



## Psychic fair this weekend at Andromeda's Alley in Mansfield

By Donna Whitehead

Wicked Local Mansfield

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Mansfield — Those seeking a glimpse in to the future, an introduction to the Wiccan religion, or unique jewelry including gemstones and rune symbols can find all this and more at Andromeda's Alley on North Main Street in Mansfield.

Karen Jette Benson of Walpole describes her shop as an eclectic, New Age, metaphysical shop. Whether you want spiritual rituals or simply what a new age art work or statuary you can find something intriguing here.

Opening Andromeda's Alley fulfills a longtime dream for Benson, a Mansfield High graduate, as well as brings her back to her hometown.

"I'm a witch," said Benson with a smile.

Raised a Christian, Benson said she began exploring her Native American roots as a teenager and also began exploring religion eventually becoming a Wiccan priestess as well as an interfaith minister.

Benson describes the Wiccan religion as respect for nature in all her cycles and respect for the earth and all its creatures.

"It teaches us to revere nature and all the forces of the universe," she said. "We have a great belief for deity but to us it is God and father.

"When I was a child I never felt right in Christianity," she said. "I'm part native American, when I started looking in my American side, it spoke to my soul.

"I've been practicing the craft of Wicca for 30 years," she said. "I want to educate people about Wicca. Witchcraft is 99 percent of people think. To be a witch is to see the divine in anything."

Like other religions, there are various branches with Wicca and a specific path to follow, Benson said.

For Benson opening on Andromeda's Alley also achieves her goal of being self-employed.

"I always wanted to open a retail shop" she said. "I always wanted to be a small business owner."

Last January, Benson decided it was time to follow her dream even though her husband, a truck driver, was out of work. So she left her job as a paralegal in Boston and started searching for a site with her family's full support.

"It was a leap of faith," she said.

She was searching for possible sites with her son-in law when they came down North Main Street in Mansfield and saw a "Rent" sign.

"I hadn't been back to Mansfield in 30 years," she said.

Benson also believes in giving back to the community keeping a bin for the food pantry as well as donating proceeds to the Asia Institute's Pennies for Peace project.

At Andromeda's Alley, Benson also offers classes in subjects such as Witchcraft 101, runes, herbal health, Reiki, grot shamanism.

There are also several mediums offering psychic, angel and Tarot card readings.

The mediums will be on hand this weekend when Andromeda's Alley offers a psychic fair and open house Sunday, C p.m. Also appearing will be "Creating the Law of Attraction" author Ed Langan and Mary Fontes, author and owner Garden Design.

Andromeda's Alley at 110 North Main St. is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, 10 a Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday by appointment. For information call 508-339-7770 or go to [www.andromedasalley.com](http://www.andromedasalley.com).

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