

Psychic phenomenon

Local woman connects with 'other side'

BY MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER

Michelle Griffith jokes that her Farmington neighbors don't know what she does for a living. It's the traffic of clients coming by daily that may raise a few eyebrows in her Chatham Hills subdivision.

"One client went to the house across the street by mistake — confused because our mailboxes with addresses are together. The neighbor asked her what type of business I ran. 'Um, I think she sells jewelry,' my client told her," said Griffith.

Truth is, Griffith, also known professionally as Rachel Rains, is a psychic. There are no tarot cards in her "reading room." Simply comfortable den-like furniture and a small tape recorder. Clients get a copy of their reading.

On WDRQ's (93.1 FM) "Jay Tower & the Morning Revolution," she's known as the Millennium Psychic, heard every other Thursday between 8-9 a.m.

And following a single February appearance on (100.3 FM) WNIC's "The Breakfast Club with Jim Harper," she got 500 phone calls and 8,000 hits on her web site: www.centerforselfhealing.com

healing.com

"The interest is out there," said Griffith, who shares her home with her mom. Her two oldest sons, Chris and Tim, are at Michigan State. The younger two, David, 16, and Meghan, 8, currently live with her ex-husband.

She is a self-supporting psychic, with 70 percent of her business conducted by phone.

"I've got clients in Singapore, England, Scotland, Australia and Canada," she said. "I used to travel, go from town to town to do seminars. I had to stop. I had a life, kids."

Psychic might seem an unlikely career for a Catholic school girl raised on the east side of town.

"I went to parochial schools for 12 years. I graduated from Bishop Gallagher," she said. "I saw this type of thing as the occult."

Pursuing a life as a psychic wasn't a chosen career. But it found her on Halloween night in 1983.

"My father had died quite unexpectedly in 1983. It was real traumatic. Of course I was upset, crying. His funeral was on a Monday, which was Halloween. That night, I went to bed and I saw my father in my

bedroom. He appeared right in front of me and he was talking to me. I wasn't asleep. I was fully awake. I was not scared. I didn't hear what he said. I jumped up and ran to turn on the light. Of course, I never told anyone at the time. I was afraid they'd think I was nuts.

"It was as if he was alive. It was a life altering experience for me."

She next visited a well-known local psychic, Gundella the Witch, popular in the mid-1980s. The Westland based psychic confirmed Griffith's "special gifts." But Griffith's Catholic upbringing wasn't comfortable with the concept of witchcraft or the occult.

The following year, she went to a psychic. Anxiously expecting to hear about her life, the psychic simply told her "You're psychic. This is how you will make your living."

Griffith said: "I felt like I was cheated. I was mad. That's \$20 down the drain, I thought."

But the psychic was also an ordained minister, offering Griffith a connection between the ability to read psychic energy and its connection with her belief in God. The psychic introduced her to the Spiritualist

Church where Griffith trained the next two and a half years to become an ordained minister.

"Fortune-telling is illegal in Michigan," she said. "You have to be an ordained minister."

One of the other perks is that she gets to perform marriages — "usually something unusual, like a ceremony at the botanical gardens in Ann Arbor or somewhere outdoors."

She doesn't believe in using props such as tarot cards or crystals and bemoans the proliferation of so-called "psychics."

In 15 years of business, her client base has grown tremendously. Repeat customers and referrals are her foundation. In addition to private readings, she also teaches seminars for groups and corporate entertaining.

On Monday, June 18, she will present an interactive lecture, presentation and question and answer session on "Psychic Phenomena: Connecting the Other Side" at the Birmingham Community House, 280 S. Bates in downtown Birmingham.

It will run 6:30-9 p.m. Admission is \$20 and seating is limited. For more information, call 477-7037.

Exchange Club to host golf outing

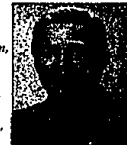
The Farmington Exchange Club will hold its annual golf outing on Thursday, June 28, at Glen Oaks Golf Course in Farmington Hills. Tee times are at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. with a Texas scramble format. The cost is \$120 for golf, cart, dinner and prizes; \$85 for golf and cart only; and \$50 for dinner only. Proceeds will benefit local charities. Call Dick Tupper at 474-6771 or 477-0600 to make reservations.

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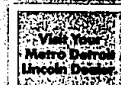
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