

# Talisman

**Talisman ... A Unique New-Age Shop**

**150 Main Street**

**Monroe, CT 06468**

**(203) 261-0047**

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

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Talisman-A-Unique-New-Age-Store>

***Spellcraft by Talisman product***

**listing:** <http://www.talismanct.com/images/Talisman%20Product%20List.pdf>

**October 1, 2015**

## **Merry Greetings!**

October certainly feels like the “Witchiest” month, and for the past several years, in October’s monthly newsletter I have focused on aspects of witchcraft, my personal spiritual journey, etc. Here are links that might make for interesting reading, and let you “get your Witch on”:

<http://www.talismanct.com/images/NL%20-%20Oct%2013.pdf>

<http://www.talismanct.com/images/NL%20-%20Oct%2012.pdf>

<http://www.talismanct.com/images/NL%20-%20Oct%2011.pdf>

<http://blog.ctnews.com/lenhard/2010/04/26/wicca-neopaganism-the-changing-face-of-spirituality/>

I am also taking part in a Telesummit, facilitated by Rev. Patricia Brooks, on November 2 at 8pm eastern time. Details can be found at

[http://sacredstoriestelesummit.com/s2\\_laural/](http://sacredstoriestelesummit.com/s2_laural/)

This time of year we are bombarded with Halloween “decorations” (money spent now reportedly surpass Christmas) but one image I am not fond of is the ugly hag, green-faced Witch. I had heard in the past that Laurie Cabot of Salem, MA would not allow people wearing bloody/horror or green faced witch costumes into her shop, but it wasn’t until recently I understood why. The image of the “evil ugly witch” was created as part of the Church’s attack on pagan religions and women in particular throughout the 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Beginning around the late thirteenth century, the Catholic Church began to espouse that only its priests possessed legitimate magical powers. As this magical power was not human, it either came from God or from the devil. Anybody, outside of the church, involved in such "magical" activities must have received their

power from Satan and thus were witches.

Beginning in the fifteenth century, midwives and other natural healers came under suspicion as being witches. These women healers utilized natural plants for remedies whereas the male physicians had a hard time competing because they did not have access to these homeopathic treatments. Accusing the women of being witches created fear, and allowed men to assume the lucrative “responsibility” of delivering babies (formerly a strictly female-only realm, as no man would allow another male to look at his wife in that way). Those deemed ‘witches’ by the Church included all female scholars, priestesses, gypsies, mystics, nature lovers, herb gatherers, and any women ‘suspiciously attuned to the natural world.’ Midwives were also killed for their heretical practice of using medical knowledge to ease the pain of childbirth — a suffering, the Church claimed, that was God’s rightful punishment for Eve’s partaking of the apple of Knowledge, thus giving birth to the idea of Original Sin. The witch hunts were an eruption of orthodox Christianity’s vilification of women, “the weaker vessel,” in St. Peter’s words. The second century St. Clement of Alexandria wrote: “Every woman should be filled with shame by the thought that she is a woman.” The sixth century Christian philosopher, Boethius, wrote in *The Consolation of Philosophy*, “Woman is a temple built upon a sewer.” Bishops at the sixth century Council of Macon voted as to whether or not women had souls. In the tenth century Odo of Cluny declared, “To embrace a woman is to embrace a sack of manure...” The thirteenth century St. Thomas Aquinas suggested that God had made a mistake in creating woman: “nothing [deficient] or defective should have been produced in the first establishment of things; so woman ought not to have been produced then.” And Lutherans at Wittenberg debated whether women were really human beings at all. Orthodox Christians held women responsible for all sin. As the Bible’s Apocrypha states, “Of woman came the beginning of sin/ And thanks to her, we all must die.”

Any woman imprisoned for witchcraft was invariably tortured and violated before being put to death. Even the most beautiful young woman would emerge from the prison dungeon looking hideous – matted hair, smelling of human waste, often missing teeth and having crushed fingers and other deformities as well as the green tinge of fading bruises on her skin. In Europe, she would ride in an open cart and be pelted with rocks and rotten fruit, and eventually brought to the place where she would be burned alive. “Celebrating” the popular image of the ugly hag Witch is, in a manner of thinking, a celebration of this persecution.

We have certainly come a long way from those dark times. Many of us modern pagans live our lives openly as Witches, without fear of persecution. With an eye to celebrating living life as a Witch, I want to share passages from a book I was recently given by a very dear young friend/patron (thank you, Peter!) entitled “*Handbook for Hot Witches*” by Dame Darcy. It’s a fun and light book overall, but I was very much taken with the introduction – here are excerpts,

below:

*A Witch is someone who is blessed with extra abilities. Being in touch with your sense of intuition or compassion, or being able to see things others can't or create things others don't dream of – these are powerful abilities. What makes you different from everybody else? Some people can recognize that you have something special and will call this weird, which is a word often used to describe witches in old stories. The witches in Shakespeare's Macbeth, for instance, are the Weird Sisters. To some people being weird and talented is amazing, and they love you even more for it. They recognize the importance of diversity in every circle of life, and they celebrate differences, knowing that they make a stronger whole.*

*But there are some who just want to fit in and be like everyone else. This is a losing game – ultimately everyone is different and, thus, "weird." These are people who changed witch into a negative word and used it to single out and condemn people (especially girls) who have exceptional qualities. I personally take back the term Witch and the power that belongs to it, and I make it my own so that if anyone ever calls me weird, it is a compliment and not an insult.*

*Witches go back to the time of the bards, who were the first storytellers. Because no mail service, Internet, or newspapers existed then, bards traveled from one town to another recounting stories and news. Often these tales were in rhyme and song, because when words rhyme, they are easier to remember. This is also why spells, chants, and mantras often rhyme. Bards were equally men and women. So if you were a girl then, and you didn't want to play the traditional role of farmer's wife, you were said to be "born to the bard" and this was a career option for you.*

*And there were other options for women as well. You could be an herbalist or a midwife, and treat people's illnesses. You could study nature and the stars as a physicist or an astronomer. You could write poetry or play the harp; you could be a scribe, taking down notes and letters for important people. And you could become a priestess or a Druid, and lead festivals and guide people through their lives. These were all positions of power and prestige held by women in ancient times. These witches were considered exceptional. As most people did not have the skills to hold these jobs, a witch's place in society was honored and needed.*

*The skills these witches had are still needed today and hold an important role in our current time. Science, technology, biology, spirituality, academia and the arts can all lend themselves to helping the environment and our society. To be a hot Witch is to understand and control your spirit, mind, and body; to know your talents and skills; and to identify your passion. We can revolutionize the world we were born into by using the Witchcraft skills of compassion, genius,*

*insight, intuition, and talent.*

**I wish you all a glorious and blessed Samhain!**

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**NEW-AGE FAIRES HELD EVERY SATURDAY**

**12:00pm-6:00pm - (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:

<http://www.talismanct.com/images/Readerslist14.pdf>

**October 3**

Gwen Lord - Whole Life Tarot (Past Life recall)

Mark - Tarot or Reflexology (Mediumship)

Niki - Angel Cards

Pina - Angel Oracle (Mediumship)

**October 10**

Gwen Lord - Whole Life Tarot (Past Life recall)

Mark - Tarot or Reflexology (Mediumship)

Pina - Angel Oracle (Mediumship)

Whitney - Chair Reiki (\$20/15min or \$30/30min)

**October 17**

Andrew Neblett - Tarot and Runes

Gwen Lord - Whole Life Tarot (Past Life recall)

Pina - Angel Oracle (Mediumship)

**October 24**

Gwen Lord - Whole Life Tarot (Past Life recall)

Mark - Tarot or Reflexology (Mediumship)

Niki - Angel Cards

Rachel – Tarot or Animal Communicator (pets welcome or can work from photo) (Mediumship)

**October 31 (Note: Shop closing early 6:30)**

Gwen Lord - Whole Life Tarot (Past Life recall)

Mark - Tarot or Reflexology (Mediumship)  
Pina - Angel Oracle (Mediumship)  
Whitney - Chair Reiki (\$20/15min or \$30/30min)

**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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**Talisman's Regularly-Scheduled Readers**

**(203) 261-0047 for appointments - Cash payment requested**

**Fridays:** Mark Hoyt: Spirit Guided Tarot - Foot Reflexology Treatments 2-8pm. \$30/30 minutes. .

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 25 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:**

Talisman's readers are available for parties and events. You can pay by the hour or allow us to set up and have your guests/attendees pay individually. We do our best to be flexible and fairly priced. Our party rates are \$70 an hour, plus gas/mileage OR guests can pay if they choose to

get readings at \$1/minute. Please make all scheduling arrangements through Laura at (203) 261-0047. We also book private parties at the shop, with readers of your choice. Just ask!

**Reflexology Fridays with Mark:** This ancient healing art uses hand/thumb pressure corresponding to the body systems. The practice stimulates/relaxes stress signals resulting in relaxation (who DOESN'T love having their feet rubbed?), pain reduction, and rejuvenation of tired feet -- helping you stand tall in the world! Come in after a hard week of work and treat yourself in Mark's chair (\$30/30 minutes).

**Laura:** I do special, in-depth readings by appointment. My 45+ minute private sessions include a chakra check up, a print out and review of your astrological natal chart, tarot and palm reading, and more! (\$50). Call the shop for an appointment, as I schedule these when the shop is closed or after-hours. I am also doing private half hour sessions (\$30) before hours and on weekends. Yes, I still do **\$5 readings** on **Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday** but these are done in-between phone calls and waiting on patrons - you can't make an appointment, and I do get interrupted. These mini-readings usually last about 10-15 minutes. As long as there are no other scheduled readers in the shop (they drive in from a distance and it's just not fair to them) I am always happy to peek at someone's palm or throw a few cards, so don't hesitate to ask!

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**Classes & Workshops at Talisman**

**RSVP at (203) 261-0047 or email [lenhard@comcast.net](mailto:lenhard@comcast.net)**

**Oct. 17: Protection – How to Guard against Unwanted Energies 6:30-8:30pm \$25**

This class was created because of popular demand, and we offer it annually at Talisman. Taught by Andrew Neblett, this class will teach various techniques to protect you from the unwanted energies from other peoples' thoughts, emotions, and vibrations, curses, evil spells, entities and other nasty things. There are many things we are taught that just don't work, learn which ones do and why. An informative and FUN class! Bring your notebook and questions!

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**THE CIRCLE OF THE SACRED WELL PRESENTS**

**Event: Full Moon Ritual**

Celebrate the Harvest Moon!

Date: Sunday ~ October 4th ~ Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: The Undercroft at Talisman

Join us in celebration of the Full Moon. There will be an Esbat ritual, followed by a potluck meal. Please bring a potluck item to share. All experience levels are welcome.

NOTE: This event replaces the Shamanic Sunday for October. Shamanic Sunday's will resume in November.

Held at the Undercroft at Talisman. Learn more: <http://www.thecircleofthesacredwell.org/>

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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: <http://www.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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**New Age and Craft Expo:** Sunday Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> 10-5pm. Crowne Plaza, 1284 Strongtown Rd, Rte. 188, Southbury, CT. Come experience a day of both spiritual and creative enlightenment! Unique crafters from throughout New England. Three rooms of dynamic speakers and soothing meditations. Spiritual vendors, aura and intuitive readers. Health, wellness, Reiki and healings. **Please note our own Mark Hoyt will be there!** Admission \$6, under aged 12 free. Information: (203) 733-6560.

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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 <http://www.hunterhealinghands.com>. Contact 203-916-8381 to register for an event!

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**Finding Feathers** – A Spiritual Center located at 395 Commerce Drive, Fairfield. (203) 916-7887 or email [shaktidas@findingfeathersfairfield.com](mailto:shaktidas@findingfeathersfairfield.com). Calendar: <http://findingfeathersfairfield.com/event-calendar/>

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### **Astrology Corner**

**By Alethea Hunt, Astrologer**

October continues to predominately emphasize relationship matters as the Libra Sun travels close to Mercury while edging toward contact with Pluto, and later, Uranus. Many important conversations will be had about relationship status, goals, and what's best for everyone involved with Mercury still retrograding in Libra until the 9th and contacting Saturn. While this can mean some may go their separate ways, know that if this does indeed turn out to be the case the more difficult, mature option is often the one that's right & best.

There is a pervasive "head over heart" feeling to the month overall with Mercury and Venus sliding into mutual reception with one another on the 8th – in other words, October is a time to apply analytical discernment to all unions. While this shouldn't entail a "can't see the forest for the trees" microfocus on minutiae in relationships, this energy is actually potentially helpful in counteracting the "pretty lies" that others may be inclined to tell us or that \*we\* might be inclined to tell \*ourselves\* under the Venus-Neptune opposition, which is exact on the 16th. Along this vein, mid month definitely isn't a time to put the blinders on in relationships, nor is it a time to self-sabotage a relationship by picking apart every little flaw in a partner. A middle way does exist somewhere between excessively-fault finding vs. doling out charity, forgiveness, compassion, or acceptance to somebody who flat-out may not be worthy of our love. Be prepared to kick all bums to the curb, but at the same time understand the ideal of the glamorous Prince Charming or Fair Maiden may be little more than a Disney-fied illusion cooked up to sell merchandise and that nobody is perfect. An imbalance on either end of this extreme can reveal much regarding issues of self-worth and how we're apt to get in our own way in relationships, so be aware of the need to moderate.

The Libra New Moon on the 12th signifies new relationship beginnings. With the ruler of this lunation – Venus – currently traveling in Virgo, it's a great time to set an intention for **healthy** new beginnings in unions. People sometimes think about the word "relationship" in a purely romantic

context, but it's a moment to get outside of this box and look at our cliques and friendships as well with this Moon's contact to social planet Uranus. There could be bonding that occurs because two (or more) people are "of like-mind", so also consider joining a club/group or going to meetups where you can form new friendships. Those who are in fact partner-seeking could stand to benefit via these avenues as well, while digital-friendly Uranus prompts additional consideration of online dating as another way to meet people. Know that under this energy friendships could also blossom into something more, or we could even be introduced to a friend-of-a-friend who might turn from acquaintance into Significant Other. This is also really good astrology for "queer" relationships - that is, exploration of gay/lesbian/poly/etc. unions.

Wrapping up the month is a Full Moon in Taurus on the 27th – the only major contact this lunation makes is to Saturn, suggesting a curbing poke to the ribs re: the cravings for luxury that we typically experience under this Moon. While we may need certain creature comforts in order to feel secure, the Scorpio Sun asks that we consider what can (and should) be purged on the material plane. This is a good time for secondhand shopping, for going to a tag sale/flea market and picking up gently used items as opposed to new for fiscal savings, or for even selling them for a little extra cash. Further, think about how items you no longer use might be repurposed. On another note, since both the Sun & Moon reside in very sensual signs, this fleshly combination also asks us to put the brakes on any sexual involvement(s) that potentially cause insecurity as this relates to self-worth. Protect your body AND your emotions if you ever feel objectified. From a magickal angle, this is a good time for money spells – in fact, there may be a revenue stream we're even not seeing due to being locked into our comfort zones so we might ask Lady Luna to show it to us!

**\*\*\* A note to readers: If you would like to receive my FREE monthly newsletter via email click [HERE](#) or email [Alethea@EmpoweredDestiny.com](mailto:Alethea@EmpoweredDestiny.com) & 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 ([@EmpwrDdstny](#)).**

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