

Viewpoint

Have you noticed that this is issue 29-4 of the ATransC NewsJournal? With the next issue, we will begin our thirtieth year as an organization serving the ITC community!

Books and eBooks

The book we wrote for the Association, *There is No Death and There are No Dead*, is now available as [an eBook](#) for Amazon's Kindle and in the open source ePub format supported in Apple's iPad. Our next project is to make all of the past newsletters and NewsJournals available as a set of probably four paperback books and also as eBooks. Of course, all of the proceeds from the books go to ATransC operation and to research. Please be sure to use the link at the bottom of atranc.org when ordering from Amazon.

Konstantin kept his word!

As you may remember Dr. Konstantin Raudive spoke to us in June during a David Thompson séance and asked us to request that people record on October 27. He also gave us a code phrase. As you will see on page 10, several people heard from him and he did get the code phrase through to one researcher. He also spoke to us during the Stewart Alexander séance (see page 8). This was so unexpected! Dr. Raudive has now come through via two different physical mediums!

Radio-sweep study

As we announced in the last NewsJournal, with support funding from ATransC, the Rhine Research Center in Durham, NC is [conducting a study](#) of how people interpret Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP) produced by the radio-sweep technique. They have collected many good examples, but wish to have a few more for a good sampling. They also want more practitioners represented, so if you have not submitted an example, or have but think you have a better one, send your material to EVPstudy@rhine.org. We expect to cut off submissions at the end of January.

Stewart Alexander

There are a couple of articles about our visit with materialization medium, Stewart Alexander. It is as if the entire journey was an encounter with the paranormal and we look forward to sharing it with you. Each circle we have sat with has taught us more about these phenomena. There are so many people in the world who are quick to discount those things which they have no real understanding of. So, we hope that the articles we have written regarding sitting in physical séances will help educate a wider audience. Many



View from our room in York, England. The sense of solitude was enhanced by the fall leaves moving about in the night breeze. It is not just the over two-thousand-year old York but much of England that looks as if it is out of a Dickens novel.

of them are even being republished in other journals, giving a wider public an ITC perspective on physical phenomena.

Perhaps what this is all about

One of the speakers at the "Stewart Alexander and Friends" conference was [Dr. Annette Childs](#), who has become well known for her studies of grief and bereavement associated with transition. In a way, she echoed an underlying feeling at the conference and this issue of the NewsJournal. Annette and Stewart became friends when she helped him with the grief of his sister's unexpected transition. You will see in her article on page 9, "Got Grief?" that even those of us who have a well-founded understanding in survival are still subject to the intense grief of loss.

Annette spoke about how traumatic brushes with death do not necessarily include pain and trauma. We think this is an important subject and Lisa made a point to access her research references for the "Traumatic Transitions" article on page 16. We think it is an important read for anyone who fears death because they fear pain.

There is perhaps more about death and dying in this issue, which all kind of runs together with our continuing communication with those on the other side. Death is better thought of as transition, and while we need to live life informed about our eventual transition, we also need to stand by those of us who might be experiencing

Continued page 10

Contents

Charlie.....	3
The Stewart Alexander and Friends Conference at Cober Hill.....	4
Stewart Alexander Séance.....	5
Konstantin Synchronicity.....	8
Tribute.....	8
Got Grief?.....	9
Konstantin Raudive Made Contact!	10
Kevin Calls His Mother.....	10
Big Circle Recording Dates.....	10
The Significance of Signs.....	11
Idea Exchange Upgrade.....	11
I Love You Earthmen.....	12
Skepticism: The New Religion.....	14
Gathering Information Using EVPmaker with Allophones Study: A Six Month Report.....	15
Traumatic Transitions.....	16
Top Five Regrets of the Dying.....	17
Debbie Caruso: Confirmation Through Art.....	18
Thoughts from Members.....	18
Researchers' Reports.....	19

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Article Contributions: Articles that explain techniques, the concepts of transcommunication and/or provide a role model to which others can aspire are considered. 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 Association website. Announcements of member activities and reports of successes working with these phenomena with brief comments about your observations, are welcome. Email submission to atranscom@aol.com or mail to Association TransCommunication, PO Box 13111, Reno, NV 89507, USA.

Submission Deadline and Publishing Dates: The NewsJournal is published quarterly, the first of January, April, July and October. Article submission must be delivered to the Association forty-five days preceding the publishing month. A year from the publishing date, the NewsJournal may be added to the Document Archive.

Subscription: The NewsJournal is a member benefit. Membership information may be found on atransc.org or by writing to the above address. There is also a membership form at the back of this NewsJournal. Address label shows membership renewal quarter. Annual membership is \$30.00. International members **not** receiving the NewsJournal via email should add \$10.00 USD for postage.

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Charlie

by Ramona & Sal Agricola

In October of 2007, our beautiful 18-year-old son Charlie's sweet soul left the physical plane. It was a Friday evening and the four of us had come together for what was to be our last dinner together as a family. I remember it was raining. Our older son Michael had just left to see a friend's new condo. Charlie got up from the table, thanked us for dinner—he had started doing that a lot in those last few weeks—and made plans to meet a friend. It was about 7 p.m. when he put his jacket on and walked out the door. Charlie didn't drive. He had a car, took driving courses but would not go for his license. I later found out that he told a friend "Things go by too fast when you drive." He preferred to walk; he enjoyed the interaction it brought. He was a different kind of kid. He listened to folk music like Woody Guthrie, Ledbetter; he loved Donovan, Johnny Cash, Irish Ballads. He had a very peaceful, calm nature. I always called him a modern-day hippie!

His dad and I were napping when the door bell rang, it was about 8:30 p.m. and we were a bit startled when we answered the door. Two Nassau County Police detectives were at our door. I saw their faces; I knew they came about my Charlie.... I fell to the floor screaming. I could hear them saying, "We are sorry to inform you ... there was an accident. A van jumped the curb ... hit your son Charles. He was walking on the sidewalk. He did not make it; it was instant. ... You need to get a family member here to be with you." My husband was being held back, he wanted to go to our Charlie. Our world collapsed....

Our house was filled with people in no time, they came from everywhere. I ran from them to be alone clutching my baby's high school graduation picture. Michael was called home and his friends came to be with him. When the house emptied that night, the three of us lay in Charlie's bed together to be close to him. The wake was a blur. For three days there were two lines formed outside the funeral home and more than 1,000 people came to pay their respects. The church was overflowing and his friends spoke of the friend that they loved so much.

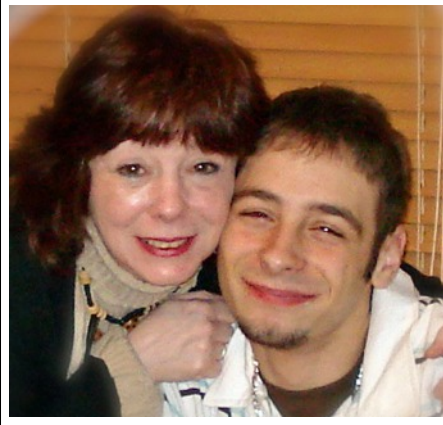
When we left the church, his friend pointed out a rainbow that was over the cross on the steeple. I knew it was Charlie. I have a picture of that rainbow.

Our town closed the streets, stopped the parkway traffic and gave us a police escort to the cemetery. Charlie was everyone's boy and it was a tragedy that touched our whole community. In the limo on the way to the cemetery I said to him, "You came into this world like a little prince and you are leaving this world like a great king."

For about six months we were completely in shock. We hardly took any phone calls and did not leave the house. I gave up on religion and cursed God every day, saying how

much I despised him for his betrayal of Charlie and us. My only prayer was to please protect my children. How could I ever trust anything again? I cried all day and all through the night. In my sleep my husband said I would cry and reach out for Charlie. I still cry every day for my son.

It was at this time Charlie started to make himself known



to us in his spirit form and thus began our journey into spirituality. We felt compelled to "hear" from him and we went to mediums we found through the Forever Family Foundation. He always came through, he is so strong. He has given us many, many assurances that he is always with us but we wanted more.

I had read about David Thompson many times in Victor Zammit's newsletter and was intrigued by the phenomenon of physical mediumship. One day I received an email that David and Chris-

tine Morgan were going to be in Sarasota, FL in June. This was an opportunity I was not going to miss! We flew to Florida and had a wonderful, evidential reading with Christine. She was very kind and gentle and I knew that Charlie would feel comfortable and trust her. We believe that there has to be a connection between the medium and the spirit, there must be trust and integrity to have a true evidential reading. Christine and Charlie quickly became friends. He played his guitar for her and she sang a verse of a song he had written. It was an emotional reading for us but we knew our baby was there and he was happy.

The next night was the séance with David Thompson; an amazing opportunity. We were hopeful that Charlie would materialize but such things are never certain. We all gathered and had to be cleared with metal detectors to enter the séance room. We were seated and I was chosen, with one other person, to inspect David's bindings and all of the apparatus used during the séance. Neither of us found anything suspicious. David was tied to a chair, gagged and put into a booth made of plywood. It was a happy experience; we sang songs and there was joking going on. It is important to emit only positive energy to help bring the spirits through.

It wasn't anything like the scary séances that one might see on TV. The room is very dark and cool because of the ectoplasm. We held hands most of the time. It is required that you do not move or reach out during the séance because it could be dangerous for the medium. In no time spirits began to appear, as David's guide William came first then Walt Disney, Louis Armstrong, a young spirit named Timmy and many more that were not familiar to us. It was upbeat and the spirits were friendly and even playful, taking a woman's glasses and giving them to a man on the other side of the room. They moved Trumpets around the room and gave the Pastor a gift.

Continued page 16

The Stewart Alexander and Friends Conference at Cober Hill

Cober Hill is a conference center developed around an old estate near Scarborough, on the north-east coast of England. In October, we attended the **Stewart Alexander and Friends** conference there. Having developed for more than forty years, Stewart is one of the world's foremost physical mediums. Our objective was to sit with him in one of his rare public séances, but we soon discovered that the conference was no less important.

The fact that the conference was organized and managed by volunteers who have come to know and love Stewart is testimony to the respect he has earned. More than once we heard someone describe the group as a close family. There were ninety people in attendance and we heard not one cross word or criticism ... only friendly faces and very good conversation. Amongst the attendees were academics, practicing mediums and generally well-informed people.

The first thing we noticed about Cober Hill is that it is a long way from home. We landed in Manchester and took a train to York to spend the night. The next morning we continued on the train to Scarborough and then took a taxi to the conference center. The train system is excellent and permitted us to avoid renting a car ... they drive on the wrong side of the road, you know.

As we passed the Blacksmiths Arms pub on our way to Cober Hill, the taxi driver told us that the Queen had recently eaten there. It turns out that it is part of the Duchy of Lancaster's estate, which is the Queen's property.

The weekend conference included talks, workshops and an evening séance. We don't eat beef, lamb or pork and figured we would have to survive on fish and chips. As it turned out, the food was excellent and varied and they always offered vegetarian choices. Being October, we also assumed it would be cold and rainy, but the weather was very pleasant and the trees were all in their most beautiful autumn colors.

Dr. Annette Childs counseled Stewart concerning his grief over his sister's unexpected transition and they have become good friends. She has devoted her career to understanding the end-of-life experience and has important understanding of this which she shared at the conference. If you think about this for a moment, you may understand how rare it is for someone to talk about the actual transition experience. Spiritualists speak of survival and communication across the veil; people interested in human potential speak of

becoming all one can be; but, few of us want to speak about the act of dying.

Annette is the author of *Halfway Across the River*, which details much of what she has learned (see onecandle.net). She spoke twice at the conference. The first talk was focused on deathbed accounts and how important it is to talk about the coming experience based on knowledge and not fear or myth. Her second talk focused more on sudden transition in which the person has not prepared. The message we took away from that talk is that there really is no pain at the moment of transition. Annette has learned that we apparently disassociate from our body

at the moment of trauma. She told us that sudden, violent events are only traumatic when we survive, because the pain eventually must come back.

Bradley Harris gave a talk about his father, well-known materialization medium, Alec Harris, who made his transition in 1974. As Saturday Night Press, Ann and Tom Harrison published a book about him titled, *Alec Harris-The full story of his remarkable physical mediumship* by Louie Harris.

Conference attendees were shaken by news of the transition of highly respected parapsychologist, David Fontana and Tom Harrison's transition three days later, on October 23rd (see paranormalreview.com). Tom is the son of Minnie Harrison who was an important materialization medium.

Tom and Ann were scheduled to give a talk about the Saturday Night Club which is the name given to the circle that supported Minnie. Instead of canceling the talk, Ann gave it herself, and later hosted a party which she said Tom would have wanted to celebrate his life.

Violet Eccles gave a talk about her path of development in mediumship and later taught a workshop about maintaining the mediumistic link. We attended the workshop and came away with a few new tech-

niques which we will share with our circle.

Of course, the highlight of the conference was the Saturday evening séance with Stewart. The sequence of events during the séance was much like the one we describe on the next page. The short description is "amazing!"

The conference was one of the most interesting and enjoyable that we have attended. Being with a community of like-minded people for a weekend is something we all should experience every once in a while; as we all know, we are a rather different bunch!



Cober Hill Conference Center near Scarborough



Stewart with conference organizer, June Winchester

Stewart Alexander Séance

by Lisa Butler

In October, we traveled to the [Cober Hill](#) conference center to attend a [Stewart Alexander and Friends](#) conference, and were fortunate to be invited to stay for a small private sitting. Stewart began developing in a home circle in 1967 and his physical mediumship began showing itself in 1982. He is now retired and seldom conducts public sittings.

Thirteen of us gathered downstairs at circle leader Ray Lister's home in Hull, England. The sitting began with Ray strapping Stewart's arms to a chair with thick cable wraps that assured he could not be released without a cutting tool. He sat in a cabinet made of a frame with cloth sides. Luminous tabs were placed on his knees and on the curtain rod, permitting us to see where his knees were at all times as well as whether or not the curtain was open. Stewart sat with the curtain open for the majority of the séance. The sitters sat close together in a circle so that the sitter on each side of Stewart could hold his hand. The room was small and most of us had our backs to the wall. There was a round table sitting in front of Stewart. It was about eighteen inches in diameter and about two feet tall. Two trumpets sat on it with additional cable wraps and a pair of drum sticks.

Ray said a prayer and a lovely piece of music was played while Stewart went into trance. It was only a few minutes before we heard the first voice come through Stewart. It was White Feather, Stewart's North American Indian guide. He is the first and last to speak in every séance. He greeted everyone and said, "...for a while we shall endeavor to remove the barrier between our two worlds so that once again, within this place of infinite love, we may converse together. We may once again be together as one united whole." He told us that he spoke few words because there was so much to be done, and then he was gone.

Christopher was the next to come though. He is very likeable and fun. He is responsible for relaxing the atmosphere and soon had everyone laughing. He told us he was there to entertain us as everything was being made ready.

Walter Stinson was the next to come through. Walter is a Canadian by birth and was the brother of the famous Boston physical medium from the 1920s and 30s known to the world as Margery. Stewart told us before the séance that Walter is largely responsible for creating the physical phenomena and is in control of experimentation and further development within the home circle. He is also quite a ladies' man with a good sense of humor. He uses laughter



The sitters before the séance: Ray is taking the picture. His wife, June is at left; Brian K. behind his wife, Julie; Tom standing behind Lisa; Carol behind Annette; Stewart standing behind Annette's husband, Brian who is behind Sascha, who sits to your left of his wife, Susanne and Ann at the right.

to raise the energy in the room.

Walter began by saying that he was merely a human being and that there was nothing angelic about him. He told us he discovered that after death, he lived on in a very real world. A world that in many ways was very physical. He said, "Your world to you is a world of reality but I tell you that your world is temporary. Our world is the world of ultimate reality." He said that his world was very similar to ours, that it was a very substantial world; a

world of fellowship and infinite beauty.

He spoke to Ann Harrison to say that he had been with her husband Tom who passed just the week before. He told her that it had been an honor to simply sit and talk with him.

Walter asked if there was a lady present who had not sat at his side before and I replied that I had not. He asked my name and invited me to sit beside him. Since the room was completely dark except for the glowing tabs, a red light was turned on so that I could see to change seats with Ray's wife June, to sit beside Stewart. He explained that for them to work in a physical manner in our world, it was important to hear our voices and that it was the sound that was important.

He then spoke to me directly, asking me how long I had been involved in seeking answers about survival. I told him forty years, and he replied that was quite a long time and that in just another sixty years, I would have been involved as long as he had. Everyone laughed.



Tom and Ann Harrison

Walter told me they were extracting living energy, ectoplasm, from Stewart, and then instructed me to "Reach out very gently with your left hand and take Stewart's hand." He said he wanted me to know the reality of what was about to take place and added, "I do it because I want you to be able to share your experience with others. There are so few in your world who understand this reality of survival, of communication, particularly of that on a physical level." He asked me to gently place my right hand on top of my left, tightly hold Stewart's hand and not to let go under any circumstance.

Continued page 6

Stewart Alexander Séance Continued from page 5

Walter then asked me to slowly move my right hand up Stewart's arm until I felt the strap binding him to the chair. When I confirmed that I felt the strap, he said that they were going to try to take Stewart's arm through the strap, and all of a sudden, Stewart raised his arm with my hand still in his hand. At the same time, there was a noise that sounded as if the strap broke. I was asked to feel the arm of the chair. The strap was still on the chair and not broken! Walter requested that the red light be turned on so that all could see, as I pulled on the strap to show everyone that it was still on the chair.

Walter said that, in ignorance, many would believe that such a demonstration was simply a miracle but that it was nothing of the sort. It was a demonstration of what could be achieved when people gather together in love. Tom began to ask if Walter moved Stewart's arm but Walter interrupted by saying "You want to know if it was the strap or the arm that was dematerialized." Tom agreed and Walter told us that on some occasions it was the strap, and on others, the arm. To Tom, he added, "You want to know what determines what we choose to do." Again, Tom agreed and was told by Walter that his question would be answered "in a moment."

Walter asked me to again place my right hand on my left and tell everyone that I had not let go of Stewart's hand. I



Cable wrap used to strap Stewart to the chair

assured everyone that I had Stewart's hand in mine the whole time. Walter asked me to once again gently move my hand up Stewart's arm. I did and discovered that the strap was back on his arm! Walter said, "Stop, press on the strap. Do you want it?" I eagerly said, "Yes!" and was startled as Stewart's arm again lifted away from the chair, but this time, with the strap still on his arm. Again, the strap made a snapping sound and I was told to take the strap, and when I did, Stewart's arm fell back to the arm rest with my left hand still on it and my right hand holding the cable wrap!

Stewart's hand was on the chair unsecured, but we heard a tapping, rattling sound on the table and Ray told us that it was from one of the cable wraps that we had seen laying there. Then we heard the sound of the strap being tightened on Stewart's arm and I was asked to verify that he was once again secured to the chair. He was!

Walter then said to me, "Know that there is a gentleman here for you. Later, Freda would like to speak to you again."

The light was turned on so that I could return to my seat and the demonstration was repeated for another guest.

Walter asked us to sing, and in a short time, one of the trumpets began flying about the room, and eventually began touching sitters. Tom was to my left and was touched on his chest and then the trumpet touched his left shoulder and gently moved over his head to his other shoulder, continuing to touch him as it did. It moved to my left shoulder and ever

so gently across my cheek, the top of my head, my right cheek and shoulder in a slow motion that felt like a caress. It moved on to touch others and there were many sounds of delighted sitters as it performed impossible maneuvers in the darkness. As evidence of how much the circle has developed, Stewart had been "awakened" during this and had been commenting on the trumpet's movement.

A strange "woof, woof" sound came from the trumpet. Ann Harrison was sitting to my right and said that it was Sunrise, Minnie's gatekeeper

and protector. (Ann's husband, Tom Harrison is author of *Life After Death - Living Proof* which is about his mother Minnie Harrison who was a famous physical medium.) The trumpet stopped in front of Ann and moved in a circle, first one way and then the other. This was Sunrise's signal to the Harrison's home circle that he was present. Ann asked out loud if it was Sunrise and the trumpet moved up and down like someone nodding their head "Yes!"

A TransC member, [Dr. Annette Childs](#) sat with us in the circle. She said something about being speechless about the movement of the trumpet, to which the trumpet also nodded "Yes," and then to everyone's delight, actually moved as if it were laughing. The trumpet tapped on the table and danced on the floor. Another trumpet joined in, and while one tapped on the table, the other moved about on the floor.

We heard a new sound and Ray explained that a voice box was forming between Stewart and Carol. We were told that Dr. Barnett usually uses a voice box, which is formed from ectoplasm and used to produce his audible voice. (Dr. Franklin Barnett is a 19th-century Scottish physician who worked with American trumpet medium George Valentine) Barnett's voice finally became audible and he told us that he was speaking through a device that they have created. He told us that it takes a great deal of energy to accomplish this and that often, when he is finally able to vibrate our atmosphere with his thoughts, there is little energy left for the communication. He said that he is responsible for this method of communication and that slowly it was progressing, and that in the future, they hoped to have other souls use the voice box to communicate. Before he left, he told us that it was his intention to materialize into solid form to be with us later in the séance.

Continued page 7



Stewart Alexander

Stewart Alexander Séance Continued from page 6

Freda Johnson was next to visit the circle. She normally introduces loved ones who wish to communicate with sitters and communicates messages from them if they are having difficulty in getting their messages across via Stewart who is in deep trance. Speaking through Stewart, she asked me to sit beside her. The red light was switched on and I once again traded places with June. Once I was seated, Freda announced, "I have a gentleman here who so wants to speak to you. In a moment, I am going to step aside so he can come and speak for himself."

Freda said that it was extremely difficult for them to do this and that the man would need to hear my voice. She asked to take my hand and I could hear someone struggling to speak through Stewart. The hand I was holding was shaking as I heard "Is that you?" I responded that it was me and the voice said "Dad" I said that I had wanted to communicate with him for a long time, that he was the engineer and I just knew he would figure it out. My interest in communication started with my father's transition. I began recording for EVP because he was an engineer and I thought EVP would be right up his alley, but I have never received an EVP from him. Of course I did not think to ask about this when he was coming through Stewart. It was overwhelming and a wonder that I will never forget. I told him how much I loved him. He told me how much he loved me. It was very emotional for us both. As evidence of who he was, he told me twice that he could walk just fine now. My dad had congestive heart failure which made his feet so big that he could not walk. He also said, "Mother is with me." He always called her "Mother" and not "Mom." This message was very healing for my sister when I told her about the séance. She had been concerned that our mother might be stuck because she had terrible dementia when she crossed.

Other loved ones came through for people. For instance, Stewart's sister Gaynor came through while Annette Childs was sitting beside him. Since Annette had been instrumental in helping Stewart cope with Gaynor's transition, it was a very special reunion.

Freda told Ann Harrison that even though he had only crossed over the week before, Tom was already making himself at home. Freda told Ann that one day she would tell her about the wonderful welcome Tom received. Ann and Tom were members of Stewart's circle.

Walter returned and asked that everyone return to their seats and away from the table. The table had a translucent top with a red light underneath it, so that we could see what was happening on its surface without harm to Stewart. Walter then invited Brian K. to sit at the table across from him. Soon a blob of ectoplasm could be seen on the illuminated table top. It slowly formed into a large hand

which Walter said was his. It knocked on the table and Brian said that it was a big hand. Next, Walter asked Brian to place his right hand on the table with his palm downwards. We could see that the hand moved toward Brian's hand and he announced that it was holding his hand and that it felt like a human hand.

Many of us were called to the table after that. I sat on Stewart's right and Annette sat on his left. We were all asked to put our hands on the table and stretch out our fingers so that they touched the adjacent hand. Walter told us that they were removing Stewart from his bindings so that we could tell others that Stewart's hands were controlled. Once again, we heard the sound of Stewart being removed from his ties.

Annette and I were told to hold Stewart's fingers on the table and Walter asked Ray, who he affectionately calls Raymondo, to switch on the light so that all could see everyone's hands, especially Stewart's. The dark shape of a large hand suddenly came from the direction of Stewart and knocked sharply on the table! We were then asked to remove our hands from the table and hold hands. The table began to move, even levitating on its own. It touched my knee, and judging by the comments of the others sitting around the table, it was touching them as well.

As this was happening, we noticed that someone new was trying to speak through Stewart. It is the practice of the regular circle members to speak encouraging words and to provide the added energy of their voices. Over our encouraging words, we heard a hesitant "Con..." and "Constan..." and then we heard "Konstantin." He repeated his name and then was gone. Walter came back and said that this contact (Konstantin) was unexpected and that, "The gentleman says he has fulfilled his promise. There are great advancements that will be made in the near future." Walter asked if we understood that and we said that we did. Walter continued to say, "He will continue to do his finest. That is all that he can do." To say that we were blown away by this would be an understatement! [Editor: See the **Konstantin Synchronicity** sidebar, on page 8.]

After we returned to our seats, we were told that Dr. Barnett would try to come through and that we should sing to build the energy. One of the women near Stewart announced that she felt hands touch her head and Carol on the other side of Stewart also said that she was being touched on her head. Dr. Barnett spoke, saying that he and another person had partially materialized in the room. For a short time, there were two materialized people at once in the room! Then Sascha, who sat close to the cabinet, announced that he felt hands touching his head. We heard Dr. Barnett tell him to continue his work. Next we touched Tom's head, and then taking Tom's left hand with his two hands said, "God bless you, I am so pleased to make your acquaintance. Continue with your work. You are known in my world." Dr. Barnett moved next to Ann Harrison and then to Annette Childs before returning to the cabinet.

Continued page 8



Stewart and Gaynor

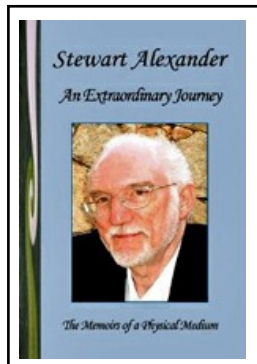
Stewart Alexander Séance Continued from page 7
Dr. Branett talked for a while about the spirit team's work with Stewart and told us about things that they want to accomplish in the New Year, after which he spoke a blessing for us and was gone. Walter returned to say a few words before ending the séance; "We that know the truth about survival ... we have a shared duty and that is to convey to all mankind this wondrous truth and this is something that we can do together, my world and your world. We can reach out together so that we may help the bereaved so that we may quell the anguish of separation. We can work together as a united whole. Understand that whenever you do what White Feather calls 'The work of the spirit,' you will not find us absent. Whenever you send out a call, we shall be there with you. You may not see us, sense us or hear us but be assured that we will be there to help, to inspire, to guide you in whatever way that we can. We are aware of you all as individuals. We are aware of your work so know this: that we are always with you. Together we can accomplish so very much."

Walter closed by telling us it was a privilege to be able to communicate with us from his world to ours. He told us that he hoped we took, "Inspiration to continue on. You are not alone. Good night to you all."

This was a very touching and special experience. We can only say that we felt immensely blessed to have had this experience. We did feel that the two worlds had been joined for those two hours, and yes, we did return home inspired!

We sincerely thank Stewart and his circle for their many, many years of dedication and we also thank the Spirit Team that has given of their time to make this experience possible.

Stewart has just released his autobiographical book, *An Extraordinary Journey: The Memoirs of a Physical Medium*. The book is an exceptionally well-written account of what it is like to be a physical medium and what it means to act as a channel between this world and the next. The book is available at Amazon.com. (please use link at atranscom.org)



Konstantin Synchronicity

As you know, [Dr. Konstantin Raudive](#) spoke to us during a [David Thompson Circle of the Silver Cord](#) séance in Sarasota, Florida. He told us to record for EVP on October 27 at 10 pm and gave us a code phrase. We thought it interesting that one of the words in the phrase was the name of a beloved cat, now on the other side!

I am not sure which of us asked a question at that séance, and the séance recording was so distorted it could not be made out, but the answer that Konstantin gave was, "You and Childs do it." ATransC member Keith Clark was sitting between us, and everyone assumed that Raudive meant to say "Clark" and not Childs. However we thought this very interesting as we were already scheduled to attend a conference in October and friend, Dr. Annette Childs was to be a speaker at the conference. We even told Annette about this strange comment when we returned from Florida. But since she was traveling the evening before us and we would be on the plane on the 27th, it would be impossible for us to record together.

In October we spent all of the 27th on a plane going from San Francisco to London Heathrow, and then to Manchester. At the Manchester airport we carried our luggage to the train station to continue on to York for the night. The first stop for the train was Manchester Piccadilly. As people boarded the train, Tom leaned toward me and whispered, "Is that Annette?" There, sitting down directly across from us was Annette and her husband Brian. They had flown in and spent the night at a hotel in downtown Manchester.

There are trains every thirty minutes going to York and there were six cars on the train with at least ten rows of seats in each car. It is simply unimaginable that Annette and her husband would end up sitting down directly across from us. Put this together with Konstantin's original message and then his coming through in the séance with Annette and me seated on either side of Stewart and well ... what can one say about such a synchronicity?

Tribute

We pay tribute to two people who were friends and who were very important to the field of survival research. They passed within a week of each other in October. David Fontana, author of *Is There an Afterlife?*, made his transition October 20 and Tom Harrison, author of *Life After Death - Living Proof*, made his transition October 23. We know that they will continue their work from the other side but they are greatly missed by friends, loved ones and the people who learned from them.

Please see paranormalreview.com for a wonderful tribute.



Tom Harrison



David Fontana

Got Grief?

by Annette Childs, PhD

As a therapist who has spent nearly twenty years specializing in grief and bereavement issues, I have often seen both the beauty and the burden that is part of the path for those who personally experience the reality of life after death.

You do not need to be a scholar to see the beauty of it: Those who have had some type of afterlife encounter with a deceased loved one can usually use that experience to blanket themselves against grief's very hard edges. I use the term "blanket" very purposely. A blanket can keep you from shivering when it is cold, but it has no effect on the cold itself. In a sense when it's cold, we are in it ... and have to do our best to use our resources to get through it. Such is the nature of grief.

If you are reading this article, it is probably due to some level of knowledge or experience with afterlife phenomena. Maybe this is knowledge you have long held, or maybe it has been your grief that broke you open and made you stretch your perceptions to find what else there may be.

Either way, if you have experienced afterlife phenomena, you have been inoculated with a truth that forever courses through your being. What a gift this is ... but there are times—maybe just moments or hours—but there are times where the blanket of knowing wears thin and you still feel the cold grip of grief.

Because I am an author and researcher, I travel extensively speaking to audiences well versed in afterlife phenomena. I have come to see that there is a true burden that goes unnoticed among the well-informed grieving. One's knowledge of the afterlife is like a lifeboat that one hops into when the ship goes down. Thank God for that lifeboat! But let's be realistic; being in a lifeboat on a stormy sea is still a pretty precarious and difficult thing. That stormy sea is grief, and regardless of how much we know about the "next place," we must travel its expanse until we are once again in a safe harbor. That is the journey of grief.

In grief literature there is a type of grief known as "disenfranchised grief." This is a term used to describe the forgotten grievers of our society. Losses such as miscarriage, pet death, or deaths due to senility or very old age often denote this category of "disenfranchised grievers" in professional literature. A disenfranchised griever is someone whose grief goes unnoticed, or is minimized, because those around them discount their grief based on their incorrect perceptions that this loss should not cause the griever much pain.

I would like to add a new category to the list of disenfranchised grievers: Those who have an irrefutable knowledge of the reality of life after death. In the professional arena these are mediums, healers, researchers; those who have dedicated their lives to investigating, reporting, teaching and bridging the gap between life and death. In the lay public, these are people who have a well-known and substantiated belief in the afterlife that they have shared with those around them. I have had enough of this unique type of griever come through my therapy doors to know that some of the most enlightened among us suffer the consequences of their own wisdom when it comes to grief: They often minimize their own grief because there seems to be an unspoken perception that afterlife knowledge should eradicate symptoms of grief. I have seen this too many times over the course of my career not to have a strong opinion about it.

Survival knowledge and grieving are simply two different

things. Yes, survival knowledge blankets our pain, but it does not change the nature of the cold night of grief that awaits us after the loss of someone we love. Grief has many components about which the general public is unaware. Although I do not have the space in this short article to detail these components, there are very well-defined mental, physical, psychological, spiritual and biological (physical) components to normal grief. Knowledge, no matter how strong it is, does not prevent an organic process that must be moved through. I can perhaps most succinctly convey the concept through the use of metaphor.

In my work as a grief therapist, I see what I do as comparable to the function of a physical therapist who works with patients to help them regain flexibility after being long immobilized by a cast. The death of their loved one, and the loss of that physical relationship, is akin to cutting off a cast that held their life just so, for a very long time. After the "cast" is gone, there is a period of time where I help the grieving to bend and flex the rigid parts of their thoughts and emotions ever so slightly; not enough to cause injury, but just enough to push them past the place that they were yesterday. When resistance arises I use education and compassion to allow the tense and clenched places to loosen a bit. It is then a gradual and sometimes laborious process to learn a new way of moving. The "moving" denotes the journey away from the loss and toward a life without the physical presence

Continued page 20



Angel of Grief ©Stefano Pizzetti, flickr.com/people/spizzetti/

Konstantin Raudive Made Contact!

As we reported in the last NewsJournal, EVP pioneer [Konstantin Raudive](#) told us during a David Thompson séance that he would try to communicate via transcommunication. He asked us to tell everyone to record on October 27, 2010 at 10 p.m.

We were 32,000 feet above Ely, Nevada at 10 p.m., on our way to England. Since we were crossing time zones, we picked Florida time because that was where we were for the séance. Unfortunately, we were close to the engines and all our recorder picked up was their noise.

We received no reports via the website contact tool. However many members emailed us to report that they recorded Konstantin's name. Jutta Liebmann of the German VTF reported "...just in the beginning of the recording a high female singing voice announces '*Kommt Raudive*' and then a male voice similar to Raudive's lifetime voice says '*Raudive ... kommt Raudive....*', the messages are in the German language." "Kommt" translates to English as "come."

The promised code phrase was "Light 22" and we are happy to report that member Jayne Thompson succeeded using EVPmaker and crowd babble. The "light" is clearly discernable, but the "22" is a little more difficult to hear. Nevertheless, we will have the recording [on the website](#).



Margaret Downey conducted a light reflected from moving water ITC experiment October 15, and as can be seen in the resulting image (left), there is a resemblance to Konstantin Raudive (right), especially the nose.

Viewpoint Continued from page 1

that most important crisis and look forward to the continued relationship with our loved ones who have found their new home on the other side.

We close another year and begin a new one much like our transition to the other side. We have been honored to have your support and interest throughout this past year and look forward to our continued journey this coming year. We wish you health, happiness, success, and prosperity in the New Year. And we end this issue with the last words we heard from Konstantin Raudive, "There are great advancements that will be made in the near future!" Tom and Lisa

Kevin Calls His Mother

by Lorie McMorrow

Mom mentioned that my brother-in-law Gene still misses Kevin a lot. I told her about a dream with Gene in it I had last June. In it, Kevin said that he'd been trying to tell Gene that he's okay, but that he doesn't hear him. Later that afternoon, Mom said she was feeling sad about problems with some family members, and was especially missing Kevin. She said to him, "Wish I could hear your voice again."

At 7:00 that evening Mom called me. I heard the phone ring once but couldn't answer since I was brushing my teeth.

Mom called again a few minutes later and sounded surprised. She said she had just called me and some guy answered and said "Hello." She said, "Who is this?" Then she heard, "Kevin." She heard soft static in the background and then felt a vastness like his voice was coming from space.

Also, when I had talked to Mom this afternoon, I had told her about another dream that I had a few days after the one with Gene. In the dream, Kevin and I were talking on the phone. I remember hearing his voice and was very surprised. I said, "Kevin, is that you?" He said, "Yeah, it's me." I was amazed that I could hear his voice and it sounded just the same as always. He said we could talk anytime, that "It's really not that hard."

Well, I've been asking Kevin for a long time to try to get a message to Mom where she could hear his voice, that she really needed that. Looks like he's been working on it!



Big Circle Recording Dates

We want to focus on publishing more Big Circle-oriented articles on the website. To help maintain the focus in the Idea Exchange, Rhonda Burton has agreed to moderate the Big Circle forums. Thank you Rhonda.

[Participation in the Big Circle is easy](#), and for many has been very rewarding. Simply record for EVP on or near Big Circle night and then share your messages on the ATransC Idea Exchange. Use the session to reach out to loved ones and ask the Big Circle for help. There is a good article about the Big Circle in the Circles section of the website. Upcoming recording dates are:

January 6 and 20, February 3 and 17
March 3, 17 and 31, April 14 and 28

Our friends on the other side are there to help recorders at anytime. Often members get messages that help other members so be sure to share what you get in the Idea Exchange.

The Significance of Signs

by Margaret Downey

Last February, I received an email from Susie Falco telling me about a “sign” she received from her son, Bo. Susie had been speaking with Dave Kane and the two of them had been sharing stories about how their children have continued to get messages to them after they transitioned. Dave had mentioned to Susie about two EVP I recorded from his son Nicky saying, *“Hi Mom, it’s Nicky”* and *“Mom and Dad, this is Nick.”* She wrote, “It just blew me away”[to learn of EVP].

Susie then shared the following story with me about the mysterious phone call she’d gotten from her son, Bo, shortly after his death. “We have been getting amazing signs, which are too much to get into, but I would like to share his ‘voice’ sign with you. One day, my cell phone rang, and the number was from another state. When I answered it, I heard my son’s voice, like it was underwater and with some static. It said ‘Hi, hello?!’ I asked who it was and it disconnected. When I called the number back, the number was full of static and said that the number was no longer in service. I then researched and found that the number was of an auto body shop in Bethesda, Maryland and it has been out of service and boarded up for years.

“I know it was Bo, and I even knew it before I answered. I can’t explain it, other than the hair on the back of my neck stood up, and I felt kind of sick at the sound.

“I just wanted to let you know of another parent who believes the fact that my son contacted me in this manner [via EVP] after passing. It really is important for me to know that my son is somewhere, communicating with us and that our love is as strong as ever.”

I was touched to read about her experience and wrote back to let her know I’m always telling people to keep on the lookout for signs because they come in so many different ways, and I believe each and every one of them is a gift, no matter what form it takes.

I couldn’t help but think of our dear Debbie Caruso as I wrote those words to Susie. I remembered Debbie talking about getting messages from her son, Joey. My heart was still aching over Debbie’s recent unexpected transition in January but I found myself smiling in that moment, recalling her comment about how, to others, certain things might seem like nothing important, but to her they were signs. I began to wonder if perhaps the timing of that email was a sign of its own!

A week later, I conducted an EVP session with the intention of trying to hear from Debbie. I wasn’t thinking of Bo at the time, but he came through instead. He said, *“It’s Bo, I’m talking to Mom”* along with several other

things. I believe Debbie, knowing how important it would be for Susie to hear from her son, helped make this happen. I sent all the audio files to Susie and got a reply that not only did it sound like her son, but her daughter and skeptical husband could hear him too. Susie shared the EVP with a local medium who also confirmed it was Bo.

Fast forward to August 20th, which happened to be the 30th anniversary of a beloved mentor’s tragic death. I opened my email to find the following story from Susie, whom I’d not corresponded with in months: “Hi! It’s me, Susie. You probably don’t remember me, but hopefully you may! My son, Bo, sent an EVP to you last February, and it was amazing!! You were so smart and sweet to send it to me, verifying his voice!! It is so special to be able to hear him! I can never thank you enough.

“Here is the weird part. My friend, who is a medium, called me yesterday and said that one of the messages that he had sent you, *“Hey, Mom, it’s me Bo”* in a singsong voice appeared on her iPod!! It is on my computer, and nowhere else (I do not own an iPod). She doesn’t even use iTunes. It is quite a mystery! Of course, we know that somehow he did that, so she could listen, and then tell me! I just wanted to share that with you!”

Now I know, as Debbie noted, many people will say all these things and other examples like them have mundane explanations or are just coincidences and can’t be “scientifically” proven. But for those of us who feel our loved ones with us in these moments, and believe they are doing what they can to provide assurances of their survival beyond the physical as well as their continued presence in our lives, these are without question ... signs.

I read a wonderful quote by Carl G. Jung this week and think it relevant here, *“Science is the tool of the Western mind and with it more doors can be opened than with bare hands. It is part and parcel of our knowledge and obscures our insight only when it holds that the understanding given by it is the only kind there is.”*

Idea Exchange Upgrade

The discussion board will be upgraded sometime in the first week of 2011. The old one was a good beginning but it had become very out of date. The new one offers many new features which we will gradually roll out as we organize members to be moderators.

An announcement will be sent out. Be sure to drop by and say “hello.” It will be at <http://atransc.org/forum/>



I Love You Earthmen

Original version by Richard Smith and Laura J. Bartel at paratexas.com/ILoveYouEarthmen.htm

This is a report on EVP sessions using allophones generated with Speakjet. Using this technique, contact was made with an unusual entity named Julius, representing himself as a member of a group who wishes to communicate with “Earthmen.”

Many people are now conducting EVP experiments with the allophones produced with Speakjet. This report includes information on how we have adapted this technique. We are not suggesting that you change your current method, but merely that you may find something about our technique that is helpful to you. In the conversations with Julius we found that it seemed to be important to him that we were consistent in method. He frequently would complain when the session did not go well for him and his group.

Although some still prefer the more human-sounding voices common to the traditional white noise-sourced communication, we have found nonetheless that using synthesized voice, with adherence to certain protocols, can bring forth an extraordinary type of “other dimension” EVP communication. Understanding the robot-sounding monotones of the synthesized speech may take some effort, but you will find that just a little time and practice is all that is necessary to adapt to the characteristics of these voices. These protocols are easy to apply, and could increase the overall effectiveness of the session, bringing you a compelling verbal exchange with a new dimension of entities.

An operational note: We feel it is important to remember that our own minds may at times attempt to influence our perception of the EVP voices we are hearing. For that reason, we always present our recordings to as many other individuals as possible for their opinion on interpretation of the messages. If we have problems in the area of agreeing on the wording of our session messages, we may withdraw that particular sample for further study or discard it entirely.

In EVP studies as described in this article, it is important to maintain a stable protocol. Any changes in protocol during the study become a part of the protocol of the experiment and should be so noted for the next session. Also, what you use to review a sound file may result in changes to the audio structure and thusly affect its interpretation.

Recording technique

We suggest that you begin every session with an opening prayer or statement of your intention for only benevolent contacts. For example: *“We seek communication with spirits who have passed from their lives on Earth or who may be entities of another existence or dimension. Any entities who*

wish to communicate in a meaningful dialogue, please speak to us. It is important that you give us your name so that we may be able to better identify you in the future.”

In this study, we used three different methods of recording. In all recordings we used the [EVPmaker software](http://stefanbion.de/evpmaker/index_e.htm) developed by Stefan Bion and the allophone file which is freely available at stefanbion.de/evpmaker/index_e.htm. Because the staccato output can mask your words, in this protocol, we turn off the EVPmaker output while asking questions. The output is on for ten seconds to allow the entity to respond. [Editor’s note: keeping a standard duration for responses is a good idea because the number



Paratexas recording studio

of EVP per question can be used as a measure to help assess the effectiveness of a technique or setting.]

EVPmaker loads the allophone file into a buffer and randomly selects parts of that buffer to form a new sound stream for the output. It is believed that the EVP is “inserted” into the physical by influencing the random process. Other sound files can be used, but the allophones help you avoid mistaking ordinary speech for EVP.

Detailed instructions for EVPmaker setup and routing signals in a Windows computer are provided in the article at paratexas.com/ILoveYouEarthmen.htm.

Method 1 (okay): After your opening prayer, turn on a voice recorder, ask a question and then play the audio output from EVPmaker with the computer’s speakers. Let it play for 10 seconds and then turn off the speakers (or pause EVPmaker), ask a second question and turn the speakers on again for another ten seconds. The final recording is transferred to the computer for waveform display and review in an audio management program.

Method 2 (better): A second technique is to use a computer microphone to record directly into the computer instead of using an external recorder. Any good audio management program will work and both the EVPmaker output and microphone input can be directed to the audio recorder. Recording with the computer produces a cleaner audio file. Make a new file and begin recording as you ask your first question. As in Method 1, record for ten seconds and then pause EVPmaker while you ask your next question. Begin EVPmaker for another ten seconds, repeating this process for the duration of the session. In the end, you should have a sound file containing your questions with no EVPmaker in the background, and ten seconds of EVPmaker output after each question. See atransc.org for the open-sourced Audition audio management program setup information.

Continued page 13

I Love You Earthmen Continued from page 12

Method 3 (best): No microphone or external input is used in this method. As in Method 2, set EVPmaker as an input to your audio management program. Set up a new audio file, and with EVPmaker paused, begin recording as you speak your questions into the room. Then run EVPmaker for ten seconds, pause it to ask your next question, restart EVPmaker for ten seconds and so on for the duration of the session. An option is to record your questions with the external voice recorder, and later, add that sound file back into the internally recorded file.

We thought all we would hear on playback was EVPmaker output, but to our astonishment, we were presented with an entirely new version of dialogue from our communicators. We soon realized that there was an estimated 85% to 90% change in all the allophones and the translation was clear and concise in comparison to the other two methods.

Important Note: This technique has been developed in a computer running *Windows Professional XP*, which allows us to monitor on the computer speakers what the system is recording. Unfortunately, *Vista* and *Windows Seven* will not allow this. So far we have no patch or remedy. We will note on the ATransC Idea Exchange if we come up with a solution.

Fine tuning the communication process

We at paratexas.com have begun testing a process of using audible cues to prompt the communicator's replies. During the session, we use a sound generator (free downloads are available on the Internet) to introduce a 500 Hz beep before each question, a 1000 Hz beep indicating the beginning of the ten second EVP record interval and two 1000 Hz beeps at the end of the ten second interval. This seems to keep the session moving and helps keep the topics relevant since the more casual and random communicators don't seem to catch on well to this kind of prompting. Julius Group EVP, however, may show with time a better performance with this type of organization. At first we prefaced our sessions with an explanation of the tone cues, but we no longer do that. We simply apply the tones and see what happens.

Closing comment

Julius asked for more experts to join in this communication, that's why we are bringing this to the ATransC group (you're the experts!). We'd love to see some of the ATransC members get in touch with Julius's group or perhaps have an encounter with similar entities! It's a good idea to practice your technique before asking for participation from Julius or other similar contacts. He has shown us that he will comment if we get sloppy on our procedure!

TIP: Write your questions before the session, make them brief as possible and be careful about questions on personal issues. The entity is likely to direct you to "*rely on your faith.*" It's probably more important *HOW* you phrase this kind of question. It may be better to first develop a trusting exchange with the group while becoming familiar with universal and spiritual law so your intent won't be construed as self-serving.

Beginning setup for EVPmaker:

So far we are using only randomized allophones and cues, and are varying settings as little as possible. Segments are set between 20-50 milliseconds (ms) low, and 100-150 ms high. Take care to avoid changes during any particular EVP session as it is not known to what extent your contactee may be relying on the stability of methods used. We feel that changes to settings here should be done in small increments and we intend to continue experimenting with varying settings.

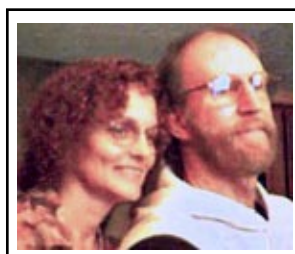
Overlap, Z Cross and X Fade may have the effect of smoothing over syllables for regular speech patterns. We prefer an unaffected interval between syllables for our EVP samples as it is important to allow the contactee a clear opportunity between syllables for more precise diction.

EVPmaker has quite a few options and appears to be capable of recording, providing a file system, and many other extras for the experimenter who is not using other software for processing. At this time we are not indulging in a testing of the EVPmaker software per se, but are simply using the functions which suit our needs for the time.

Configuring Windows XP for recording:

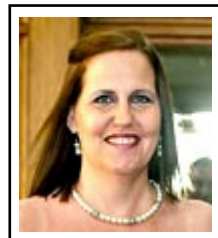
Stereo Mix capability: This may also be called "**Wave Out Mix**". It enables you to monitor the audio when you are recording from an external source, which is important when working with EVP. Open the **Control Panel** and select **Sound and Audio Devices**. Select the **Audio** tab and click on the **Volume** button in **Sound Recording**. Make sure **Wave Out Mix** is selected.

Later versions of Windows have problems with this, but it is possible to right-click on the **Sound Control Panel** and select **Show Deactivated Devices**. There may be a **Mix** item there, and if so, activate it. Otherwise, find out what kind of audio board your computer has and see if there is a driver available on the manufacturer's website.



Richard and Mary Smith are founders of Paranormal Investigations of Texas (paratexas.com) located in Alvin, TX. They began working in earnest with EVP in 1997 and have aggressively pursued EVP studies in the field and on the Internet since then.

Laura J. Bartel is an ATransC member and currently an associate EVP researcher with Richard Smith at the Paratexas.com audio studio in Alvin, Texas. She holds a bachelor of science degree in polymer chemistry and is working toward a in masters in forensic psychology.



[Editor's note: This article is extracted from the original version at paratexas.com/ILoveYouEarthmen.htm. There are many sound files there containing very interesting comments by the Julius Group. Two examples are at atransc.org/techniques.htm, along with the detailed instructions. One example is Julius clearly saying "I love you Earthman." The second is an example of how the tones are used as cues.]

Skepticism: The New Religion

by Roy Stemman, paranormalreview.com, Oct 3, 2010

Those of us who have received evidence that convinces us we will continue to exist, in some form, beyond death know that it can be a life-changing discovery. And most of us feel that this world—humanity as a whole—would be a better place if more people had knowledge of the evidence for survival after death and the opportunity to explore the evidence and the implications for themselves.



So it is hardly surprising that so many comments on my blog (Paranormalreview.com) in recent weeks have expressed dismay over the decision by the Spiritualists' National Union [whose headquarters is at the Arthur Findlay College, Stansted, Essex, pictured] to shut down *Psychic News*, a newspaper dedicated to promoting that evidence globally for almost eighty years.

Though its readership has been declining in recent years, it has been responsible for introducing many people to the **scientific evidence** for an afterlife as well as Spiritualism's philosophy. Its demise has left a gaping void and it is tremendously frustrating that those responsible for the decision are not answering questions about the real reasons for closing it, or their failure to come up with a rescue plan.

Contrast this lack of communication from Spiritualism's largest UK organization with the activities of the skeptics—people who are on a mission to dismiss *all* evidence for paranormal phenomena and belief in an afterlife.

They are growing in numbers. Indeed, it seems to me at times as if skepticism has become a new religion. Their meetings take place at top venues around the world and their speakers' skeptical assertions are lapped up with zealous enthusiasm by the delegates.

They even have their own Messiah—James Randi—a bearded prophet of rationalism whose appearance on stage at these events is usually greeted with a reception akin to worship. In the October news and updates email from the James Randi Educational Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, “social critic and magician” Randi says:

“For those of you who have supported the JREF since our inception in 1996, and even for those folks who are new to our coterie, there are a plenitude of reasons to be delighted.

“For instance, the JREF plans in the short term to enter the realm of digital publishing with skeptical titles poised for release on the iPad and iPhone, Kindle, and other digital schemes. We are increasing our video content on

randi.org.

“We have also launched a new grants for educators program and our regional workshops are a reality with St Louis, Chicago and Louisville already on record as the first of many such planned skeptical assemblages. We also recently awarded four new academic scholarships.”

The JREF is not alone. Another non-profit organization, the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (CSI), publishers of *Skeptical Inquirer* announced two days ago that it wants to recruit a full-time communications director to handle press relations and publicity. Experience in public relations and/or journalism is required, of course, and applicants must be “familiar with the organization’s mission and demonstrate a commitment to humanism and skepticism.” Salary will be based on experience.

The CSI is an associate of the Center for Inquiry (CFI) which was established in 1991 and has expanded rapidly since then, moving into a new 20,000 sq foot headquarters in Amherst, New York (pictured), in 1995, to which it added a 15,600 sq ft research wing five years ago. With its mission “to oppose and supplant the mythological narratives of the past and the dogmas of the present” it has had considerable success in placing skeptics on national TV and radio programs.



“Literally hundreds of guests have been placed on thousands of programs,” says its website. “This includes all of the major networks – CBS, ABC, NBC, Fox, PBS – and virtually all of the cable companies – CNN, CNBC, MSNBC, C SPAN – as well as National Public Radio, AP Radio, etc.”

The CFI maintains a Council for Media Integrity and “a rapid-response network to try to monitor programming and fight for balance in the media.”

So, what’s the difference between the SNU and the skeptical organizations—apart from the blindingly obvious fact that they champion very different philosophies? It’s clearly all about communication: telling the world what you are doing and even appointing professional people to do so on your behalf.

Whilst the skeptics are busy coming up with titles that can be read on iPads and Kindles, the SNU has killed off Spiritualism’s only independent, weekly newspaper and fired its staff.

For the record, I know that the SNU and its churches, ministers, mediums and healers do a tremendous amount of good in presenting evidence for spirit communication and promoting spirit-inspired philosophy. But it needs to be shouting that information from the rooftops. It has to explore ways of publicizing its activities (and those of similar organizations) through every avenue available.

The SNU website assures us that it “promotes knowledge of the religion,

Continued page 15

Gathering Information Using EVPmaker with Allophones Study: A Six Month Report

submitted by Cindy Heinen, Study Manager

The study is half way through in November. Since May, a new target item has been put in place on the first of every month in hopes that this target would be positively identified in [EVP recording using EVPmaker and allophones](#).

- May: We had 3 participants and 4 submissions.
- June: We had 2 participant and 3 submissions.
- July: We had 4 participants and 15 submissions.
- August: We had 2 participants and 154 submissions.
- September: We had 3 participants and 116 submissions.
- October: We had 3 participants and 72 submissions.

As you can see, submissions have increased. Participation appears low but I do not know how many people are attempting to do the experiment but are not recording anything they consider worth submitting to the trial. Also, submissions indicate that only ATransC members are participating. Early in the study, I announced the study in several different avenues outside of ATransC, including presenting the study at a conference, posting a blog about the study and basically talking it up among other like-minded communities on the Internet. These attempts have always seemed to generate a bit of enthusiasm but I just have not experienced any follow through by those who have expressed interest.

The protocol for the experiment is quite stringent, and for a submission to be considered positive, it must be heard without prompting as the participant heard it, by two members of a three-person listening panel. While we have had a few “close calls” by adhering to the written protocol, we have not yet received a positive hit.

I noticed an interesting trend while reviewing all the responses that have so far been cataloged for the study. Of the 364 submissions that have been received, twenty-nine seem to speak directly to the experiment. Most of these indicated difficulty in doing the experiment with comments like *“I can’t tell you”* or *“Can’t look.”* While these comments only make up eight percent of the submissions it still stands out to me as something of interest.

Of interest is that we began receiving positive hits in September for the target that was to be put in place in October: a holy book. Those who follow the reports on the experiment in the Idea Exchange know that I in particular had high hopes for this target and was looking forward to it being put in place in October. Margaret Downey, who is the only other person besides me who knows what the targets are to be, is the one who finds and places the actual target. She chose a holy book whose message had great meaning to her. I found it intriguing that we would get multiple hits for the October target in September, some of which passed the listening panel test. These audio files sent to us in September were: *“red book”*; *“green book”*; *“Bible”*; *“book is the key”*; *“scripture”*; *“a certified orange book(let)”*; and, *“popular book”*. Some of these,

especially *“scriptures,”* *“Bible”* and *“book is the key”*, might be considered references to a holy book. In October, we only got one hit for book and that was *“phone book”*. This is especially interesting because, as was brought to my attention, the word “book” is one of the words that can be heard repeatedly in EVPmaker with allophones. We caught the “book” several times in addition to references to holy books seven times in September but only one reference to a book as a phone book in October.

Jayne Thompson also received two interesting recordings in September. One was *“copper metal”* and the other was *“It’s a penny.”* The target for September was a pair of scissors but Jayne brought her recording to Margaret’s attention and Margaret in turn told her that there were indeed pennies on the middle shelf of a bureau that was in a different room from the target object. Who knows, maybe our friends did not read my protocol.

It appears that we are not receiving positive target identification, probably because of too few participants. Nevertheless, you can see there are other outcomes in the experiment that

may give us insight into the nature of EVP communication.

I encourage all those who are interested in this trial to participate. Some of the participants who have only submitted once have submitted some remarkable and illuminating samples, even if they did not get the target correct. I am grateful to those who are trying.

Skepticism:

Continued from page 14

philosophy and science of Spiritualism” and that it “unites Spiritualists throughout the world and supports 340 Spiritualist societies and churches.” It also holds over 1,500 meetings a week across the UK—far more, I’m sure, than the rapidly-expanding skeptics groups in the US and Europe.

That’s all well and good, but in the battle for minds it seems to me that the skeptics have the upper hand right now. Their skepticism is even influencing the treatment of spiritual and paranormal stories by the supposedly objective media, due to a concerted campaign on their part. As a result, many newspaper and magazine articles I read now refer to Spiritualism in the past tense—as a religion that thrived in the 19th and 20th centuries, but is now virtually dead and buried.

We know that’s not true. But closing down Spiritualism’s unique weekly record will simply reinforce that view around the globe. It’s time for the SNU and *all* Spiritualist organizations to speak up!

[Editor: The skeptical organizations also have a substantial influence on how universities are funded and how the government grants your money for research. See **Why Has There Not Been More Study of the Paranormal?** at atransc.org/research.htm.]

Traumatic Transitions



Rising Lotus, Setting Sun
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When a loved one dies it can be even more painful if it happens in a traumatic way such as a car accident. We not only suffer from the shock that comes with a sudden loss but we also worry that our loved one suffered. In the article, "The Acute Dying Experience," Spring 2008 *Journal of Near-death Studies*, Dr. Michael Sabom reported research showing that: "... paradoxically the more terrifying and traumatic an accident may *appear*, the more peaceful and painless it may actually be *experienced*."

Most studies about the dying process are concerned with people who have a chronic illness such as cancer. These studies have found that despite our medical advances fear, pain, fatigue, depression, loneliness, isolation, anxiety, insomnia and other unpleasant symptoms accompanied the dying experience.

In contrast to the uncomfortable days of the chronic dying process, sudden, traumatic death happens in a matter of seconds or minutes and is reported to be pleasant. Sabom writes that there are two main components in an Acute Dying Experience (ADE): psychological dissociation and heightened arousal. Dissociation at the time that a traumatic event is occurring is defined as peritraumatic dissociation which may have an altered time sense, with time being experienced as slowing down or rapidly accelerating. According to Sabom, "It appears to be an adaptive response that promotes survival by holding paralyzing emotions in abeyance, increasing mental alertness and blocking disabling pain."

Sabom's study is based on reports from people who survived a traumatic, life-threatening experience. With such experiences can be profound feelings of unreality that the event is occurring or that the individual is the victim of the event. The person may experience depersonalization or feel that they are out of their body. For instance:

During the two seconds prior to a head-on collision with an oncoming Buick, one man perceived incredible visual detail. He wrote that it seemed like an eternity and that he remembered studying the hood of the Buick. The emblem

on an older Buick has three shields on it and he could almost count the ribs going across the shields themselves. He saw the little band of stars with little ribs on them. He could see through the slat in the grille and see the ribs of the radiator.

In another traumatic experience, a Marine pilot described his 15,000-foot free fall into the Pacific. He was falling and working with a chute that would not open and all of a sudden he was 15 to 20 feet away from his body. He could see his flight suit and helmet in detail and was surprised to see he was not wearing the boots he usually wore.

Pan American World Airways flight 110 was turned into a burning inferno during a terrorist attack in 1972. A flight attendant reported that she crawled onto the only two seats not burning. She was incredible happy and filled with joy. She saw herself lying there in her uniform through the smoke and wondered why she wasn't moving but she said that she really didn't care because she was so happy. All of a sudden a passenger screamed, "Open the window. Help me!" She thought "I need to help that lady," and abruptly returned to her body.

Sabom's study included forty-nine patients who survived a serious, life-threatening accident. Eighty-four percent of the patients experienced no pain at the time of the injury, yet eighty-seven percent experienced moderate to severe pain minutes to hours later. All injured participants endorsed the statement "I felt surprisingly little or no pain immediately at the time of my injury." What this is pointing out to us is that a loved one who died in an accident would not feel any pain. They would go from an ADE to a near-death experience. Pain is only felt when we continue to be in the physical by surviving the near-death experience.

This may also be comforting to those of us who say, "I'm not afraid of dying, I'm afraid of the pain." It seems that with acute sudden death there is none!

Charlie

Continued from page 3

Then the big moment came when William told us that Charlie was there and he was happy. He said that Charlie was a bright light in the afterlife and that his purpose is to console and help children cross over without fear. The spirit guide, Timmy, brought Charlie through to us. It was a joyous moment; he spoke to us about the love we share and he asked his dad to promise him that he would not avenge his passing. He kissed my forehead and gently held my face in his hands. We feel that it was a wonderful experience and it is the closest we will come to feeling our son's presence again in this lifetime.

[Editor: Learn more about the Forever Family Foundation at foreverfamilyfoundation.org.

- David Thompson is at silvercordcircle.com and atransc.org/circle/david_thompson_seance1.htm.
- See christinemorgan.com.au for information about Christine Morgan.]

Top Five Regrets of the Dying

by Bronnie Ware

For many years I worked in palliative care. My patients were those who had gone home to die. Some incredibly special times were shared. I was with them for the last three to twelve weeks of their lives.

People grow a lot when they are faced with their own mortality. I learned never to underestimate someone's capacity for growth. Some changes were phenomenal. Each experienced a variety of emotions: as expected, denial, fear, anger, remorse, more denial and eventually acceptance. Every single patient found their peace before they departed though; every one of them.

When questioned about any regrets they had or anything they would do differently, common themes surfaced again and again. Here are the most common five:



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1. I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.

This was the most common regret of all. When people realize that their life is almost over and look back clearly on it, it is easy to see how many dreams have gone unfulfilled. Most people had not honored even a half of their dreams and had to die knowing that it was due to choices they had made, or not made.

It is very important to try and honor at least some of your dreams along the way. From the moment that you lose your health, it is too late. Health brings a freedom very few realize, until they no longer have it.

2. I wish I didn't work so hard.

This came from every male patient that I nursed. They missed their children's youth and their partner's companionship. Women also spoke of this regret. But as most were from an older generation, many of the female patients had not been breadwinners. All of the men I nursed deeply regretted spending so much of their lives on the treadmill of a work existence.

By simplifying your lifestyle and making conscious choices along the way, it is possible to not need the income that you think you do. And by creating more space in your life, you become happier and more open to new opportunities, ones more suited to your new lifestyle.

3. I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.

Many people suppressed their feelings in order to keep peace with others. As a result, they settled for a mediocre existence and never became who they were truly capable of becoming. Many developed illnesses relating to the bitterness and resentment they carried as a result.

We cannot control the reactions of others. However, although people may initially react when you change the way you are by speaking honestly, in the end it raises the relationship to a whole new and healthier level. Either that or it releases the unhealthy relationship from your life. Either way, you win.

4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.

Often they would not truly realize the full benefits of old friends until their dying weeks and it was not always possible to track them down. Many had become so caught up in their own lives that they had let golden friendships slip by over the years. There were many deep regrets about not giving friendships the time and effort that they deserved. Everyone misses their

friends when they are dying.

It is common for anyone in a busy lifestyle to let friendships slip. But when you are faced with your approaching death, the physical details of life fall away. People do want to get their financial affairs in order if possible. But it is not money or status that holds the true importance for them. They want to get things in order more for the benefit of those they love. Usually though, they are too ill and weary to ever manage this task. It all comes down to love and relationships in the end. That is all that remains in the final weeks, love and relationships.

5. I wish that I had let myself be happier.

This is a surprisingly common one. Many did not realize until the end that happiness is a choice. They had stayed stuck in old patterns and habits. The so-called "comfort" of familiarity overflowed into their emotions, as well as their physical lives. Fear of change had them pretending to others, and to themselves, that they were content, when deep within they longed to laugh properly and have silliness in their lives again.

When you are on your deathbed, what others think of you is a long way from your mind. How wonderful to be able to let go and smile again, long before you are dying. Life is a choice. It is YOUR life. Choose consciously, choose wisely, choose honestly. Choose happiness.

Bronnie Ware is a writer, singer/songwriter, songwriting teacher and speaker from Australia. To read more of her articles and learn about her other work, please visit Inspiration and Chai at inspirationandchai.com



Debbie Caruso: Confirmation Through Art

Susie Alverson's son Lance is on the other side. She communicates with him through EVP, a medium named Georgia and through dreams. She told us that several years ago Lance had given her a message via Georgia that her mediumship work would involve art. She had not understood this until an idea came to her to do spirit drawings for people who had lost children. She wrote, "The way this will work is that I will channel the requested spirits and ask them to come through me in order to write and/or draw for their loved ones. My eyes will stay closed the entire time, so that I don't influence the drawings or writings.... I just purchased a large number of felt-tipped markers and special crayons from which I will let the spirit choose. From the time the session begins until it ends, spirit will be conducting the entire drawing or writing.... What I would like to do prior to having the spirit make the drawing, is to have the one requesting the drawing ask the spirit to draw or write something specific without telling me. As you know, this will validate the drawing that much more."

Susie went on to show us a couple simple line drawings that she had done previously in this way and then she offered to do one of these for Tom and me. She wrote, "Just tell the spirits something you would like them to include in the drawing or what colors you would like them to use, etc., without telling me and we can see if that happens."

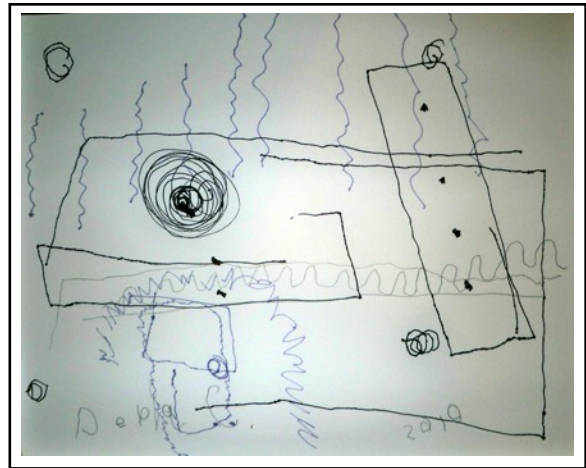
I printed out her email and turned around from my desk to talk about it with Tom. We brainstormed for about a minute and quickly scribbled in one corner of her email information that we wanted Debbie Caruso to bring through.

We wrote, "Debbie Caruso," "Debra Ann," "11 11," "purple," "black" and "Big O" to represent the Big Circle spirit group. We then attached it to a hook on the side of my desk and sent out a mental request that Debbie participate and try to bring through what we had requested in a drawing with Susie. I also tried to connect to Debbie during a meditation and again requested that she look at the list and try to show us that she was involved with the drawing that Susie would do.

As it turned out, the paper with the request remained on my desk for several weeks. Susie had some sort of bug, and then when she got to us with the information, we were about to board a plane for the Stewart Alexander conference in England.

When we returned and were finally able to look at the drawing, I was shocked to see what Susie had sent us. I had written down "Debbie Caruso" and "Debra Ann" (she used Debra Ann in the ATransC message board). The drawing is signed "Debra C" which combined both ways I had written her name. There were two places that the lines were parallel similar to the two number elevens that we had

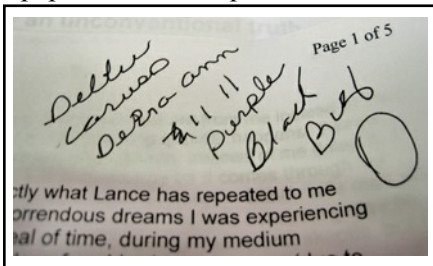
scribbled down. The drawing was mainly in black. Susie wrote, "The fact is amazing that I had over fifty different colors for Debra to choose from and she only chose black, gray and purple." And for our Big Circle request, each corner has a circle and then there is the bigger circle toward the middle of the drawing.



Susie would like to help members of the ATransC who have lost children reconnect with their child via the child's artwork as channeled through her. If you are interested, Susie accepts love offerings to help cover her costs. Susie wrote, "All that is required from the parent, just prior to the channeling, is a request to the child in spirit as to what the parent would like to have their child draw, without revealing the request to me." She suggests the parent write the request down on paper and speak their request out loud (to their child) several times prior to the channeling. Susie will simply close her eyes and allow the child in spirit to send energy through her in order to draw and/or write for their parent. There are no guarantees that the child will draw the request. Our children continue to have a minds of their own and will draw what they please, though Susie believes most children will try to fulfill the parents' request for validation purposes.

Thoughts from Members

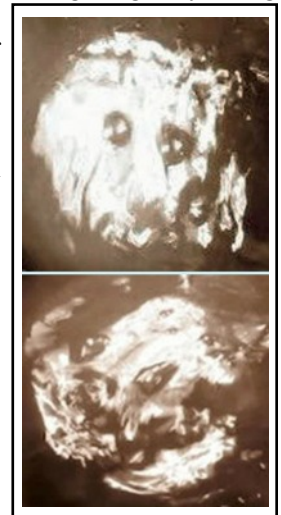
Becky Estep wrote, "I had to smile when I read the feature 'Synchronicities' about Steve Crow scanning the last of my mom's AA-EVP newsletters for the archive on the ATransC website, and how Steve experienced several synchronistic incidents while completing the scanning project. If possible, could you thank him publicly in a future *NewsJournal* on behalf of my sister, my brother and myself? We are so grateful that he spent the time and effort doing this. My mother was fascinated by the phenomena of synchronicity. She told me more than once over the years that it was her favorite kind of paranormal experience. Mom always made a point of telling my family when she had a synchronistic event. It happened multiple times over the course of her life.



Researchers' Reports

- Susie Alverson wrote, "One of my young massage/healing clients (FC) just passed from brain cancer. He came to me for healing and massages several times ... before passing. During our sessions, FC asked me many questions about my son Lance (who passed in 2006) and about life on the other side and what I had learned from Lance, via various mediums. I feel our conversations about life on the other side were very beneficial to him and he acknowledged that the healing work gave him great emotional strength. I tried recording him last night and I asked that only FC or Lance come through on the recording. My exact words were, "I don't want any spirits, other than FC or Lance to record, please. Thank you." (Lance has requested previously, via a medium, that while recording EVP, for me to be specific as to who I want to hear from since there are many spirits around and many who will 'jump in' if they are not told to keep quiet). Anyway, I clearly hear a, **'Thank you'** response. I believe this is from FC but not sure since I gave Lance permission to jump in too, in case FC is unable to record just yet. It doesn't matter to me who it is. I just love getting the response!"
- Rhonda Burton wrote, "My daughter, Jen, passed away October 14th, 2007. If you hear from her, please let me know. I recorded tonight and believe this EVP, **"Hey Momma"** is from her. I was holding my Olympus 4100 and Callie, Jen's cat, was sitting in my lap, purring."
- Margaret Downey did a Big Circle recording Thanksgiving Day. She wrote, "Some of this I heard real-time. I love that my dog Kindred is mentioned so often in my sessions and that she is part of the BC." In her recording she got **"Debbie"**; she could hear it and said "Debbie are you there?" She then got **"It worked"** and **"Debra Ann"** in a male voice. Margaret asked if Debbie had any messages and told her that we all missed her. She recorded **"That's good"** and then **"Hi, Patrick."** Patrick is a tech that works with Margaret. Next she got **"Kindred"**; she was able to hear it and said "Hi, Kindred. Mama loves the pupper" and got **"This dog loves you."** She asked for Debbie again and recorded **"It's Debbie."** Several people said it also sounded like Debbie!
- Kenda DeMorse said that "Despite repeated requests, my husband's father seemed to ignore our pleas suggesting he speak on our recording ... a session analysis revealed a young girl's voice. She sounded like she was sitting next to me, yet my daughters were sound asleep." She recorded, **"Don't move, please."** Kenda said that "We'd been talking seriously about moving to Victoria, B.C. At the time, I thought she was probably the spirit of a girl in the house not wanting us to relocate."

Months later, Kenda was awoken by something unknown. She wrote, "All of a sudden my daughter was standing in front of me, holding her arms out to me as to give me a gift. I heard her say 'Hi, Mother.' The voice was the same as the **'Don't move please'** EVP." Later, Kenda found an EVP saying **"You're talking to your father-in-law,"** and when she listened to the **"Don't move"** EVP once more she heard a man's voice saying **"Don't shock your mother!"**
- Linda Gray asked for those in the Big Circle and recorded **"Joshua."**
- Jerusha Lederman said that she was inspired to join the association and felt a connection with Debra Ann. She wrote, "Though a scientist by day and naturally skeptical, I have always been a sensitive who has trusted in my impressions. The name 'Debra Ann' jumped out at me and I felt her spirit was around and urging me to experiment with recording for the first time, offering to lend her assistance." She recorded **"Big Circle"** and **"Thank you."**
- Lorie McMorro wrote, "Last night, Chris called to tell me that he would be late coming home from work. I wasn't able to answer the phone because I was soaking Pardy's foot (he tore a claw and his toe was swollen), so the answering machine picked it up. When I played the message back, Chris is saying, 'Are you there?' and right after that I hear a male voice say, **'No!'** Guess someone must have seen I couldn't answer and decided to do so for me! I played it for Chris when he got home. He said he hears the voice, but insists it must be a problem with the answering machine. Oh well, nice to know helpful spirits are around. Maybe it was Pardy's guardian angel!"
- David Mierzewski wrote, "I couldn't let John Lennon's 70th Birthday pass without a special session attempt. In this session I combined a couple techniques that have worked in the past. I recorded through a VIOP/Cellphone link for one. Second is the unique background of a record I made a few years back of segments of a John Lennon interview. I know the contents of that record backwards and forwards. Another element is a local radio traffic control station with a robot voice that broadcasts 24-7 traffic conditions. By combining all these elements at once I got some interesting captures on my computer which did the recording. I recorded **'Do our talking with Dave's speaking technique. It is different'**"
- Mark Pierce recorded a nice **"Hi, Mark."**
- Jayne Thompson recorded on Thanksgiving Day using Sonia Rinaldi babble in EVPmaker for forty seconds. She asked if anyone had a message and recorded **"I have a message for Becky."** She then asked what the message was and recorded **"I love you."**
- Briah West did a moving-water session and captured several pictures of dogs.
- Yvonne Whybra had been really missing her dog. She did a recording and asked if he was in heaven and recorded, **"He's there, Yvonne."**



Got Grief

Continued from page 9

of their loved one. When I work with someone with an ardent knowing of the afterlife, it is like a physical therapist working with a well-toned, healthy limb. When I work with a griever with no such knowledge, the “rehabbing” process is like working with an arthritic and rigid limb. The going is much slower and more painful.

Like the metaphorical physical therapist, my grief work with clients is simply to work with this newly un-casted life and to gently knead and bend the rigid places until some semblance of flexibility returns.

No matter what our belief or knowledge base of the afterlife may be, grief is like that newly un-casted limb; and we have to work our way back to mobility. If you at some point feel the need to hide your grief because it seems to run counter to your afterlife knowledge ... think again. Give yourself the gift of your grief. In doing so you are simply allowing yourself to stretch and flex the rigid places in your life that emerge because you are journeying forward without the physical presence of your loved one. And when a friend, colleague or acquaintance who has an ardent belief in the afterlife experiences a loss, take the time to acknowledge their grief, and offer your time and support. It may have a far-reaching effect.

I will close by simply stating this: Regardless of what one’s afterlife knowledge may be, *grief is grief*. The universality of the experience of grief can perhaps be best summed up by the statement once made by Edwin Shneidman, founder of the Suicide Prevention Center in Los Angeles. He says, “Grief is the ransom you pay for love.” Indeed, whether one is a world-renowned afterlife researcher or simply the bereft neighbor of one gone too soon, this bandit of grief finds its way into the most carefully locked fortresses among us. May we be gentle and farseeing with one another and as individuals allow grief its rightful passage when it is our ransom to pay.

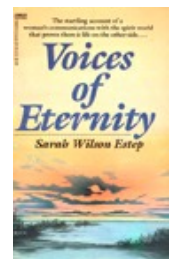
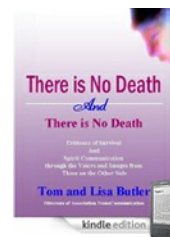
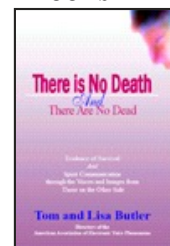
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Annette holds a Ph.D. in psychology and maintains a private practice assisting individuals and families to grow through painful transitions. She has extensively studied the near-death experience and other mystical phenomena and is the author of *Will You Dance?*, *Halfway Across the River* and *Lit From Within*. Please visit: onecandle.net.



Access books recommended by ATransC at atransc.org/resources/books.htm.

Books



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You may specify that your donation be 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 a member.

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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 one? _____

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 ATransC 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 ATransC reserves the right to refuse membership to anyone.

Signed _____ Date _____

Mail to: ATransC, PO Box 13111, Reno, NV 89507, USA