

FAIRIES

Yes, they are real...

COME FAIRIES, TAKE ME OUT OF THIS DULL WORLD. FOR I WOULD RIDE WITH YOU UPON THE WIND AND DANCE UPON THE MOUNTAINS LIKE A FLAME.

—W.B. Yeats

Within the last several years, there has been an increased abundance of interest in fairies, elves, pixies, gnomes, and other elementals, not only on the part of children, but engaging the interests of the young at heart of all ages. We see the evidence of this on *YouTube*, which includes how to make fairie gardens and their accompanying paraphernalia, Pinterest images, and various fairie birthday-party blogs. Here are a few fairie resource examples one may find.

Disney's new cartoon series, *Pixie Hollow*, with its magical vision of a busy fairie kingdom with its attendant characters: Tinker Bell's contemporaries, Fawn, Silver Mist, and a host of other newly-developed fairie characters, all engaged in working with and assisting the flora and fauna of this enchanted realm.

Originating on the East Coast, children's book author Tracy Kane and her husband have initiated "Build a Fairie House" festivals that have gone viral worldwide. Here are some excerpts from her website:

"Tracy Kane, the award-winning author and illustrator of the Fairy Houses Series® of books served as the original inspiration for the Portsmouth, NH *Fairy House Tour*, the world's largest. Now in its 11th year, the Tour will feature over 200 hand-crafted fairy houses made by local artists, florists, garden club members, businesses, families, and local school children. The annual Tour attracts more than 8,000 families (and fairies) each year.

Hay House Publishing is another abundant promoter of fairie images, especially the *Fairie Oracle Cards* of



Barbara Michael-Grover

various artists, including our own Montana-based Marius Michael-George. Doreen Virtue, author and new-age healer, was one of the first individuals to promote these beautiful images of fairies on her two Fairie Oracle decks: *Magical Messages from the Fairies* and *Healing with the Fairies Oracle Cards*.

I can attest to using the *Magical Messages from the Fairies* cards with surprising success as a pre-school teacher a decade ago. To encourage children's creativity in dramatic storytelling in group-time in a daycare setting, I would have them child pick a card from the fairy deck. We would talk about the image and the keyword under the image, and then the child would invent a story based on the image. I would then tape record each child's story, and then we would play them back the next day. From that launching pad, we would develop a longer story, and children were encouraged to illustrate a part of the story.

Also, dramatizations of the stories they invented were surprisingly rich in creative visualization. When children are empowered in a creative way, they tap into a reservoir of right-brain images and archetypes just waiting to be outpictured. Costumes and props can be utilized to further anchor this etheric/physical drama.

The following are four classic fairie illustrators whose artistic images have been resurrected in the last two decades and republished for all the world to enjoy. The Internet and new publishing venues have proliferated their precious and inspired images:

Cicely Mary Baker (1895–1973) was an English illustrator best known for a series of fantasy illustrations depicting fairies and flowers. Her plants and flowers were observed with complete botanical accuracy and in the fairies themselves she captured perfectly the unself-conscious grace of children, whom she used to sketch in her sister's school. Her illustrations have been reprinted as activity and sticker books for children.

Margaret Winifred Tarrant (1888–1959) was an English illustrator and children's author specializing in



depictions of fairy-like children and religious subjects. Originally published and printed by the D'Medici Society in Britain, her work is not as readily available as is Barker's. However, her work can be seen on the Internet and Pinterest sites. Ebay may offer postcards of her fairie images.

Renee Cloke (1905–1995) was born in Plymouth, UK and illustrated many children's fairie books, as well as postcards that were very popular in England. Her work is available through Amazon, Ebay, Pinterest and other sites. Her depictions of fairies are whimsical, delightful and playful, showing fairies interacting with each other and with animal life.

Ida Rentoul Outhwaite (1888–1960) is from Melbourne, Australia. Her images were mainly printed on postcards, and are still available in their original form on Ebay. Some have been reprinted and republished as greeting cards and craft paper stacks, as well as instant digital downloads.

For a true story of an example of how healing fairie energy touched a whole community, search on YouTube for *Big Geek Daddy "Little Owl."* The video is called "*The Gnomist.*" I won't give you any more details, because I don't want to spoil the fun of this story. (P.S., Have a couple of tissues nearby.)

Irish and Scottish celtic harp music has historically been associated with calling in fairie energy. *Turlough O'Carolan* (1670–1738) was a blind harpist, composer and singer, whose great fame is due to his gift for melodic composition. Fortunately, his son wrote down many of his compositions so we can enjoy them today. O'Carolan himself admitted to receiving intuitively many of his compositions from the fairie realms. Upon hearing this beautiful music, children will respond naturally, and when encouraged will dance in abandonment to it.

Patrick Ball, a gifted harpist from

Marin County, CA, has recorded an entire album of O'Carolan's compositions, entitled *Celtic Harp*, published by Fortuna Records and available from Amazon. This exquisitely beautiful music will lift you up and heal your inner child. The harp corresponds to the Heart Chakra, and many listeners have experienced a dramatic mood shift into a joyful energy field.

On a personal note, when listening to this joyful music, my mood is elevated. Playing it while working on my fairie crafts—*Captured Fairies in a Jar*, *Fairie Wands*, *Flower Fairie Crowns*, and *Make-a-Wish Bottles*—transports me to another world. Everyone has a Muse that works overtime to encourage you to create. At times, when hearing O'Carolan's music in my "inner ear," that's the signal for me to push the button on the CD player, which puts me back into my creative, right-brain Fairie Godmother archetype! ■

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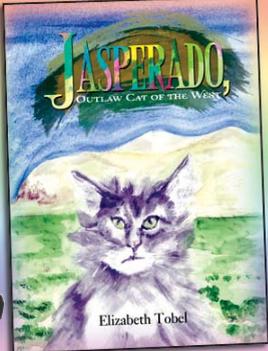
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