

# Witch ways: AN INTERVIEW WITH ANNIE FINCH

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## meet your neighbors

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*With Halloween coming up, Annie Finch, a Falmouth-based poet and writer who is known for her interest in the earth-based path of the contemporary witch, seemed like a great choice to profile for our October issue. We caught up with Annie for a quick interview on the verge of finishing her new book, *Witch Ways*.*



***Tell me about yourself. How did you come to live in Falmouth?***

I am a writer and a poet. I moved to Falmouth twelve years ago to take a job at the University of Southern Maine, directing a graduate-level program in creative writing.

***How long have you been writing?***

I have been writing since I was a kid— I published my first poem when I was nine years old. And I've been writing ever since: poems, journals, essays, and books.

***Do you have a certain style or topic you like to write about?***

Yes, I like to write about nature and spirituality, a way of living that is centered in the earth.

***And this is what you do now?***

Yes. After thirty years teaching at USM and other universities, I have moved on and become a fulltime writer and speaker. I also do some teaching online and in my home in Falmouth.

***Tell us about your new book. When do you plan to complete it?***

The book that I'm finishing now, *Witch Ways*, is about how to live like a witch. By that I mean following a spiritual path that connects with the seasons and with nature, and honoring the magic in daily life. For example, a witchy thing to do might be

to have a special little display like an altar that changes with the seasons, or to create a special ritual when you move into a new house— simple things that will make your life more magical. I am finishing the book up now and plan to send it to my agent in the next month or so.

***What gave you the idea about becoming involved with witchcraft?***

I have always loved nature. I'm a feminist who honors the way women do things. And I am a strongly spiritual person. When I finally put all those three things together, my path was set. But really, I didn't become a witch; I just discovered that I was one all along.

***You actually practice witchcraft?***

Yes. I do. I'm usually too busy to spend a lot of time with it, but I do witchy things that I enjoy, like reading my crystal ball, holding my hands up to the full moon to absorb its beautiful energy, or getting together with people to celebrate the special days in nature called The Wheel of the Year. These include Summer and Winter Solstice, Spring and Fall Equinox, and other days such as MayDay and Halloween. Each of these special days is good for different kinds of activities. For example, on Halloween (which we call Samhain—pronounced SA-wane), we can write letters to people we love who have passed on and burn them in a special fire, and we feel that that carries the messages to them.

***Is this a good time of year to be a witch?***

It's a very fun time of year to be a witch. Samhain is actually our

New Year's Eve. But it can also be hard to see some of the ugly or cruel images of witches that are around at this time of year. That can hurt my feelings. Most witches wish that people knew more about what we are really like!

***What are your favorite things about being a witch?***

There are so many! I love to make beautiful altars, to eat food that's connected to nature, to celebrate the moon and the seasons in a sacred way. And I enjoy how it connects me with great people around the world. Just about anywhere you go, on every continent, from Greece to Mexico to Jamaica to Japan, there is an older way of living somewhere that's like what we call witchcraft. It's about nature, and magic, and women's power, and being in harmony with the bigger world.

***If someone is interested to know more, how would they get involved?***

On my website, [anniefinch.com](http://anniefinch.com), people can contact me to ask about two groups that will meet in my home this winter: a Poetry Witch Workshop and a Healing Spiral Group. They can also sign up for the Poetry Witch newsletter and check out some products I've created: herbal tea blends, poetic stationery, ritual jewelry, and spell kits to help you "Awaken Your Inner Witch."

***So will you dress up like a witch for Hallowéen?***

Of course!