

N.J.R.O.P.E. Focus



<http://www.tldm.org/news6/exorcism.htm>

2013 Second Edition

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From the Director

When I sit down and begin writing this segment of the NJROPE Focus, I struggle with what I should focus the article about. Somehow, I always seem to think about how proud I am to be the director of NJROPE. The job is a difficult and trying one. But then I also visit the idea of how much more time I would have if I never started the group in 2009. Reality then hits me and my focus returns to how our members continually “wow” me with their dedication and desire to help our clients and educate the public. We all seem to have a strong bond of friendship that translates almost like family. We share our successes and failures as a unified team. Since January, NJROPE has been busier than normal. It seems as if the group as a whole is “breaking out”, and maturing into an extremely successful group of investigators. The great thing is that we will continue to grow and that we realize that there is always something we can do better. We strive to be the best, but realize that we need to work in order to achieve that goal. I am lucky to have dedicated officers to assist with steering the team in the right direction. The general members follow the officers lead and add to keeping the group grounded and on the road. Like with any family, there are sometimes issues. We do not view them as roadblocks but rather bumps in the road. These differences make us even stronger because through them we learn to understand and respect each other. In the upcoming months, NJROPE will continue to assist our clients. We will also remain vigilant and available for sister groups. We will continue to educate the public when opportunities present themselves. Through all of the hard work, the most important thing we will do is to continue to support each other and just have fun doing the job we were called to do and love. NJROPE is here to stay. We will continue to make a difference when we can and we will succeed. On that note, I wish everyone happiness and white light in your ventures.

Frank Lazzaro
NJROPE Paranormal
Director

Paranormal Book Review
By Valerie M. Hollenback

Welcome again,

I am your paranormal book reviewer. This edition's title is:
Myths and Mysteries of New Jersey - True Stories of the Unsolved and Unexplained.

The author is Fran Capo. She is a motivational speaker, adventurer, comedian, voice - over artist; and a five time world's record holder as the world's fastest talking female.

This is not a book on ghosts but more a book for those who may be interested in learning a little more about New Jersey. By reading this book you will come to realize that there were and are some strange things in our little state.

Ranging from our own state bird - the Jersey Devil, to known and unsolved murders, asylum mayhem, a haunted castle in Basking Ridge, a side of Thomas Edison few knew about, and a passenger liner that caught fire and burned right within sight of Atlantic City.

If you are interested further:

Myths and Mysteries of New Jersey -
True Stories of the Unsolved and Unexplained.

November 9, 2010

978 - 0 - 76275 - 993 - 4

&

Myths and Mysteries of New York

May 3, 2011

978 - 0 - 76276 - 107 - 4

Happy Reading!

Tammy Sullivan
Safety Officer
NJROPE Paranormal

Stories about angels have been around since before the birth of Christ. After all it was an angel who proclaimed that Mary would become the mother of Jesus. It was another angel who came to Joseph, and another who appeared before Mary Magdalene at Christ's tomb. All throughout the Bible, Angels appear to carry out special missions sent from God. Are there different types of Angels?

After doing some research, I was amazed to find, that yes, in fact, there are nine different types of angels, and there is a hierarchy in which they are each ranked. Listed below are the names and roles of each of the nine angels found in Heaven.

The first in our list of "Angels" is the Seraphim. These are the highest order of angels. They are the angels who are attendants or guardians before the throne of God. Seraphim, or choir of angels, are referenced in Isaiah 6:1-7. They are described as having six wings. Two of the wings cover their face, two cover their feet, and two for flying.

The Second on this list is Cherubim. These are the second highest type of angel. They are closely linked in God's glory. They are manlike in appearance and double-winged and are considered guardians of God's glory. They symbolized God's power and mobility. In the New Testament, they are alluded to as celestial attendants in the Apocalypse (Rev 4-6). Catholic tradition describes them as angels who have an intimate knowledge of God and continually praise Him.

The Third highest angel is known as the Thrones. These are angels of pure humility, representing peace and submission. They reside in the area of the cosmos where material form begins to take shape. The lower angels need the Thrones to access God.

Dominions are Angels of Leadership. They regulate the duties of the angels, making known the commands of God.

Virtues are known as the Spirits of Motion and control the elements. They are sometimes referred to as "the shining ones." They govern all nature. They have control over seasons, stars, moon; even the sun is theirs to command. They are also in charge of miracles and provide courage, grace, and valor.

Powers are Warrior Angels against evil, defending the cosmos and humans. They are known as potentates and they are the sixth ranked angels. They fight against evil spirits who attempt to wreak chaos through human beings. The chief is said to be either Samael or Camael, both angels of darkness.

Archangels, which means “chief or leading angels,” are the most frequently mentioned throughout the Bible. Archangels have a unique role as God’s messengers to people at critical times in history such as the Annunciation and the Apocalypse.

Archangels may also be of other hierarchies in a princely fashion, such as St. Michael the Archangel, Gabriel, and Raphael. Their feast day is celebrated on September 29th.

Of special significance is that Saint Michael has been known as the Patron saint and protector by the church from the time of the apostles. He is described as the Serpahim prince, or chief of princes. And as the leader of the forces of heaven, will triumph over Satan and his followers.

There are 7 archangels:

Michael: The Angel Prince of Israel,
Gabriel: The Divine Trumpeter of Heaven
Raphael: Protector of the Eden Tree
Uriel: Angelic Light of God
Selaphiel: Angel of Prayer
Jehudiel: Sacrament of Extreme Unction
Raguel: Angel of Justice and Harmony

Then, there are angels, who are closest to the material world and human beings. They deliver the prayers to God and God's answers and other messages to humans. Angels have the capacity to access any and all other Angels at any time. They are the most caring and willing to assist those who ask for help.

Principalities are a group of angels who are known for their work overseeing the various nations on Earth and delivering wisdom to national leaders as they face decisions about how best to govern people. The principalities also encourage people to pray and practice spiritual disciplines that will help them grow closer to God. They also work to educate people in the arts and sciences, communicating inspiring ideas in response to people’s prayers.

Lastly, there are Guardian Angels. Guardian angels watch over people for their entire lives, tradition states. God so loved man that he gifted each one of us with our own specially created guardian angel whose sole role is to protect us from danger and evil. Your guardian angel may be constantly praying for you, asking God to help you even when you’re not aware that an angel is interceding on your behalf. Catholic church’s catechism teaches us that: “From infancy to death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession.”

NJROPE Focus – Pagan's Lane

By Kerry Morony – Co-Director/Case Manager

Hello readers! I am so excited to continue our journey together down Pagan's Lane. I enjoy being able to share a part of myself with you all, so I thought I would take this opportunity to tell you about something I am quite passionate about: Reiki. In the simplest of terms, Reiki is a form of energy healing. It is an ancient Japanese technique that uses energy to help relieve stress and promote healing and relaxation. "Rei" means "Universal Life" and "Ki" means "Energy". Reiki is a holistic approach which can be beneficial to all souls, human and animal.

How does Reiki work, you may ask? The Reiki practitioner acts as a conduit and draws energy from the Universe/Earth, letting it flow through them, out of their hands and into their client. Unlike massage, Reiki does not require physical manipulation of the body, just a laying of the hands at certain points and positions. The client relaxes, comfortably dressed, on a Reiki table while the practitioner performs a session.

When performing Reiki on an animal, it can either be done in close proximity and laying your hands directly on the animal, or it can be done from feet away. As long as you intend the energy to flow to the person or animal and, most importantly, they are willing to accept the energy, then it will work no matter where the Reiki practitioner is.

Some of The Reiki Healing Health Benefits:

- Creates deep relaxation and aids the body to release stress and tension
- It accelerates the body's self-healing abilities
- Aids better sleep
- Reduces blood pressure
- Can help with acute (injuries) and chronic problems (asthma, eczema, headaches, etc.) and aides the breaking of addictions
- Helps relieve pain
- Removes energy blockages, adjusts the energy flow of the endocrine system bringing the body into balance and harmony
- Assists the body in cleaning itself from toxins
- Reduces some of the side effects of drugs and helps the body to recover from drug therapy after surgery and chemotherapy
- Supports the immune system
- Raises the vibrational frequency of the body
- Helps spiritual growth and emotional clearing

Please note that while Reiki is beneficial and can be used in conjunction with other holistic or conventional medical care methods, it should not be used as a substitution for them. It is very important to first seek out a health care professional for any medical condition you may have or suspect you may have. Any person is capable of practicing Reiki. There are 3 degrees of training and below is an excerpt from

Penelope Quest's book "Reiki for Life" that best explains:

"There are traditionally three levels of qualification in Reiki. Reiki First Degree opens up the inner healing channel so that people can then use it for self-healing and healing of others for the rest of their lives. At Reiki Second Degree three sacred symbols are taught, as well as some special techniques that intensify the Reiki and enable people to carry out effective distant (absent) healing, as well as other methods that promote deep healing of physical, mental and emotional problems. Reiki Third Degree is the level of a Reiki Master – someone who has committed his or her life to learning the mastery of Reiki, and who is qualified to teach others this amazing and powerful healing system."

Not everyone wishes to complete the third level, becoming a Reiki Master. Many complete only the first two levels and that is fine. It still allows them to work on others as well as themselves, but without completing the third level, they are unable to pass on their knowledge and teach others.

There are programs out there that will offer a combination of Reiki I and II in one weekend. I highly advise against this. Each level is about 8 hours of training and the Reiki pupil needs to take a few months after each level to practice and become comfortable with their abilities before advancing to the next level. I must warn you that while a full day of Reiki training is exhilarating, it is, at the same time, exhausting: mentally, emotionally and physically.

I was taught Reiki in a period of about a year and a half, and in October of 2010 I was proud to complete my third and final degree, becoming a Reiki Master. I enjoy helping others with Reiki so much that I started my own business: Healing Souls Reiki (www.healingsoulsreiki.com). I work on people and animals, and have a special fondness for horses. I love performing Reiki, it makes me feel good knowing that I am helping someone. I cannot put into words the joy Reiki brings me and you will usually find me performing a session with a smile on my face. In the future, I look forward to teaching others and pass on my knowledge and expertise.

It was my absolute pleasure to share this part of myself with you and, as always, I look forward to our continued journey down Pagan's Lane.

Bright Blessings!

Ghost of the Month
By: Maureen McLaughlin

ANNIE

I have been trying to decide what famous ghost to research and I thought maybe I would try and find a ghost from our own Garden State for this article. So, sit back and relax (if you can) while I tell you all about The Ghost of Annie on Annie's Road. Annie is said to haunt Riverview Drive located in Totowa, NJ located in Passaic County. This road is a long, narrow, winding, two lane black-topped road but the locals refer to it as Annie's Road. On the left side of the road you will find densely wooded hillsides. On the right side of the road there is a low steel guardrail that is standing between you and the black waters of the Passaic River. Along this road, the tree branches form a canopy above, giving the illusion that you are driving through a long, undulating tunnel. As you are driving along the road you suddenly find yourself at a hard right curve. Here you will see a splash of red on the road and handrail, trailing down the end of the street. Is this blood? Then you see a mist forming and are able to make out a distinct figure crossing the road up ahead. This form takes the shape of a young woman in a flowing white dress as she floats across the roadway inches above the ground then disappears into a moonlit graveyard. You have just met the legendary Ghost of Annie on Annie's Road. At night this road is a dark treacherous drive that leaves little room for error and is reported to have seen countless severe accidents over the generations.

WHO IS ANNIE

There are many rumors and stories about who Annie was and what she was doing on that road. Below are some of the more common versions. It is said that Annie is a girl who was walking home from her prom at school. As she was passing the Laurel Grove Cemetery, a large truck struck her and dragged her over fifty feet. It is also reported that Annie was killed on her wedding night.

It is reported that Annie was a girl who was stood up at her prom and decided to get drunk and walk along the road. She was hit by a car full of high school drunks after the prom.

Finally, it is reported that Annie was going to her prom and got into an argument with her boyfriend, left the car and began walking to her home on River View Dr. Along the way she was picked up by a bunch of sailors who raped and murdered her. It is said that Annie will also appear as a hitchhiker and if you pick her up she will cause you to lose control of your car. The chances of seeing Annie are greater if the driver plays oldies music and keep their headlights off. Most people agree that anyone who gives Annie a ride loses control of their car and while there is no proof of this, many accidents have occurred along Annie's road in the night with the wreck remains suggesting that the victims had been chased.

Equipment Corner

GHOST BOX

By: Joe Gates

Welcome back to the Equipment Corner. In this edition, we will learn about the ghost box and its functions on an investigation. The ghost box or spirit box is simply a modified AM/FM radio. The only difference between the ghost box and a regular AM/FM radio is that the ghost box is modified to scan the channels. The theory is that it works much like white noise and allows the ghost to communicate through the device in their own voice.

The best way to use the ghost box is to never take for granted the answers you get when you ask questions. NJROPE always try to confirm the response we get by continually asking the same question and getting the same answer. Because of the risk of radio interference nothing is absolute proof of spirit responses. The Ghost Box can only be viewed as a single piece of the puzzle which needs to be correlated with other devices used during an investigation. Combined, all of the accumulated evidence results in a clearer picture of what you may be dealing with. Unless you are receiving seemingly obvious relevant responses, it is recommended to only use the Ghost Box for a period of 15 minutes. Also, try not to create a story out of the responses you do receive because this can lead you down a different path than you had intended. Simply put, always be objective when using the Ghost box.

Psychic Realm
By: Hillary Bergen

PSYCHIC PROTECTION

Most people have heard the saying: “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” In the psychic realm, especially when you are researching the paranormal for “things-that-go-bump-in-the-night”, let’s up that to TWO ounces of prevention is worth a pound of foul smelling, icky-tasting—sometimes complicated—cure. If you think that researching the paranormal is for you, make sure you can handle your entire team pulling you out of a building (house, former penitentiary, fort outbuilding, etc.), and begin spraying you with scented holy water, smudging you with a white sage bundle until it smells like a college dorm, and fanning you with incense that if you’re lucky, is just frankincense and myrrh and nothing nausea-inducing. Oh, someone else may be drawing a circle of salt around you at the same time. All because you did the right thing and told your group, “I’m feeling a little off/nauseated/strange. I need some fresh air.”

The above paragraph is a (slight) exaggeration of NJROPE’s routine when anyone is in a place we have been told is haunted and someone says that they feel a little “off”. It happened to me on my first investigation. I don’t remember much except fighting to get to the door of the building, someone pulling me through, and then being super-soaked with holy water and smudged up the wazoo with white sage by Frank and other members of the team. Thankfully, before my first investigation, I had been at a street fair with NJROPE as well as a party at Frank’s house, and he and everyone else could tell there was something drastically different about me—something drastically wrong. So here’s tip number one when it comes to protecting yourself psychically:

TIP # 1: KNOW THYSELF (AND THE OTHERS WITH YOU)

Know your own personality. Know how you usually feel. If you are doing any type of psychic work, and this includes paranormal research, you should have other people with you who also know you and know what you are like on a regular day-to-day basis. If you’re doing psychic work, it’s best to try to do it in a group. Hang out with each other once in a while. Watch some movies, bake cookies, have a cookout, go out to grab dinner when you can after an investigation, but just be together so if someone who normally has a sunny disposition starts becoming snarky, mean, and nasty towards others, you know to drag that person outside to a spiritually neutral area, and start spraying with holy water and smudging with sage. You should also be able to tell when you’re feeling “a little off”, and know enough to get outside, and have someone spray you down with holy water and smudge you with a sage bundle. But what do you do after all the spraying and smudging? Well, it’s something we here at NJROPE hope you did before you did anything else: grounding and centering.

TIP # 2: GROUNDING AND CENTERING

Before you do any psychic work, especially paranormal research, you want to “ground and center”. What does this mean? Learning is accomplished best by doing, so here is what you are going to do:

Stand on neutral earth if at all possible, rather than pavement or asphalt. Stand up straight and tall, both feet on the ground. If you are with a group, everyone should hold hands.

Take three deep breaths, visualizing that you are inhaling white light and exhaling all the psychic “goop” you may have collected during the day.

Visualize roots growing out of the soles of your feet. They grow down, down, down into the depths of the earth. Now visualize the brilliant white light of the earth being drawn up through the roots attached to your feet.

Visualize all that energy coming up through the earth and into every cell in your body. Then, see all that white light coalescing into a ball of energy, resting in the area right below your ribcage—your solar plexus, or your natural “center” of energy. That white light is an anchor that will keep you in the here and now, and can also do one more thing: create a shield.

TIP # 3: CREATING A SHIELD

Take three deep breaths. Visualize that center of white light sending out thin streamers of light, creating an egg-shaped shield around your body. You can see this shield as any color of glowing light (most people pick white, gold, violet, or blue), as flames, or even as whirling knife blades (props to author Michelle Belanger for that one). However, if you want to appear neutral, the egg-shaped shield of light is the way to go. It defines your boundaries to things both normal and paranormal without being unapproachably aggressive. But if you start to feel threatened by someone or something, go ahead and visualize flames, knives, barbed wire, duct tape...the list goes on as long as your imagination. And this takes us to our final tip:

TIP # 4: NEVER, NEVER, NEVER HESITATE TO DEFEND YOURSELF!

If someone or something is trying to harm you in any way, you have the right to defend yourself! Don't be afraid to call for help from your team or from “above”. You can call upon the archangels; the Archangel Michael is one of the best for this type of job. You can call upon God Himself, the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ, His Mother Mary, an almost endless list of patron saints such as Saint Benedict and Saint Francis of Assisi, or if you are of the Pagan persuasion, Gods and Goddesses such as the Morrigan, Irish goddess of war, Hecate, Greek goddess of both the earth and the Underworld, Kali, Indian goddess of destruction and protection...again, the list goes on.

Keep traditional protective substances around you where you can get to them quickly and use them quickly. Put a drop of holy water into a large spray bottle (16 oz.) of spring, distilled, or filtered water. Add some sea salt and some peppermint and lavender essential oil. Give it a shake and you're ready to go. Keep sage bundles and a lighter handy. Plus, you can never have too much sea salt. (Get the coarse kind in the large containers at the supermarket.) Keep blessed oil around for anointing, and

you're set. (Most, if not all of this stuff can be found on the internet.)

Finally, we'll circle back to the beginning about prevention: Do things like insisting everyone in your group wear a blessed Saint (Archangel) Michael's medal when they're on the job. Wear protective talismans such as a cross, crucifix, Star of David, an upright pentacle, or wear precious stones as pendants or carry them in your pocket as protection. Hematite is a great protective stone and you can find all sorts of inexpensive jewelry made from it from rings to bracelets. If you find comfort in it, carry a rosary or some prayer cards. You can usually find a priest or rabbi willing to bless sacred items and jewelry, but if you can't, dip the said item in a bowl of holy water and let it air dry, saying something like, "I bless this (cross) in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen." This is only the tip of the psychic protection iceberg. There are tons of books out there—read a few. Learn about chakras, auras, and energy working. Know what works for you. Stay grounded, centered, shielded, and safe.

So may it be.



By Katie Coonelly

The Bermuda Triangle is one of the most weird and bizarre places on Earth. Airplanes, ships and even people have disappeared under mysterious circumstances. Technical equipment and navigational systems go haywire and lose power. How this happens, the world may never know. According to the US Navy, the triangle does not exist. Today, the world acknowledges the triangle due to the paranormal or extraterrestrial activity.

Estimates range from about 200 – 1,000 incidents of ships and aircrafts disappearing in the past 500 years. Fifty ships and twenty planes have gone down in the triangle over the last half century alone. The triangle has been named after its Bermuda corner because Bermuda was once known as the “Isle of the Devils.” The Triangle is located off of the south eastern coast of the United States on the Atlantic Ocean. The area is bounded by Miami, Florida, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Bermuda. Each side of the triangle is some 1,000 miles long. Every time there was a new incident, the public always referred them to the Bermuda Triangle.

George X. Sand, an author once published in Fate Magazine, covered the loss of several planes and ships, including the loss of Flight 19, a group of five U.S. Navy TBM Avenger bombers on a training mission. It was claimed that the flight leader had been heard saying, “We are entering white water, nothing seems right. We don’t know where we are, the water is green, no white.” Sands article was the first to suggest a supernatural element to the Flight 19 incident.

SUPERNATURAL EXPLANATIONS

Some triangle writers have used a number of supernatural perceptions to explain the events. One explanation bases the blame on unused technology from the fabled lost continent of Atlantis. Sometimes connected to the Atlantis story is the submerged rock formation known as Bimini Road off of the Island of Bimini in the Bahamas. Coincidentally, the Bimini Island is in the triangle. Other writers of the Triangle have based the events to stories of UFO's. Stephen Spielberg used this idea when he created the film Close Encounters of the Third Kind. He also used the Flight 19 crew as alien abductees.

Natural Explanations:

Compasses are one of the many problems encountered in Triangle incidents. Some have believed that unusual local magnetic abnormalities may exist in the area. Such abnormalities have yet to be found. Compasses have natural magnetic modifications in relation to the magnetic pole, a fact which navigators have known for centuries. The public may not be as informed, and thing there is something mysterious about a compass "changing" across an area as large as the Triangle, which it naturally will.

The Gulf Stream is a deep ocean current that is located in the Gulf of Mexico that flows through the Straits of Florida and into the North Atlantic. It is a river within an ocean. Like a river, it can and does carry floating objects. It has a surface velocity of up to about 5.6 miles per second. A small place making a water landing or a boat having engine trouble can be carried away from its reported position by the current.

Hurricanes are powerful storms. They form in tropical waters and have historically cost thousands of lives lost and have caused billions of dollars in damage. These storms have in the past caused a number of incidents related to the Triangle. A national Weather Service satellite specialist, James Lushine, stated "during very unstable weather conditions, the downburst of cold air from aloft can hit the surface of water like a bomb, exploding outward like a giant squall line of wind and water."

An explanation for some of the disappearances has focused on the presence of large fields of methane hydrates (a form of natural gas) on the continental shelves. Experiments carried out in Australia have proven that bubbles can sink a scale model ship by decreasing the density of the water. Any wreckage consequently rising to the surface would be rapidly dispersed by the Gulf Stream. It has been assumed that sporadic methane explosions (sometimes called "mud volcanoes") may produce regions of frothy water that are no longer capable of providing adequate buoyancy for ships. If this were the case, such an area forming around a ship could cause it to sink very rapidly and without warning.

Flight 19 Incident

Flight 19 was a training flight of five TBM Avenger torpedo bombers that disappeared on December 5, 1945 while flying over the Atlantic. The flight plan was scheduled to take them due east from Fort Lauderdale for 141 miles, north for 73 miles, and then back over a final 140 mile leg to complete the exercise. The flight never returned to base. The disappearance was attributed by Navy investigators to navigational error leading to the aircraft running out of fuel. One of the search and rescue aircrafts deployed to look for them, a PBM Mariner, with a 13 man crew, also disappeared. A tanker off the coast of Florida reported seeing an explosion and observed a widespread oil slick when unsuccessfully searching for survivors. The weather was becoming very stormy by the end of the incident. According to contemporary sources, the Mariner had a history of explosions due to vapor leaks when heavily loaded with fuel as for a potentially long search and rescue operation.

All in all, The Bermuda Triangle is a very strange and active place. It may come as a surprise for many, but the radio transmissions of Flight 19 leader, which have become an integral part of the sensational literature on the Bermuda Triangle, are not even mentioned in the official reports of the Navy Board of Investigation. The myth of the Bermuda Triangle became even more evident with the U.S. Navy refusing to identify any such region in the Atlantic, and oceanographers citing that the accidents in this region were not at all rare as a result of weather conditions prevailing here. Interestingly, the Bermuda Triangle is not the only place which is notorious for such disappearances of ships and aircrafts. The Dragons Triangle, off the coast of Japan, is also known for such mysterious disappearances of military vessels. But the Dragons Triangle is a different article for another time.

Absecon Lighthouse, Atlantic City NJ
Haunted places, NJROPE FOCUS
Reporter: MoJo

“If walls had ears”...“If lighthouses had eyes”...Is this an idiom which would properly describe the beacon that shines brightly above Absecon? Shining for 150 years, the lighthouse has been calling attention to the dangers off of the Atlantic City coastline, and has been witness to the activities of one of the most exciting places on this coast. Over these many decades is it possible that the light has attracted more than the attention of flesh and blood sailors?

A prominent landmark, the lighthouse has witnessed much over the decade and a half it has stood sentinel. Once a common site for elegantly masted ships, cigar boats and jet skis now pepper these waters. Even the coast line has undergone dramatic changes. In the past, pristine beaches were dotted with quaint fisherman’s shanties. Elegant homes have been replaced by high rises and condos. The Steel Pier no longer welcomes diving horses, amusements or awe-inspiring attractions. Bathing beauties are now only remembered on post cards of sepia. Modern day casinos have taken the place of turn of the century fantastic giant metal structures. Storms still threaten the coast. Electrical outages occasionally render the coast dark. The energy that lights this city coast is an amazing sight from the top of this beacon or from out at sea. Today the lighthouse sits upon its’ original foundation but is farther from the sea than it was designed to be. This is the result of the efforts of the Army Corps of Engineers who built jetties which extended the land around the warning beacon.

What memories does this beacons tower hold within its walls? Could there be residual hauntings which play out repeatedly over time? Could invisible beings seek refuge within the confines of the bricks, or are these the very people who gave so much of themselves to the light that they continue even in death? Who is the British Revolutionary Soldier seen walking the grounds and standing in the tower? Is his spirit present because of the ship wreck of 1779 which killed 145 of his fellow soldiers? Ironically, over 100 years later, a lighthouse, which was built under the guidance of George Meade, was commissioned to avoid disasters such as this.

Light house keepers of today are different from those of the past but they are as devoted as their forefathers. No longer do men or women trudge up 228 stairs several times a night toting gallons of oil to maintain the warning beacon. Keeper’s homes have become gift shops, museums, and office space. Lenses still shine brightly, but soot and ash no longer build up dulling the glow. No longer are these keepers charged with offering refuge to persons made victim of the infamous “graveyard” inlet. There is no longer a search for floundering sea farers but rather for benefactors and those who delight in the history of these grand sentinels. These people seek to impart their love and knowledge to all who visit, in hope that the Absecon lighthouse may continue to stand proud for generations to come.

Visitors, employees, and volunteers share their many paranormal experiences. These witnesses share knowledge which complements the vast history of the Absecon Lighthouse, a history with many unexplained occurrences which date back to 1905. More than seven people have died on the grounds. These people were men, women and infants who lived within these walls or served as keepers of the light. In addition, shipwrecks and drownings have occurred in the area of the lighthouse adding to the history of a land which predates the 1857 lighting. Witnesses have reported smelling tobacco, hearing children's laughter, watching doors move, and hearing banging and footsteps when no living persons are present. Dimes, a sign of luck to some and well wishes from the departed to others, are often found in odd places throughout the building.

Brief History:

1779 sinking of the Mermaid killing 145 British soldiers.

1854 the ship Powhatan becomes another victim of the "Graveyard Inlet", 311 passengers and crew lose their lives in the dangerous waters of Absecon inlet prompting the building of the lighthouse.

1855 Construction of the light begins under Major Hartman Bache who was later replaced by then Lieutenant George Meade.

January 15, 1857, the lighthouse opens, shipwrecks and drownings continue all be it significantly less. In total 64 ship wrecks have been recorded.

1905, lighthouse keeper reports the Jersey Devil atop of the Lighthouse

June 6, 1910 the first incandescent oil vapor lamps were used in the lighthouse.

July 1, 1925 Electricity powers the light.

July 11, 1933 Absecon Lighthouse was decommissioned and the light was extinguished.

1997 Restoration of Light and keepers house begins.

July 6, 1998 Light keepers house burns down

2001 Keepers house reopens as a museum

Additional Paranormal Claims:

1990's during renovation workers claim to have heard the heavy tower door opening followed by footsteps. This was so bothersome that the next day another crew was sent to finish the job.

At the top of the tower a volunteer heard footsteps stopping and starting up the tower stair with no person ever arriving. Further investigation confirmed that no persons were in the museum and had not been for hours. Again hearing footsteps he looked towards the door and saw a hand grasping the rail as if to hoist the owner up the last slightly elevated step. Upon going to the stair he found no one there.

The oil house is a hotspot for unexplained sounds and tobacco smells.

People report being touched, caps knocked off of their heads, shadow figures, and children's laughter.

Paranormal groups report shadow figures, footsteps as well as EVPs, confirmed ghostly voices heard during their investigation and personal experiences.

Investigators have reported contacts from deceased family members while visiting the oil house.

NJROPE investigated the Absecon Lighthouse in January of 2013. The evidence the team gathered validated that there is in fact paranormal activity at the location. We were honored to have an opportunity to support the lighthouse and add to the already vast history hidden within the walls. It would seem that the walls do have ears and the lighthouse does have eyes.

Upcoming Public Events (check at www.njrope.com for details. Times and dates subject to change)

June 19, 2013

Vineland Public Library lecture, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

July 9, 2013

Gloucester County Library lecture; Swedesboro Branch, 6:30 – 8:45 PM

August 21, 2013

Eatontown Library lecture; “tween” lecture, 3 – 4 PM

September 21 - 22, 2013

Paranormal Journeys, Lansdale, PA

September 25, 2013

Cranbury Library lecture; Cranbury, NJ, 6 PM

October 5, 2013

Boos and Brews, Nashaminy Creek Brewing, 1 – 3:30 PM

October 9, 2013

Margaret E. Heggan Library lecture; Sewell, NJ, 5:30 – 8 PM

October 12, 2013

Witches Ball, Mt Holly, NJ

October 12, 2013

Millville Public Library lecture, Millville, NJ, 2 PM

October 16, 2013

Free Public Library of Monroe Twp. lecture, Williamstown, NJ, TBA

October 19, 2013

Gloucester County Library lecture, Mullica Hill, NJ, 2 PM

October 23, 2013

Greenwich Library lecture, Gibbstown, NJ, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

October 24, 2013

Logan Twp. Library lecture, Logan Twp., NJ, 7 PM

October 28, 2013

James H Johnson Library, Deptford, NJ, 7:30 PM

References:

Haunted Location:

<http://paranormalstories.blogspot.com/2010/03/absecon-lighthouse.html>

<http://www.ootonline.com/OOTnews/?p=1906>

Arch Angels:

<http://idiotsguides.com/static/quickguides/newage/angels-101-the-seven-archangels-of-the-throne.html>

<http://www.spiritual-encyclopedia.com/archangels.html>

<http://angels.about.com/od/AngelBasics/a/What-Do-Guardian-Angels-Do.htm>

Pagans Lane:

Quest, Penelope. "Reiki For Life" Penguin Group (USA) Inc, New York 2010

www.healingsoulsreiki.com

<http://www.reiki-for-holistic-health.com/>

Cover image:

https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQc3EA_hM163jfWRMtHFb5sgTRN0UGGZVIE-fR4FGWctY-UVj8O

Psychic Realm:

Some authors to check out:

Michelle Belanger: The Ghost Hunter's Survival Guide

Christopher Penczak: The Witch's Shield

Silver RavenWolf: Silver's Spells of Protection

Myths and Legends:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bermuda_Triangle?

www.skeptdic.com/bermuda.html