

Ghost Tours: Prowling for

A man moves into a house on Lancaster Street, Baltimore. One day, he decides to take down the previous owner's kitchen curtains. He takes out a wobbly stool and steps up to remove them. Suddenly, he loses his balance and begins to fall. Then, a hand presses against his back, steadying him and he doesn't fall. No one else was in the room besides himself.

Later, he recounts the story to the woman who sold him the house. She replies, "That must be mom. She once fell from that stool and broke her arm. She must have wanted to prevent the same thing from happening to you."

This is just one of many stories you'll hear while taking the Fell's Point Ghost Tour. Fell's Point is riddled with ghostly happenings. Not only is it one of the oldest neighborhoods of Baltimore, Md., it also has experienced a lot of death. In both 1794 and 1797, many people died of yellow fever. So many, that the bodies piled up like cordwood in what is now Fell's Point Square, which may also be the site of their mass burial.

Establishments highlighted on the tour have had ghostly headless chickens running around the basement, an African American spirit who likes to move an ash can from the fireplace to the front door, and an apparition that walks down the street only to disappear in front of his grave.

"One of my favorite stories," says Amy Lynwander, co-founder of Fell's Point Ghost Tours, "is at Duda's where we talk about Doc, a retired seaman" who used to live there. He had a favorite polka that he played on the jukebox often. After he died, the polka was retired from the jukebox. However, some months after Doc died, "the polka spontaneously played for a group of regulars sitting at the bar." When they checked the

jukebox, the polka was not among the selections available. "They thought it was Doc saying goodbye."

Maryland has a lot of ghostly activity, says Beverly Litsinger, co-founder of the Maryland Ghost and Spirit Association, an organization that researches and investigates ghostly paranormal phenomena throughout Maryland, "most likely because it has a lot of history."



Spooky, possibly even haunted, places can be found almost anywhere. Look for them at places where strong emotions have been felt, such as cemeteries, battlefields and churches.

The Fell's Point Ghost Tour lasts about an hour and a half and features about a dozen locations around the neighborhood. For a real ghost-hunting adventure in the Baltimore area, be sure to also visit:

- Fort McHenry, which was, in part, the inspiration for Francis Scott Key's Star Spangled Banner, is said to be haunted not only by soldiers who died defending the fledgling US, but also people who were detained in its dungeons at other points in the fort's history.

- The USS Constellation is said to be haunted by a young Naval officer or seaman who died in service to his country. One story also tells of a priest who was given a tour of the ship by an older man, only to find out later that no such man worked there as a guide.

- Davidge Hall, the oldest medical teaching facility in the northern hemisphere still in use, is said to be quite haunted.

- The Westminster Church and Catacombs, which is home to Edgar Allan Poe's grave, as well as other well-known historic figures, has a long list of spooky stories. Visitors have reported hearing hushed voices, feeling invisible hands touch them, and felt icy spots with no explanation.

Continued on page 18.

Phantasms

Spirited Snapshots

So you'd like to take a photograph of a ghost? Beverly Litsinger, co-founder of the Maryland Ghost and Spirit Association, an organization that researches and investigates ghostly paranormal phenomena throughout Maryland, has the following tips to help you succeed.

- **Get familiar with the area first.** Walk around and take notes. Pay special attention to sources of light, dust and smoke, as these can show up in your pictures and be mistaken for ghosts.

- **Use 400 or 800 speed film.** "Ghosts move pretty fast," says Litsinger, "so you need a fast film. She favors 800 speed, but 400 speed has worked, also.

- **Only one person should be snapping a shot at a time.** Multiple flashes can look like orbs in photographs and you won't know if it was a spirit or not.

- **You can get your film developed anywhere,** but be sure to ask for all photos to be developed – even if they look like a mistake.

"I always ask the ghost for permission to take a picture," Litsinger says. "I forgot one time and the whole roll of film did not come out."



The Best Places for Ghost Hunting

"Don't believe the myth that the building has to be old to find a ghost," says Beverly Litsinger, co-founder of the Maryland Ghost and Spirit Association, an organization that researches and investigates ghostly paranormal phenomena throughout Maryland. "The age of the building is not important. The ghost may be attracted to the land that the building sits on."

That said, there are places where ghostly activity seems to be more prevalent than others. Here are few to get you started:

Continued on page 18.

Advice for Novice Ghost Hunters

Use your senses and pay attention to your feelings, says Beverly Litsinger, co-founder of the Maryland Ghost and Spirit Association. Don't get caught up in your equipment. "This prevents you from picking up energy from a ghost" as well as preventing the ghost from contacting you.

- **Be aware of the obstacles in the area.** You don't want to fall and hurt yourself while investigating a location.

- **Along those lines, "ghost hunting is not something you should do alone,"** says Litsinger. "You always want someone else there so they can call for help," as well as be a "second witness to verify your findings."

- **"Always go with an open mind,"** Litsinger says. Negative feelings such as depression or anger can interfere with your perception or drive spirits away.

Continued on page 19.

One of the stops during the Fell's Point Ghost Tour is the Bond Cemetary, the home of the Fell family crypt. Here four of the founding family's members are burried, including the youngest brother who died quickly and unexpectedly. It is said that his ghost still surveys the land for his family.



Scene Around

Images of the World As Seen through Genre-Coloured Glasses



Photo: © Wade Gupta. Check out his collection of International photos at www.stanford.edu/~wgupta/

museum, restaurants, shops and a futuristic space city. In addition to being a tourist attraction, it is a working TV and radio tower providing the Shanghai area with more than nine TV channels and 10 FM radio channels.

The Convention Center, also known as the Oriental Riverside Hotel, is the first and the only 5-star Convention Hotel in Pudong. Accessible from all parts of the city, the hotel has 260 guestrooms, recreational facilities and meeting venues. The Grand Ballroom on the 7th floor has a capacity of 3,000 persons, and is the largest pillar-less ballroom in Shanghai.

Ghost Tours: Prowling for Phantasms

Continued from page 8

- Point Lookout has a grisly history; including being the site of a prison camp during the Civil War. The park's lighthouse is said to be especially haunted, but apparitions and unexplained phenomena have occurred throughout the park.

If you feel like widening your net, Litsinger also recommends Ellicott City, which has a monthly ghost tour, Greenmount Cemetery, which has an historical tour held every Saturday in October, Gettysburg, Va., and Frederick, Md.

When on a ghost tour, you could very well have a ghostly experience. "One of our tour guides was standing in front of the Register Street house, considered the most haunted house in Fell's Point," says Melissa Garland, co-founder of the Fell's Point Ghost Tour, and "the door opened and closed five times, faster than any human could have done it. Now, most of our tour guides will not stand directly in front of the house. They like to stand in the road and not get too close to it so as not to upset the spirits living there!"

According to Lynwander, October is the most popular

This scene from Shanghai, also known as Pudong, looks like something out of *The Jetsons*. This view shows the Pudong Xinqu, or new area, which sits across the Huangpu River from the Bund, or business district.

The site of a \$40 billion (US) development project, this area includes a state-of-the-art container port, an international airport, high-rises and skyscrapers. The tall, double globed building is the Oriental Pearl TV Tower and the short building with Romanesque architecture sitting in front of it is the Shanghai International Convention Center.

The TV Tower is 1,536 feet high and is the world's third tallest TV and radio tower. The unique architectural design uses a series of differently sized spheres and columns. Visitors can travel in elevators up the quarter-mile-high tower. At the top, there are a variety of activities, including a recreational palace,

time of the year to take her tour. However, she says, "September is a good time, too. It's the calm before the storm. It's dark when you do the tour and the weather is usually very nice." For the Halloween weekend, they offer a package experience that includes the tour, a group reading with medium, Barb Mallon, and a night at a haunted inn. For more information, visit www.fellspointghost.com.

The Best Places for Ghost Hunting

Continued from page 9

- **Battlefields** -- the violet deaths of soldiers often give a strong psychic energy to an area.
- **Churches, Theaters and Schools** -- people have highly emotional experiences in these places, leaving a lot of energy behind.
- **Lighthouses, Fire Houses and Police Stations** -- the people who work in these places are often highly dedicated to their profession, and many die in the line of duty, combining the apparitional draw of high emotion and violent death.

For more tips on places to find ghosts, visit www.marylandghosts.com/locations.php.

Advice for Novice Ghost Hunters

Continued from page 9

- Since haunted places often have odors, don't wear perfume, cologne or other fragrances. "You want to be able to smell what is there," says Litsinger.

- If you are looking to join an established group, *Ghost!* magazine advises choosing carefully. "Be cautious of any group that claims to know all the answers and seems more interested in reinforcing their own belief system than in conducting impartial research."



Star Wars Continued from page 12

Special Hotel Package for Out-of-Town Visitors



The Royal Sonesta Hotel, which is next door to the Museum of Science, is offering a special *Star Wars* Exhibit Package, which includes accommodations for one evening

and two VIP admission tickets to the exhibit. The package begins at \$199 (valid weekends only, subject to availability) per room per night from Nov. 4, 2005 through April 30, 2006. Children under 17 stay free in the same room.

Located on the Cambridge side of Boston, the 400-room hotel sits on the banks of the Charles River, overlooking the Boston skyline. Amenities include Sony PlayStation, wired and wireless high-speed Internet access, and complimentary access to the health club and atrium style indoor pool. The hotel provides complimentary daily shuttle service to shopping and historic points of interest in Boston and Cambridge. For more information or to make a reservation visit

www.sonesta.com/boston or call (800) SONESTA (766-3787).

More on page 21.

Historic Moments and Observances with a Genre Twist

October

The first week of October is **World Space Week**, which is celebrated in about 50 nations every year. This year's theme is "Discovery and the Imagination." For more information, go to www.spaceweek.org.

On Oct. 2, 1955, "**Alfred Hitchcock Presents**" premiered. 266 half-hour episodes later, it went off the air in 1962.

Also on Oct. 2, but four years later in 1959, Rod Serling's "**Twilight Zone**" premiered. It lasted only 135 episodes, going off the air in 1964.

On Oct. 14, 1947, **Chuck Yeager** broke the sound barrier -- something thought to be impossible at the time.

Orson Welles scared the nation on Oct. 30, 1938, with his broadcast version of "**War of the Worlds**."



November

Nov. 2 is **Plan Your Epitaph Day**, which occurs every year to coincide with the Day of the Dead. It is "dedicated to the proposition that a forgettable gravestone is a fate worse than death." For more information, go to www.hardiehouse.org/epitaph.



Nov. 4 is not only **Waiting for the Barbarians Day**, but it is the day that **King Tut's tomb** was discovered in 1922.

On Nov. 30, 1982, Michael Jackson released his album "**Thriller**." When the video came out for the title track, many were impressed -- and yes, scared -- by the dancing zombies and Jackson's weird yellow eyes.

December

On Dec. 10, 1955, **Mighty Mouse Playhouse** premiered as a Saturday morning cartoon on CBS. This was really a re-packaging of the old Mighty Mouse cartoons, along with non-series Terrytoons, which first appeared in 1942.

On Dec. 11, 1972, **Apollo 17** landed on the moon. This was the eleventh manned space mission in the NASA Apollo program, and was the sixth and final mission not only of the Apollo program, but of human moon landings.

The most historic day in the history of **human flight** took place on Dec. 17, 1903. This was the day Orville Wright flew for 59 seconds above Kitty Hawk, N.C., the first time that a powered, heavier-than-air machine achieved controlled, sustained flight with a pilot aboard.

