

The North Haven Citizen

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Paranormal results. |CBK

Results of Martha Culver House investigation are in

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By Charles Kreutzkamp Special to The Citizen

It sounds like the plot of a funny horror movie, but it happened in North Haven: two paranormal investigators went ghost hunting with their former high school teacher.

By day Adam Shefts is an office manager for a medical device company and Mark Firulla is a maintenance man and electrician. By night, the two search for ghosts at historical sites with the help of the rest of the Northeast Paranormal Investigations Society. NPIS includes fellow investigators, researchers, and “sensitives” who claim to be able to intuitively detect ghosts.

Two months ago, NPIS conducted an investigation of the Martha Culver house. On Oct. 27, they put on a presentation to benefit the North Haven Historical society, of which Sue Iverson, who taught Shefts math and Firulla science, is the recording secretary.

Iverson said the paranormal investigation has generated a lot of interest about the Martha Culver house. “We have had lots of calls,” she said, “folks ask us about the Culver house... last week third graders came for a field trip and kept asking if the house was haunted.”

NPIS specializes in working with historical locations and societies for their paranormal investigations. Shefts and Firulla perform investigations and fundraising presentations for historical societies all across New England. In Sheft’s book, “When Ghosts Appear, History Speaks”, he explains that when he encounters “objects manipulated by something unseen [or] friendly and angry spirit voices” he is after a “history lesson” more than a “great ghost story.”

Shefts and Firulla said they try to use the history of a location to explain evidence that they have gathered. They also use historical records to try to invite spirits to appear to them by name.

The NPIS presentation alternated between historical anecdotes and presentations of what they believe to be evidence of paranormal activity. NPIS uses digital voice recorders, camcorders, and cameras to try to capture ghostly whispers, unexplained shadows, and “orbs” – motes of light that, Shefts explained, “give off their own illumination,” unlike ordinary dust particles. Skeptics might say that recorded noise occasionally sounds like voices by coincidence, but NPIS encouraged believers to speak up during the presentation. Some audience members claimed

to hear words and even short sentences like, "I'm Pauline."

Shefts and Firulla encouraged the audience to share opinions, especially when they differed from NPIS's interpretation.

Throughout the show, Shefts and Firulla appeared to take great effort to always say that "they believe" their photographs and recordings "might" sound like voices or look like evidence of ghosts. When describing historical events, they made clear distinctions between proven facts and hearsay.

At the end of the presentation, historical society President Bob Iverson thanked the investigators and told the audience that "if there's anyone who is skeptical, it's me, but... there's one thing that I know [NPIS] does that I like. It's not like the stuff that's on television that's been doctored up, these are things that they actually see and hear."

Bob Iverson wasn't convinced of the existence of ghosts, but some members of the audience were.

"I believe," one told *The Citizen*. Another explained that although he "definitely" believes, sometimes he disagrees with the interpretation NPIS made of the voice recordings.

Those *The Citizen* spoke with declined to give their names. "I don't want to sound like a nut," one said.

More than 40 people attended the event, raising gross revenue of about \$400.