



October 1, 2016

Merry Greetings!

Over the years, the obvious theme for the October Newsletter has centered on Samhain, Witchcraft, etc. but rather than re-write the same information yet again, I am providing links to those newsletters that I think are most informative - and my own spiritual journey (for those who are curious) is on one of these, somewhere!

[Samhain 1](#)

[Samhain 2](#)

[Samhain 4](#)

There is, however, a question that was recently posed to me and I'd like to answer it here - I was asked "So, what exactly MAKES you a Witch?" A good question! Can you simply sling a pentacle around your neck and declare yourself a Witch? Well ... yes in fact you can (the bigger question here is SHOULD you do this?) but in fact if you FEEL like a Witch, you probably ARE a Witch. Hopefully your feelings are deep-rooted and came after reading something inspiring (odds are, a Cunningham book) and fortified by the realization that you had been drawn to and even been "doing" very Witchy things ... moon gazing; rock and shell collecting; taking

hikes in the woods or along the beach; growing herbs and harvesting plants to eat, brewing your own teas and other "potions" or incense; communicating with animals/hearing their thoughts; reading tarot cards or some other type of divination ... many people begin their spiritual path as a Witch in just these ways. So many have told me that after reading a certain book, it just felt like "coming home" and deeply comfortable. So it's at this point that many women and some men come to the shop and ask the BIG question "Now what?" in terms of developing and learning more. And the next step is to determine what PATH of Witchcraft you want to follow (and if you read the links above you will see that there are many). If you live in Connecticut, then I highly recommend joining the CWPAN - Connecticut Wiccan Pagan Network - I list all the information relative to that group further along in this newsletter every month. Attend a public ritual on one of the Sabbats, visit a Pagan Pride Day, or simply join the group for a coffee at one of their networking meetings. I also highly recommend you visit The Witches Voice (Witchvox) and start here: [Witchvox Basics](#)

Unlike Catholicism where you receive the Sacrament of Confirmation - or in the Jewish Faith, a Bar/Bat Mitzvah - it is only within the construct of one of the "Traditions" where you have an initiation and levels of study which result in "degrees" (First, Second and Third) within that tradition. Here is a wonderful article on this subject: [Wiccan Traditions](#), but bear this ONE thing in mind: **Wicca IS a legally recognized religion in the United States** as declared by the Federal Appeals Court for the Fourth Circuit *Dettmer v. Landon*, 799 F.2d 929 (4th Cir. 1986). No Witch can be denied his/her civil liberties and right to be a Witch, open and free, in any state in the land, within the parameters of the law. Witches are protected under federal and state statutes from harassment, discrimination and acts of bigotry or hatred due to the holding of their sincere religious beliefs without bias or prejudice on the part of the law. **Military Courts of Justice in the U.S. have also found Wicca to be a valid religion**, deserving of protection under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. In *United States v. Phillips*, (42 M.J. 346) in 1995) the concurring opinion by Judge Wiss stated: "First, Wicca is a socially recognized religion. It is acknowledged as such by the Army. See Dept. of the Army (DA) Pamphlet 165-13-1, Religious Requirements and Practices of Certain Selected Groups: A Handbook for Chaplains (April 1980), revising A Pamphlet 165-13, "Religious Requirements and Practices of Certain Selected Groups: A Handbook for Chaplains" (April 1978). Further, it is acknowledged as such in courts of law."

Whether you want to be Traditional or Eclectic, in a coven or a solitary - remember that Witches do not proselytize - we do not seek to bring others into our Truth for any reason, there is no gain to it for us and it is a violation of Free Will to influence unduly - and I say "unduly" because most of us are so happy and free of guilt, shame and other issues that accompany the "Big Three" patriarchal religions (Christianity, Judaism, and Muslim faiths) that many will ask to learn more for that reason alone!
Lastly, here is a recent story that appeared in The [Daily Voice](#) - hope you enjoy.

Deeply grateful to ALL of you, who have helped make Talisman one of the greatest joys of my life; and enriching my own spiritual path - as is true within all tribes, we certainly grow, learn and transition together.

Blessed Be!

Laura

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NEW-AGE FAIRES HELD EVERY SATURDAY

Faire time 12-6pm. (203) 261-0047 for appointments

Readers (\$30/30 minutes - cash only)

Please call in advance for readers' schedules as they are subject to change. To see our Readers' background information, visit:

Reader Bios

October 1

Gwen Lord - Whole Life Tarot (Past Life recall)

Sherri - Astrological Tarot

October 8

Laura - Tarot, Palms (yup I am filling in!)

Rena - Artful Insights Intuitive Cards (bio below)

October 15

Gwen Lord - Whole Life Tarot (Past Life recall)

Rena - Artful Insights Intuitive Cards

Sherri - Astrological Tarot

October 22

Andrea - Tarot/Mediumship

EstaRa - Twin Flame Readings

Michelle: Akashic Record Reader (bio below)

Sherri - Astrological Tarot

Sunday October 23

Andrea is giving us some time on Sundays - by appt!

October 29

Gwen Lord - Whole Life Tarot (Past Life recall)

Sherri - Astrological Tarot

Michelle reads the Akashic records to answer questions and provide support from your spiritual guides. She invokes the connection and protection of the Christ spirit and Archangel Michael, and uses an access prayer to read the Akashic records. The Akashic records are read through the vibration of your full name. They full contain your spiritual blueprint for this life and past lives. Your spiritual guides (masters, teachers and loved ones who have passed) supply the necessary information and guidance to help you understand grow through your earth journey. The Records provide spiritual meaning and guidance to the important issues in your life. Connecting to the records provides a energetic connection to the healing light of knowledge and your spiritual masters. For a productive reading, it is helpful to bring questions and/or problems that you are currently experiencing. Michelle was born with an empathic gift to feel another persons emotions. After many years of spiritual study and practice she extended this gift to to feel and read a persons physical body and intuit what kind of support will be helpful. Michelle is a Reiki Master, and Amadeus Shamanic Healer Master. She can provide light hands on healing and distance work, which provides comfort, love and lightness to your energy body. Michelle invokes the presence and healing energy of the Christ spirit and protection of Archangel Michael for all healing work in conjunction with the healing masters of the Akashic, Reiki and/or Amadeus traditions. Michelle has given readings, led healing services, and spiritual development and mediumship classes at the Albertson Memorial Church in Greenwich. She studied psychic development with Julie Bradshaw, Akashic

records with Rosa Chyan, and mediumship with Elizabeth Hoy. She holds a degree in psychology.

Laura Audition Notes: Michelle quickly delved into key childhood memories which have impacted my current life situations/career choices. She did a health scan noting I was having dental work done (I am) and have been very dry,very thirsty (still dealing with the after-effects of food poisoning and dehydration). Because she detected these very subtle issues I felt confident when she felt no serious issues present in my physical body. She actually drew - almost to scale - the floor plan of a new shop I am considering. There were a few personal reflections that I don't want to share, but can assure you were very on-point!

Rena Tobey has been studying and reading tarot and other oracle cards, as well as practicing energy work since 1994. As an art historian, she recognizes how much art serves as a source of inspiration, meditation, insights, and healing. For the past 8 years, she has worked with art museum visitors, students, and participants in her talks and programs to benefit from these built-in qualities. Rena has now created her own deck, Artful Insights, made up of 135 masterworks of art. In a reading with Rena, you pose questions about your life path, career, relationships, and well-being. Then let the art guide you. Rena will help you draw insights based on her experience and close listening with you. No knowledge of art or art history is needed. Come visit Talisman for this one-of-a-kind experience with Rena. Rena Tobey Artful Insights

Laura Audition Notes: For our interview (and please remember these are not full readings I generally sit with a perspective reader about 10-15 minutes, we did a four-card draw asking a specific question about Talisman. The process of reading the cards was incredibly insightful and answered my questions completely. Anyone who wants a straightforward intuitive/interactive reading experience will absolutely love this!

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The designation of "mediumship" is NOT a guarantee that your loved one(s) will present themselves in the reading - it means the channel is open and a particular reader is skilled at recognizing and then relaying information when/if it comes through.

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We do things a bit differently at Talisman. You pay our readers AFTER the reading is finished, and if you are not happy you don't pay. NO READER can read EVERYONE successfully and everyone who works at Talisman is aware of this fact. Know that it is acceptable after the first 5 minutes of a reading to say something like, "I'm sorry, what you are saying just isn't resonating with me. I would like to stop the reading now, but thank you for your time". If you do not hear something amazing in the first five minutes, or if it just isn't right ... don't expect a reading to get better as it goes on. Readings go off track for a number of reasons - but the point is, you shouldn't pay if you are not happy. Please, just be courteous and respectful. Complaints are rare because every reader has had to pass the "ultimate interview" ... they must sit and read ME (and I've been reading over 35 years myself) and tell me something about my past/personal life, my children, home, or business that they could not possibly have heard or learned someplace else. But every reader has their unique gift and their own style, it is NOT one size fits all. Personally, I don't think anyone should get a reading more than once every 6-8 weeks and prefer you allow at least 3 months between readings ... you don't want to become a psychoholic, right? I WILL discourage you from this behavior! My goal is to see people leave an "intuitive counseling session" (because that is really what we do) feeling validated, uplifted and hopeful regardless of the situation or challenges they may be facing. That is the true measure of a "good" reading!

Available by Appointment:

Laura: I do special, in-depth readings by appointment. My 60+ minute private sessions includes a chakra check up, a print out and review of your astrological natal chart, tarot and palm reading and more! (\$60). Call the shop for an appointment, as I schedule these when the shop is closed or after-hours. Private half hour tarot readings (\$30) also by appointment. Phone sessions are \$20 for a half hour - for those who do not live nearby. Yes, I do \$5 tarot/palm readings on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday these are done in-between phone calls and waiting on patrons - you can't make an appointment, and I do get interrupted. Sometimes there is no one waiting, other times a dozen people are standing in line. They are five dollars because the shop is open and I am working! These mini-

readings last about 10 minutes or so, and great if you have a quick question or have never experienced a reading before.

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**Workshops at Talisman
RSVP (203) 261-0047**

Tarot 101 taught by Laura Lenhard (\$10). Monday, Oct. 17th 6-8pm. Bring your tarot cards! Limit 12 Attendees.

Past Life Regression with Andrew Neblett, Ph.D. (\$25) Saturday, Nov. 19 6:30-9pm. Dress warm and comfortably, bring any type of seating that will make you comfortable (lounge chair, bean bag, etc) or by all means, plan to sit in one of ours! Limit 30 attendees.

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Community Events

The Connecticut Wiccan Pagan Network (CWPN) Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit educational and networking organization dedicated to meeting the needs of the greater Wiccan and Pagan community in Connecticut and surrounding areas. The goal is to help provide a forum for Wiccans and Pagans to meet others of "like mind" and to come together and worship in a safe environment. Our hope has been to construct a sense of "community" in which we can all share with and learn from one another. Membership is open to all Wiccans, Pagans, and those with a serious interest in learning more about our religion. If you are under 18 years of age you may join with written parental consent. We reserve the right to refuse or terminate membership of anyone who we feel may be harmful to our organization or to the Wiccan/Pagan Community. Learn more at our website: CWPN.Org. The CWPN hosts monthly networking meetings throughout the state, open Sabbat circles, coven and study group referral service, classes/work-shops, various social events and lectures with well-known members of the Pagan community.

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Awaken The Power Therapy: Introduces Women's Wellness & Empowerment Group. This group is a 8-10 session group that meets on Saturdays. The Group focuses on life issues: juggling work & family,

substance abuse issues, early recovery from substance abuse & depression, parenting issues, parenting a "difficult" child or a child with a mental health diagnosis, relationship issues, low self-esteem, social isolation, reduction of sexual libido with depression and/or childbirth, assertive communication with a spouse & in the workplace. This group allows for a supportive & safe space to process, ventilate feelings & gain useful advice and support using art therapy, GODDESS Training, expressive therapy, spirituality principles, cognitive behavioral therapy techniques, dialectical behavioral therapy approaches, guided meditation and open discussions with other women. Each Group is \$25 per session. For clients with Medicare or Medicaid sessions will be free! CALL FOR DETAILS! Monique West, LCSW. Email: Mwest@awakenthepower.org 58 River Street, Milford, CT 06460 203-693-1050

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Hunter Healing Hands: Located in Black Rock, Jessica and Jim Hunter's events include Reiki Share; monthly drum circle; classes and so much more! For details, cost, etc. please see [Hunter Healing Hands](#) Contact 203-916-8381 to register for an event!

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Astrology Corner
By Alethea Hunt, Astrologer

If you need to secure a loan or work some money-drawing mojo, circa October 5th is great timing with Venus in Scorpio forming a complimentary sextile to Pluto. However, on the same date Jupiter in Libra squaring Mars in Capricorn can create friction regarding others' perspectives where there may be a strong desire to "correct" others' worldviews/beliefs/politics. Especially with it being close to election time, know does this have the capacity to blow tempers out of proportion. Try and resist the impulse to be "right", or to take others to task over a conflicting point of view - let's make it a point to check our own behavior/actions and remain respectfully humble! There may be some big, important relationship discussion taking place as Mercury joins with Jupiter in Libra on the 11th. While the convo may not be the easiest to have in some cases due other astrological factors simultaneously at work (I'm getting the feeling someone may be wanting and pushing for a commitment), there's verbal grace conferred that can

help the issue be addressed honestly but with finesse. If someone needs to be “let down easy”, this can be a helpful vibe...just don't use too much euphemism or the truth of the message may be missed, as both bodies also contact Neptune.

An Aries Full Moon on the 16th may create some tension as people assert their individuality within unions. This isn't exactly a setup for “playing house” together with the Moon so close to Uranus – people are apt to need breathing room and to want their space in relationships, so do think about this if you've been of the mind to push for a domestic living arrangement. Under this vibe, people are more inclined to crave excitement and passion and the kind of togetherness co-habitation entails can sometimes take the spark out of a union. Alternately, it is also possible to develop sudden and/or unexpected feelings for a friend or roommate at this time and to see them in more of a romantic light, which can be fine so long as it doesn't cause the relationship to get all “weird”. Being able to maintain a level of emotional detachment is key in order to avoid conflicted feelings.

Be sure to deter potential conflict with powerful authority figures – even if this is not overt – the week of the 17th. Power struggles are possible at this time, and if we've ticked someone off who is considered a “higher up” in one respect or another (boss/parents/the cops), it's not outside the realm of possibility that an abuse or misuse of their “authority” could occur. While obviously it goes without saying this would be wrong for them to do, it's generally smart with this kind of vibe not to take any negative bait and wind up in some kind of compulsive “pissing contest” scenario when we'd be far better off served by not giving anyone incentive to make us the target of their wrath. If it's us in a position of authority, we have to be VERY careful how we wield it this week, because some test of power could very well surface that carries a very negative energetic blowback! It's not a time to control-freak – let's redirect this instead toward having very personal accountability for how we're using our energy so we do so responsibly!

A 3 1/2 week long mutual reception kicks in on the 18th between Venus in Sagittarius and Jupiter in Libra, strongest on October 26th when both planets also sextile one another. While we will have to watch for things like extravagant spending with this combo – especially on a significant other – overall this can be a good vibe for relationships that are based on mutual growth. N.B this “mutual growth” can also be literal where couples fatten up together as this mojo can stimulate quite the sweet tooth, so if this isn't the

kind of growth you had in mind try to be a positive influence on one another from a diet & exercise standpoint!

Lastly, a Scorpio New Moon on the 30th majorly amps up the magical juju with its trine to mystical Neptune. If you want to banish a vice or addiction this is primo time for setting an intention to do so, and definitely don't be afraid to use magickal aids and/or esoteric knowledge to help your intention along. In fact, this witchy Moon is good for spellcraft in general – try using song or poems for adding extra oomph since wordy Mercury is nearby & contacting lyrical Neptune as well.

*** A note to readers: If you would like to receive my FREE monthly newsletter via email which is packed full of information & astrological insights, click [HERE](#) or email Alethea@EmpoweredDestiny.com and I'll be happy to add your name to my list of recipients! You can also follow my nifty astro-blog or find me on Twitter (@EmpwrDstny).

**Namaste, my friends -
"The Divinity within me perceives and adores
the Divinity within you"
* Laura ***

Talisman

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[Talisman Website](#)