

NEWS from the Paranormal Investigators of Milwaukee

October 2014

Issue 26

PIM To Host Public Events In October

October is finally here!! PIM has so many wonderful events and investigations this month and we couldn't be more excited!

On October 25th PIM will be hosting a public investigation at the Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear located in downtown Milwaukee. PIM has privately investigated this location twice and it is an amazing place. The Chudnow Museum is housed in an 1869 cream city brick residence. The house was formerly owned by Dr. Joseph J Eisenberg who not only lived there but used the building as his medical clinic during the 1920's. It has been rumored that he did experimental surgical procedures on animals on the 3rd floor. The 3rd floor is presently used for cataloging the collections of artifacts used in the museum exhibits. Sometimes people who work on the 3rd floor hear strange noises coming from the rooms.

Avrum (Abe) Chudnow bought the house in 1966 and housed his law office and management company in it. The house also held his extensive collection of artifacts from the late 1800's through 1970 which make up the exhibits of the museum today. Presently the museum displays the wonderful collection Mr. Chudnow put together through exhibits, and displays what life was like in Milwaukee in the 1920's and 30's.

If you would like to join us in continuing our investigation of this historical building tickets are still available through the EventBrite link on our website. Tickets are \$30 each and includes a two hour investigation from either 7:30 - 9:30 pm or 10:00 pm - 12:00 am. We hope to see you there!!

On Halloween night, October 31st, PIM will be hosting a public investigation at the Brumder Mansion located in downtown Milwaukee. PIM has partnered with the Brumder Mansion in the past and this location never disappoints. The history of the Brumder Mansion is a colorful one. It was built in 1910 by a wealthy business man who built the impressive home for his family. He and his wife moved in and had 11 children of which only 8 survived. They lived in the mansion for 10 years and then sold the home to reputed Chicago mobster Sam Picks and his brother Ed during the prohibition years. The two decided to use the ballroom located in the basement to establish a night club as a legal front for their illegal side business of black market liquor, gambling, and possibly prostitution.

Once prohibition ended the building then became a popular boarding house for the local Al-lis-Chalmers employees, among various things throughout the years including turning the basement that was once used for illegal business into a Christian coffee house. It was in 1997 that the Hirschi family came to own it. The family spent countless hours renovating and seeking out antiques to fill the beautiful home and make it appear as it once did in 1910. They then opened it as a B&B. That's when the paranormal activity claims began. The Brumder changed hands one more time in 2008 to it's current owners.

The mansion has many claims of activity but most are light hearted and even playful. A few of these claims are that doors slam throughout the night, phantom footsteps can be heard, and breakable objects come crashing down from the walls but somehow remain un-scathed. At the public event last year many noises were heard, unexplained tapping on the stage, and a chair that was placed in the tunnels under the building began to vibrate. You never know what to expect at the Brumder Mansion!

Tickets for this event are \$40 each and includes a 2 hour investigation from either 10:00-12:00 am or 12:30-2:30 am. You can purchase tickets through the EventBrite link on our website.

We hope you can join us and Happy Halloween!!!

Special points of interest:

Now that October is here, PIM will be once again offering their Free Library Events!! These events last around an hour and PIM will have a slide show presentation on how we conduct investigations, different types of hauntings, and EVP evidence. We will also have a question and answer session. We are asking anyone who attends to bring a non-perishable food item that we are collecting for Hunger Task Force. We hope to see you there!

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CALANDER OF EVENTS

PUBLIC EVENTS/ INVESTIGATIONS

October 4th: Investigation at the Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear. Milwaukee, WI

October 24th: Investigation at Carroll College, Waukesha, WI

October 25th: Public Event at Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear

October 31st: Brumder Mansion Public Event, Milwaukee, WI

LIBRARY EVENTS

October 9th: New Berlin Library
October 15th: Franklin Library
October 20th: Greendale Library
October 28th: West Allis Library
October 28th: Talk at UW-Oshkosh
October 29th: Brookfield Library
October 31st/November 1st: Milwaukee Public Museum presentations throughout the night

All library events start at 6:30 pm

The John Krahnicles: Written by John Krahn

ORBS. The mere mention of the word makes me cringe when I hear it. Multiply that response tenfold when it comes from the lips of a paranormal investigator when they claim to have captured a photo or video of an orb. What is an orb? In the context of the paranormal, it is a ball of light of various sizes and colors, believed by some to be the spirit of a person. How did these glowing balls of light become associated with ghosts? It is not as if an orb looks like what we typically envision a ghost to look like. I am just speculating here, but I think this is how the association came to be. When digital cameras became available to consumers, it became a popular tool with paranormal investigators for the simple fact that a person can essentially take as many photos as they want at no extra expense, as compared to using expensive film. The average person does not just arbitrarily take photos in dark places, buildings, cemeteries, etc, often with reputations of being haunted, as paranormal investigators do. Many of these places are dusty with microscopic particles in the air inside buildings and if outside, pollen, dust, bugs and precipitation. So a paranormal investigator is in an attic at a location reportedly haunted, snaps some digital photographs in the dark, and the image captured is associated with a ghost's presence there. Now, periodically, people may be outside taking photographs at an event and inadvertently capture an orb image on the photograph. In the old days, people were very careful and particular when taking photographs using film, since film was expensive. With digital photographs, you just snap away, knowing that if one of photographs doesn't turn out well, some will, since multiple photographs are usually taken. So, often these "orb" images are sometimes not looked at for weeks or months later and the photographer may not recall the environmental conditions that the photographs were taken. It is rare to capture images of orbs using actual film or in well lit conditions, although it can happen. This is largely due to how close the flash is to the lens. On a film camera, the flash is further away from the lens than on a digital camera due to the need to make smaller cameras. When a digital camera flash goes off, it is easier to capture a piece of dust that is not within the focal length of camera due to this decreased distance between the flash and the lens. The normally invisible particles are now visible on a digital photograph when the light from the flash reflects off of it just right, making it appear to be much larger than it actually is due to the closeness of the particle to the lens and the particles being out of focus. Think about how you can see hundreds and hundreds of dust particles when they are in a beam of sunlight coming in through a window. But they are only really visible within the light beam, even though they are everywhere. But what about videos of orbs in both white light as well as night vision (infrared red) light? An orb that is on video zipping around, changing directions and speed has to be a legitimate capture of paranormal activity, right? The answer, of course, is no. Contrary to what people think, and what some paranormal investigators hang their hat on as proof, dust particles in the air do not just gracefully float down to the ground in a predictable manner. Natural air currents carry the particles up, down and all around and can change speed. Even in houses or buildings where the windows and door are closed, the natural effect of warm air rising and cooler air sinking and changes in air pressure can cause dust to behave this way. Anyone who wants to test this using a digital camera or video recorder only has to turn the lights down, place the camera in flash mode very close to a couch and give the couch cushion a good smack. You are pretty much guaranteed to have a nice photograph of a dust orb that you too can proudly frame and put on the wall. I suggested this method to a person convinced the dust in his house was a ghost. He proudly called me and said he did not capture any images of orbs and therefore the original photograph must be a true example of a ghost orb. He was standing ten feet away from the couch when he took the video. Hence, the lack of orb images.

Stay tuned for next month's PIM newsletter, when we conclude this riveting discussion of orbs. Same bat time, same bat channel!!

Recent Events/Investigations

- On August 20th Gravy and Denys investigated a private residence in Sturtevant, WI. The claims of this home are the radio turning on by itself, voices were heard, a kitchen cabinet has been seen slamming shut on it's own multiple times, among other claims. During evidence review PIM did find an anomalous recording that no known source could be located from. It is a single word that is heard while Gravy was explaining that even though he and Denys may not hear anything with their ears at the time it is possible that they could pick up something with the voice recorder and hear it later during evidence review. To hear it for yourself please visit our website and look under the Cases tab for the Sturtevant, WI residence case and click on the evidence tab. The official report is also available for you to read.
- On August 30th Noah, Cassie, Gravy and Missy investigated the Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear. The Museum is an interesting building with so many interesting exhibits and antiques. PIM very much looks forward to the upcoming public event at this location on October 25th!
- On September 6th Missy and Gravy investigated the Lowell Damon House which is known to be the oldest house in Wauwatosa. The house was built in 1844 and now serves as a museum. The investigation for this historic building was very interesting for PIM. Although the claims for this museum are not substantial it is an interesting building with wonderful exhibits that explain the history of early Wauwatosa. No evidence of the paranormal came from this investigation but it was an honor to investigate a place that holds so much historical value in our community!
- On September 13th Gravy and Denys investigated a private residence in Watertown, WI. Evidence review is still ongoing for this investigation. A full report of this investigation will be posted on the PIM website as soon as all evidence has been reviewed.

PIM offers scientific investigations of suspected paranormal activity in homes, businesses, and historic sites. We pride ourselves on providing confidential, professional services free of charge.

To have PIM conduct an investigation for you, contact Noah Leigh (Lead Investigator) through our website or by the phone number listed above.