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www.talismanandcauldron.com

<http://blog.ctnews.com/lenhard/>

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August 3, 2017

Greetings from Talisman and Cauldron's new home in Derby!

New Shop Hours:

Tues-Thurs 11am-7pm

Fri-Sat 11am-8pm

Sunday 12-5pm

Monday Closed

Before I begin, I want to remind everyone that parking is available in the City Hall parking lot (which is diagonally across from Talisman) **after** their business hours during the week and on the weekends. The hours vary, but you'll know because the lot will be empty!

The Leo new moon that just passed (July 23) brought with it a great deal of mismanaged and misdirected anger (road rage for example) MORE political upheaval, MORE ugly or just plain weird revelations, relationships crashing and burning, frustration and anxiety off the chart. This new moon's influence is lasting up to the August 21 solar eclipse. The astrology of this new moon is simple: The Mars influence meant this new moon was about action, aggression, sex and war. The new moon and

Mars square Uranus makes this hot and potentially destructive energy more erratic, unpredictable, dangerous and explosive.

To understand the full astrology behind the emotions for the month of August, please cursor down and read Alethea's Astrology Corner at the end of the newsletter.

And this is the truth! We are all feeling it, even if it is not hitting us directly it is in the news, social media - heck, the energy is unavoidable. It is not a hopeless or depressing energy, but it is amped up and while some might say "the best defense is a good offense" (or hit them before they can hit you) this translates to the need to step BACK from arguments because no one wants to back down. You don't want to be on the losing end of that deal. I had someone I know return a confrontational outburst with the same - and three of the guy's friends jumped on from behind - and sent him to the hospital with a broken nose and several broken teeth. He didn't start it, he wasn't in the wrong, he didn't run away ... but it didn't end well. For him.

Every month that the newsletter is on a "non uplifting" theme, that reads as just plain ol' negative to some people. And so I'll hear, "Why so negative? Why not just focus on the love and the light?" and you know, that's cool and all. Except very few people come to me for a reading saying, "Hey, Laura! Life has been soooooo great lately! Can you throw some cards and let's see if it is going to stay this way, huh?" And I also have yet to figure out a way to spin a reading that deals with cancer, job loss, bankruptcy, drug or alcohol addiction, domestic abuse, loss of home, loss of parent, loss of pet ... and turn that into something positive. YOU want to tell someone dealing with their kid's heroin habit that it's hard but there is a real lesson here for them, and everything always works out for the best ... you can be my guest. Just don't do it in my shop, because we don't talk that way. We also won't tell you that you are cursed or hexed, or try to sell you a "healing" or exorcism. Ain't gonna happen at Talisman.

When I opened my shop over ten years ago in Monroe, people were looking for a different reading experience back then. "Don't tell me anything bad!" so many would beg, and so I hired readers who were able to "spin" things to the positive. I HAD to hire them, because I just can't read that way. But my how times have changed! After the market crash of 2008/09 people came in wanting to hear the TRUTH, no matter how rough. "Just give it to me straight and don't sugarcoat it! Hold back NOTHING!"

You know, there comes a point in our lives where we mature into understanding that life isn't black and white. Take for example the difference between a "good" marriage - and a strong one. We have all known our share of "good" marriages and "strong" marriages and the two can certainly have nothing to do with each other. I was newly married to my first husband, and very young and idealistic, when the movie "The Bridges of Madison County" came out and I remember thinking it was just an awful thing (I hadn't read the book) but the idea of celebrating marital infidelity was just WRONG. She cheated on her husband! Fast forward a decade and I cried watching the movie, understanding the pain of being paired with someone you have nothing in

common with and in a place with no creative outlet. Along that same train of thought, when the movie "War of the Roses" came out my (then) brother-in-law, enmeshed in his own divorce, told me I'd never "get" the movie because only someone going through a divorce could really understand that level of black comedy attached to the angry end of a marriage - but there did come a time years later while watching the movie I laughed my ass off when, after the husband has re-told a story about their baccarat glasses the "right" way at a dinner party (and embarrassed his wife thoroughly) later in bed she answers his "good night" by calling him fuckface.

So here is the trailer for the movie:

<https://youtu.be/F99iT4P0OZY>

Make you laugh? Cringe? Time and experience have a way of altering one's perspective, you see ... but one thing we can all agree on: Barbara and Oliver should have just walked away, as it didn't end well. For both of them.

Blessings,

Laura

NEW-AGE FAIRES HELD EVERY SATURDAY

Faire time 12-6pm. (203) 308-2457 for appointments

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

August 5

Pina - Angel Reader/Oracle (Mediumship)

Sherri - Tarot with Astrological Spread

Sandy - Tarot or Tarot combined with Soul Portrait

August 12

Gwen - Whole life tarot (past life memories)

Patty - Crystal Ball/Psychometry (mediumship)

Pina - Angel Reader/Oracle (Mediumship)

Sherri - Tarot with Astrological Spread

August 19

Gwen - Whole life tarot (past life memories)

Mariellen - I Ching

Rachel - Tarot/Mediumship; Pet Intuitive (pets/photo)

Sandy - Tarot or Tarot combined with Soul Portrait

August 26

Andrea - Tarot (Mediumship)

EstaRa - Twinflame (Relationship) & Chakra Alignment

Pina - Angel Reader/Oracle (Mediumship)

Sherri - Tarot with Astrological Spread

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.

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!

Laura - Private/Phone/Skype appointments:

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.

The Faire is Saturday, with all our wonderful guest readers, **so I do NOT do them on Saturdays**. Please understand 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, so they are not strictly "private" readings.

If you require privacy please understand the shop is open for business. That's why they are five dollars! These mini-readings last about 10-15 minutes or so, and great if you have a quick question or have never experienced a reading before.

Classes at Talisman: You must RSVP (203) 308-2457.

Tarot 101 taught by Laura Lenhard (\$10). Monday, August 14 from 6-8pm. Bring your tarot cards! Limit 10 Attendees.

Tarot Level 2 taught by Laura Lenhard (\$10). Monday, August 28 from 6-8pm. Limit 10 Attendees. Okay, this is the class everyone has been asking for - so, have you learned your cards? I am asking people taking this class to have a basic working knowledge as we move into more advanced reading, new spreads, "timed" readings (a little pressure here) and more. You won't have time to look up the meanings so KNOW your cards!

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.

Greetings!

The weather is slowly getting warmer and our minds start to turn towards summer nights, bonfires, and drumming! Now is the time to register and start planning for CWPN's Harvest Gathering - Hearth & Home; Thursday August 10th through Sunday August 13th. Come home and celebrate with us!

Our days are filled with classes, workshops, vendors, massage therapists, and yoga. Our amazing presenters include; Raven Grimassi, Stephanie Taylor-Grimassi, Lora O'Brien, Jhenah Telyndru, Patricia Lafayllve, Bernadette Montana, Tracy Andryc, Bonnie Landry, Larry Duckles, Shaman Monkey Rock, and Ashleigh Abramovich.

Our evenings boast rituals, drumming, fire circles, renaissance feast, dance party, illuminated labyrinths, and entertainment. Plan your costume changes now! The Friday night dance party is themed Gypsies, Tramps, and Thieves. Come dressed to impress as any of these, or even Cher! Saturday's dinner will be a Renaissance Faire style dinner, with Wenchly and Roguish entertainment. Saturday's ritual will be hosted by

Raven Grimassi and Stephanie Taylor-Grimassi, and will be a special event never done in public before.

Our cabin spaces are full, but camping is free. For those of you who would rather sleep somewhere climate controlled, there quite a few hotels in the area. We also have a meal plan option which is catered by a great local business, which provides breakfast, lunch and dinner, plus coffee, tea, and drinks. The 4 day event starts at \$150/adult.

We hope to see you in August and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Thank you, Gina oldcrow93@yahoo.com

Website: hg.cwpn.org

Registration page: <http://hg.cwpn.org/index.php/harvest-gathering-2014-registration-form>

Linda Palmieri MFT Psychotherapist. I service individuals, Couples and families with a variety of techniques to enable clients to move forward into a new more satisfying life. One modality I use is a group process called Systemic Constellations. It is a way to see into the hidden dynamic of families on an energetic level which leads to transformation in the participants' lives. The next Constellation experience is Monday June 5, from 6 to 9 pm. Go to my website for more information:

<http://www.lindapalmieri.com/workshops> or call 203-260-6059.

Buddhist Path to Recovery from Addiction. Cost: Donation.

Mondays 7:30pm Blue Lotus Yoga, 731 Main St., Monroe

Thursdays 6:30pm at the Tibetan Buddhist Center, 30 Putnam Park Rd., Redding

Sunday 7:30am Barefoot Living in the Arts, 85 Mill Plain Rd, Fairfield

Contact: ericperro@gmail.com.

Our own China (who is always at the shop on Tuesdays and most Saturdays) also makes the sage water spray, Four Thieves products, soaps, salt baths and many of the oils. She is a gifted artist as well, please visit her at One Handy Witch: The Art of China Mayhew

Facebook

The Website

Online Store

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

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!

Get a new career in Dental Assisting in only 15 Saturdays! Low tuition, located at beautiful 4 Corporate Park, Shelton! Labco School of Dental Assisting Plus, LLC. City beat award winner for customer excellence two years in a row! Call Laura Benedetto-Collins, Director/Owner 203-253-3520

New Business Opening in Monroe: Grandma's Storybook Cottage offers workshops to individuals and whole families on writing, literature, research and critical thinking skills, social studies, and sustainability. Some of our upcoming workshops include Medieval Poetry, Renaissance Humanism, Teaching Children about Herbs, Helen Keller's Activism, and Overcoming Writer's Block. Workshop prices will range from \$5 to \$20 per person and will be limited to 12 people so that everyone will get lots of attention. Occasionally, workshops will be offered free of charge. We also have a small retail area stocked with gently used books in like-new condition, story-based curricula in all subjects that you can use with your children of all ages (or for yourself) at home, vintage storybook dolls, storybook playsets, handmade baby blankets and gifts, herbal soaps, a small selection of used and new DVDs based on books that are rated G or PG, educational toys made in the USA with sustainably harvested maple wood, and (organic) milk & (nut free) cookies. While it's nearly impossible to avoid stocking products made overseas, most of our product lines are either made in the USA, made of recyclable or recycled materials, come from a woman-owned company, or some combination of the three.

Please check out our website for updates on our hours, workshops, and other news: <https://grandmasstorybookc.wixsite.com/gscottage>. We look forward to visiting with you soon!

Jackie Berkowitz, Owner / Instructor

Astrology Corner

By Alethea Hunt, Astrologer

August is something pretty special from an astrological point of view - it's an eclipse month, we have the final round of the Jupiter/Pluto Square taking place, PLUS a Mercury retrograde in the mix, so let me get started! Our first item on the docket is the aforementioned square between Jupiter in Libra and Pluto in Capricorn culminating on the 4th; highlighting the concept that not all growth takes place in the sunlight. The energy of this square emphasizes massive transformation; particularly regarding our philosophies surrounding love/marriage/cooperation/unity and really looking at any underlying pernicious beliefs that may have been sabotaging growth and happiness in this context as well as more broadly. There is a necessity for a more balanced point of view with this aspect - particularly one that respects and incorporates Shadow - so it is important that we express gratitude equally for all those dark blessings in life (in all the many forms they can take) when our growth may have been more subterranean in nature or we were able to salvage some good out of a bad situation. For reference, this configuration has perfected twice already; once in late November 2016 and again in late March 2017, so look at the weeks surrounding those periods to see if any of the above themes resonate while being aware they may (re?)surface about a fortnight before/after the date of the exact hit.

An Aquarius lunar eclipse on August 7th will not be visible here in The States as it takes place in the middle of the day (2:11pm EDT), but it packs quite an energetic punch with contact to Mars, Pluto, and Neptune. There is some degree of emotional instability denoted due the Moon's placement in this potentially erratic sign, but its simultaneous opposition to Mars can definitely be inclined to blow hot/cold with the flip of a switch. Volcanic Pluto also has a finger in this pie, jabbing at Mars and the Sun like a sharp stick in the eye so mind any festering resentments and psychological "triggers" because this is the kind of lunation where someone might flip a table over in order to get attention. Without being permissive nor intrusive, this is a good time to keep an eye on kids – particularly male children – as a need to be cool/have social approval may increase the likelihood testosterone-fueled antics. This can include anything from doing macho keg stands at a party, to risky sexual behaviors/physical activities blown off as "we were just having fun", to getting in actual fights. Rather than dismissing it as "Kids will be kids" and turning a blind eye while this desire for attention manifests negatively, be proactive in providing your children with fun activities to blow off steam while feeding their need for socialization so they don't start acting out/up around the time of this lunation - amusement/theme parks, carnivals, or even an alcohol-free pool party may be the ticket!

Mercury retrogrades in health-conscious Virgo on Aug 12th, which is a good time to commit/re-commit to a wellness or dietary routine due its proximity to Vesta. There is a good possibility we're overlooking something regarding our health; perhaps consider

consulting with someone about this because it's the kind of thing that we might be oblivious to and yet is very obvious to an outside party. Lots of Feminine energies tie into the start of this retrograde, so look for helpful women in particular near the outset if you want to tackle vague but repetitious ailments. And do not underestimate the role of balance, either - especially regarding things like sleep, relaxation, and moderating alcohol consumption with Mercury opposing Neptune. Later in the retrograde (Sept), Mercury will sit on the degree of the Total Solar eclipse (more on that one in a moment) as it turns direct, which can trigger major news hitting regarding royalty and/or heads of state due its proximity to Fixed Star Regulus. Mercury will actually halt movement a bit closer to Al Jabhah, though; a star with a Saturn/Mercury nature so this news looks serious. Fixed star authority Vivian Robson said this star gives "loss and many dangers, a violent and intemperate nature, and to a military officer danger of mutiny and murder by his soldiers". Sounds a bit to me like it has the capacity to be a Caesar/Ides of March kind of deal - we'll get back to why I find this potentially relevant in a moment.

In regards to the aforementioned eclipse, it takes place on August 21st @ 2:30pm EDT and is a rare Total Solar Eclipse – this the one to watch, as it will be visible across North America (albeit only Total in a diagonal swath from Oregon in the Pacific Northwest cutting down across Nebraska/Kansas/Missouri in the Midwest and eventually ending at South Carolina on the East Coast). All Solar Eclipses take place at the New Moon, and this one packs a huge energetic punch with it occurring near Fixed Star Regulus, the Heart of The Lion. Rebellious, revolutionary, change & social activism-loving Uranus lends a hand to this lunation; favoring freedom and reform but also adding a "twist" to this lunation that can be surprising/shocking. There's more: As one of the "Watcher" stars, Regulus has ties to healing Archangel Raphael, patron saint of happy meetings, lovers, insanity, and the blind - if viewing the eclipse, make sure you're using the aid of a specialty viewing device (not mere sunglasses!) or you truly may have a very literal need for his help! On an individual level, I see this as a great time to heal the heart (literally or metaphorically) and for helping to crack open Anahata; the 4th chakra perhaps better known to some as the Heart Center. I feel the energy of this eclipse is predominantly liberating and can be a boon for overcoming things like social anxiety and for opening ourselves up to giving and receiving Love on a personal as well as communal level; especially where there has been fear/hesitation involved.

In addition to pinging off Regulus, I am also very interested in this eclipse for the reason that it hits Al Jabhah as well; that Caesar/Ides of March–esque star discussed earlier. This is a highly active astrological area in the chart of the USA's new president, lighting up his Mars & Ascendant. Being that we did say Regulus has ties to heads of state and Al Jabhah does have that mutinous feel, I will be paying very close attention in August to any goings-on with the Commander-in-Chief. This might even manifest as a declaration of war; perhaps as a bid for attention/glory. I definitely would not rule this

out because Mars is a war-like planet and Regulus is a Martial star, so this can certainly ignite militant tendencies. This is also not a particularly good health omen for DJT and may be indicative of heart trouble as he simultaneously has blockage-oriented Saturn sitting on his Moon/opposite his Sun at this time, which tends to deplete vitality in the physical body. Regardless, I expect some big geopolitical waves to be made in August & September with that 28+ degree mark of Leo repeatedly accentuated by both a major eclipse and Mercury retrograde - keep tuned to current events because there's likely to be quite a spectacle!

*** 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 and Cauldron

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