



THE  
**SAMHAIN**  
**SOCIETY**

*presents*

**HALLOWEEN**

**2020**



# TRICK OR TREAT

Is your vintage  
Halloween postcard  
authentic?

27

## SPOOKY ARTWORK

- 12 Art By Chelsea Celaya
- 37 Art By Eclipse Afterglow
- 38 Ten Shops for Your  
Halloween Art Collection

## HALLOWEEN SPIRIT

- 10 How to Introduce Your Kids  
to Horror Movies This Halloween
- 13 Dress Like A Vintage Vamp
- 32 Making Halloween Memories

## STORIES & POEMS

- 21 Halloween Night
- 23 Halloween Haiku
- 24 When Witchy Comes to Town

## DIY PROJECTS

- 06 Cozy Cauldron Cave for  
Your Favorite Familiar
- 28 The Great Pumpkin Project
- 34 Tips and Tricks for Carving and  
Decorating Faux Pumpkins
- 40 DIY: Crow Door Greeter

## EXTRA CREEPY

- 04 A Very Brief (but spooky)  
History of Halloween
- 14 In Search of a Real Good Scare  
5 Real-Life Haunted Attractions
- 30 Haunted Flint

## TASTY TREATS

- 16 Pecan Pie Martini
- 18 White Chocolate  
Pumpkin Spice Scones

# Happy Halloween from The Samhain Society!

Letter from the Editor



Happy Halloween and thanks for downloading The Samhain Society's inaugural digital zine! We are thrilled you're just as excited to celebrate the best day of the year as we are.

So right about now you're probably going, The Samhain Society? What is that? It sounds cool! And you'd be right. Back in the fall of 2017, I looked around the Halloween blogging community and realized there were some pretty cool people hanging out in this space. So I thought why not gather everybody into a group where we could talk shop, bounce ideas off each other and, ultimately, support each other's work.

These days The Samhain Society has more than 30 members, including blogs, YouTube channels, news sites and podcasts. It's an impressive group! All our members dedicate significant time to creating Halloween, horror and otherwise spooky content for you to consume across the Internet all year long - and for most of us, these are passion projects. Check out the directory at the back of the zine for a full list of our members!

As you scroll through the zine, you'll find a little sample of what we do. From DIY projects for your pets, to Halloween poetry, art and even real-life haunted attractions, much like our group there is a little something for everyone. We hope it gets you in the Halloween mood!

Now that you know a little bit about us, let's get back to why we're here: Halloween 2020. Look, we know it's going to be different this year...but here's the secret about Halloween: it isn't just a day on the calendar, a costume to wear or even a stack of horror movies to watch.

For true Halloween lovers, it's something more. It's a feeling we carry inside our hearts all year that lets us know it's okay to be different, to be strange and unusual, to be the weirdo, mister. And it's a little light that shines, allowing us to find others in this crazy world who feel the same way.

Haunted houses might be closed. Halloween shopping might feel different. Parties might be canceled. But the one thing that 2020 can't take away?

Our Halloween spirit.

Happy Halloween,  
Miranda Enzor  
The Samhain Society Founder  
[spookylittlehalloween.com](http://spookylittlehalloween.com)

# A Very Brief (but spooky) History of Halloween

Halloween is one of the oldest traditions around and although you might think it's a fairly modern holiday it actually has over 2000 year old roots. The origins of Halloween stem from the ancient Celtic tradition of Samhain (pronounced sow-in) which was celebrated from October 31st to November 1st throughout Ireland the United Kingdom and Europe.

Celts believed that the vale between the living and the dead was thinnest on this night and so huge fires were lit to sacrifice food, crops and even animals. They believed that these sacrifices would please the spirits who might destroy crops and property and instead grant them a gentle Autumn and Winter.

Fortunes were also predicted for the coming months during this night. This tradition continues today and was huge throughout the Victorian era too. Parties would have several fortune telling games throughout the night. From peeling apples and throwing them over your shoulder to see what letter formed on landing (the letter would be a prediction for the first letter of your future husband) to dropping hot wax into water to see what shape it made. The shape this time would either show the first letter of a name or would represent a career for example a hammer shape might appear meaning your future love will be a builder.

As the years went on Halloween has changed quite dramatically, from huge fires and sacrifices to trick or treating and dressing up. Although dressing up these days is usually just for fun, the Celts would dress up as demons and ghosts to appease the dead during their Samhain celebrations. This was also a great way to hide from the spirits and to avoid being recognised by those who might do them wrong.

Trick or Treating goes back as far as the middle ages. Mumming was a tradition where people would dress up and dance, play instruments



and generally cause a lot of noise throughout the streets. Soul Cakes were also introduced by the Catholic Church and would be given out to children (usually the poor) who would go from house to house singing and offering prayers. In return they would receive a Soul Cake. The cake was filled with various spices and dried fruits and marked with a cross on the top.

Although Halloween appears to be the most popular in America, it is still present around the world with the popularity increasing with each passing year in countries such as the United Kingdom, Australia and Japan.

Jack-o'-Lanterns are a staple of the spookiest month but did you know the name originated from an Irish folktale? The tale is of a man named Jack who tricked the Devil. When Jack died Heaven refused to let him enter and so did Hell, the Devil annoyed with being tricked gave him a burning coal and sent him on his way. Jack placed this inside a turnip to create a lantern and legend has it, he still wanders the earth today.

Turnips and Potatoes were originally carved and placed in windows and on doorsteps throughout Ireland. They were lit to scare off any spirits and also keep wondering Jack away. Originally referred to as Jack of the Lantern, time has gradually changed this to Jack-o'-Lantern. When America received a huge influx of Irish immigrants in the 1800's to early 1900's the



turnip was slowly replaced with the larger and easier to carve Pumpkin.

Today Halloween is celebrated all over the world and it's only getting bigger. Each year we're all treated to new ranges of costumes, candy, decorations and more which is why its second biggest holiday in the USA and also the third biggest in the UK behind Christmas and Easter. So expect many more years of wonderfully spooky goodness!

By William Prosser  
[October31st.co.uk](http://October31st.co.uk)



# Cozy Cauldron Cave for your Favorite Familiar

Hey meatbags, Lucifur the Lord of Barkness here again. I'm taking over the Nom this week to talk to you all about making sure your own personal hellhounds and familiars are being properly cared for. Part of the responsibility that comes with being graced with the presence of a four legged demigod is making sure you're providing adequate creature comforts for them. Which is why today I'm sharing this tutorial for a relatively simple cozy cauldron cave, perfect for the more diminutive among us (note, I didn't say small. A hellhound and/or a familiar is never small...simply well condensed.)

## FIRST THING YOU NEED TO DO IS PROCURE THE PROPER SUPPLIES.

You will need:

- 1 large plastic cauldron in a size adequate for your hellhound or familiar (the bigger the better, we like to spread out.)
- Super strong rare Earth magnets (at least 8)
- Self-adhesive Velcro tape
- 1 black plastic platter roughly the same size as the top of your cauldron without being so small as to fall in E6000 glue
- Dremel with cutting blade attached
- Silver Sharpie or light-colored marker
- Self-adhesive automotive door trim in matte black
- 1 can of Great Stuff expanding foam
- 1 bag of plastic bones
- 1 can fluorescent green spray paint
- 1 can black spray paint (glossy, satin or matte, it doesn't matter)
- 1 can glow in the dark spray paint
- Plastic grocery bags
- Painter's tape
- 1 soft, round pillow large enough to support the limbs of your creature in luxurious comfort but not so large as to be too big for the cauldron
- Fabric to recover said soft round pillow (my minion used an old pillowcase and I was quite pleased with the results)
- Coordinating ruffles to give said pillow that extra special touch that makes it truly worthy of my bottom.
- Black double fold bias tape

We'll start this tutorial by first making sure that the lid (the platter) stays secure to our cauldron by using our rare Earth magnets (you can also skip the magnets and simply use Velcro strips if you prefer). Space the four magnets around the edge of your cauldron on the underside of the lip and then used the E6000 glue to secure them in place. To keep the magnets in place while the glue is drying, place corresponding magnets on TOP of the lip of your cauldron. The magnetic attraction will keep them in place while the glue is dry. Once dry, when you remove the top magnets, the magnets on the underside will stay in place. Set your platter on top of your cauldron and line up your magnets along the edge, making sure they match up with the magnets you glued to the underside of the lip on your cauldron. Glue the magnets to the top of your platter, again using the E6000 glue. Allow to dry fully.

Now that those steps are done, let's move onto the fun steps! Decorate your platter with your expansion foam. I had my minion apply two full layers, using the first to give a good base and then piling up the second layer for more depth. As your layers start to firm up, embed in your bones (double your bones by cutting the longer ones in half). Set your platter aside for now while the foam dries and cures (because curing expansion foam does have noxious fumes and our noses are sensitive, we fully expect you to leave this nasty pile outside for at least 48 hours before moving onto painting it. Not only does this guarantee that it's completely cured, but the last thing you want to do is expose us to anything that is still oozing any sort of chemical fumes or smells) and let's move onto working on the rest of the cauldron.

While that cures, let's work on making the cauldron comfortable.

Using your silver or light-colored marker, carefully draw out an entrance for us on the side of the cauldron, making sure that it's not only large enough for us to use comfortably, but still retains enough of a lip to allow our pillow to remain in place. Using the cutting blade of the Dremel, carefully remove the plastic and grind down any huge or jagged edges. Test fit your demigod's pillow at this time, as well as the opening. Make any adjustments as needed.





Once your demigod is happy with the size of the opening, apply the self-adhesive automotive trim carefully to the entire edge of the hole you just cut in the cauldron. This will cover any unsightly rough spots left over from cutting the entrance hole as well as smooth the edge so it doesn't scrape our delicate backs. I also had my minion apply the remainder of the edging to the entire inner lip of the cauldron for the same reason. Comfort and safety should always be your first two considerations when it comes to doing anything for your furry demigods.

Now it's time for you to recover the pillow. To do this, simply create a pillow case from coordinating fabric and edge with appropriate trim. I had my minion leave one section open so we could remove the case and wash it as needed. You can hem the open edge using bias tape for a nice, easy look.

Finally, it's time to paint and finish the platter section of this build. Again, make sure the expansion foam is fully dry before moving onto this step. Using your plastic grocery bags and painter's tape, mask off the bones and anything you don't want to be painted green and black. Lay down a base of black spray paint and then go over with your fluorescent green. Add in layers of green and black as you want to help add depth. Once your paint is dry, peel off your tape and bags and reveal how awesome your platter looks already!



Highlight your cauldron topper using your glow in the dark paint, allowing it to dry between layers. Because it dries anywhere from a clear to a slightly powdery white, I had my minion spray the entire piece with it. Thin layers dry clear, heavier applications dry white. I had her use a thin layer over the green and black parts and a thicker layer over the bones.

Time for final assembly and proper inspection by your furry demigod. Place your recovered pillow into the cauldron. To help keep it secure and prevent it from sliding around in the concave interior of the cauldron, a few pieces of self-adhesive Velcro tape are an easy way to anchor it while still allowing it to be removed for cleaning and repairs.

Place the lid down on top of the cauldron, aligning the magnets (or Velcro, depending on what you used) and then step back to allow your demigod to do a thorough and complete inspection of their new abode.

Depending on how adventurous your demigod is, it may take a few treats to encourage them to investigate the interior of their new cozy cauldron. Regardless, never force them into a space they're not comfortable going into (and depending on how recently you painted and/or your foam cured, a few extra days for the entire thing to air out might be the difference between them making it their new favorite place to hang out and a place they want nothing to do with.) Listen to your demigods, they'll let you know when they're ready.



# How to Introduce Your Kids to Horror Movies This Halloween

## and Five Movie Recommendations to Get Them Started

As a father that runs a horror and Halloween website, I often get asked how I navigated introducing my kids to horror movies. In 2019 I shared my experiences as well as the experiences of other members of the horror community including *You Might Be The Killer* director Brett Simmons and Fangoria and Rue Morgue contributor Anya Stanley on AllHallowsGeek.com. Looking back, there were some common themes that came up in the series, and if you're thinking of introducing your kid to the genre this Halloween, here are some tips based on the collective experience shared in my 2019 series, along with some movie recommendations.

### REVISIT THE MATERIAL

No matter how much you think you might know a movie, it's always a good idea to revisit the material before sitting down with your kids to watch it. This preps you for any scenes that might be too intense for your child.

My kids' gateway horror film was *Poltergeist*, a movie I had seen probably half a dozen times before and had even caught in theaters a few Halloween prior. I remembered the tree. I remembered the clown. I remembered the skeletons in the pool. I forgot about the face peeling scene.

From a gore standpoint, the scene is fairly mild. However, it was still a bit more intense than I was initially planning on when it came to showing my kids their first horror film.

Comic book writer James Ninness made a similar mistake when he shared with me his experience introducing his kids to horror. He showed his kids the movie *The Frighteners* thinking it had a PG-13 rating. While watching it with his kids he found it was a lot more violent than he remembered and later realized the film was actually rated R. Needless to say, it helps to rewatch whatever film you're thinking of sharing with your kids beforehand.

### KNOW YOUR CHILD'S LIMITS

The most important thing you can do as a parent when introducing your kids to horror movies is to understand their limits and be mindful of them. When I started thinking about what horror movies might be good introductions to the genre, I was conscious of the things I knew my kids already had nightmares about or feared. If the film featured something I felt might trigger those fears or nightmares, I tried to shy away from those films.

And as Witchy Kitchen blogger Carrie Scott shared, regardless of the movie, don't be afraid to shut it down if things get too intense during a viewing. "It's true we horror fans are excited to share the genre with our kids so it's tempting to dive right in, but you don't want to ruin it for them by showing them something too intense before they are ready." If it's too much, turn it off.

## WHERE TO START

Most kid-friendly horror viewing lists feature animated films like *A Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Coraline*, and *Monster House*. There's absolutely nothing wrong with starting your kids off on these films, but here are a few that came up during my interviews that you may want to consider.

### Jaws

Director Brett Simmons shared *Jaws* as the first film he introduced his son to because it wasn't gory or disturbing, but exposed him to the feeling of suspense and fear in a film. He used that as a foundation to build upon by slowly adding gore and scarier elements.

### Poltergeist

While it does have some intense gore in the face peeling scene, the overall scares I feel are just enough for younger kids to get a taste of what horror has to offer without being too over the top.

### Gremlins

Though the scares are light in this film, it introduces kids to creature horror and is a much more playful genre film to start out with. The gremlins in the film can definitely be frightening for younger kids, but their playful nature can offset their unsettling image.

### Killer Klowns From Outer Space

Another playful film, *Killer Klowns From Outer Space* has a perfect mix of scary and goofy elements to give your kid a little bit of a break if they get scared.

### The Universal Monsters

If you're uncertain about any of the above films, nearly everyone I talked to agreed that the classic Universal Monster films are a great start and for most kids these days, the scariest part will be that they are in black and white.

If you're planning to introduce your child to horror this Halloween, just make sure they are ready. If you force it and traumatize them or make them resent the genre, the fun is lost. But if you're patient and pay attention to their cues, you'll be enjoying horror as a family in no time.

By Mike Wilton  
All Hallows Geek

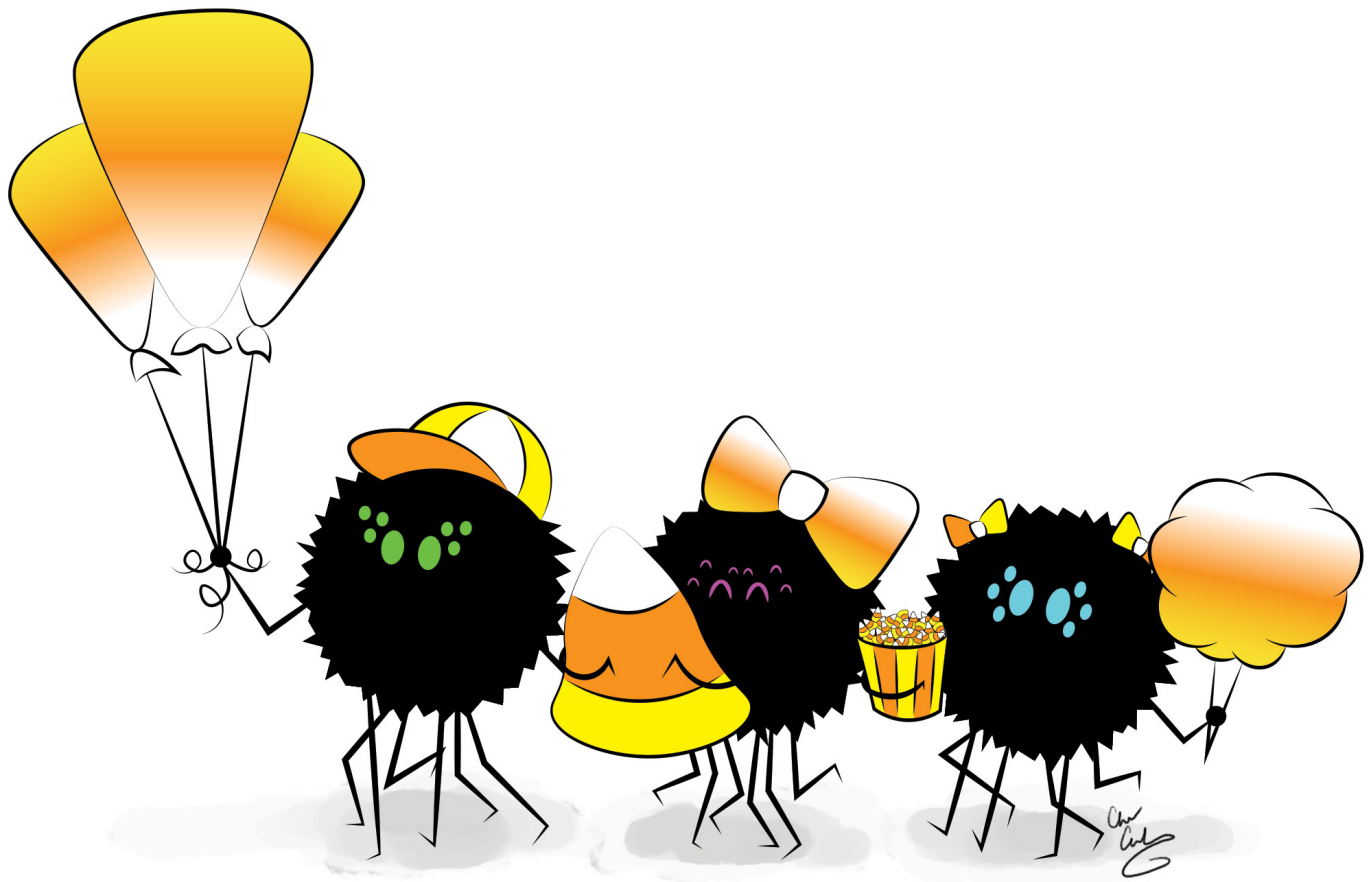


## TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU

There are some heavy motifs and themes that present themselves in horror films that your kids might not fully understand. Don't be afraid to discuss the films as you watch them. These conversations can generate some incredible learning experiences and also help to make your kids more comfortable with the material.

When James Ninness shared with me his story about watching *The Frighteners* with his kids, he shared how it sparked a conversation with his girls about serial killers. "That's a stressful talk to have, but it was a good one for us," explained James. "It started with why do people kill? Which led to why do people hurt other people? And ended us at how can we help people who seem hurt? There are (usually) lessons to be learned in horror if you can get beyond the superficial."

In my interview with Anya Stanley, she shared that a post-zombie movie discussion led her son to open up her laptop and begin researching how pandemics start and spread, so while horror movies are entertainment they can also lead to something deeper learnings.



By Chelsea Celaya  
Cheers! With Chelsea

# Dress Like a

# Vintage Vamp

With style inspirations like *Vampira* and *Lilly Munster*, it's no surprise that there are plenty of glamour ghouls who prefer a vintage-inspired take on Halloween fashion. Try these tips for retro style that will keep you hauntingly lovely all October (or even all year)!

## All Black Everything

Even if you don't have Halloween-specific pieces, an all-black ensemble is the perfect middle ground between classy and creepy. Black from head to toe is an excellent option for vintage gothic glamor, or add an unmistakable Halloween touch by accessorizing with orange.

## Eerie Resin Jewelry

Resin jewelry is an iconic part of vintage fashion. You may find true vintage options while thrifting, but there are also plenty of modern makers using vintage findings or vintage-inspired molds to make earrings, bangles, brooches, and more.

## Spooky Statement Skirts

If you invest in one Halloween piece, I recommend a skirt in a fabulous spooky print. Whether you prefer pumpkins, skeletons, ghosts, ouija boards, or spiderwebs, you'll find a nearly endless variety of options at vintage-inspired shops like *Unique Vintage* during the Halloween season. If you're the crafty type, it's also easy to transform an inexpensive quilting cotton into a stylish Halloween skirt. Pair your skirt with a black blouse or coordinating sweater for guaranteed creepy cuteness.



## Spots to Shop

Unique Vintage  
Sourpuss Clothing  
The Oblong Box Shop  
Vixen by Micheline Pitt  
La Femme En Noir  
Etsy

By Penny Snark  
The Scennie Sling

# In Search of a Real Good Scare

## 5 Real-Life Haunted Attractions

*At Halloween, everyone is entitled to one good scare. Come October, many of us search of that perfect scare and usually we find just what we're looking for in haunted attractions. Haunted houses get our hearts pounding. But many times, we can convince ourselves that it's all pretend. They're just actors with a chainless-chainsaw chasing us through amazing sets. But what happens when a haunted attraction is, in fact, haunted? Check out my five favorite real-life haunted attractions that you can experience for yourself this Halloween season... That is, if you're not scared.*

### #5. The Moss Mansion

914 Division St, Billings, MT 59101  
www.mossmansion.com

Built in 1903 for the Moss family, this gorgeous mansion is now a Registered Historic Landmark. Multiple family members died inside the building from 1903-1984 including Mr. and Mrs. Moss, her parents, and their two daughters: Virginia (5 years old) and Melville (88 years old). Employees and visitors report hearing voices as well as a little girl giggling. The #1 claim is the sight of Virginia. Most famously, she was spotted beside Melville at the moment of her death in 1984. Today, the museum offers ghost tours as well as a haunted attraction. All proceeds go to preserving the mansion. Just don't be too concerned if you see a little girl running up and down the stairs... she'll disappear after a while. She always does.  
Fright Factor: 3.75/5

### #4. Asylum 49

140 E 200 S, Tooele, UT 84074  
www.asylum49.com

Thanks to Ghost Adventures in 2017 (season 14, episode 11), Asylum 49 might be one of the most famous haunted-haunted attractions in the country. Built in 1873, the Tooele Hospital was a poorhouse before it became a hospital in the 1950s. Most recently, it was a nursing home. Residents and nurses reported paranormal phenomena including full-body apparitions. There is a nurse in white and a man in black. There are also children seen inside. According to tales, spotting a child meant that a resident would die soon. The nursing home wasn't the only business that called Tooele Hospital its home. In 2006, Asylum 49 moved into the old hospital. But just because the two businesses were separated by a door didn't mean the spirits wouldn't come and go as they liked. Many visitors to Asylum 49 reported seeing a little girl follow them through the attraction. If you think you have what it takes to face a real haunted hospital complete with child apparitions, check out Asylum 49. But beware: this is a full-contact experience. I think I'd rather take the ghost kids... they don't seem nearly as freaky!  
Fright Factor: 4.5/5

### #3. The Dent Schoolhouse

5963 Harrison Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45248  
www.frightsite.com

The Dent Schoolhouse is half history, half urban legend. According to legend, Dent School was the sight of a string of murders from 1942-1952 after students began to go missing. In 1955, seven more students disappeared before members of the community broke into the school's basement. It was down there that they found the remains of the missing students. Immediately, the janitor, Charlie McFree, was suspected. Today, the building is said to be haunted by the restless spirits of the students who were murdered inside.

Now this makes for one hell of a good ghost story... but there doesn't seem to be any evidence that backs it up. But that doesn't stop Dent Schoolhouse from cashing in on their grisly ghost story each year. Personally, I doubt there is any weight to this urban legend. With Dent Schoolhouse making a profit off of the morbid story as well as recreating the murder scene down in the basement, I'd hope this is nothing more than a good ghost story that has taken on a life of its own.

Fright Factor: 4.75/5

## #2. Haunted Plantation

94-695 Waipahu St, Waipahu, HI 96797

[www.hawaiihauntedplantation.com](http://www.hawaiihauntedplantation.com)

One of Oahu's most famous tourist attractions can get pretty terrifying when the sun goes down. Hawaii's Plantation Village is an outdoor museum, highlighting what life was like on a sugar plantation. Supposedly of the 25 plantation houses on the grounds, at least half of them are haunted. The Portuguese house is home to a little girl. The Puerto Rican house has a Japanese doll that leaves its case. And the Okinawan home has an entity that chokes people.

Haunted Plantation actors are not permitted inside the houses alone for their own safety. Actors report being scratched, grabbed, and even choked. Today, it is Hawaii's largest haunted attraction and is considered one of the best in the country. So explore the Haunted Plantation and be tormented by some of Hawaii's oldest spirits... there's no telling which are fake and which are real.

Fright Factor: 5/5

## #1. Eastern State Penitentiary

2027 Fairmount Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19130

[www.easternstate.org/halloween/node/3](http://www.easternstate.org/halloween/node/3)

You don't have to be entrenched in the paranormal to know about Eastern State. America's most famous prison, it ran from 1829-1971, and imprisoned Al Capone. As if real-life criminals wasn't enough to get your heart pounding, every October Terror Behind the Walls comes to Eastern State. Explore six unique haunted houses scattered throughout the cellblocks. While you make your way through the haunted attractions, keep in mind that this place is seriously haunted. Since the 1940s, both inmates and guards have experienced the paranormal at Eastern State. When planning your trip to Terror Behind the Walls, keep in mind that you get to choose from two very different experiences: spectator or player. I recommend being a player for the ultimate experience. You'll be grabbed, held back, separated from your group, and sent through hidden passageways. The 2020 season of Terror Behind the Walls has been canceled due to Covid-19. However, America's largest haunted house is already planning for the 2021 season and you can be sure it'll be the most terrifying yet.

Fright Factor: 5/5

By Amanda R. Woomer  
Spook-Eats





# Pecan Pie Martini

By Andrew Noles  
Your Best Halloween Ever

## INGREDIENTS

Vanilla Vodka  
Butterscotch Schnapps  
Vanilla Almond Milk  
Simple Syrup, Brown Sugar, and  
Chopped Pecans for the rim

## HARDWARE

Drink Shaker  
Two plates to rim the glass  
Martini glass



No BOOze? No problem!

If you're looking to enjoy a booze-free Pecan Pie Martini, just remove the vanilla vodka and butterscotch schnapps and replace with a vanilla simple syrup and a small amount of butterscotch syrup or ice cream topping. Mix it all up and don't forget the brown sugar and chopped pecan garnish!

We love pulling drink inspirations from our favorite desserts! I first made this Pecan Pie Martini a few years ago when I was coming up with a few drinks to make for a family Thanksgiving. I had actually come across a pecan pie flavored vodka and knew I wanted to incorporate it somehow. As I was thinking about the different flavors of pecan pie, I kept coming back to the buttery richness that can also be found in butterscotch schnapps. And to balance the liquors? It may sound weird, but vanilla almond milk actually does a great job of cutting the sting of the vodka while enhancing the overall drink without making it too heavy! I mixed it up to sample and knew I had a hit on my hands. (Which was later confirmed at said Thanksgiving when the Pecan Pie Martini was the first drink I ran out of!)

I only ever found that pecan pie vodka once, so when I decided to make the Pecan Pie Martini again later that holiday season, I thought I might try it with vanilla vodka, which of course is readily available. To my relief, the flavor difference was minimal! I decided to toss a bit of the brown sugar and chopped pecan mixture into the drink with this batch to bring through some more pecan flavor. Again, the Pecan Pie Martini was a huge hit and I knew I had found a drink to keep in my repertoire.

One more thing: You can buy vanilla vodka pretty much anywhere liquor is sold, but if you've got some time on your hands and some extra cash to spare, try infusing your own! Just cut a vanilla bean down its side, put it in a jar, and pour plain vodka over it. Let it sit for about a week or so, shaking at least once a day to get the flavors moving. Again, you can of course just buy your favorite brand of vanilla vodka, but if you're looking to try out some new vodka flavors in different recipes, I highly recommend splitting up a bottle of plain and seeing what you can come up with! Cheers!

Start by setting a pecan aside for each drink and carefully cut a slit into each one to place on the glass' rims when finished. Chop the remaining pecans and mix with brown sugar on a plate for the rim. Pour a small amount of simple syrup on the second plate. Dip the rim of the glass in the simple syrup and allow excess drips to fall off before placing the rim in the brown sugar and pecan mixture. Swirl the glass around to ensure that plenty of the brown sugar and pecan mixture adheres to the glass. Once the glass' rim is covered to your liking, set aside.

For this simple cocktail, pour equal parts vanilla vodka and butterscotch schnapps in a shaker. Add enough vanilla almond milk to double the amount of liquid in the shaker. Shake the cocktail mixture with ice and strain into the prepared martini glasses.

Garnish with a prepared pecan from Step 1 and sprinkle some of the remaining brown sugar and chopped pecan mixture over the top of the drink.

Ignore the calories like you would an actual pecan pie and enjoy responsibly!

# White Chocolate Pumpkin Spice Scones



## SCONE INGREDIENTS

6 tbsp cold butter  
2 cups all purpose flour  
4 tbsp granulated sugar  
1 ½ tsp baking powder  
½ tsp salt  
1 tsp cinnamon  
½ tsp ginger  
½ tsp nutmeg  
½ tsp cloves  
½ cup vanilla almond milk  
¼ cup pumpkin puree  
1 cup white chocolate chips  
1 egg  
Granulated sugar in the raw

## VANILLA ICING INGREDIENTS

Powdered sugar  
1 tbsp water  
½ tbsp vanilla extract  
½ tbsp almond extract

## PUMPKIN SPICE ICING INGREDIENTS

Powdered sugar  
Ground spices to taste  
Cinnamon  
Ginger  
Nutmeg  
Cloves  
Pumpkin puree

## ADDITIONAL TOOLS

Sifter (if desired)  
Dough cutter (if desired)  
Flat spatula  
Toothpicks  
Parchment paper

## INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat your oven to 400°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Start making the scones by cutting your butter into small cubes and placing in the freezer to keep it very cold. Combine all of your dry ingredients (flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and cloves) using a sifter in a large mixing bowl. You can also add everything to the bowl and mix gently with a whisk before adding anything else to the flour mixture to combine everything.

Add the cold butter to the flour mixture and cut the butter into it using your preferred method (like a dough cutter, a pair of butter knives, by hand or even running the mix through a food processor). I find it helpful to add the pieces slowly with one hand while using the other to coat each cube with flour, as this helps keep the butter from sticking to the cutting tools too badly. You'll want the butter to be about pea size or smaller. Return the flour and butter mixture to the freezer to keep cool.

Whisk together the almond milk and the pumpkin puree in a measuring cup. (You can substitute in your preferred milk here if almond isn't your jam.) Retrieve the cold flour and butter mixture from the freezer and pour in the wet ingredients, using a flat spatula to start forming the dough. Before everything is totally combined, pour in the white chocolate chips.

At this point, the mix will likely be difficult to stir with the spatula, so flour your hands and get to kneading! Be careful not to knead too much, though - you only want the dough to just come together. Once the dough is combined, form it into a disc about 8" in diameter. I find it helpful to get the dough formed in the mixing bowl as it keeps everything in one place and also helps with forming the dough into a disc.

Flour a clean working surface and place the disc on it. If the disc starts to lose its shape, you can place it in the freezer for a minute or so to cool it back off and then pat it back into the disc shape on the floured surface. Using a knife, carefully cut the dough into 8 pieces as you would a pizza. Cutting the scones this way will keep them in their classic scone shape as well help the portions stay about equal. Place the scones on the lined baking sheet. Finish preparing the scones by brushing on an egg wash and liberally sprinkling with granulated sugar in the raw.

Bake the scones for 16 - 18 minutes, or until they're golden brown and a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean.

While the scones are baking, mix the icings in separate containers (bowls, measuring cups, etc). Note that you'll want both icings to stay relatively thick so as not to completely run off the scones before drying.

For the vanilla icing, start by pouring powdered sugar into your container followed by the water, and then the vanilla and almond extracts to taste. Stir the mix with a fork slowly so as not to get the powdered sugar everywhere. If it gets too runny, add extra powdered sugar.

For the pumpkin spice icing, get all of your dry ingredients into the container before mixing in the pumpkin puree. The puree serves as the only wet ingredient here, so again, be sure to stir slowly. You'll want this icing to stay especially thick as it will be used for most of the detail and design on top of the scones. Again, if it gets too runny, add additional powdered sugar. Once the scones are finished baking, transfer to a drying rack and allow them to cool completely.

Transfer the vanilla and pumpkin spice icings to piping bags (or food safe zip top bags, if you prefer). Pipe on the vanilla glaze first, allowing it to run over most of the top of the scones. It will dry pretty quickly. After that, pipe on whatever design you wish with the pumpkin spice icing. Allow the icing to fully set, and enjoy!

True story, I love baking scones! I've been working on perfecting my scone recipe over the last few years, practicing with different flavors and filling combinations, and I've got a really great thing going here! I think they're just the perfect baked good: not too sweet, not too dry... they can be a great grab 'n go breakfast or even a dessert that's not gonna leave you feeling too, too guilty.

This dough just barely comes together in the kneading process, and really puffs up as it bakes, resulting in a much heartier scone that's packed with flavor! And the great thing about shaping it into a disc and cutting the scones out pizza-style is that they'll all wind up being about the same portion. Just be careful not to let the dough get too warm - if you feel like it's getting too sticky, feel free to chill it for a few minutes; you can also add more flour to the top and bottom if necessary.

And if you're not sure about the white chocolate pumpkin spice flavor here, feel free to take out the white chocolate chips as well as the pumpkin puree and spices. Keep in mind that you'll need to sub another wet ingredient in for the pumpkin puree. I usually just add another  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of almond milk, but you can get creative here. I've made all kinds of scones with this method: chocolate chunk and pecan, cherry and chocolate (with cocoa powder added to the dry ingredients!), and a blueberry scone with lemon glaze that friends still text about!

So if you're looking for a tasty baked treat this fall, look no further! These scones are delicious and with a bake this easy, you may find yourself with a new fall favorite that you can make right at home anytime you like. Happy Baking!

By Andrew Noles  
Your Best Halloween Ever



The background is a dark grey rectangle with a central white circle. Surrounding the circle are various Halloween icons: a black bat with orange eyes in the top left, a grey skull in the middle left, a grey skeleton with orange eyes in the middle right, a black spider in the bottom right, and an orange ghost in the bottom left. Orange spider webs are scattered around the scene. The text is centered within the white circle.

*Halloween Night*

**In darkness and light  
Shadows betwixt and between  
The unseen is seen**

*A Haiku by Roxanne Rhoads*



★  
★  
★  
★  
★

PUMPKINS  
CRISP APPLES  
HOT CIDER  
HAYRIDES

TREAT STREET

HAPPY HALLOWEEN 1220

SPOOKY

1220

By Jorene Lomenzo  
Shivers of Delight

*fallen leaves  
searching for innocence  
halloween*

*[www.halloween-haiku.com](http://www.halloween-haiku.com)*



# When **Witchy** Comes to Town

*What are some of the ways you celebrate Halloween? From decorating to dressing in costumes, Halloween is a holiday rich in tradition and history, dating back thousands of years. And for the residents of one small town, Halloween means they're about to be paid several visits by one of their most mysterious citizens: a witch who lives in a little stone cottage and brings the spirit of Halloween with her each time she comes to town.*

We always know Halloween is on its way when Witchy comes to town.

Of course, it's widely accepted that most small towns and villages have a witch or two, but don't believe the rumors you may hear about them. I'm sure there's been a few bad ones over time, but Witchy is jovial and kind. She's an old woman with short, graying hair who lives at the edge of the woods in a stone cottage, and mostly keeps to herself. Our town grocer even makes a weekly trip to deliver her food, bringing back her trinkets to sell in his shop. For most of the year, we hear very little from our local witch.

But when Witchy comes to town, it's nothing short of magical.

It starts when the first leaf changes colors. Some trees turn a bright yellow, others a deep red. The days are still warm, but the nights start to cool and if you listen very carefully, you can hear her singing in the wind as she tends to her garden of pumpkins.

**"Dance with me, let's spin and sing!  
'Tis nigh on the hour of Halloween!"**

**When the leaves doth change, and the days condense,  
Magic builds in the air, and my power hence!**

**So I say with glee to those most dear:  
Happy Halloween to all - the time grows near!"**

She makes her first trip into town on the first of October when the sun is at its highest point, the squeaking wheels of her horse-drawn cart announcing her arrival. The children playing in the streets gather to welcome her as she rounds the corner into the square, a toothy grin on her weathered face.

"Hello again, my darlings!" she calls, lifting the wide brim of her black pointed hat to greet the children. They rush to her, knowing she's brought them gifts to take home.

"For you, a paper bat, my dear," Witchy says, handing out a handmade decoration, "and for you a pumpkin pail! A hanging ghost for you, young one, and for you all, a spooky tale!"





After the last of the decorations has been handed out, the children gather round and she tells them stories of Halloween. She shares chronicles from the woods and tales of the spirits, bringing them to life with her magic, until the shadows grow long and she must begin her journey home. She packs her cart and departs the square, waving goodbye as she goes.

"I'll be back in two weeks' time, when the leaves all start to fall," she calls. "And I'll have with me in my cart, dress up costumes for you all!"

True to her word, Witchy returns in two weeks. The days are shorter, and the air more brisk. It's a windy, gray day when the squeak of her cart can again be heard. The children of the town throw on their jackets and run to the square to await her arrival, and as she turns the corner, they welcome her with a cheer.

"Hello again, my little ones!" she calls to the excited children. "It's lovely to see you all! I hope my decor hath brought you joy, as the days give way to fall!"

She jumps down from her cart, her bangles clanging as she lands; her black dress is covered in crescents and stars that shimmer, even on this dreary day. She reaches up and pulls

down an old trunk that hits the ground with a bang.

The children look over one another, eager to see what Witchy has for them today. She flings open the trunk and starts passing around carefully wrapped parcels.

"For you a sweeping cape, my darling," she says excitedly. "Oh! You look divine! For you a black cat mask, young one, and for you a hat like mine!"

Witchy continues handing out costumes and as she does, the children happily put them on. Before too long, the last of the parcels has been handed out and she is surrounded by a group of little goblins and ghouls, all excitedly playing in the costumes she's given them.

"Now take these home, and do take care," she says. "I know they bring delight! But carefully these costumes wear so they last 'til Halloween night!"

With that, she gives each child a hug and sends them on their way home. She carefully puts the trunk back in her cart and as quickly as she'd come to town, Witchy is on her way back to her cottage.

The next week Witchy comes to town again, though this time overnight and with only about a week until Halloween. As the sun goes down, she loads her cart full with the pumpkins from her garden, and once the town has gone to sleep, sets out on her mission.

Witchy quietly rides through the town, wrapped in her orange cloak adorned with bats, owls, and cats. She hums to herself cheerily as she goes, leaving a pumpkin at each door with a note that reads:

“Here’s a pumpkin, orange and stout,  
and all your very own.

But now a task to you I hand,  
imperative you don’t postpone.

For soon the moon glows in the darkest of  
night,  
and walks a spirit horde.

And only the light of this jack o’lantern,  
off the monsters will ward.

So carve a face and light a candle,  
to carefully place inside.

And leave it lit the whole night through,  
‘til the sun outside doth rise!”

Witchy continues on her nocturnal errand until the last of her pumpkins have been delivered to the homes in the town, and when she’s finished, she quietly heads back to her cottage, singing to herself along with the gentle clip clop of her horse’s hooves as she goes.

Witchy makes her final trip to town for the year on the morning of Halloween, loading up her cart with treats for all. And by the time the children of the town wake up, she has completely transformed the square into a Halloween wonderland with decorations and games for everyone to enjoy.

In the late afternoon, once they have finished their schooling for the day, the children dress up in their costumes and head to the square with their parents and carved jack o’lanterns in tow. They spend hours playing games and sharing the treats Witchy has brought.

“For you a candied apple, dear,” she grins, “and you a pumpkin pie. For you a bag of sugar treats, better than money can buy!”

The sun starts to set and the townsfolk light the candles in their jack o’lanterns, bathing the square in an orange glow. They light a bonfire in the middle, and a few of the adults play music from fiddles and pipes. Witchy joyfully leads them in a dance, her pointed shoes clanking on the stones in the square.

One by one, the children start to grow tired, and their parents take them home. Before long, there are only a few of the adults from the town helping Witchy carefully pack the decorations away in her cart.

As the town settles down to sleep, with jack o’lanterns still lighting their windows, Witchy drives her cart back to her cottage, singing to herself in the moonlight.

“Dance with me, let’s spin and sing!  
‘Tis still the hour of Halloween!

Lo, as belov’d October wanes,  
The magic of this night yet reigns!

So I say once more, to those most dear:  
Happy Halloween to all, and I’ll see you next year!”

By Andrew Noles  
Your Best Halloween Ever



# REAL OR REPLICIA

Four easy ways to tell if your vintage Halloween postcard is authentic

By Kristy Edwards  
Halloween Haiku

## 1 Postmarks

Postmarked dates are a good indication of the age. Postmarks made by machines or from unusual locations have added value. Some collectors only buy/sell postmarked cards.



## 2 Style

Real vintage Halloween postcards produced during the golden age of postcards (1905-1915) were made with thick card stock and sometimes featured an embossed image on the front.



## 3 Vendors

Vintage Halloween postcards are not sold in modern stores. Those are vintage replica. True authentic originals are typically found at paper shows, antique stores, auctions, and estate sales.

## 4 Price

Rare cards, especially those in pristine condition, can fetch as much as \$1200. Even postcards with damage, such as foxing or tears, hold some value. Expect to pay upwards of \$15 for worn-out cards. Average price for good, solid cards: \$30-\$50.

## Meet the Postcard Queens

**Ellen Clapsaddle**, painted over 3,000 postcards, featuring whimsical images of animals and children.

**Frances Brundage** often added a distinctive red ribbon somewhere in her artwork.



## Other Notable Artists

Bernhardt Wall produced over 5,000 postcards during his lifetime, earning him the title of "Postcard King". The art of Samuel L. Schmucker (SLS) featured pretty women in bright colors. Jason Freixas painted round-faced toddlers with star-fished hands.

# The Great Pumpkin Project

Have you heard of The Great Pumpkin Project? Established in 2015, the mission of the project is to place a carved jack-o'-lantern somewhere in your town every day in October. The mysterious founder of the project, who goes by "A", carves about 40 pumpkins during the month and says the hardest part every year is finding new places to put them.

The Great Pumpkin Project blog (<https://www.thegreatpumpkinproject.com>) evokes a magical sense of nostalgia and a call to preserve the Eve of All Hallows'. "Can you remember back to a time as a kid where Halloween was magic? ... The Great Pumpkin Project is a movement to bring back the spirit of those nights, and the season's high holiday, All Hallows' Eve."

**This year marks the 5th anniversary of the project and may become especially significant if trick-or-treating is canceled in towns due to the pandemic. It will be more important than ever to keep Halloween visible and alive.**

Carving a pumpkin and leaving it to be found by others is SO MUCH FUN! I know, because I've participated for the last few years. It truly does make you feel like a kid again. If you're intimidated by carving a pumpkin every day in October - and frankly, who wouldn't be - you can make it your goal to place carved pumpkins on October weekends or the week before Halloween. You could even form a secret local club to help you out.

Photos of carved and carefully placed jack-o'-lanterns have been submitted from Scotland, Ireland, and England and at least 30 states. The project founder says "So every

year I intend for it to get bigger. I want it to be my legacy when I'm gone. To have it be a new tradition for the holiday that lasts forever."

The Great Pumpkin Project blog offers inspiration and a specially designed tag for you to print and tie to your pumpkin explaining the project. This year the tag will be designed by a well-known Halloween artist who will be announced as October approaches.

Follow The Great Pumpkin Project on Instagram @greatpumpkinproject and make sure to tag photos of the jack-o'-lanterns you place around town.

By Jorene Lomenzo  
Shivers of Delight



# Haunted Flint

## An Ancient Curse, a Mythical Battle, Native American Burial Grounds, and Bodies Left Behind

Many people have theories about why a place may be haunted. The number one reason—someone died there. Others believe the death has to be sudden or traumatic to leave an imprint. Some think that sometimes spirits simply don't want to leave or that they get confused and can't find their way through the veil.

During research for *Haunted Flint* we looked to history to explain some of the haunting tales that swirl around Flint landmarks. Did someone die in the building? Did they love their home so much they simply didn't want to move on to the afterlife?

Curses and disturbed spirits are popular tropes for horror movies and ghost stories. Perhaps there is a reason those tropes are so popular, because disrespecting the dead can lead to disaster.

Flint is a relatively small city, but it is filled with ghostly tales, grisly murders, and odd urban legends.

**The old built over a cemetery horror movie trope... in Flint it's more than a story.**

The Old Flint City Cemetery was moved in the 1950s. Around 1200 remains were re-interred at the Flint City Cemetery on Linden and Pasadena. In 1958 the remaining residents of Old City Cemetery were reburied in Avondale along with 122 grave markers. Or were they?

In 1985 the remains of more than 24 bodies were found in the basement of the Holiday Inn Express at 1150 Longway Boulevard and I-475. They were eventually reburied at the Flint City Cemetery.

Rumors swirl that Albert J Koerts, who purchased the old cemetery property, just moved the grave markers to Avondale which means the remains of some of Flint's earliest residents may still be lost under Flint buildings and parking lots. Unfortunately Koerts is long dead and took that secret to his grave.

*Those remains found under the hotel? Do they belong to grave markers in Avondale or do they belong in the Flint City Cemetery?*

*Are spirits upset that their final resting place was disturbed? Do they care if their burial grounds are not properly labeled?*

**There's another common horror movie trope that occurred in real life in Flint...the old built over a Native American burial ground story.**

Native remains and artifacts have been found in many locations throughout Flint.

There is a legend involving a Native American curse and a mythic battle between tribes. For years historians thought the battle was pure myth but discoveries of bones and artifacts in recent years has lead archaeologists to believe there might be truth to those old tales after all.

Those tales tell us that long ago these lands were inhabited by the Sauks. The Chippewa coveted the Sauk hunting grounds. For many years they played with the idea of conquering the Sauk and taking their land.

But the Chippewa dreaded the power and prowess of their enemies. Their ambition was kept in check until they could no longer control their desires.

They joined forces with the Ottawa and devised a plan to attack from multiple angles under the cover of darkness. It was a massacre.

Very few Sauk survived. Those who did survive and escape are said to have placed a curse upon the land that was stolen from them. For years the Chippewa and Ottawa did not live on the land but used it as joint hunting grounds.

Many men never made it home. The hunters who did return were filled with frightening tales of being terrorized by the spirits of the murdered Sauks. They truly believed the land was cursed. But eventually old fears were forgotten and settlements built.

The tale of the battle and curse became a whispered legend. No one took it seriously.

In 1945, Native remains of at least nine individuals were removed from the Scoto Mounds in Genesee County. The human remains were excavated from the mounds by the Genesee County Historical Society. In 1966 the collection of the Genesee County Historical Society was transferred to the newly opened Sloan Museum. In August 2019 The Saginaw Chippewa Tribe took possession of the remains and on August 22 held a Recommitment to the Earth ceremony followed by a Journey Feast to satisfy ancestral protocols.

In June 1962, Native remains were uncovered by a road crew at M-15 and Bristol Road in Flint. In 2009, the remains of an adult and child, thought to be the same ones found in 1962, were found in storage at Mott Community College. MCC turned them over to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, who gave them a proper burial.

In 2008, skeletal remains found near Atwood Stadium at Stone Street and Third Avenue were determined to be Native American. Further excavation by archaeological teams determined that the remains were most likely Sauk from that bloody battle. In 2010, the remains of sixty-seven American Indian ancestors were laid to rest in a reburial at the same site. This site is now a registered archaeological zone.

In June 2019 during the replacement of Flint's

water lines, construction crews were ordered to have an archaeologist on hand during any excavations in the area of the site. Upon investigation during the replacement of the lines it was discovered that 29 addresses within the zone were excavated without an archaeologist's supervision.

*I'm curious...if some or all of the Native American remains found are actually Sauk and not Chippewa, how do the spirits of the murdered Sauk feel about being "properly buried" by the descendants of the tribe that slaughtered them?*

*Is this unrest something that contributes to the unrest in Flint? A reason why so many Flint locations have spooky stories about ghostly sights and haunting apparitions?*

By Roxanne Rhoads  
Bewitching Book Tours



## **Haunted Flint by Roxanne Rhoads and Joe Schipani**

Home to ancient burial grounds, unsolved murders, economic depression and a water crisis, Flint emits an unholy energy rife with ghostly encounters.

Colonel Thomas Stockton's ever-vigilant ghost keeps a watchful eye over his family home at Spring Grove, where guests occasionally hear the thump of his heavy boots. Restless spirits long separated from their graves lurk among the ancient stones at Avondale Cemetery. Carriage maker W.A. Paterson's spirit continuously wanders the halls of the Dryden Building, and something sinister and unnamed resides in a Knob Hill mansion waiting to prey on impressionable young men.

Join authors Roxanne Rhoads and Joe Schipani on a chilling tour of Flint's most haunted locations.

# Making Halloween Memories

By Sue Jones  
The Witch at OneandSeventy

**1** Welcome to the Cauldron Inn. If you want treats, you must come in!

It all started with a small sweetie station in the Hallway. But before long, my trademark combination of handmade and shop-bought décor was bringing Halloween-hungry visitors from far and wide. The word was out and The Witch at OneandSeventy's Halloween Open House had become a local tradition.

**3**

I've been a maker for as long as I can remember, and I've always loved decorating for Halloween. Five years ago, I started combining the two by transforming the ground floor of our suburban English home into a Magical Mansion and inviting the local Trick or Treaters inside to claim their treats.

**2**

Since then, Halloween décor has become a year-round passion that's become a way of life. When I'm not making and selling my curious creations, I spend my time planning, crafting and sharing Halloween inspiration that culminates in a child-friendly, magical walk-through experience that people will remember for years to come.

**4**







# Tips and Tricks for Carving and Decorating Faux Pumpkins

For years I've had a little pumpkin patch. The family can just walk outside and pick out a pumpkin for our annual family pumpkin carving night. The guys always get really competitive while I watch them have their fun. I however, usually carve something simple. I hate putting a ton of effort into creating something amazing that will just rot and turn into mush.

Then I discovered the faux carvable pumpkin. What a creation!!! Suddenly I could get really creative with pumpkins and not worry about the rotting on my front porch. I could keep them and use them to decorate every year!!!

Since this amazing discovery I have tried out a wide variety of pumpkins on the market. There are many types of artificial pumpkins.

The craft pumpkins range from super cheap ones at Dollar Tree to mid-range ones at Michael's and JoAnn's to the most expensive, and in my opinion, the best ones on the market for carving, Fun-kins.

I've tried just about all of them.

I purchased mini pumpkins on Amazon that are not suitable for carving but they work well enough for painting and adding fun things to the outside.

The foam pumpkins from Dollar Tree are hollow inside so you can carve them. If you want to paint them use acrylics because they have just a foam shell so many oil based paints could cause the foam to melt.

The Ashland craft pumpkins from Michaels are nice. They come in a variety of colors and sizes. Carving one of these isn't as easy as carving a Fun-kin but if you have the right tools you can do it. I suggest small, sharp, serrated blades.

By far the absolute best artificial pumpkins for carving are available on Funkins.com. Fun-kins look and feel similar to real pumpkins, they even carve like a real pumpkin, just without the squishy pumpkin guts inside. Fun-kins are available in multiple sizes. In addition to traditional orange they have white varieties and one black style.

Fun-kins can be carved with regular pumpkin carving tools, serrated blades or power tools like a Dremel. My first experience carving a Fun-kin involved a Dremel. JoAnn's had exclusive Fun-kin designs that I grabbed on clearance for \$9.99 each. I didn't want to buy the more pricey versions for my first go since I had no idea how they would turn out.

So I cleaned out my workshop and played with some ideas for decorating and carving the Fun-kin Pumpkins. First I dressed one of the Fun-kins up in lace. Then I sketched out a design to carve into the Fun-kin.

I bought a hobby knife and some new bits for my Dremel. I cut out the bottom of the Fun-kin and played with my bits to test them out on the piece I cut out. I printed out two copies of my design and cut them out.

Then I taped one design to the Fun-kin and used a Dremel bit to sketch out the Frankenstein couple silhouettes. I used painter's tape so it wouldn't pull the color off the Fun-kin.

After I cut the outline of the couple out I peeled that stencil off and put a fresh one on. I just held it in place and traced the outline with the hobby knife. I just needed a rough outline of the shape.

The end result was supposed to look like an old fashioned silhouette couple portrait of Frankenstein's Monster and The Bride of Frankenstein. It turned out pretty good for my first try.

I realized later that the Dremel was overkill and I could get the same effect without as much mess by simply using carving tools. I invested in a nice set of pumpkin carving

tools and a set of linoleum carving tools. They are perfect for carving faux pumpkins.

I also discovered that most Fun-kins and some other faux pumpkins have soft enough skin that you can simply tape your design to the pumpkin, trace it with a ballpoint pen, and it will leave an imprint in the pumpkin so you can see where to carve or paint.

If the pumpkin skin isn't soft enough, just add a piece of carbon transfer tracing paper behind the design, trace it on with a ballpoint pen and you'll be ready to carve or paint your pumpkin.

Faux pumpkins are fun to paint and decorate. Spray painting them is easy and fun. You can also paint designs directly on the pumpkins with acrylic paint.

A majority of the designs in my book Pumpkins and Party Themes involve painting and mixed media craftiness. There are a million books full of pumpkin carving stencils. I wanted to offer crafty people something different.

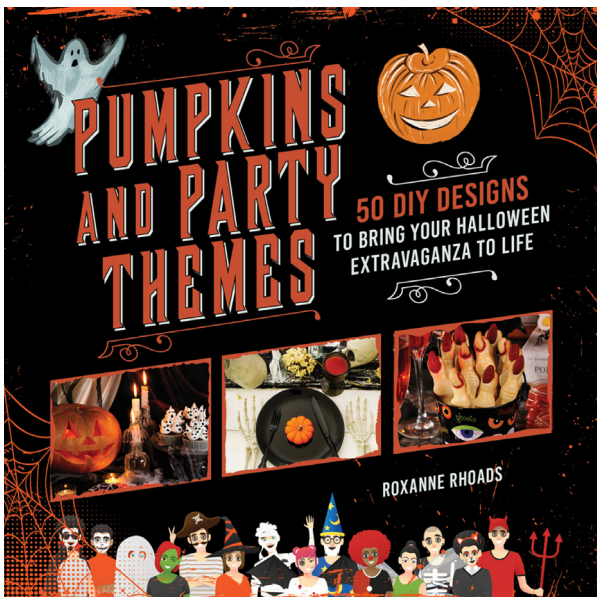
So I did a book of creative ideas that match party themes. It features ten party themes with five matching DIY pumpkin designs for each theme. Monsters, vampires, zombies, mermaids, Edgar Allan Poe...some DIYs are carved, some are painted, some are put together with glitter, glue, and a whole bunch of creativity.

By Roxanne Rhoads  
Bewitching Book Tours

## Pumpkins and Party Themes

50 DIY Designs to Bring Your  
Halloween Extravaganza to Life

By Roxanne Rhoads



Bring your Halloween party theme to life with these quick tips and tricks!

Pumpkins and Party Themes features ten unique party themes with five do-it-yourself pumpkin designs for each theme. The pumpkin projects have a variety of decorating ideas that include carving, painting, and mixed media craftiness and easy-to-follow steps on each creation. Author Roxanne Rhoads also includes quick ideas on how to bring the theme to life through décor, costumes, and activities. These fun party themes range from gothic elegance to Edgar Allan Poe, under the sea, let's get literary, and more!

With beautiful full-color images to illustrate the tools needed, steps to follow, and final products, this book makes for the perfect gift for Halloween enthusiasts and party hosts alike!

Amazon IndieBound BN Kobo Chapters  
Simon and Schuster GoogleBooks Target Books-A-Million



By Jackie Lantern  
Eclipse Afterglow Studios

# Shivers of Delight's Ten Shops for Your Halloween Art Collection

By Jorene Lomenzo  
Shivers of Delight

Starting a collection of Halloween art doesn't have to be expensive. Look for artists who are making unique pieces that you like and can afford. Prices for Halloween art can range from hundreds of dollars to under fifty dollars, but Halloween art collections that pack a punch focus on a theme, style, or medium- not price. Here are some of my favorite Halloween artists' shops.

1

## Gravelly Will Creations

<https://gravely-will-creations.square.site>

Patrick James Gill sculpts incredibly detailed folk-art Halloween figures, dolls, and haunted houses from clay.

2

## Bethany Lynn Originals

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/BethanyLynnOriginals>

Bethany Lynn McCotter creates gnarled witch art dolls and stitches up small ornaments that are delightful.

3

## VanDolls Folk Art

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/VanDollsFolkArt>

Rachel Garrison crafts vintage looking Halloween art from clay, fabric, and paper mâché.

4

## Terry Graber Studio

<https://terry-graber-studio.myshopify.com/collections/fall>

Terry Graber makes adorable clay, wood, and paper Halloween figures.

5

## Monnie Wilson's Studio

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/monniewilsonsstudio>

Monnie and Patrick Wilson are self-taught paper mâché artists with a love for Halloween.



6

### Sharon Bloom Designs

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/sharonbloom>

Sharon Bloom creates brightly colored ceramic dishes, jewelry, and décor for Halloween lovers.

7

### Vintage by Crystal

<https://www.vintagebycrystal.com>

Crystal and Ben Sloane specialize in spun cotton figures using century-old techniques.

8

### CreepyCute Doll Work

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/CreepycuteDollWorks>

Aleece Abramsky fashions Halloween figures from spun cotton and paper mâché.

9

### Vintage Artist Studio

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/Vintageartiststudio>

Susan Tumblety paints vintage Halloween scenes on repurposed objects.

10

### My Eclectic Mind

<https://myeclecticmind.com>

Heather Gleason paints haunting scenes on canvas and objects.

# DIY: Crow Door Greeter



You've most likely seen the impressive life size figures that are available for purchase to greet trick-or-treaters that often come with a hefty price. Our Halloween décor comes with a budget, so my husband and I set out to make our own door greeter. I call him Gentleman Crow and he was super easy to make.

First, we did a little research online on how to make the body. We found lots of photos of PVC pipe body forms and my talented husband went to work on creating one. Although he didn't use the words easy-peasy, there was no swearing or cursing involved so I think it was pretty simple. Word of advice- don't glue anything together. You'll need to be able to take it apart to dress the form.

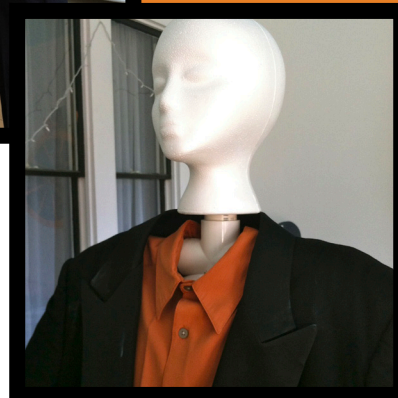
The next step was shopping for a full-head crow mask (there are many on the web to choose from and we purchased ours from Amazon) and clothes from thrift stores. I was very fortunate to have inherited my father's coattails and top hat that he liked to wear ice skating- our entire family is a bit odd.



Before dressing my gentleman crow, I padded the pvc form with an old bed pillow, some packing pillows, and bubble wrap. I also purchased an inexpensive foam head from a craft store to give the mask some form. I finished off Mr. Crow with black feathers to poke out of sleeves and a feather boa to wrap around his neck to hide where the mask met the clothing.

We've had Gentleman Crow for six years now and he has held up very well. The spiders that make their homes on him over the summer just add to his charm. He has become a feature of our yearly Halloween decorations and I can't imagine Halloween without him.

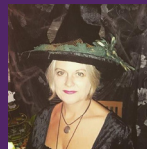
By Jorene Lomenzo  
Shivers of Delight



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HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN!!