

OUIJA SAYS...

THE OLD GAME WITH LOCAL TIES IS HAVING A MOMENT.

By Elizabeth Gehrman

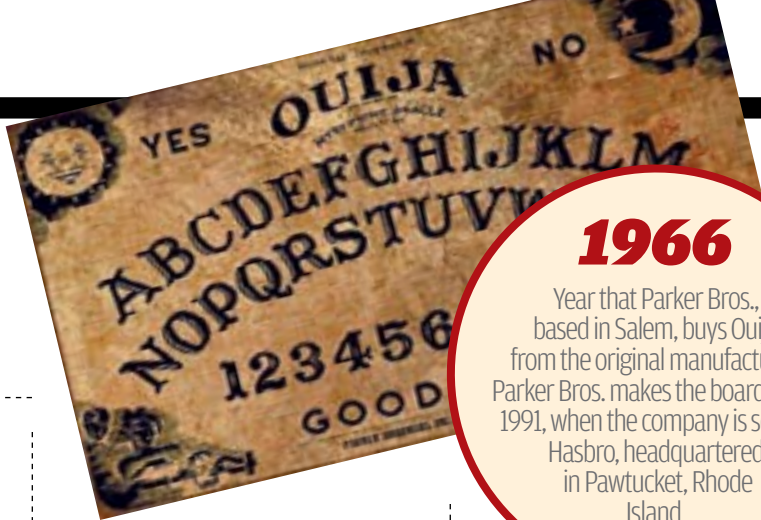
**OCTOBER 22,
7 P.M.**

Date that Danvers-based game company Winning Moves is holding the free, first come, first served event “**Ouija: The Mystery Behind the Game**” at the Salem Waterfront Hotel, with Ouija historian Robert Murch of Boston and paranormal researcher Jeff Belanger of Massachusetts. winning-moves.com

1891
YEAR THAT OUIJA
WAS PATENTED

\$1.50
PRICE OF THE GAME
IN 1891

2,000
A WEEK
NUMBER OF OUIJA
BOARDS SOLD IN 1891



1966

Year that Parker Bros., based in Salem, buys Ouija from the original manufacturer. Parker Bros. makes the boards until 1991, when the company is sold to Hasbro, headquartered in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.



540 BC

YEAR THAT THE GREEK PHILOSOPHER PYTHAGORAS SUPPOSEDLY USED AN OUIJA-LIKE DEVICE DURING SEANCES



1848

Year that spiritualism, long a fad in Europe, came to America in the form of the Fox sisters from upstate New York who claimed they could talk to the dead. The practice really took off during the Civil War.

1886

Year the “talking board” craze started among the general public, in Ohio. Previously the boards had been used exclusively by spiritualists. That same year, the W.S. Reed Toy Co. in Leominster made a “witch board” and reportedly sent it to President Grover Cleveland as a wedding gift.

OCTOBER 24

Date that the horror movie “Ouija” hits US theaters



planchette (noun):

A small triangular or heart-shaped board supported on casters at two points and a vertical pencil at a third and believed to produce automatic writing when lightly touched by the fingers (Merriam-Webster)