

the Seeker's Journey

Catching up with Joan Bunning

By Greyhound



Joan Bunning is the teacher that made the Tarot come alive to me. This article may sound like I'm a little in awe that I am finally interviewing her (and I am). Her body of work includes several books on the subject of Tarot, she authored the material used in the Barnes & Noble "Tarot for Beginners" class that many of us have taken and her website at:

<http://www.learn.tarot.com> continues to be a freely available resource for students wanting to learn.

Greyhound: Wow... where to start... Can I begin by saying "thank you" for leaving almost the entire text of your book, "Learning the Tarot", available in an online lesson format, freely available for anyone with a computer? What prompted you to do that?

Joan: You're welcome, Christine! The whole story's a bit long, but I'd love to share it as I think it's an example of the special happenings that so often come with the tarot.

Once I decided to study the tarot (I talk about this further on), I bought all kinds of books, took a class, made lots of notes... I bet this sounds very familiar. I tried to make sense of it all. One day I was sitting at my computer jotting down notes about the court cards, when suddenly I realized a whole chapter about them was "sitting" in my mind. It was very strange. I had ideas about them that seemed to just be there, so I decided to write them down. Other chapters followed and eventually I had a book which I called Knowing Yourself Through the Tarot.

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Member Focus: Talking with DarkMoon-Priestess (Gail Wood)

by Igraine

Igraine: When were you first were attracted to tarot? What brought it to you?

Gail: When I was a kid, we used to get publisher clearing house catalogs and they had an occult section. My family didn't have much money and I didn't want to tell my parents that I was interested in this stuff, so I just kept quiet about it, but I remember those catalogs so vividly! In college I was a fundamental Christian in a cult and the Tarot was considered "of the Devil." It

wasn't until after leaving the cult that I started exploring other spiritualities. Out of the blue, my grandmother sent me a deck of tarot cards and a book. I had a little freak out only because of all the preaching against cards when I was young. Still, I was fascinated. Around the same time, a friend came to visit, one who had the same spiritual explorations—lo and behold--she pulled out a deck of tarot cards and read for me. I pulled out mine and read and that was it, the beginning of an obsession.

Igraine: How many decks do you have?

Gail: I think around 100—I've been too afraid to count. Still, if I've been reading for more than twenty years, we are only talking about five decks per year. Right? For me, Tarot has always been linked with Wicca because I discovered them around the same time in my life.

Igraine: How would you describe your experience with Shamanism? How do you use it?

Gail: I shy away from being part of the Native American Shamanist movement because of all the controversy about cultural appropriation, but also because I'm really called to other paths and pantheons. The Gods I work with are mostly Greek and Roman. The shamanism I practice has kind of integrative feel to it but doesn't have a real name to it. Michael Harner has coined the term, "core shamanism" and that is a good name for

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The What Spread

By Webweaver

During the last Barnes and Noble "Tarot for Beginners" class, I was the Teachers Assistant. I wanted a simple yet deep spread. I did what I tend to do when I can't find what I'm looking for. I create one. I have used this spread a few times now and it is a really good spread for most situations.

1. What is in the open:

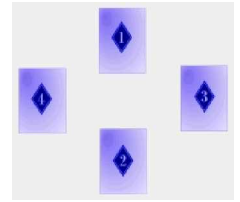
This card should be what is known about the situation. What you are seeing and perceiving about it.

2. What is hidden:

This card will show you something about the question that you either didn't know, or haven't accepted.

3. What to grab:

This is what you need to actively do or seek out about the question. This is a guidance card. It will indicate what you should be putting your energy into.



4. What to release:

This is what you need to just let go. What this card is indicating needs to be put to rest, let go, allowed to die, etc. Nothing can be gained by hanging on to this.

Look at the 1 [in the Open] & 2 [Hidden] card. Think about how these cards are either similar or

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2005 Readers Studio

By Webweaver

Wow! What an experience. The Tarot School along with Llewellyn Worldwide in joint production gave us the 2005 Readers Studio. I wanted to share my experience with our readers and tell each and every one of the Tarot community: If you have a chance to attend, Go! When I sat down to write up this article, it gave me an opportunity to remember how exciting it was. I wasn't able to really process it after coming home sick and to a host of personal stuff going on at the time, but just thinking about this again gets my blood pumping. I was trying to find a way to express what it was like, and hey we're Tarot enthusiasts, so I'll use Tarot as my guide.

For how the event was organized, I choose the Chariot and Temperance. It was a wonderful blend of all things Tarot as well as willfully and skillfully coordinated. Ruth & Wald Amberstone and Barbara Moore did an amazing job. Everything ran smoothly throughout, I did not see one glitch. I for one appreciated the venue, for both the ease of arrival and being able to stay where the Studio was being held. I also have to give kudos to the hotel. Other than an issue with the hot tub, everything was great and the service was top notch. I also had all the coffee I could drink. I will add the Page of Wands for all the fun prezies we got throughout. Magazines, decks, and toys to keep our hands busy while our minds were expanding. For how welcoming and excited Ruth and Wald made me feel...

The Hermit and Hierophant for the lectures. The three main Teachers were; Teresa Michelsen, James Ricklef, and Corrine Kenner. They all shared the light of knowledge while at the same time letting us in on the history and tradition of Tarot. I

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How much do you Believe in Yourself?

By Dawn Falbe

Now that you've made a decision to have a metaphysical practice be your source of income, what's going to happen on those days when things don't go so well? We start questioning ourselves. "Did I do the right thing?" "I think I should have waited until I had more (Whatever more is)" What we don't want to happen is to have you fall apart and scuttle back to a "real job"... Now some of this is the IBS Committee (Itty Bitty Shitty Committee) talking to you and that's another subject for us to deal with! Sometimes though, as you move through your business there are going to be days when the phone doesn't ring, or where you are overwhelmed because of all the work on your desk and it's on those days you will need to reinforce the reasons why you decided and believed that you could have a business that is successful financially, emotionally, mentally and spiritually, whilst enabling you to live the life of your dreams!! What kind of dream job is that!!

In order to build a solid and strong foundation in anything you do you have to believe in yourself and what you are doing. It's another foundational piece of having a successful business. So why do you believe you can have a successful business? Are you gifted, talented, knowledgeable? Is there some power greater than you who is supporting you in going after your dreams? What about your experiences, characteristics and philosophies?

As has been shown time and time again, writing things down generally tends to bring them to fruition. It's a law of the Universe. Here is an exercise that you can do to discover and write

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Fante Di Spade Rx

By Dan Pelletier

...Nice trillium...new world plant, like the maize you'll see inside. Good to see you again, good bus ride out here? In a moment, I'll head inside. Keep shooting pictures. The stairs are to the right of the 'Prentice Pillar. Be sure to move the rope barrier back so that it blocks the staircase. Once in the Sacristy, I'll be in the small room off to the left.



Major Tom's Tarot of Marseilles - Image courtesy of Thomas Schick

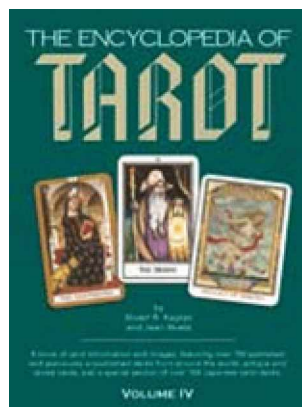
I think we will be undisturbed for a bit here, few walk around the rope. At the 2005 Melbourne International Tarot Conference, hosted by the Association for Tarot Studies, a very limited edition of 50 copies of 'Major Tom's Tarot of Marseilles' was printed and released. It's not just another TdM, nor is it a 'recreation'; it's a Tarot de Marseilles for the twenty-first century. As a reading deck, it's fantabulous. As a collectors item, no other edition will carry the conference commemorative label on the Two of Cups. I know there are a handful of these decks left over. They need to be appreciated by active readers. What? Looks cartoony? Ever look at a real TdM? They're cartoony also, but this is a modern stylized version. It's très cool.

Yeah I am edgy. To be honest I'm tired, wary, and weary.... Too many time zones in too few days.

Michael Kutzer has just completed two new limited editions in his "Cudahy Animal Tarot" series - the Pig Tarot and the Mouse Tarot. These decks join the Hedgehog, Elephant, and Frog Tarots as #4 and #5 in a series of 12 animal decks. Each deck is limited to a printing of 32 copies.

Time for us to move, I'll meet you upstairs in the Lady Chapel.

As you know, the Encyclopedia of Tarot, vol. 4, was released. Worth the wait.... Other USG titles we'll have to wait until 2006 for, are the Vanessa Tarot by Lynyrd Narciso (Have you seen either Tarot of the Lepidopteran People or Les Adorables Tarot? He does amazing work, that lad), and the Holy Tarot by Andre St. Dryden. Also rumored to be scheduled for release in 2006 is the long-awaited



Encyclopedia of Tarot - Image courtesy of the Tarot Garden

reprint of Arnell Ando's "Transformational Tarot" which was originally self-published by the artist in an edition of 1,000, and is currently bringing high prices on the collector's market ever since it sold out about 5 years ago.

Oh, I'm sorry - I should have told you. Yeah, last time - that incident at Bab al-Dhahabi - tricky one that was. We did prevent the unsealing. Though I'm still not sure if that was a good idea or not, but the artifact was indeed recovered there, preventing future attempts at unsealing it; at least for the moment. You did your part exceptionally well. You know you've been watched. We've intercepted some of the dispatches, and they suspect nothing.

Now look at those two carved angels. Notice they are both crouching. Stand one up and put him behind a table, place a book between the hands and knees of the other. Now look at the I and II from a Tarot de Marseilles...



Revelations Tarot - Image courtesy of the Tarot Garden

Just to remind you, the Revelations Tarot was released in April, the Animals Divine just started shipping, and a new re-packaged edition of Martin

& Ellen Cannon Reed's "Witches Tarot" is due for release in September. The new edition differs from the old in that black borders have been added to the previously borderless cards.

Now? Not something I'm too eager to tell you. They have, and we've not yet recovered, the Amulet of Chao. We don't know exactly where it is, but we can observe its wake. We've extrapolated where it should be, and that's why we're here. I always say, observe the obvious.

The North American market has just received the Tarot of White Cats (which I believe may be the most overlooked deck of the year), Dream Cards, French Cartomancy (using the images of Madame Lenormand), Tarot of the 1001 Nights, and Tarot of the Secret Forest. These titles have been available in the European market for a while,



Tarot of White Cats - Image courtesy of the Tarot Garden

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A Meditative Series - The Magician

By Igraine & Nimue

Shadowy clouds glide gently across the golden sun creating a sense of solemnity. You gaze up at them; their soft billowing reminds you of angels' wings as they float peacefully off toward the eastern horizon. You inhale deeply the scent of spring and the freshness of the mountain air. (PAUSE)

A gusty wind picks up, gathering fallen leaves from this past autumn's kiss, engaging them like Sufi dancers...twirling...twirling...twirling...lifting upward, swirling friskily around you as if to make you partner in nature's dance. You are entranced and find yourself caught up in the spiraling motion. (PAUSE)

The sound of a distant bird's call distracts you and turning around you realize suddenly that no one is there! The Fool has vanished to your surprise and consternation. You stand on the path completely alone. (PAUSE)

The atmosphere begins to feel weighty, thick. Perhaps you have climbed too high on your trek. You pause and try to clear your head. Out of the blue you sense a presence... a stirring, as if someone is still there. You look back to the changing sky and there you see an enormous white crane circling, descending toward an open field full of white lilies and overgrown rose, wild, untamed. It disappears into the bramble and you shield your eyes from the sun overhead hoping to catch sight of it again. For a moment you can see nothing but the tangerine rays of sunlight streaming down, forming crystalline walls around you. It's as if you are completely lost, standing somewhere between two worlds. (PAUSE) The sun shifts and suddenly you can see quite clearly like waking from a lucid dream. There in the midst of the field you spy a young man with long black hair. He is dressed in a red velvet tunic and around his waist there appears to be a gilded snake slithering, glittering against the sun. You squint, not believing exactly what you're seeing. Is that snake alive? His back is towards



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This written and audio meditation is the creative child of Igraine and her sister Nimue. They are composing a new meditation CD on the Tarot's Major Arcana. This is an exclusive glimpse of the work in progress.

The meditations are all original material written by Igraine and Nimue. Intended as part of an hour long meditation this issue of the Seeker's Journey shares The Magician. The entire series will include each Major Arcana in a continuous flowing experience of The Fool's Journey. You will be greeted by each of the Major Arcana characters along the path and guided to receive some message or counsel from them all.

Experience the meditation through all your senses download the audio of Igraine reading the Meditation at:

<http://www.tarotforlife.com/newsletter01.html>

Right click the link to download, left click to play from your browser window. Enjoy an audio meditative experience.

Background Music:
©Gabrielle Roth and the Mirrors Bones
1998

http://www.ravenrecording.com/raven_portal.html

*Igraine and Nimue would like to thank Raven Records for their permission to use Gabrielle Roth's fabulous trance music from her CD Bones for this demo version in the newsletter.

(Joan Bunning - Continued from page 1)

I tried to get the book published, but with no luck, so I put it aside - except at some point, I rewrote it into lesson format. For some reason I felt that was a good idea. Then around 1993, I got a part-time job that involved learning about the Internet. This was very early when the WWW was brand new. On an impulse, I decided to create a site around my book. I launched it in 1995 after quitting my job to devote myself to tarot full time. (I was a little nervous about that move.) But within a few days, I began getting feedback and just kept going. In those, days if you searched for "tarot" you only got a few hundred responses so my site was easy to find.

I can honestly say that first "gift" of my site has brought me so many blessings I would do it again in a second. When I look back, it seems as if it all came from following each Fool-ish impulse as it presented itself!

GH: I see the results of your Tarot survey will be out soon. I don't want to ask you for details you plan to release later, but what was your original goal in conducting the survey? Is there a teaser you can share with us?

Joan: My original goal was to find out as much as I could about how people were actually using their cards as opposed to how they were "supposed" to be using them. I wanted to orient my writing to what would be truly useful... and get a lot of good ideas to boot.

I got so many great responses, many more than I expected (once my UK friend Malcolm made the survey form for me. That made replying easy.) I've only begun to look into everything so I can't even offer a good teaser, sad to say. I had planned to get everything together this summer, but unfortunately I think I'm going to have to postpone for a while - partly family requirements, partly because book 3 is due in Nov. and that deadline's looming a little large. But also there's just so much there, I don't want to hurry through it. The good news is that I think I'll bring back the online form to see if even more people would like to contribute. So, if anyone in the group didn't get around to replying, you'll have a second chance.

GH: Congratulations on completing the Midnight Sun Marathon! Will you be participating in other events in the future?

Joan: Never say never, but... one time was enough for me. Still, it really was fun and exciting. I ran with a friend and we did a run/walk program... four minutes running, one minute walking. Made it almost "easy". If any of you are intrigued by the idea of training for an endurance event, I do highly recommend the Team in Training (<http://www.teamintraining.org/>) program. They sponsor and train, not just for running, but also biking and walking and other events all over the country.

GH: I am fascinated that you have a computer programming background... I also have a very geeky background and I've found the Tarot to bring such wonderful balance for the other side of my brain. I still feel like I'm literally switching gears though... Was it difficult to integrate your logical and intuitive self?

Joan: I wandered into the computer field in the late 70s when companies were happy to take warm bodies for that kind of work. The field was so new - there weren't a lot of graduates in computer science. I didn't know a bit from a byte, but learned on the job. I found I liked the logical and systematic approach that was needed. (I think this comes out in the step-by-step organization of my course, too.) Still my heart was always more on the intuitive side. You're so right that the tarot offers a wonderful way to balance both. I tend to get impressions intuitively, but then use analysis afterward to make sense of them. So there is that feeling of shifting gears, but I think that as long as you trust your intuition and give it "equal billing" then you do have the best of both worlds.

GH: It's probably a question you get asked all the time, but how did your journey with the Tarot begin?

Joan: I've been interested in spiritual and metaphysical subjects for a long time - probably since some time in the 70s. Even though I'd heard about the tarot, I'd never really looked into it until a certain event in 1985. I was attending a conference on near-death experiences and sat next to a man the first day who was quite intriguing. I learned he was a medium at a Spiritualist church. I asked a lot of questions, and he suggested I drop by some time. A few weeks later I decided to do just that. I went to one of their psychic fairs. He was doing readings so I signed up for one - my first ever. The first thing he said was "You should study the tarot." Well, I did and everything has followed from that!

GH: What are your plans for future Tarot projects?

Joan: Right now I'm busy working on my third book, *Learning Tarot Spreads*, which is due at the publisher in November. I'm
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(Joan Bunning - Continued from page 5)

very excited about it. It seemed to me that most books on spreads are mainly just a collection. There's little discussion of what spreads mean and how they work. So I want to go a little deeper. Also, there are so many beginning books on tarot (mine included) but few for advanced beginners. Once you learn card meanings and a few basic spreads, you're pretty much on your own. So I'm hoping to offer one next step in this book.

I'm especially excited about two elements. One is a reference section for spread positions. I noticed the same positions showing up in many spreads - for example "heart of the matter," or "what's blocking you." It seemed like a good idea to separate these out and describe them in detail. That way you can get to know them well (just as you do your cards) and bring that deep understanding to all the readings you do that have those positions. Also I've worked up a kind of spread system (there's that computer influence again!) that you can adapt to different situations - as an alternative to just memorizing a lot of distinct spreads that aren't related.

After that, I'm thinking maybe something that covers all the many ways people use the tarot - reading techniques (laying out, choosing cards, shuffling, etc.) new interpretation ideas, readings in groups, timing issues. Anything and everything. I think the survey will help immensely with this.

And finally, I'd love to work on something that talks about how the tarot can create sacred and intimate moments between two people. I imagine you have experienced this yourself with some readings. You get so close to the other person - there's a vivid energy present, almost as if you're in a different world. How can we enlarge our idea of tarot to include and encourage this? How can we enhance the effect? When is it appropriate, and when not? The thought of tackling this topic feels a little overwhelming to me, but it really is one close to my heart.

GH: There are quite a few TFLers (members of Tarot for Life) that took your first class at Barnes & Noble. Would you ever consider teaching another class online, maybe on more advanced topics?

Joan: I think I would really enjoy that. Next year I'll have a lot more free time than now (that's the plan anyway) and I'm hoping to explore such possibilities then. I haven't kept up with B&N although I know they do still run the class a few times/year. Perhaps something based on the spreads book?

GH: If you could narrow it down to one thing, what is the most important thing the Tarot has taught you?

Joan: I think it would have to be that the tarot helped me connect with my Inner Guide - to move from curiosity in the beginning to intellectual belief and finally to knowing. The tarot was my main catalyst in this wonderful process - while I was learning, opening to new ideas, creating my site, teaching, doing readings. The cards helped me build a bridge between the inner and the outer and now I feel comfortable walking back and forth all the time!

.....

I've been thinking about the summer of that first B&N class the whole time I've been working on this interview. It really was a special experience for me. I was struck so many times by how open and caring everyone was. We had beginners and experienced readers, and everyone helped each other. I'm glad you and other TFLers have kept that bond going since then. The tarot is indeed a great catalyst, isn't it?

Thanks again for this chance to look back.....
With warm wishes,
Joan

(What Spread - Continued from page 2)

opposite. Think about what card 1 is showing you about your question, this should be an easy to understand card. It's showing you what you already know. How does the 2 card either reinforce what you know or make you rethink how you are perceiving the situation/problem.

Look at the 3 [Grabbed] & 4 [Released] card. Describe how these cards are either similar or opposite. These cards should work together in some way. What is being grabbed should somehow "replace" or again show a new perspective to the situation or question.

When I was working with this spread I also looked at the 1 card [in the Open], and in turn related it to each of the other 3 starting with card 3 [What to Grab] and worked counter-clockwise. This will help to get a synopsis of the entire reading. Using the 1 card as your key card look at each relationship and think of a 2 sentence synopsis of the reading.

Example: 1. 9oW | 2. 5oC | 3. 2oS | 4. 12HM

I know I am prepared, I need to trust to intuition to make the decision. There are fears, but I must be-

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come active and move, not just hanging thinking about preparedness.

The 1 card {Open} is re-enforced by my 4 card {Release}. The 2 card helps explain why I haven't yet done what is suggested in the 3 card {Grab}. Look to the 2 card {Hidden} for help in doing what is suggested in the 3 card {Grab}.



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came away from the Studio with not only more tools and skills, but a new understanding of myself. Who I am as a reader, and what that means to me and the community at large. I add the Fool, for the fun and foolishness, as well as the feeling of wanting to step off that cliff into new and unexplored territory.

Meeting with so many others from the Tarot community, I choose the Magician and the Star. It was a magical meeting of people who work with and enjoy Tarot. It was inspirational, and inspiring to share the journey. To talk with and converse about how we each experience Tarot, to share our joy of the cards, was for me the greatest gift. I met wonderful people, and was able to work with another human in person, in the flesh we got to discuss our thoughts on readings, and the cards. Seeing the people who wrote the books that walked with me down the path of self discovery was a humbling one. Humbling, because it allowed me to really know that we are each just a tiny part of this incredible world. That we each learn and grow from each other. That we must rely on our inner self to allow us to be ever expanding, using the tools of our trade to create that. I add the Three of Cups, for the celebration and joyous love I felt being a part of this.

This was my first gathering with the Tarot community, it will not be my last. As Debbie Lake said in her Live Journal I love my tribe!.

To read more about the 2005 Readers Studio see:

<http://www.tarotpassages.com/Pages2/readersstudio2005.htm>

<http://www.livejournal.com/users/brennamor/274.html>

http://www.aeclectic.net/tarot/learn/readers_studio.shtml

(How much do you Believe - Continued from page 2)

your belief statement.

Create a Belief Narrative for yourself

Instructions:

1. Write an exhaustive list of the reasons why you believe you will have the life and business of your dreams. Include your skills, talents, education, philosophies, experiences, personal characteristics, etc
2. Use complete sentences and the word "I."
3. Write as much as you can. Notice as your feelings and emotions begin to swell. Write until you can't think of anything else to write.
4. Stop, take a break, and then come back to your Belief Narrative and start writing again.
5. Do this three times! This serves two purposes. First, when you take a break and then return, you will be able to go much deeper and uncover things that aren't right at the surface. Second, each time you continue working on this assignment read what you have already written. Not only will it help get you in the proper mindset, it will also enable you to start fully integrating everything you have written!

Example:

"I will have a successful metaphysical practice because I'm an excellent healer and completely believe in the value of my metaphysical and alternative healing skills. I really care about my clients and their success. I'm a great listener and my positive, energetic and motivating personality inspires and encourages people. I have a great attitude; I'm persistent, committed and motivated.... I also have excellent sales and marketing skills, critical for growing a business.

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(How much do you Believe - Continued from page 7)

I have numerous personal experiences that make me attractive to potential clients and are useful in helping others heal themselves, such as...

- I have supportive friends and family, a great coach and a network of colleagues who I can learn from...
- I have already been successful in virtually every major endeavor I've undertaken, starting in high school and continuing on until today... (Elaborate here on past accomplishments and achievements!)

Here is mine:

BELIEF

I am an incredibly intelligent, determined, enlightened, insightful, persistent, passionate woman who is fulfilling her soul purpose one day at a time.

Once you have written your belief statement put it together with your decision and display it prominently in several places around your home and office. This foundational piece together with the others will keep you focused when you are at your "real job" wondering if you will ever be able to quit to working full time in your metaphysical practice. This will help keep your resolve to move forward with your dream career.



This is a great exercise to do around other tasks in your life in which you have absolute belief. For example: You need to move from one state to another. You make a decision to do so, you get information and believe that it's possible and then you write out a plan of what needs to happen.

Once you have completed the Decide and Belief Statements you are ready to move on to writing out a Business Vision which I will discuss in more depth in the next issue of this magazine.

About the author: Dawn Falbe is familiar to many of us as the instructor at the Barnes & Noble Tarot for Beginners Class (next class to start July 31st of '05). She is a former president of the ATA (American Tarot Association) and also teaches the Complete Metaphysical Practitioner course. Dawn publishes a free monthly newsletter and is currently creating a Metaphysical Practitioner and Alternative Healers Business Development and Coaching School.

(Fante Di Spade Rx - Continued from page 3)

but as usual, it takes longer for supplies to reach the North American distributor.

The forthcoming: Golden Tarot of Klimt, Harmonious Tarot, Tarot of 78 Doors, and Master of Magic -- as well as mini editions of the popular Witchy, Gnomes, and Mermaids decks -- are due to arrive on North American reseller shelves in November.



Tarot of Eden - Image courtesy of the Tarot Garden

Also, "The Pagan Tarot," "The Da Vinci Tarot," and "Tarot of the New Vision" will become available as deck/book sets (the decks will still be available separately). The sets should be available in North America sometime in the 4th quarter of this year.

Also, I'm hearing that Lo Scarabeo will publish the "Tarot of Reflections" by Francesco Ciampi, but there is no estimated North American release date yet.

Okay...look at this Green Man, whoa -- watch your head there...

Luis Royo's highly-anticipated "Labyrinth Tarot", published by Fournier is now available in deck form. We should have our supply sometime in August.

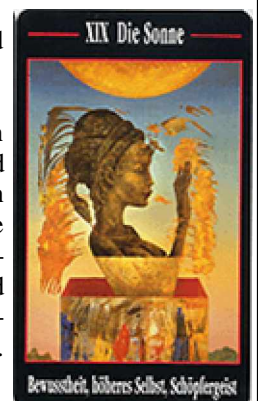
Still on track for September from St. Martin's Press is Caitlin Matthews' "Da Vinci Engima Tarot." Funny you should mention that. Nothing to do with the Da Vinci Code.

AGM and Urania Verlags have recently re-released the acclaimed Zukunfts Tarot set in a new, larger image format. The new edition, retitled "The Eden Tarot," is also available in an English language edition.

Here comes the next tour group. Head back to where the Trillium is...

Listen...The Akron Tarot, by Bilder von S.O. Huttengrund, which was inspired by the esoteric writings of Akron (compiler and documenter of the Baphomet / H.R. Giger Tarot), is available. The images are surreal and tend toward the "shadow" side of the Tarot-force. It's available in German only. Good dark stuff there.

Can you feel that? He just stepped off the bus. You're now in the wake of the sacred chao. Back to work for me, see you later...



Akron Tarot - Image courtesy of the Tarot Garden

Member's Corner: Dreaming and using the Tarot

By Ravenwonderdragon

Dreams can show us aspects of our lives and things we need to focus on. They can become a guide to what we need to know. Dreams can show us what we did not see when we were awake. As with dreams, Tarot can serve the same purpose of being a guide and a useful tool. In Tarot, we use a certain way of understanding what is told to us. Tarot can guide us to what we may not have noticed, much like dreams can. How can the two of them work together?

When it comes to dream interpretation, there are several dictionaries available describing symbols and the meanings of these symbols. It is thought wise to have a journal to write down your dreams for later review. In dream interpretation with Tarot, in addition to the dreams, you may keep your thoughts, meanings and cards in this journal. Keep track of what the main points of the dream are, what day it is, what cards you used to do the dream interpretation and what you believe the outcome to be. Keeping track of what cards you use is important when journaling for dream interpretation. Each card has a separate meaning for a particular situation, and with dreams it is not any different. Dreams have key things that will stick out, making you remember and hold meaning to the dream.

How does one interpret dreams with Tarot? Having your journal handy, draw a specific amount of cards for the dream you are trying to interpret. The cards can range from one to many depending on what you are looking for. For example, try this two-card spread called The Gift, which is taken from "*Tarot & Dream Interpretation*" by Julie Gillentine. The Gift spread can help you determine the meaning of the dream and what is being offered from the dream. Simply draw two cards and place them next to each other horizontally. The card to the left becomes the first position, which explores the general meaning of the dream. The second position is the card next to this and describes what is being offered from this dream or "the gift" of the dream.

When it comes to doing dream interpretation with the Tarot, many fear exploring the darker dreams... Nightmares can scare us or make us wonder where they may have come from. You can explore these with the Tarot also. It may help using a darker deck, one you may not use for everyday readings, however, using a darker deck is not necessary. Using Tarot with nightmares can help you reach deep within yourself to conquer fear and the unknown. When doing dream interpretation for nightmares, it is advisable to use more than one card for your reading, which allows more shades of meaning to come through. A good starting point for working in nightmare dream interpretation is a 3-card reading. A simple Past, Present and Future spread can work well here. When doing nightmare readings particularly, make sure to write everything down. Nightmares are often about things we dread, so at times we are unwilling to look further into them.

Is it necessary to make sure you have a specific deck? No. Any deck that feels comfortable to you will work well. If you prefer to get a deck that is used just for dreams, that is fine too. There are many decks to choose from and one will probably feel better for you than another. One thing to note however, decks with dominant images and colors are best. Colors in dreams and the images can be so profound at times and a deck with the same characteristics as your dreams can help you to better understand the meaning of the dream and your fascination with it. There will be times one card will show up more than others. In this case take note, because like dream symbols, a certain card that keeps being drawn wants you to take notice.



To sum up, always remember to have a journal, a deck you feel comfortable with and to write everything down. The more detail you have with your dream and your interpretation, the better. In addition, you may find it helpful to have a dream dictionary of some sort. Several online dream dictionaries and books can help you with this. Remember after looking up meanings from the dictionary and using the Tarot cards to meld the two meanings together. By melding the meanings together you have more way of seeing how the dream can relate to you.

Dreams hold a special meaning to many. Our fascination with dreams and tarot comes from our desire to understand the unknown. Dreaming can serve as a useful guide and help us to understand who we are. Our fascination with the unknown will never go away and by using the Tarot for dream interpretation we come ever so much closer to finding out what is hidden from us.

Links:

<http://www.dreammoods.com>
<http://www.petrix.com/dreams>
<http://www.sleeps.com/dreams.html>

Dream interpretation and Tarot books:

"*Tarot and Dream Interpretation*" By Julie Gillentine
 "*In Your Dreams, The Ultimate Dream Dictionary*" By Mary Summer Rain
 "*Dreams: Working interactive*" By Stephanie Clement, PhD, & Terry Lee Rosen
 "*Light-of-Day Tarot and Dream Work*" by Gigi Miner
<http://www.lulu.com/ladyfogg>

(A meditative series - The Magician - Continued from page 4)

you and he is very busy unpacking his wares from a burlap sack onto a small wooden table that he has set up in the middle of the field...in the middle of nowhere. You are very curious and stand quietly observing him as he places his tinctures, oils and herbs onto the table. He seems to be a peddler of sorts but you can't quite tell what's going on. Finally he turns to face you and you are startled by his piercing indigo eyes that cut through to your heart. You hesitate but then begin to walk closer to him as he stares intently at you as if to ask you a question or tell you something important. He bends down to his sack and pulls out a primitive wand, a silver chalice, a small sword and a hand-carved pentacle. Turning his gaze back to yours he waits for you to say something. You stumble into the field moving even closer now. The thorny roses tug and pull at your clothes attaching themselves like unwanted guests. You feel somewhat captive, uncertain and confused. The lilies are fragrant and calming though and you allow yourself to trust and be guided by this young man's presence. "I am The Magician. I am the Prince of the Breeze." He says to you in a loud silky voice. Raising his wand skyward he seems to create a conduit between you. You can feel electricity, a pulsing current of energy that emanates from his very being. His eyes never leave yours as he cries "I bring you these gifts of FIRE, WATER, AIR and EARTH. They are meant for you to use at your bidding. They have the power to manifest what you most desire and they are yours if you can answer my question. You say nothing and stand unable to look away or move of your own volition. You are captured by his words, and seduced by his eyes.

"You must tell me what your soul calls out for." Startled by his intensity you remain silent and can only hear your own heart beating. He stirs you. "You must answer now." You look into his bluest eyes and there you can see your own reflection. You feel heady now, almost faint. You close your eyes and reverberating in your mind you hear his question. What is your soul's calling? You fall into a deep reverie considering what or how to answer. (LONG PAUSE)

It seems as if a long time has passed when you awaken to find yourself once again alone; this time in a field of flowers. You are holding the silver chalice of The Magician's in your trembling hands. You can't imagine what has happened for you can't recollect him handing it over to you. You raise the glimmering cup up to the sun to examine its glorious beauty and notice a full moon rising in the light of day.

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what I practice and what I teach. My shamanic work has consciously integrated with my practice of Wicca and witchcraft. I've also integrated Tarot into my shamanic practice; I've done Shamanic journeys into some cards. Last summer I did a series of Shamanic journeys to the ancient mothers of the directions in preparation for the crone phase of my life. Every single journey, a card came up and recognizable from particular decks too. So as part of the journey, I'd work with a card and a figure would show up with each card. Water Crone from Daughters of the Moon Tarot has been a very important image in my shamanic work and in my spiritual work. She's in this cave with rocks and water, just saturated with water and it looks like she is emerging from the dark. I had a very interesting journey with her, and the wisdom of those journeys are still playing out in my life. The cards help facilitate that work.

Igraine: What are your favorite decks?

Gail: The DruidCraft, thanks to you, I got that and I love it. The Robin Wood Tarot has always been my main deck ever since it came out in 1991. I like decks that have some kind of key to Rider Waite, because I like that you can see the heritage or lineage. I love The Halloween Deck. Daughters of the Moon, I use mainly for meditation, I don't really read with it. It has beautiful images. I also like Ancestral Path. My favorite cards in the deck are 3 of Cups and Strength – if I don't like those then often I find the deck difficult to like. It's a very intuitive and emotional reaction.

Igraine: Would you say that you are "self-taught" with Tarot and Wicca?

Gail: Yes, it's interesting because I had one friend who discovered Tarot at the same time as I did and we went on parallel paths and then came together and taught each other. So I had a buddy to work with. We taught ourselves, each other, and then our friends. I took classes along the way, and read books. I read a lot of books!

Igraine: So tell me about Madam Zelda.

Gail: As part of a class we were teaching, we decided to do a section on "how not to do a tarot reading;" things that you should not do when reading. Things that make the querent feel devalued or talked down to. We decided to do the lesson as a role play. My friend was the seeker and I was the reader. We sat down and it came spontaneously out, "Good afternoon, I am Madam

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Zelda.” Madam Zelda always talks about herself in third person and is very wise. “There is no one wiser than Madam Zelda.” I developed the accent for Madam Zelda inspired by a co-worker, a very opinionated woman from Poland. She didn’t like being teased her about her accent but many of her habits of speech were charming and cute. I pulled on my feelings on her accent and when someone asked Madam Zelda a question I answered in the accent. Madame Zelda is one of those people who are so self-assured—even arrogant-- and funny without knowing it. Madame Zelda does have her own charming and endearing qualities, and she does pull on an inner wisdom—it’s just that she knows it and tells you about it.

Igraine: As a teacher of tarot, what is your greatest lesson teaching tarot? What have your students taught you?

Gail: Everybody is perceptive and pulls great wisdom from the cards. It is very inspiring. I’m always amazed when people think I’m an expert. Once students overcome the concern of me being the “authority” and know more than they do, and when they really look at the cards and hear their inner voice, it is truly amazing what people come up with and the ideas they stimulate. I learn so much from them. I actually started teaching to learn more.

Igraine: How many books do you have in the works right now?

Gail: One I’m actively working on in the writing stage, on shamanism and witchcraft. Another one is a textbook for my Wicca class that I’m revising to send to a publisher. And I have a project that I was working on that I kind of stopped with called “The Rowdy Goddess™.” I shopped the proposal around but no one really responded to it, but it’s a project I really love so I’m going to finish it one day. I’m actually glad that it’s been rejected because I’ve gotten a much better idea about how we relate to the Goddess in an ecstatic way, and so I need to rework it.

In January, I started leading/teaching a study group at a local spiritual center called the Foundation of Light. Even though I was busy, I wanted to spend more time learning and talking about Tarot and a study group is a good place to do that. As I was preparing for the class, I realized that I had ideas for two books. One is a learning guide, a kind of text book to learn the Tarot in a “year and a day;” and the other is one that I fondly call “Tarot by Moonlight.” It’s all about the moon and how I relate it to Tarot. That one will really rock, if I do say so myself. Let’s just hope a publisher will think so too!!

Igraine: Tell us about your new book, “The Wild God”

Gail: “The Wild God” is from Spilled Candy and I haven’t been given a launch date but it should be the end of 2005. It’s similar to Rituals of the Dark Moon in that there’s a little bit about the life of the God and key to each astrological sign. It starts with the beginning of the calendar year (even though the astrological year starts with the spring equinox) because that’s when the God is a child, and the book looks at the life of the God throughout the year. I key it to zodiac signs and there are my thoughts on that with a ritual with meditation in the center.

Igraine: Anything you’d like to say to the Tarot Community?

Gail: In May I went to the Reader’s Studio run by the Tarot School and that’s where I met Webweaver. It was wonderful. I got to meet all of these big gurus and they’re just people. Rachel Pollack picked French fries off my plate! They are just people who have the same kind of struggles we do. It’s also a community of cares. Personally I learned how much my own assumptions I carry with me; as a reader I need to be careful about that. I can’t assume that people are following the same spiritual path as me or that they’re even looking at Tarot from a spiritual perspective. Some people want a reading where their need is something like this: “this is my question-- this is the answer.” I don’t normally read cards like that. The Readers Studio challenged me to look at the way I read and the assumptions I’m making. What are they here for and what is my responsibility to them. They’re coming to you with questions right from their heart.

I realize that I didn’t really answer your question. What do I want to say to the Tarot community? How wonderful, accepting, generous, obsessive, knowledgeable, and helpful you all are. And I’m amazed at the diversity of thinking, of approaches, and wisdom. Thank you.

Igraine: How do you read the cards?

Gail: I like to be across from the person. I have the cards facing me and then I turn the cards. My approach is part knowledge of the card meaning, part response to the image during the reading, and part intuitive.

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Igraine: Do you have a specific layout you like for festival readings?

Gail: It depends on the person; I try working with a 5 card because 3 cards don't flesh it out enough. The 5 cards are past, present, challenges, advice and future. That advice card is nice, guidance. I often pull a wild card, or clarifying card. I pull cards until I reach the first Major Arcana, which I read upright. Sometimes it takes forever to get to the Major and sometimes it's the very next card. I take that as an indication of how deep the lesson is going, or how long it's going to take the querent to find the wisdom of it! Sometimes, though, it really clarifies the situation to an astonishing degree.

Igraine: Do you read reversals?

Gail: It's actually how I learned. I thought that's how you learned--you learn 156 meanings. I'm surprised that people don't read them because I believe it helps with the subtlety and nuances. Sometimes the 3 of Swords reversed is a little more comforting than upright. Reversals are the hardest ones for me to remember though, so some times I read them intuitively. Maybe they're hard to remember because on some subconscious level, we all have a mini-panic attack when we see them! "Oh no," our subconscious says, "there's bad stuff ahead, let's go into denial!"

Finding ways to deliver the messages in ways that people can hear it and accept it is the biggest challenge. I had to train myself not to let my insecurities reflect in my delivery or voice. Early on, I read cards for one of my teachers' teacher who is a very tough, even scary person. One of the cards, I can't remember the card, made me think, "uh-oh, she's going to turn me into a toad." But I read it and I think my dismay was heard in my voice, but she just listened and thanked me for it. A friend who was there told me that my tone of voice was very cautious as if I didn't want to deliver the message of the card. I learned from that to just deliver the message. When there's a tough message you have to deliver the card out of the heart of compassion.

I read for a couple of friends and there was some sad and bad news in the cards. I told her what the cards said, and she leaned over touched my hand and told me "that's more true than you will ever know." That was 12 years ago; she and her husband are still talking about that because it really helped her over an incredible hurdle in her life. Just to hear her sorrow and pain acknowledged really helped her because she was in a place where it wasn't being acknowledged by anyone, not even herself. To hear someone that she only knew slightly recognize it and tell her "this is the way it is." The power of tarot is incredible.

Igraine: What is your most outrageous tarot experience?

Gail: I taught "How to lie (cheat) with tarot". It was a section of the class I taught and I never meant it to be serious. I told the class all the things I do when I read for myself that cheat or allow myself to lie to myself. Such as when I chose a card I don't like, I can just say "OK, that didn't count, I didn't shuffle this enough." Pick them all up and continue to throw cards until I get some I like. In decks like The Mythic Tarot, the backs are reversible, so you can tell when you have a reversal—so you shuffle accordingly. Or I'd just keep shuffling till the 10 of Swords is at the bottom. All sorts of techniques and tricks to keep yourself happy and in a state of false security and delusion. A wonderful place to be, don't you think? In that class, several students chimed in with other things that they do to cheat at Tarot until one of the students started to protest very loudly about these techniques, "You are just lying to yourself and cheating yourself!" Tah-Dah!!

Tarot Shenanigans

August 2005

- 1st Wednesday – Rhinebeck, NY: Tarot-on-the-Hudson; Rachel Pollack zoemaat@hvc.rr.com
- 1st Saturday – Rhinebeck, NY: Tarot-on-the-Hudson; Rachel Pollack zoemaat@hvc.rr.com
- 2nd or 3rd Thursday – NYC, NY: Tarot Explorations; Rachel Pollack zoemaat@hvc.rr.com

September 2005

- Nevada City on-going classes; Mary K. Greer mkgreer@pacbell.net
- 7th – Phone (tele-class): Introduction to Tarot; Shari Smith webweaver@tarotforlife.com
- 16th – Port Townsend, WA: Lecture & Book Signing @ Phoenix Rising; Teresa Michelsen thrysse@tarotmoon.com
<http://www.phoenixrising-pt.com/contactus.asp>
- 17th – Herkimer, NY: Tarot Workshop at The Jade Fox; Rachel Pollack thejadefox@earthlink.net
- 23rd – Issaquah, WA: Lecture & Book Signing @ Spirit Journey; Teresa Michelsen thrysse@tarotmoon.com
<http://spiritjourney.com/index.html>

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- 24th – Burbank, CA: Mary K. Greer at LATS bjrapp@pacbell
- 24th – Burbank, CA: Los Angeles Tarot Symposium (LATS) bjrapp@pacbell
- 30 – Oct. 2nd – Boulder, CO: Tarot Weekend Workshop at Naropa Institute; Rachel Pollack zoemaat@hvc.rr.com

October 2005

- Winnipeg, Canada: Tarot Workshop; Rachel Pollack zoemaat@hvc.rr.com
- 1-2nd – Spokane, WA: Psychic Fair, lecture, workshop, booth reading: Teresa Michelsen thrysse@tarotmoon.com
- 22nd – San Francisco, CA: The San Francisco Bay Area Tarot Symposium (BATS); Mary K. Greer, Arnell Ando, Pamela Eakins, Toni Gilbert, Cynthia Giles, Joseph Earnest Martin, James Wanless; airndarkness@yahoo.com
<http://www.daughtersofdivination.com/fall2005.html>
- Friday, October 28 (evening) & Saturday, October 29 (all day).
JAMES & RACHEL'S HALLOWEEN TAROT EXTRAVAGANZA!
Join Rachel Pollack and James Wells in Toronto for a time of "parting the veil" with tarot at a time when the veil between the worlds is at its gossamer thinnest. Exercises, meditations, spreads, and readings to connect us with the ancestors and the deep wisdom within. On Saturday, come dressed as your favorite tarot card to be eligible for prizes from our presenters! \$165 Canadian. For details and to register, contact James at 416-966-2685 or at workeroforacles@yahoo.com

November 2005

- - *Bob O'Neill, Rachel Pollack & Mary K. Greer Watch for more info*

April 2006

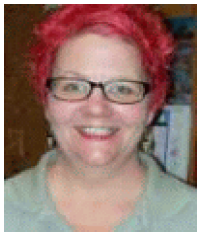
- 21-23 – NYC, NY: Readers Studio; Various presenters tarot@tarotschool.com www.tarotschool.com

Meet the Authors

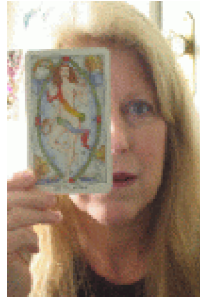


Greyhound began reading Tarot in Oct. of 2000. Greyhound feels her natural tendency is to approach life very analytically. The study of Tarot

has helped her to bring more balance and intuition to her life. She considers herself a student of the Tarot, rather than a teacher and feels confident that anyone can learn to read the Tarot if they have the desire to learn. (Editor)



WebWeaver has been reading and learning Tarot for over 20 years, but until finding all that was available online in 2002, she didn't realize how much it meant to her. Joining TFL and becoming a part of the management team as well as working on the newsletter has been a turning point for her. She believes Tarot is the perfect way to connect with oneself, and now lives with Tarot being a daily part of her life. She love learning, growing, and sharing on her Tarot journey. What she doesn't understand is why everyone doesn't use the Tarot..



Igraine became fascinated by astrology, the tarot and everything metaphysical way back in the 60's. She grew up in the college community of Ithaca, NY where she encountered her first occult bookstore. She and her sister Nimue spent many hours there browsing through the shelves and chatting with the mystic proprietor. She purchased her first tarot deck at 14 and so began her lifetime study of everything "beyond." Today she lives happily with her non-pagan husband of 25 years, three grown children and four familiars. She is a practicing astrologer, tarotist, teacher, herbalist, writer and Wiccan coven leader. She is currently a candidate for High Priestess with The Fellowship of Isis. Look for her upcoming website at lunamamas.com



Dan Pelletier is the co-owner of The Tarot Garden. An accomplished tarot reader with over thirty years of experience, Dan has also contributed to such publications as Aeclectic Tarot and Body Mind Spirit magazine.

Contact us:

Greyhound, Manager TFL greyhound@tarotforlife.com

Seasii, Asst. Manager TFL seasii@tarotforlife.com

Jimi, Asst. Manager TFL jimilyn@tarotforlife.com

WebWeaver, Asst. Manager TFL webweaver@tarotforlife.com

Igraine, Asst. Manager TFL igraine@tarotforlife.com