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February 1, 2018

Quick Request: If you are receiving multiple copies of this newsletter, please "unsubscribe" from any extras - I do pay for these, and it would be much appreciated!

New Shop Hours:

Tues-Thurs 11am-7pm

Fri-Sat 11am-8pm

Sunday 12-5pm

Monday Closed

And if I am running late, call my cell (203) 513-1709.

Reminder: 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. City Hall's hours vary, but you'll know because the lot will be empty!

As I have often remarked, it is rare for someone to walk into the shop all smiles, and say "Hey Laura! Things are going SO WELL for me right now,

can you throw a few cards to see if that's going to continue???" The reality is that I spend most of my time in the Reading Room hearing a LOT of sad stories. Now, it's the astrological energy of this time - which has just begun, hasn't even built up to a full head of steam yet (that won't take place until the first quarter of 2019) - but any kind of "reveal, clear and move on" scenario is normally fantastic as far as I am concerned.

But not in January.

I mean, certain people revealed themselves all right ... revealed they are cheats, liars, backstabbers. People and pets alike revealed they had chronic or life threatening illnesses, suddenly and without warning. Job security was revealed to be ... not so much. People we thought liked us or had our backs were revealed and - well, that they did not. So much BETRAYAL. And like a butterfly held in place with a pin, seems we are forced to ENDURE the unpleasant company far longer than we'd wish. Because in most cases, it hit so close to home - or lived at home..

And in all these stories that people shared with me for the past 4-5 weeks, I tried to find a common thread (beyond misery) something that would explain why NOW? And then I read a [post](#) of my astrologer friend Elsa's last week that shed light, about cutting your losses.

"The concept of cutting your losses is a learned skill rather than something you can reliably leave to human nature. You have to train to do this because humans by their nature seem set up to throw good money after bad. This applies to all situations. Many people won't leave the casino, be it a stock they are invested in, a relationship, a war they're waging or an actual casino, even when their losses are staggering. Evidence of this is all around, from the woman who stays with a man who beats her until he beats her to death to the person or corporation who spends and spends and spends, time and money, trying to win a lawsuit that eventually nets them something insignificant or nothing at all. In all these cases, there would have been indications that it would be best to quit. But you're invested, headed in a certain direction, most have a difficult time turning back or changing course. The results are often devastating. Learn to weigh things, realistically. If you check yourself and find you are barking up the wrong tree, consider cutting your losses and finding a new tree. Because while your back is turned to focus on the wrong tree other opportunities are passing you by, you can be sure of that".

And so yes, in many of the stories I am hearing - sure, could've jumped ship a lot earlier and saved a lot of time, money or heartache. Or deep in your heart, you knew a story wasn't adding up or suspected that this person couldn't be trusted. So this begs to ask the question: Why do we linger?

I mean, just how uncomfortable does one have to be before leaving or ending a bad deal? So often, folks come into the shop certain they are under attack or asking what they have done that their guides/angels/god has abandoned them ... when in reality they are not under attack, Divine Intervention is attempting to literally crowbar or airlift that person out of the rut they have dug themselves into.

Because we hate the idea of breaking the connection. Even a bad habit is still a habit.

Whether toxic or stagnant - by ending a relationship, leaving a work environment, losing a home that was sucking us dry financially, putting a sick animal to sleep or watching a life end ... it feels like a part of us is ending, too. And I am not a person who chimes in with a cheerful "lemons to lemonade" or "one door closes so others can open" scenario. Sure maybe in time but man, that shit sucks. And I despise manipulative behavior. So if someone cost you a job or ruined YOUR good thing - heck, put them in a mirror* and let their nastiness be exposed (reveal!) so maybe others won't have to deal with them.

Okay, maybe it's just me but that thought always makes ME feel better.

And this energy we experienced, while tough (a stellium in Capricorn is never easy but that is breaking up over the next couple of days, whew) has actually played fair with many others ... people who had been diligently holding onto a job paying their dues finally getting the promotion they have waited for. I saw a lot of long-term relationships move onto the next step with an unexpected ring/proposal. A few people I had been worried were not going to make it, threw themselves into rehab and are on the road to true recovery. Others who had been saving and going without for many years finally being able to purchase their first home or were able to relocate to a better place. So many took the plunge and put themselves back in school (funny, usually a course or curriculum that will take 2 - 2.5 years to complete) so they'll be getting their degree/diploma about the time Saturn leaves Capricorn and enters Aquarius. Freedom and fun times!

Fun times, ha - who am I kidding? Try revolutionary times. Aquarius is all about the collective, the group mindset, humanitarian efforts. Let's see what Saturn stirs up when it hits the 11th House of Brotherly Love, eh? Ah, but we have time for that so let's not rush things ... ooh that's real close to the next U.S. election huh? How convenient. Meanwhile, any loose ends or unanswered questions left over from January's full moon(s) will culminate around the June full moon - so stay tuned.

Look, we all came to Earth School to take this trip together. TOGETHER. And our nearest and dearest, even when out of our sight, remain bound to us.

Not just here and now - but always.

I shared this with you all several years ago, my favorite [movie trailer](#) (the book was amazing) and yes even now it still brings me to tears - it is everything I believe about our spiritual (and human) reality. Enjoy!

"There is a natural order to this world, and those who try to upend it do not fare well ...".

Meh. Upend it anyways, I say!

Blessings,

Laura

* Note: To "put someone in a mirror" involves literally binding their picture or original signature between two mirrors so they must face themselves, and whatever they are doing or saying reflects directly back on them. Ditto any energy they are sending out. And yes, I sell mirror kits at the shop.

NEW-AGE FAIRES HELD EVERY SATURDAY

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

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

February 3

Sherri - Tarot with Astrological Spread

Gwen - Whole life tarot (past life memories)

February 10

Pina - Angel Reader/Oracle (Mediumship)

Sherri - Tarot with Astrological Spread

Sandy - Tarot with or without Soul Portrait

February 17

Pina - Angel Reader/Oracle (Mediumship)

Sherri - Tarot with Astrological Spread

Gwen - Whole life tarot (past life memories)

February 24

Andrea - Tarot (Mediumship)

Sandy - Tarot with or without Soul Portrait

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

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:

I do special, in-depth readings by appointment. My comprehensive multi-service 60+ minute private session includes a chakra check up, a print out and review of your astrological natal chart, tarot and palm reading and more! (\$75). Private tarot readings (\$30/30min, \$60/hr) 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/Events at Talisman: Limited space, you must RSVP (203) 308-2457

Community Acupuncture: On Sunday, February 11 from 2 to 4 pm come join us to experience the peaceful healing energy of a group acupuncture session. Ear acupuncture will be performed while in a seated position, using 5 sterile, disposable needles in each ear for approximately 30-40 minutes. This has been shown to help reduce stress and anxiety, and may help with difficulty sleeping, irritability or depressed feelings. This protocol has also been used as part of the treatment plan in addiction centers, and also in community based centers which focus on helping veterans with PTSD. It is used by Acupuncturists Without Borders, a group providing assistance throughout the world for persons recovering from the aftermath of natural disasters.

Whether you have tried acupuncture before or are an acupuncture virgin, we welcome you to experience this in Talisman's warm setting, performed by Susan Lederfeind, licensed acupuncturist. Note: I had never tried acupuncture before, and found this to be extremely relaxing, and in fact I found myself journeying while the needles were in. Kindly RSVP to Laura and make sure you have eaten prior to participating. Cost \$10. If you have any questions please contact Susan Lederfeind at 203-243-1805, or susanctpt@gmail.com.

Methods of Divination taught by Laura Lenhard (\$25). Monday, February 19th from 6-8pm. Limit 10 Attendees. Hey, Tarot isn't for everyone ... so let's explore! Runes, pendulum, tea leaves, palms ... cost of class includes your own set of runes, a pendulum, packet of handouts - all I ask you to bring is a magnifying glass please. We'll sip our tea then read our cups as well!

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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.

[Jiva Center](#), 2900 Main Street, Stratford CT (203) 345-7747. A new community resource offering Yoga, QiGong, Massage, Holistic Facial Services and Reiki. Review: "The MOST wonderful place to learn. Yoga, sure, but so much more. Sharing space with such like minded people. A real community lead by true leaders. A MOST wonderful place to be a part of. You feel it as soon as you enter. A true place of inclusion, helpfulness without judgement. So appreciative to have found Jiiva".

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

[One Handy Witch on Facebook](#)

[One Handy Witch website](#)

[The 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 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. We look forward to visiting with you soon!

Jackie Berkowitz, Owner / Instructor

Astrology Corner
By Alethea Hunt, Astrologer

The energetic hangover of eclipse residue influences the outset of February

and we may feel as if things are still in a flux-y state during this limbo between eclipses. Generally speaking, this isn't a month to be making big plans or launching new endeavors – the skies are unsettled and there is a good chance that if we do so, we may have to account for shifting and unforeseen conditions. It's certainly OK to *talk* about what you'd like to do, though, as an ideas-oriented Mercury forms a supportive link to action-oriented Mars on Feb 3rd. Get some discussion going by all means and/or crowd-source opinions, but don't pull the trigger just yet!

We'll also have to be aware of a decadent vibe early in the month as Venus squares off with Jupiter, exact on Feb 4 but active for several days on either side. Venus is pleasure-seeking and is unrestrained in Aquarius, while Jupiter in Scorpio can be excessive to debauched proportions - go easy because it can be real easy to overdo it. This is especially so regarding spending and sex - this could have the feel of credit that's maxed out for a crazy, unexpected, or technological purchase, or perhaps even *clutches pearls* an orgy; the "group love" expression of Venus in Aquarius being taken very literally in this instance. Add in the fact that roughly at the same time Venus approaches a sextile with free-spirited Uranus and anything goes!

Speaking of that sextile (exact on the 6th), this IS a good time for socializing; particularly for women looking to connect to each other and enhance their social networks. Certainly anyone can benefit from this energy, though – besides facilitating covalent bonds among friends, this is also great energy for online dating. Get involved in your community, look to unite with others through groups, meetups, or online settings, and did you know that - besides dating - they do also make apps for finding friends?? (Hint, hint)

Our social spheres may get a little trickier to navigate as we approach Feb 10th when a group-oriented Aquarius Sun clashes with the private truths of Jupiter in Scorpio. Generally this is not a time to put your personal business out to your friends (or on FB et al, for that matter) if you don't want it spread around – Mercury is near the Sun and will also square Jupiter a few days later (exact on the 13th) as both also approach digital Uranus, and this can symbolize information going "viral". We can use this to our advantage as well, of course, by publicizing things we *want* blown up/promoted – especially if it's a social cause!

A New Moon Solar Eclipse in Aquarius on the 15th continues to put considerable emphasis on our social circles. Definitely do not overpromise and underdeliver to friends this month, because the proximity of this lunation to Mercury & asteroid Juno highlights any verbal commitments

we've made. Avoid gossip/backbiting and try not to make any of your friends feel like the odd one out in your group, because resentment or jealousy can result. Keep it positive & inclusive!

Mid month there is a tricky square to navigate between Mars in Sagittarius and Neptune in Pisces, perfecting on Feb 17th but active about a week before AND after. There's a tendency with this combo not to be very realistic about how much we can do and take on too much as a result, which can dissipate energy and cause us to lose momentum. Sometimes we're suckered into tackling more than we want to because we do want to help someone, but stay fluid and non-committal so as not to disperse energy for the bigger-picture things you need more of your energy for. Also: Do get yourself a motivational playlist during this square - you might find it peps you up and that you can do more with the right soundtrack! FYI: There is a "crusader" facet to this energy as well that can be too abrasive/preachy and especially so regarding spiritual matters, so meditate on that before getting too pushy about a POV whether it's spiritual, political, cultural, or what have you.

A romantic pairing of Venus with Neptune in Pisces occurs on Feb 21st - this can be beautiful energy for facilitating a spiritual pairing, but with Neptune being a planet of fantasy we do well not to get all "Calgon, take me away!" and swept up in illusions created by the unconscious desire for a "sweet escape". Venus approaches a square to Mars in Sagittarius near this time (exact on the 25th) as well, and while there may be chemistry there can also be issues regarding actual compatibility; especially concerning political, cultural, moral, and/or spiritual views we may find offensive/abrasive. We may be presented with some red flags that are best NOT ignored! With Venus and Neptune in Pisces we sometimes tend to put blinders on regarding anything that might take our Beloved off the pedestal we've placed them upon; particularly if alcohol or other substances are involved. Financially speaking, this Venus/Neptune influence stimulates altruistic urges where we're inclined to give money or things away - this is lovely when we're philosophically aligned with our cause. However, there's a good chance with Mars squaring this duo that we might not be; be careful not to be duped into funding something you're morally opposed to because not every charitable cause is honest and may use a smokescreen cover to solicit donations. Further, make sure your donation is going to do the most good!

*** 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 (@EmpwrdDstny).

Namaste, my friends -

**"The Divinity within me perceives and adores
the Divinity within you"**

*** Laura ***

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