was because he developed a scientific approach, the Holzer system - which combines metaphysics, science and using your sixth sense."

Holzer said the field has become technology dependent. While using devices such as the ghost box, electromagnetic field meters, infrared video cameras and other environmental monitors lends scientific credibility to the field - and "is a fun way" to investigate, Holzer believes the use of metaphysics and the science of noetics, a metaphysical philosophy including Divine Intellect, should not be discounted as legitimate investigatory tools.

"I use them to an extent as to where it is part of the communicative process between 'them' and us," Holzer explained. "I am a modern day paranormal-Plato utilizing noetics, which is not new and what my father used in his time. I believe as my father did, that we do continue on to 'the other side.'"

Holzer said technology should be supplemented by an understanding of metaphysics and cultural and religious traditions passed on throughout the ages. Investigators should be serious and demonstrate respect for the energies under study.

Paranormal research has moved from the small, eclectic academic departments studying parapsychology in the 1960s and 70s, to mass media pop culture, Holzer said. Such popularity attracts the untrained, "loosey-

goosey," inept and, unfortunately, patently unscrupulous individuals into the mix. The paranormal has become big business.

Without a standardized training and a certification program, the paranormal field has become entertainment. Many of the locales that have been featured on the multitude of paranormal television shows have become supernatural "amusement parks where they charge a fee to investigate," Holzer said.

Holzer advised people who genuinely believe they need the service of a paranormal investigation group to get references from the subjects of previous investigations.

Holzer said paranormal investigation and research should aid the dead. She credits her father with adding legitimacy to the field by reducing parlor tricks like those of the "Spiritual Movement with men like Price and Carrington behind him to continue forward becoming a real science by pioneering protocols using noetic philosophies among others," she said.

Holzer agrees that the field of paranormal research in the US would benefit from some type of standardization of practices and ethics as in the U.K. Such a move would go far into promoting the legitimacy of the study of the paranormal. At the same time, standardization should not be done to the detriment of free thinking about the field.

For more information on Holzer, visit www.haunting-holzer.com; for information on the museum, visit www.museumofspirits.com or call the museum at 717-398-2026.



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HAUNTED MUSEUM - Sarah Laird, left, talks with Alexandra Holzer, middle, and Jonathan Williams, right, during a ghost hunting investigation at the Museum of Spirits, Gettysburg. Laird is the marketing director and Williams is one of the founders of the organization. Holzer was in Gettysburg as a guest paranormal investigator of the museum.

International Museum of Spiritual Investigations features evidence of hauntings

Jeffery B. Roth
Staff Reporter/Dillsburg Banner

The International Museum of Spiritual Investigations not only traces the history of paranormal research, it is located in one of many reportedly haunted buildings of Gettysburg.

On Thursday and Friday at the Accomac Inn, a team of IMSI investigators will be conducting a program and investigation of the Accomac Inn, a pre-colonial building built on the banks of the Susquehanna River, Wrightsville. Originally the site of Anderson's Ferry in 1742, the hotel was added later. It remained in the ferry business into the next century and in 1875 it became the Accomac Inn. Destroyed by fire in 1935, it was rebuilt.

Legend has it that the property is haunted by the ghost of Johnny Coyle. As the story goes, in 1882, Coyle shot and killed the woman of his desires, Emily Myers. Tried and convicted of the crime during a trial in Gettysburg, Coyle was sentenced to death and later hanged. Myers is also said to roam the property.

Sarah Laird, spokesperson for the non-profit organization said the 231 Baltimore St. building was originally a log cabin built in 1801. The property was purchased from the town's founder, James Gettys. During the Battle of Gettysburg, the building, as were most others in town, was used as a field hospital. In 1918, the building was used to treat patients from Camp Colt, during the Spanish flu pandemic. In 1913, the building was used as headquarters for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

During a recent "Night at the Museum" paranormal investigation led by Alexandra Holzer, (daughter of the late Hans Holzer, the author of more than 100 books on the paranormal), a small group of investigators used a variety of electronic equipment to detect the presence of possible otherworldly entities. Having a haunted headquarters allows the paranormal investigative arm of the organization the opportunity to conduct longitudinal research and collect years of data in an effort to scientifically verify the

existence of spirits - essentially proving that individuals survive in some form after death.

Founded in March of 2010 by a former police officer and criminal investigator, Jonathan Williams, with the support of his cousin, Christina Williams and wife, Brandy Williams, the mission of the museum is to educate the public about the techniques employed by paranormal researchers.

Jon Williams has been a full-time spiritual investigator since 1997 and has led teams of researchers at reportedly haunted locations such as the East State Penitentiary, in Philadelphia, Pa., and Mount Osorie, in Osorizan, Japan. Williams and his wife, Brandy, are the co-authors of *Just Me: A Guide to Professional Ghost Research*, an introductory summary of professional ghost hunting techniques, terminology and the genesis of modern practices from ancient beliefs about spirits.

"At the museum, we are always discussing new ways to investigate paranormal phenomena," Laird said. "We are always looking for new equipment - we just purchased and new short-wave ghost box and a frequency detector, which we may be able to use to establish baseline data for evaluating evidence by collecting abnormal readings."

Protocol and methodology are the hallmarks of the investigative process employed by the IMSI researchers, Laird said. The research team conducts private investigations free of charge.

Before conducting an on-site investigation, a team member conducts preliminary interviews with the occupants of the structure that reviews personal information about witnesses, their history, etc., Laird said. The interview helps to rule out psychological conditions of witnesses and well as to identify motives behind the request for an investigation. Some people attempt to use an alleged haunting to secure a television appearance.

"We want to make sure people understand what they are getting into when we conduct an investigation," Laird said. "We follow a

code of ethics - client confidentiality is a key element of our process."

Laird became interested in ghost investigations and the paranormal because of two personal experiences with premonitions and a near death experience in the late 1990s. After that incident, Laird said she began to recognize that she had developed a type of "psychic empathy" for others.

As for paranormal incidents at the museum, there have been numerous sightings of a female apparition in the first floor bathroom. Phantom footsteps are not uncommon occurrences in the building.

"My personal belief is that spirits can move freely," Laird said. "By creating the right environment at the museum, I believe we attract spirits."

During August 3 through 5, 2012, IMSI is sponsoring "Aughost Conference" - a ghost conference specifically designed for people interested in serious study of the paranormal. The event will be held at the Eisenhower Conference Center, in Gettysburg.

Special guest speakers include Alexandra Holzer; Steve McNaughton, an expert in the lore of ghosts, angels and elementals of the Lower Susquehanna Valley; John Sabol, a paranormal acoustic communications expert; Sandee Peters, an NDE expert; and other experts from ghost hunting organizations in New York, New Jersey and Delaware.

Brandy Williams, co-author of the ghost research guidebook, said the purpose of the book was to provide some basic philosophies, guidelines, techniques, tools and methodologies to ghost research. Laird and Williams agree that professional practices need to be applied to paranormal research.

"My part of the book focuses on the history of the paranormal, from 3,000 years ago to the present," Brandy said. "My husband wrote the sections on paranormal research techniques."

For more information on IMSI, visit www.msueu-mofspirits.com; for more information on the Accomac Inn, visit www.accomacinn.com.

Seasonal Seasonings

Steven M. Nesbit
Staff Reporter/Dillsburg Banner

Happy Halloween! The first holiday of the season. It's always been one of my favorites. Yes, I loved to go trick-or-treating as a kid. Yes, I like horror movies. Yes, I'm fascinated by the paranormal. Yes, I believe in ghosts.

I know this holiday is not celebrated by all. I know sometimes horrible things happen on Halloween. I know some people believe it violates their religious beliefs. I know it "creeps some people out." I know that real fear should never be taken lightly. I know some parents try to protect their children from unpleasant emotional occurrences like fear.

While I was an undergraduate, I wrote a research paper about Walt Disney. Disney believed that children should experience all emotions at a young age which is why in every Disney movie there is, at least, one terrify-

ing scene that scares children. He believed fear was the one emotion parents tried to protect their children from the most. For me, it was the forest fire in Bambi. In my favorite Disney film, Fantasia, it was the "Night on Bald Mountain." For my daughter, it was Ursula in The Little Mermaid and the wicked witch in Snow White. Walt was convinced that sheltering younger children from such raw emotions could prevent them from developing coping skills at an early age which could negatively affect them as they got older.

Parents can use something "scary" as a teachable moment. Allow your children to experience what it feels like to be frightened and then sit down and discuss the incident with them: What scared you? How did it make you feel? Why is that character scary? What would you do if you were Snow White?

Just last week, I was discussing this very point with a lady who told me that one of her friends does not allow her



6 year-old son to watch The Weather channel because "it may traumatize him." Poor kid, he'll never see The Wizard of Oz. I know you can't tell a person how to raise their children, but when I hear things like that I wonder what would cause the most damage...the tornado or the mother?

I encourage all of you to celebrate the holiday spirit (no pun intended). Thirty-five million kids aged 5-13 will go trick-or-treating this year. That's around 90% of all American children in that age group. Let the kids have some fun. Carve a jack-o'-lantern. Bob for apples. Tell ghost stories. Go to a Halloween costume party. Watch a scary movie. Create memories for your children and with your children. But beware, it's Halloween, and things are not always as they appear to be. Boo!

Benefit for cancer society to be held

Celebration Community Church and The Underground Skatepark invite the community to their Annual Craft Show and Bake Sale and Kickflip for Cancer skate event on Saturday, November 19 at the church beginning at 9 a.m. They will have over 25 local vendors displaying their handmade goods, as well as homemade soups, sandwiches, whole pies and baked goods.

A "Survivor/Memory Wall" will be on display to honor those for their strength and courage in facing cancer. The wall shares photos and stories of cancer patients honored by someone who makes a donation in their name. If interested in displaying a loved one, contact the church for more information.

The Skatepark is holding an all-day skate event. The church is located at 1048 S. Mountain Road, Dillsburg. See their website for more information at undergroundskatepark.org or call 432-5662.

Tails 'n Trails Ranch

is inviting you
to support our first fundraiser
so we can better serve our students!

Saturday, November 5

8a.m. - ?

We are offering vendor spots at \$5 each
We are also in need of bake sale items
all to benefit our students.

Come out and enjoy food, vendors, pony rides and more.

166 Stoney Run Rd.,
Dillsburg, Pa. 17019
tailsntrails_ranch@yahoo.com
717443.0350
Also find us on Facebook!

WACKY THURSDAY SALE

CKS This and That are having a Wacky Thursday Sale every Thursday from 3 to 8 PM until Christmas. All customers will receive a discount coupon upon entering the store. Discounts will be from 5-45% off. There are 8 Thursdays left until Christmas, so consider shopping with us.

CKS This and That
32 South Baltimore St.
Dillsburg, PA

Birth Announcements

along with a photo are printed free of charge.