



The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

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CRISIS AVERTED

Why am I still doing this?



James

It's a question that's been weighing on me heavily lately, so much so that I began referring to it as my Paranormal Crisis of Faith. Most of this stems from the sad reality that there is a gross underbelly to the paranormal community that

few are willing to openly talk about, lest being shunned by said community.

It's true: The paranormal community unfortunately has more than its fair share of backstabbers, cheats, liars, and all-around unsavory characters. Ask anyone that's been in this field more than a few months and even if they don't want to go on the record about it, they will at least give you a little smirk and silently shake their head in dismay.

For the most part, I have prided myself on rising above all of this in-fighting by remaining true to myself and being as open, honest, and forthright as possible at all times. I'm proud to say that both The Ghosts Of Ohio and myself have built up an impeccable record of professional and courteous service to fans and clients alike. But that doesn't mean I haven't acquired more than my fair share of battle scars over the years, most of which are emotional ones brought on by having to witness reality TV attempting to turn this field into a laughing stock and the multitude of "ghost hunters" who are more than willing to do and say whatever is required in order to end up on one of these shows. And yes, I will go on the record and say I personally believe this includes willingly and knowingly falsifying "ghost evidence."

I can't tell you how many times I found my hands clenching into fists of rage when I heard a random group of "professional ghost hunters" going on about how they captured a ghost without them providing a single piece of quantifiable evidence to support their claims. Or how a little piece of my heart breaks every time I see a new "reality" show featuring fake clergy members pretending to

banish nonexistent demons from an unhaunted house.

And then there's the hate mail. Yes, I get hate mail. A lot of it, actually. And believe it or not, I enjoy most of it. For me, if I've done something that moved you to the point where you've felt compelled to pound out a nasty, all-caps email to me, I'm doing something right—I've made you feel something. But it's when I start getting hate mail that attacks my family that it stops being funny.

It recently got to the point where I wasn't sure I wanted to continue. Simply put, I was starting to question why I was still in this field, especially since it had changed so much.

The answer finally came to me one night as I was sitting in my backyard one, gazing up at the stars: Nothing changed, per se. It just all got a heck of a lot bigger than me.

It may have been all about me back when I was nine years old and running through Peddler Hill Cemetery (in broad daylight), seeking out the ghost of Jessica Graham. But that was a long, long time ago. And things have certainly changed in the paranormal world. But not all of those changes have been for the worse.

In fact, through the years, I have met the most important person I could ever hope to meet: **You**.

And by that, I mean **you**, Ghosts of Ohio team member, who have joined me on countless investigations in a never-ending search for the truth. There were many other Ohio paranormal groups you could have joined and yet you chose The Ghosts of Ohio. Even more, you have chosen to stay, some of you for close to (or over) a decade.

And I mean **you**, Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter subscriber who, along with over 3,000 other people, excitedly wait for our newsletter so you can devour each and every article.

Don't think I forgot about **you**, presentation attendee. You and over 14,000 others have come to a Ghosts Of Ohio presentation over the years. Some of you even let me know afterward that my words and approach to ghost research was something that clicked

with you. Better yet, you were no longer ashamed to tell people you believed in ghosts because there were "normal" people like me in the world you could use to help defend your stories.

I also mean **you**, Spend The Night with The Ghosts of Ohio contest winners. You are the ones who spent the night locked inside a haunted location and then took the time to let me know it was something you would never forget and that I helped make a dream come true. Or better yet, that it was the catalyst for you getting more involved in the field of paranormal research.

And finally, I mean **you**, former stranger who came to one of my book signings or personal appearances and left as a friend. To sit back and reflect on the number of holiday cards, wedding invites, birth announcements, and even graduation invitations I've received from people who would never have known me had it not been for ghosts is nothing short of humbling.

Clearly, the good far outweighs the bad. And, as I sat underneath those stars, my true calling in life became clear. Sure, I was meant to investigate all things strange and spooky. But my true calling is to be your Fearless Leader—leading the charge as we all go barreling into that dark world of paranormal research. And if my taking email punches, enduring senseless attacks, and swallowing my desire to put my fist through the TV means just one more person keeps up their personal crusade of attempting to explain the unexplained, then that's what I'll do. I've been doing it all these years, so why stop now?

Because it's not all about me anymore. And I need to stop being so selfish, especially with there being so much left for us to accomplish. Together.

Cheers,

James A. Willis
Founder/Director

BOOK REVIEW:

HUNT FOR THE SKINWALKER



Samantha

In the middle of the Uinta Basin in the badlands of Utah sits a picturesque 480-acre ranch that's the perfect place for raising high-quality cattle. At least, that's what Tom & Ellen Gorman thought

when they purchased the property in 1994. Unfortunately, their dream quickly turned into a nightmare that would torment them for years.

The signs were there from the start. The previous owners (who seemed happy to sell the property) had barred all of the windows on the farmhouse and installed large heavy-duty deadbolts on the inside and outside of all of the interior doors. Outside each end of the house, large metal chains on sturdy steel rings were embedded into the walls, indicating that there had been large guard dogs in place. And the former residents warned the Gormans against digging on the property. What on earth were these people afraid of? The Gormans chalked it up to paranoia and worked to establish their ranch.

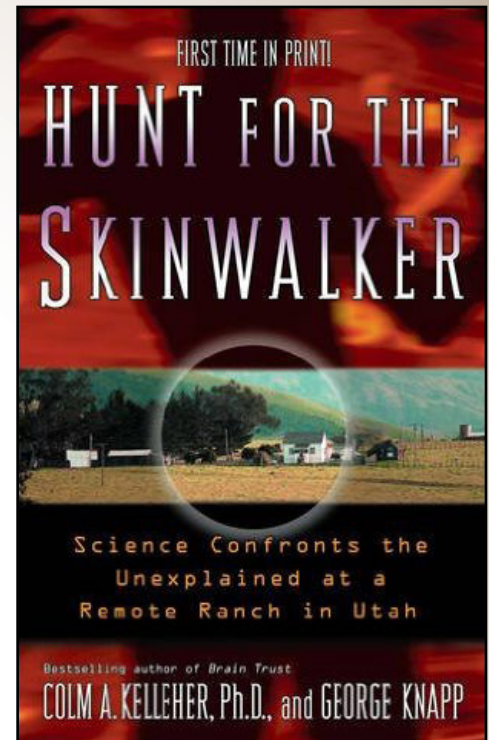
The first weird incident that occurred was an encounter with an unnaturally large wolf—larger than a car door. It seemed to behave with a human-like intelligence, walking up to the Gormans in a calm manner. Tom and Ellen even invited their two children, Tad and Kate, to check it out. The wolf seemed absolutely tame. Then suddenly, it ran to an enclosure and attacked a calf. The incident terrified the family, and encounters with these creatures continued, despite the fact that the local tribal office told Ellen that there hadn't been wolves in the area in over 70 years.

Other strange things began happening to the Gormans as well. Items (inside and outside the house) would go missing, only to turn up in unusual places. Doors would open and slam shut on their own. The family would often see—and be harassed by—balls of light (in a variety of colors and sizes) both in the sky and up close.

There would be localized musky or sulfurous smells followed by a feeling of being watched. Sightings in the woods of large, dark creatures were common; and one person was even rushed by a nearly invisible Predator-like creature. Menacing humanoid figures were seen on the ranch, leaving behind odd footprints; and there were regular UFO sightings of all shapes and sizes. Perhaps one of the strangest things Tom witnessed was a group of orange structures that occasionally appeared in the western sky. The group would change shape, and in the middle of them Tom could see what he called "another sky." He also saw what he perceived to be multiple layers, within which he could see aircraft flying, including some that flew out of the structure and into our sky.

The list of weird occurrences didn't end there. All of the animals on the ranch were harassed by balls of light, UFOs, and unidentifiable creatures attacking them. While it seemed that the activity was causing only psychological harm to the family (not physical), the same could not be said of the animals on the farm. Three of Tom's dogs were instantly incinerated when they chased a ball of light into the woods. Horses suffered bloody bites on their hocks after being chased around their corral by an unidentifiable animal. And the cattle suffered the most of all. Some disappeared without a trace, some were chased off of an embankment by a ball of light to fall to their deaths, and some were mutilated in a seemingly surgical fashion with their blood and organs removed.

What on earth had the Gormans gotten themselves into? By the end of June 1996, word was spreading about their ranch, which is how the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS) got involved. NIDS purchased the ranch from the Gormans to use as their paranormal "laboratory in the wild." For eight years, researchers dedicated themselves to the ranch, using video cameras, infrared technology, electromagnetic field detectors, and other equipment in an attempt to collect hard evidence of the activity, as well as to provide possible causes.



What they found was, honestly, a bit disappointing, especially after reading the preface of the book, which states that researchers "came face-to-face with a terrifying reality that, on superficial examination, appeared to break the laws of science but that, in fact, was consistent with modern-day physics." It continues by saying that "scientists found a world where a great deal of activity was hidden from visible sight but...was detectable with state-of-the-art instrumentation." This leads a reader to assume that the research team had collected a lot of valuable, hard data, analyzed it, and determined an explanation for what happened on the ranch. This is not true. Aside from many interesting personal experiences, it was noted throughout the book that the activity was difficult and elusive for them to capture on their equipment. Oftentimes, what they captured on film and video was diminished from what they could see with their own eyes; and on several occasions the equipment failed to detect activity that they knew was happening. There was no way they could have determined a cause for the activity based on what little they captured, which is why they offered a list

(continued on page 3.)

HUNT FOR THE SKINWALKER, CONT.

of possible theories toward the end of the book. These include hoax, mass delusion, some sort of natural phenomenon, an advanced terrestrial civilization that gained access to advanced technology, extraterrestrials, secret military activity, and a Navajo curse on the Utes that gave rise to Skinwalkers, which are shapeshifters that can assume the characteristics of a variety of animals and exert mind-control over their victims. Is it

possible that a Skinwalker conjured up frightening images of Bigfoot and UFOs, harassed and killed animals, and cause poltergeist activity? When dealing with the paranormal, all theories have to be considered.

Unfortunately, we may never know what caused the weird activity at the ranch. After NIDS bought it, the number of incidents diminished. By 2002, the activity

“slowed to a mere trickle.” Still, it remains one of the biggest hot spots in the paranormal/ufological/cryptozoological world. This book disappointed me from an investigative standpoint, but it does serve as a good introduction about “Skinwalker Ranch,” including interesting information about the history of the Uinta Basin area, as well as other similar hot spots throughout the world. It’s worth a look.

BOOK REVIEW:

In the Night Sky: Hudson Valley UFO Sightings from the 1930s to the Present



Wendy

In 2012, author Linda Zimmerman advertised in local papers asking for stories from people who had a UFO sighting in the Hudson Valley, where she was born and raised. She was surprised at the amount of

responses she received. Apparently many people in that area decided that now was the time to discuss things they had seen, but hadn’t talked about for as long as 50 years.

Linda is an amateur astronomer and a former research scientist. She has written 30 books on science, history, and the paranormal, and several works of fiction. Personally, I think I want to read her *Bad Science: a brief history of bizarre misconceptions, totally wrong conclusions and incredibly stupid theories*. It won an award for humor writing, and just from the title, I can see why! Even though she did have her own sightings, she remains skeptical. But knowing the Hudson Valley was a hotspot for V-shaped craft, especially in the 1960s and 70s, she decided that would be her next book.

Linda was looking for hard evidence to satisfy her scientific background. At the same time as she was interviewing witnesses, she also filmed them for a companion documentary titled *In the Night Sky: I Recall a UFO*.

I really enjoyed reading this book. Linda set it up in a way where she either put locations together in a chapter, or sighting similarities together. Some people let her use their name, while others preferred to remain anonymous. Linda focuses on stories that were proved to not be Venus, aircraft, weather balloons, Chinese lanterns, etc. Several of the stories involve multiple people who were together seeing the craft. Other sightings include stories from people who viewed the event from different areas of the town so you get a perspective of what the craft looked like to people who had the same sighting, but weren’t together when it occurred. The book is filled with photographs of the areas where sightings occurred, along with witnesses, to give you a good idea of the entire situation.

Throughout, Linda discusses the attempt at evasion from the military, the airports, and the local police departments. She interviews owners of ultralight planes, which are often said to be the cause of the



sightings. In fact, a group of ultralight pilots would actually get together and fly in formation at night in an attempt to trigger sighting calls to the police stations! Unfortunately, ultralights are very noisy, and because of the nature of their equipment, cannot stay in a fluid formation. You can see them wavering.

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In the Night Sky: Hudson Valley UFO Sightings from the 1930s to the Present, Cont.

The craft that were being seen were either completely silent and hovering for up to 20 minutes at a time, or emitting a very low humming noise. Hovering and silence are things that ultralights are not capable of achieving. People who saw the craft knew they were not ultralights, and were offended by the police attempting to make them think that was what they were seeing.

Toward the end of the book, Linda also discusses the many stone dwellings in the Hudson Valley area, which again, in an evasion attempt, are said to be root cellars from colonial times. Unfortunately for the naysayers, these dwellings predate colonial America by centuries. Many line up with sun rises and settings, leading you

to believe they had a ceremonial significance. What are they, and why are they not being studied by the scientific community? And do they tie in somehow to the UFO sightings?

And what are these UFOs? Are they actually extra-terrestrial, or are they craft created by us? If so, why are they being flown into the Hudson Valley, where thousands of people can see them? What is the military gaining by allowing a supposedly secret craft to be witnessed and talked about? I enjoyed reading through all the sightings that Linda has gathered in this book. It's an easy read, and often I wanted to put the book down, only to turn the page and start the next case. While it has the usual editing issues,

it is still a fantastic book to pick up if you have an interest in UFOs at all, especially mass-sighting events. And if you head out that way looking for evidence of your own, stop in at Dino's Cup and Saucer Diner in Pine Bush. Dino can give you the low-down on anything happening in the area, and this diner is the gathering place for all who want to talk about UFOs.



BOOK REVIEW:

Psychic Development



Frank

One of our goals at The Ghosts of Ohio is to help open your minds up in ways that might provide further understanding of the paranormal. With that in mind, I recently

discovered a book on psychic development that proposes some ways we can improve our intuition and apply it to our daily lives.

Written by Blair Robertson, an accomplished medium who has been featured on a wide variety of network programs and radio broadcasts, *Psychic Development* covers some basic psychic practices that Robertson believes nearly all of us can learn and develop.

To begin with, Robertson claims that all of us are psychic to a greater or lesser extent. Have you ever heard a phone ring and go to pick it up, knowing who it was before you answered? Or a premonition that phone was about to ring and it did? According to Robertson, there is nothing really unusual about that; it is just your psychic ability randomly working.

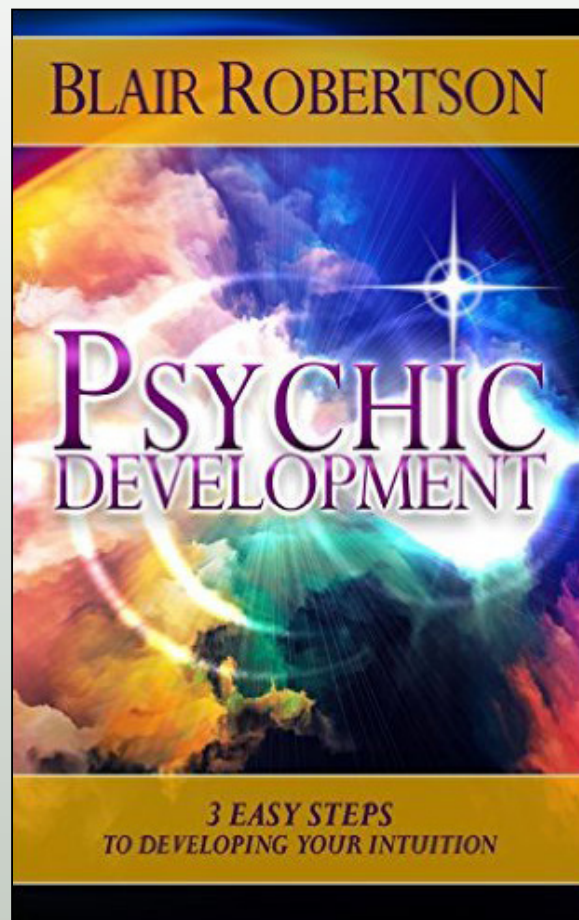
Further, Robertson believes that there are five psychic abilities within us:

- **Clairvoyance**—the ability to see things not normally seen
- **Clairaudience**—the psychic ability to hear a message
- **Clairsentience**—Sensing something without any evidence to support your feeling
- **Clairalience**—The psychic sense of smell where there is no reason to experience an odor
- **Clairambience**—The psychic sense of taste

Again, Robertson believes these psychic abilities are inside all of us. But tweaking them and getting them to be more consistent is what takes practice. Robertson suggests keeping a journal to keep track of any feelings or impressions you might receive. He believes it helps you become more aware of your impressions when you write them down. Robertson also makes it clear that you shouldn't edit or censor your feelings or dismiss any of your intuitive thoughts as they may end up being correct.

Another interesting tool that Robertson employs is the pendulum. Pendulums have a rich history going back to the early 20th century. They are also one of the easiest divination tools to use. They are readily available online, at most metaphysical stores, or you can even make one on your own using nothing more than a piece of string and a small weight like a machine nut.

Robertson believes that you need to surround yourself with white light before you begin using the pendulum to ensure that you are not only protected, but also to help with the clarity of the answers. Once you've done that, simply dangle the pendulum in front of you and set up what constitutes a "yes" or "no" answer. For example, "yes" is when the pendulum swings side to side and "no" is when it swings up and down. Robertson suggest you start asking questions that you know the answers to first in order to collaborate the pendulum so you know that you're receiving correct answers moving forward.



The section of Robertson's book that I found very entertaining and interesting was the one devoted to Numerology. Robertson believes that Numerology can help determine one's life path. What's more, each and every one of us has a Life Path Number that identifies individual strengths and weaknesses. Want to find your own Life Path Number? Here's all you have to do.

First, get a pen and paper. Then write down all the numbers associated with your birth month, date, and year. For example, if you were born on May 2nd, 1974, you would write down 5 (for May), 2 (for the 2nd), and 1974. **Next, add up all the numbers.** In this case, you would add 5+2+1974 for a total of 1981.

The next step is to add up the numbers in your answer to get a new total.

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Psychic Development, Cont.

Using our example, we added $1+9+8+1$ for a new total of 19.

Now, take a look at the number you're left with. If you have an 11 or a 22, you're done. But if you have any other number, you have an extra step. In our example, we have 19, so here's the extra step: **Add your remaining numbers up to get a new number and then add those numbers up.**

Using our example, we add $1+9$ for a new number of 10. For the final step, we added up $1+0$ for a new total of 1. That means we have a Life Path Number of 1.

So what does this number mean? Well, for one, the number is supposed to let you know whether you have a "young soul" or an "old soul." Simply put, the lower the number, the younger the soul and the higher the number, the older the soul. Young souls tend to want to rush into things without fully understanding the consequences. Old souls are the ones who tend to get tested with more complicated matters in life.

Your number also lets you know your life path potential. Here are some brief descriptions of life number potentials from Robertson's book. He goes into greater detail in *Psychic Development*:

Life Path Number 1: Young souls who are really new around here. They often start businesses, make great sales people, and reach high levels of work-related activities. Their life challenge is to avoid being self-absorbed and self-centered.

Life Path Number 2: These people are the givers of life. Although relatively young souls, then tend to look after everyone else before addressing their needs. Twos are persuasive and diplomatic in a soft and gentle manner. They also make great trustworthy friends.

Life Path Number 3: These people are highly creative and multi-talented. They are big-picture people who thrive on fun and let the devil worry about the details. They can be creative in

business by thinking outside the box. They excel in communication and are great entertainers.

Life Path Number 4: These people can make lemonade out of the bitterest lemons. Give them a challenge or difficult problem and they will work diligently to solve it. They are very detailed-oriented, hardworking, and loyal, but can come across as stiff and rigid.

Life Path Number 5: These folks have enough experience with past lives that they are very well-balanced. They play hard and they work hard. They can be restless and impatient at times, Although they do have some negative attributes, generally they are fun to be around and are generous and successful in nearly all undertakings.

Life Path Number 6: These people can best be described with the following words: love, comfort, care, and assistance. They gravitate to caregiver professions like doctors, nurses, counselors, and negotiators. Family is very important and they will go to great lengths to maintain harmony and discipline.

Life Path Number 7: Sevens are very gifted with the use of technology. They do excellent analysis and can be great programmers. While some people may consider them loners, once you get to know them at a deeper level, they become great friends. Many 7s are temperamental and need to exert control over their emotions.

Life Path Number 8: These people jump into a project with both feet and can tackle mammoth-sized problems with excitement. They are the big thinkers and drive the economy and create jobs. At times, their excitement is misunderstood, but their intentions are honorable. They need to reduce focus on themselves and get others involved in solutions for better outcomes. Going full force at a problem can often result in a 7 crashing, needing to hit the reset button, and starting over.

Life Path Number 9: Nines are the humanitarians of the world. They reach out to help others with great success, sometimes to a fault, where they are taken advantage of by others. They are tremendous lovers and givers, which can make them vulnerable to others, even family members. They cherish everything in life and are satisfied by simplicity and sentiment.

In addition, there are two Life Path Master Numbers: 11 and 22.

Life Path Master Number 11: These people are old souls. They've been there and done that. They are extremely capable of achieving anything they want to undertake and their only limitations are the ones that have been self-imposed. Sometimes, they are so energized by wanting success that they experience frustration. Elevens must set benchmarks and force themselves to be happy when they accomplish a goal instead of being self-critical and wishing they had accomplished more.

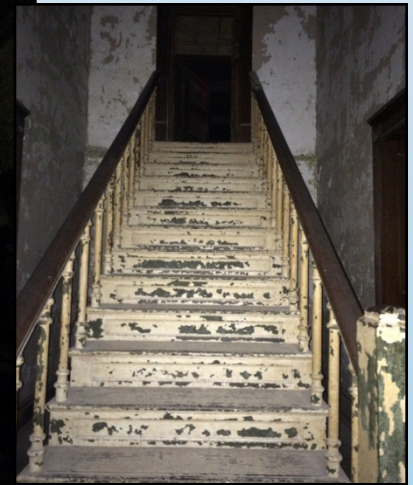
Life Path Master Number 22: These people have been around the longest and have lived many lives. They have all the strengths from the previous Life Numbers before them. Being above Master Life Number 11 indicates 22s are the most capable and practical. The downside is they also have the most negative potential as well. Twenty-twos are the most charismatic and tend to move into leadership positions. They often excel in multiple areas and can be exceptionally talented when they put their minds to work.

All in all, I found *Psychic Development* to be a fun, informative read that made me take a different look at things. Blair Robertson also offers a free white light audio meditation download that can be used for protection during your practice. It is available at www.BlairRobertson.com. Now go out there and have some psychic fun!

MANSFIELD REFORMATORY REVIEW

On Thursday, May 19th, The Ghosts of Ohio and a few lucky contest winners and friends had the opportunity to be locked inside the Mansfield Reformatory for a private overnight hunt.

This was not our first overnight at Mansfield, but the reformatory did not disappoint! Perhaps it was the fact that there were only 14 of us locked inside the building, thereby making us all a bit more vulnerable. Whatever the reason, several of us reported hearing strange noises (some of which we were able to capture on audio), seeing shadow figures, and two (un)lucky visitors even reported being scratched by unseen hands! All in all, a very eventful evening!





GOT A SCARY STORY TO TELL?

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 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 email 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!

Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts of Ohio are continuing to schedule investigations for 2016. 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>.

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Contributing Authors: Wendy Cywinski, Samantha Nicholson, James Willis, Frank Yensel