



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

A MONTHLY JOURNAL of NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS · Vol 14, Issue 1 · JAN 2010

“ROO’s” BOOS - Notes from Kelly

*Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.*
- Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Well another year has come and gone and here we are in the year 2010! How much do you know about the month of January? Take this quiz and find out.

1. *Who added the month of January to the calendar?*
a. Greeks b. Phoenicians c. Egyptians d. Romans
2. *In which country do families dress a stuffed male doll with old clothes from each member of the family and then burn it, symbolizing forgetting all the bad things of the old year?*
a. Hungary b. Angola c. Colombia d. Yugoslavia
3. *In which country do they eat 12 grapes as the clock strikes midnight (one each time the clock chimes) on New Year's Eve?*
a. Canada b. Vietnam c. Spain d. Israel
4. *January is named after Janus. What was he the god of?*
a. winter b. doors and gates c. weather d. cleanliness
5. *In which country do people eat noodles while listening to a bell start ringing and strike 108 times?*
a. Germany b. Nigeria c. Japan d. Mexico
6. *What flower is the symbol of January?*
a. rose b. chrysanthemum c. carnation d. orchid
7. *In which country do people wear white clothes in order to have good luck during the new year and also go to the beach to jump seven waves and throw flowers in the sea while making a wish?*
a. Italy b. Spain c. Brazil d. France
8. *What is January's gem?*
a. topaz b. agate c. garnet d. onyx
9. *In which country does "St. Basil" fill the children's shoes with presents at midnight?*
a. Spain b. Ecuador c. Greece d. Ireland
10. *Who said the "blast of January would blow you through and through"?*
a. Milton b. Tennyson c. Chaucer d. Shakespeare

11. *In which country do people who want to travel take a suitcase and carry it around the house on New Year's Eve?*

a. The United States b. Venezuela c. The Philippines d. Egypt

12. *When is national pie day?*

a. January 2nd b. January 17th c. January 23rd d. January 30th

ANSWERS:

1. *Who added the month of January to the calendar?*

d. Romans: The first reform of the calendar was attributed to Numa Pompilius, the second of the seven traditional Kings of Rome. He is said to have reduced the 30-day months to 29 days and to have added January (29 days) and February (28 days) to the end of the calendar around 713 BC, and thus brought the length of the calendar year up to 355 days.

2. *In which country do families dress a stuffed male doll with old clothes from each member of the family and then burn it, symbolizing forgetting all the bad things of the old year?*

c. Colombia: Families stuff a life-size male doll with things that have bad memories or sadness associated with them, and then they dress it up in old clothes from each family member; then they set 'Mr. Old Year' on fire at the stroke of midnight. Burning "Mr. Old Year" is a New Year's tradition found among Colombians, Cubans, Puerto Ricans and Ecuadorians.

3. *In which country do they eat 12 grapes as the clock strikes midnight (one each time the clock chimes) on New Year's Eve?*

c. Spain: New Year's Eve in Spain is called "Nochevieja - The Old Night". Unlike many Spanish traditions the eating of grapes ("tomar las uvas") is of quite recent vintage. Early in the twentieth century, freak weather conditions resulted in an unseasonable bumper harvest of grapes. At a loss over what to do about so many grapes at Christmas time, the King of Spain and the grape growers came up with the idea of the New Year ritual.

4. *January is named after Janus. What was he the god of?*

b. doors and gates: January was named after Janus, a sky-god who was ancient even at the time of Rome's founding. Early Romans believed that the beginning of each day, month and year were sacred to Janus. They thought he opened the gates of heaven at dawn to let out the morning, and that he closed them at dusk. This eventually led to his worship as the god of all doors, gates, and entrances.

5. *In which country do people eat noodles while listening to a bell start ringing and strike 108 times?*

c. Japan: Late on the evening of December 31, everyone would eat a bowl of buckwheat noodles called “toshikoshisoba” (“year-crossing noodles”) and listen for the sound of the Buddhist temple bells, which were rung 108 times at midnight. The sound of these bells is said to purify the listeners of the 108 sins or evil passions that plague every human being.

6. *What flower is the symbol of January?*

c. carnation: There are different theories on how this flower was named. One theory was that the carnation was named for coronation, because of how the carnations were used to make ceremonial crowns, or flower garlands, in Greece. Otherwise known as “dianthus” or “pinks,” these flowers with their large ruffled blooms have a spicy clove smell.

7. *In which country do people wear white clothes in order to have good luck during the new year and also go to the beach to jump seven waves and throw flowers in the sea while making a wish?*

c. Brazil: Most people wear white clothes on New Year’s Eve to bring good luck and peace for the year that will follow. If they are in a beach city, after midnight people go to the beach, jump seven waves and throw flowers in the sea while making a wish. They say that the goddess who protects the sea will make their wishes come true. Because of that, some people also light candles in the sand on the beach.

8. *What is January’s gem?*

c. garnet: Garnet received its name from the Latin word for pomegranate (“grana-tum”) because its crystals reminded early scientists of pomegranate seeds. Primitive cultures believed garnets could be used to stop bleeding and cure inflammation.

9. *In which country does “St. Basil” fill the children’s shoes with presents at midnight?*

c. Greece: New Year’s Day is also the Festival of Saint Basil in Greece. Children leave their shoes by the fireside on New Year’s Day with the hope that Saint Basil, who was famous for his kindness, will come and fill their shoes with gifts.

10. *Who said the “blast of January would blow you through and through”?*

d) Shakespeare: “You’d be so lean, that blast of January Would blow you through and through. Now, my fair’st friend, I would I had some flowers o’ the spring that might Become your time of day.” William Shakespeare, *The Winter’s Tale*, Act IV Scene 4.

11. *In which country do people who want to travel take a suitcase and carry it around the house on New Year’s Eve?*

b. Venezuela: In Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, and Mexico, those with hopes of traveling in the New Year carry a suitcase around the house at midnight. Some even carry it around the block for a few extra frequent flyer miles.

12. *When is national pie day?*

c. January 23rd: Created by the American Pie Council, National Pie Day is dedicated to the celebration of pie. Pie has been around since the ancient Egyptians. The first pies were made by early Romans who may have learned about it through the Greeks. These pies were sometimes made in “reeds” which were used for the sole purpose of holding the filling and not for eating with the filling. The Romans must have spread the word about pies around Europe as the Oxford English Dictionary notes that the word pie was a popular word in the 14th century. The first pie recipe was published by the Romans and was for a rye-crust goat cheese and honey pie. The early pies were predominately meat pies. Pies (pies) originally appeared in England as early as the twelfth century. The crust of the pie was referred to as “coffyn”. There was actually more crust than filling. Often these pies were made using fowl and the legs were left to hang over the side of the dish and used as handles. Fruit pies or tarts (pasties) were probably first made in the 1500s. English tradition credits making the first cherry pie to Queen Elizabeth I. Pie came to America with the first English settlers. As in the Roman times, the early American pie crusts often were not eaten, but simply designed to hold the filling during baking. It was during the American Revolution that the term crust was used instead of coffyn. Over the years, pie has evolved to become what it is today “the most traditional American dessert”. Pie has become so much a part of American culture throughout the years, that we now commonly use the term “as American as apple pie”.

~ From Various Trivia Sites throughout the Internet

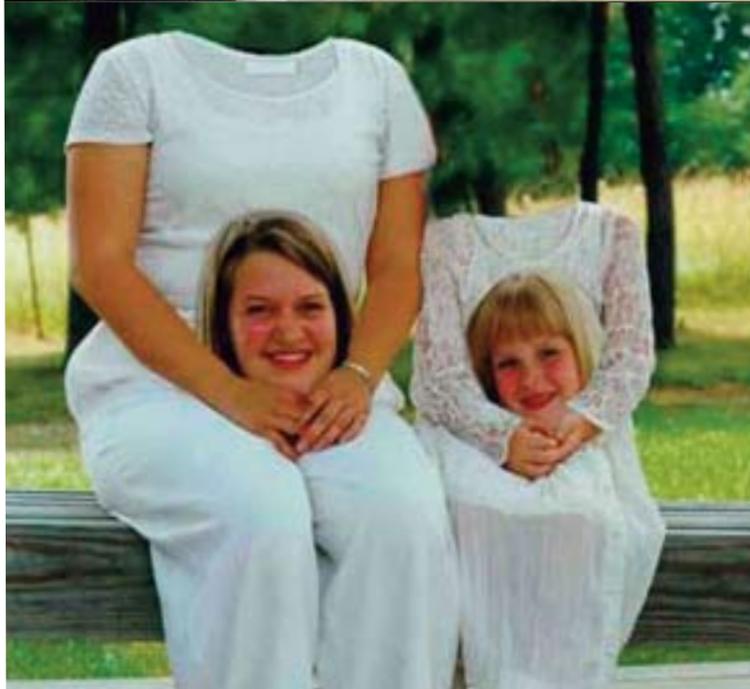
< **Triangular UFO Sightings Continue to Rise - JDW** >

During December, 78 out of 398 reports submitted to MUFON in the US described a Triangular Shape (another 16 were “Boomerang” - quite similar). In PA 5 of 22 reports were of the same. Historically, there have been some such objects reported as far back as the 40s, and beginning in 1990 with a famous encounter with the Belgian Air Force, they have been on the rise. Of course, during this period the Stealth Fighter and Bomber shapes may have been the cause of a number of these sightings. Recently, there appears to be another surge.

While investigating a very credible report of a pair of triangular or “boomerang” craft seen near Carlisle in December, I was speaking with a friend of Jack Thomas who is a retired 30 year USAF combat vet who flew as rear-seat WSO in F-4s in Vietnam. As with the F-117 and B-2 both being operative for many years prior to their reveal to the public, he feels this and other reports of triangular and boomerang shaped craft may be something similar, although he does believe certain UFO sightings may indeed be of non-terrestrial origin. (One of his AF friends ended up with the group who first flew the F117 in the early 80s, many years prior to its 1988 public reveal.)

The size of many of these current objects - if accurate - dwarfs even the B-2’s 172’ wingspan. They may be “black projects” built by the Govt., but the vastness and other features of these craft certainly does nothing in my mind to dispel rumors of shared (or captured) ET technology being employed.

Scary Fun!



'Twas a dark and stormy night, a night not unlike this night, in a town not far from here...

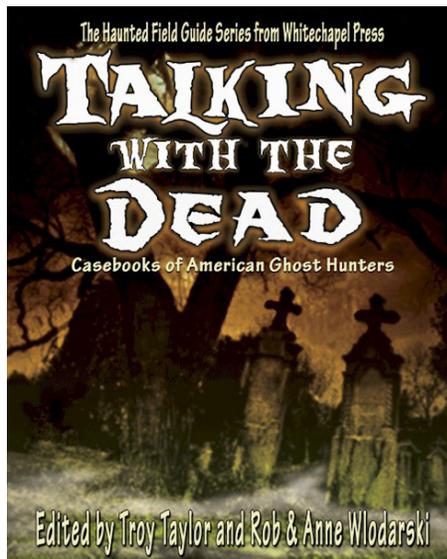


SSP 2010 EVENT CALENDAR

Confirmed Dates listed are monthly meetings and the annual Spirit Day and Halloween Party Events. All Monday meetings and events in this listing are at West Shore Sennior Center. "Field Events" will be added during the course of the year.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>
Jan 11	Meeting	7:00pm
Feb 8	Meeting	7:00pm
Mar 8	Meeting	7:00pm
April 12	Meeting	7:00pm
May 10	Meeting	7:00pm
May 15	"Spirit Day"	(Sat / TBD)
June 14	Meeting	7:00pm
July 12	Meeting	7:00pm
Aug 9	Meeting	7:00pm
Sept 13	Meeting	7:00pm
Oct 2	H'ween Party	(Sat / TBD)
Oct 11	Meeting	7:00pm
Nov 8	Meeting	7:00pm
Dec 13	Meeting	7:00pm

NEW FROM WHITECHAPEL PRESS:



Troy Taylor and Rob & Anne Wlodarski have collected 13 spooky cases from ghost hunters from all across America, detailing their experiences with ghosts as a real-life haunted location – and their eerie contact with the spirits of the dead. Contributors familiar to most SSP members include Troy himself, Dale Kaczmarek,

Rene Kruse, Rosemary Ellen Guiley and Kelly & John Weaver. *(Our story involves the many years of experience investigating and doing programs at the very haunted Alfred's Victorian. Copies of Talking with the Dead can be purchased from us at a special discount for SSP members. - JDW)*

Coming FEB. 19-21, 2010*

**Note new date*

MARK NESBITT'S SUPERNATURAL SUMMIT

*A Virtual Paranormal Gathering -
Gettysburg and Beyond*

Mark Nesbitt has announced a date change for the Supernatural Summit Virtual Paranormal Gathering, originally set for Nov. 13-15. The new date will be Feb. 19-21, 2010. As this will be a virtual event (online) there is no need to worry about travelling in the winter!

SSP presenters include Craig Telesha, Kelly Weaver and John Weaver. Other confirmed presenters familiar to many SSP members include Rosemary Ellen Guiley, John Zaffis, Eric Altman, Dr. Charles Emmons, Mark Nesbitt himself and many more. Details can be found at http://www.supernaturalsummit.com/read_more.php?tab_id=2



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

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