

pentacle beholds a most wonderful power: It can catch the attention of people just like yourself.

This is hopeful news. The networking Pagan, no matter the tradition, often depends upon the pentacle as a signal of hope. In an increasingly busy world it is becoming ever more complicated for Pagans and Wiccans to meet each other. That is to say, not all Pagans have the advantage of an Internet connection, university groups, or nearby occult shops. These Pagans must rely upon catching a glimpse of a star around the neck of the woman at the laundromat or the man perusing the book stacks.

## **Pagans Finding Each Other**

Developing a radar for other Pagans takes some practice. Visual hints of course are one way to help us to locate each other. A few Pagan-seekers manifest an intuitive ability to find like minds. That is, there are always a few seekers who meet other seekers and “just know.”

While I have had success finding others, I hesitate to attribute this to a Pagan radar. Rather, I have a keen eye for personal details, and I really listen when people express their deeply held beliefs. However, none of these things give one complete proof of a person's Pagan leanings. Were it not for that telltale pentacle, around the neck or on a T-shirt, I probably would still have no idea whether other Pagans lived in my community. I need my pentacle-wearing Pagans like Gotham City needs its bat-signal.

And even then, there are risks in making assumptions about people. Every once in awhile a non-Pagan wears a pentacle for reasons other than religious expression. Some people notice a pentacle pendant at some gift or jewelry shop and like the look of it. Others have an inkling of the associations behind the symbol and wear it for shock value. Occasionally, the jewelry itself might provide a clue or two as to the intent of its wearer—an obviously plastic pentacle would most probably indicate a less than serious wearer (although it might also indicate that the wearer is simply less than wealthy).