

# Medium with message makes skeptics believe

■ Her company is called Extreme Communications. The title is an apt one.

By **STEPHANIE K. WHALEN**  
*swhalen@delcotimes.com*

When Janette Hastings' grandmother died, she never thought she'd hear from her again — until a brunette sitting across a restaurant table told her a dead woman was standing behind her, holding rosary beads.

"I just knew it was her," Hastings said. "My grandmother always prayed with rosary beads."

For souls like Hastings who miss the presence of loved ones in their lives, the experience isn't frightening — it's comforting to think that those who have passed away are still present in their daily lives.

The woman who sat across from Hastings, a Mt. Laurel, N.J., medium known as Lisa, has been helping dozens of Delaware County mourners cope with loss for about a year professionally, by delivering messages from deceased loved ones.

Each year, millions of survivors of lost loved ones spend untold time and money searching for ways to fill the void in their lives. After years of therapy and hundreds of pills, most still carry the burden of loss.

But during her short career at Extreme Communications, Lisa has turned skeptics into believers through unbelievably descriptive readings and by offering something that conventional therapy often lacks: closure.

"When my boyfriend Brian went to Lisa, he didn't really believe it all at first," said Hastings, a Springfield resident. "But

that changed when she told him things that only dead relatives would know.

"The first time I went to Lisa, she told me a woman was standing behind me who passed away that was associated with the number 9, selling fruit. At first I couldn't put it together, but I remembered later that my mother-in-law had a fruit stand on Ninth Street in Philadelphia. She was standing next to my grandmother."

So far, Hastings has received four or five readings, but a message from her deceased father was perhaps the most significant.

"I didn't understand at the time, but Lisa told me that my father had a surprise for me, and it would happen around the time of the anniversary of his death," Hastings said. "Before the reading, my son was having a rough football season. He was always one of the best players on the team since he was 6 years old, but his senior year he fell apart. He couldn't do anything right.

"At the end of the season around Nov. 6, he played the best game of the entire season. He got two interceptions that he ran for touchdowns, and tears ran down my face. I knew that was the surprise she was talking about, because I remembered that on his deathbed, my father said he would miss watching my son play football. My father died Nov. 4."

"Because of that game, my son made first team All-Catholic."

Whether the success that blessed Hastings' son actually came from beyond the grave or if it was pure coincidence is a matter of conjecture. But even critics can't deny that the hopeful message brought joy to a worried mother.



*Special to the Times*

**Mt. Laurel, N.J., medium Lisa has convinced a growing legion in the county that she can communicate with their deceased loved ones.**

"It's a comfort to think that people you love are still around," she said. "It changes the way you live your life because it reassures you that there is life after death, and all this isn't for nothing."

Lisa said she's been helping friends and family since childhood.

Currently, she takes private readings over the phone for \$250 and holds sessions with small groups at the Quality Inn in Maple Shade, N.J., for \$50 per person. She requests interested parties to visit [www.2communicate.net](http://www.2communicate.net) for information on scheduling a session or a reading.

"As a child, I always knew there was something different about me, but I didn't really know what it was. I did not know any better and thought everyone heard

voices now and then, saw shadowy images and had precognitive dreams," she said. "I had always been reluctant to tell strangers about my experiences until a few years ago, when I helped a co-worker during a traumatic experience."

Since coming "out of the closet," Lisa said she can't put a number on the amount of people she's helped, but enjoys the feeling she gets when a bereaved individual leaves happier than when they came.

"The beauty of it is that when someone passes and someone's crying, I can comfort them with hope that they're still around and trying to communicate with them," she said.

"Our loved ones live on, and our souls never die. There is life after death."