



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

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Merry Christmas from John and Kelly - keeping with the seasonal mood, here is a simple means to connect with your Angels!

Exercise to Connect With the Angels

This exercise allows you to enhance the lives of others by sending loving gifts to them. I love to send energetic gifts to others through the Angels. It requires your visual imagination: Close your eyes and imagine your guardian angel in front of you (you can imagine your angel however you like). Imagine a beautiful box in front of you and feel the love, gratitude, appreciation, strength, peace which you desire to pass on to your recipient. Place that energy into the box and tie it up with a beautiful bow. Give it to the angel with instructions to pass it on to your desired person. This is especially effective if you need to forgive someone or want someone to forgive you.

This may sound like a silly exercise, but it works, love Kelly!

Halifax Nova Scotia Explosion Hauntings - JDW

Along with the joys of Christmas time, December also holds some tragic memories. For Americans, the Day of Infamy at Pearl Harbor on 12/7/41 was the 9/11 or JFK Assassination for that generation, and in Canada, on Dec. 6, 1917 Halifax, NS saw 2000 of its population perish in the most powerful documented man made explosion prior to the Trinity A-bomb test in 1945.

As a *Titanic* buff, I first learned as a child of the role this Canadian maritime city played in that disaster, as temporary morgues were established for the victims brought ashore. Many victims remain buried in Halifax, and reports of ghostly encounters with them in various locations (such as one former morgue) have surfaced over the years.

Years ago, I read about the huge explosion on 12/6/17 when a munitions ship headed for Europe with supplies for the allies exploded following a collusion with another vessel, and devastated a sizable portion of the city. Understandably, this event has also spurred some ghostly tales, and the following may be my favorite:

St. Paul's Head (From Ghosts of the 1917 Halifax Explosion, hubpages.com)

A favourite story, and the most obvious to anyone walking down Argyle Street, is based upon the silhouette of a man's head in a window of St. Paul's Church, the oldest Protestant church in Canada. Several times since the explosion the window has been changed in an attempt to banish the shadowy reminder, but every time it reappears as if the old building refuses to allow the city to forget. *(Similar to the Jim Thorpe jail handprint... JDW)*

There are differing stories attached to the silhouette. The most popular story, which is told in a local walking ghost tour, is the tale of a young organist practising in the church at the time of the explosion. The young man's head was severed from his body by way of the explosion's concussion or a shard of glass and blasted through the window. Another story states it is the head of one of the hapless sailors from ground zero. And yet a further tale says the silhouette bears a remarkable likeness to the Reverend Jean-Baptiste Moreau who served as an assistant to the church between 1750 and 1753. Whoever the head is modelled after, the sight is sure to grab the attention of anyone walking down Argyle for the first time. The Haligonians, however, have accepted the mysterious silhouette as part of their beloved city.

(Photo of the mysterious shape in the church window and object that penetrated a wall is seen below)



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**MON. MARCH 14, 2016
IS THE NEXT SSP MEETING
IS OUR FIRST 2016 MEETING
(NO MEETING IN JAN-FEB,
OR JULY-AUG DURING 2016)**

The Griswolds meet Hieronymus Bosch – a review of *Krampus* by JDW

Ever since seeing the previews, Kelly and I anticipated the debut of *Krampus* for a bit of theatrical holiday cheer. We were not disappointed!



The central plot involves the premise that Krampus (old German image @ left) – a horned, be-fanged, goat-hooved devilish product of Germanic folklore who is the anti-Santa and thus punishes the bad children instead of bringing gifts like the Jolly Old Elf – is called forth when a young boy becomes disillusioned with Christ-

mas and rips up a note to Santa.

Bring on Krampus (and his devilish entourage of psychotic gingerbread men, carnivorous toys and the storm of the century)!

Amongst all this is an element of *'National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation'* where an upscale household must endure Yuletide visits from a horde of relatives including red necks, obnoxious kids and a drunken aunt!

More comedy than horror, it is nonetheless good entertainment that I feel fans of both genres would enjoy. Early scenes showcase many of the things that are wrong with today's Christmas, including a Black Friday stampede that leaves store employees and shoppers alike trampled by the horde, and then a fight amongst kids during a Christmas recital. Surely the sort of things a Demon like Krampus would relish!

My favorite part is the full onslaught of Krampus and company in the later part of the film is right out of a Hieronymus Bosch painting! Known for his bizarre depictions of a variety of demons interacting with humanity, this 15th century Flemish painter is one of my favorites. (In college I did a paper on his artistic interpretation of the concept of evil for an art history course.)

Titles like *Hell*, *Hell 2*, *Garden of Earthly Delights*, *Last Judgment* and more showcase his views on the evils of humanity and what might face those who commit such sins. (Detail from

Hell below) A superb site showcasing his work can be found at <http://www.hieronymus-bosch.org/>

As for Krampus himself, after all, Demons are 'hot' (check the para-reality shows lately?) and with this film this Euro-beast will stomp his massive hoof prints into American popular culture. A great overview of the Krampus 'comeback' was published on the National Geographic site 2 years ago, writer Tanya Basu notes:

Krampus is making a comeback now, thanks partly to a "bah, humbug" attitude in pop culture, with people searching for ways to celebrate the yuletide season in non-traditional ways. National Geographic has even published a book in German about the devilish Christmas beast.

In the U.S., people are buying into the trend with Krampus parties. Monday night's episode of American Dad, called "Minstrel Krampus," highlighted the growing movement of anti-Christmas celebrations.

For its part, Austria is attempting to commercialize the harsh persona of Krampus by selling chocolates, figurines, and collectible horns. So there are already complaints that Krampus is becoming too commercialized.

Looks like Santa might have some competition.

Evidently, Krampuslaufs (a Krampus Run, where people dress as devilish beasts and walk the streets) are getting popular in Europe. With several SSP members fondly recalling the Harrisburg Zombie Walk across the Walnut Street Bridge a few years ago, perhaps its time to Krampusfy our selves!



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APPARITIONS

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:
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