

Review by the American Tarot Association [www.ata-tarot.com](http://www.ata-tarot.com)

## Tarot Website Reviews: Tarot and the Healing Arts by Linda Gail Walters, CPTR

*This issue we will look at different kinds of tarot websites. These sites are not about deck reviews, how-to articles, new spreads and such; these sites are all related to the use of the tarot in the healing arts.*

**Alternative Journal of Nursing** (<http://www.altjn.com>)

Overall Rating:

Navigation:

Content:

Visual Appeal:

An on-line journal about nursing with a tarot card front and center on the main page? Yes, that is exactly what you get with this site: The Hermit card from Dr. James Wanless's —Voyager Tarot  (<http://www.voyagertarot.com>). The home page has a prominent link to the "Card Interpretation" that happens to also be the "Editor's Page". The interpretation is quite good and is followed by editorial comments.

The editor of the Journal is Toni Gilbert, RN, MA, HNC. She is also the author of **Messages From the Archetypes: Using Tarot for Healing and Spiritual Growth**. She, as we shall see when we look at her personal site, below, is quite well qualified to speak about both healing and the Tarot. While it is true that this particular site is primarily about "Exploring New Frontiers in Nursing Practice" as its masthead says, and not strictly a Tarot site, it nonetheless unashamedly and unapologetically brings the Tarot into that realm of the holistic healing arts.

The layout of the site is straight forward, without complex Flash graphics or special effects. That is fine, since the purpose is to convey information. The navigation is simple, with page links on a background strip that runs down the right side. This is fine if you don't scroll too far down the page, however, most of the pages are sufficiently long that you need to do just that.

The articles of the Journal are on the "Nursing Perspectives" and "Ideas & Opinions" pages. Most articles are displayed as PDF files and open in their own tab or new window, depending upon the browser. Other pages of a more commercial nature are "Products/Services", which has links to a number of on-line reading sites and the "Holistic Practitioners" page that lists a number of other practitioners and their contact information. Obviously the "Advertising" page is also commercial in nature. Since the site says it is maintained by a professional web development company, this reviewer is a bit disappointed that it is not a bit "snappier", but that may come at a premium price. If your interests are pointing you to either receiving or providing healing via the Tarot, this website is not a bad jumping off point.

**Toni Gilbert** (<http://www.tonigilbert.com/>)

Overall Rating: 1/2

Navigation:

Content:

Visual Appeal:

The personal website of Toni Gilbert, the Editor of the **Alternative Journal of Nursing**, is as

interesting to Tarot practitioners as the journal's site. Her credentials in tarot and psychology are extensive and her site is, overall, a very good personal professional services website.

The home page immediately draws the visitor in. There is a montage of photos of Gilbert, a sidebar to the left with navigation links and a right hand sidebar that lists her services in the healing arts.

If the visitor's screen resolution is sufficiently high, they will see her name, degrees and on the left sidebar, a cover image of her book. The navigation links on the left sidebar go to pages about topic such as: "On-Line Sessions", "Transpersonal Modalities", "Scope of Practice", "Biography". The "On-Line Sessions" page introduces the visitor to Gilbert's on-line Tarot sessions that appears to be very thoughtfully and carefully done. The "Transpersonal Modalities" page first discusses what that means, who should seek it and examples of the various modalities. The "Scope of Practice" page is excellent in its content. It lets the visitor know, up front, just what it is that Gilbert does and does not do in her practice. The "Biography" page presents Gilbert's impressive resume, ranging from an associate degree in science through a master's degree in Transpersonal Studies followed by numerous certifications in nursing, counseling and, of course, tarot.

The content of this site in terms of promoting tarot in the world of the healing arts is wonderful and the careful, professional manner in which it is done rates four pentacles. The visual senses are neither assaulted nor dazzled by the graphics of the site. All of the colors are subdued, pleasing shades of light tans and greens. It is elegant looking and in a world full of pink text on purple backgrounds, this site rates four pentacles for restraint.

Again, as with Journal site, there are some navigation issues. The fact that the only navigation links scroll up with the page requires the visitor to scroll back up if they want to visit another page on the site. There is also no convenient way, within the site itself, to make the browser navigate back, thus after a bit of link clicking the visitor may have a rather long history stack to retrace. Navigation will always be a pet peeve of this reviewer, but this site still gets three and one-half pentacles.