

UFO's; abductions

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Believers in space aliens at meeting

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BOSTON (AP) — Joann Berte swears she was paralyzed by three-fingered aliens and taken aboard their spaceship. Marianne Shenefield, who claims to have twice encountered extraterrestrials, said people who have seen them have an aura.

Their stories and others are likely to be heard this weekend at a conference in Waltham expected to draw more than 250 UFO experts and people who claim to have been abducted by extraterrestrials.

"I was immobilized. I couldn't move and I didn't think to speak. I just watched," said Berte of the Dec. 10, 1979, night when she says she was awakened on a friend's porch in Rhode Island and carried in a paralyzed state aboard an alien spacecraft.

Berte tells of observing a small, three-fingered alien in an incubator and being brought to a glass-enclosed platform overlooking a table where her friend lay with a tube extending from her navel.

"It makes you very angry," said Berte. "They don't ask your permission. They just take you away."

Both Berte and her friend were returned.

"It reminds me a lot of alcoholism or homosexuals coming out of the closet," said Arthur Myers, a conference coordinator. "There's a stigma attached to the abductees. But once someone comes forward with their story, others are willing to speak."

Marianne Shenefield of Agawam is one of those yearning to let people know about her two experiences. Thirty-five years ago, she was an 11-year-old girl building a tree house.

"Then I turned around and there was what I thought was a little boy in a scuba outfit," said Shenefield. "Then I felt this floating sensation and the next thing I knew I was in this round craft."

Shenefield said the aliens put her under an X-ray device and she was observed by several aliens.

In 1972, Shenefield said, an alien captured her outside her home and brought her into a small compartment. Shenefield said she was released hours later.

An eye disorder has reduced her sight to shadows and streaks of light. But the ailment enables her to see auras, Shenefield said. "I can immediately detect someone who has been abducted," she said. "They are surrounded by an indescribable color. Believe me, I can tell."