

VMT's UFO Bio 2008

Background:

Virginia "Ginny" Tilly, currently living in Grand Rapids, Michigan, received a B.S. degree from Concordia University (then Concordia Teachers College) in River Forest, Illinois, and a M.A. degree from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. She was an educator for more than 20 years. Much of that teaching career was spent working with gifted and talented students. In 1989 she made a presentation on developing creativity at the 8th World Conference on Gifted and Talented Children in Sydney, Australia.

While growing up along the shores of Lake Michigan she was exposed to flying saucers very early in life in that southwestern part of the state. In the years after World War II they experienced significant unexplained aerial phenomena. Then, as now, that area had a great deal of UFO activity. Thus as a child she developed an early interest in this frequent topic of conversation she heard being discussed among family and friends, as well as in the newspapers and on the radio.

During most of her adult life she has always continued to be searching for more information about this puzzling enigma. In 1973 she became a Field Investigator with the original Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization (APRO). Later she became a Field Investigator with the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) where she also served on its international board of directors as the Director of Public Education, as well as a Research Specialist, and a State Section Director for several counties in southwestern Michigan.

In 1995 she and several other experienced UFO investigators founded the Bureau of Investigators of Mysteries & Unusual Phenomena (BIMUP). They made this move as they felt that the more traditional research groups seemed to be neglecting the paranormal aspects of the phenomenon. They were concerned that this information appears to be a significant part of the UFO phenomenon and was therefore too important to be neglected.

In 1986 Ginny became a certified hypnotherapist, opened her own hypnosis business in St. Joseph, Michigan, and among other things began doing regressions with individuals having anomalous experiences. Since then she has worked with more than 300 different cases – some involving several generations within a family.

She has given lectures to several different organizations about UFOs, the abduction phenomenon, and other topics on the paranormal. She has also produced an audio tape series and several cable-access television programs on this topic. In addition she has had several articles published and is currently working on a children's nonfiction, reference book about UFOs.

Philosophy and Viewpoint:

"The strangest thing has just happened" is an opening comment that Ginny has frequently heard when an abductee first contacts her. More than thirty years of searching has led her to realize that humankind is being forced to

expand its awareness. In fact, she frequently says that this is the beginning of the end of our childhood. It is not a coincidence that this makes a connection with an important concept set forth by Arthur C. Clarke in *Childhood's End*.

Our traditional paradigms do not seem adequate to fully understand this phenomenon. The established, traditional scientific community refuses to even consider, let alone to investigate, the possibility of the existence of UFOs or any other unexplained phenomena. Their role is amazingly like that of a priesthood that has been assigned the task of convincing the populace that everything is normal; all is well; they are in control and taking care of everything.

Thus in UFO investigations we end up being faced with two extremes – and everything in between:

- √ The conventional, more conservative view is that not only this, but *everything* can be forced into rigid, established scientific explanations complete with extraterrestrials (a lot like us, but different), scientific research (much like humans would do), genetic experimentation (to complement our own such efforts), and advanced technology (*supposedly* thousands of years beyond our own). Using this approach they hope to convince their so-called mainstream brother/sister scientists of the validity of the research being conducted.
- √ At the other end of that spectrum are the ethereal “messages” being given to contactees, or channels, by supposedly multi-dimensional beings, or other sources. Most of this is seemingly meaningless double-talk, pious platitudes, deliberate disinformation, and someone’s effort to gain control of the easily led, or even salvation via the self-proclaimed, all-wise, all-knowing Space Brothers.

What Does All This Mean?

So how do we begin to separate the chaff of disinformation, misinterpretations, and/or inadequately reported information from the grains of truth? Or can we even do that? Ginny has long felt that there is an abundance of evidence to suggest that we are not alone and that whatever the UFO phenomenon is, it is connected with our evolution. Only open-minded, thoughtful, and often intrepid research will help us to better understand this most unusual of mysteries.