

TAROT UNVEILED

*International Tarot
Foundation*



April 2016 Edition

**CARTA AWARD WINNERS * RETIRING YOUR DECKS * HOLISTIC TAROT
REVIEW * TAROT SCOPES * KHAOAMUSICA REVIEW * TAROT BUSINESS**

Welcome to the April Newsletter

I trust that this newsletter find you well and in good health and spirits. Here at the International Tarot Foundation we have experienced a very busy period over the last month.

We platformed our introduction as the new Hosts of the 2015 ITF CARTA Awards.

It was very exciting with just a few weeks to actually get the Awards organized in time but we did it.

Now we look forward to the 2016 Awards!

We have started our first students on the Certification program. We are confident that we have set up an interesting and challenging course of Study that will be greatly beneficial to those who undertake the program.

You will find some interesting reviews this month and a thoughtful look at options to consider when retiring your decks.

Don't forget to check your Tarot Scope for the month and the winners of the ITF CARTA Awards.

Please enjoy the newsletter!

The Foundation Team

HOLISTIC TAROT BOOK REVIEW

By Steve Dailey

It's really hard to find someone that reads Tarot, and has only one deck. It's also a pretty safe bet, that the vast majority of tarot readers also have more than one book when it comes to tarot.

So, I asked the founders what they thought of doing a book review for the upcoming newsletter. They liked the idea, so we're going to review a tarot book. It is however, not just any book.

Remember the CARTA awards the foundation just hosted?

Well, we're going to review the book that won "Best text for Divination."

The title is:

"*Holistic Tarot: An Integrative Approach to Using Tarot for Personal Growth.*"

The author is Benebell Wen, and the book is available at Amazon in both a print and electronic version.

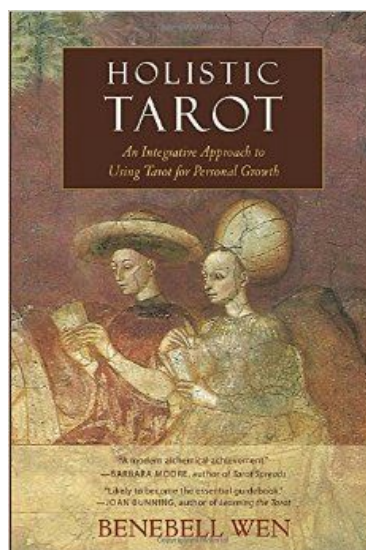
Okay, first things first...this is a really big book; over 800 pages total.

There's a ton of information between the covers of this beast, and in truth it can be a bit overwhelming at first.

It's kind of like a kid going into a toy store and not being able to figure out which aisle to tackle first. However, never fear my tarot aficionados, I own the book and will be sharing my thoughts with you. So, without further adieu, let's tackle this monster.

First off, is this a good book for a beginner?...yes and no.

Yes it's a good book for a beginner, because as their knowledge grows, this book will be able to answer their questions. No, it isn't good for a beginner, if this is going to be their only tarot book.



I feel the book is best suited for a reader with a more advanced knowledge base than a beginner. However, if the reader uses one of the better known beginners level books in conjunction with this book, that's a real good combination. The author is a corporate lawyer that practices in both California and New York. She's also a practicing metaphysician. All of that means that she's pretty smart, and at times the book reads like a college textbook. Now, there's nothing wrong with that, but there is a difference between her book and many of the tarot books out there when it comes to reading style.

Alright enough of that, what's in the book?

The author uses the Rider-Waite "base", and this book reflects that. There's some detailed breakdown of the meanings for each card within a standard 78 card deck. She also writes about keywords for the cards as well.

There's also a nice section on interpreting the court cards, and as we all know, court cards can be tough at times. Astrology and numerology are covered as well. I especially liked how she breaks down the elements and how they interact within a tarot spread.

Speaking of spreads...she covers that as well, although, this isn't a book of spreads. She does go into some detail with spread types, and even has a section about devising your own spreads.

She also writes about meditation, professional practice, and even reading for yourself.

The bottom line is this: this book contains a tremendous amount of information, and a tarot reader of any level can find something in here that will help them. The list price for the book is \$29.95, and yes it's more expensive than most tarot books on the market today. However, it contains more information than just about any book on tarot that I have ever read; and I have read a few.

In my opinion, you would be hard pressed to find a better, more complete tarot book than "*Holistic Tarot*."

MAKE TAROT YOUR BUSINESS

By Lara Houston

This month's newsletter brings us to Step 3 of Tarot Business Tips and we are considering the all important image.

The image that you portray to your potential clients will give them their first impression of you and may make the difference between them purchasing a reading or looking elsewhere.

The All Important Image

Image is important, this is where you can add your own personal touch to your business.

Tarot reading is an art which has long been associated with mystery and the esoteric, is this an image that you want to portray?

Maybe you want to move forwards in a direction that is more modern in thinking and appearance. An image that may appeal to a broader customer base?

Can you combine the two?



Explore all potentials and look at comparisons on other websites and facebook pages.

It is important to establish this firstly so you can move forward with the rest of your planning and consider if you prefer a traditional image such as the Fortune Teller or the more modern style reader?

From this you can then move on to looking at colors for your branding and business platforms. It may help to decide what nature of Tarot readings you are interested in focusing your energy on as this could direct you to

a specific image, or maybe you already have an image that reflects your ethos as a reader? Will you describe your business as a service or will you view it less formally? Think about how you want to work, will you work within guidelines and principles and highlight this as part of your image.

Or will you want to create an air of mystery with some showmanship?!

Next month we will look at branding!

Divine Connection or the Devil's Cards?

By Lara Houston

“Don't touch those they are the Devil's cards”,

And so speaks the words of the wise?

Tarot does seem to have been given some bad press over the years but what this statement more so suggests is the degree of fear in human nature of what is little understood.

Is it any wonder that we fear the unknown, after all, we are taught to fear from such a young age.

I describe Tarot as the best kept secret ever because it is an amazing wonder of spiritual teaching and guidance that is little explored by those who search for the meaning of life.

My experience, so far, of Tarot is that it offers something that is unique in how it connects us to an unseen divinity and one that guides us to the improvement of our own lives and those around us including those who seek guidance.

I will say, that there needs to be a healthy respect for Tarot as a divination tool because it is a medium of which falls within the esoteric and occult and as such they should not be used in a negative way.

What it is important to understand, is that we can use Tarot for the highest good and work within an energy that is positive.

Those who work as healers, hypnotherapists and other alternative therapies are working with an energy that is not easy explained, just as Tarot is and yet, I see them as more openly accepted.



Science expects to be able to explain every aspect of our life with logic and if it is unexplainable it seems to fall within the mysteries of the universe.

As Tarot readers, we employ learning, apply intuition and study, to enable ourselves to read to our best ability

Tarot does seem to get the short straw at times, science, within its own limits cannot explain how Tarot truly works but isn't that saying more about the restricted outlook and potential of looking for answers that become definable within one format only?

Still, Tarot has brought peace to many and guided individuals through quite possibly, the darkest periods of their lives.

Tarot teaches us that after the dark, comes the light, if we fail, we continue and that us, ourselves and the people around us are better served by the understanding that Tarot teaches us.

I see the Divine connection with Tarot, with the universe daily and I am yet to see it in the negative, Tarot brings us many lessons of life and understanding and I am thankful for this.

Retiring your Cards

By Robert Scott

One of the most written about topics regards the selection of a deck of Tarot, Oracle, or other type of cards to purchase to use. I see these articles constantly it seems. No doubt, it is certainly a place to begin. One must certainly have a set of cards before one can read them. The first set always seems somehow like taking a new step and beginning, so this seems like a form of initiation. It is a tool, so the user will want what not only does the job, but seems to work best for them. However, in this life of change and impermanence, it is inevitable that at some point a deck needs retired, so I feel it is just as important to have and share knowledge of this in the community as well.

Presented for you, are my thoughts on why's and how's of retiring a deck. As a reader practices their craft throughout their life, it is fairly common to acquire multiple decks of cards. Some readers use different types of decks for focusing on different types of readings or questions. Some decks are for mere artistic or collector value. Others allow the seeker or questioner a choice. Themes may be used for themed events or settings. Different decks may be used for different genders.

The first deck may have been received as a gift, or purchased inexpensively than higher quality decks purchased. One's life views, practices, or perspectives may change, and there are even different decks to accommodate different belief systems. One may have a deck they use only for reading for themselves, and others they use for clients. The list goes on and one as to why one might have different decks.



This leads to the first reason one might retire a deck. The reader's religion or spirituality or other worldview or perspective, and this creates a challenge for the reader. Even though they can still read the cards technically, there is less of a connection with them, and the reading becomes possibly even a type of inner conflict. This is magnified all the more when reading for others and you are trying to project the important confidence and trust, but you are having issue with the cards themselves.

The second reason to retire a set of cards, is physical wear and tear. Physical wear and tear affects ability to shuffle, attractiveness, and what I consider the death knell of a deck, identification of a card from the back side. If curved or bent, the cards may be lightly pressed by laying them out individually and placing a moderately weighted flat object on them, but if this is not effective it may be time to move on.

Physical dirt can usually be prevented with care, but at times with great age or an extreme accident can become unrecoverable, as it is challenging to clean gently enough to not incur a different type or further damage.

Dirty cards lose their attractiveness, and appear unprofessional. Dirt can also affect the shuffle, but not so much as rips and tears. Physical damage in the form of tears and rips are the most visible form of damage. Rips and tears affect a cards ability to shuffle to the extreme, and adds to being identifiable from the backside.

When cards begin to become identifiable from the backside, there is the possibility of bias, or at least the possibility of bias or influence being perceived by the questioner. One should not know what a card is before it is turned to the front or face side from the questioner perspective, as well as my own view as a reader.

If somehow a deck becomes incomplete by way of a missing card, it become ineffective by not having all of the possibilities to be read, and is much like a book with missing chapters. You could read it, but there will be no resolution or true satisfaction with it ever again.

For the two reasons above, I would suggest that there are a variety of methods of retiring. You could for example first put them on the bench, sitting the sidelines, until you just happen to pick them back up.

There is no harm in letting them just "be" there, and some readers have remorse either because they want to have the opportunity to go back to them, or somehow the deck became a valuable collector's item.

If you teach tarot, or there is someone you know that is just beginning to study, you may pass the deck on as a gift.

You may let the deck live on not for divination, but for meditation, focus, or some type of craft. When using cards for meditation or focus, you may choose to have a frame, picture, or "plate" stand.

Crafts could include collage, or the beginning of a self created deck of some kind. Even if not creating a deck, you could make quite artistic little drawings or paintings.

I have heard of people sending a card that visualizes or represents

You could sell the retired deck, of course as well.

The first two reasons for retiring or no longer using a deck are more on the practical side, which I tend to be more on the school of. There is a third reason to retire a set of cards which is that some type of negativity is felt to be attached to them.

If you consider that you've had a dramatically bad experience or collection of experiences with a set might be one case. Or it feels, to you, somehow no longer effective or just have such negativity or dread you feel personally attached, you are uncomfortable using them.

In this case I would suggest a more intense spiritual cleansing, attempt to use again, and if you still feel uncomfortable, then destroy, lest the negativity be passed on. I personally have not experienced this situation, or felt this way.

I prefer to try to reuse retired cards in some way, but it may be time for destruction, or burial. I prefer not to throw them out in the trash as casually as a tissue, but I would consider doing this would conscious intent, perhaps saying some appropriate words.

Destroy in a respectful manner that is not angry, and perhaps add a bit of ceremony to it if you like.

Tarotscopes

By Sandra Geddes



Aries- Have you been completely honest with yourself or others lately Aries? This month will show a return to balance and and clarity so whether you have been the misleader or the mislead, the truth will out this month, and fairly so. (Justice/Ace of Swords)

Taurus - A little adventure would do you the world of good this month Taurus so book that holiday , go on that shopping spree, explore some new

potentials (The Fool/Ace of Pents)

Gemini - If you are single Gemini keep your eye out for someone who may try to sweep you off your feet this month, for the night at least. Alternatively you may be feeling more passion in other areas, you are determined to start something new that fulfils your creative side regardless! Ace of Cups/Knight of Wands.

Cancer - Things may seem to be going wrong this month Cancer but don't lose sight of your goals, believe in yourself and you will get through any challenges this month. The Star/The Tower

Leo - You will need to play by the rules this month Leo and be perhaps a little more conservative than you would like, especially in family matters. You can't always have things the way you would like them and certain things may be out of your control here. The Hierophant/The Emperor

Virgo - You have the golden touch this month Virgo! You will succeed at whatever you put your mind to this month if not with skill, then with sheer will power. Go Virgo! The Magician/6 of Wands

Libra - You have plenty of options open to you this month Libra, all of them looking pretty attractive. You will need to make a choice though and try not to allow others to influence your decisions. You know what is best for you deep down. 7 of Cups/ 2 of Swords

Scorpio - A little get away or time out away from everyone and everything would do you good this month Scorpio. Don't allow yourself to get caught up in unnecessary worry and trust those sharp instincts of yours! The Hermit/ 8 of Swords

Sagittarius - You may feel like you are being pulled in two different directions this month Sagittarius or that things are happening quicker than you would like. You can take back control though if you put your mind to it and maybe even have the best of both worlds! The Magician/The Chariot

Capricorn - Hardwork will pay off this month Capricorn, but be careful not to take too much on to impress or compete with others. Remember to delegate a little if things start to pile up. 10 of Wands/5 of Wands.

Aquarius- You may be feeling a little confused and lost this month Aquarius. Trust your intuition if you think someone is hiding something or not being fully honest, especially in relationships. The Moon/5 of Cups.

Pisces - Expect some good news this month Pisces that could be quite quick and unexpected, perhaps of a baby or a wedding! Dust off your hat! Ace of Cups/8 of Wands

KHAOAMUSICA TAROT REVIEW

by Sandra Geddes

KHAOAMUSICA Tarot is the fourth deck published to date by Eleanor Boyce M.A.



It is her first collaborative deck project, involving several artists, musicians, poets and writers. The deck is a very limited edition extended Majors only deck with each original card having its own musical piece especially composed and created for it. There are only 100 numbered copies available in this first edition print.

This is quite a unique deck, blending art and music to take us deeper into the imagery and symbolism of the cards with the intent to help us connect on an auditory as well as a visual level.

“The aim was to produce a deck of such kaleidoscopic patterning of colour, music and words as to bring to life the archetypal world in a way that no other Tarot before it has ever been able to do. To create a deck that would act simultaneously on differing levels to stir the Deep Self from its slumber, to aid study, meditation, divination, and quicken the step on the journey through the Atu, causing it to dance rather than plod.” - Eleanor Boyce.

All of the collaborators have an interest in other esoteric areas as experienced Magicians, Mystics, Witches and Shamans. Each worked independently without any set directive or guidelines. The result is a very eclectic and quirky mix of images and sounds.





The deck includes the 22 standard Major Arcana or Atu cards with an additional 5 cards added. Card XXII is called 'Enigma' and is explained as the card of 'applied magick', bridging the gap between the Universe and the Fool. The other extra cards represent the 4 elements of Earth, Air, Fire and Water.

These seem to be similar in concept to the more common 'Aces' as the embodiment of the energy of that element and all of its potentials.

Some of the cards have been renamed to better suit the contributor's vision of them. Card IV is called 'Alchemy', III The Mother, IV The Father, XV Pangenitor, XVIII Initiation, XX The Aeon and XXI The Universe

The Death card was created by M.M.W before his passing and donated to the project by Eleanor Boyce as his widow. She feels this adds an extra poignancy to the meaning of the card. It is the only black and white card in an otherwise full colour deck.

The deck comes with a CD featuring 23 tracks from the 'Fool' to 'Enigma'. There is a mix of genres from acoustic to punk and experimental. Whilst a lot of the CD was not to my personal taste, I did enjoy The Fool piece and feel there is something for most here.

An 170 page companion book is available in PDF or soft cover format. The soft cover will be signed by Eleanor Boyce. The book includes essays and poetry as well an introduction to each card by its creator with keywords for both spiritual and mundane divinations. There are also several spreads that have been designed for use with the deck including the KHAOASTAR , KHAOA INO and KHAOA OUROBOROS



The card backs, CD and book covers feature a mandala design.



The KHAOAMUSICA is a Tarot unlike any other I have encountered to date. It is a feast for all of the senses that some may find a little overwhelming but it is certainly an immersive and thought provoking experience.

About the Project Manager, Eleanor Boyce M.A

"I am a painter, sculptor, doll artist, illustrator and writer, a shaman, witch and chaos sorceror, living and working in North Yorkshire, England, where the wild moors meet the sea and forests still breathe.

I have studied and lectured in Fine Art and Contemporary Theatre, whilst undertaking extensive research into the seminal Ankoku Buto (Dance of Utter Darkness). One time editor and publisher of quarterly journals, Ocular and Masque, a variety of my writings and illustrations have been published on the small press circuit and one time in-house artist for record companies Lambs to the Slaughter, Peninsular and Ebony.

My other published decks are the Singing Serpent Tarot, Tarot of Sidney Sime, Decadent Dream Tarot and Tarot of Kay Neilsen.

Forthcoming Oracle decks to soon be published are Ogham Moon Oracle and NURSERY CRYMES The Oracle.

My time is split between working in my garden studio, study and walking. Wherever I am, my beautiful Cocker Spaniel dogs are always at my heels."

You can purchase the KHAOAMUSICA Tarot from the website:
Khaoamusicatarot.com or find out more about Eleanor and her art here :
Nakthag.com

All images Copyright ©: khaoamusica, used with permission

At a glance

No. Cards: 27

No. of Majors: 27

No. of Minors: 0

Artists: Eleanor Boyce, Jaffe Signore, D.S. West, M.M.W, Amun Disalvatron, Nicole Edgecomb.

Musicians: Dave the Flute, NC Dolly Band, Creature State, Vsaria, Audio Esoterica, Wings of an Angel (Unearthly Demagogue), Sekhmet and Musica Masonica.

Writers and poets: Eleanor Boyce, Jaffe Signore, Felix Vaughn Cheyne, Heather Mendel, D.S. West and Susan Marie.

Publisher: Eleanor Boyce

Strength No: 11

Fool No: 0

Borderless: yes

Corners: Rounded

Packaging: Card box

Size: 2.75" x 4.75"

ITF CARTA AWARD WINNERS



The Nominees and Winners of 2015

Best Author for a Tarot :

Allegra Printz, Ring Cycle Tarot

Anna Franklin, Pagan Ways Tarot

Ann Moura, Green Witch Tarot

J.R. Rivera, Beautiful Creatures Tarot

Scott Alexander King, The Bohemian Animal Tarot

Congratulations to the winner:

Scott Alexander King, The Bohemian Animal Tarot

Best Author for an Oracle

Colette Baron-Reid, Wisdom of the Oracle

Doreen Virtue, Archangel Gabriel Cards

Lesley Morrison, Winged Enchantment Oracle

Sky Cybele, Mythical Creatures Oracle

Tess Whitehurst, Magic of the Flowers Oracle

Congratulations to the Winner:

Sky Cybele, Mythical Creatures Oracle

Best Collaboration of a Tarot

Ann Moura and Kiri Leonard, Green Witch Tarot

J. R. Rivera and Jasmine Becket-Griffith, Beautiful Creatures Tarot

Jonathan Saiz, Jason Gruhl, Andi Todaro, Fountain Tarot

Lunaea Weatherstone, Massimiliano Filadoro, Giulia F. Massaglia, Mucha Tarot

Scott Alexander King and Sharon McLeod, the Bohemian Animal Tarot

Congratulations to the Winner:

Ann Moura and Kiri Leonard, Green witch Tarot

Best Collaboration of an Oracle

Colette Baron-Reid and Jena DellaGrottaglia, *Wisdom of the Oracle*

Lesley Morrison and Lisa Hunt, *Winged Enchantment Oracle*

Jasmine Becket-Griffith, Amber Logan and Kachina Micketto, *Myths & Mermaids: Oracle of the Water*

Josephine Ellershaw, Emily Ellershaw, and Claudia McKinney, *Chronicles of Destiny Fortune Cards*

Tess Whitehurst and Anne Wertheim, *Magic of Flowers Oracle*

Congratulations to the Winners:

Jasmine Becket-Griffith, Amber Logan and Kachina Micketto, Myths & Mermaids: Oracle of the Water.

Best First-work for an Author

Alison DeNicola, *Mudras for Awakening the Energy Body*

J. R. Rivera, *Beautiful Creatures Tarot*

Marla Brooks, *Witch's Oracle*

Sharina Star, *Fortune Reading Cards*

Tess Whitehurst, *Magic of Flowers Oracle*

Congratulations to the Winner:

J. R. Rivera, Beautiful Creatures Tarot

ITF Best First-work for an Illustrator

Laura Bowen, *Dreamtime Reading Cards*

Nefer Khepri, *Egyptian Lenormand*

Renata Lechner, *Thelema Tarot*

Sara Richard, *Justice League Tarot*

Jeffrey M Donato, *Tarot D*

Congratulations to the Winner:

Nefer Khepri, Egyptian Lenormand

Best Illustrator for a Tarot

Jasmine Becket-Griffith, Beautiful Creatures Tarot

Jonathan Saiz, Fountain Tarot

Judith Mackay Stirt, Cook's Tarot

Maggie Stiefvater, Raven's Prophecy Tarot

Sharon McLeod, The Bohemian Animal Tarot

Congratulations to the Winner:

Judith Mackay Stirt, Cook's Tarot

Best Illustrator for an Oracle

Claudia McKinney, Chronicles of Destiny Fortune Cards

Kim Dreyer, Angel Inspiration

Lisa Hunt, Winged Enchantment Oracle

Jasmine Becket-Griffith, Myths and Mermaids: Oracle of the Water

Josephine Wall, Nature's Whispers Oracle

Congratulations to the Winner:

Claudia McKinney, Chronicles of Destiny Fortune Cards

Best Lenormand/Kipper Deck

Egyptian Lenormand,

Celtic Lenormand

Fin De Siecle

Congratulations to the Winner:

Egyptian Lenormand

Best Oracle Deck

Chronicles of Destiny Fortune Cards

Mythical Creatures Oracle

Myths & Mermaids: Oracle of the Water

Winged Enchantment Oracle

Wisdom of the Oracle

Congratulations to the Winner:

Wisdom of the Oracle

Best Publisher

Blue Angel (Australia)

Lo Scarabeo (Italy)

Llewellyn (U.S.A.)

Rock pool (Australia)

Schiffer (U.S.A.)

U.S. Games Inc (U.S.A)

Congratulations to the Winner:

U.S. Games Inc (U.S.A)

Best Tarot Deck

Beautiful Creatures Tarot

The Fountain Tarot

Green Witch Tarot

Raven's Prophecy Tarot

Bohemian Animal Tarot

Congratulations to the Winner:

Beautiful Creatures

Best Text for Divination

Beautiful Creatures Tarot ,J.R. Rivera

Egyptian Lenormand , Nefer Khepri

Holistic Tarot , Benebell Wen

The Bohemian Animal Tarot, Scott Alexander King

Timing the Tarot: Everything You Need to Know About Time Predictions, Debbie

Duncan and Rizwan Ashraf

Congratulations to the Winner:

Holistic Tarot by Benebell Wen

It is with great pleasure that the International Tarot Foundation announces the Honorary Winners of 2015.

Lynn Araujo – For demonstrating compassion as well as embracing and serving as an inspiration to many people within the Tarot community.

Tarot Pink for Cancer – For spreading awareness throughout the world by the means of art and the heartfelt ensemble participation of its creators.

Robert Place - For his inspirational work as an author and an illustrator that has set an example to other creators.

Blue Angel Publishing - For producing publications with everlasting high and durable quality, not just domestically, but internationally.

All nominees and winners will receive their official awards in due course. The International Tarot Foundation wishes each all the best in their future endeavours.

We now look forward to receiving submissions for the 2016 CARTA Awards

Click on the link below to watch the presentation video:

[ITF CARTA AWARDS VIDEO](#)

April's Feature Spread

NEW MOON ON THE 7TH!

This spread offers incredible reads, you will not be disappointed!



The diagram features a central image of a large, dark, crescent moon against a dark blue background. The title "New Moon Tarot Read" is written in a light green font at the top center. Six white rectangular boxes with dark blue borders are arranged around the moon, each containing a number and a topic. The boxes are numbered 1 through 6. Each box also contains the text "Tarot Foundation" in a cursive font at the bottom. At the bottom center of the diagram is the logo for the Tarot Foundation, which consists of the word "TAROT" in a large, serif font with a laurel wreath around it, and the word "FOUNDATION" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it.

New Moon Tarot Read

1
New Moon
Energy
Tarot Foundation

2
Start
Anew
Tarot Foundation

3
Creative
Opportunity
Tarot Foundation

4
Guidance
Tarot Foundation

5
Hopes
Tarot Foundation

6
Outcome
Tarot Foundation

TAROT
FOUNDATION

Why not join our ever growing Tarot community and be an Associate Member?
Click below to be directed to the join up page

[Join the International Tarot Foundation](#)



Don't forget to join our Facebook Tarot Study Group
There's a very good reason we have almost 7,000 members!
We actually study Tarot and we treat our members with respect

[Click Here to Join](#)