

Utah author shares local ghost stories

Submitted by
Linda Dunning

Dolly's Bookstore will host
a book signing with author

Linda Dunning to celebrate the release of "Restless Spirits: Utah's Small Town Ghosts," on Saturday, July 24, from 2 to 4 p.m.

"Restless Spirits," the third installment in Dunning's Utah Tales series, follows a map from the Cache Valley at the northern end of the state, through many towns and settlements to the North rim of the Grand Canyon, telling the early and present day stories about haunted places all over the state.

Dunning will have her previous books available for purchase as well. "Specters In Doorways" is mainly about haunted mansions, mills, schools, hotels, churches in Salt Lake City and Ogden, and "Lost Landscapes: Utah's Ghosts, Mysterious Creatures and Aliens" has stories about crop circles, Bigfoot, UFOs, lake creatures, Native American tales and ghosts, etc.

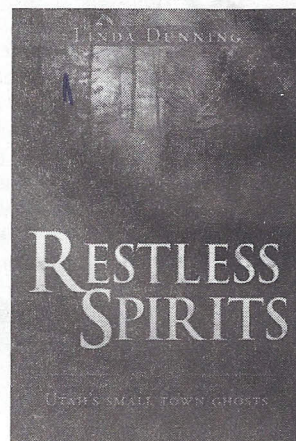
Dunning has won many awards from the Utah Original Writing Competition over the years, including first place for short story in 1980, second place for non-fiction book in 1992 and first place for autobiography in 1995. She has several unpublished manuscripts, but has published many poems over the years along with her books. City Weekly voted "Lost Landscapes" "the best spooky read" of 2008.

Dunning began researching, recording and writing these tales twenty years ago, traveling all over the state and interviewing many people on her summers off from school teaching. After 35

years of teaching special education and gifted children, she now visits schools telling her tales, challenging students to write their own ghost story and awarding students who win, with ribbons and detailed praise for their writing. She also does workshops on writing for young people as well as workshops for parents of children who are mislabeled, gifted, talented, and just plain magnificently intuitive. She has also enjoyed many years of interviewing dozens of senior citizens, preserving their town stories for future generations of curious and intrigued, explorers of history and the unusual, or even paranormal.

Utah has one of the most interesting histories of any state in the Union and the author's mission is to get these stories recorded before they are lost forever. She is writing about a place and anything interesting about that place in her "real" and historical ghost stories. It all has to be there in order for her to write about places in her home state, with the right mix of history, architecture, geology, science, folklore, storytelling, metaphysics, humor and observation. Her next book will be exploring haunted theatres, amusement parks, museums and dance halls.

You may find your hometown or one close to where you live and learn a little more about the hidden haunts rarely discussed, or discussed so often, that the many versions are endless. Find out what these many stories are all about in either



COURTESY OF LINDA DUNNING
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Dunning, the author of a
series of haunted Utah
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a different version of such tales, or find the one you are familiar with from your hometown memories and share it with others. There a few stories from Summit County in these books and recording these stories, whether new or in a myriad of versions will preserve them for future generations of readers.

Come to Dolly's Bookstore, located at 510 Main Street, on July 24 to celebrate the state's wonders in a different way and talk with the author about your memory stories of Utah as well. Park City "haunts" and mining stories are the subject in a future book.

For details about the signing, call 649-8062. For more information about Dunning and her books, go to www.untoldtalesofutah.com.