



# The ghosts of Ohio® Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 21 Issue 6

## Are you Not Entertained?



James

I'm often asked for my thoughts on the current field of paranormal reality shows. When I start off by admitting I find some of it to be entertaining, the result is often strange looks and even a wrinkled nose or two. That's when I hit them with the zinger: "They're entertaining, but I know they're not real."

Let's be honest; the overwhelming majority of shows and clips are less interested in proving ghosts exist and are simply looking to entertain. Entertained people means more views, more clicks, and higher ratings.

So while I (sort of) look forward to sorting through 14 hours' worth of audio, cross-referencing clips in an effort to triangulate the location of sounds that were recorded, I understand that it would make for a really, really boring video. That's the reality of paranormal research and investigation; it can get tedious, and the money shots are few and far between. This is what has created a need for the paranormal to be entertaining.

Even the most tried and true believer has to admit, if only to themselves, that paranormal investigation shows—from television to YouTube and TikTok—have, in recent years, swerved wildly from "reality" into "entertainment." It happens. People aren't going to be interested in things that don't entertain them. But what some

are taking umbrage with is the fact that many of these shows are making unsubstantiated claims and, in some cases, manufacturing evidence and hoaxing.

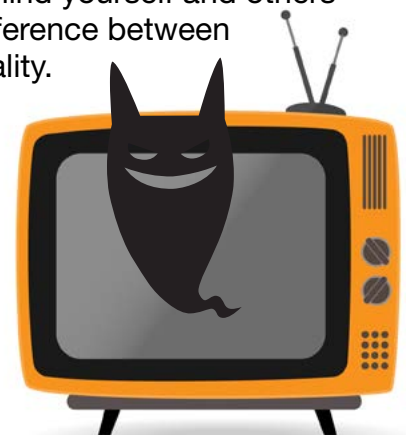
If you watch a paranormal television show or online video clip and you're entertained by it, said show/clip has done its job. Just be sure you compartmentalize it and keep it where it belongs; in the Land of Entertainment. Keep it there and you're good to go. Just don't make the mistake of making entertainment reality. It's not. Investigators are not being attacked by demons on the regular. Ghosts don't make it a habit of frantically throwing open every kitchen cabinet and drawer. That's not reality. We all know this. And no one is going to fault you for saying you enjoy watching those types of shows and clips, as long as you caveat it with "but I know it's not real." Leave that last bit out and you are opening yourselves up to ridicule.

Put another way: We all know that not everything's a ghost. And it's ok to be entertained by things we know aren't real. Just remember to remind yourself and others that you know the difference between entertainment and reality.

Cheers,

James A. Willis

Founder/Director



## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

# LIGHTS IN THE WOODS

Carl H., New Marshfield, OH

There's a couple of acres of woods about 20 miles from my house. They're nothing to write home about. Just some dense woods sitting along a stretch of a 2-lane country road. Well, unless I tell you that on several occasions, I have seen 4-5 glowing lights wandering around in those woods at night. I say wandering because they are all the shape and size of an adult human, but they are just blobs of whitish light. I can never make out any sort of head, arms or legs. They just move silently through the woods. One night, they were on my side of the road and looked closer than usual—they usually are about 100 yards from the road—so I pulled over and got out of my car. I watched them for about 20 seconds and even yelled out "hello! Do you need help?" but the lights just kept moving and never seemed to react to the sound of my voice. When they all blinked out, I decided it was time for me to go, too.

I did some digging, but I can't seem to figure out who owns the property. There's no house nearby and it's not posted or anything. It's just a bunch of non-descript woods. I even went out there a couple of times—like I said, it's not posted or anything—trying to see if there was an old foundation or maybe some abandoned graves. But nothing.

The lights are always close to the ground or no more than 6 feet above it. They never go higher up into the trees or towards the sky. Believe me, for a while I was wondering if this was somehow connected to UFOs or something. But they don't and I have absolutely no idea what they are.

## EQUIPMENT REVIEWS

Got a piece of paranormal equipment you've always wondered how it works? Does it really do what it's supposed to be doing? Or maybe you've created some paranormal equipment you'd like field tested? Either way, let us know because The Ghosts Of Ohio would love to help! Drop us a line at [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto:info@ghostsofohio.org) with the subject line "Equipment" and we'll take it from there!



## WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR GHOSTLY EXPERIENCES!

Have you had a ghostly encounter in Ohio? Want to see it featured in a future issue of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter? Then here's all you have to do: Just write down your story and send it to [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto:info@ghostsofohio.org) with the subject line "Newsletter Ghost Story." Be sure to also include your name as you'd like it to appear with the story. We'll take it from there and send you out an e-mail letting you know which issue it is going to appear in. That way, you can get all your friends to sign up for the newsletter so they can see how famous you are!



# MY GATEWAY EXPERIENCE



Mark

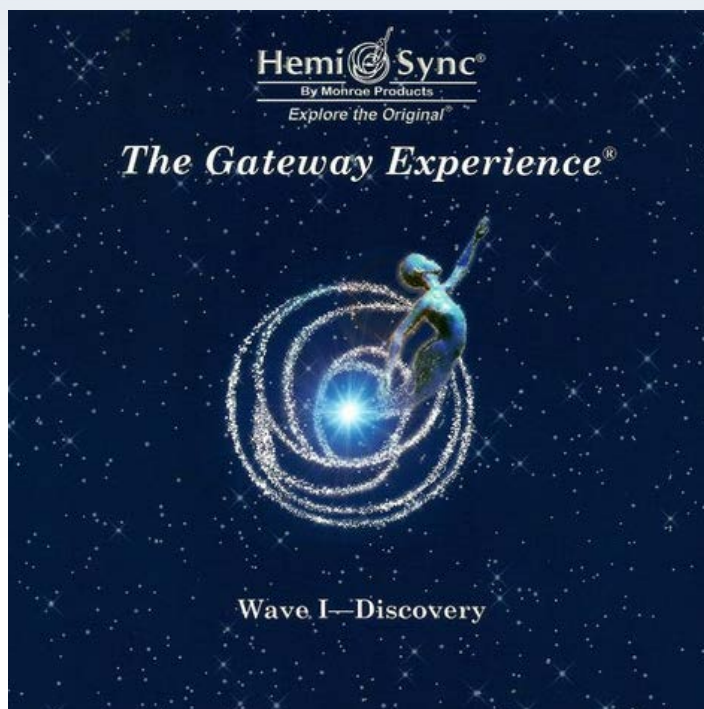
Four months ago, I embarked on a series of expanded-consciousness experiments known as the Gateway Experience, developed by Robert A. Monroe under US Army and CIA oversight by the Monroe Institute of Applied Sciences in the 1970s and 80s<sup>1,2</sup>. This work was centered at Fort Meade, Maryland, which in the year 2024 is the home to the US Army

Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), the National Security Agency (NSA), and US Cyber Command among many other military intelligence units. The Monroe Institute still exists<sup>3</sup>, and in 2024 you can purchase and download self-discovery audio & course content from “the world’s leading education center for the study of human consciousness.” The details of the project were veiled behind potential military application and secrecy until the CIA approved the Gateway Experience documents for public release in 2003.

I undertook only the original Gateway Experience Wave 1 Discovery content, a collection of six audio-guided introductory sessions employing the patented Hemi-Sync<sup>®</sup> process. This process encodes specific frequencies and tones separately into the right and left ears using stereo headphones (required). The brain perceives a third electrical signal when both right- and left-brain hemispheres synchronize together, and this third signal is related to different level of consciousness. Sound effects such as ocean waves, music, and verbal guidance overlay the Hemi-Sync waveform signal.

Each lesson builds upon the previous training. Each Wave set progresses to higher and higher levels of enlightened states of awareness, and there are many of these sets<sup>4</sup> that venture as far as Out of Body Experience (OBE), remote viewing, journeys into the space-time continuum, spiritual being interactions, and enlightened connection with the Universe. These are worthy and advanced aspirations for sure, but success is no doubt reserved for only the most highly trained and talented minds!

In the past four months, my focus has been on the basics of this guided meditation-like process. Each of the six lessons in Wave 1 require about 30 to 40 minutes to complete, and I have repeated all six lessons at least 3 or



4 times. Finding the right place and the right time where I could experience the lessons undisturbed in a relaxed, dark environment was/is a challenge for me. If I were retired or being paid to train for this capability with full-time focus, it might go faster. But real life (for me) involves a daytime job, home life, a grandson to entertain on occasion, and Ghost of Ohio investigations and evidence reviews. Have I experienced any consciousness enlightenment so far? I have felt a few odd tingles and maybe expanded minds-eye vision during some of the lessons when I was in a deep relaxed state, so I do think there is something to be learned here. Afterall, Monks in Tibet spend years focused on expanding their consciousness. The theory behind the Gateway Experience is that it can significantly accelerate the process for those with less than a lifetime of constant contemplation to consider. I just don't know if I have the time and patience for the accelerated course! I haven't given up, though, and I will report back if I experience any new revelations on this fascinating path to personal enlightenment.

*Links have been embedded in the reference numbers to help those interested in having their own Gateway Experience.*

# EQUIPMENT REVIEW: Necrometer App



James

Total transparency: I don't trust Spirit Boxes. I'd like to think it's because they make me feel old since I'm not supposed to realize they are only transistor radios with guitar pedal effects (and in some cases, Christmas lights).

I'm not saying Spirit Boxes don't work or that The Ghosts Of Ohio doesn't use them occasionally on investigations. It's just that they take a lot of work in order to discern that what you are hearing really could be coming from the Other Side as opposed to the radio station on the other side of town. You also need to keep an eye on the frequency the "voice" gets picked up on and watch to see if you pick up the same voice when the radio makes its way back across the stations again.

Enter the Necrometer app. Their web site states, "we have taken known spirit communication techniques and theories and have implemented them here in new and innovative ways."

Most of the "techniques and theories" you'd find on any Spirit Box are present here. It's when the Necrometer starts touting their unique attributes that things get a bit...murky.

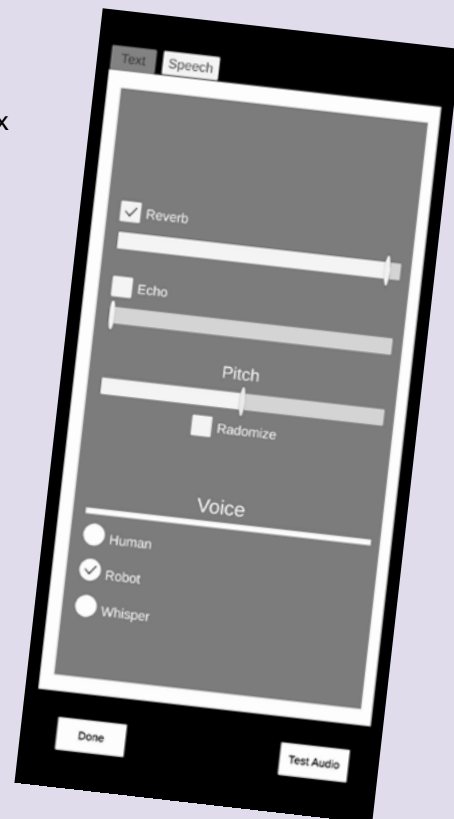
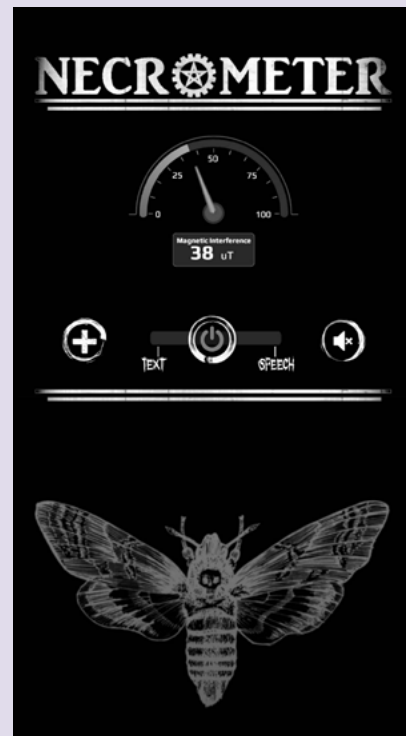
The Necrometer comes with something called Speech Mode, which is described as follows: "The speech mode of the app provides audible spirit communication like no other. Generating speech sounds from within the app, these are no sound banks, word lists, radio, or any other pre-recorded audio." Cool...except that's not entirely true. One of the description bullets claims that the Necrometer has access to over 60K words/phrases.

So there ARE word lists available to the Necrometer. Some might say that those words/phrases might always be accessible, but the fact they are there when the developers are claiming they're not should be enough to question the authenticity of the Necrometer's claims.

Another incredibly suspect feature of the Necrometer is that it allows the user to add their own words and phrases to create a "custom word list." Might not be a big deal to the average user, but have you ever seen a television show or something online where the Necrometer calls an investigator by name, telling them to run away, and everyone goes "It just said your name! How did it know your name and why should you run?" Well, now you know: the investigator added that entire phrase and name, into the Necrometer before the investigation began.

A final feature of the Necrometer that raises questions is a feature that allows different effects to be added. Most are the standard ones (reverb, echo, etc.) you'd find on any of the newer Spirit Box apps. What the Necrometer adds, however, is a Voice option, which allows you to pick which "voice" you want the Necrometer to "speak" in; Human, Robot, or, believe it or not, Whisper. The only reason I can think of to have the device whisper would be to add to the creep factor. And once you're doing that, IMHO, you're no longer looking for evidence. You're trying to be spooky.

The Necrometer costs \$10.00 or less to download, so it's not going to break the bank if you decide to give it a whirl for yourself. Still, if you're looking for something that's going to give you satisfying results, you might be better off spending the \$10.00 on some late-night snacks for the ride home from your investigation.



# MOVIES TO GET READY FOR THE HALLOWEEN SEASON



James

Last year, I promised that I would get my list of Halloween movies out in the newsletter BEFORE Halloween. So while it feels weird to be typing this up while wearing shorts and sitting in the blazing sun on my back patio, the newsletter after this one comes out on Halloween, which really doesn't give people time to prepare. Here we go!

My taste in horror movies tends to swing from one extreme and sub-genre to another. So while I pack my October with all the classic horror movies and some of my personal favorites, each year I pick a specific sub-genre for October 31<sup>st</sup> and try to find movies that fit into that group. For 2024, I'm going with Found Footage movies that use Halloween as their backdrop.

For the uninitiated, Found Footage movies center around the idea that a large portion of the movie is comprised of home movies that were "found", usually after some strange or unexplained event. People watch the movie and attempt to figure out "what really happened." Think *Cloverfield* or *The Blair Witch Project* and you'll get the idea.

Surprisingly, there have been quite a few Found Footage movies centering around Halloween. Here are some of my favorites, in no particular order. Spoiler free, as always!

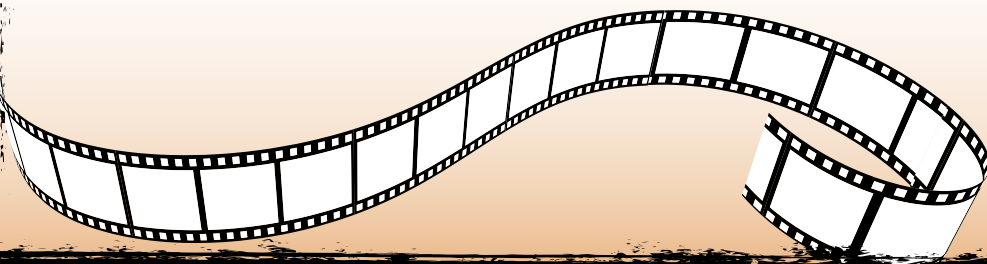
## LATE NIGHT WITH THE DEVIL (2023)

Available on streaming services and physical media



*Late Night With The Devil* is presented in documentary style, focusing on the recovery of the master tapes from the October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1977, episode of the late-night talk show, *Night Owls*, hosted by Jack Delroy. Once a talk show host at the top of his game, the recent loss of his wife sent Delroy into a tailspin, taking his ratings with him. He hoped to change all that with a live Halloween program in front of a live costumed audience. The show starts off fine, but little by little, things start to turn dark and strange things begin happening in the studio. But as more and more people tune in and the ratings climb, Delroy and his staff have to decide; how far is too far?

Directed by Cameron and Colin Cairnes, who also co-wrote the script, *Late Night With The Devil* is incredibly atmospheric and totally nails the whole 70s late night talk show vibe. The film is also a slow burn and never resorts to relying on jump scares, even when things start to fly off the rails. And trust me, they do. Oh, and just when you're think it's over, there's a reveal and a twist that, while it first feels like it comes out of nowhere, ties everything together in a nice, disturbing finale.



(continued on page 6.)



## HELL HOUSE LLC (2015)



Available on streaming services and physical media

In 2009, tragedy struck on opening night at a Halloween haunted attraction, Hell House. Several people lost their lives and others simply vanished, never to be heard from again. That’s why, 5 years later, a documentary crew descends on the abandoned Hell House, interviewing witness and reviewing recovered video footage, all in an attempt to piece together what really happened that night.

When I first heard about *Hell House LLC*, I knew I had to see it simply based on its premise; that a haunted house attraction might actually be haunted. I was prepared to be let down, but I wasn’t and watching *Hell House LLC* around Halloween has become an annual tradition here at Willis Woods. Sure, the acting gets a little stiff sometimes, but never to the point where you’re reminded that you’re not watching a documentary. Writer/director Stephen Cognetti clearly has an eye for the eerie and that is never more apparent than when he’s accomplishing more by showing less. Case in point; keep an eye on all the Halloween mannequins inside Hell House, especially the ones in the background of somewhat banal scenes. Did they really just turn their heads ever so slightly? Is that clown really staring at me? You’ll have to rent *Hell House LLC* and find out for yourself!

Cognetti followed up *Hell House LLC* with 3 sequels: *Hell House LLC II: The Abaddon Hotel* (2018), *Hell House LLC III: Lake Of Fire* (2019), and *Hell House LLC Origins: The Carmichael Manor* (2023).



## WNUF HALLOWEEN SPECIAL (2013)



Available on streaming services and physical media

If you’re old enough to remember staying up late at night, trying to use the old VCR to record something spooky off your TV, then you are going to love the *WNUF Halloween Special*. Pop this DVD in (it’s also available on VHS) and you immediately realize you’re watching a copy of something taped off the television. Specifically, a live Halloween special that took place on October 31, 1987. Hosted by WNUF reporter Frank Stewart, the special features a small crew, including Stewart, investigating a local haunted location, the Webber House.

The brainchild of Chris LaMartina, *WNUF Halloween Special* is a video time capsule of the 80s. LaMartina took great pains to keep the façade alive, going so far as to add artificial “tape glitches” throughout the film and inserting 80s style parody commercials throughout. But LaMartina goes a step further by sprinkling his film with a hefty helping of 1980s Halloween and paranormal pop culture. The focus of the *WNUF Halloween Special*, the haunted Webber House, is clearly supposed to be that infamous house in Amityville, right down to a horrible murder having taken place at the home. Oh, and the husband-and-wife team of paranormal investigators called in to investigate Webber House? You can’t convince me that they’re not supposed be to Ed and Lorraine Warren, who also investigated...you guessed it: the Amityville house.

In 2022, Chris LaMartina released the follow-up to the *WNUF Halloween Special*, the *Out There Halloween Mega Tape*. Mega Tape keeps the same flavor of its predecessor, except that this time, the recording is said to have taken place in the 1990s—so this go-around, you get all those spooky things from the 1990s like daytime talk shows, aliens, cults, and more than a few nods to *Unsolved Mysteries*. *Out There Halloween Mega Tape* is one of the harder flicks to find a copy of (and it’s non-existent on the streaming services), but if you enjoyed *WNUF Halloween Special*, *Mega Tape* is definitely worth tracking down.

(continued on page 7.)



## GHOSTWATCH (1992)



Available on physical media

On Halloween night, 1992, televisions all across the United Kingdom were tuning in to BBC1 for a special live broadcast, *Ghostwatch*. Hosted by reporter Michael Parkinson, the program featured several other reporters and cameramen, preparing for a live investigation of what they called “the most haunted house in Britain.” Viewers were encouraged to keep a sharp eye out during the investigation and, via the phone number that was repeatedly flashed on the screen, call the BBC to report any strange or ghostly activity they witness.

*Ghostwatch* takes a while to really get going. Initially, there is a lot of back-and-forth conversations between Parkinson, who is in the studio, and the on-site crew who will be conducting the investigation. But once the first bit of perceived paranormal activity happens, the BBC switchboard started lighting up. As the show barrels towards its spectral conclusion, viewers began panicking over the belief that what they were witnessing on *Ghostwatch* was really happening...live. The following day, UK newspapers were filled with reports of men, women, and children having full-blown panic attacks while watching *Ghostwatch*. There were even rumors of fatal heart attacks. In February of 1994, the *British Medical Journal* cited 2 cases where children, after viewing *Ghostwatch*, began to show symptoms that would later cause them to be diagnosed with PTSD. All of this could be contributing factors to October 31, 1992, being the first and only time the BBC broadcasted *Ghostwatch*.

Simply put, *Ghostwatch* is the UK's version to the US's *War Of The Worlds* scare in 1938. While the actual number of people who thought *Ghostwatch* was real is hard to pin down, many were, at the very least, uneasy and concerned over what was happening. One of the main reasons for this was that *Ghostwatch* went the extra mile to make things appear authentic by choosing Michael Parkinson to host. Parkinson was a real television reporter whose face was well known as he had been reporting in the UK since the late 1960s. Another key ingredient was the “hot line” viewers were told to call if they witnesses paranormal activity. Not only was the number real, but it was an actual BBC tip line. And while the initial callers were told “*Ghostwatch* is not real” as soon as the calls were answered, the phone lines were quickly jammed, resulting in callers getting a busy signal. That in and of itself was enough to convince callers *Ghostwatch* was real.



Watching *Ghostwatch* today, it does sort of lose its punch, especially among the younger generations. They find it hard to grasp that there was a point in history where you couldn't necessarily rewind on the fly or hop on the Internet to check whether or not something was “real.” Still, I enjoy *Ghostwatch* as being a near-perfect example of how to freak people out in the 1990s. And one would be hard-pressed to find any sort of Found Footage/mockumentary horror flick from the mid-1990s on that doesn't give (or should give) a nod to the path *Ghostwatch* helped forge.

## GET READY TO MEET THE GHOSTS

I know no one wants to admit it, but summer's all but over. The good news is that means The Ghosts Of Ohio will be getting ready to hit the road soon!

The following are only the confirmed dates—much more are in the works. Also, while the following dates, times, and topics were current when this newsletter went to press, it is all subject to change, so please check with the individual location to be on the safe side. Additionally, we post any changes to all our social media accounts, so give us a Follow/Like to stay in the loop.

As always, unless an event is marked with a “\$”, it is free and open to the public. But in all cases, seating may be limited, so it's always a good idea to check with the venue regarding the need to pre-register.

(continued on page 8.)

# JAMES A. WILLIS 2024 PRESENTATION DATES

Friday, September 13th @ 6:00 pm

## Monsters In Ohio

Bossard Memorial Library

7 Spruce Street

Gallipolis, OH 45631



Saturday, September 21st-Sunday, September 22nd

## 2024 Mothman Festival

Pt. Pleasant, West Virginia

[More information here](#)



Monday, October 7th @ 6:00 pm

## Investigating the Paranormal in the Buckeye State

Barberton Public Library

602 W. Park Avenue

Barberton, OH 44203

Thursday, October 10th @ 6:00 pm

## Creatures At The Ohio Border

Tuscarawas County Public Library—Main Library

121 Fair Avenue

New Philadelphia, OH 44663

Saturday, October 12th @ 2:00 pm

## The Strange & Spooky World of James A. Willis

Columbus Metro Library—Franklinton Branch

1061 W. Town Street

Columbus, OH 43222

Monday, October 14th @ 7:00 pm

## Monsters In Ohio

Cuyahoga Co. Public Library—North Royalton

5071 Wallings Road

North Royalton, OH 44133



Thursday, October 17th @ 6:30 pm

## My Strangest & Spookiest Investigations

Dayton Metro Library—New Lebanon Branch

715 W. Main Street

New Lebanon, OH 45345

Saturday, October 19th @ 11:00 am

## Ghosts & Legends of Defiance County

Defiance Public Library

320 Fort Street

Defiance, OH 43512



[www.strangeandspookyworld.com/appearances](http://www.strangeandspookyworld.com/appearances)

Tuesday, October 22nd @ 6:00 pm

## My Strangest & Spookiest Investigations

London Public Library

20 E. First Street

London, OH 43140

Thursday, October 24th @ 6:00 pm

## Meet The Ghosts Of Ohio

Sardinia Library

13309 Purdy Road

Sardinia, OH 45171



Saturday, October 26th @ 3:00 pm

## Meet The Ghosts Of Ohio

Columbus Metro Library: South High Branch

3540 S. High Street

Columbus, OH 43207

Monday, October 28th

## Ohio's Historic Haunts

Bexley Public Library

2411 E. Main Street

Bexley, OH 43209

Saturday, November 2nd

## Special Evening Event—Details Soon (\$)

Green Lawn Abbey

700 Greenlawn Avenue

Columbus, OH 43512



Friday, December 6th—Sunday, December 8th

## GalaxyCon Columbus (\$)

Greater Columbus Convention Center

400 North High Street

Columbus, OH 43215

[Tickets on sale now](#)

## 2025 PRESENTATION DATES

Saturday, March 1st -Sunday, March 2nd

## Frogman Festival III (\$)

Oasis Conference Center

Greater Columbus Convention Center

902 Loveland-Miamiville Road

Loveland, OH 45140

[Tickets on sale now](#)

Thursday, June 19th-Sunday, June 22nd

## Haunted America Conference (\$)

Lewis & Clark College

Alton, IL

[Tickets soon](#)



## Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts Of Ohio are continuing to schedule investigations and consultations for 2024, as well as some for 2025. So, if you or someone you know is experiencing something unexplained in a home or place of business, contact us at [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto: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:

 [FACEBOOK](#)

 [TWITTER](#)

 [INSTAGRAM](#)

## Administration

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