

Out of the Blocks Storytelling Series | 400 E. Patapsco Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland
Recorded by Aaron Henkin; Photographs and Music by Wendel Patrick
Produced for the Out of the Blocks website, created by the Peale, <https://ootb.thepeale.org/>

Out of the Blocks is supported by PRX and produced with grant funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Cohen Opportunity Fund, The Hoffberger Foundation, Patricia and Mark Joseph, The Shelter Foundation, The Kenneth S Battye Charitable Trust, The Sana and Andy Brooks Family Fund, The Muse Web Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund, creator of the Baker Artist Portfolios



Grandma:

Wind chimes or bells, if people hear them ringing, if they place them inside their house, they believe spirits are there and the spirits will turn around and leave when they hear the bells or chimes.

Grandma:

Some people actually want the spirits, so they use these little bells to call in the spirits, or they use [inaudible 00:00:25] altars, when you practice magic and you have your altar set up. It is overwhelming for a lot of people. They'll walk in the door and they'll go, "Is this a witch shop? This is a voodoo shop? What kind of store is this?" And I'll say, "It's whatever kind you want it to be. What are you looking for?"

Grandma:

Grandma's candle shop 227, West Saratoga Street. People just started calling me Grandma from the beginning, which was 38 years ago. So I've just gone by Grandma.

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Grandma:

Each candle color has a different meaning. Red candles are generally for love and strength. Green are for money and growth. Blue generates peace and healing. White is your most powerful candle because that will amplify the energy of any other candle you burn.

Grandma:

We sell a lot of herbs. We've got chewing John, which is very popular. When you go to court, you're supposed to actually chew the root and spit it out before you go on the courtroom. And that way the judge will go in your favor. We have beth root, which is also known as rattlesnake root. People carry that in their mojo bags, you wrap a dollar bill around it and that's so you'll never be broke.

Grandma:

You can use a anise, that helps prevent nightmares if you put it in your pillow. There is violet which helps heal a broken heart.

Interviewer:

Do you believe in magic?

Grandma:

Well, of course I do. Like I tell people when you blow out a candle for your birthday, aren't you making a wish? That's magic. Magic isn't necessarily going out in the woods and standing in a circle and chanting to the moon. I believe most of our lives, we experience magic or miracles. Some people think they're miracles. Do we believe in (bell ringing).