

From Our Viewpoint

2009 AA-EVP Conference

The decision to cancel the 2009 AA-EVP conference was difficult for us. As a teaching and research organization, conferences are effective ways for the AA-EVP to offer members direct access to “how to” information provided by practitioners who have shown exceptional ability. We wish to thank all of the speakers for volunteering to provide their services. It was an extraordinary act of community support for you to have agreed to share your knowledge.

Mother’s Day Public Service Announcement

A volunteer produced a Public Service Announcement (PSA) for the Forever Family Foundation (FFF). It was intended to be aired by radio stations before Mother’s Day. The EVP “*Hi, Mom*” recorded by Teri Daner and “*I love you*” recorded by Karen Mossey were played at the beginning with credit to the AA-EVP and then: “There are many ways to say ‘I love you’ this Mother’s Day. A message from a deceased loved one is the most precious of all.” This was followed with information about the FFF (foreverfamilyfoundation.org). We do not know how many radio stations used the PSA, but traffic to aaevp.com increased 48% the day after Mother’s Day. You can hear the PSA at aaevp.com.



Imagine the implications of having EVP examples broadcast on commercial radio. What must the average listener think? Perhaps even more important is the fact that another organization thought of and made the PSA as part of its mission. The AA-EVP is a very unique organization involved with a decidedly frontier subject. One of our more important functions is the support of people learning to use EVP to contact loved ones. This is important because the contact can potentially help grieving people understand

that their loved one is still with them, “alive” and well on the “Other Side.” The Forever Family Foundation’s charter is also to help people understand this, making them an important companion organization to the AA-EVP.

New Tools for Developing A Common Culture

Historians will surely look back at this time as the first evidence that the studies of survival of personality and instrument-aided trans-etheric communication are beginning to show signs of maturing into a mainstream subject. Hauntings investigation groups are in nearly every major community and many are following well-considered protocols that help assure the gathering of meaningful evidence. These groups are often as much social as they are investigative, but they provide an important introduction to the study of trans-etheric phenomena.

Traditional authorities are being challenged by new organizational models such as the ones used by the FFF and the AA-EVP. For instance, virtually every important article has been made available to the public at aaevp.com, and there are a growing number of research reports in the online [Ethereic Studies Journal](http://EthereicStudiesJournal) (ethericstudies.org), which is an AA-EVP sponsored initiative intended to promote collaboration amongst researchers in this field. Contrast that with traditional, members’ only research libraries.

Collaboration amongst people interested in learning about and conducting research is a hallmark of a mature field of study. In practice, the study of things phenomenal is not likely to make much progress or be taken seriously by mainstream groups until there is more evidence of cooperation amongst people in our field. Part of this “evidence of a maturing field” we see is the growing number of groups dedicated to critical thought and research. In this issue of the NewsJournal, we have an article about how directors of the [Australasian EVP/ITC Research and Development Forum](http://AustralasianEVPITCResearchandDevelopmentForum) have changed their model from a general public discussion board to one focused on research and empirically supported comments. The board is still publicly viewable, but the information on it should now be supported by the rules of evidence, rather than opinion.

One of the more important developments in online collaboration tools is the wiki. “Wiki” is said to be a Hawaiian word for “fast.” MediaWiki.org supports an open source program that anyone can install on a website. The [Ethereic Studies Journal](http://EthereicStudiesJournal) is a wiki, and of course, you are probably familiar with Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia that has been written by individuals as a community collaboration. A really important feature of a wiki is that a group of people can eventually develop an important knowledge base that can serve the community. Continued page 16

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Article Contributions: Articles that explain techniques, help people understand the concepts of ITC and/or provide a role model to which others can aspire are considered for publication in the NewsJournal. The average column is 450 to 480 words—fewer with pictures. Articles should be short and to the point as they would be for a newspaper. Feature articles may be up to four columns, serialized or presented as a brief which refers to the full article which can be placed on the AA-EVP website. Announcements of member activities are welcome, as are reports of successes working with these phenomena and brief comments about your observations. Email submission to aaevp@aol.com or mail to AA-EVP, PO Box 13111, Reno, NV 89507, USA.

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Eric Stein

by Kathleen Stein

It is not unusual to be comforted by words from a loved one during moments of sadness or grief. What is unusual, though, is to have those comforting words spoken by the very person for whom you are grieving. This happened to me.

My twenty-year-old son Eric was killed in a traffic accident in October 2007. He was riding his motorcycle on his way to work when a car exited a restaurant parking lot directly in front of him. The police said he had been going only thirty miles per hour—but he had no chance to stop. He died in the street still wearing braces on his teeth. (Thinking of those braces still makes me cry.)



Eric as a boy

I had heard of EVP and began to read everything I could find about it. It was Martha Copeland's book *I'm Still Here*, that made me decide to try it myself. I purchased an Olympus VN-4100PC and some headphones and started talking to the young people from the Big Circle to ask for their help in contacting my son. I specifically asked for help from Braden. I felt a special affinity for him because he and his mom, Vicki, were also from the Pacific Northwest—and Braden had been the same age as Eric.

At first, I did not hear anything except my own dreary ramblings and obnoxious snoring. I learned to do shorter sessions, and to not fall asleep with the recorder on. My first clear response happened early on Saturday, December 15, 2007. I had just awakened and decided again to ask the Big Circle for help in reaching Eric. Later, after I got up to make coffee, I listened to the recording in the living room. In the middle of my recording I heard something loud, clear, and weird. I knew it had to be Braden (Vickie said he was a jokester). The voice that I heard said, "**My face, Oh!**" I had no idea what it meant, but I was thrilled.

Later, I handed the headphones to my twenty-one-year-old daughter, Laura. As she listened, I could tell by the look on her face that she had heard the mysterious message. I said, "but it doesn't make any sense!" Laura answered "Oh yes it does!"

Laura explained that she had borrowed two of a neighbor's new puppies late the previous night and had kept them with her downstairs in Eric's room. She had been playing with the puppies (one named Aiden) when a puppy scratched her cheek. She said, "Oh, my face!" We are sure that it was not Laura's voice on the recording. She claims to have said "Oh, my face!" not "My face, Oh!" And the voice did not sound anything like hers. A similar incident happened a few months later when I recorded what sounded like "**Hi Muppet!**" Later, I learned that Laura sometimes called our newly-adopted puppy Aiden by the term "Muppet."

On December 28th or 29th 2007, I had been trying to talk with Eric. I had told Eric that he was "cool." On the play-back, I hear that same teasing voice say "**Heh! Eric's cool!**" It made me laugh.

But it was a recording that came between "**My Face, Oh!**" and "**Heh! Eric's cool!**" that I most want to share with all of you in the hopes that it gives you some hope and comfort. It was Sunday afternoon, December 23rd, 2007. No one but me was at home. I was in Eric's room dreading Christmas and feeling very sorry for myself. I talked to Eric as I walked around touching things in his room. I said something like "I guess with the gloomy mood I'm in, it's good that I'm alone." On playback—right after my comment about being alone—I hear a quiet, but clear voice say the most wonderful phrase I will ever hear: "**You are not alone.**" This voice was unlike the other recordings that I think were Braden. It was quieter and more monotone—I knew it was Eric.



Eric on his motorcycle

On Saturday May 31st, four days before what would have been Eric's 21st birthday, I recorded another message that is very special to me. His sisters and some of Eric's friends were planning a get-together in his honor. I asked Eric what he wanted me to do for his birthday. The response I recorded was, "**Try not to cry.**"

I have recorded other messages from Eric, and some that I think are from some of the young people of the Big Circle. I also played a

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Eric Stein

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game with another member of the AA-EVP who wanted to see if our contacts on the other side could help us get the right answers concerning objects in the member's office. We did pretty well. I can send Lisa a list of the clearest messages showing the dates they were recorded. I would be happy to share the clips also, but getting them onto the computer is a slow and plodding ordeal for me.

Lately, though, I have not received any clear messages. I have a new Olympus VN-5200PC so I will try again. For the past few weeks I have been busy with home repairs and other distractions. This makes me wonder about all the variables that affect EVP. We need some physical device, (recorder, radio etc.), as well as the talents, energy and intentions of the entities sending and receiving. Who knows what other factors might be involved?

This is my thought: It is my own personality and aversion to learning computer skills that cause me to put off managing and sharing my recording clips. I hate the whole process, need someone to help me, and am glad when the darn clip is transferred and sent. Perhaps, on the other side as well, not all entities have the same interest and proclivity to be able to do what is necessary to easily contact us through EVP. Maybe they have a learning curve. Maybe some of them are just plain klutzy at it. They could be doing other things that we just don't "get" yet. I like

the idea that they keep their own personalities and quirks and don't just merge into a cosmic "Borg." And I am guessing they probably hear us much more easily than we hear them. They've had more practice at it. Someone else recently gave me reason to believe that communication from the other side might require considerable effort. *"It's not easy,"* Eric said in a message recorded January 19, 2008.

Eric's death was a horrible personal loss. I will never entirely stop grieving. And of course, as any parent would, I have anecdotes to show how he was special and unique:

- When he was three, a neighbor traded-in a silver pickup truck for a new silver pickup truck. They looked exactly the same to me. Eric walked up and said, "You got a new truck!"
- Eric always had trouble sleeping at night. When he was four, he wandered into my bedroom and asked "Am I going to die someday?"
- He disliked high school, but would put intense effort into something that grabbed his interest. He read, and wrote an essay on, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance* (a complex philosophical book), and refused to even look at a study guide for it.
- He would sit at the computer for hours using music software to record and modify musical pieces with his guitar. (He did not get that skill from me.)



Eric

- He thought farting was hilarious.
- He punched a hole in his bedroom wall in a moment of teenage angst. (That hole was what I had been touching when I recorded the *"You are not alone"* message.)

He was unique, just as we all are. I wish he could have used his tickets to the Van Halen concert that played three weeks after the accident; I wish I had been able to see him in a suit. He would have been a kind, strong, handsome man with straight teeth.

That's what happened and how I feel about it. But one last thing; I don't want anyone to feel discouraged for not yet having what they might consider personal success with EVP recording. It is the knowledge that it is possible that is so wonderful for all of us. There is so much more to learn.

You are not alone. Try not to cry. We are **all** cool!

Making Contact with a Loved One

Should you feel that something is wrong if your loved one does not communicate with you after transition? After all, we often report about how others have made contact. It may seem that the natural process is for a person to make their transition and then quickly turn their attention to loved ones still in the physical to offer a reassuring message.

In fact, while many people do hear from their loved ones we make it a point to always remind people, who write to us about using EVP for contacting a loved one, that there are no guarantees of contact. We also add that there must be hundreds of very good reasons for this and none say anything bad about the person or people still in the physical.

It is still a mystery as to how or why contact may occur, but one point is very clear. It is not easy. People in the physical must take the time to learn how to record for EVP and we see evidence that it is an ability our loved ones must also learn.

Of course, there are many forms of spontaneous contact which is initiated from the other side. In their book, *Hello From Heaven*, Judith and Bill Guggenheim documented twelve types of "spontaneous" After Death Communication (ADC): sensing a presence, hearing a voice, feeling a touch, smelling a fragrance, visual experiences, visions, twilight experiences, ADC experiences while asleep, out-of-body ADCs, telephone calls, physical phenomena and symbolic ADCs. (www.after-death.com).

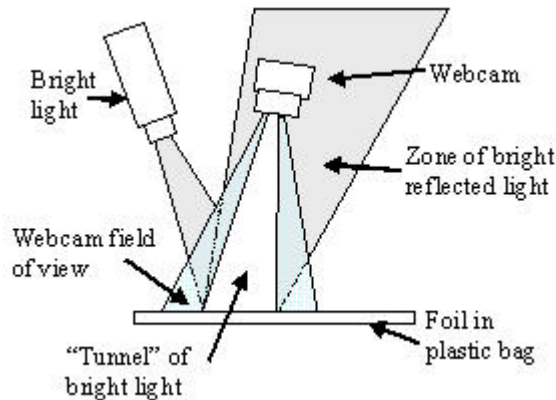
For instance, Lisa began working with EVP, at least in part because her father was an engineer and she hoped that he would be drawn to use it to make contact. She has made contact with her grandmother who would have thought she was certain to go to hell for talking to demons (she has been very helpful from the other side), and her mother who was not at all technical. Lisa did make contact with her father via lucid dreams, but never with EVP.

We know from messages that we should expect a period of orientation after our transition to the other side, followed by a continuation of our journey, apparently to a new venue for learning. This "going on" may not occur for a while, but it may also happen right away. Continued page 7

Technique for Capturing Images on Foil Using the Tunnel Effect and a Webcam

by Phyllis Delduque

There are several techniques used in my development of the phenomenal images, including television and direct from the computer using a webcam. Most of the time, I use the tunnel effect, even when I use light reflected from foil.



Webcam setup: I put the foil (aluminum foil but any shiny surface will work) on a clipboard and place it inside a blue transparent plastic bag. The bag provides a silver or graphite color to the resulting images but other colors can be used. As is illustrated above, a bright light is shined onto the foil and the webcam is positioned so that the light reflected from the foil is part of the scene. The resulting "tunnel" of bright light is generally too bright to form images but the regions around the margins of the bright light often produce phenomenal features.

The room should be relatively dark with no unexpected bright lights from the room shining into the webcam lens. This will help to control the regions in which features form.

Computer setup: The webcam should come with a computer program which allows control of the various features such as contrast and focus. Open the program's capture window and adjust the contrast and brightness of the scene being captured by the webcam to produce the greatest amount of gray region between the very dark and the very light zones.

Adjust the camera to be slightly out of focus to help make the gray area around the light tunnel a little more chaotic for images. Remember that the images are formed in the areas that have "interesting" textures of light and dark.

Experiment with the light brightness and position relative to the camera. Additional lights can be added as long as you can control how the reflected light is detected by the webcam. It is also effective to add color. I sometimes hold a crystal in front of the light so as to cast a rainbow of color onto the foil. This



Possible image of an alien

makes a very beautiful effect and it is easier for our friends from the Beyond to appear in the recordings. What matters is to provide the largest area in which the images will form.



Face of a friend who transitioned in 1998

Looking for features: My typical recording session is around two minutes long. After capturing the video, I save the file and open it with a video editor program which allows me to look at the frames one at a time. This part is more complicated because it requires patience and close attention. With a recording time of two minutes, I have over four hundred video frames which are individual pictures that need to be examined.

[Editor: When using the webcam in video mode, a very long session may produce more frames than it is reasonable to examine. However, it is possible to use the webcam in "still image" mode as a standard camera. In the same way, a still camera or a video camera can be substituted.]



Landscape as a volcanic island. A female head can be seen in the cloud from the eruption.

Phyllis Delduque, of Brazil, has been an Instrumental Transcommunication researcher since 1985.



Phyllis Delduque

She has a blog with examples at www.transcomunicaoinstrumental.blogspot.com

Living with Dying

by Dr. Annette Childs

Although this is a newsletter devoted to “talking with the dead,” Tom and Lisa Butler have asked me to write a few words on the subject that truly precedes this notion ... *talking with the dying.*

For nearly twenty years now, I have devoted the bulk of my therapy practice to working with those who are terminally ill. I have had the great honor of walking beside many as they leave this world, and it has often allowed me to stand in that doorway of light and observe.

If you have a friend or loved one who is nearing life’s end, and you would like to open a conversation with them about the end of life, below are a few words of wisdom I often share with families of my clientele.



Doorway
Photographed by PeKai,
www.flickr.com/photos/

Death is a natural event that will find us all

Once we can quell our fear and accept this simple fact, it can truly begin to transform the way we live. If you want to pursue a conversation with one who is dying, learn what you can about the process beforehand. This is not so that you can deliver your “findings” to the dying. Instead, what this will do is to instill a sense of peace in you that the dying one will sense. When you pursue information on death and dying, you will be surprised to find that the information available is both thought provoking and very comforting. It will transform how you feel about death, and therefore change the quality of companionship you can offer to the dying.

Follow, do not lead

This is by far the most important phrase that I use with the families of the dying. Many times caregivers complain that their loved one is “in denial” because they do not want to talk about death. This is a terrible judgment for us to make upon another. There is not a right and wrong way to die. Like every other natural event that we face as individuals, we will die in our own way, and if we want to discuss it, we will do so in our own time. As a loved one/caregiver to one who is dying, your job is to hold a posture of openness to that person. Through your actions and your peaceful state of mind, you can non-verbally let them know that you are a safe receptacle for conversations about truth. Using “I” statements shows them you are open to the conversation without broaching it directly. An appropriate “I” statement might be something like this: *“I spend a lot of time thinking about you, and what this must be like for you. It has made me think about some things in my own life that I never would have thought about before....”* This is like offering a golden thread to the dying one.... If they want to pursue a conversation that is based in reality and shared emotion, this statement is a beautiful way to set the stage.

Death is a process, not a moment

This is a concept that has been borne out by both medical science and quantum physics. On the quantum physics side, at the molecular level death is “alive” and happening to us all the time. Someone who is going to live to be eighty years old, at the molecular level is half dead by the age of forty! Of course we don’t have the eyes to see this, but at the subatomic level **it is reality**. This theory can account for the many instances of “Nearing-Death Awareness” (NDA) that happen as we approach the end of our lives. NDA is a phenomenon that occurs where the dying begin to exist in the next world before they leave this one. It includes death bed visions, out-of-body experiences, and other mystical phenomena prevalent at the end of life.

At the level of medical science, death is a surprisingly well orchestrated event that plays out quite similarly for each of us. Just as the body of a woman who is nine months pregnant begins to respond chemically to that impending birth, our physical bodies embrace the dying process. The physical milestones to death are predictable, sequential and very likely produce an array of “comfort chemicals” that alleviate any suffering that we on the outside might perceive. Those who have returned from “death’s doorstep” often describe a euphoric experience that does not at all match what their physical process may have looked like to observers. This is important to remember: we cannot judge suffering through our own eyes.... And just as a woman in labor will writhe and grimace, and show distress, the dying often do the same. Even so, at the late stages of the dying process it is thought that these motions are just the orchestrations of a dying physical vehicle, and that our essence or “spirit” is already un-tethered from that vehicle, but not yet fully to the other side.

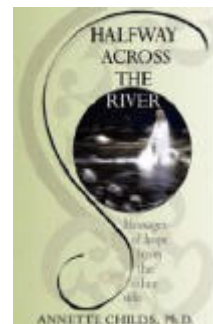
Below is an excerpt from my book *Halfway Across the River* that illustrates this point very well:

Bottle it up

Dorothy was in her late seventies when the dreaded diagnosis came, ALS or Lou Gehrig’s Disease. She had been treated for an array of other things for several months before the actual diagnosis was made. When I met her, she was all of seventy-five pounds; a toothless imp who scarcely poked her head out from beneath the covers.

Both the admitting nurse and I fell in love with Dorothy the day we signed her onto the hospice organization we worked for. Although she was suffering, she still had a twinkle in her eye which hinted at the wisecracking bubbly persona she had once embodied. Her disease process was devastating: completely bed bound and, unable to swallow anything but water, she was essentially starving to death in front of her loved ones.

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Living with Dying

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I arrived at Dorothy's for my weekly visit, surprised at how much weaker she had grown in the past days. Her husband, Jerry, looked drawn and tired so I urged him to go outside for a walk while I relieved his bedside vigil.

My attention immediately fell upon my laboring friend. She looked up at me with eyes as large as saucers, and motioned for a sip of water from a nearby glass. I fumbled at getting the water into her mouth, and I laughed aloud at my inept bedside skills. She smiled weakly and let me know her appreciation through her eyes. She tried to swallow the water, but struggled.

Most of the liquid dribbled back out of her mouth, but enough went down her throat to cause her to choke. Her weak, almost inaudible, cough defied the severity of what was happening. She could not regain her breath and visibly began to suffer from lack of oxygen. I was panic stricken.

Knowing that Dorothy had requested that 911 never be called for her in an emergency, I rolled her onto her side, and hit her on the back while fumbling for the phone to call in help from the hospice team. In the meantime, she had ceased struggling, and her skin took on a ghostly shade, her lips starting to blue around the edges. I was certain that she was dying in my presence and suffering greatly as she did so.

Dorothy regained her breath right about this time. As she took in a shallow yet sustaining breath, her eyes began to dart around the room. The same sparkle I had so loved about her originally was there, and a serene expression radiated from her still pale face. As I began to stammer out an apology for failing to help her when she was choking, her face spread into a slow grin. Although toothless and weak beyond measure, Dorothy turned to me with a voice that was somehow both frail and commanding. The words she spoke burrowed deep within me, "If I could bottle up the joy that I just touched, I would give it to you to take home to your babies and they would have joy to last them the rest of their days."

Slowly and with great care Dorothy began to recount watching her struggling form from above it, seeing dozens of angels in the room. She was absolutely effervescent with the immense joy the experience had contained. She stated simply that she had come back to her body because her husband wanted to be at her side when she died. Her return was one last act of love she carried out for him.

When Jerry returned, all looked the same as when he had left. There was no sense in explaining the events that had transpired. When I left Dorothy's home that day, we shared one long soulful glance with one another. Words were inadequate. I could see the peace in her eyes and she could see the gratitude in mine. Dorothy died quietly that night in her sleep, held not only in the arms of her husband, but I was certain, in the arms of the angels as well.

Learn about death by choice, not by crisis

Although this article, in its essence, is about learning to talk with the dying, what it is truly about is beginning that inner dialogue with ourselves. If we perceive death as "over there where our dying loved one is," we are missing the point.

Learning to let death into our lives, and our willingness to learn what death teaches, infinitely increases our ability to live more peaceful, enlightened and transformative lives. Take the opportunity to learn about death in your living.... I promise you that the more you know about the dying process, the more you will see that death is not something to live around, but to live fully "with."



Annette Childs holds a Ph.D. in psychology and maintains a private practice assisting individuals and families to grow through painful transitions. She is the author of *Will You Dance?* (Wandering Feather Press, 2002) and *Halfway Across the River; Messages of Hope from the Other Side* (Wandering Feather Press, 2007), available at www.onecandle.net and Amazon.com.

Making Contact

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We do not know what determines this. All we know is that our loved ones sometimes report being fine, getting used to being whole again if they were ill or handicapped and then they indicate that they must "go on." There is no information about what determines how long a person remains "close" to the physical, but contact via EVP stops after that.

When a person "goes on," we think they enter into a new learning situation like, or much like being born into the physical. When Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions...." (John 14:2), it may be that he was referring to these alternative venues. Reincarnation may be a valid concept, and if so, could someone reincarnate into a venue that is an alternative to the physical?

There seems to be a difference between teachers and loved ones when it comes to communicating across the veil and how they do so. EVP appear to be relatively local phenomena, meaning the messages seem to be from loved ones who have crossed over in recent times. They are usually "Hello, I am fine, I love you," kinds of messages. The practitioner is thought to be the conduit through which the message is brought into the physical.

Messages received via trance mediums appear to be more like lessons in spirituality. While EVP are generally just a few words, trance-mediumship messages are usually much longer, and they are thought to be possible because the personality of the medium temporarily "steps aside" so that the personality of the teacher is able to assume control of the body. In this kind of contact, the teacher is apparently able to move more freely amongst the venues of learning than are our loved ones who are students.

The lesson to us is that contact via EVP after physical death is not assured and the reasons have nothing to do with how good anyone is or how enlightened they are. In fact, there is some evidence that a very spiritually advanced person may skip orientation and go directly to their next experience. It is important that we understand that our loved ones are near in many ways, but we should also celebrate their continuation in other venues.

The Formation of EVP

Historically, Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP) have been thought of as unexpected voices found in recording media. The primary technique for recording EVP has been with an audio recorder and the voice is thought to be formed of available audio energy (background noise).

Recent developments have made it practical to work with real-time, two-way EVP. With this development, an expanded definition is required. As one has not gained wide acceptance, the following should be considered a draft definition:

Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP) are anomalous, intelligible speech produced in electronic devices. They may be heard as a real-time output but are more generally heard on review of a subsequent recording. No currently understood physical processes account for the existence of EVP.

EVP formation

EVP can be collected under circumstances which preclude the possibility of such mundane sources as radio frequency contamination, unnoticed background conversations, contamination from previously recorded speech and mundane sounds mistaken as voice. People around the world have demonstrated this fact since before Friedrich Jürgenson made his famous EVP recordings fifty years ago June 12, 1959. The important point is that much is known about ordinary EVP formation which allows practitioners to recognize what is and is not phenomenal.

Transform EVP

As shown in Figure 1, the phenomenal utterance is formed in the recording device. Current theory is that noise is used for voice formation and the dominant physical process is thought to be the amplification of a weak telekinetic signal by the action of stochastic resonance on the broad-spectrum audio-frequency noise. The “frequencies” available in the sound stream at any moment will determine the richness of the resulting voice and no new audio energy is produced.

There is no evidence that the psi processes involved in the trans-etheric communication produce additional physical processes. Once the information is in the physical, it is completely subject to physical principles. Keep in mind that stochastic resonance was not documented as a process prior to 1981. The fact that a physical process needed to explain some aspect of EVP has not yet been defined does not mean that a paranormal solution must be used. It is important to this essay to note that the preponderance of evidence indicates the requirement of physical processes. There is no need to say that a phenomenal event

“somehow” occurs or is caused by by divine intervention.

The characteristics associated with traditionally formed (transform) EVP that are part of the theoretical model used by the AA-EVP include:

- EVP are not acoustical phenomena, meaning that they are formed in the recording mechanism, and can be collected with an acoustically isolated recorder.
- The voice is formed by transforming audio-frequency energy available in an electronic circuit into an approximation of human speech.
- EVP are energy limited, meaning that their formation is in short packets of a few words so that shorter packets tend to have greater volume, longer packets tend to have less volume and very long utterances are seen as several concatenated packets with brief pauses between each one.
- Any audio-frequency energy is apt to be transformed into voice as EVP.
- EVP formation occurs in analog circuits, and once digitized, tends to be stable.
- The utterances are formed by selecting available audio-frequency energy. Audio-frequency energy is not created for this purpose by the etheric communicator and may be in the form of relatively random noise, fragments of voice or synthesized voice.

Because of the many years of study by practitioners around the world, much is known about EVP recorded by traditional means. Small details of the characteristics listed here may be arguable but there is little doubt that this form of EVP occurs in audio recorders in a predictable way.

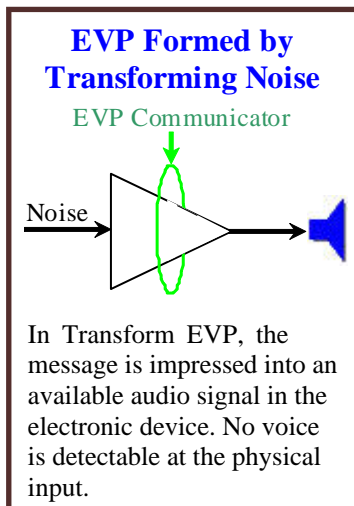
EVP formed by random selection

Stefan Bion has developed a computer program named EVPmaker which has been shown to produce EVP based on random selection of segments of a sound file (www.stefanbion.de/evpmaker). The input audio file may be recorded “live voice” but the program is able to use synthesized human voice fragments known as allophones and/or the smaller phonemes.

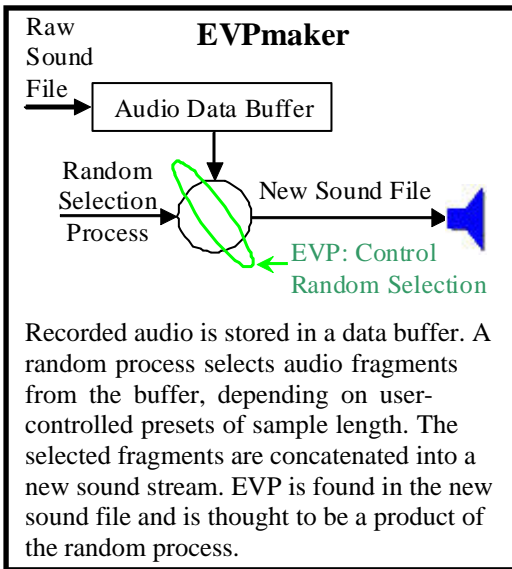
Precedence for psi influence of random processes has been established by the parapsychological community. For instance, the Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research (PEAR) Lab reported a small but significant effect in psi studies. Depending on presets made by the practitioner, the randomly selected segments of input file are typically too short to contain recognizable speech, especially when using synthesized speech. Once selected by the random process, the segments of sound are combined with others to produce the desired words. As such, EVP formation is thought to be controlled by control of the random process.

Audio output for EVPmaker is a staccato sound as if the system has developed a severe stutter. Recorded speech is considered “live voice” and is inherently suspect as a sound source for EVP formation; however, when using synthesized voice fragments,

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The Formation of EVP Continued from page 8
 the input file can be controlled to minimize pre-existing recognizable words. As such, words in the output should be clearly random or they are phenomenal.



EVP formed by speech synthesis

A recent development in the study of EVP is the introduction of speech synthesis technology. Bill Chappell has shown that it may be possible to produce meaningful utterances by detecting changes in the environment to control a speech synthesis process (www.digitaldowsing.com). The working assumption is that the communicating entity will change the environment to cause synthesis of the intended words. More research is needed, but the implication is that detection of presumably easily influenced chaotic processes such as room temperature and electrical charge can be used to initiate EVP formation by controlling a speech synthesis process. A second possibility is that the communicating entity is able to directly influence the speech synthesis circuit; however, more research must be conducted to determine this.

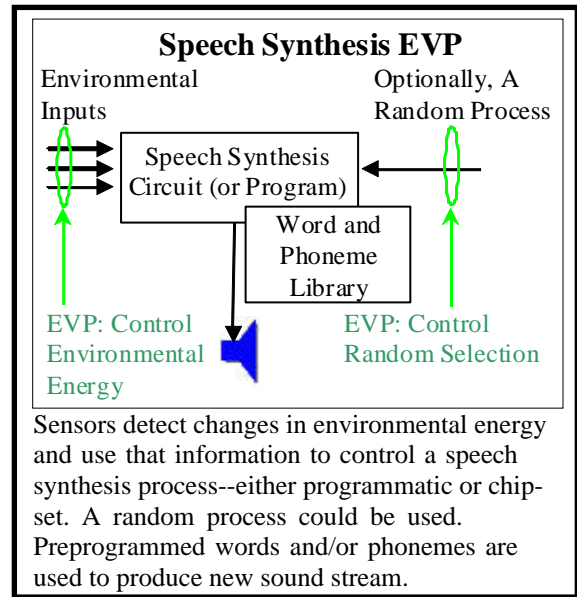
Chappell's Paranormal Puck is programmed with words (speech mode), and a library of English-language phonemes (phoneme mode). Phonemes are the smallest segment of human speech, and when appropriately combined in an audio file, will produce meaningful speech.

An important point to consider in the analysis of environmentally controlled speech synthesis for EVP formation is that the only physical process necessary to explain observed results is a change in ambient energy detected by the device. The library of words or speech fragments is present in the designed capabilities of the technology.

Physical processes in EVP formation

Substantial research and field observation has shown that the processes involved in trans-etheric phenomena are probably knowable. Physical processes such as propagation of sound or light are measurable and their understanding can be applied to devices and other processes. In the same way, the processes governing subtle energy and the behavior of personalities after transition are knowable and

able to be applied in technological solutions. A few of the assumptions used in this study of how EVP are formed are:



- EVP are formed via the influence of subtle energy on physical processes according to knowable principles. With this assumption, the explanation for a phenomenal event that it “somehow” occurred cannot be used for research. The “somehow” should be quickly replaced by an established or modified theory.
- There is consistency in how subtle energy influences are able to affect physical processes. For instance, both visual forms such as images found in video feedback noise and EVP formed from background noise appear to depend on something like stochastic resonance.
- The influence of physical processes by subtle energy is energy limited and the most energy-efficient processes should be considered first. This also means the physical energy required for phenomena can be accounted for.
- Available physical processes can be initiated by an etheric influence to cause observable phenomena, but matter and energy are not seen to be created. A physical person might be convinced to do something in support of phenomena. An important implication of this assumption is that physical energy and objects may be transformed but they are not created to form phenomena. For instance, if sound is not present, it cannot be transformed into the words of EVP. The required sound will not be created but a physical process may be initiated which in turn causes sound for voice formation.

The observed characteristics of EVP suggest how they are (typically) formed, and by extension, how they (usually) are not formed. The average person can use this information to evaluate examples to help determine if they are mundane or paranormal. It also means that a deviation to the “rule of thumb” should be considered rare and the example should be held in reserve by practitioner and researchers alike until more data is available.

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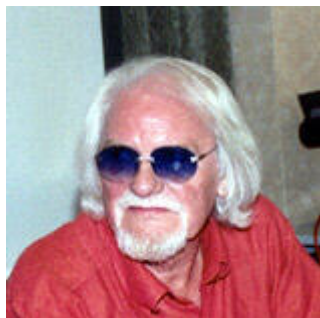
Thoughts: A Force that Creates and Destroys Worlds

by Anabela Cardoso (AC) and Carlos Fernández (CF) translated from the Spanish text by Anabela Cardoso

Previously published in the ITC Journal, www.itcjournal.org/

How the Communications Began and What Can be Learned from Them

Electroacoustics technician Hans Otto König (HK) is one of the most important investigators in the world in the area of Instrumental Transcommunication (ITC), a discipline that studies the purported contacts with the Beyond through



Hans Otto König

technical means. His knowledge of electronics and more than 30 years of experimentation have allowed him to obtain direct voices through which his communicators speak directly with him with incredible clarity through electronic devices that he himself builds. On one memorable and widely publicized occasion, while he was appearing on a

Luxembourg television program, König actually carried out an experiment in front of the cameras using one of these devices (an ultrasounds generator) and received communications from the Beyond such as *“They can hear me believe I have the right frequency”* and *“Otto König communicates with the dead through the radio.”*

In this interview that he very kindly gave to us (AC and CF) this German man of firm convictions and of a tranquil disposition speaks of his contact experiences and puts forward his points of view about the phenomena.

AC/CF: *How did you start your experimentation in ITC?*

HK: I have been studying ITC for over 30 years. At the beginning I was skeptical in this area and many years went by before I was convinced that I could communicate with people who were in a more spiritual world. In fact I did not care much if they were deceased people or not.

AC/CF: *Are your communicators people you knew when they were alive?*

HK: Not always but some of them do introduce themselves as people I knew. In 1977, my mother passed away. This was not a trigger factor for I got into this research as a result of my curiosity, and my mother knew I was working in ITC. She was an opera singer who had a very particular, very developed voice and she told me, *“If I go into the other world I shall always contact you through the chant.”*

To this date, I have thirty manifestations of chants with my mother singing. One of these chants contains the words, *“Hans Otto König.”* At the time my father was still alive. He was a very skeptical person, a physicist who always doubted. However, he followed the principle that it is always better to search for an explanation than to have no explanation. My father witnessed the reception of these transmessages and was very surprised when his wife addressed him. I had started calling my friends in the Beyond

but I was not addressing my mother at the time. However, a female communicator addressed me with: *“Do you hear me, Otto?”* and I replied *“Here is Hans Otto”* and then she said *“Do you hear me, Joseph König?”* which is my father’s name.

AC/CF: *In over thirty years of contacts, I suppose there have been many messages that you consider important. Which ones would you single out?*

HK: There are two basic messages that I consider most important. The first one is, *“Everything you can imagine”* and the second one is *“Each one is responsible for his/her actions.”* We received these contacts through a generator and infrared equipment, which were the technical means we were using to obtain the contacts. *“Everything you can imagine”* came in reply to a question put by my wife who asked, *“How should we imagine the other world in the Beyond?”* The answer was, *“Everything you can imagine.”*

We asked the same question on several occasions and the reply was always the same. The answer, *“Each one is responsible for his/her actions,”* was received at a conference in Basel through a system with several oscillators that generate different frequencies.

AC/CF: *What is the meaning that we can derive from these two messages?*

HK: They are separate messages which were communicated at two different times. If we compare them and if we place one after the other we shall realize that one depends upon the other. Each of us is responsible for what we can imagine, and because everything we can imagine becomes reality we have responsibility for this reality. We understand from the two messages that the power of our thoughts and the power of love are the greatest forces in both worlds. The power of thoughts is a very powerful energy. It creates great things but at the same time it can become destructive. Thoughts create worlds but they can also destroy worlds. Therefore, we should be very careful if we suppose that these thoughts only work at a material level for they also have a spiritual impact. This means that thoughts not only contribute to the construction of our world, they also contribute to building other worlds mainly after physical death. I mean that when we pass into the Beyond, these messages apply.

AC/CF: *You mean that our thoughts influence the Beyond?*

HK: Many people do not realize the effect that their thoughts might have upon other people who are in the Beyond. All and each one of these thoughts has an effect upon the beings who are on the other side. Furthermore, the effect of a thought reflects again upon the person who had that thought. Thoughts are in themselves vibrations that in different people provoke resonances of a different kind.

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Thoughts Continued from page 10

Resonances manifest not only at a physical level but also in the context of vibrations.

Complex Technology

Hans Otto König explains that he got into ITC by pure curiosity and describes his first experiments. As happens with many other investigators, he started experimenting using a radio station tuned to a foreign language as background noise for the recordings. However, his technical background pushed him towards the construction of electronic inventions in an attempt to better the psychophonic contact. Thus initially by the use of frequency oscillators and later with infrared and ultrasonic systems, he was able to capture the voices of purportedly deceased people who spoke to him directly from a loudspeaker and with whom he was able to maintain a dialogue. His latest design is a system based upon ultraviolet light and quartz crystals through which he gets important results

AC/CF: *How do you build the systems through which you receive your communications?*

HK: Usually I see them in my dreams as if I visualized the diagrams of the systems that I will build later on. The majority of the devices I have developed, I devised after waking from my dreams. We can say that inspiration comes in the aftermath of my sleep.

AC/CF: *What role do crystals play in your work?*

HK: The communicators have told me that the crystals are the key to the connection. Some crystals can reinforce this type of communication or reinforce the power of thoughts. Through a system I elaborated, I have studied the capacity of crystals to transmit thoughts and to transmit hyperenergetic fields that cross over. The crystal is just a thought

communicator that works in both directions. From one side we emit thoughts and from the other we receive energies from a superior state or level.

AC/CF: *Can you achieve a contact with the Beyond at any time you want to do so?*

HK: If we believe we command the contact with the Beyond, we are making a mistake. The communicators say we create the contact and they choose the people with whom they want to make contact. The voices say “We make the contact.”

AC/CF: *What in your opinion is the factor that plays the most important role in the contacts?*

HK: I believe the most important thing is the resonance, or affinity, that is generated between the investigator and the communicators. The invisible side of life is fundamental in this process. Thought has a fundamental role in this process because “thought is a force that creates and destroys worlds.” The universe is a closed unit where nothing is lost; all our thoughts are vibrations that can be tuned into by other beings through a resonance process. I consider the development of ethical thought—or personal development to say the same thing in a different way—to be of fundamental importance. When I once asked my communicators how I could contribute more efficiently from my side to helping and improving the contacts they replied, “**Loosen your feet from the Earth.**”

AC/CF: *What are your plans for the future?*

HK: I have no specific plans for the future because the development of the communication process depends, as I have said, essentially upon the communicators. Therefore I cannot know the answer to your question in advance.

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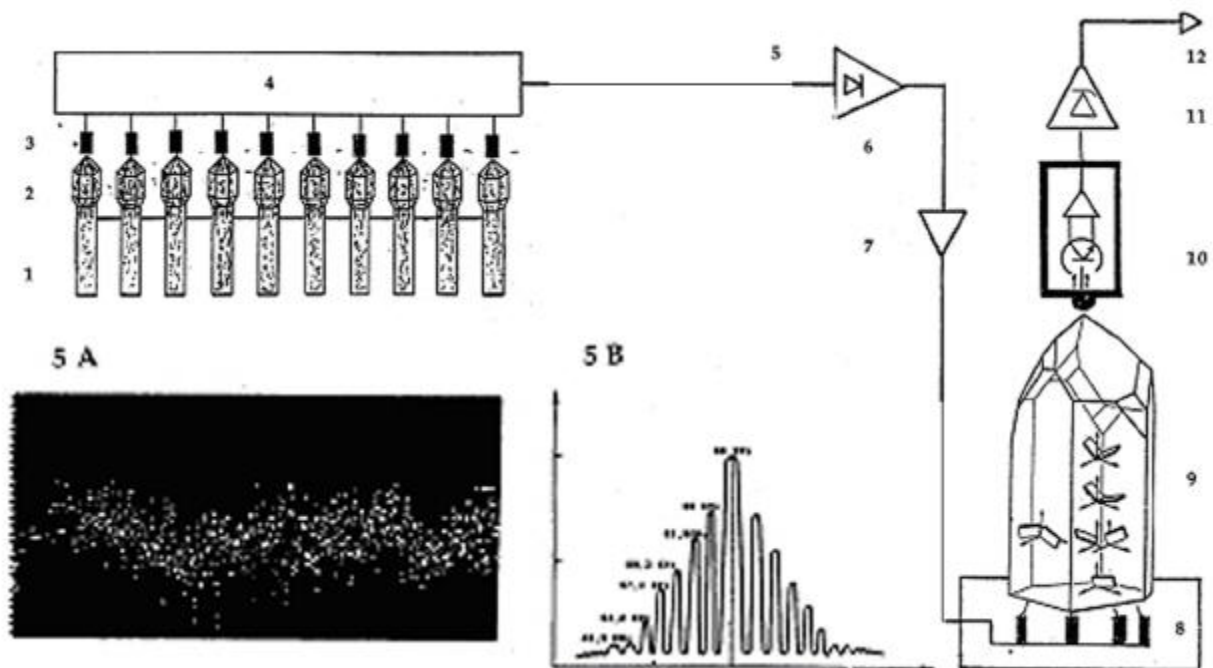


Diagram of a crystal device used by Hans Otto König

Previously published in the ITC Journal No. 24, December 2005 and in the January 2007 AA-EVP NewsJournal

Sammy

by Sammy's Mum



"Silly Wabbit"

Photographed by Jeff Clow, www.flickr.com/photos/jeffclow/

The name of my pet is Sammy and he is a rabbit. Sammy entered into my life in September 1998. I saw him in a market and was very attracted to him, even if I didn't know anything about rabbits. I returned home with him. That's how the story began.

Sammy was very shy and afraid but soon he was having fun, walking under my pullover and on my bed and playing on the sofa with my sister's young guinea-pig. I built some toys for him like tunnels and bought him a lot of different kinds of food to make him happy. My parents had a garden that he loved to be in; jumping and running on the grass.

We were spending a lot of time together and soon we became close friends. At this time I was a nineteen-year-old university student. My only sadness was that my parents forbade me to take Sammy in my bedroom at night. So each evening just before going to sleep Sammy was returning to his cage in the living room.

Sammy had illnesses, and at the age of three, he had a serious case of pneumonia. We (my dad also loved him) went to see a lot of veterinarians but their knowledge of rabbits was not sufficient and they gave him medication that was not effective. So I searched for other vets because I refused to let him go, especially at such a young age. Finally, we found a veterinarian who prescribed the correct medication and a couple of weeks later Sammy was better! After that illness Sammy slept on my bed.

Sammy continued to have other serious health problems and they were always difficult to cure. Vets told me that he would probably die and so I prayed for a cure. I continued to pray but also spent hours searching for a cure on the Internet and we continued to search for the right veterinarian, nothing else mattered.

Sammy has also helped me a lot. I had serious difficulties at home with depression and problems with my parents; violence between them and suicide attempts by my mum. My sister was gone and I stayed to avoid a tragedy but I needed help and I needed to be loved. Sammy was the one who gave me that. Each time that I cried Sammy came and stayed with me for hours licking the tears off my face. It was amazing. He did this many times. He never ignored me

and always showed me his love.

Years later, when I approached the end of my studies, I wrote my thesis entirely dedicated to Sammy. Without him I would have been desperate. I was proud to show him that I would get my university degree, thanks to him. Through all the difficult times, we succeeded together. Together we crossed the limits and were both saved. Together, we were stronger. Sammy was my angel.

The years went by and Sammy was getting older. He was ill again and this time the vets said he had bone cancer in the mouth. The results of the laboratory analyses were horrible and they told me that Sammy would rapidly die. His teeth were falling out and there was lots of infection. Antibiotics didn't seem to help. He had been operated on many times, but luckily Sammy still had a good appetite and was eating mixed food I prepared for him. It turned out not to be cancer but Sammy was never cured of the infection. We stabilized him for eighteen months, thanks to antibiotics and painkillers.

At that time we moved to get away from the violence of my parents. We needed peace. He became blind. We took a flat and I think Sammy was really happy with this. Each time the weather was pretty, we went into my parents' garden. Sammy needed it. Of course, I had to work, so I took a job that let me return home each day during the lunch. I was very sad to see him ill and old.

I wanted to prepare for what would happen next. That's why I read a lot of books and visited websites about what happens after death. Testimonies that I discovered about near-death experience and information from mediums gave me hope of a good future. I even read that mediums sometimes see dead animals waiting for the return of their human. But I needed to be sure of this because I was so terrified by the idea that I would have to let him go alone. Who would take care of him over there? So many people consider rabbits as meat and as a stupid animal. I prayed that my dead grandmother would come to take care of him when the time came. I visited a medium with Sammy trying to contact my grandmother. The medium gave me some pieces of evidence that she was in touch with my grandmother. She promised me that when Sammy died that she could contact him.

I now felt a bit reassured but I was still collecting all the books I could find about testimonies on the life of animals in the beyond. I very often asked Sammy to try, if possible, to stay in contact with me. I told him that I would go to see the medium to talk with him and I feel sure that he understood me. He would give me kisses, meaning "yes, I promise you I will try."

After we had moved, Sammy was spending even more hours on my chest, when I was sitting on the sofa. Often, Sammy even fell asleep in this position. He gave me a lots of kisses (he would lick my face for long periods). Sammy was under medication and now also had problems with his liver...

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Sammy

Continued from page 12

What we couldn't avoid anymore finally happened in June 2006. Sammy was almost eight years old. I was so sad and empty. But at the same time, I was feeling "Now, you don't suffer anymore and you will never be ill anymore".

I wanted to visit the medium but she couldn't receive me for two months, so I was praying for Sammy, thinking of him, and sending him mental messages. On the day of the funeral for his body, in a cemetery for animals, I suddenly had an idea; a sudden and fixed idea. I remember that I saw a program on TV, years before, where people were saying that they had received messages from their dead daughter through a tape recorder.

In all my series of books, I had read nothing regarding this. But well, I had the idea and I had a small tape recorder (used during my studies) and I immediately had to try. I took a new tape and put the machine on "record." I remember that on TV they said that noise was necessary, so I switched on the TV, at a very low volume. I left the recorder turned on for forty-five minutes.

When I listened to the tape, at around thirty-five minutes, a young voice said, "*We are beginning. I have talked to Cece.*" I was amazed! It was a gentle voice; the kind of a young boy or girl. I listened again and again. Cece was the name of the cat I had adopted a couple of weeks before. I did it, in agreement with Sammy, so that I would be helped to accept his departure.

You can not imagine how I was feeling after this message. It was the same as if Sammy was in my arms just kissing me! My family and even the veterinarian listened to the recording and were all amazed and couldn't explain it.

We put together a hypothesis to explain what had happened. We

surmised that maybe it was a ghost who just wanted to let me think that he was Sammy. But why? And the words that were said were so totally unexpected and at the same time so accurate!

Of course, I retried recording days after this and often received messages. Sammy called me "*Mum*" and there was no doubt that Sammy was communicating with me via the recorder. He is okay and not alone and has told me that he loves me.

That's how the messages from Sammy from the beyond have begun. Since that time, Sammy is still not too far from me and protects me and my animals, but this is another big chapter to tell.

It is so wonderful to know that our love and relationship continues. Those who are crying for the death of their animal should know this so that they suffer less.



"Isn't She Lovely"

Photographed by Unaerica,
www.flickr.com/photos/unaerica/

Thoughts

Continued from page 11

Contacts in Public

The great majority of the experimental sessions carried out by this German engineer occur in the presence of an audience of many people. We had the opportunity to witness one of those experimental sessions in the German town of Wesel at the time of this interview. The session took place in a hotel room closed to the general public. König set out all his electronic equipment, which on this occasion consisted of his ultrasounds device and a new device built with quartz crystals irradiated with ultraviolet light.

During the first experiment, and after a meditation session in which all those present in the room—around sixty people in all—took part, we all began to hear a buzzing sound in the otherwise silent room. After a few minutes, during which König asked his communicators to establish the contact, this background noise changed slightly and voices started coming from the loudspeakers placed in the room. Up to three different voices were heard for approximately ten minutes, replying in German to the questions put to them by König.

The next day and again following a meditation session, König set out his quartz crystals and ultraviolet light equipment. As soon as he turned on the device, a strange sound could be heard through the speakers as if a wind constantly changing in frequency was blowing. Then the background noise changed and the voices responded in German to König's questions for fifteen minutes. His communicators spoke slowly as if they spoke from a vast space (see ITC Journal 24 and 25 for more details)

König Inventions

Here is a more detailed description of some of the most important of the complex devices developed by König in response to guidance from his communicators.

Field Generator: This is an oscillator that generates a wide range of frequencies between 2, 5 and 1,700 kHz that can be used as an acoustic carrier during a microphone recording. The model König has built generates rectangular waves irradiated by an ultrasounds transducer and electromagnetic waves.

Ultrasounds Generator: This device uses a group of frequencies that are mixed and modulated and then transmitted via a radio-frequency carrier of 20 kHz, 29 kHz and 32 kHz. These signals are then mixed, and by means of them, a carrier very rich in harmonics in the range of ultrasounds is obtained.

Infrared: This gadget emits a signal modulated through an infrared emitter and receiver that is then mixed with the microphone signal.

Crystals: These consist of a dozen quartz tips that are irradiated with ultraviolet light of different frequencies. The communicators "select" one of these frequencies, and by means of light-emitting diodes, a large crystal is irradiated with the UV light selected by the communicators. The light of the large crystal is collected by a phototransistor that transforms it again into an electric signal.

The Formation of EVP

Continued from page 9

Sounds mistaken as EVP

Understanding common ways that ordinary sounds are mistaken as EVP provides a way of better understanding how the phenomenal voices are formed. As a reminder, the three types of EVP described above are well-established as trans-communication and there is little doubt of their authenticity as paranormal phenomena. The ways that ordinary events might be mistaken as phenomena are provided here as a way of helping practitioners avoid common “human nature” pitfalls.

Hearing what is expected

EVP practitioners listen very closely to sound files in an attempt to find meaningful sounds. This is because the audio signal normally thought of as just background noise is considered a likely place to find a paranormal message. However, audio files thought to be needed for voice formation are usually very noisy and meaning is potentially everywhere. It is common for a distant but ordinary conversation to be detected by a recorder and then be reported as phenomenal. When a practitioner is expecting a meaningful sound, the next sound is sometimes given that meaning no matter what intelligence the sound actually carries.

Typical sources of sound mistaken as EVP include:

- Ordinary variations in background sound mistaken as voice: For instance a burst of static is sometimes heard as an angry voice.
- Stray radio signals mistaken as EVP: Hand-held, battery-powered recorders are excellent antenna for radio reception and the electronics are capable of making stray AM signals understandable.
- “Morphed” foreign-language sound source: Naturally occurring foreign-language words are sometimes reported as having been “morphed” into EVP but then are recognized by a person who speaks the foreign language as not being EVP at all.
- Reversing a sound track: Some words sound like other words when heard in the reverse.
- Ordinary sound changed with an audio editor to simulate EVP: Changing the tempo of a sound file can change its intended meaning. Since voices of EVP are usually formed out of the background noise, filtering the noise can sometimes change how the words are heard. Excessive amplification can make detected radio audible.

Ways EVP might be misreported

There is some evidence that a sound file might be altered while it is in an analog form, but sound files are thought to be stable once they have been digitized. As such, many people can hear the same digitized sound file and should hear the same sounds. If there is an anomalous utterance in the sound file, then it will be the same each time. This is an important characteristic of EVP if online listening tests are to be trusted to produce meaningful data.

With that said, it is common to see a doubtful EVP example shared on the Internet with a surprising number of people saying they hear it as the practitioner reported. In

subsequent tests, it is possible that even the person who reported the example will not be able to understand the utterance. Assuming the practitioner and listeners did hear the example as reported even though the words were not actually present, what would explain the confusion?

The most common problems include:

- Suggesting what should be heard: Especially when the example is of marginal quality, the listener is easily guided to hear what is expected by how the example is reported even though the words may not be present.
- Fabricating a “likely story”: The practitioner has asked a question and expects the next sound to contain the answer. Whatever the next sound “sounds like” is taken as part of the answer even though it may not make logical sense. To make it sound correct, the practitioner applies meaning to subsequent sounds to tell a story that provides a plausible answer to the question.
- Setting listener expectation in “real-time” dialogue: Two-way conversations via EVP are very difficult, and while shown to be possible, the process can also be misleading. It is reasonable for the practitioner to ask the entity to repeat a word by saying something like, “Did I hear you say ‘Tom?’” However, in doing so, the listener is preconditioned to hear “Tom,” even though the word may not be present.
- Selectively relating utterances to questions: The usual recommendation is that the words of an EVP just before or just after the practitioner’s question can appropriately be applied to the question. As such, asking a question and selecting a word out of a string of possible utterances would be considered selective reporting.

Conclusion

This is a rapidly evolving field of study. People once assumed that we will never know how spiritual things work, but today, we have come to realize that we can know how trans-etheric phenomena manifest; we can quantify them and we can build devices based on our understanding to apply them in our lives.

Subtle-energy phenomena such as EVP are subject to the very conceptual influence of the etheric aspect of reality, but at the same time, they are subject to the constraints of physical processes. Their study requires close attention to how people process information. It is not safe to say that an example is EVP unless the human factor is considered alongside the physical processes. At the same time, this study requires an understanding of the physical processes that might be involved.

This is a complex subject and the average practitioner cannot be expected to be an “expert” in this field without considerable study. Recording EVP is probably a craft, and any good craftsman knows to depend on the foundation of knowledge made available from previous experience and the science that has come before. Our field has little science, but quite a lot of experience. It is for practitioners to take it on themselves to become familiar with the best practices.

Five Classic EVP Experiments You Can Conduct

This year marks fifty years since Friedrich Jürgenson first recorded EVP. From that beginning, a growing number of experimenters around the world have evolved a substantial foundation of understanding about what the phenomenal voices are and are not. Many of the experiments used in this study are simple, revealing and easily conducted at home with little preparation. All are for the most common form of EVP which is formed by transforming noise into voice.

1. Recording EVP without a microphone: A microphone is primarily needed to make a record of your voice and to introduce the noise necessary for voice formation into the recorder. If your recorder produces enough internal noise, you can conduct a normal recording session, but first plug an audio cable into the microphone jack. The microphone jack is designed to disconnect the internal microphone when something is plugged in, so any plug will do. The cable might act as an antenna to bring radio into the recorder, so it would be best if the plug had no wire attached to it.

Assuming you record EVP with a bypassed microphone, this experiment shows that the voice in EVP is not an acoustical phenomena. That is, the voice is not heard in the air but is caused inside of the recorder.

2. Excluding radio signals: Find a metal container that is big enough to hold a digital voice recorder and a portable radio. (Candy sometimes comes in a tin container with a tight-fitting tin lid.) Find a little larger metal container that will hold the first one so that you can wrap the first one with sound-deadening material like foam rubber or cloth. Turn on the radio and tune it to a strong station. Also turn on the recorder and set it to record mode. Place both in the first container, wrap that and place it in the second so that no metal of the smaller one touches the larger one. Now place all of this in a quiet place. If you want to be really sure that you are excluding radio signals, connect a metal strap (power cord material works) from the outer container to a water faucet that is plumbed with metal touching earth or a metal stake going into the ground.

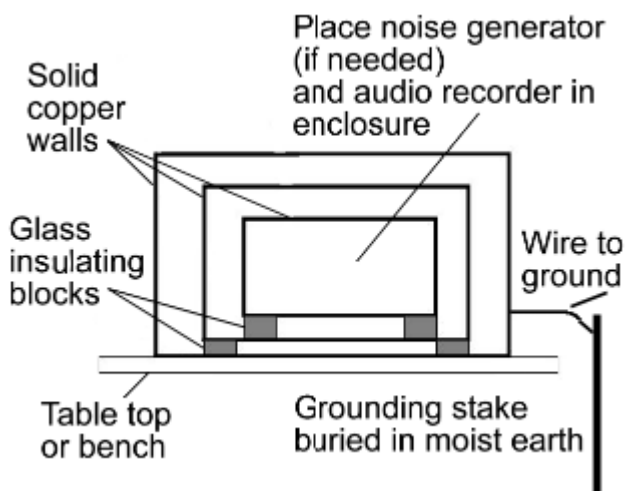


Illustration of RF shielding recommended by Dr. Charles Tart

The radio should only produce static when in the metal container, showing that it is not able to detect radio signals.

If it cannot, neither can the recorder. The radio also provides noise for the recorder to use for voice formation, although it may do fine without added noise. You may need to try a couple of times to get the right noise level. Assuming that you record EVP, you will show that EVP are not produced by stray radio signals. You will also show that they are not “in the air as an acoustical phenomena.”

More information about this experiment is at:

<http://aaevp.com/articles.htm> in the article, “Eliminating Radio Frequency Contamination for EVP” by Bill Weisensale.

3. Simultaneous but different EVP at different frequencies: Select two sources of sound. One should be relatively low frequency, such as that produced by a common fan used for cooling a room. The second might be the higher frequency of trickling water. Conduct an EVP session while using both of these sound sources at the same time. You may need to work with the sound levels to get the right combination so that, when you record EVP in both frequency ranges, you will be able to at least tell they are present as separate utterances.

In the spectral view of an audio editing program, you should be able to see a concentration of audio energy for the fan and a higher-frequency concentration for the water. If you are successful, you should look for EVP in each—possibly at the same time. For instance, you might hear a natural sounding voice in the fan noise and an elfin sounding voice in the trickling of water sound. These would be different words spoken at the same time.

This experiment shows that EVP are formed by transforming available audio-frequency energy into the voice. What the voice sounds like is a function of the available sound, but is also modified to resemble the voice of the person speaking—a simulation of the natural voice.

4. EVP in only one channel or recorder at a time: Use a stereo recorder or two mono recorders. Connect a single microphone to a mono splitter cable and then connect that cable to the microphone jack of each recorder or the two channels of a stereo recorder. Conduct a recording session using the microphone to introduce noise and make a record of your comments. The same ordinary sound, such as you speaking, should be recorded in each channel at the same time.

If you are successful in recording EVP, individual utterances will be on only one channel of the stereo recorder or one of the two mono recorders. Many recorders can be used at one time in this way with the individual EVP occurring in only one recorder. This experiment demonstrates that EVP are caused in the recorder, and possibly in only one component of the recorder.

[Please note: A rule of thumb is that any identical sound that is found to be recorded at the same moment in more than one recording circuit should be rejected as probably not being EVP. The example may be direct voice, which is phenomenal, but current understanding is that it will probably not be EVP.]

Continued page 19

New Direction for the Australasian EVP/ITC Research Forum

by Ingrid Irwin, Rob Smith and Jeff King

The Australasian EVP/ITC Research and Development Forum has been operating as an “open style” board in an endeavour to raise awareness to EVP/ITC in Australia, New Zealand and worldwide. Its aim is to serve as a research and development board with the primary mission to serve the greater good of EVP/ITC’s future. However, as time has progressed, we have encountered various problems with the board and have recently addressed the forum’s direction and focus.

A common problem for many forums, whether EVP/ITC orientated or not, is the lack of member participation. This inevitably leads to a limited database of active contributing members and effectively reduces the necessary data input required for valid research to take place.

Another problem we noticed is that a number of posts submitted were simply opinion-based, and not factually based in their content. This meant that there was no underlying basis or integrity for authentic research as opinion-based ideas maintained by an individual’s deep-seated belief systems were simply being expressed and influencing new individuals to the forum.

We considered the long-term effect to be detrimental to EVP/ITC’s reputation and advancement. The threat of a tainted concept of EVP/ITC was becoming apparent, gradually clouding the empirical focus of professional, knowledgeable individuals whose work may end up being overlooked, ignored or discarded, adding to the possibility that proper technical advancement or insights would simply be ignored by mainstream science.

The practice of opinion-based findings is very prevalent in the whole paranormal arena and individuals who conduct valid research can become discouraged by a lack of a supportive “community of integrity” in which to continue their work. Recognition of this has led us to two models for the direction of the Australasian forum.

One was to continue as a standard open forum and continue with the opinion-orientated ideas and theories. This would mean that the forum would be open to all, but the likelihood of any valid research being conducted would be slim at best. This type of board would be popular, but we felt we would not achieve the appropriate outcome for EVP/ITC research. However, we would remain popular in the mainstream paranormal community.

The second option was to completely move away from a mainstream forum structure and re-create a forum that would be exclusive and research devoted. This option meant that we would have strict rules and guidelines for the capturing and submission of audio files (TACS), and we would have a board dedicated to valid research and the advancement towards understanding EVP/ITC.

After much discussion, we have decided on option two, and we have recently gone through a complete overhaul of the Australasian board to move toward developing the forum as a research board. Radical changes have been



initiated, and although our membership may be limited, our aim is now one of “quality not quantity.” Our primary focus is now realigned towards displaying peer-assessed, factual evidence-based information and recordings.

Many of the above directional changes may seem extreme, but as directors of the board, we all agree that we need to take strong measures to assure high-quality content and provide an atmosphere that will support peer-reviewed submissions. The Australasian ITC Research Forum is now an “invitation only” site and anyone who can demonstrate the expertise and background to participate in the Australasian Forum is formally requested to email aitcrf@gmail.com with their expression of interest. The public is invited to visit the forum at <http://austevp.com> to learn about the latest understanding in EVP/ITC. Be sure to leave a personal notation in the forum’s guest book.

Viewpoint Continued from page 1

Wikisynergy.com is a new online tool in which people involved in frontier subjects can publish information about their group, their area of interest and related subjects. For instance, someone from the FFF might create an article about the organization and go on to create an article titled “Continuing a Relationship with a Loved One.” Subsequent articles might be called for, such as “Protocol for Certifying Mediums” and “Recording for EVP During a Setting with a Medium.” Other people can be expected to contribute to these articles as the community works together to make the articles as useful as possible. Most importantly, rule number one of Wikisynergy is that whatever is written, it must be supported by good references. Opinion must be supported by fact, making the wiki a potentially important source of information for many frontier subjects. These subjects are mostly ignored, or even worse, actively maligned by mainstream critics, so it is up to us.

The Future is Developing Now

It is no longer correct to say that our field of study has no theory designed to explain the phenomena we work with. Such a theory is prerequisite for mainstream to take us seriously. The Survival Hypothesis (aaevp.com) explains the conceptual theory. What seems to be lacking is general agreement amongst members of our community. The “evidence of a maturing field” must include collaboration in turning the Survival Hypothesis according to the AA-EVP into a consensus theory as evidenced by many wikis, forums and research articles made public by many members of our community.

Tom and Lisa Butler

The AA-EVP Atlanta “Big Circle”

March 2009 Report

by Martha Copeland

The March meeting of the Atlanta Big Circle group took place at my home on Saturday, March 21, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. Two mothers from the original start of the Big Circle meetings attended: Judy Quillen and JoAnne Winsor. We had a total of twelve people present and three were first time attendees.

Jamie Butler, who channels spirit guides and recently completed a television pilot for *Beyond Intuition*, was present at the meeting. If you would like to know more about Jamie’s work you may go to her web page located at: www.withloveandlight.com.

Phil Akin, who will be conducting a workshop on ITC at our April meeting, spoke briefly about what he would be presenting.

After the introductions, we proceeded to form a circle with a white candle in the center by holding hands and reciting our “Prayer of Protection.”

Marco Pardi, an internationally renowned scientist in Near-Death Experiences (NDE) research, was our guest speaker. He has worked with Raymond Moody and the late Elizabeth Kübler-Ross. Marco is retired from the Center of Disease Control and now works as a professor at several universities along with his continuation of NDE research. He was very interesting and he was able to communicate on a level that the average person could understand.

Marco shared a quote he tells his students at the start of each new class: “Never believe anything that I say.” He said that he doesn’t believe in anything because once you label something by saying that you “believe” it as a true and validated fact, you no longer question it. Belief sets up boundaries and it should be replaced by investigation. By not limiting ourselves to boundaries, we stay open-minded and not judgmental. Marco further explained that science is a poorly used word in relating to NDEs.

When referring to the afterlife, Marco explained that we have the tendency to use words that separate us from that reality. Two examples are: the “physical world” vs. the “spiritual world,” and the “other side.” By separating or putting things in categories, we are saying that we are not a part of that reality.

As customary, we closed our meeting by forming a circle, holding hands and sending prayers out to those who needed a healing.

We did not conduct an EVP recording session during the meeting but my sister, Ginny, left her recorder beside Cathy’s urn in my living room after all the guests had left. Ginny’s recording was long and seemed to contain many excited voices saying, “*I love you.*” It was comforting to know that our loved ones (from beyond) in the spiritual group called, “The Big Circle” may have been present during our meeting.

[Editor: Although the Atlanta Big Circle meetings are not an “official” AA-EVP activity, we believe they represent an important model for others to come together in their communities to help one another develop contact with loved ones.]

Kizmyt

By Margaret Downey

My poor little kitty, Kizmyt, had to have extensive surgery. All went well and he is now so much better. During this difficult time, I know Cathy was here helping us. Two days after the surgery, as I went to get the cat food, a ladybug landed on a seat in the dining area. Instinctively I said, “Hello, Cathy” and gently scooped up my visitor, took her outside and set her on a lily in our front yard, thanking her for dropping in.

The next day, as I was setting Kizmyt on the pad near the window so he could try to relax, another ladybug (or the same one?) landed right next to him! That’s when it dawned on me that Cathy was watching over Kizmyt and sending me a sign to let me know. Again, I gently scooped the ladybug up and set her free outdoors, this time in the backyard. I’ve lived here over twenty years, and off the top of my head, I can’t recall finding a ladybug in our home, let alone two in one week.



Kizmyt

I decided to do a manual radio sweep session to ask about Kizmyt and Cathy. I didn’t hear Cathy’s voice, but I heard others referring to her:

I said: “Can you make any comments about Kizmyt?”
Response: “**Love the kitty cat.**”

I said: “Cathy, is that you that’s been sending the ladybugs into my house?”
Response: “**She did.**”

I said: “Cathy, I know you helped my kitty. I want to thank you.”
Response: “**Kizmyt is filthy**”

(This was so true! He had a catheter in. I had to keep putting Vaseline all over his hind quarters to keep him from getting “urine scald,” so he was kind of smelly and dirty—but still here, so no complaints from me.)

I said: “Do you want to say something to your mom tonight?”

Response: “**We’re talking ... go find Cathy.**”

(That second part wasn’t too clear but I heard it real-time.)

I said: “Yes, please, go find Cathy. Cathy are you there?”

Response: “**We’ll find her.**”

I said: “You’re gonna find her? Thank you.”

Response: “**Thank you.**”

I said: “Is she there yet? Okay, maybe she’s busy. Tell her I said thank you for helping my kitty.”

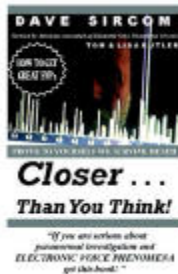
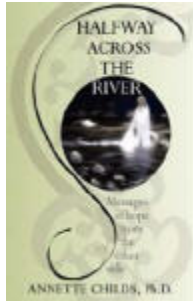
Response: “**Cathy said you should talk.**”

Researcher Reports

- Annette Childs was teaching a class about the afterlife when they received some really great, unexpected EVP. She wrote, “None of the group had even heard of EVP let alone experienced it. It was an introductory class so these were not seasoned seekers in afterlife matters. There was a couple who had come because their only child had died. He was two years old and they are utterly devastated with this loss. They were unemployed with very few resources to find their way through their grief. I had invited them to attend the class at no charge, as a way to give them some exposure to the reality of an afterlife. So I was trying to speak slowly and explain things in very simple terms. (The dad understands some English, and speaks and reads a bit too, the mom ... nothing). I was hoping they could ‘get it’ but the language was a huge obstacle.
“I had just finished talking about EVP and playing some of the samples from the AA-EVP member clips. I took a five-minute break and the father immediately approached a friend and explained that he had managed to read page sixty-three in my book, *Halfway Across the River*, and did he think that their son would be able to do something like the appoit mentioned there. Just as he asked the question the speakers that were hooked up to my laptop began to crackle loudly and a very loud, very clear female voice announced “**We’re working on it**” Needless to say when I got back from the bathroom the whole room was in an uproar and the couple looked like they had been touched by the hand of God!! It was just a beautiful moment for them, and for all!
- Martha Copeland shared a recording made during the Big Circle recording time. She said that many energies were coming through but about 3/4 into the recording, she heard a female voice saying, “**Heather.**” Yvonne Whybra sent back a note saying, “Thank you so much Martha. I heard ‘**Heather**’ the first time I listened to the clip. I also hear ‘**We’re here.**’ You have no idea how much hearing her name means to me. Can’t wait to tell my ex-husband. I am sure he will be equally excited”
- Margaret Downey wrote the group, “Wow! They must like this little Sony SRF-M37V unit. I’m not too fond of how much static there is, but I can’t complain about the results. Right off the bat, I heard the name ‘Steve’ when I asked if anyone was there (that’s a friend of mine who likes to pop in.) They told me it was working when I asked. And then I heard, ‘**Vicki, turn the net on,**’ so I asked if Braden was there. Then I asked if they could tell me some names and got, ‘**Marci, this is Vic and Robert.**’ Normally, Karen’s son refers to himself as ‘Rob’ so I asked, ‘Who is Robert?’ and am hearing, ‘**I’m friends with Braden, Ca-thy.**’ No doubt, it’s some of the BC group coming through. Gotta love it!!”
- Joanne Feldman wrote that she had gotten an EVP message on her analog answering machine unexpectedly and it came on her late father’s birthday.
- Lorie McMorrow wrote, “I read on the last page of the NewsJournal under Researcher Reports that Teri Daner had received the message, ‘**I’m (or Hi) Kevin,**’ then ‘**Glad to talk,**’ then ‘**Geoff.**’ She said she recorded after hearing about Kevin crossing over. I think this is indeed Kevin, and that he went to Teri, perhaps assisted by her son Geoff on the other side.
“Mom’s birthday is April 8, four months to the day Kev left. Hearing these messages has meant a lot to her. She also listened to the EVP Mother’s Day message made by the Forever Family Foundation. How comforting to the many bereaved mothers out there to hear those words, ‘**Hi, Mom,**’ and ‘**I Love You.**’ They speak for the many sons and daughters on the other side who’d like to say those words to their own mothers. Thanks for posting it on the [AA-EVP site.](#)”
- David Mierzwinski reported on an experiment using his Olympus recorder. The experiment was to make a telephone call from the computer to a cell phone, recording into the computer whatever the cell phone picked up, then rub a slightly abrasive surface over the microphone. He did a variation of this same procedure using a cell phone as a microphone and recording to the computer with a VOIP connection (Yahoo). The computer was recording at high quality (44 khz). During the recording, he used 100-mesh Graco paint filter to scratch across the cell phone microphone. He wrote, “This looks like a very fine mesh metal screen (cylinder). The voices come out very fast and are easily heard on playback.” He slowed the recording down 5% to get: “**Without your activity we’re out! Lawrence Allen**”
- Karen Mossey sent in two messages to the group. She wrote, “Even though they are not perfectly clear, I hear ‘**Big Circle**’ in one clip. I hear the whole message as ‘**Her Big Circle is delightful.**’ ... Only my cat Misty was on the bed. And in the second EVP I hear a woman’s voice say ‘**Misty**’ and then a male says, ‘**That’s Karen’s cat.**”
- Christopher Scott says that he is a business executive who became interested in EVP from reading articles on [worlditc.org](#). He writes, “I think I was drawn to EVP for a good reason and am happy it happened. I have worked with classic EVP, radio sweep, [Paranormal Puck](#), video ITC, [EVPmaker](#), and Direct Radio Voice. I have received good responses on all approaches except for the Paranormal Puck.”
- Allison Sniffin said that she made a mini-concert of piano music from the 30s for her deceased mom, which she played and recorded in her apartment. About ten minutes into it, she picked up an EVP when she asked, “Do you know this song, Mom?” An EVP followed that she felt said “**Have we got ... power?**” Other members heard it differently and Barry Pirro wrote that he heard “**Honey, I love you,**” and Allison also heard it.
- Vicki Talbott shared an EVP with the group. She had been with Mary Jo and they were just chatting. On the recording, you can hear Mary Jo before and after the EVP. In between that, you hear Braden saying “**Hi, Mom,**” with an interesting inflection.

News From Members

- Debbie Caruso was shown on a rerun of the Maury show that also featured new recordings. The AA-EVP had several members join after seeing the show. Thanks Debbie!
- Member Annette Childs' book has just won its fourth literary award. The book, *Halfway Across the River*, is a compilation of fascinating stories, from deathbed visions, to messages sent from beyond the veil. The book is available at Annette's website: www.onecandle.net/books.html or at Amazon.com
- Al Rauber did a lecture titled "The Lizzie Tapes-a Paranormal Case Study" on May 31st at the Polaris North Theater in New York. The presentation was an in-depth look at two different paranormal investigations of the Lizzie Borden House in Fall River, MA. Both investigations had been filmed for TV shows.
- Dave Sircom's new book, *Closer Than You Think*, is now available. We think you will find it an interesting read, especially if you conduct hauntings investigations or like to record for EVP in the field. The book is available at Amazon.com.



Have You Received Messages from Sarah Estep?



If you are one of the people who have gotten EVP messages or other signs from Sarah Estep, you can help us. Sarah's daughter, Becky, would like to hear from you. She would like written transcripts of any messages that you feel may have come from Sarah. Becky does not have a computer so she needs you to write out (or print off from your computer) any messages that you have received and mail them to her. Send the information to Becky Estep, 2570 Riva Road Unit 22c, Annapolis, MD 21401-7420. Becky sincerely thanks you for doing this!

Big Circle Recording Dates

Please think about recording with the Big Circle group on, or close to July 9 and 23, August 6 and 20, September 3 and 17, and October 1, 15, and 29. Then go to the Big Circle area of the Idea Exchange and share what you record with other members. In the past, members have recorded messages intended for other members and this has really been a blessing – so join in!

Thoughts From Members

- Lorelei McMorro wrote, "Kevin and I thank you I hope that my sustaining membership will help further the invaluable work of the AA-EVP. To know that the lives of our loved ones continue on the other side, not only enables those of us left behind here to continue to live, but also empowers us to realize a higher purpose and to even smile and possibly enjoy life once again."
- Karen Ashdown wrote, "This is really just to relay a lovely coincidence that happened to me recently. I was reading Martha Copeland's article about her daughter Cathy in the latest issue of the NewsJournal, whilst sitting in a crowded cafe in Melbourne. Just seconds after I read Martha's well-known comment of 'I'm still here,' a gentleman sitting at a table quite some way away (and over the talking of other patrons), talking to his wife in a general conversation, uttered the phrase 'I'm still here' very loudly and very clearly. Probably a coincidence but it felt like a lovely one."
- Regina Antonucci wrote to say that, "In my opinion, your hard work and effort has certainly helped make EVP more acceptable as being a legitimate phenomena of nature worthy of scientific research."

EVP Experiments

Continued from page 15

5. Using a listening panel: Okay, you have recorded an EVP, but when you play it for others, they do not hear it as words or as the same words you think are there. However, they do hear it if you tell them what they will hear and then play it for them many times. As an experiment, use one of your easily understood (Class A) examples or one from someone else that has not been heard by your friends. Play the example for a friend without offering a hint as to what you think is said in the EVP. Play it many times if necessary. Then tell your friend what you think the EVP says and play it several times. Compare the results.

A currently held assumption is that hearing EVP is a little like learning a new language. EVP are made of simulated words and each experimenter records a slightly different simulation. You should be able to show that your friends "correctly" hear EVP better if they are told what to hear. They should also get better at hearing the words without prompting, and over time, as they hear more examples.

Thank You

- To all of those who had agreed to do presentations at the AA-EVP conference: Your willingness to help others learn about EVP speaks more than words, a heartfelt thank you.
- To all of you who sent notes of encouragement to us in response to notification that the 2009 AA-EVP conference was cancelled. They were needed and meant the world to us.
- To Karen Ashdown for sending us a mint condition copy of *Voices From The Tapes* by Peter Bander.
- To all of you who support the Association through service, research and money. We could not do it without you!

AA-EVP Advisory Panel

As most of you know, the AA-EVP was founded in 1982 by Sarah Estep. She was the director until 2000, when she asked us to assume leadership. As with Sarah, we have directed the Association with more of a "Mom and Pop" leadership style than a corporate one. In more structured organizations, it is common to see a board of directors and a list of technical advisors. We do have a fine board, which is listed on page 2.

In the past few years, we have attempted to attract people in our field who have established their credentials as even-minded and wise in the study of things paranormal. As such, we consider the following people to be valued advisors for how this organization is operated today and the direction it will take in the future: Martin Harris, Cindy Heinen, Garrett Husveth and Edgar Müller.

There is No Death and There are No Dead



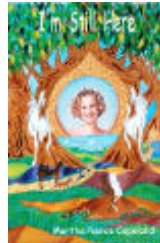
This was written to help teach about EVP/ITC. You can order a signed copy at aaevp.com or send a letter with signing instructions to:

AA-EVP, PO Box 13111, Reno, NV 89507, USA.

The book is \$18 plus shipping. Include tax if you live in Nevada.

	<u>Priority</u>	<u>International</u>
First book:	\$6.00	\$10.00
Each additional:	\$2.00	\$10.00

I'm Still Here



The true story of a parent's deepest pain—losing a child—and the healing journey of that child's contact through EVP

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First book:	\$6.00	\$10.00
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AA-EVP Membership Form

You can also use the online form at http://aaevp.com/online_membership_form.htm

Members	\$30.00 per year	All benefits for one year
International Members		
not receiving the NewsJournal via email:	\$40.00 per year	
Sustaining Members	\$100 per year	Same as above + Member name listed in NewsJournal

In addition to my annual dues, I am enclosing a DONATION of \$_____ to support the work and programs of the AA-EVP.

You may specify that your donation is used for research or for the public outreach and education of the Association: _____

Membership includes quarterly NewsJournal, optional Member Registry, discussion board and archive access.

You must be 21 years old or older to be an AA-EVP member.

Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number (Optional): _____

Member Registry? _____ Include Physical Address? _____ Include Email Address? _____

Do you wish to receive the newsletter via postal service? _____ or via email? _____

Do you record EVP? ___ Plan to record? ___ Did you join because of the loss of a loved on? ___

I understand the Member Registry is a private list and I agree that I will not give any of the information to anyone who is not on the list or use the list for commercial purposes or to further a personal cause. I also understand my membership will be terminated if I violate this agreement. I certify that I am at least twenty-one years of age. I understand that the AA-EVP is not liable for the results of EVP/ITC experiments that I might conduct, and that the Association is not liable for damages due to the use of information it publishes on the Internet or in literature such as the NewsJournal. The AA-EVP reserve the right to refuse membership to anyone.

Signed _____ Date _____

Mail to: AA-EVP, PO Box 13111, Reno, NV 89507, USA