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LIVING

Medium Cindi Sansone-Braff says we have nothing to fear from the dead

The Long Island psychic will give a workshop at the Witch Festival in Smithtown; she also says the dead have a good sense of humor

BY [JUSTIN ROCKET SILVERMAN](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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AARON SHOWALTER/NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Medium Cindi Sansone-Braff (l.) gives a tarot reading to her client, Melissa, through which messages from Melissa's deceased mother are believed to be conveyed.

Love advice can come from an unlikely place — the dead.

That's what Long Island psychic Cindi Sansone-Braff will be teaching later this month at the New York Witch Festival.

"My workshop will be about what I've learned talking to the dead, and the messages they have about

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life and love," says Sansone-Braff. "A lot of dead people say they should have loved better."

She believes the dead walk among us, but are nothing to be afraid of.

Instead of haunting graveyards and generally being terrifying like we see on TV and in movies, the deceased mostly just float around, ready to offer relationship advice to those who know how to listen.

Sansone-Braff's workshop — part of the Oct. 26 Witch Festival at the UpSky Long Island Hotel in Smithtown — will begin with information on how anyone can try to communicate with the dead.

Attendees will learn how to listen for messages from the great beyond, including musical and visual cues. There will also be time devoted to getting over the idea that someone is dangerous just because he or she is no longer alive.

"The dead are not here to frighten us," explains Sansone-Braff, 60. "They are actually extremely funny. Really a great sense of humor."

When not teaching workshops, Sansone-Braff sees private clients at her home in East Patchogue, where she uses tarot cards and communicates with the dead to see what advice they might have to make the clients' relationships more meaningful, loving and long-lasting.



AARON SHOWALTER/NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

"I never really believed in this stuff, until I saw Cindi. She has a gift," says client Melissa (l.) of medium Cindi Sansone-Braff (r.).

One client, a woman who was married to an abusive man, had complained about her problem to her father. "But her father always downplayed how bad he was, and told her that she'd made her bed and had to lie in it," Sansone-Braff says. "A month after the father died, she came for a reading, and he apologized and said, 'I didn't know how bad your husband was.'

"He listed all the things he now knew her husband did wrong, and told her to divorce him. She got a divorce and has been much happier since."

Another one of Sansone-Braff's regular clients, Melissa, admits, "I never really believed in this stuff, until I saw Cindi. She has a gift."

Melissa, who asked that only her first name be used for this story, says that through Sansone-Braff, she's able to have a conversation with her deceased parents.



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Sansone-Braff points out that she herself is not a witch, or a follower of the Church of Wicca like many of the speakers at the upcoming Witch Festival. She doesn't cast spells or brew potions. But there is a shared interest in the spirit world.

"Witches practice spells," says Sansone-Braff. "I'm just a conduit. I deliver messages from the dead and translate them." But she points out, "They used to burn us all."

Other classes at the Witch Festival include the "Kitchen Witch Workshop" and "Transforming Your Life With Practical Magick." But don't go looking for any love potions.

Witch Bonnie Thompson started the festival in 2005, and used to have a pagan supply store in her Hicksville home.

"Many of my customers would come here looking for love, mostly looking for me to do spells to get their lost love to return to them," Thompson explains. But that would be against the wiccan rule, "If it harm none, do as you will," because it would be forcing someone to be in love against their will.

Plus, as Thompson reasons, "It's better to have someone want you for who you are, rather than because of magic."

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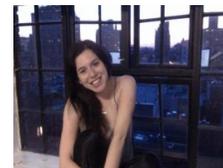
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