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*Special to the Times*

GUILFORD – Whenever a portal to the other side opens, Al DiMarzio and Roberta Houle are just dying to be there to chronicle it.

The husband and wife team, owners and operators of Aldimar Video Productions, have been busy videotaping ghost investigations along the shoreline and have accumulated some pretty persuasive evidence of local ghost hauntings.

There's the spirit activity recorded at Guilford's Hyland House Museum. At the museum, built in 1690, investigators received historical background from a resident spirit. During their investigation, they recorded EVPs (electronic voice phenomenon) and captured "white orbs" with their digital cameras.

Then there was their spooky romp through the circa 1756 Bee and Thistle Inn in Old Lyme, where the spirits of the restless tipped a table over and over again.

For the uninitiated, table tipping is considered a form of communication with spirits in which several people gather around a table, join hands and channel the energy of the spirits around them. Often, the table appears to tilt, a sign that someone from the afterlife has put in an appearance.

The video that DiMarzio and Houle recorded at the Bee and Thistle Inn suggests that doubters should give the "table séance" another look.

"I was a little leery," Houle said. "Then I heard someone say, but only to me, only in my head, "My name is Sarah," three times. I had no idea that was coming. I can't even explain it."

Henrietta Greenleaf Lindsay, a onetime owner of the Old Lyme house, found herself a widower with the large home to maintain in the early 1930s. So she named it the Bee and Thistle Inn and opened it to the public. Those above ground since her death have reported seeing and hearing evidence that she still inhabits the house.

The Bee and Thistle video shows medium Linda Lynch repeatedly calling on "Henrietta." Lynch then invites other spirits into the room and manifest themselves. Finally, Lynch asks Henrietta if she likes the way the inn's current owners are keeping house.

Suddenly, the table begins rocking back and forth under their hands.

"How many children are here?" Lynch asks.

The table rocks three times.

"Were you children in the house before Henrietta owned the house?" she asks.

The table tips wildly.

And so on.



All the while, DiMarzio is operating the camera, catching every spine-tingling moment. Houle is seated at the table.

“We just wanted to see what happened,” DiMarzio said. “Now, despite the fact that I was a skeptic, I’m more attuned to the paranormal, and I’m softening, becoming more aware of what’s happening out there.”

DiMarzio’s initial skepticism is no surprise, considering that Aldimar productions is a longtime producer of business, instruction, historical, travel and tourism videos for DVDs, web sites and internet delivery – not a platform for spooky EVPs, photos and videos.

“We got into all of this thanks to my sister (Lynch), who suggested one day that we use our resources to help her with an investigation,” DiMarzio said. “Being the good brother, I agreed.”

DiMarzio and his sister are the grandchildren of a Strega, a practitioner of Stregheria, a term used to describe Italian Witchcraft. DiMarzio’s grandmother emigrated to the U.S. in 1906, bringing “la vecchia religione,” or “the old religion,” with her.

Spirituality begets spirituality, and Lynch, a certified Reiki Master, eventually became aware of her own sensitivity to spirits. A practicing physical medium – a seeker of physical phenomenon pertaining to the spirit world – Lynch has seen and heard her share of audible voices and figures that spirit people use convey information about themselves.

“Our intention was to make the Bee and Thistle video an instructional video at most,” DiMarzio said. “It turned out to be a formal, convincing and very marketable DVD.”

“Five years ago, I wouldn’t have even let the idea of ghosts enter my mind, but this was just too creepy,” Houle said. “The table tipping was the deal maker.”

Although the couple has produced only two videos of ghostly material suitable for telling around the campfire, it’s persuaded them that contact between humans and spirits from the afterlife is not as far fetched as it seems.

“What’s firmed up in my mind is that there is a spirit world; spirits do exist,” DiMarzio said. “Producing these two videos has convinced me of it.”

While the focus of their video production enterprise will continue to be business and travel video, thanks to their recent experiences with shoreline hauntings, the couple says they will continue moonlighting to understand these seemingly unexplainable disturbances.

“We hope to show viewers, and continue to learn for ourselves, how practical these scientific investigations are,” DiMarzio said.

Visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and enter the search phrase “AldimarVP Paranormal” for video snippets of DiMarzio’s and Houle’s local ghost investigations. For full-length videos or more information about Aldimar Video Productions, call (203) 453-5313 or visit them online at <http://www.aldimarvp.com/>.