

# The ghosts of Ohio® Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 16 Issue

## IT TOOK A UFO TO SHOW ME THAT WE'RE ALL THE SAME



This past summer (man, that makes me sad just writing that—where'd summer go?), I gave a new presentation at several Ohio libraries: UFOs Over Ohio. I was asked earlier in the year if I offered a presentation on UFOs and since I have always been

interested in the topic (I even saw one growing up in NY), it was fairly easy for me to put together a presentation on the history of UFO sighting in the state of Ohio.

But this was new ground for me, at least with regard to giving a public presentation. So I gave a lot of thought as to what the audience would want to hear about the most. Specifically, how would a UFO audience differ from, say, an audience showing up to hear about ghosts? It wasn't until about halfway through "opening night" of my UFO presentation that the answer became crystal clear. In short, there is no difference: we're all the same.

It didn't matter that I was talking about UFOs. The audience were all there for the same reason they come to my ghost presentations: to find answers. They listened intently, asked pertinent questions, and had in-depth knowledge of the subject. What's more, just as with my ghost presentations, several people lingered behind to share their personal experiences. And wouldn't you know it, most of them started their story with the all-too-familiar, "You're probably going to think I'm crazy, but..."



The UFO presentations this summer really opened my eyes to the current landscape of paranormal research, to the point that I am currently working on adding additional dates for the UFO one, as well as adding presentations on other paranormal topics such as cryptids (don't worry, the ghost presentations are not going away—if anything, they're growing). I found it incredibly heartwarming to realize that even in today's turbulent society, something as weird as the paranormal can bring people together. And that in the end, we're really not that different after all.

If only everything else in life could be so easy.

Cheers,

James A. Willis

Founder/Director

# Podcast review: SPOOKED MARKET STATES OF THE PORT OF



I used to listen to the news on the way to and from work, but not anymore. I can't stand to hear all the awful things happening in

the world these days, so I started checking out various podcasts to fill my drivetime. I like being able to control what I'm going to hear next, but I don't always want music. Podcasts have been the answer for me! I love *RadioLab*, *This American Life*, *Lore*, *Cabinet of Curiosities* and *Invisibilia*. But more than all of these, I love, love, love *Spooked*!

I stumbled across *Spooked* after catching up on all the *RadioLab* episodes. It is produced by WNCY Studios so I decided to see what else they had been working on. And there it was ... the podcast I had been looking for. Of course, it immediately jumped out at me because I love spooky things. And I jumped right in!

Glynn Washington is the host. (He helped create another famous podcast called *Snap Judgement*.)

His voice is deep and measured. Perfect. He sometimes shares his own personal experiences from his childhood and it is fascinating to say the least. Mostly, though, the stories are told first-hand by the actual person who experienced the terrifying, haunting, mysterious or odd event. There are typically one to three stories shared in each episode and they are 30-45 minutes long. There are 13 episodes in Season 1 and 15 in Season 2.

I don't really want to give away anything, but I will say that while I love them all, some of my favorite episodes are S1E1: "Voice in the Woods," S1E10 "Dollhouse" and S2E5 "37 Seconds."

I have never been so immediately taken in by a podcast before and I screamed (literally!) through both seasons at a breakneck pace. So much so, that I've had to go back and listen again to take it all in. I'm getting ready to listen again for a third time to gear up for the release of Season 3!

You can find Seasons 1 & 2 for free on your favorite podcast app or at spookedpodcast.org. Go. NOW! And listen!

Unfortunately, Season 3 is being released through a new podcast service called Luminary. It's a for-pay service, which has me irked, but they are going to get my money anyway because I love this podcast so much that I can't imagine not listening to it! You can get a 1-month trial for free and then it is \$7.99 per month after. All I can say is – take my money, Luminary! Season 3 is going to have 26 brandnew episodes and starts on August 22. Spooked is active on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Click on your favorite social media icon below to listen.









# Ghostly Picture Books for Kids, Minus the Halloween Stuff! Y

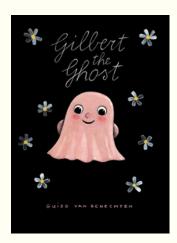


School's back in session, and it's usually this time of year when kids start coming into the library asking for Halloween

books. I know, right? I mean, it's technically still summer! We Ohioans need to continue enjoying it while we have it! But I get it. To kids, the beginning of school signifies the end of summer fun. It's only natural that they want to look forward to the next big fun thing, which is usually Halloween.

Unfortunately, many grownups aren't ready for that yet. When I see kids asking their parents for some Halloween books, the response is usually, "No, it's not even September yet!"

Hey, parents! First of all, you should never deny books to your children. That's a sure-fire way to start killing their love of reading. I'm dead serious about that. Second, there are plenty of spooky books out there that will satisfy their desire for ghosts without any mention of Halloween. Want proof? Here are just a few examples for you to check out:



**Gilbert the Ghost** by Guido Van Genechten

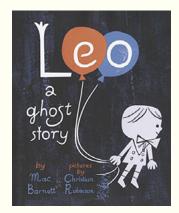
This is a simple story about a young ghost named Gilbert who doesn't quite fit in with his classmates at Ghost School, particularly when it's discovered that he can't "booo" like a real ghost should. All he can muster is a weak "bahooo," which gets him banished to the Abandoned Tower. Fortunately, he makes friends with a black cat named Meow and learns that it's okay to be different.



**Sir Simon: Super Scarer** by Cale Atkinson

Simon is a ghost who is an expert at haunting; and he's excited that he's just been transferred to his first haunted house. But the responsibility of haunting a house involves a lot of scheduled chores, including stomping

in the attic, flushing toilets, hiding and moving things around, and "standing creepy in the window wearing oldtimey clothes." Simon would rather pursue his other interests, like writing, painting and counted cross-stitch. Luckily, a boy named Chester moves into the house with his grandmother, and Chester's all too willing to perform Simon's tasks for him. Unfortunately, he's just terrible. And when Simon attempts Chester's human chores, he's equally as bad. Ultimately, the two settle on simply being friends, perhaps even teaming up to scare Grandma once in a while.

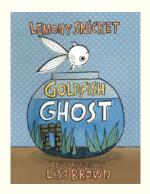


**Leo: A Ghost Story** by Mac Barnett

Leo is a rather lonely child ghost who is happy when a family moves into his house. Unfortunately, his attempts at being a good host only serve to scare them. Feeling rejected, he leaves in search of a new home. Eventually, he meets a little girl named Jane who adopts him as her imaginary friend, not knowing that Leo is actually a ghost. When this is revealed after Leo thwarts a burglar, Jane is thrilled that even though he's a ghost, he turned out to be a "real friend."

(continued on page 4.)

# Ghostly Picture Books for Kids, Minus the Halloween Stuff! cont.



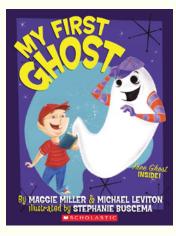
#### **Goldfish Ghost** by Lemony Snicket

If you're into children's books, you'll recognize Lemony Snicket as the author of (among other things) the Series of Unfortunate Events series. In this picture book, "Goldfish Ghost was born on the surface of the water in a bowl on the dresser in a boy's room." From there he sets off to find friends in the neighborhood, which is difficult when no one seems to even notice him. Unsuccessful in his efforts, he decides to return to his bowl, only to discover a new fish living there! Where could he go? It's at this point that he hears a voice that leads him to the lighthouse where the keeper's ghost tells him that she's looking for some company, too. They become fast friends and stay together in the lighthouse.



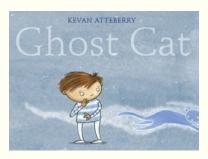
### **How to Make Friends with a Ghost** by Rebecca Green

This quirky book serves as a guide to show readers "how to create a lifelong (and beyond) friendship" with a ghost. Part 1 covers "Ghost Basics," including locating, identifying, and becoming friends with a ghost. Part 2 covers "Ghost Care," and Part 3 is all about "Growing Together." A ghost will be there through every stage of life, even after the end comes. This is an unusual but sweet story.



#### My First Ghost by Maggie Miller

The cover says, "Free Ghost Inside!" and once children open the book, they are congratulated with "Your house is now officially haunted!" What follows is a fun guide book about caring for your new ghost friend, including how to know your ghost is there (Noise behind you? Turn around. Cold spot? You bumped into your ghost. Hiccups? Your ghost is tickling you...), how to keep your ghost healthy, and activities your ghost may enjoy. "A ghost is like a brother or sister, but better." This book is an entertaining read for any kid!



**Ghost Cat**by Kevan Atteberry

I was so moved by this simple story that I brought it along to August's Ghosts of Ohio meeting to share with the group. It begins with a young boy who matter-of-factly states that "There is a ghost in my house." He suspects it's a cat because "I used to have one." At first, he only catches glimpses here and there, then hears noises and notices things knocked over. When he finally sees the ghost cat, he follows it as it disappears through the front door. On the other side of the door? A small kitten sitting on the front stoop. It seems the ghost cat led the boy to his new kitty, and the last page shows the three – yes, three – of them sleeping in the boy's bed. It's an unbelievably sweet, moving story that still has me in tears every time I read it.

Children's books really do run the gamut of any subject you can imagine. If you're adamant that you don't want to read anything Halloween just yet, rest assured that there is a plethora of spooky stories out there (featuring ghosts, monsters, mummies, and so much more) without any mention of Halloween. This is true for picture books as well as readers and chapter books. All you have to do is ask your local librarian!

Happy reading!



# WHY YOU SHOULDN'T STORM AREA 51—ASIDE FROM THE OBVIOUS REASONS



Unless you've been living under a rock lately, chances are you know all about the online petition that has been signed by tens of thousands

of people, vowing to "storm" the infamous Area 51 in Nevada in search of aliens. You might even know someone who has signed the petition and is, as we speak, taking Spin classes in order to get in shape for the big day. Perhaps you've even signed the petition yourself and are planning on doing a little storming yourself on September 20th.

If you did sign the petition, I hate to break this to you, but you are "The One"—the one throughout history that parents warned their kids about. The One is someone we all know, many times without realizing it. Case in point:

- The One often takes too many sups from the MD 20/20 and decides it is a good idea to skinny dip in the town square fountain
- The One waits for the quietest moments at a concert, usually when a member is addressing the audience, to scream out "Whooooo!" for no apparent reason other than to prove to themselves that they can



 The One likes to dare people to go into a cemetery after dark and then gives displays of their bravery by knocking over tombstones

So if you are The One, allow me to explain a few things to you about the area you are planning on storming. To begin with, Area 51 is part of a larger US military facility—a heavily guarded, highly restricted military facility that also includes Nellis Air Force Base. And there are numerous signs all around the gated facility that warn you against trespassing, stating

that people are subject to \$1,000.00 fine, 6 months in jail, or both. If that's not enough, the signs also openly state "use of deadly force authorized," in blood red letters, no less.

So let's break this down: You're planning on running onto a secure military base where the guards are authorized to shoot to kill? Really? And for what? To potentially see aliens and alien technology? Even if such things are there, you really think it would just be lying out in the open? Even if you were to make it inside one of the buildings,

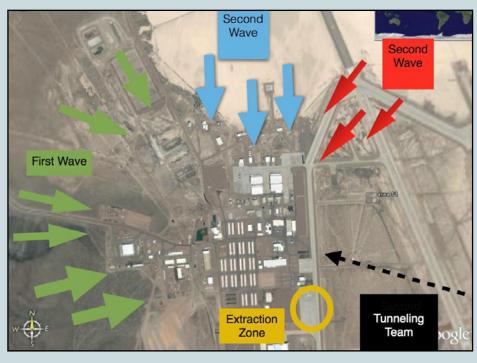
# WHY YOU SHOULDN'T STORM AREA 51—ASIDE FROM THE OBVIOUS REASONS cont.

I'm pretty sure everything is going to look "alien" to you because you're not going to have any idea what you're looking at.

But here's what really irks me about all these people who claim they are going to storm Area 51 because they want to find out the truth about UFOs: You're the people who ruin it for everybody else, and not just in the world of UFOlogy. In fact, I think it's safe to say you're ruining it for anyone who believes in anything strange, spooky or just plain weird—ghosts, cryptids, etc.

How? Because your extreme behavior immediately makes you the Poster Child for all the skeptics and anyone who just wants to try and prove that all of us (as opposed to just you) are mindless imbeciles. You're the extremist who represents nothing about the paranormal community, yet will constantly and consistently be referred to as a member of said community. And at that point, your actions are a reflection on all of us, and that's just not right! So if the likelihood of a bullet in the back of the head isn't a strong enough deterrent, perhaps considering your fellow researchers might be.

Finally, there's the late-breaking news that the original organizers of the event are now saying they never really wanted people to storm Area 51. It was all a joke. Of course, it does seem like a bit of a coincidence that while the original organizers (one of whom is an



event planner) don't want you to storm Area 51 any more on September 20th, you are being invited to attend their Alienstock Festival, conveniently happening the weekend of September 20th, right outside the military base's grounds, on public property. There, you can sing, dance, and eat as much alien-themed fried food as you want. All without having to worry about having the military police coming for you.

And therein lies the final reason for not storming Area 51—the very real possibility that you are being duped by people who never wanted you to trespass in the first place; just come spend money at their festival's merch table. Just think of how foolish you'd feel if you run onto private property, only to find out you were the only one who wasn't in on the joke.

So there you have it; a whole list of reasons why storming Area 51 is not a good idea. Although, let's be honest—if the idea of being shot on sight isn't enough to deter you, nothing will. But don't say I didn't warn you!









Bob Lazar: Area 51 & Flying Saucers (2018)

**JKLC Productions** 

Written and directed by Jeremy Kenyon Lockyer Corbell

Running time: 96 minutes

Currently available through streaming platforms only (Amazon Prime Video, Netflix)

Recently, the entire paranormal world was abuzz about a new documentary being released about an enigmatic figure in the UFO field, Bob Lazar. Trailers for the film promised that viewers would finally "discover the unbelievable true story, thirty years in the making." But before we get to the film itself, perhaps a bit of background on Lazar is required.

Even if the name Bob Lazar doesn't ring a bell with you, you're familiar with his legacy. This goes for people with only a passing interest in UFOs and aliens. That's because Bob Lazar is the guy responsible for bringing ideas such as Area 51 (yes, the very same Area 51 people want to "storm"—see elsewhere in this newsletter) being home to recovered alien spaceships and technology. Some would even say that without Bob Lazar, there would be no Area 51.

Bob Lazar first entered into UFO lore in the late 1980s. In a nutshell, Lazar came forward and claimed that he had been employed by the government to work in an area known as S-4, part of the whole Groom Lake facility that also includes the infamous Area 51. Lazar further claimed that his primary work focused on trying to reverse engineer what he came to believe was alien technology that was not of this Earth. Lazar's world came tumbling down after he invited some friends to go out near the base one night and videotape a UFO test flight the military was conducting. They were caught and Lazar was fired.

Things got even weirder when people who interviewed Lazar did a background check and could find nothing in his work history to substantiate his story. Lazar claimed it was because the government had unceremoniously wiped all that information when he was fired. Of course, skeptics used it as evidence that Lazar was making the whole thing up. What followed what a firestorm as both sides claimed to know the truth about Bob Lazar and his incredible story. Lazar, for the most part, retreated into his own private world and tried to stay out of things. Eventually, the whole thing blew over and Lazar faded into obscurity, rarely granting interviews. Until now. And there you have the source of all the buzz around this documentary—Bob Lazar was finally going to set the record straight and explain once and for all what really happened back in the 1980s

when he went public with his claims about alien technology. That's what had so many people excited about this new documentary. Sadly, Bob Lazar: Area 51 & Flying Saucers doesn't even come close to delivering, which is an incredible disappointment given the implied subject matter—Bob Lazar.

I say this because even though Lazar's name is in the title, writer/director Jeremy Kenyon Lockyer Corbell goes out of his way to show that this is his film. There are subtle clues regarding this right out of the gate, with the title Extraordinary Beliefs by Jeremy Kenyon Lockyer Corbell being one of the first things to flash across the screen. It would appear that Corbell is working on a series of films under the "Extraordinary Beliefs" flag and that this is just the most recent. Fair enough. But when Bob Lazar: Area 51 & Flying Saucers finally comes up a screen, it is followed by "Featuring Bob Lazar." That's right, a movie supposedly ABOUT Bob Lazar merely FEATURES Bob Lazar. So Corbell is already making sure we know this is his film while downplaying Bob Lazar's role. And we're still in the opening credits, and it only gets worse as the film wears on and Corbell keeps needlessly inserting himself into the film.



Jeremy Kenyon Lockyer Corbell

# **MOVIE REVIEW cont.**Bob Lazar: Area 51 & Flying Saucers (2018)



In fact, a significant portion of the film is nothing more than a long, drawn-out speakerphone conversation that Corbell has with co-producer, George Knapp. Granted, Corbell and Knapp are at least talking about Lazar, but for the entire conversation, Corbell films himself holding his phone and alternating between trying to look pensive and quizzical. And he films himself from two different angles, randomly cutting back and forth between the two.

It starts to feel as if Corbell wants the film to be all about him. And it's not. But it is ultimately what dooms the film.

That's not to say that Bob Lazar doesn't feature in the film, because he does. Sadly, most of it is through replaying old TV interviews. But there are instances where the modern-day Lazar sits down and starts to talk about what happened back in the 80s and the lasting impact it has had on him. This is the point where everyone watching the film is sure to sit up and lean in closer to the TV. This is the stuff we have been waiting decades to hear. And looking at the years of pain and anguish in Lazar's eyes, you know that whatever happened, it has clearly taken its toll on Lazar. So you hold your breath and wait to hear what Lazar has to say. Only he never gets to say anything because every time the film appears to be heading in the right direction, it spins wildly out of control. This film is ripe with jarring, cheap effects like intentional static, random visuals and stock footage sans context, unnecessary jump cuts, and even random shots of alien faces superimposed over Lazar's own face.

That's when it hit me: Corbell isn't making a documentary: He's trying to make an Art House film. This might explain why Corbell conducted an interview of George Knapp while Knapp is standing alongside an indoor pool, meaning every single word that comes out of Knapp's mouth bounces around



#### **Bob Lazar**

the walls and continually echoes. Corbell might have thought it would appear and sound artsy, but it doesn't. It's just a mess.

And while the Art House explanation might explain a lot of decisions, it can't do anything to explain away the most distracting part of the film: the narrator. Yes, for reasons known only to Corbell, a large portion of Bob Lazar: Area 51 & Flying Saucers features a narrator. And get this, it's not Corbell, Bob Lazar, or even George Knapp. It's none other than Mickey Rourke (9½ Week, Sin City, The Wrestler).

Rourke tries his best to mumble and growl his way through the script, but it's not like Corbell gave him much to work with. Take, for example, this gem where Rourke is describing the desert surrounding Area 51:

The mountains appear to float like dry lake beds, like spaceships from another world. They seem to ride on a viscous material, channeled through empty space by heat that rises and separates. It vitrifies everything it contacts, like a—like a green glass honey. A g\*\*damn psychedelic liquid drowning the emptiness with imagination.

Good stuff, to be sure. But Rourke's best line comes when he ponders what exactly is going on inside the top secret base:

What are they building in the desert, north of Las Vegas? What are they hiding? What the f\*\*k are they hiding?

Suffice to say, the film is a hot mess. A shame, really, because it had so much potential and Bob Lazar did seem as though he wanted to set the record straight. But even if he had, I'm not sure it would have come through clear enough after Corbell got through editing it.

Those already familiar with Bob Lazar might find a few nuggets buried within this film to make viewing worthwhile. But anyone not in the know already will do well to avoid Bob Lazar and instead search online for his other interviews, almost all of which are much more cohesive than this film.

As for me, I'm seriously considering starting my own conspiracy theory that Corbell secretly works for the government and his main job is to take any factual reports of UFOs and turn them into a documentary that's so confusing that people give up in their search for the truth.



# WE MOURN, BUT HAVE WE LEARNED?



**Lorraine Warren** 



**Stanton Friedman** 



**Rosemary Ellen Guiley** 

The past few months have not been kind to the paranormal field in that we lost several big names—most notably Lorraine Warren, Stanton Friedman, and Rosemary Ellen Guiley. Love or loathe them, these three people are considered pioneers in their respective fields.

With their deaths coming so close together, it allowed me to notice a trend in people's reaction to the news. It usually started with a sharing of the obituary or news report on social media, followed shortly thereafter with the posting of condolences and perhaps a brief snippet about how much we knew/respected the person and how they will be missed. And then for the most part, that's it. Sure, a few people out there will scour the Internet to see when everyone's favorite paranormal shyster decides to fire up his ol' Mystical Magical Box of Wonder and Lies and claim he's made contact with the newly departed spirits. But by and large, that's it. We move on. And we forget.

Sadly, this is not something reserved only for the paranormal field. Part of the healing process often involves distancing oneself, if only to make the pain of having lost someone a tiny bit more bearable. But now more than ever, in the paranormal field, we need to do more. Yes, we can mourn, but we also need to learn.

By that, I mean that with each passing year, more and more of the trendsetters and pioneers in the field of paranormal research are passing away. And unless we take what they have given us and start applying it (or questioning and then discarding it) to our own practices and research, an entire generation of paranormal research will be lost.

Here's the interesting bit: You don't even have to had liked the person to learn from them.

Let's take, for example, Lorraine Warren. Lorraine was a very polarizing figure in the paranormal field because while many people admired her work, just as many, myself included, found her methodologies, theories, and overall practices to be...suspect.

But that doesn't mean I couldn't learn from Lorraine Warren. So rather than simply saying "I don't like her," I

dove into the reasons why I didn't care for her. I looked at everything from her personality to her education. Then I looked at the time period when Lorraine and her husband, Ed, were the most popular. That led me to looking at how what Lorraine was saying and when she was saying it combined to make a recipe for success. It also led me to reviewing and researching famous cases Lorraine had been involved in, most notably Amityville. Finally, I looked at the areas where I felt Lorraine had "failed"—the areas which gave rise to the idea that Lorraine might not be all she was cracked up to be. I looked at how she presented herself, what she said, and what she held up as evidence. And I taught myself not to do things the same way Lorraine did so as not to have my methods and evidence questioned. So even though I didn't care for her as a researcher, Lorraine Warren was still able to teach me invaluable lessons.

That's really the only way to ensure that when the paranormal community loses a member, their life's work was not in vain.

James Willis



# THE GHOSTS ARE HETTING THE ROAD AGAIN:



If you're reading this newsletter hot off the cyberspace presses, there's still a couple of days to squeeze out of summer 2019. But store shelves everywhere are already filled with 50% off school supplies, so it won't be long before The Ghosts of Ohio hits the road on their annual presentation tour!

This year, we're starting a few weeks earlier than usual and will be appearing in some larger venues, all to ensure that everyone has a chance to come out to hear and see all the latest strange and spooky stuff we've managed to capture over the years.

The vast majority of the appearances are free and open to the general public. Those that are not free will have a "\$" next to the title. Additionally, if "Private Event" does not appear next to the title, you can safely assume the event is open to the general public.

As always, the list below, while current as of this writing, is being constantly updated. So if you are planning on attending any of these events, please contact the venue directly just to make sure all the information is current. Also, some of the venues, even the ones where the presentation/appearance is free and open to the public, require that people preregister to ensure there are enough seats. Again, when in doubt, contact the venue directly.

For the most up to date information, visit ghostsofohio.org or strangeandspookyworld.com. All new events will also be posted on all our social media accounts. So if you don't already Follow or Like us, go ahead and do that so you'll be the first to know when The Ghosts are coming to your town!

#### Saturday, September 14th @ 2:00 pm Monday, October 21st

**UFOs Over Ohio presentation Norwalk Public Library 46 West Main Street** Norwalk, OH

#### Saturday, October 12th

Meet The Ghosts of Ohio presentation **Defiance Library Fall Festival Defiance Public Library-Fort Grounds** 320 Fort Street Defiance, OH 43512

Click here for more information

#### Saturday, October 19th (\$)

My Strange & Spooky World presentation Jackson City Public Library **Erie Shore Paranormal Conference Lorain Palace Theater** 617 Broadway Avenue Lorain, 0H 44052

Click here for more information or to order tickets

**Ohio's Historic Haunts presentation** The Ohio Theatre 156 N. Water Street Loudonville, OH 44842

Click here for more information

#### Wednesday, October 23rd @ 7:00 pm

**UFOs Over Ohio presentation** Milan Public Library 19 East Church Street Milan. 0H

#### Thursday, October 24th

Meet The Ghosts of Ohio presentation 21 Broadway Street Jackson, OH 45640

#### Friday, October 25th (\$)

My Strange & Spooky World: An Evening with James A. Willis presentation Thurber House 77 Jefferson Avenue Columbus, OH 43215

Click here for more information

#### Thursday, October 31st

Ohio's Historic Haunts presentation (Private Event) Westerville Rotary Club

#### Saturday, November 2nd (\$)

My Strange & Spooky World: An Evening with James A. Willis presentation **Ohio Wildlife Center** More information to come



#### **Investigations & Consultations**

The Ghosts of Ohio are continuing to schedule investigations and consultations for 2019. If you or someone you know is experiencing something unexplained in a home or place of business, contact us at **info@ghostsofohio.org** or visit our website to fill out an investigation request. All investigations are offered free of charge, and confidentiality and discretion are assured.

Not sure if you want or need an investigation? The Ghosts of Ohio also offers consultations. Let us sit down with you to discuss your current situation and what help we may be able to offer. For more information, please visit http://ghostsofohio.org/services/investigations.html

#### Interact with The Ghosts of Ohio

In addition to our website, here are a couple of places where you can find The Ghosts of Ohio lurking online:







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