David L. Sloan's Key West Ghost Hunt

by Denise Malefyt

Rich in colorful history and abundant in ghost stories are the Florida Keys, especially Key West. After all, Cayo Hueso is the original name for the island of Key West that dates back to the early 1500's after Juan Ponce de Leon discovered and charted it. It translates to "Bone Island" and was thus named because the island is literally littered with and built upon the remains of the available in Key West in that former inhabitants, the Caloosa and Tequesta Indians, who used the island as a communal graveyard, or sacred burial ground.

Key West was once the largest city in Florida and grew prosperous for wrecking... thus it was also famous for the blood-thirsty pirates that plundered and pillaged in search of treasure. Later came the rum runners, and then the drug smugglers, all fighting to the death to protect their illegal liveli-

Spiritually sensitive intellectual visitors embrace this living history and its ghosts while the phasmophobics, skeptics and disbelievers just order another cocktail, shrug their shoulders and look the other way.

I was intrigued and decided to to check it out, so I scheduled an appointment for a friend and myself with David L. Sloan's Key West Ghost Hunt. Sloan is a wellknown Florida author, entrepreneur and scientific paranormal investigator and our local authority on ghosts. My research led me to him because his was different from the other Ghost Tours his guided tour is a hands-on ghost "finding" expedition, not just a historic walking tour or a short bus ride around a cemetery. His is the real deal. On his website is this

ominous warning: "Because we actively engage spirits, we cannot accommodate expectant mothers or children under 16."

We met our expert tour director Ray at Kelly's Caribbean (Top Gun movie actress Kelly McGillis') Bar and Grill at 301 Whitehead St., also home of the haunted Pan-Am offices and host to at least eight different spirits. It is in the heart of Old Town. Ray explained a few things and doled out some authentic ghost hunting equipment from a satchel that contained a fortune in



State-of-the-art ghost equipment and relics that trigger the ghosts to come forward. Photo: Marrera



Sloan shows a haunted artifact to Stephanie Pino. Photo: Marrera

the latest state-of-the-art ghost equipment and relics that trigger the ghosts to come forward.

Note: Sloan's Ghost Hunt provides guests with easy to use K-II EMF meters, I-rods, laser temperature guns and guides armed with EM pumps and trigger devices customized to draw the spirits out at each location. It's the same equipment they use on TV. Each person in the walking tour carried at least one ghost detection tool of some

Our first stop was, freakishly enough, the hotel where I was staying! As Ray guided us through a haunted garden he told us the history behind many of the hauntings we approached.

When we went inside an old uninhabited church building several people in the group were able to get actual photos of ghosts with their cell phones and digital cameras.

One woman in our group, who stood off by herself in a corner, was vigorously rubbing her arms. She showed me the ghostdetecting infrared thermometer with laser sight she was holding that had detected a 20° drop in temperature where she was standing. She was shivering in the 80° south Florida weather and trying to rub the goose bumps and eerie ghostly chill off her arms.



This ghost detection meter was pegged!



Ancient artifacts continued next page

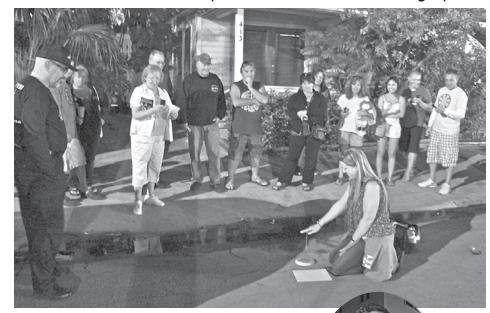
Next we followed Ray up the stairs to a small, dark attic-like room and I found that there was a special ghost waiting there just for me! Ray brought out a radiolike device and requested aloud several times for any spirits to please say their name. After a while, through the static noise — and clear as a church bell. I heard the



One of the haunted houses. Photo: Michael Marrera.

spine-tingling, ghostly reply of the name "George" in my deceased friend George's voice! My kind-hearted, fun-loving friend George passed away over a year and a half ago from cancer. He had fought death up to the very last minute before he died, so it isn't much of a surprise that his spirit is still among us and that it

> was he who wanted to come out and socialize.



"Piloting the pendulum" during the tour to assess spirit activity.

At the conclusion of the tour, some of us got together at a local hang out to learn more. Sloan told us that many dead people, especially children who died very young, linger on this earthly plane because they just can not believe that they are dead and sometimes he must gently urge them to "go to the light." Some do. and some don't.

If you would like to experience a Ghost Hunt for yourself, go to KeyWestGhostHunt. com or call 305-290-3451 to reserve a spot.

David L. Sloan is a well known Florida author, entrepreneur and scientific paranormal investigator.

Bayside Blues Concerts

Concert Showtime: 6:30pm

April 12: JP Soars & The Red Hots

Int'l Blues Challenge Winner & Albert King Guitarist of the Year! Plays a 2 string cigar box guitar!

April 26: **Betty Fox Band**

Blues, Funk & Soul; polished & powerful vocals voted "Best of the Bay" Tampa Bay area.

May 3: **BILLY LIVESAY**

Singer/Guitarist for 'Clarence Clemons Temple of Soul.'

May 10: Harper & Midwest Kind

Didgeridoo, Harmonica, World Blues Fusion!

May 15,16 & 17: **Mac Arnold** "Corn Bread & Collard Greens Festival"

Old-school blues, soul & funk; toured/recorded with Muddy Waters Band, Otis Redding & B.B. King

Candye Kane May 21-22:

She belts - growls - shouts - croons and moans - humor/revival meeting/sexuality celebration!

World class entertainers, in Key Largo on the beach.

305-451-3380

Check the entertainment calendar at keylargo-baysidegrill.com for more great Bluesfest bookings

MM 99.5 Bayside, behind Cafe Largo

