



Paranormal Musings Newsletter

by Christine B.

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Famous Psychic and Paranormal Investigator, Nancy Bradley speaks to the El Dorado County 4-H Group

On January 19th El Dorado County's own, Nancy Bradley and her husband, Robert Reppert, spent the morning with the 4-H YCT Historical Mapping project members. Nancy gave the group a presentation of her psychic abilities and told us how she assists the community and people from all over the world with her gift. Robert demonstrated their paranormal investigation equipment, and allowed the project members to inspect and use it. Nancy also presented the group with paranormal investigation copper rods used to pick up the presence of spirit activity, and gave each YCT member a copy of her book, "Gold Rush Ghosts, The Big Picture." The Adult volunteers present were given a copy of Nancy's informative

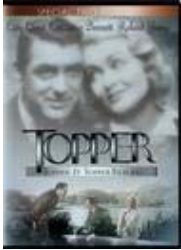
newsletter. The 4-H youth members and their parent adult volunteers are grateful for Nancy and Robert sharing their expertise with the group, and for her generosity.



Nancy Bradley, Robert Reppert and Gold Rush Ghosts Paranormal Investigations can be reached at 530-622-0977 ~ P. O. Box 911, Diamond Springs, CA 95619 ~ www.nancybradley.org. Nancy does Life Readings, Past Life Regressions, Classes, Seminars, Spiritual Channeling, Personal Empowerment, Life Coaching, Animal Intuitive, Healer, and Connecting with Past Loved Ones. She has also been featured on the Travel Channel's Haunted Hotel Series, KMAX TV Channel 31, Fox, Good Day Sacramento and on national TV programs. Nancy has her own TV show on Wednesday evenings at 8:00 pm on channel 17, and on Monday evenings at 8:30 pm on channel 2. Because Nancy is so dedicated her genuine psychic ability and the teachings of her Truth Center, she donates several hours a month debunking phony psychics.

Remember “Topper?” ~ (Media Spirits)

Those of us who are at least 55 years old might not remember the movie, but we certainly will remember our first introduction to ghosts on television. Those were the days! When ghosts were depicted as they really are and not horribly disfigured vamps that are out to frighten and harm all who they encounter.



1937 Movie starring Cary Grant and Constance Bennett as the Kerbys and Roland Young as Cosmo Topper. This screenplay depicts a madcap couple, George and Marion Kerby, after they are killed in an automobile accident. They return as ghosts to try and live up the regimented lifestyle of their friend, bank president Cosmo Topper.

The TV series premiered on October 9, 1953 and last aired on July 15, 1955. Cosmo Topper is a bank executive who moves into a new home only recently vacated by its charming tenants, who have died in a skiing accident. The Kerbys are now ghosts, and reveal themselves to Topper now and again to make and mar his fortunes.



A modern day example of a true-to-life paranormal T.V. program would be Medium. This NBC program is based on the experiences of the actual



medium, Allison DuBois, who is still alive and well and living in the Phoenix area. Now, I'm sure the producers of the program do use poetic license with the authentic facts now and again to make the series more exciting, but basically, the show does not take its viewers too far from the path of reality.

The real Allison DuBois has written three books regarding her experiences: “When Children Die,” “We Are Their Heaven; Why The Dead Never Leave Us,” and “Don't Kiss Them Goodbye.” All are available on Amazon.com.

The CBS program, Ghost Whisperer, on the other hand, is just ridiculous!

Where do I go to get a photograph of my aura? There is a relatively new store in Placerville at 736 Forni Road, (amidst all the new construction) that is called Alternative Healing Alliance (AHA). The owner, Sue Lyons, offers so many interesting adventures that it's difficult to list them all. One of them, however, is Aura Photographs. Sue is also a gifted psychic, so she reads the photographs she takes. AHA also offers a large selection of gifts, small furniture, glassware, jewelry, clothing, incense, candles along with Spiritual Counseling, Psychic Readings, Amazon Herbs, Rain Drop Therapy, Hands-on-Healing, Crystal Healings, Therapeutic Massage, Bowen Therapy and classes on Meditation, Aura Healing, Crystal Healing, Hands-On-Healing, Women's Energy, Men's Energy, Male/Female Communication, Weight Control, Aging Gracefully, and Clairvoyance. AHA is definitely your one stop psychic center! Oh, and they also have a large assortment of crystal balls! Call for the class schedule at 530-642-8880. The store is worth the effort of navigating the new Forni Road construction.



WHAT IS VODOO?

A dictionary definition of Voodoo would be: a religious tradition originating in West Africa, which became prominent in the New World due to the importation of African slaves. West African Vodun is the original form of the religion; Haitian Vodou and Louisiana Voodoo are its descendants in the New World.

ORIGINS OF VODOO

(Taken from <http://www.swagga.com/voodoo.htm>)



Voodoo is a derivative of the world's oldest known religions which have been around in Africa since the beginning of human civilization. Some conservative estimates these civilizations and religions to be over 10,000 years old. This then identify Voodoo as probably the best example of African syncretism in the Americas. Although its essential wisdom originated in different parts of Africa long before the Europeans started the slave trade, the structure of Voodoo, as we know it today, was born in Haiti during the European colonization of Hispaniola. Ironically, it was the enforced immigration of enslaved Africans from

different ethnic groups that provided the circumstances for the development of Voodoo. European colonists thought that by desolating the ethnic groups, these could not come together as a community. However, in the misery of slavery, the transplanted Africans found in their faith a common thread.

They began to invoke not only their own Gods, but to practice rites other than their own. In this process, they co-mingled and modified rituals of various ethnic groups. The result of such fusion was that the different religious groups integrated their beliefs, thereby creating a new religion: Voodoo. The word "voodoo" comes from the West African word "vodun," meaning spirit.

The Essence of Voodoo

Within the voodoo society, there are no accidents. Practitioners believe that nothing and no event has a life of its own. That is why "vous deux", you two, you too. The universe is all one. Each thing affects something else. Scientists know that. Nature knows it. Many spiritualists agree that we are not separate; we all serve as parts of One. So, in essence, what you do unto another, you do unto you, because you ARE the other--Voodoo. View you. We are mirrors of each others souls. God is manifest through the spirits of ancestors who can bring good or harm and must be honored in ceremonies. There is a sacred cycle between the living and the dead. Believers ask for their misery to end. Rituals include prayers, drumming, dancing, singing and animal sacrifice.



The serpent figures heavily in the Voodoo faith. The word Voodoo has been translated as "the snake under whose auspices gather all who share the faith". The high priest and/or priestess of the faith (often called Papa or Maman) are the vehicles for the expression of the serpent's power. The supreme deity is Bon Dieu. There are hundreds of spirits called Loa who control nature, health, wealth and happiness of mortals. The Loa form a pantheon of deities that include Damballah, Ezili, Ogu, Agwe, Legba and others.



During Voodoo ceremonies these Loa can possess the bodies of the ceremony participants. Loa appear by "possessing" the faithful, who in turn become the Loa, relaying advice, warnings and desires. Voodoo is an animist faith. That is, objects and natural phenomena are believed to possess holy significance, to possess a soul. Thus the Loa Agwe is the divine presence behind the hurricane.

Music and dance are key elements to Voodoo ceremonies. Ceremonies were often termed by whites "Night Dancing" or "Voodoo Dancing". This dancing is not simply a prelude to sexual frenzy, as it has often been portrayed. The dance is an expression of spirituality, of connection with divinity and the spirit world.

Voodoo is a practical religion, playing an important role in the family and the community. One's ancestors, for instance, are believed to be a part of the world of the spirits, of the Loas, and this is one way that Voodoo serves to root its participants in their own history and tradition. Another practical aspect of Voodoo ceremonies is that participants often come before the priest or

priestess to seek advice, spiritual guidance, or help with their problems. The priest or priestess then, through divine aid, offer help such as healing through the use of herbs or medicines (using knowledge that has been passed down within the religion itself), or healing through faith itself as is common in other religions. Voodoo teaches a respect for the natural world.

Unfortunately, the public's perception of Voodoo rites and rituals seems often to point to the evil or malicious side of things. There are healing spells, nature spells, love spells, purification spells, and joyous celebration spells. Spirits may be invoked to bring harmony and peace, birth and rebirth, increased abundance of luck, material happiness, and renewed health. The fact is, for those who believe it, Voodoo is powerful. It is also empowering to the person who practices it.



It is estimated that Voodoo has over fifty million followers worldwide. Voodoo flourishes in Brazil, Trinidad, Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti, New Orleans and in private homes in every country in the world.

Okay, so where did Voodoo get such a bad rap? Could it be movie and TV media? Once again, Hollywood makes up its own agenda to sell its media. In the early to mid 1900's, there were exaggerated claims about voodoo and movies portrayed followers as ignorant people who were obsessed with evil. Werewolves, zombies, the casting of spells and the use of voodoo dolls were sensationalized as the common practices of these people. In actuality the use of black magic is rare but this stereotype remains with us even today.



A Voodoo doll is used to represent the spirit of a specific person. It is believed that one can address a voodoo doll as if you are talking to that person, requesting a change in attitude, influencing the person to act in accordance with their wishes and/or desires.

Once in possession of an authentic voodoo doll, one can request the doll to call upon powerful forces. Rituals can be performed to fulfill a specific dream, an urgent desire. This timeless ceremony is carried out to persuade the spirits to exert their influence in this world. But, the most influential power a Voodoo doll has depends on the belief of the person it is supposed to represent. If the selected individual believes it can be influenced by a Voodoo doll, then their mind can bring about the intended affect. If there is no belief in its power, the doll can have little or no effect. Just in case, however, it's probably not wise to upset someone who practices the ancient religion... one never knows.

Today, a significant percent of the population of New Orleans partake in Voodoo rituals. The practice of Voodoo involves the blessing of a Voodoo doll by an experienced practitioner which allows the possessor of the doll to contact the spirits directly - requesting fulfillment in love, finance, career, family matters, etc.



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"Look, just because I work for you, doesn't mean that I like you sir."

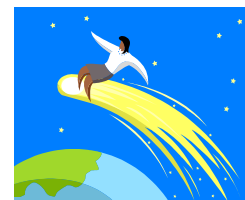
Don't forget to visit the El Dorado Paranormal Investigations web site at <http://edparanormal.com> for interesting paranormal information.

Coming soon on Radio Station KFOK – **Psychic Saturday with Christine B.** Join me for paranormal conversations. You can also call me with your questions and to share your paranormal experiences.

More information to follow in future issues. **AVAILABLE IN MARCH: FROM THE STONES** Christine's second novel and the first in the Colleen Broadhurst psychic detective series.

Looking for a local **hypnotherapist** who does past life regressions? Here's a very good past life regressionist that I have personally used:

Elizabeth Ripley, Cht
 3601 Camino Ridge Dr
 Camino, CA 95709
 530-647-0811



**FAMOUS
 HAUNTED
 HOUSES**

CALIFORNIA'S WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE

If this house isn't really haunted, then it would still have the distinction of being the weirdest house ever built. Sarah Winchester started building the house in 1884 after her child and husband died. She was told by a "psychic" (Nancy Bradley needed to investigate that woman!) to build the house for the spirits who were murdered by the Winchester rifle; and that they promised to leave her alone if construction never ceased. Sounds like a woman who went mad from grief to me, but anything is possible, if not altogether probable. Whatever the reason, construction continued 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, until Sarah's death 38 years later on Sept. 5, 1922. Is the house really haunted? In the years that the house has been open to the public, employees, visitors and psychics tell tales of unusual phenomena there. There have been banging doors; mysterious voices and whisperings; footsteps; windows that bang so hard they shatter; lights going on and off, strange moving lights and red balls of light that fade and explode; doorknobs that turn by themselves; security alarms being set off from within the house; a couple lingering in the corner of a bedroom; cold spots in Sarah's bedroom as well as apparitions of Sarah. So maybe poor old Sarah wasn't totally crazy after all—but perhaps she should have consulted an architect instead of that phony psychic!

Druids in Placerville



In Celtic polytheism, a **druid** was a member of the priestly and learned class in the pre-Christian, ancient Celtic societies. These societies existed through much of Western Europe, Britain and Ireland, until they were supplanted by the Roman government and, later, the arrival of Christianity. In the communities they served, druids combined the duties of priest, arbitrator, healer, scholar, and magistrate. Both men and women served as druids.

(Wikipedia)

"Anything growing on those trees [oaks] they regard as sent from heaven and a sign that this tree has been chosen by the gods themselves. Mistletoe is, when found; it is gathered with great ceremony and especially on the sixth day of the moon... They prepare a ritual sacrifice and feast under the tree, and lead up two white bulls whose horns are bound for the first time on this occasion. They believe that if given in drink the mistletoe will give fecundity to any barren animal, and that it is predominant against all poisons."



When one thinks of Druids, one envisions Stonehenge in England. But, did you know that Placerville has its own group of Druids? If you have driven down Main Street and stopped at the intersection of Main and Cedar Ravine you have probably noticed the Druid monument. The monument was dedicated in 1926. Frederick Sieg, the founder of the California Grove No. 1, arrived to this area around 1859. Groves think of themselves as lodges or chapters. They are also known to exist in Scotland, Canada, France and northern Germany.



Druid Monument

Besides observing that the name 'Druid' is derived from "oak", it was Pliny the Elder, in his *Naturalis Historia* (XVI, 95), who associates the Druids with mistletoe and oak groves: "The Druids...hold nothing more sacred than the mistletoe and the tree on which it grows provided it is an oak. They choose the oak to form groves, and they do not perform any religious rites without its foliage..." Pliny also describes how the Druids used a "gold pruning hook" or "sickle" to gather the mistletoe. Well, this area abounds with Oak and Mistletoe, so I guess the Placerville Druids were within their element.

According to Chuck Myer of the Sacramento Bee newspaper, Druids charter a bus from San Francisco to Placerville. There they tip their fezzes (a type of hat) to the Druid monument on Main Street. They then adjourn to the Union Cemetery on Bee Street, where Frederick Sieg, the founder of the Placerville Grove is buried."



Fezzes

If you are a Druid, or know one, I'd love to talk to you about your beliefs and your rites so I can share that information with our readers.