

FLARES? NO!

UFO

m a g a z i n e[®]

The Phoenix Lights

Ten years ago, they were seen by tens of thousands, across three states.

Dr. Lynne Kitei is one of the witnesses.



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PHOENIX LIGHTS

*Ten Years
and counting*



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By William J. Birnes and Sean Casteel



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The bottom line is that we are being visited by something, and whoever has been visiting us here in Arizona—and around the globe at an increasing frequency—is doing it in a gentle way.

Has it really been ten years? My, how time flies, if you'll pardon the pun. On March 13, 1997 a mass sighting event with thousands of witnesses lit up the night skies over Phoenix, Arizona. What has come to be called the Phoenix Lights was attested to by commercial pilots and air traffic controllers, and it was also captured on video by several people with enough presence of mind to go running for their camera.

Enter physician and community health educator Dr. Lynne Kitei, who prefers to be called Dr. Lynne. She is a Phoenix resident who had been photographing similar lights in the months and years leading up to the March 13 event. In spite of her growing collection of UFO videotapes and stills, including the signature footage of the giant three points of light hovering over the city during the historic sighting, she actually saw very little of what happened that night. But whether by coincidence or design, Dr. Lynne was scheduled to meet with a MUFON representative the next morning to talk about her photographic evidence, and it was he who first informed her about the mass sighting the previous night.

It took several months for the story of the lights to make major headlines nationwide, but on June 18 *USA Today* finally ran an article about the mystery, opening a floodgate of other media interest. After a curious, even concerned public began demanding some kind of official comment, a month later on July 25 the military offered up the theory that the lights had simply been flares fired off by the visiting Maryland National Guard "Operation Snowbird" unit doing practice-flying maneuvers. After years of requests for a reenactment, a dismal attempt was made by three Air National Guard Units to restage the Phoenix Lights by shooting off flares on March 7, 2000. To this day the phenomenon has not

been recreated. Even so, this maneuver satisfied most of the general public eager to hear a plausible explanation.

But Dr. Lynne was far from satisfied, particularly since she had photographed the same massive equidistant array of lights in the same location two years and two months prior to the Arizona event. She began a tireless campaign to learn the truth about the March 13 sighting that eventually led to a book, *The Phoenix Lights ... A Skeptic's Discovery That We Are Not Alone* (Hampton Roads, 2004) and an internationally award-winning documentary film called *The Phoenix Lights ... We Are Not Alone*. Dr. Lynne has played a key role throughout the past ten years in keeping the issue of what happened in Phoenix that night alive and open to further study.

"Before I came forward with the book," Dr. Lynne said, "it was pretty much a dead issue. The military had announced they were flares, even though people who had seen this firsthand knew it was much more than flares. Having witnessed and filmed these anomalous phenomena myself just yards from our bedroom window in 1995, I was skeptical that we had this kind of technology. What were three amber orbs in a rock-solid pyramid formation doing hovering over a private, gated mountainside community anyway? It was just too awesome and mind-boggling.

"Even if we have this kind of technology," she continued, "why would the military orchestrate a parade throughout the state for many hours when people were purposely looking up at the sky at the Hale-Bopp Comet and then deny it for months? It just doesn't make sense.

"It needs further investigation. But just because we may not have the technology yet to *definitively* define what these things are, that doesn't mean they're not real."

Even though the silent, low-gliding, mile-to-two-mile wide V-shaped craft or "lights that



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seemed to be attached to something,” have never been addressed, the debunking of the mass sighting was for the most part successful, according to Dr. Lynne.

“The topic was pretty much buried under the carpet,” she said. “Looking for a logical explanation, many people, particularly outside of Arizona either fed into the flare theory or figured that it was some kind of military thing. Understandably, they are both comforting excuses.

“But the people who really saw it up close and personal knew in their heart of hearts that something happened here that affected them at a very, very deep level. In the book, I delve into the positive transformation that took place within people who really experienced it. Certainly some people just ignored it, some people couldn’t deal with it and just denied the whole thing, some people forgot about it. And that’s okay. For some, it may take longer than others for it to sink in. Everyone in their own time. But as a physician and experiencer, I can appreciate the healing that takes place just being able to talk about it without the criticism and ridicule that has permeated this topic for so long.”

Dr. Lynne sees her current role in the drama as serving to educate the public about the Phoenix Lights and unexplained phenomena in general. “I’ve been an educator for 30 years,” she said. “It’s been my life’s work and passion to disseminate information concerning the reality of vital health issues to the community, particularly to young people.

“That’s why I felt it was so important to come forward, after seven years of anonymity, to share the reality of this vital issue. I’ve essentially done the homework for others who, like me, had no interest or knowledge of the subject. In the end, the data speaks for itself.

“And if my dedicated effort helps to wake people up and to raise awareness in a credible yet caring way, then I have done something prolific. My hope is that others will take a look at it with an open mind and heart. Then they can decide for themselves.

“It is also important not to freak people out about the compelling evidence confirming that we are not alone. The bottom line is that we are being visited by *something*, and whoever has been visiting us here in Arizona—and around the globe at an increasing frequency—is doing it in a gentle way. Nobody was hurt.

“In ten years of hundreds if not thousands of people reporting their experiences on March 13, 1997, there has not been one report of harm, threat, or abduction connected with the mass sighting event. Quite the contrary. Witnesses were in awe, excited, even grateful to have had such an extraordinary experience. That’s pretty significant when you think about it.”

As part of the general educational agenda, Dr. Lynne works closely with Rebecca Hardcastle, who has a long academic background in theology and philosophy and works as a hypnotherapist and life coach as well as counseling people who have had paranormal experiences. In 2005 Hardcastle taught a course in extraterrestrial reality at Scottsdale Community College, one of the few such UFO classes ever offered.

“I’ve been very active in the UFO and experiencer community here,” Hardcastle said. “I teach craft sightings, and I think that the whole body of knowledge of craft sightings is integral to understanding contact and extraterrestrial phenomena. I also feel that where my kind of calling has

been is to work with people who are experiencers.”

Hardcastle radiates enthusiasm about this tenth year anniversary of the Phoenix Lights. “I really believe in my heart,” she said, “that Phoenix is a global, if not a universal, center of influence and portal of contact. This whole area always has been, is today, and always will be playing that role in terms of contact.”

Hardcastle explained that we were in the Christian season of the Epiphany, which commemorates the time when the three Wise Men journeyed to find Christ by following a star. “That whole phenomenon,” she continued, “philosophically, religiously, spiritually—human beings want to follow stars. They want to follow anything that comes out of the skies.

“And I think that the whole Phoenix Lights phenomenon is one of the things that make us aware of that. People move to Phoenix because of the lights. If anybody would do a survey about ‘Why did you come to this area?’ they would be astounded at the number of people who chose to come here because of all the sightings. People are here for the stars.”

The upcoming sixtieth anniversary of the Roswell incident is scheduled for this summer, and the event has grown to such an extent that the mayor and city govern-



ment in Roswell have taken over running the celebration, Hardcastle said. She hopes the Phoenix Lights will some day have a similar importance for local officials.

"I can see that some day in the not too distant future," she predicted, "the city of Phoenix is going to start owning this event. Maybe it will take a few more years, but I think that when you look at the ten-year span, we are moving toward community leaders, political leaders, the whole community of Phoenix getting to own this phenomenon and wanting to share it with the world."

Another major player in the Phoenix Lights saga is Jim Dilettoso, an expert in photo and videotape analysis who painstakingly examined the photographic evidence that was collected in the wake of the March 13 sighting.

Dilettoso feels his crucial analysis work was too easily dismissed at the time. "The testing was summarily trashed back then," he said, "because of a sequence of reporters who listened to a skeptic who said you cannot do any kind of, quote, 'spectrum analysis.' So some astronomers and others said, 'Dilettoso is full of ****. You cannot do any kind of spectrum analysis. In fact, they said it would be compared to trying to take Lincoln's DNA out of an oil portrait of him hanging in the White House.'"

Ironically, Dilettoso was doing exactly what his critics were calling impossible. He and his company, Village Labs, were under contract to TRW and the De-

fense Department to take part in the development of a new technique called a hyper spectral image analysis. While it was a classified project at the time, by the year 2000 it was announced publicly, and it is even included in the FBI's website as the state-of-the-art for image analysis of lights and fingerprints, among other things.

"I'm not trying to vindicate my work from back then," Dilettoso said, "but I want to demonstrate that that meth-

od of analysis is not only valid, but is used now by the Department of Justice and all kinds of other people."

Another sticking point for Dilettoso is the claim that what people saw that night were simply military flares. "The sighting happened for three hours," he said. "It came in from the northwest part of the state, diagonally through Phoenix, down to Tucson, and then it turned around and came back. There were 700 witnesses that we interviewed, but the idea that it was flares has become the thing the world believes.

"The public information officer of the Maryland National Guard, who claim they dropped the flares, says that they were on the ground, landed, at 8:30 P.M. Meanwhile, all the visuals, all the video, happened about 9:40 and 10:20 P.M. "I love healthy skepticism," Dilettoso continued, "but what happened was that just a few very vicious skeptics rolled the whole story into the media. Kal Korff was calling anybody he could get to listen to follow up and create a negative story. And we've been able to trace all that backwards to the two main media places that did very negative stories that were reprinted elsewhere."



The pilot said that her plane was traveling at 550 miles an hour, but the lights somehow kept pace with her, not appearing to get any closer in spite of the plane's speeding toward them. "The next thing I thought was that this thing was absolutely huge," she said, "like half the size of Las Vegas."

Dilettoso discussed some of his working methods for photo analysis of UFOs. "I have about four thousand objects of knowns in my database," he explained. "Street lights, airplane lights, Hale-Bopp, Venus, scale models of airplanes, photos of all kinds of big airplanes, scale models of cars, real cars—these are knowns. When I analyze unknowns, and I extract the data and compare it to the database of knowns, if I don't get a match, it doesn't mean it's an alien spacecraft; it means it's an unknown. It means I didn't get a match with flares and airplane lights and all these other things.

"What is it? What could it be? Is it an advanced aircraft? Is it an atmospheric anomaly? Is it someone doing a hoax? As you compare the other unknowns from the



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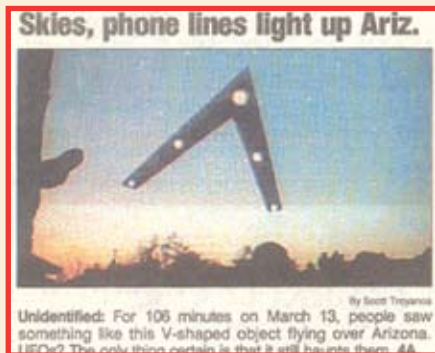
last decades and look for similar properties amongst the unknowns, then you begin to have a taxonomy where an extraterrestrial or interdimensional or hyperspace cluster of data begins to weigh more heavily as a possibility. I mean, Occam's Razor starts to become the extraterrestrial explanation."

The night of March 13 also brought it with other strange events, which Dilettoso said he finds very interesting. For instance, he recalled reading an article in the July 1997 issue of *Scientific American* that reported bursts of gamma radiation, a very unusual phenomenon, were detected by the Hubble Telescope that same March evening. The gamma radiation was eventually traced back to somewhere within our own solar system, and Dilettoso wonders if the extraterrestrials may travel as an energy field that gathers mass and momentum as they arrive here on earth.

Also on March 13, 1997, then-president Bill Clinton fell down and broke his knee while visiting the home of golfer Greg Norman. "Clinton had to be hurried away in a helicopter," Dilettoso said, "and kept at Bethesda Naval Hospital underground for over two days. There were press conferences showing diagrams of all the surgery that was going to have to be done and how long it was going to last and why he had to cancel his big meeting in Sarajevo with the prime minister of Russia.

"A few days later he's walking around and he's okay. It never came up again." Government secrecy theorists might be easily led to the conclusion that the broken knee was a cover story designed to hide the perceived need to get the commander-in-chief to safety in the wake of the unnerving events happening out in the Southwest desert.

Another strange incident Dilettoso related involved an A-10 fighter pilot who had been scrambled to investigate the lights in the sky of unknown origin on March 13. A member of the pilot's ground crew even called Peter Davenport at the National UFO Reporting Center, and he



appeared to be very shaken by what was happening.

Several months later, the aforementioned pilot was flying in formation with two other fighter jets between Phoenix and Flagstaff. "He broke formation and flew northeast towards Colorado," Dilettoso said. "He disappeared from radar. No radio contact. He did not respond. "About two days later, his plane, in bits and pieces, was found slammed into a mountain. They interviewed his family, his crewmates, everyone who knew him, and they said, 'Hey, this is a rock solid guy. We don't have any idea what he

was thinking when he did that.' " Still another March 13 event involved a satellite, manufactured in Chandler, Arizona, by the American Satellite Company. "The satellite went dark and missing," Dilettoso said, "never to be found. The number of unusual things that happened that same night puts this in a breadbasket of paradox."

All of which compounds the mystery of the Phoenix Lights, which continues to elude any easy understanding. "I've never said *what* they are," Dr. Lynne said, "only *that* they are. It's not just an ET possibility. There are interdimensional possibilities, intelligences, spirit-world possibilities, time-traveler possibilities. There could be a combination of all these possibilities.

"There's much more to the story than just March 13, 1997," she continued. "I applaud people who are opening up their minds and hearts to learn about it and to grow. Hopefully more and more people will do that so we can move forward. Perhaps once enough people do open up to this, educate themselves, and are willing to let the wall down that we've created, especially in this country, to the reality that we are not alone, and that the universe may be teeming with life, we'll have contact. They'll know when we're ready. Hopefully, we're getting closer to that day." **UFO**

For more information, visit Dr. Lynne's website at www.thephoenixlights.net. Visit Sean Casteel's UFO Journalist website at www.seancasteel.com. He is the author of *UFOs, Prophecy and the End of Time, Signs and Symbols of the Second Coming*, and *The Excluded Books of the Bible*, available at his website, Amazon.com, and FilamentBooks.com.

Phoenix Lights 10th Anniversary

Two Witnesses Look Back At The Phoenix Lights

By Sean Casteel

Among the many thousands who witnessed the overflight of triangular objects—some more than a mile wide—on March 13, 1997 in Phoenix, Arizona, were several cases of people on the periphery of the event who saw the astounding display that night from another angle. Included in that group is a female pilot for Southwest Airlines who asked for anonymity when she spoke to us recently about her experience.

“I’m a captain with Southwest airlines,” the pilot said. “I was going from Phoenix to San Francisco on a flight. We got up on our routing just south of Peach Springs. Peach Springs is kind of to the east of the Kingman area; it’s a navigational point for us, an aid that we use.

“We were at 33,000 feet, and when you’re at that altitude you can see the whole southwest region,” she said. “So if you look off to your left you can see the lights from Palm Springs and Los Angeles, and you can see lights along the Colorado

River. If you were to turn around at 33,000 feet, you could see the lights of Phoenix and the lights of Las Vegas. So you see a lot of different cities.”

From that perspective in the sky, the pilot said she suddenly saw a pattern of huge lights that she at first took to be an air carrier making its approach into Las Vegas. “There were six or seven really bright lights,” she said, “and when I first saw them I thought, ‘Oh, those are kind of bright lights for air carriers going into McCarran in Las Vegas.’ We were watching them, and they weren’t moving. They got brighter, and whatever it was, we watched it for a good eight minutes at least. Why are their lights so bright, and why aren’t they moving?”

The pilot said that her plane was traveling at 550 miles an hour, but the lights somehow kept pace with her, not appearing to get any closer in spite of the plane’s speeding toward them. “The next thing I thought was that this thing was absolutely huge,” she said, “like half the size of Las Vegas.”

The pilot radioed the Los Angeles flight control center and asked if they could see traffic in her 12 o’clock position. The reply was in the negative. “When you fly into different sectors,” she said, “and talk to different air traffic controllers, you know their voices. One controller is working one sector, and that’s the same voice.”

The pilot repeated her question and was again told that there was nothing on the technician’s radar screen. Meanwhile, a Continental jet flying about 100 miles to the east of the Southwest plane was apparently seeing the same lights. The Continental pilot was overheard on radio to exclaim, “Oh, my God! I see it! What is it?”

At that point, an unfamiliar voice from the Los Angeles flight control center came on the line and asked the woman what exactly she was seeing. “It was a totally different person,” she said. “And that’s when I looked at my first officer and I said, ‘Sorry to bother you. We don’t see a thing.’ Because I was not going to go there with that different voice coming in. I don’t know if it was his supervisor or



someone else who came in on that frequency.”

The lights continued to shine brightly until they disappeared without ever having appeared to move. The pilot and her first officer continued to discuss what they were seeing as they flew on to San Francisco. “All of a sudden,” the pilot said, “while I’m turning to my right to talk to him, someone sends up a flare at 33,000 feet. It lit up the whole sky right off our right wing. I said, ‘Look at that flare.’ And he looks, and it’s a military flare. He looks at me, and I said, ‘You know what? It looks like someone wants to keep us quiet.’”

According to the pilot, the military sending up flares at commercial airliners simply never happens. She continued to feel that someone was trying to scare her.

Then something even stranger happened.

“All of a sudden, off my left is, I am assuming, a fighter jet,” she said. “He is probably an arm’s length away from us. I see him only in a split second when he’s at about my 10 o’clock position and less than half a mile. He puts on his afterburners and he’s gone in another split second. I thought immediately, somebody is really trying to scare us.”

When the plane finally landed in San Francisco, the pilot and her first officer were so frightened that they immediately called their respective spouses and told them to lock the doors and not answer the phone.

“That’s how scared we were,” she said. “It was amazing.”

The pilot says she believes that the strange lights that began the experience for her were actually over Las Vegas and then moved on to the Phoenix area. The wife of a co-worker of the pilot’s sister was driving to Phoenix when she and her daughter also witnessed the lights.

“They both saw it from a car on the highway,” the pilot said. “She said people pulled over on the interstate and

were watching this thing. She said it was huge and there was no noise.”

The pilot offered the speculation that the lights may have had something to do with Area 51, since it is located just north of Las Vegas and is the unquestioned dominion of the military.

“We started thinking: What did we see? Was it the government? You never know what the government’s up to,” the pilot said.

That same enchanted evening, a woman named Vicki Hilsinger, who owns a tour bus company, was accompanying a load of passengers back from Phoenix, where the group had just watched a performance of “Beauty and the Beast On Ice.”

“We were traveling west on Interstate 8. We got to the Gila Bend area,” she said, “and I saw some large amber-colored globes. I had always kind of teased my driver about seeing UFOs one of these nights when we were out in a dark area. And I said, ‘What are those lights?’ ‘I don’t know. Must be UFOs,’ he said, just teasing.

“As we got right up to them, they were on both sides of the road,” she continued, “and they were very, very close to the bus. Then I could see another cluster off in the distance. They would all go out at once, and then it looked like they moved, and then they would come right back on, all at once.

“So everybody on the bus was kind of clambering over each other to see. Some people said they were flares and some people said they were for night fighting and other people said no, those aren’t either one.”

Hilsinger said she discounted the flares explanation immediately because she lives near a Marine base in the area and sees flares all the

time. “And these were perfectly round amber globes,” she said.

“There was no smoke like you see with flares, and also flares don’t go out all at once. They just kind of peter out, like a flame. And these didn’t do that. It was as though someone pushed a button and they would all go off and then somebody would turn them back on in a different spot and they would all come on at once.”

The lights appeared to be attached to something unseen and to fly very low over the highway. There were several police cars visible on the ground just under the lights, with their own lights flashing for whatever reason. “And we just wandered down the road,” Hilsinger said, “not knowing what they were.”

The lights have appeared to her on a few occasions since, including an incident that happened about a

month before this interview was conducted in January 2007, again while traveling in her tour bus in the Phoenix area. She also recalls seeing them while on vacation in California. They seemed to follow her intermittently from Solvang to Bakersfield to El Centro.

“A friend who was traveling with me said, ‘My heavens, don’t even look out that window. They’re back and I think they’re following us.’ I said, ‘Well, if they are, they’re just seeing us home.’ But it was strange to see them three times on that trip, and hundreds of miles apart. I’ve also seen them at the end of my road one night when I was walking with a neighbor.”

Whether or not the Phoenix Lights mass sighting is ever explained in some final, undeniable way, the many people touched by the event will always have their stories to tell; stories about the unknown touching them in ways so personal and unforgettable that the memories will likely be etched deeply into their consciousness forever. **UFO**

Phoenix Lights 2007?

On February 6, 2007, shortly before this issue was due to go to press, mysterious lights were seen over Phoenix once again. As reported in an online posting by CBS4, a local Phoenix television station:

Nearly a decade after the highly publicized Phoenix Lights phenomenon, more strange lights have appeared in the night sky over Phoenix.

Phones began ringing off the hook at radio and police stations from witnesses wondering what the lights were. The local Yuma Marine Base quickly issued a statement saying the amber-colored lights were caused by flares fired during training flights on the Goldwater Gunnery Range, explaining that the flares are used as targets.

In response to witnesses’ claims that the lights were flying in formation, base officials said that the flares had shot down to earth attached to parachutes. The CBS4 article continues:

Back in March of 1997, a huge object was spotted over parts of Arizona that many witnesses believed to be an extraterrestrial spacecraft that was drifting slowly and silently over the region. The “Phoenix Lights Phenomenon” became one of the most publicized and well-documented UFO sightings in recent history.

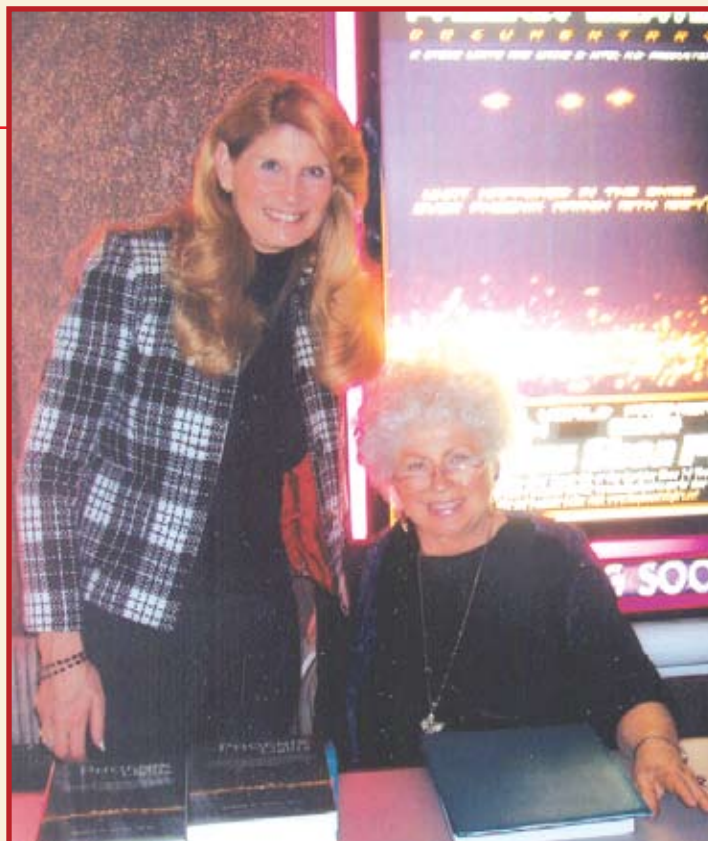
The article concludes by saying that soon after the 1997 mass sighting, the Air Force had called the lights flares from an A-10, while witnesses had countered that flares could not fly on their own over such a large distance. So the debate continues, and the mystery remains unexplained.

Phoenix Lights 10th Anniversary

Dr. Ruth Hover and the Phoenix Lights

Ruth Hover, a clinical psychologist in Arizona, describes her personal encounter with the Phoenix lights ten years ago. She was driving along a major downtown thoroughfare in Phoenix when she spotted three orange globe-shaped orbs hovering over a building. It was 5:30 P.M. and still daylight.

Dr. Hover paused to look at the objects, mentally running through a checklist of possibilities. Were these aircraft? No. Helicopters? No, wrong shape. Were these some sort of secret military craft? She told herself she would check with some of her sources deep in the military, but they sure didn't look like anything that was staying aloft by traditional means.



*Drs. Lynne Kitei (left)
and Ruth Hover*

As she observed them from behind the wheel of her car, she noticed that although they were aglow with a bright orange luminescence, they weren't putting out any light. That was strange. It was like a Chinese lantern that doesn't light an area, but only has a light within itself. What were these things?

Dr. Hover was one of the early observers of a variety of glowing objects in the skies over Phoenix, Arizona ten years ago that collectively have come to be known as the Phoenix Lights. During the months of March and all the way through September 1997, the skies over Phoenix were alive with floating objects, some of which looked like orbs, others like flying triangles, and still others like flying v-shapes the size of football fields.

Many of the objects floated more than they flew, and they hung in the air like flares without having any of the other characteristics of flares. They taunted the Phoenix witnesses with their strange aerodynamics. In Dr. Hover's case, she says that she knew enough military personnel and had seen enough tests of flares to be able to distinguish a flare from an orb.

A flare, she says, is usually drifting toward the earth, even when it looks as though it's hanging. Flares have tiny tails as well, because they're actually burning. Their purpose is to shed light or to illuminate a particular area. Thus, flares have a phosphorescence that's very apparent.

The objects Dr. Hover saw over the main thoroughfare of Phoenix back in 1997 had no flare characteristics. They were not drifting to earth, shedding light, or sparking tiny tails as they fell. They were simply maneuvering,

as if in formation, around a building and were glowing light, not shedding light. These objects, Dr. Hover said to herself as she sat behind the wheel of her car, were clearly anomalous. Whether they were spacecraft, extraterrestrial, or something else, they defied conventional explanations. She knew she had witnessed something way out of the ordinary.

For most of the past decade, Dr. Hover has led a group of experiencers, an assemblage of individuals with stories to relate about UFO encounters. Some of these stories include close-encounter sightings, as well as witnessing the flights or even landings of strange craft. Other mem-

*Hybrid parents tend to beget hybrid children
and alien visitations recur through the ensuing
generations.*

bers of her group talk of close encounters of the third kind, sightings not just of the craft but of the entities who navigate them.

And still other members of her group are self-described hybrids or part aliens, human beings who share genetic traits with extraterrestrials or who even refer to themselves as aliens. Some members of Dr. Ruth Hover's group

Dr. Hover explains: “Some people seem to have disproportionately longer arms than human beings or slightly larger or elongated heads and eyes.”

describe their own experiences in March 1997 during the period of the Phoenix Lights.

These witnesses said that the lights moved down the main Arizona corridor—Highway 17—from north to south. People watched in awe as the seemingly interconnected orbs and large shapes floated through the valleys between the mountain ranges that surround the Phoenix area. At first many people thought these might be military craft, despite the fact that some of them had inner feelings that these objects were not from this planet at all. In many cases logic overrode instinct, and witnesses sought to find conventional explanations.

But Dr. Ruth, who describes her military sources as well-placed and extremely well-informed, told her that although the military had top-secret craft that were large, platform-shaped, and capable of transporting large numbers of troops from one place to another, the objects floating over Phoenix were not these craft. These were different.

In fact, one of Dr. Ruth Hover’s sources, now-deceased Soviet intelligence expert Lipton Yenke, told her that the Phoenix sightings were not military craft. Dr. Hover’s other intelligence sources, both inside the U.S. and in other countries, told her much the same thing.

And what did the experiencers in her group believe? They said that the objects they saw during the months of the Phoenix Lights were indeed unidentified and unexplained. Hence they were UFOs by definition. That having been established, her group members told her that they had strange sensations while watching the objects that bordered on the metaphysical.

Sure, they were acutely aware of their sensory experiences, but they also had a kind of inner acceptance that they were seeing something not just out of the or-

dinary, but out of the realm of their shared context of reality. In fact, a real experiencer, Dr. Hover explains, is so acutely aware that what he or she sees is out of the norm that that person is often reluctant to share that information until the individual can establish trust with other people.

Although the military had top-secret craft that were large, platform-shaped, and capable of transporting large numbers of troops from one place to another, the objects floating over Phoenix were not these craft.

Coming into contact with strange phenomena can do that to you, Dr. Hover says; it makes you very careful about sharing your experience because it’s private and revealing. The members of her group had almost intimate reactions with the objects they saw, even if the objects didn’t deliberately project themselves

into the psyches of the witnesses.

One of Dr. Hover’s Phoenix Lights experiencers was a young man who had been transferred to Luke Air Force Base, an airfield very close to Phoenix. He told her that when he was looking at the floating objects, some of which were larger than the big sky above him, he knew that he wasn’t looking at anything conventional or military. He said that he knew what he saw, and it wasn’t an aircraft.

Dr. Hover began her serious research into UFO experiencers, and her clinical work in helping them tell their stories, at the invitation of the late Dr. John Mack, who encouraged her to join the Program for Extraordinary Research. When Dr. Mack was alive, the program investigated the experiences of individuals who had reported alien encounters and abductions.

Since Dr. Mack’s death, the program has transmogrified into studies involving social changes and more objective and independently verifiable experiences. Nevertheless, Dr. Hover says, it was John Mack who got her deeply into the field of ufology. In her work she has the opportunity not only to deal with real experiencers, but also with people who have hysterical reactions to life’s stresses and



Upcoming Events

March 3 at 2 P.M.

Glendale Library's presentation: Coincidence or Communication? Book signing and Q&A by bestselling author and internationally award-winning producer & director Lynne D. Kitei, MD. Followed by **WITNESS FORUM ... YOU ARE NOT ALONE**. The first time in Arizona; an exciting opportunity to learn and share.

Glendale City Council Chambers, 5850 West Glendale Avenue Glendale, Arizona.

Contact: Bette Sharpe (623) 930-3431; bsharpe@glendaleaz.com. FREE.

March 4 at 2 P.M.

Peoria Film Festival screening of the NEW Phoenix Lights Documentary and special award ceremony.

Arrowhead Harkins Theatre, 16046 North Arrowhead Fountain Center Drive Peoria, Arizona.

Contact: Helen McCready, Peoria Chamber of Commerce, Film Office, Commissioner, Peoria Film Office, (623) 363-1543; www.peoriafilmoffice.com.

March 8 at 4 P.M.

Arizona State University exhibit featuring The Phoenix Lights, ASU Anthropology Museum, Anthropology Bld., Cady & Tyler Mall, ASU Tempe Campus.

Contact: Scott Murphy, exhibit curator (480) 965-6224; email: anthro.museum@asu.edu. FREE.

March 10 at 7 P.M.

Presentation: Coincidence or Communication? Book signing and Q&A by Dr. Lynne Kitei.

Mustang Library, 10101 North 90th St. between Shea & Via Linda Blvd., Sponsored by Barnes & Noble and the Poison Pen Book Stores

Contact: Larry Siegel (480) 391-0048; crm2680@bn.com FREE.

March 11 at 1 pm, 4 P.M. & 7 P.M.

Scottsdale's Harkins Shea Cinema 10th anniversary screenings of the NEW "Phoenix Lights Documentary", book signing and Q & A by author and Executive Producer, Dr. Lynne Harkins Shea 14 Theatre [Scottsdale Rd & Shea Blvd] 7354 E. Shea Blvd Scottsdale, Arizona

Contact: (480) 948-6555 www.harkinstheatres.com Regular movie ticket prices.

March 28 at 7 P.M.

Paradise Valley Community College presentation: Coincidence or Communication? Book signing, Q&A by Dr. Lynne.

Paradise Valley Community College, Center for the Performing Arts [CPA], 18401 N. 32nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85032

Contact: Dr. Ed Rosenthal ed.rosenthal@pvmail.maricopa.edu \$8.00 General \$5.00 Students/seniors.

April 11th at 4:30 P.M.

Arizona State University presentation, Coincidence or Communication? Book signing and Q&A by Dr. Lynne Kitei.

Arizona State University, Physical Sciences Building F166 ASU Tempe Campus.

Contact: Scott Murphy, exhibit curator, (480) 965-6224; www.asu.edu/clas/shesc/asuma. FREE. Please join us for the 10th anniversary celebration of our historic & still unexplained Arizona mass sighting of March 13, 1997. Check out www.the-phoenixlights.net for the 2-minute trailer, updates and more!

sometimes channel these reactions into reports of extra-terrestrial encounters.

Her work has enabled Dr. Hover to distinguish the reports of real experiencers from those who merely present forms of hysteria. The latter group are all too anxious to talk about their UFO encounters, imagined or hoaxed, to anyone who will listen to them. They tend to aggressively push their stories and seem as though their encounters are meant to aggrandize them instead of explaining the phenomenon.

Real experiencers, on the other hand, Dr. Hover maintains, are very circumspect about their encounter experiences. They do not readily talk about these events in their lives and are wary about any disclosure. Real experiencers need to trust the people they talk to—usually other experiencers—and more often than not take great pains to convince those they speak to that their stories may sound like delusions or hallucinations, but they're not. In fact, real experiencers make it a point to stress their own grasp of reality, which makes their bizarre stories seem that much more real.

Among the members of her experiencers group that Dr. Hover describes are those individuals who not only claim to be hybridized human/ETs, but those who present some physical characteristics that, if one accepts the possibility of a human/hybrid entity, seem more ET than human. For example, Dr. Hover explains, some people seem to have disproportionately longer arms than human beings or slightly larger or elongated heads and eyes.

You might not spot one right off the street, but looking at a person whose eyes are much larger than normal and are almond shaped rather than round, you might feel as if you're encountering someone with abnormal features. Dr. Hover explains that many of the alien hybrids in her groups do present features that are abnormal in this way.

Alien-human hybrids or even children of hybrids explain that their encounters with the other species seem to form a pattern. Hybrid parents tend to beget hybrid children and alien visitations recur through the ensuing generations. Perhaps this means that there is a certain plan laid out for humanity that points to an extraterrestrial destiny.

Perhaps as increasing numbers of hybrid humans turn up in ensuing generations, that plan will become more apparent. And now, as the tenth anniversary of the Phoenix Lights approaches, Dr. Hover looks forward to more group interaction among experiencers willing to share their stories of encounters and sightings. **UFO**

Phoenix Lights 10th Anniversary

*Terri Mansfield
witnessed the
life-changing
effects first-hand*

Even before she caught sight of the huge floating object from the veranda of her residence on March 13, 1997, hospice worker Terri Mansfield had been an advocate for the study of peaceful nonviolent resolutions to areas of human conflict. She believes that working as a hospice specialist gives one a unique insight into human confrontation with death and the fear and emotion surrounding it.

On the night she saw the object floating over Paradise Valley near Phoenix she was working at home with a number of other hospice volunteers, talking about the issues that confronted them all when dealing with the terminally ill. They had also gathered at Terri's home

to try to catch sight of the Hale Bopp comet, which was due to make an appearance. At 7:30 P.M. they were standing on the patio overlooking the valley when a huge object floated into view, an object that completely obscured the sky between the overhanging trees.

“Oh, my God,” whispered one of Terri Mansfield’s volunteers at the meeting. “What is that?”

Terri looked up to see the craft floating by. Then she sensed—more emotionally and instinctively than logically—an overwhelming joy. There was no reason for the emotion, but it was there nevertheless. She felt not only the awe at seeing something so majestic, but the absolute peace, she says, at witnessing an event that she called life-changing.

Terri found that emotions were crashing in on her like waves hitting a beach, each one washing away the previous emotion and replacing it with a new one. She was, as she describes it, on “sensory overload,” and believed that in those moments she had stepped “outside reality.”

As she stared at the object, she was awed by its size. “It filled the sky,” she said. “It obliterated stars while it moved from north to south very slowly and absolutely silently.” She asked herself, “How could something so huge be so silent?” And she remembered that it had a black, shiny satin finish to it. She knew she was looking at the underbelly of a craft. It was, she remembered, the size of at least “two football fields.”

If she felt that she was having an unreal experience, comments from her husband about the sudden news coverage and the presence of reporters in Phoenix from around the world changed all of that. As the news of the sightings spread and the craft kept returning night after night, witnesses themselves went on the radio to describe their impressions to the amazed talk-show hosts in other cities. Whatever she was seeing was certainly real, and it was not going away.

Perhaps, as some people suggested, these were military vehicles. After all, Luke Air Force Base was just on the other side of the hill and the Air Force could have been testing new transportation or cargo platforms. But Terri, who knew people in the military and was aware of the kinds of weapons that were being tested, had a real sense that these craft were not ours. She later confirmed to her



satisfaction that the objects she saw were not military test vehicles.

In retrospect, what also struck her was how the presence of an object so huge, so otherworldly, and so overwhelming had completely changed the tone of that March 13, 1997 evening at her house. Suddenly, from a conversation about death, dying, and dealing with the bereaved, the talk had shifted to UFOs.

The objects, she remembers, had such an otherworldly aspect to them that all the people at her house could talk about were UFOs. It was a big shift in the comprehension of her houseguests that night.

Somewhere out there, Mansfield realized, there was life in the universe. And the presence of that object over her head—literally only hundreds of feet above her—meant that life in the universe had come to her. She and her guests and all of Phoenix, for that matter, had suddenly been put in touch with a great link of all creation. There were others

out there, not just humans, but other species. And in that moment, Terri Mansfield had been touched by them. It was a feeling of genuine awe for the vast presence of life and her connection to it.

Mansfield reiterated that the feelings of peace and joy she experienced when she saw the object floating above had completely overwhelmed her. She said she had a sensation that not only was everything right with the world, but that she had made a connection with a larger presence.

She said that the sighting reaffirmed her commitment to work for peace and to establish institutions that would seek peaceful resolutions to conflict. As part of her work since her sighting, Terri has campaigned for the establishment of a U.S. cabinet-level position called the Department of Peace, whose secretary would be in charge of seeking nonviolent resolutions to conflict.

Since that night, Terri has not ceased to marvel at the opportunity she had to participate in the Phoenix encounters. As she continues her campaign for a Department of Peace, she recalls that it was the vision of the huge floating object in the Phoenix skies ten years ago that propelled her on her journey to work for peace around the world. **UFO**

Pilots, UFOs and Job Discrimination

*We need to defend our pilots
who report UFOs despite
harassment by their
employers!*

by Don Allis



Has it always been standard practice for major airlines to discourage their pilots from reporting a UFO sighting by implying that their jobs and pensions could be in jeopardy? Although it's not something the airlines will admit to, we have all heard of intimidations and fear tactics to quiet employees and keep them from coming forth with reports.

We can only speculate that the airlines practice such procedures from their own fear of scaring away perspective customers so they can remain competitive. They may also not want to be perceived by the public or their rivals as a joke airline that employs mentally unstable pilots who are prone to seeing little green men.

We also don't know just how much this practice is influenced by governments who want to maintain cover-ups in order to keep the general populace ignorant to the truth of the existence of UFOs. Here are some pilot commentaries from the National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena (NARCAP):

We didn't say anything. We figured nobody would believe us.
Charter Pilot

Upon return to my domicile, JFK, I reported our sighting to the proper authorities. I was shortly visited by two federal investigators who evidently thought I was hallucinating, for one of them stated he had seen spaceships while fishing in Great South Bay and was quite obviously trying to prove that I was a loony.

Captain, Pan Am (ret.)

It must have been huge! We were all due back at JFK about the same time two days later so I waited in the crew ready room to talk to them. None of them wanted to talk! They were afraid management would take them off of flying status and have them tested for booze and drugs. The story never came out!

Flight Engineer, TWA (ret.)

A group of lights in the air appeared at our 12 o'clock position. I called departure control and asked them if they had any traffic in that area. When they came back and said NO, what do you see, I said no, just checking. For at that time when a pilot reported seeing a UFO he was in a lot of trouble.

Captain, Ozark Airlines (ret.)

I and [my] flight crew saw something (in broad daylight) that did things that no known aircraft could do without killing any living thing inside. I will only give sketchy details to protect the privacy of the rest of the crew. If you are interested, and all information (is) kept anonymous, contact me. I will not present myself for public ridicule.

Captain, NW (ret.)

Reports to NARCAP of unexplained aerial phenomena (UAP) observations and incidents are riddled with this type of commentary. Over and over again conservative, responsible airmen are heard to say that they fear that their competency will be questioned, that their careers will suffer, that they will be humiliated for reporting their observations. A serious result of these fears is inaccurate or incomplete data regarding potential hazards.

Ted Roe

Are any of the larger national UFO groups such as MU-FON affiliated with attorneys who will work pro bono? This is a very important question to be answered and should be seriously considered. Is it possible to encourage pilots and other airline employees to come forward with their sighting reports if one or more of these national UFO groups would back them in the courts with attorneys who are willing to take on their cases?

I believe this to be possible and very plausible. We have now reached a point of having enough universal force

and power in ufology to pull together and fight threats against these airline employers. There must be many attorneys who have had sightings or encounters who are very open to what is going on within ufology; many who are already MUFON members would love to be able sink their teeth into a bureaucratic government bully.

If this can be done, then it is possible to reverse the FAA policy of discrimination, which would then start freeing up pilot testimonies so that pilots will start coming forward with sighting reports. Assembling a team of attorneys to go after cases with the appetite of voracious tigers and bring legal action to the forefront and the attention of the international press may just be the catalyst we need.

Bringing enough attention to the public through the me-

The more these very credible witnesses are able to come forward, the more the press will take notice, which in turn will encourage more witnesses to come forward until there is a nonstoppable force flow that no governments will then be able to control.

dia spotlight that is being focused directly on the airlines may be enough to cause international embarrassment. It might also focus attention what they would prefer not be made public. It just may be possible to bring disclosure a step closer to reality by opening up a wealth of very credible new witnesses. This would make it harder for the governments to continue to discredit pilot-sighting reports and to continue to deny the truth.

Many will have their doubts that we can rely on the mass media for honest and unbiased reporting; however I believe we can start changing the medias views through pressure from public opinion and by educating the press with the overwhelming data that is available. Sure, it's been a tough job, but worldwide acceptance of ufology and the need for more balanced reporting, not to mention the undeniable mountains of data, could be the catalyst to sway the press.

The O'Hare airport story that re-emerged a short time back may be a breaking point, with the major press starting to open up once again and provide fair press coverage into the phenomenon that they have chuckled at and belittled for far too long. If UFO groups back legal action against employers who threaten their employees' job security and bring such legal actions to the attention of someone in the press like Jon Hilkevitch, the Chicago Tribune's transportation reporter who covered and broke the O'Hare story, then it is possible to have news coverage spread internationally. It is only then that the world's attention will be forced into taking such cases seriously, and it would unleash a barrage of embarrassment directed at the FAA and any major airline that tried to discredit an employee with threats of possible job and security loss.

It is my belief that world acceptance of the concept that we are not alone, as well as a growing mistrust for governments and the need to know the truth will garner enough support, financially and morally, to wage legal counterattacks against the bureaucratic bullies who have used their power in the past to quiet any reputable witnesses from coming forward. However this has been handled in the past, it now must include the world media if it is to bring attention and embarrassment to these bullies who have so ruthlessly controlled us with their intimidations.

We, as ufologists, are very capable of being a reckoning force by pulling together as one to fight these shameful discrimination attacks—if we can only bring the media to our side. I think this is a plausible goal we can set for

ourselves.

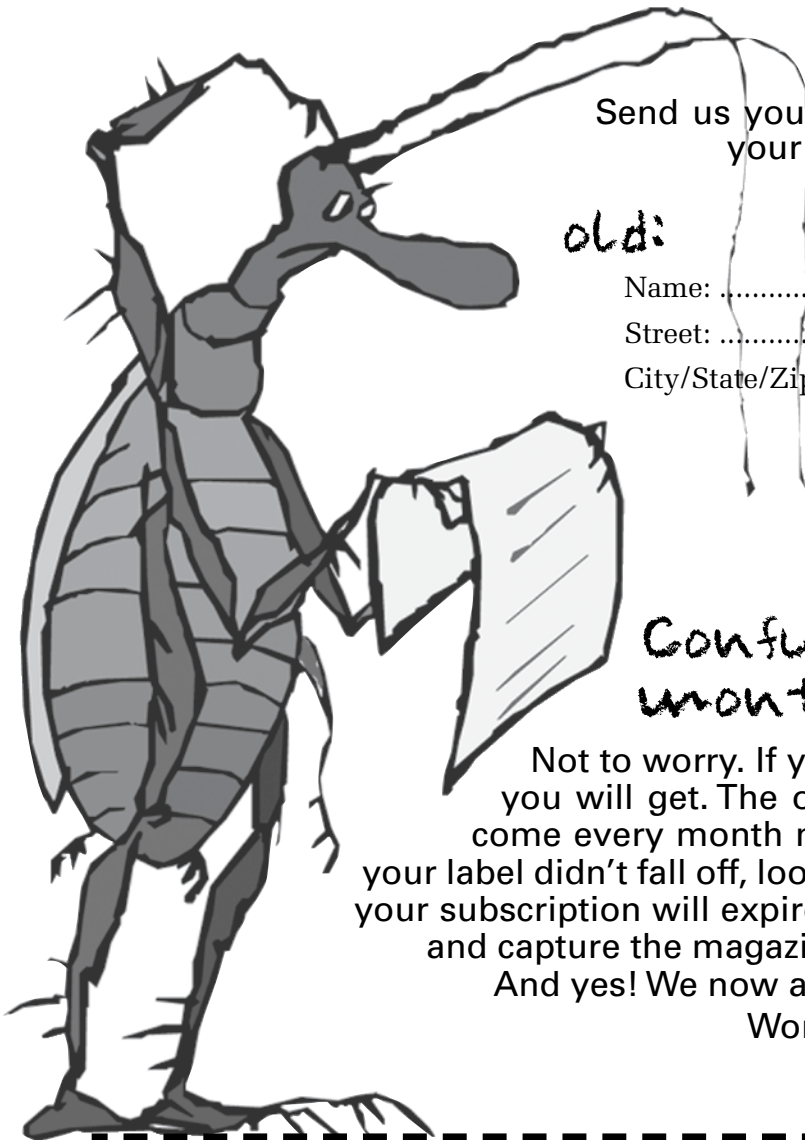
Let us start focusing on educating the media with the available data so we can bring their views more into a proper perspective with the truth. There is more than enough data available. All that is needed is just presenting it to the right people in the media and getting them to digest it in order to start turning the tide and open the floodgates in our favor.

This in itself is enough power to bring the world together to be able to demand more cooperation from our governments to stop harassments and threats against employees. The more these very credible witnesses are able to come forward, the more the press will take notice, which in turn will encourage more witnesses to come forward until there is a nonstoppable force flow that no governments will then be able to control.

We are a growing force in ufology that is capable, by coming together as one powerful group, to defend all who want to speak out openly and report on their experience so that the world will now start coming to grips with the reality we live in and to learn just what that reality is. **UFO**

Don Allis is the owner and webmaster for The Alien Seeker News. He considers himself as just another person in search of the truth to bring about a better world with a hope for a future—a future that will bring together the planet with the understanding that we are one society, and to know we all share the same goal of coexisting in peace under one flag, and that is the flag of our mother earth.

Read Ted Roe's complete report here: www.narcap.org/reports/TR8Bias1.htm



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