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UFO UpDates Mailing List

MUFON '99 International Symposium

From: Sue Kovios <bradford@globalserve.net>
Date: Sat, 12 Jun 1999 00:44:52 -0400
Fwd Date: Sun, 13 Jun 1999 12:46:04 -0400
Subject: MUFON '99 International Symposium

Forward:
Date: Fri, 11 Jun 1999 20:30:35 -0400 (EDT)

To: cydonia@listbox.com
From: Vincent J. Mooney Jr. <vincentj@erols.com>
Subject: [M-TRAC - MSAA] Milamo
Reply-To: cydonia@admin.listbox.com

<snip>

MUFON '99 INTERNATIONAL UFO SYMPOSIUM
"Transcending Politics & Comfort Zones in Ufology"

Friday - Saturday - Sunday July 2,3 & 4, 1999

Virginia MUFON will host the MUFON '99 International UFO Symposium at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Reagan National Airport 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway Arlington, VA 22202
1-800-228-9000

An attractive room rate of \$89.00 per night has been negotiated, and this includes up to four people, no extra charge. When making reservations be sure to specify that you want one king bed or two doubles. Make reservations directly with the hotel at 1-800-228-9000.

To register for the conference, please mail check or money order payable to:

MUFON '99 International UFO Symposium
7873 Heritage Dr. Suite 574
Annandale, VA 22003

Registration Fees:

Conference presentations (before June 9th).... \$65.00
Conference presentations (after June 9th)..... \$75.00
Friday night buffet dinner/party (advance).... \$20.00
Friday night buffet dinner/party (at door).... \$25.00
Sunday FUFOR Brunch (advance only)..... \$25.00
(includes Kelly Cahill's book Encounter)

Children under 13 can attend the Symposium free, while the buffet/party will be at full price.

Conference Schedule:

Press Conference..... Fri at 1:00 pm

Buffet Dinner/Party Fri at 6:00 pm
Presentations (with scheduled meal breaks)..... Sat 9:00 am to 9:30 pm
Presentations (with scheduled meal breaks)..... Sun 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
FUFOR Brunch with Kelly Cahill..... Sun 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
National fireworks on the mall..... Sun Evening

Since the next day, Monday the 5th, is a holiday for most people, I hope that many will stay to the end of the Symposium and enjoy the show. With world class art museums, the Smithsonian Institute, tour buses pulling up to the hotel and dozens of attractions-- it makes a nice vacation destination for the whole family!

Confirmed Speakers to date:

Thomas "Eddie" Bullard, PhD
Kelly Cahill
Joseph Firmage
Stanton Friedman
Richard Hall
Budd Hopkins
Eve Frances Lorgen
Betty Andreasson Luca
Bruce Maccabee, PhD
Jenny Randles
S. Peter Resta, PhD
Robert Swiatek
Beverly Trout

A great line-up is taking shape!

FUFOR Brunch

The MUFON Symposium will break for brunch from 11:00am until 1:00pm on Sunday, July 4th. Attendees are invited to join the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR) for a special breakfast brunch and presentation by KELLY CAHILL and local area abductees. You will enjoy a buffet brunch at the hotel while listening to BRUCE MACCABEE at the piano. A discussion is to follow that will compare US abduction experiences with Australian cases. This will be a more intimate venue with Kelly and a generous time will be allowed for Q & A. The price of this breakfast brunch is \$25.00 and includes a copy of Kelly's book, Encounter, which details her experiences up until '96. This well-written book is not available in this country and is one of the best first-person abductee books ever written.

Join FUFOR for this fundraiser brunch whose proceeds will be used to defray the travel expenses of our lovely guest from down-under. --Support UFO Research -- --Enjoy a Fine Brunch -- --Meet Kelly -- --Seating is LIMITED! Advance registration is mandatory--

Please mail \$25.00 check or money order made out to FUFOR to the same registration address as for the MUFON Symposium:

MUFON '99 International UFO Symposium FUFOR Brunch
7873 Heritage Dr. Suite 574
Annandale, VA 22003

MUFON SYMPOSIUM THEME FOR 1999
"Transcending Politics & Comfort Zones in Ufology"

Susan L. Swiatek
Coordinator of the MUFON 30th Anniversary
Symposium

We find ourselves nearly at the end of the second millenium, after studying the phenomenon of UFOs in excess of 50 years. And we must ask ourselves how far we have progressed in our studies: What have we really learned as a civilization about this at once ephemeral yet pervasively physical mystery?

We must admit that though some progress has been made, overall it has been somewhat slow. In fact there is very little information about UFOs that is universally agreed upon by those of us in ufology, let alone the society in general. There are still more questions than answers: Who is/are the intelligence(s) behind the saucers? Where do they come from? And just why are they invading our skies and our psyches?

Our governments have not been forthcoming with answers. We are not absolutely certain that they know a great deal more than we do. Even with rumors of black budgets seemingly without limit, our governments may find that they face another kind of limit--a somewhat self-imposed limit symptomatic of our very humanness.

Humans are much more comfortable being firmly in the middle of the pack, not making waves or straying too far from the herd. The politics of what is acceptable define our comfort zones of thought. In addition to allowing others to define what is politically correct and therefore comfortable, we sometimes find within ourselves our own zones that we steadfastly refuse to broach. How many among us think that it is irrefutable that UFOs are real objects that course about our skies on a regular basis, but that the notion of alien beings disembarking and taking humans on board is flat out impossible?

Or we may say, "An alien intelligence of some kind is likely abducting people onto their craft. But scenarios of sexual examinations, sperm and ova being taken and possible hybridization experiments are too far out to even consider." Some luminaries in the UFO field have said as much. My argument here is not that aliens are real and doing this or that. My argument is that the careful study and open-minded weighing of all the data is what is needed. To do good science we don't have the luxury of a wholesale dismissal of evidence that is "too far out to even consider." We must consider all the evidence that may be politically incorrect or indeed even challenges our personal comfort zones.

It is a fruitful exercise to look back upon your own education and development within ufology. You weren't born knowing that UFOs constitute a real phenomenon. At some point in time you heard or read something that made you sit up and take notice of a subject that previously made you snicker or simply look away. Some of you can recount startling first-hand sightings or experiences that made all the difference. But the vast majority of us learn about and form conclusions about UFOs the same way we do about any subject. We take in the available information and draw reasonable conclusions.

What did you hear or read that awakened your curiosity, that made you want to read and know more? What finally upset the apple-cart of what you had been told all your life about UFOs? What obliterated your previously well-maintained intellectual comfort zones? What emboldened you to stray from the herd of colleagues and peers?

The answers to these questions will help us grow and explore our own self-imposed limits as well as deepen our commitment to consider all of the data. And our insights will help us nudge others--ufologists, scientists, academics and officials alike--to boldly eschew political hamstringing, consider the data and finally transcend old discarded comfort zones.

Contact Susan Swiatek swiman@pop.dn.net
Hostess of MUFON's 30th Anniversary Symposium -1999 for further information.

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