



## August 2011 Newsletter

### *First Harvest*

August 1<sup>st</sup> marks the first harvest, and Esoterica has so much bounty to share with you! We just did a MASSIVE restock of our herbs, including over 50 new additions to the Apothecary. New cauldrons have arrived and throughout the month of August, Painted Ponies, Cow Parade and Fanciful Frogs statuary are all 30% off! We also have some great new activities in store for you—huzzah for harvest!

### *Herb of the Month*



#### **Devil's Shoestring**

*Viburnum alnifolium* (alder-leaved viburnum or hobblebush) is commonly used by HooDoo practitioners and is very important in both HooDoo and VooDoo. The roots are used medically as anti-spasmodics, or to ease menstrual cramps. Cramp-bark when obtained from a medical herb company is usually cut and sifted, and therefore not appropriate for hoodoo, where you need the longer pieces of the whole root (which is what we have). Magickal uses include: Protection, Gambling Luck, Power, and Employment, luck, finding a job, control over the opposite sex, and invisibility (or hiding).

Devil's Shoestrings are used for protection, to "trip up the Devil" or "hobble" him so he can't get in a house. Some folks drive them into the ground around the front door or place a bundle of them above the door lintel or mantelpiece. Carry it in your pocket while seeking employment, if you are having problems at work or asking for a raise. Gamblers carry Devil's Shoestring as a Good Luck Charm. Cut the Root into small pieces, place in a jar filled with Whiskey and Spirits of Camphor or lavender. When you need Power of any kind, take out a piece of Root and rub your hands with it. Then use the Root in a way that reflects the need (i.e., if money is desired, place near money or in the wallet). When the root isn't needed, return it to the jar of whiskey. Note: This is pure/natural Devil's Shoestring Root - It is commonly used as a Magickal and Ritual item or tea without any negative side effects. As with any herb (health) issue, it is advised that your doctor be made aware of your intention of using it.

### *Special Events*

#### **Tuesdays: Mindfulness Meditation, 7 pm**

Ron, our resident palm reader and handwriting analyst presents an evening focused on Mindfulness Meditation Tuesdays at 7 pm. Learn to become calmer and more present in your life with purposeful meditation. There is a \$10 participation fee, cash only please.

#### **Wednesdays: Wicca 101**

Join us on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm to begin your journey into the Craft of the Wise. Led by 2nd degree Alexandrian Wiccan Holli, the series is 13 weeks long. Donations are requested in lieu of a class fee. Topics include: Introduction/Wiccan Tenants, Pagan/ Wicca and Magic, Preparing yourself for Magic, Wheel of the Year, Moon Phases and Days of the Week, The Elements, Magical Tools, The Goddess, The God, Symbology, The Coven, Divination, and Class Ritual.

<p><b>Pagan Community Choir Meeting Sunday, Aug 7th</b></p> <p>The Northern Virginia Pagan Community Choir is a group of amateur and experienced people who like to sing. The Choir meets monthly to sing songs from various traditions. Participants will be encouraged to practice songs on their own, and the hope is that we will perform at a few regional events and festivals each year. The Choir is led by Iris Firemoon. First meeting Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. Please bring a song to share.</p>	<p><b>Past Life Regression August 20th</b></p> <p>Have you lived before? Are the occurrences from a previous life holding you back from reaching your full potential in this one? Through the hypnotic process of past life regression, you can access the deep subconscious and tap into the memories of previous lifetimes, uncovering the secrets of who and where you have been before. 6-8 pm, Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Participation fee is \$39.95. Register at the store.</p>
<p><b>Pagan Pathseekers Meeting August 26th</b></p> <p>The Pagan Pathseekers are a local MeetUp group seeking community, communion with nature, and fellowship with like-minded individuals. Their main focus revolves around fellowship, learning, teaching, exploring, and sharing the practices of nature-based belief systems, while building community, and honoring nature. Join us at 7 pm for the meeting. Learn more about the Pathseekers at <a href="http://www.meetup.com/NOVA-Pagan-Pathseekers/">http://www.meetup.com/NOVA-Pagan-Pathseekers/</a></p>	<p><b>The League of Extraordinary Authors Meeting</b></p> <p>Join us Saturday, August 27th, at noon to meet The League! The League of Extraordinary Authors is a support group for writers living in the Northern Virginia area and is open to writers of all genres including fiction (sci fi, horror, mystery, thriller, supernatural) and non-fiction (historical, regional, contemporary). For more information about the group, feel free to drop Clint a line at <a href="mailto:caction66@yahoo.com">caction66@yahoo.com</a>.</p>

***Psychic Readings***

<p><b>Ron Shank</b> <i>Palm Reading &amp; Handwriting Analysis</i></p> <p>Our most well-known psychic, Ron Shank serves as our resident palm reader, handwriting analyst, meditation instructor and occasional cartomancer. Ron is available for Palm Readings, Tarot and Playing Card Readings, and Handwriting Analysis Tuesday through Sunday, 2 pm through closing.</p>	<p><b>Larry Baukin</b> <i>Palmistry, Numerology and Tarot</i></p> <p>Larry Baukin has been a teacher and professional practitioner of Tarot, Palmistry and Numerology for over twenty years. Larry is available for Palmistry, Numerology and Tarot most Fridays.</p>
<p><b>Rev. Tom 'Midnight' Vandenberg</b> <i>Tarot, Hypnotherapy and Rune Readings</i></p> <p>Rev. Tom Vandenberg is a gifted psychic, magician and spiritual counselor with more than twenty years experience in the field of metaphysics and magic. Tom is available for Tarot and Rune Readings and Hypnotherapy sessions the first and third Saturdays of the month starting at 12:30 pm.</p>	<p><b>Kevin Baird</b> <i>Tarot Readings</i></p> <p>Kevin Baird is a Spirit-Guide professional who can connect you to your muse and help you energize your life. Kevin is available for Tarot readings Tuesdays and Thursdays.</p>
<p><b>Anne Nguyen</b> <i>Reiki Treatments &amp; Tarot Readings</i></p> <p>Anne, a Reiki/Karuna Ki Master Teacher, has been practicing Reiki since 1998. She is an Ordained Minister and also a Master Teacher in Magnified Healing, another alternative form of healing energy. Anne is available for Reiki Treatments &amp; Tarot Readings the second Saturday of the month.</p>	

Phone the store at 703-777-4642 to make appointments with individual readers.  
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Our Yahoo Group: [EsotericaAnnouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:EsotericaAnnouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)