

Psychic has altered view of our reality

By Jennifer Shaw
STAFF WRITER

A hard-bound copy of "Conversations with God," Volume Two, rests on the rear dashboard of Chuck Coburn's car. The license plate on the Lexus says "PSYKIC1."

Inside his Lafayette residence, he displays a treasured possession — a wooden staff given to him by a tribesman in South Africa. The man had initially become angry at Coburn, who unbeknownst had refused the man's offering.

"Translated, he told me, 'I don't meet too many people who are authentic.'"

Coburn came to his intuitive work somewhat reluctantly. His first premonitory experience was in 1975, while he was operating a multi-million dollar construction firm. In 1989, he closed the business.

"I drew a line in the sand and I told myself if I stepped over the line I would quit the business. There was no way I was going to do that, and then one day the line was gone. It was behind me."

Today, the psychic has a six-month waiting list and has written two books — "Funny You Should Say That" and his latest, "Reality is Just an Illusion."

He and his wife Shirl, who leads dream groups, conduct workshops at the Orinda Community Center. They impart an intuitive or altered awareness he maintains

BOOK SIGNING

Who: Chuck Coburn, author of "Reality is Just an Illusion" (Llewellyn)

When: 4 p.m. Nov. 23

Where: Orinda Books, 276 Village Square

Call: 254-7606



KRISTOPHER SKINNER/SUN

"Reality is Just an Illusion" is the latest mantra of Lafayette psychic Chuck Coburn.

resides in us all.

"I channel your spirit guides through my spirit guides, and I am just trusting it. We all have that ability but in this 'prove it to me' kind of world, we all miss that opportunity. We all have that flash way of knowing," Coburn said. "Children are better intuitives than adults. They still believe in fairies, goblins and their lit-

tle invisible friends."

According to Coburn, there are three steps to manifesting one's desires — "know what you want, know that you have it and then let go of all of the reasons why it doesn't work."

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PSYCHIC

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The local pair had their own synchronistic experience — the evening they accidentally met for the second time at a singles' party.

After Chuck commenced with "Don't I know you from somewhere?" the couple realized they had both attended Acalanes High.

He proceeded to accurately report that her son had injured his ankle, that she had taken her wristwatch in to get repaired and that she had just ended a relationship with a man named John.

"I knew we were connected because it was that easy to read her," he said.

"We are the metaphysical couple. That is our life together. We are known as the witch and the wizard."

In their world travels, the Coburns have witnessed many reality-defying events.

"I've seen the healing. I've seen a shaman with lights coming out of his body," he said. "I've been involved with psychic surgery. These are events that are hard to explain to someone that hasn't ever seen it."

For Shirl, the past chair of the international Association for the Study of Dreams, dream work poses another vehicle for accessing a "freer consciousness."

She explained that a nightmare is "a dream that carries a lot more

power" and tends to surface when recurring dreams are not heeded.

"Most dreams are totally symbolic. We are not geared in our society to think that way," she said, citing an image of a car wreck as signifying an area in one's life that requires attention.

Using his powers, Chuck said he has helped authorities locate two surviving children from a private plane crash in Oregon and two youths who were kidnapped from an undisclosed shopping center.

"There is an act of faith with that (knowing). It's not to be used to take advantage of someone else," he noted.

In that vein, he is not able to conduct psychic readings on his wife, his children or close friends. Drawing a parallel, he cited: "A doctor doesn't operate on his kids."

He is also savvy to the presence of charlatans:

"There's a saying that anybody who calls himself a shaman generally isn't," he said. "But there are also a lot of charlatan doctors and attorneys — people who claim to be more than they are."

In his latest work, there is a central mission.

"There are a lot of closet psychics. I want to explain that this is OK. This is not the work of the devil or some kind of anti-Christian thing. Witches got burned at the stake for essentially doing what I'm doing."

For more information, call the Coburns at 283-2131.