

NJROPE Focus



January 2013

Letter from Director

We have arrived in 2013, a new year with new challenges. Up to date, last year was NJROPE's most successful yet. Every day, NJROPE meets higher and greater challenges. Our personnel continue to grow and meet these challenges. I fully expect 2013 to be no exception. We have always put a high emphasis on training in the many ways to assist our clients. To better serve, we have not only recreated our training protocol and placed greater emphasis on making our members more educated but also have begun to develop an outreach program to begin educating the public as well. The NJROPE Focus is one such tool that we will be using to accomplish our goal. As the year progresses, NJROPE will be holding lectures at local libraries, attending events to spread public awareness and will confidently continue to investigate and assist the people who need our assistance. To further assist, NJROPE will be rescheduling our Support Group and finding more efficient ways to get the word out that we are available to also just listen. I have never been a man of many words about myself. This is a team effort. NJROPE stands as a dedicated group of people who share a common goal of helping. The Focus is our way of showing you, the reader, that we are for real and that our members have a lot to contribute to the ideals of the paranormal world. So, as was the case in our first edition from the past year, I present you with the NJROPE Focus.

**Frank Lazzaro
NJROPE Paranormal
Director**

Letter from Editor

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Readers (Living and Dead),

Welcome to the January 2013 quarterly edition of the NJROPE Focus. In addition to a busy case load, NJROPE has begun training our new members. In this edition, our authors have included articles about Elementals, voice recorders, the story of the Pagan Goddess Brighid and Eastern State Penitentiary. As always, NJROPE wants to provide you with an opportunity to continue to build your personal knowledge of the paranormal world. The Focus is only one of the many methods that NJROPE uses to achieve this goal. Therefore, I welcome you all with open arms to enjoy this latest edition of The NJROPE Focus.

Sincerely,

**Katie Coonelly
Co-Assistant Director
Personnel Coordinator
Editor-in-Chief of NJROPE Focus
NJROPE PARANORMAL**

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NJROPE Focus – Pagan’s Lane

By Kerry Morony – Co Assistant Director/Case Manager

Welcome back readers and thank you for returning for a walk down Pagan’s Lane! In this issue we are going to briefly visit with the beautiful Irish Goddess, Brighid and her holiday of Imbolc.

Brighid (“Exalted One”) is mother Goddess of Ireland and beloved by all. She is a triple goddess, which means she represents three aspects: maiden, mother, and crone – the three cycles of life. She is the daughter of the Dagda, one of the gods of the Tuatha De Danann. She is Goddess of hearth and home, healing, childbirth, poetry, and is worshipped as a warrior and protector. She is a fire Goddess, and her fire is one of creation:

*“It is responsible for the kindling of the earth
in early Spring, the kindling of sexual passion,
the kindling of the body in healing, the kindling of
the heart in poetry and song, the kindling of the mind in science and craft.
Her fire is a guiding light to her people in times of trouble and despair.”*
[\(http://www.brighid.org.uk/goddess.html\)](http://www.brighid.org.uk/goddess.html)

She is said to have created the Irish mourning wail known as “caoine” (keen, keening), while she mourned her son, Ruadan, who was killed on the battlefield. Due to her popularity amongst the pagan people, the Christian Church was unable to eradicate her, and therefore she was canonized a saint. Her church in Kildare, Ireland kept an eternal flame lit until it was ordered extinguished by King Henry VIII during the Reformation. The flame has since been re-established in center of the Market Square and is permanently housed in a large glass enclosed vessel.

Imbolc is the holiday associated with the Maiden aspect of Brighid. Generally celebrated on February 1st or 2nd, it welcomes the upcoming spring, and the end of winter. It is a time to honor fertility and things yet to be born. It is derived from the Gaelic word “oimelc” (ewe’s milk), because cows, goats, sheep and other herd animals are either heavily pregnant or have already given birth. On this day, the snake, one of the animals associated with Brighid, surfaces from the belly of Mother Earth to test the weather, and some sources state this could have been the origins of Groundhog Day. The holiday begins the evening of February 1st and a feast is held that honors Brighid, the hearth and home, and is sacred to women. An ancient Celtic fire festival, fires were lit to help encourage the return of the sun and spring. It was common to fashion out of straw Brighid’s Cross, and hang it in the home for protection, especially against fire. Besoms (brooms) were often left by the door to symbolize sweeping out the old and making way for the new, and candles were often lit and placed in windows to honor the Sun’s rebirth.

I want to thank you again for taking a stroll with me down Pagan’s Lane, and as always, I look forward to our continued journey. Bright Blessings!

Michael Howell
NJROPE PARANORMAL
TRAINING OFFICER

Astrology



I will be discussing the Astrological Signs at length in the next articles. They will be ordered in accordance to each of the four Elements they correspond with: Fire, Earth, Air, Water. To understand the Astrological Signs, we must first understand the Classical Elements and their functions.

THE CLASSICAL ELEMENTS

Many traditions and cultures throughout history-- unbeknownst to one another at their beginnings--have devised systems that were and still are an attempt to explain the base concepts or energies that create our existence. The Classical Elements of Earth, Air, Fire and Water and Aether (Spirit) are a symbolism to this understanding. They impact almost every religious system and metaphysical philosophy to this day in some way or shape. They're a core example of the creative perception of early mankind when attempting to understand their reality.

From the Ancient Babylonians, to the Egyptians and Greeks, the North American tribes to the ancient Hebrew mystics, even the cultures of Asia: these Elements were a means for early man to scientifically and metaphysically understand the broader, unseen movements of the Universe. Considered mostly a New Age thought in the West, many people don't realize how imbedded these Elements are in human culture and religious belief.

In a time before the Scientific Method--the supernatural was natural and alive at all times. Mystics, Shamans, Magicians and Clerics were the Scientists. By their observation of the movement of the world, the heavens and the internal and external powers of man; the Elements were devised. Almost all of us could agree to these concepts--and it's a fascinating philosophy to understand and live by--in whatever form you follow: Chinese, Hindu, Buddhist, Hermetic, etc. The idea that Action, Manifestation, Emotion, and Thought are deeper within us than the proven particles of modern-day Physics is an interesting one.

The following is more explanation about the Five Elements, mostly from my own interpretation and perspective of their behavior. I ask you to research them yourself, as you may find something new about them or different understandings.

Aether -- The Element of Aether, or Spirit, is the combination of the Four Elements. Earth, Air, Fire and Water's union to a higher state both negates and incorporates itself. It's the highest form of Spiritual energy--that which the Four Elements are made of and utilize in their manifestation in reality. It is all of them and yet none and serves every purpose and more. It can be thought of a substance that is not perceived in our everyday life most noticeably--but is activated in full when one begins spiritual endeavors of any sort. Meditation, Magick, Prayer, Smudging or any 'higher' concept of belief--utilize this energy while also focusing on the specific use to one of the other Four Elements. It is the fabric of reality and the insanity of its unknown.

Air -- Air is the idea behind the universe, the thought within the mind and the inspiration that provides the framework for all. It is all intelligence. The breeze which carries the seed to fertile Earth. It is movement and swiftness of the intelligence and creation. Within the mind, it is the subject of Math and Science--the inspiration to know more, to probe, to study, to document. It is the capability to Communicate, to Reason, to Decide. It fills us with Clarity and Objectiveness. It is that substance that facilitates Understanding and Logic. It is that which carries prayer to the Divine and the enlightenment of spirit. It's negative aspect is all mental disease and suffering, miscommunication, lack of understanding, lack of emotion (mind over emotion).

Earth -- Earth is the Element of manifestation in reality. It's the very planet and energy we stand on that gives us stability, certainty and structure. It is the base by which the other three elements exist and are able to flow. It is your keys, your car, your job, your body--and all that which comes into your world that is of physicality. It is the fertile seed from which life springs and grows. It is the practical motive, the collection of society, the need for rules and organization and the foundation of gain and structure. Anything you can see, touch, smell, hear--is of Earth. It is the feeling of physical pain and the failing of the body with disease or age. This is loss of stability or foundation in all aspects.

Fire -- Fire is the energy of Ambition, Strength, Force, Domination, Will, Passion and Action. It is the flame that drives us onward, that gets us up in the morning, which sparks our intent or our impulsive reactions. It is our ego and the explosion of anger, the energy that works our muscles throughout the day and gives us the strength to fight our battles. It is the spark that starts the growth of the seed. It is the burning energy in and of action. It is a destructive and yet cleansing force--burning down forests so that new growth can begin. Its negative aspects can be impatience, impulsiveness, war, fighting, violence, laziness, inappropriate action, etc.

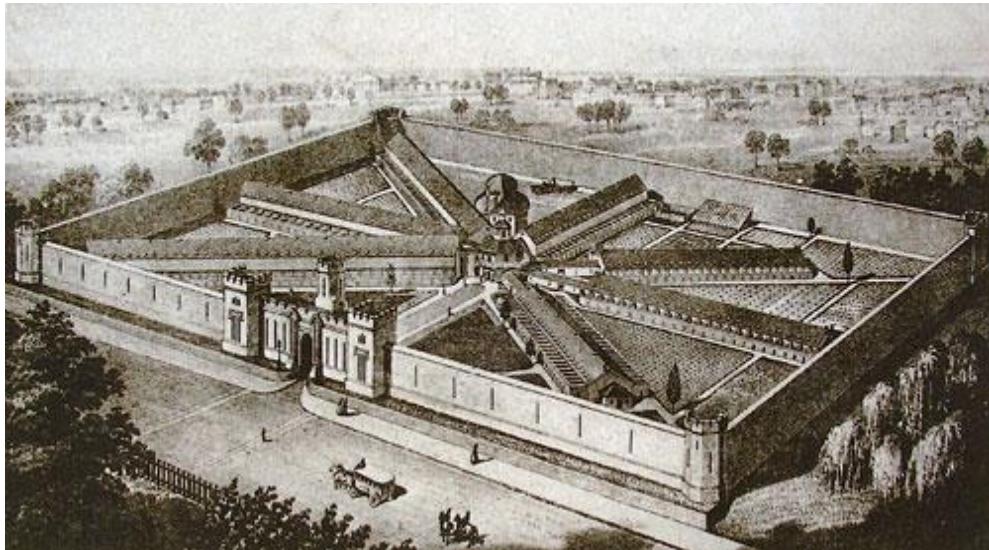
Water -- One of the most powerful Elements. Water can destroy anything--and yet is the symbol of Compassion, Emotion and Love. It is the energy that helps one in connecting with others and with reality itself. Water connects with the seed in order to help it grow--and nurtures it throughout its life. It's the touch of a Mother and a lover, of a nurse to the sick--the connection with the unconditional love of higher divinity in the reflection of life. It is psychic-ness in all aspects, and the connection of all things. In negative form, it is all issues pertaining to emotional and spiritual health. A side-effect of its absence in life can lead to a lack of spiritual connection and over-emotional behavior or illnesses.

Conclusion -- In Astrology, the Elements are a part of every person (and animal, plant), place or thing. The Classical Elements are reflected and personified within the Astrological Signs of the Zodiac and the Planets of the Zodiac. There are three Signs connected with each of the four Elements. Depending on their presence or their absence within your own personal chart, you may be able to analyze what Elements you utilize or lack in your daily life most. You'll be able to understand how people, places and things are compatible based on the Elemental

energies they work with, as well as understand how to communicate with those of opposing Elemental qualities.

Haunted Location: Eastern State Penitentiary
January 2013

By: Mojo



Just Google “Eastern State Penitentiary ghost sightings” and you will have your pick of books, online articles, audio, and visual experiences. You can choose from TV programs, YouTube postings, and a plethora of sites devoted to what is called the most expensive and famous prison in the world. Visit Eastern State. Take a tour (audio or group tour), choosing from historic, Halloween fright, and even ghost hunting overnight for those so inclined. Experience Eastern State however you choose. Even if you don’t find any evidence of hauntings, Eastern State Penitentiary is well worth a visit or two. According to past experiences of paranormal investigations, the Eastern State site, the buildings, grounds and history, which includes being a set for the movie 12 Monkeys, all make the visit worthwhile.

Historic Overview:

Eastern State was conceived and then opened after the end of the revolutionary war in 1829. Known for the innovative humanistic ideals, strict discipline, solitude, and penance would be able to inspire wrong doers to true remorse and a change of heart for their untoward actions against society. It was a difficult sentence to endure but better than the traditional prison of its day. The other prisons of the time period were brutal. Miscreants of all ages, crimes, (from petty theft to murder) and of both sexes were thrown into one large holding room. The guards were cruel and there was no discipline. It was often a terrifying, lawless free for all where guards were as nasty, often times worse, than the inmates. The designation “penitentiary,” rather than prison, fits the humanistic ideals of penance which were instrumental in the design of this impressive architectural undertaking. It took over 30 years for this novel, Quaker based, concept to become reality after being proposed by Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Rush.

Built on farmland far outside the city, an imposing fortress like façade surrounds 11 acres with wheel and spoke “pentagon prison model” structure. The building was designed to allow one guard to oversee the access to many cells from the center of the spokes of the wheel. This is an innovatively designed building. Each spoke had small cells down the length of the hallway. These small high vaulted, sky lit cells (eyes of God) were designed for absolute solitude, quiet contemplation and honest work with running water, flushing toilets, and central heat. Better accommodations than the president’s house at that time. The 11 acres were originally designed to house 250 prisoners, but housed up to 1,700 prisoners in 1913. Additions to the original design had increased the number of spokes to seven; therefore making the shape no longer like that of the pentagon. The prison grounds would soon become over crowded. Over 300 prisons worldwide have copied this innovative design. In use for almost 150 years, it was completely abandoned in 1972 and continued to fall into decay before being made into a landmark 21 years later. America’s prison system has undergone many changes. In addition, there have been many theories on corporal punishment. The history and happenings of this location run parallel with the history of our country. This history has included many rich and fascinating but also intense, cruel, and volatile times.

History:

In April 1821, Eastern state was approved with hopes that it would alleviate the prison problems of the area. The building was designed to hold 250 inmates. In October of 1829, Eastern State officially opened and accepted its first inmates. Theories of the time stated that criminal behavior was a result of the environment. As a result, solitary confinement, the “Pennsylvania System”, was put into effect and continued until 1913. Prisoners had no contact with other people. Food was passed through small doors and if inmates had to leave their cells, they would wear black, eyeless masks to minimize any communications. Deprived of all human contact, even with the state of the art accommodations, life was harsh.

Blocks one through three were single story cells and were completed by 1831. In 1835, blocks four, five, and eventually six (two stories each) were completed. These cell blocks were built to accommodate the ever increasing number of inmates. In 1831, the prisons first female prisoner was admitted, but women would not be housed in Eastern State until 1923.

In 1834, the prison comes under investigation for deviations from the regulations of the Pennsylvania penal system. Accusations of poor confinement practices and financial practices were exposed. Overcrowding and harsh prisoner treatment became an ongoing problem, not only at Eastern State but throughout the entire penal system. To exemplify this, in 1836, this 11 acre complex which had state of the art plumbing, sewage and centrally heated cells, held almost twice as many prisoners as when it first opened.

The city of Philadelphia had not yet sprawled to include this area. This did not

stop many important people, living and visiting Philly, from traveling the distance to see this example of what a prison should be. In 1842 one of these visitors, Charles Dickens later writes, "The System is rigid, strict and hopeless solitary confinement, and I believe it, in its effects, to be cruel and wrong...." The year 1877 saw four new cellblocks wedged between existing cellblocks. These cellblocks did not have exercise yards.

In 1911 cellblock 12 was completed. This building deviates from the original architectural design. The building materials were lighter and this building was three stories tall with 40 cells to a floor. Mirrors were used for surveillance. The rooms were no longer vaulted nor did they contain sky lights. Small narrow cell windows provided little light and minimal ventilation. By 1927, the prison held 1,170 inmates. In 1926 construction began on cell block 14, the second three story structure. The grounds were becoming crowded with buildings. Inmates from Eastern State were now being bussed to work on a new "farm branch" of the prison located in Grater Ford, Pennsylvania.

Famous for not only the architecture, the cells of this world renowned site housed many infamous people over the years and is the site of noteworthy events. Life was grim for many, but being famous, even infamous, didn't make life any easier. An inmate for 8 months during 1929-30, Al Capone had a luxurious cell which has now been restored and is on exhibit today.

Three years later, in 1933, inmates began to riot, setting fires in protest of the sub-human living conditions. In 1934, they rioted again over low wages causing many disturbances throughout the penitentiary thus prompting the Warden, Herbert "Hardboiled" Smith, to take a strong upper hand to quell the uprising.

In 1951, violent criminals were incarcerated in the prison. Rapists and murderers became part of the population. After a failed escape attempt, the Pennsylvania legislature put forth the recommendation to close Eastern State. In 1953, the Penitentiary became a correctional institute. In 1958, it became a historic site. In 1961, desegregation of the cellblocks took place. Later that year, the largest uprising in the history of the prison again sparked conversation to have the prison close. In 1965, the site made National Landmark status.

The prison closed in 1970. To the eye, the prison was in good condition. The walls and paint were perfect, although the mechanical and electrical systems were in a state of dire disrepair. From 1971 to 1980, the facility was all but abandoned. Trees began to take over the halls and wildlife moved in. A city employee continued to feed the feral cats that took up residence. Vandalism took its toll and a proposal to use Eastern State for commercial use was made but not accepted. Historic preservationists began to restore the site and it was re-opened in 1988 for limited tours. Over the years the museum has grown to include a growing number of tours, exhibits, and attractions that are now available throughout the year.

During the 142 years of active service, more than 100 prisoners escaped. Only one, Leo Callahan, evaded recapture. Many famous and not so famous inmates have been sentenced to Eastern state. Prisoners had included inmates from Fort Mifflin, Al

Capone and a dog, who although "sentenced" for killing the governor's wife's cat, was actually placed within the walls to boost the morale among prisoners.

Punishment:

Although, initially, the institution was considered more humane than the prisons of its day, harsh punishments were inflicted for any infraction to the established solitary life expected. The punishment, contrary to the Quaker beliefs, was administered by the hired staff. Here are some of the punishments below:

- Ice baths and being hung to dry overnight. During the harshness of winter this would cause ice to form on the inmate's skin.
- Without access to food or water, inmates would be securely strapped to an uncomfortable chair and left for days at a time, unable to move.
- Inmates caught communicating risked their lives. An iron collar was clamped onto their tongue with chains attaching back to his wrists and then strapped high behind their back. Tearing of the tongue and severe bleeding occurred with any movement of the prisoner. This torture often resulted in the inmate bleeding to death.
- Under cellblock 14 was the hole, nothing more than a roach filled pit. Prisoners were often locked there for weeks at a time, fighting the rats for any water or morsel of bread that may have been tossed down to them.
- Overcrowding, treatment of minority prisoners, and the solitary confinement made for human hardships, and often volatile and emotional circumstances.

Paranormal Experiences:

The Locksmith in cell block four: During a restoration, which required the removal of a 140 year old lock, the locksmith was suddenly overcome by a force so powerful and overwhelming, that he could not move. The man has also said to have reported to have had an out-of-body experience with a negative energy. Faces, hundreds of faces, reflecting pain and anguish, whirled about the cell block while one demonic form called to him. Even years later, the memory of this experience still caused the man fear and anxiety. Visitors to the area now hear moans and giggling.

Another story has renovations done by a locksmith

Gary Johnson had a feeling of being watched. Turning around, he witnessed a dark shadowy figure leaping across the corridor from one cell to another.

Upon a guard tower, atop the brick wall, an apparition is seen standing guard, waiting for a prisoner attempting to escape. That ever diligent guard still standing his post, who or what it is, is not known.

Shadow figures are often seen and EVP's are captured on recorders throughout the prison. In the area of the catwalk, no longer accessible to the public, a voice has been captured saying, "You don't have to take a damn picture." and "I'm lonely..."

Reports of voices and laughter, as well as eerie, cackling have been heard in another restricted area, cellblock 12. Cellblock 6 has a shadowy figure; ghostly faces “decorate” cellblock 4. The long corridors echo footsteps and wails from the empty cells throughout the grounds.

Al Capone claimed to be haunted by the apparition of James Clark, brother in law of his rival who was murdered in the Saint Valentine’s Day Massacre. Inmates claim to have heard him begging Jimmy to go away and leave him alone.

Documentation places reports of paranormal activity as early as the 1940’s. As time has gone on, reports have increased a hundred times over. Although some people report a benevolent feeling and encounters, most people report malevolent activity. The history of this location, the population housed here, as well as the punishments inflicted; explain the intense feelings of dread and anger reported within the walls of Eastern State Penitentiary. That is not to ignore the fact that throughout the history of the facility, wardens, their families, builders, and other workers as well as inmates with kind dispositions have lived within these walls and may also be reaching out to visitors.

Equipment Corner -- Erik Hollenback
NJROPE Paranormal
Investigator

Voice recorders comparison.



- 1) Tape or magnetic is an older model and at one point the standard. The tape tends to pick up the noises from the internal gears, but has the advantage of being magnetic by nature which has been known to pick up E.V.P.'s (Electronic Voice Phenomenon) that some digital recorders may not.
- 2) Currently and more commonly used are Digital recorders. Having replaced tape recorders, the sound quality is quite clear and few mechanical noises interfere with the quality. Digital recorders are more versatile and some models allow for "real time playback", which lets you actively listen to what you are recording. These newer forms of recorders can be downloaded into a computer for easy playback.
So choose your recorder preference and enjoy. Real time, stereo, mono, or tape; this is the most important tool you can have in your arsenal.

Ghost of the Month by: Maureen McLaughlin Assistant Lead Investigator /Assistant Case Manager



Mary Todd Lincoln (pictured above)

The most frequently reported sighting in the White House is that of Abraham Lincoln, our 16th president; whose life was cut short by an assassin's bullet in April 1865. Psychics have speculated that Lincoln's spirit remains in the White House for two reasons; first, to be on hand in times of crisis and second to complete the difficult work that his untimely death has left unfinished. It has also been reported that First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln would hold séances in the White House to try make contact with her son. The Lincoln's 11 year-old son, Willie, died in the White House of Typhoid.

Eleanor Roosevelt claimed to have felt his presence throughout the White House and stated that the family dog, Fala, would sometimes bark for no reason at what she thought to be Lincoln's ghost. President Eisenhower's press secretary, James Hagerty, and Lady Bird Johnson's press secretary, Liz Carpenter, both said they felt Lincoln's presence many times. The former President's footsteps are said to be heard in the hall outside of the Lincoln Bedroom. Both Margaret Truman, daughter of President Harry Truman, and President Truman himself report hearing raps at the door while spending the night in the Lincoln bedroom.

The first person to report seeing President Lincoln was Grace Coolidge, wife of President Coolidge. According to her, the former president was standing looking out a window of the Oval Office across the Potomac to the former Civil War battlefields beyond.

During Franklin Roosevelt's presidency, the most sightings were reported. It is speculated this occurred because of the great upheaval the country was facing at the time. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt used the Lincoln Bedroom as her study and often said she felt his presence when she worked late at night. Queen Isabella of the Netherlands heard a knock on her bedroom door in the night and when she answered it, reportedly saw the ghost of Abraham Lincoln who was wearing his top hat. Prime Minister Winston Churchill told a story of emerging naked from his evening bath and smoking his customary cigar only to find the apparition of Lincoln sitting by the fireplace in his room. It is reported that Churchill said "Good evening Mr. President, you seem to have me at a disadvantage". It is reported that Lincoln smiled and faded from the room.

Theodore Roosevelt, Maureen Reagan and her husband have all reported seeing the ghost of Abraham Lincoln. It has also been reported that Lincoln has been seen lying down on a bed in the Lincoln Bedroom or seeing sitting on the edge of the bed and putting his boots on.

**By: Colleen Daugherty
Nancy Tursi & Hilary Bergen
Investigators**

Ways to develop your psychic intuition

I believe that we are all psychic and are all spiritual beings. We all have psychic intuition or abilities that extend beyond Tarot readings into a true inner knowing. We all are witness to great changes around us. On a daily basis, we strive to make a balance of everything in life. By uncovering our psychic skills, we become able to know the universe around us like we never have before. This will, in turn, make us more sensitive to the energies around us and give us a greater depth in our relationships creating positive energies in our environment. There are many different belief systems which add to what we have learned and allow us to grow our psychic and spiritual selves.

1. Learn to relax and meditate

There are many sites on the internet designed to show you on how to meditate. You need to find the one which resonates the most with you and practice it daily. The easiest one for me is focus on breathing.

2. Keep a journal

Write down your dreams, daily coincidences and any synchronicity events or any psychic happenings.

3. Practice Visualization

For example: close your eyes and visualize a lemon – see the color, feel the skin and smell the lemon fragrance, now imagine cutting the lemon in half and squeeze it on your tongue. By now you should feel your mouth water, this is a mental image – it has smell, taste, feel and sight. Practice this and substitute other fruits. The possibilities are endless. This can help to relax you and as well teach you to hold a mental image and make it as real as possible, a great tool in learning manifest.

4. Develop your precognition

When the phone rings, pause a moment and try to focus on the caller, do not guess just let the person's name pop into your consciousness.

5. Sensing energies

This is not too hard – try getting up in the morning – sunrise is best. Look at the trees and pick a particular tree out – you must be able to see the top of it against the sky. You may all have seen the pictures of squiggly lines. When you stare at the lines for a while an image will appear. This is very similar. Stare at the tree and after a while you will see shimmering around the crown which may even look like a silvery smoky color. Try this method on animals or even people and distinguish between different people. Take your time, there is neither a rush nor shortcut.

6. Create a sacred space

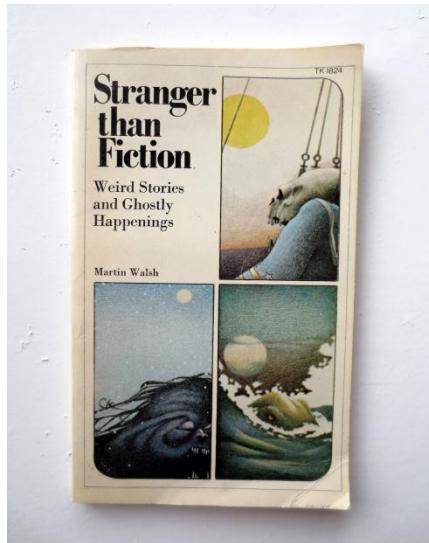
This can be done in the corner of bedroom or in your garden – anywhere you can have total privacy. Use this space to meditate and practice visualizations, write your journal and have quiet time. The important thing is to make it your own area.

Book of the month

By Valerie M. Hollenback
Research Officer
NJROPE PARANORMAL

Title: Stranger Than Fiction - Weird Stories and Ghostly Happenings

By: Martin Walsh
Isbn # 978 - 0 - 59004 - 598 - 8
Copyright: 1973



This paperback book was distributed through Scholastic Book Services. It contains ten short stories about different topics. I purchased this book while in school and I have read and re-read this book several times.

The first chapter is titled: Atlantis

The legend of Atlantis has its beginnings with the writings of Plato, the famous Greek philosopher, and mankind's never ending pursuit to locate it.

The second chapter is titled: Bigfoot

The term "Sasquatch" is an Anglicized derivative of the word "Sesquac" meaning "Wild Man". The original word, in the sto:lo dialect of the Halkomelem language, is used by the Coast Salish Indians of the Fraser Valley and parts of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The first sighting of a Sasquatch by a white man apparently came in 1811 near what is now the town of Jasper, Alberta Canada. A trader named David Thompson found some strange footprints, 14 inches long and 8 inches wide, with four toes in the snow. On October 20, 1967, Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin heard that fresh tracks had been found in the area of Bluff Creek in Northern California. They set out in search of and just happened to come across one. Patterson got out his camera and began filming. The resulting film is about 53 second long, showing a hairy creature walking upright on two feet towards some trees. The creature is over 7 feet tall and weighing from 300-350 pounds. Along with the film, they made two plaster casts {each foot} and measured the creatures stride.

The third chapter is titled: Visitors From The Skies

On the evening of September 3, 1965 in Exeter, New Hampshire at 2:00 AM, a young man named Norman Muscarello was hitchhiking home. He noticed five flashing red lights in some nearby woods. The lights illuminated the woods and a nearby farmhouse. The large hovering object came towards Muscarello and he dove into a ditch on the side of the road. The object soon departed. He flagged down a passing car and was driven to the local police station. Police Officer Eugene Bertrand pulled into the station. As it turned out, just an hour earlier, he had found a female motorist shaking and she told him she saw a large object in the sky with flashing red lights that followed her for 12 miles before disappearing. Bertrand drove Muscarello back to the farm. Nothing unusual happened at first, but from the barn they heard the horses becoming very agitated while dogs in the area began to howl. An object rose up from the woods behind them. While watching it Bertrand radios a second police officer named David Hunt for assistance. After Hunt arrives the object flies away.

The fourth chapter is titled: The Man Who Laughed At Death

Erik Weisz was born on March 24, 1874 in Budapest, Hungary. He came to America on July 3, 1878. The family changed the Hungarian spelling of their German surname to Weiss and Erik became Ehrich. Ehrich Weiss would become a professional magician and would eventually become known as Harry Houdini. He took the name Harry from the American magician Harry Kellar, and Houdini from the French magician Jean Eugene Robert - Houdin. He was told that by adding "I" to the end of Houdin it would mean he "was like houdin". In 1893 while performing at Coney Island, he met a fellow performer named Wilhelmina Beatrice {Bess} Rahner. They married in 1894. On October 22, 1926 in Montreal, Houdini was punched in the stomach by a young man. Houdini had previously made it known that he could withstand any blow, but the punch was delivered before Houdini could prepare for it. On October 31, 1926 at the age of 52, Harry Houdini passed from peritonitis, secondary to a ruptured appendix.

The fifth chapter is titled: The Strange Case of the Mary Celeste

On the morning of December 4, 1872 an American three-mast sailing ship named Dei Gratia, captained by David Morehouse, saw some three miles away the shape of a ship on the horizon. He could not see anyone aboard and yet the vessel was going along its own course. Once they got closer Captain Morehouse said the name "Mary Celeste". Captain Morehouse knew that the Mary Celeste had sailed from New York eight days before the Dei Gratia. In fact Morehouse and the captain of the Mary Celeste, Benjamin S. Briggs, were old friends. Captain Briggs was sailing with his wife Sarah, and two -year- old daughter, as well as a crew of seven. The Mary Celeste was carrying 1,701 barrels of alcohol from New York to Genoa, Italy. Morehouse boarded the Mary Celeste with three crew members. Not a soul was aboard and everything a sailor never leaves behind was left behind. The ten people were never seen or heard from again.

The Sixth chapter is titled: The Loch Ness Monster - Fact or Fiction

Loch Ness is in Northern Scotland and is about 22 1/2 miles long and between 1 1/2 miles wide, with a depth of 754 feet at the bottom. St Columbia in the 7th century encountered the beast and drove it away. The most famous photograph was taken by a London foregone in 1934. In 1968 Birmingham University used sonar equipment. It detected a large object moving at the bottom of the Loch. It was over 65 feet long. The search continues today.

The Seventh chapter is titled: Lincoln's Dream

Abraham Lincoln was a very spiritual man guided by a certain sixth sense. This story concerns two prophetic dreams he had. In 1860 on the evening of Lincoln winning the election, he was resting on a sofa when suddenly in a mirror opposite where he lay, he saw two different halves of his own face. One side was the picture of health, and the other a ghostly pale white. He saw the same reflection a few days later. He believed the meaning that the face showing good health meant he would be successful in his first years in office. The other face meant he would die in his second term. The second Prophetic dream came only a month before his assassination. In the dream, he is awoken by the sounds of weeping. He leaves his room and wanders downstairs. He wanders room to room looking for the source of the weeping. He arrives at the East Room, and enters. He sees a catafalque, on which rests a corpse wrapped in funeral vestments. There are soldiers acting as guards and throngs of people. Lincoln asks one guard "who is dead in the White House?" The guard answers "the President" and that "he was killed by an assassin".

The Eighth chapter is titled: The Invasion of the Martians

This story concerns the October 31, 1938 radio broadcast of "War of the Worlds" by a 22 year old Orson Welles.

It was a pre-WWII Sunday evening when Americans kept their ears glued to the radio, listening for news from Europe. The first two thirds of the 60 minute broadcast were presented as a series of simulated news bulletins, which suggested to many listeners, that an actual alien invasion by Martians was currently in progress. Compounding the issue was the fact that the Mercury Theatre on the air was a sustaining show {it ran without commercial breaks}, adding to the program's realism. It was a play so real and so well performed, that those who heard it were certain that the end of the world had come. The ensuing panic the broadcast created reached from the Northern United States to Canada.

The ninth chapter is titled: The Lost Patrol

The Bermuda Triangle is 500,000 to 1.5 million square miles. From Fort Lauderdale, Florida to San Juan, Puerto Rico to Bermuda, the most well-known disappearance is Flight 19. It was a training flight of five TBM Avenger torpedo bombers that disappeared on December 5, 1945 while over the Atlantic. The squadron's flight 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 crew of 14 never returned to base.

The tenth chapter is titled: Outer Space Experiment

On January 31, 1971 Apollo 14 headed towards the moon. Aboard were Alan Shepard, Stuart Roosa and Edgar Mitchell. Using ESP cards called Zener Cards, Mitchell hoped to serve as a "sender" of thought-messages back to Earth. On Earth, four specially selected people would serve as "receivers". Two hundred messages were sent back to Earth revealing a interesting statistic. Two of the four "receivers" correctly identified 51 of the 200. Since pure chance would only account for forty correct responses, 51 correct guesses seemed to indicate ESP transfer.

Myths and Legends --Chupacabra

By: Katie Coonelly

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NJROPE PARANORMAL



Overview:

~The Name Chupacabra comes from the animals reported habit of drinking and attacking the blood of livestock, especially goats. “Chupar” meaning “to suck” and “Cabra” meaning “goat”

~Sightings have been claimed as early as 1995 in Puerto Rico.

~Chupacabra has been reported as far north as Maine, and as far south as Chile.

~Spotted outside the Americas in countries like Russia and the Philippines.

Description:

~ There are many different descriptions of the Chupacabra.

~ The most common description of Chupacabra is a reptile-like creature, appearing to have leathery or scaly greenish-gray skin and sharp spines or quills running down its back.

~ In at least one sighting, the creature was reported to hop 20 feet. This variety is said to have a dog or panther like nose, a forked tongue, and large fangs.

~ The creature has been described as heavy, the size of a small bear, with a row of spines reaching from the neck to the base of the tail.

~ It is said to hiss and screech when alarmed, and leave behind a sulfuric smell.

~ Biologists and wildlife management officials view the Chupacabra as a contemporary legend.

~ Also described as a strange breed of dog.

~ This form is mostly hairless and has a pronounced spinal ridge, unusually pronounced eye sockets, fangs, and claws.

~ It is claimed that this breed might be an example of a dog-like reptile.

~ The Chupacabra is said to drain all of the animal's blood (and sometimes organs) usually through three holes in the shape of an upside-down triangle.

Sightings/Killings:

~The first reported attacks occurred in March 1995 in Puerto Rico. Eight sheep were discovered dead, each with three puncture wounds in the chest area and completely drained of blood.

~In August of 1995 an eye witness, Madelyne Tolentino, reported seeing the creature in the town of Canovanas in Puerto Rico, where as many as 150 farm animals were reportedly killed.

~ In 1975, similar killings in the town of Moca were attributed to "El Vampiro de Moca", which in English means "The Vampire of Moca." It was suspected that the killings were committed by a satanic cult.

~ Later, more killings were reported around the island, and many farms reported loss of animal life.

~ The animals were reported to have their bodies bled dry through a series of small, circular incisions.

~ Shortly after the first reported incidents in Puerto Rico, other animal deaths were reported in other countries like: Dominican Republic, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Columbia, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Brazil, and the U.S.

~ A new research by Benjamin Radford concluded that the description given by Tolentino (August 1995) was based on the creature Sil in the science fiction horror film "Species". The alien creature Sil is nearly identical to Tolentino's Chupacabra eyewitness account and she had seen the movie before her report came through. "It was a creature that looked like the Chupacabra, with spines on its back and all... The resemblance to the Chupacabra was really impressive," Tolentino reported.

~ Radford revealed that Tolentino believed that the creature and events she saw in "Species" were actually happening in reality in Puerto Rico at the time", and concludes that the most important Chupacabra description cannot be trusted.

~ This seriously undermines the credibility of the Chupacabra.

~ An analysis by a veterinarian of 300 reported victims of the Chupacabra found that they had not been bled dry.

PUBLIC NJROPE EVENTS for January – July 2013

Deptford Public Library Lecture, 7:30 PM, January 28

Millville Public Library, 5:30 – 7:30 PM, March 13

Cranberry Public Library, TBA, March 16 or 27.

Gloucester County Library, Swedesboro Branch, 6:30 PM, July 9

Times of engagements are subject to change. Events may be added.

Visit our website www.njrope.com for an up to date list of events for all of 2013.

Sources:

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- 1.) <http://www.brighid.org.uk/goddess.html>
- 2.) <http://wicca.com/celtic/akash/a/imbolclore.htm>
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- 4.) <http://whisperingwood.homestead.com/Brighid.html>
- 5.) <http://sacredsitetour.com/Sacred-Sites-of-Ireland/kildare-and-st-brigids-cathedral.html>
- 6.) McCoy, Edain. "*Celtic Myth and Magic –Harnessing the Power of the Gods and Goddesses*"
Llewellyn Publications, St Paul Minnesota, 1997

Haunted Location:

- <http://www.easternstate.org/home>
<http://www.easternstate.org/halloween/> ghosts
<http://www.easternstate.org/learn/research-library>
www.graveaddiction.com/esp.html

Myths and Legends

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/chupacabra>

Book of the Month:

Title: Stranger Than Fiction - Weird Stories and Ghostly Happenings