

# Gazette.Net

Maryland Community News

---

*Published: Tuesday, February 11, 2014*

**Author examines accepting psychic abilities** by *Ellyn Wexler*

SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

There's not a ghost of a chance that Laine Crosby has many solitary moments. Since the Atlanta native and her family moved into a house on the site of an 18th-century plantation in Derwood almost a decade ago, the once self-described "completely ordinary" wife and mother has been walking and talking with spirits. In her recently released book, "Investigative Medium: The Awakening," Crosby tells the story of discovering and accepting her psychic abilities.

"I turned forty, ate chocolate Coca-Cola birthday cake, and woke up talking to dead people," she wrote in the book's preface. "Suddenly, I was a psychic medium, and I never wanted to be."

Although Crosby knew her maternal grandmother had psychic abilities, she mostly ignored her own childhood experiences, like seeing people — or ghosts — "out of the corner of my eyes," and what is known as traveling clairvoyance, "being able to go back and forth in time," she explained. Crosby's skeptical mother credited her child with "a big imagination," and she attributed her young adult daughter's accurate predictions of when people would die to "women's intuition," dubbing her "the prophet of doom."

Still, prior to her awakening, the paranormal was rarely in evidence in Crosby's adult life. After earning an undergraduate degree in economics from Agnes Scott College and an MBA from Georgia State University, she spent 20 years doing marketing and public relations for companies including The Weather Channel, Wachovia and Coca-Cola.

Not long after the family moved to Montgomery County, Crosby said, their house began to “feel a little strange,” and unexplained sounds and occurrences filled her days and nights. On Sept. 21, 2004, she woke up from a nap to hear “the sweet, soft voice of a woman” speaking to her and “saw the image of a beautiful woman with dark skin and an almond-shaped face.” That was the beginning of her continuing relationship with Jannette, the ghost of a slave who lived on the plantation in the 1850s. In a series of conversations, Jannette told Crosby about her own romantic history: a love triangle with her master and another slave. She also showed Crosby visions of the locale through time and introduced her to other spirits, many of them denizens of the property’s slave cemetery.

“My first event where I knowingly talked to a ghost was when I heard and saw Jannette physically in the room with me,” Crosby said. “She was there and it was two-way communication.”

A dramatic acknowledgement of Crosby’s abilities occurred in February 2005 when she heard a television news report about a missing 9-year-old, and had a vision that revealed Jessica Marie Lunsford’s location. Crosby and her husband opted not to relay the information to the police because they thought it would not be credible. Once the truth of Crosby’s “remote viewing” was confirmed, that decision weighed heavily on her conscience, and, she wrote, “My life has never since been the same.”

“It was the first time all my abilities came together and I knew the outcome of a crime. I could see, hear, smell and ‘know’ what was going on,” Crosby said about the pivotal event that opens her book. “Up until this point, I had gradually been recognizing abilities as I met Jannette and the other slaves on the plantation.”

Being a medium does not conflict with Crosby’s devout Christianity. In fact, she wrote, “Over the years... with prayer and God’s help, I have assisted a number of spirits in crossing over into Heaven. That is, moving on from our physical dimension, through the tunnel of white light, into the dimension that is of God.”

Crosby, who sets aside time before sleep to talk to her guides or angels, said she sees herself as “an instrument to help the other side connect to this world .... A mouthpiece — a channel, a medium — not really much different from a telephone or

radio. As I experience information, I do the best I can to make sense of it, define it, and pass it on.”

Instead of doing readings and offering advice to individuals, as is the wont of many mediums — “That is not what I’m here to do,” Crosby said — she devotes her time to investigative weekends at historic locales like the battlefields at Gettysburg; leading psychic training classes and workshops; lecturing at venues including colleges, plantations and historical societies; researching, writing and marketing her books; and, perhaps most important, working with missing persons networks and police — free of charge.

Three new books are in the works. A sequel to “The Awakening,” titled “The Adventures of a Free Range Investigative Medium,” is half done and Crosby expects to complete it by July 2015. Among its ghosts is Annabelle, who, according to Crosby, says she is “5, almost 6.” Crosby learned that Annabelle drowned in the Patuxent River and located her grave. “The last year she [Annabelle] remembers is 1812. It could be her birth year, or her death year. I don’t know. She did drown, and she is with me all the time, mostly, but when she’s in my house, she plays with the dogs (one alive, two dead) and with her cousins and also my kids.”

An ebook, “Conversations with the Ghosts of Gettysburg,” consisting of four stories, is due out this month, and Crosby hopes to release “Real Daughters,” conversations with the daughters of soldiers who fought for the Confederacy, in conjunction with Atlanta’s celebration of the Civil War’s 150th anniversary in the spring of 2015.

Crosby’s books are self-published, she said, because not only does she have a background in digital publishing, but also she refused to work with publishers who wanted her to make her stories spookier to enhance their marketing value.

Ample matter is available for additional books.

“I save my findings and use them for future material for books, and I research when I can, so I have lots of ideas for books that are a bit unique,” she said. “My father wrote

nine books, which are not in print now, and I would like to use his historical research to write historical fiction eventually — after I tackle what is already on my plate.”

That’s a substantial meal, but no doubt, Crosby can enlist some help from the spirits that surround her.

“Investigative Medium: The Awakening” is available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [www.lainecrosby.com](http://www.lainecrosby.com).

---

© 2014 Post Community Media, LLC/Gazette.Net