

OPENING PALMS:



A Column in the *Santa Barbara Independent*,
Feb 5, 2007-May 23, 2008
And then some
(third edition)

By Batya Weinbaum, PhD

Opening Palms, Vol 1

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Dedication

To Liota Weinbaum

With thanks for editing and proofing the first edition

And to all my teachers in Mexico and India

As well as to WWTMC and all the producers of Michfest for creating the community to nourish
who I am. to Martin van Mensvoort for list me in the International Palmistry Registry

(<http://www.handresearch.com/mexico/batya-weinbaum.htm>)

And to Floyd Fest, YogaJam, and all the other festivals who had booth space for me over the
years...to Arcenio for renting me the space on Juarez on Isla where I opened my own palmistry
shop in Jan 2013, both pictured on the next page



Door of *Feminina Sube*, Palmistry

Shop, Isla Mujeres, MX



The booth at Floyd Yoga Jam, 2014

I want to thank many people for the production of this book. The first is my senior editor Matt Kettman at *The Independent*, who took my query and turned the proposal into a reality, and kept the column going for so many years. Drew and Aly also deserve appreciation for all the postings, as well as Christopher Leslie for making a book out of the third edition.

Although I had been practicing palmistry since 1990, and both researcher and writer since the 70's, until undertaking the column that led to this book, I had not combined those skills. First I took the opportunity to explore Santa Barbara, a town I was living near at the time, with great enthusiasm and love. I matched my scholarly research skills with the freshness of new journalism creating a heightened level of understanding of the art I had been practicing for several years.

As I enjoyed the weekly practice of explaining what palmistry was and why it worked, in a light and lively way, I learned much more myself. By the 2007 Ohio Lesbian Festival, someone I read palms for subsequently suggested that I turn the material into a book. Then Toni, for whom I read at the Virginia Women's Music Festival, dared me to finish the book by Michfest 2008, and so I did. By that time, my palmistry write ups had included my wanderings around the world.

Thanks also to the Buffalo Mountain Food Coop for wi-fi; to my daughter who went to circus camp that year giving me a week to hang around and finish it; and to her as well for saying, when the paper cut the column, well, now that it is over, you can finish the book!

On a more serious note, in the process of explaining my understandings of palmistry on a weekly basis to a larger and larger audience, as readers wrote in from across the country, around the world, as well as the Santa Barbara area, I started to develop a new theory of how messages could be sent to the brain to change your life rather than to accept what is. My daughter suggested that I emphasize the transformational aspects of what I do, in addition to dusting off the cobwebs placed over palmistry by the same people historically who burnt witches and name called midwives and female healers witches as well.

So, I developed a new method of offering meditations and positions in the course of my readings, which I call transformational palmistry. The way I draw from spiritualist healing, hypnotherapy, reiki, metamorphic technique, and energetic medicinal training to help clients take hold of their lives will be explained more fully in subsequent books.

Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy this one. Contact me if you would like your palms read at weinbaumbatya@gmail.com, or 540-695-3043. If you know any media that would like to have a column, I am available to launch a new one. So, feel free to pass this on to any editor you might know, either at a publishing house to publish this more commercially, or at a newspaper, to start a syndicated column. Thanks.

Hardwick, VT, July 17, 2008.

3rd edition revision, Floyd VA, Oct 7, 2019

Completed Amazonia House, Cleveland Heights, Nov, 2019

I sold out of the first run at the 35th Michigan Womyn's Music Festival; this edition includes several of the columns that did not get into print before the column was cut by the *Independent*. If the column reproduced towards the end of the book does not have a day of the week or a date, I sent it in but it was not printed. Matt has a standing invitation to me to blog for the paper for free, which so far I have not taken him up on. Thanks to Shelley, a customer at Michfest 2010, for input on cutting the diagrams from the previous version. The third version should include interviews with palmists in Argentina, whom I have already contacted.

As Karen Williams said while MCing at night stage at the 35th, she would not have become a black lesbian comic without Michigan, I would not have become a palmist without that festival which allowed me a place to become what I am. I thank Michigan for the growing opportunity for the 29 years I went there, and all the women who came to me repeatedly for readings. Please get readings in the mail if run across this book. I made a DVD explaining my theories of palmistry and which I will advertise in LC.

Second edition, with additional columns and materials, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118, Aug 18, 2010; revised 2019 after we lost fes.

Third edition updated in Floyd, VA, Oct 7, 2019, with contact info corrected, due to first and second editions being sold out and purchases of Vol 2 wanting this one, and small copy edits; I also added a table of contents, by request, and a section on Jewish and Christian roots of palmistry and practitioners after additional research in the British Library, London, and Jerusalem.—bsw

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Opening Palms, Opening Night

February 5, 2007

Tim Matheson (*Animal House*, *West Wing*) sports a double life line. Some call the second line the “general” or “warrior” line. Napoleon also had one. Peter Riegert (*Crossing Delancey*) on his right hand has a flexible thumb. It bends easily open away from the rest of his hand, showing his flexibility in decision-making. His rounded fingertips indicate a practical nature. Peter’s fingers separate widely into a creative spread. A sign of a true artist. These celebrities were opening their palms for me on the Red Carpet at the opening of the Santa Barbara International Film Festival last night. They seemed to enjoy the pause between grilling questions.

I only had one.

“Would you let me have a look at your palm?”

Staff in the Press Office initially discouraged me. “Aren’t you focusing on women?” Alana asked. I had applied for the pass through *Femspec*, a popular culture journal I edit about gender. Yes, but the art of palmistry is a lost women’s art. All right. I learned from two men. My first teacher was a Czech gypsy in Tepoztlan. The second, a Hindu palmist, behind the Golden Temple of Annapurna in Varanasi, India. But that’s my point. The ancient women’s art needs to be revived. Slowly, it is. Erich Neumann wrote about the great mother archetype and inspired a women’s spirituality movement. After Neumann and his wife escaped Nazi Germany, they went to Tel Aviv. There, his wife gained notoriety as an international palmist. Visitors flocked to her from around the world.

Still hesitant to dive in, I swung the pendulum once in line. With support from a journalist from Vancouver on my right, I charged ahead.

Tim Matheson was my first victim.

After that, emboldened by Tim’s willing response, I became more assertive. Lack of strong arming by festival staff trying to deport me also made me feel more relaxed. I screwed up my nerve and explained to the luminaries’ handlers that I was starting off a palmistry column for the *Independent*.

I was hot. I was on.

Tara Sommers, next. She was on the way in as supporting cast in the film of the night, *Factory Girl*, in which she played one of Warhol’s girls. She sported boxes on her mound of Venus. I peered more closely. Ah hah, I said, seeing she was also boxed in on her mound of Mars. Indications of conflict in relationships. How much should I say? “What is it? Am I going to die?” Before I had time to answer, she was whisked on.

Sienna Miller starred as Edie Sedgwick in the film we were waiting to see. I could see in Sienna's hands that travel was important. She also had many lines, what we call "watery lines." Her destiny line up the center of her palm was wavering. Well, I explained to the journalist on my left, after Sienna had moved on, you can't stay a young beautiful starlet forever. Makes sense.

Guy Pierce played Andy. He wanted to know if his long lifeline meant a long life in the physical plane, or in the sense that his presence would live on forever in celluloid. He had a very strong destiny line, so could be. I gave him my card and said, email me your question. We can talk about it. Saying he found it soothing and relaxing to be read this far into the line, he moved on.

Jonathan Sedgwick, Edie's brother, had a curving index finger. An Aquarian finger. Meaning he was ahead of his times. Just like his sister.

When I got inside, not having read all the palms I could but being too cold, I was surprised to hear Edie's character in voice-over telling a therapist in rehab at Cottage Hospital about what a palmist had told her, close to the first scene. The palmist had looked at her hand and frozen. Yes, Edie had told her, I know. My lifeline stops in the middle. I won't live to be thirty. She didn't. She died tragically of an overdose at 28.

A Palmist's Intuition Is Always Right

February 12, 2007

I was in a hospital listening to a nurse describe how she had been given money to buy what she needed to set up a new unit. Immediately I wanted to see her palms. I suspected that she would have what we call in Spanish a *mana abierta*, or open hand.

I was right. I will call her Lily.

I got Lily to sit down and take a break from her busy schedule. At once I noticed that when she extended her palm to me for a reading, all her fingers curved almost straight up like petals of a tulip. When you extend your palm and the fingers curve up like this, it means you have the kind of hands that support the universe. Kind of like holding up the world.

School teachers have hands like this. Psychologists. Artists. Social workers.

Anyone who works with their hands, holding others up.

Lily also used to be a second and third grade teacher.

Lily also has the feature of having many small lines, an indication of a hard worker.

Many employers use handwriting analysis in making decisions about applicants. The employer in this case had made a good decision to entrust Lily with such responsibility. I don't know if the hospital read her palms to help make this decision. My guess is not.

But if they had, they would have also found that Lily was very grounded and practical. This could be seen in her mostly rounded fingertips. Only the tip of her little finger was pointed, which indicates intelligence in commercial matters.

Lily's wrist was also very thin, another sign of high intelligence. Lily thought her wrists were thin just because she was skinny. I smiled at her naiveté when she said this.

Examining Lily's palms again, I noticed a criss-cross of lines across the mounds of Mars and Venus. These are the two mounds at the base of the thumb up through slightly above where the thumb connects to the hand. Boxes or little rectangles formed of lines across these raised areas can indicate conflict between male and female in outer relations or conflict between masculine and feminine in oneself. I asked Lily—who is assertive although she looks like a demure pretty blond—if she had trouble being herself in the world. Did people judge her by her looks and expect her to be passive, when she was actually very strong? She looked taken aback and said yes.