

Daughters of the Goddess Newsletter



Spring 2004 to Fall 2004
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A Dianic, Womyn-only Goddess Temple dedicated in the Spirit of Aloha to the preservation and perpetuation of Goddess culture, public ceremony, ritual and Womyn's Mysteries.

Hili hewa ka mana'o ke 'ole ke kukakua

Ideas run wild without discussion. (Literal translation)

Discussion brings ideas together into a plan. (Common translation)

The womyn gather in a circle at top of the hill, a gentle breeze blowing, lifting their hair. The sun is warm on their backs; the creatures of this sacred land whistle, chirp and buzz their greetings. The circle is cast and the careful descent to the labyrinth begins. We are between the worlds. It is International Womyn's Day, and a time to celebrate our accomplishments and make space for the ones to come. Song, drum, and dance lead each womyn to the center of the labyrinth, the center of the wheel, and safely back out again. Stuck energies again flow free, information from the ancestors is received, and gratitude is offered to the Mother. It is time to begin the hike back and re-enter the physical plane, where our work is so needed. Goddess blesses Her womyn, and our sacred work. *Delesamyn Angelica*



Aloha Daughters of the Goddess,

Here we are again emerging from the darkness and dancing in the Springtime energy. I hope the dark time was not too intense for you. This is the second winter in a row that I have come through without any of the usual winter doldrums. I am more centered and grounded. Old things that no longer served me have been dealt with, let go of, and cleaned out. I finally understand that holding on to my pain for extended periods of time really does not serve me, the work I do, or those around me.

On March 8th we celebrated International Womyn's Day with an outdoor labyrinth walk and by honoring foremother Elizabeth Cady Stanton. She made her amazing contribution to our freedom as womyn while doing a multitude of "mundane" activities. She was a married mother of seven children and lived in a climate oppressive to womyn. I am a mother of two children myself, and I find her strength and fortitude utterly astonishing. It also leaves me wondering—with all the privileges and access we have gained as womyn, why are we still so thwarted in actualizing what we want?

As a Dianic High Priestess, I have dedicated my life in service to womyn. I have counseled and led ritual for thousands of womyn. I am intimately aware of the multitudes of issues that face today's "modern day womyn" and the struggles we continue to work through every day. However, it amazes me that with all the gains we've made in the workplace, through education, in academia, and the law that our growth at times appears blocked and stunted. Elizabeth Cady Stanton was able to do the work in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, with extreme effort and huge risk. Why are today's womyn finding it so difficult—almost impossible—to balance family, work and spiritual lives? I will be at the March for Women's Lives in DC on April 25th in an effort to protect the rights that we have gained. I hope to see some of you there.

Beyond what the patriarchy does, many times we are our own worst enemies. Womyn need to make a deep and honest examination of our own participation in this dynamic. At times, we stand in our own way and block our growth more than anything around us. I still see womyn tearing one another down all too frequently. As a female leader I have had this experience, and with those I dearly love and trust. I have had womyn build me up and the same sisters tear me down when it appeared I was getting "too big". These are difficult issues we face and are often taboo to speak about. However, until we start looking at these issues we will continue to stay "stuck". I want to break the silence, start dealing with these things, and move forward. I want a better world for myself, my daughters, and my sisters, as well as the men we love.

For the past eight years I have been building the Daughters of the Goddess Temple as part of the Womyn's Spirituality movement that is revolutionizing our world. I need your sisterhood at this time—I am looking for all maidens, amazons, mothers, queens and crones to join me in this challenge: What would our world be like if we were able to get out of our own way, stop tearing ourselves and our sisters down, and really allow ourselves to soar? If you are willing to take such a challenge—and yes, it may take a lot of time and a lot of effort—please join me. Here you will find a community of womyn filled with a fire so strong you can see it from other galaxies. Are you ready for the next step? Are you ready to break through the barriers of the Self and the patriarchy? We have more power now than ever before in this lifetime. Let's not waste it! Our Power sets us free! I am calling the magic She sends through you. I ask you to hear Her call deep within your soul.

There are many events and gatherings planned this series, as well as in years to come. I look forward to seeing those of you and am grateful that the time has finally come that we will all be together again. If you live too far to attend an event in the Bay Area let me know. This Womyn's Temple is a caravan and will travel to whatever parts of the Earth She calls us to.

Blessed be, *DeLeilani*



Daughters of the Goddess Ritual Schedule

Leilani Birely, Hawaiian Dianic Priestess and ceremonialist brings ancient Hawaiian healing and Goddess wisdom to the community. She is a graduate of the Women's Spirituality Masters Program at New College, San Francisco and ordained High Priestess of Northern California by ZSuzanna Budapest. Leilani gives thanks and honor to her teachers: Luisah Teish, Yoruban Chieftess and author of *Jambalaya*; ZSuzanna Budapest, author of *Grandmother of Time*; Vicki Noble author and co-creator of Motherpeace tarot; Starhawk, author and founder of the Reclaiming Collective, and Kumu Hula Mahea Uchiyama, director of the Mahea Uchiyama Center for International Dance in Berkeley.

OPEN TO ALL SERIES: These 12 circles are open to all womyn desiring knowledge and experiential work with the multi-faceted aspects of Goddess in ritual. While these are NOT drop-in circles, you can confirm with Daughters of the Goddess on the day of ritual if you want to attend. **Gathering time is 7:00 p.m. for all rituals unless otherwise noted.** See below for cost and contact information.

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| Friday, May 7, Celebrate Laka , Goddess of Hula and the forest, and Hina , Goddess of the Moon. Moon in Capricorn. | Thursday, August 19, Celebrate Nike , Goddess of Victory, Waxing Moon in Libra. |
| Tuesday, May 18, Celebrate Oshun and Prosperity with a New Moon in Taurus money pouring ritual. | Monday, August 30, Nut—Egyptian Sky Goddess. Full Moon in Pisces. |
| Thursday, June 3, Celebrate Goddess Vesta and the Vestal Virgins , Goddess of the Hearth. Full Moon ritual. | Sunday, September 5, Celebrate Yemaya with an outdoor beach ritual. 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. |
| Saturday, June 26, Celebrate Artemis at the San Francisco Dyke March , Dolores Park, ritual at 4 p.m. and then we'll march! | Tuesday, September 21, Fall Equinox. Sun in Libra, waxing half-moon in Capricorn. |
| Monday, July 19, Celebrate Celtic Goddess Aine , Waxing moon in Leo. | Thursday, October 14, White Buffalo Calf Woman. Moon in Scorpio. |
| Friday, August 13, Celebrate Indian Haritalika —honoring Parvati-Gauri as the Goddess of Abundance. Waning Moon in Cancer and Leo. | Friday, October 29, Join us at our annual Spiral Dance celebrating Halloween and the Crones. |



DEEPENING SERIES: is for womyn who would like to be a part of creating a more in-depth experience with the technique and magick of ritual in conjunction with the open series; **attendance at a minimum of 6 rituals in the open series is required.** You must sign up for all of the Deepening rituals to participate; attendance at all rituals in the series is strongly recommended. Limited to 11 womyn. This is not a drop-in circle and you must sign up prior to the first ritual. See below for cost and contact information.

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| Thursday, May 27, Stella Maris, Star of the Sea , waxing half-moon in Virgo. | Thursday, September 9, Celebrate Nisaba , Sumerian Goddess who invented writing. Waning moon in Cancer. |
| Thursday, July 1, Wawalag Sisters , Australian Goddess of Civilization, Full Moon in Capricorn. | Thursday, September 30, Sedna , Eskimo Goddess who preserves the sea's balance of wildlife. Waning Moon in Taurus. 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. |
| Thursday, August 5-Sunday, August 8, Celebrate Oshun with a Lammas camping trip in the Redwoods. | Tuesday, October 26, Celebrate Ariadne and the Full Moon with a labyrinth walk. |

PAGAN PRIDE PARADE: We are pleased to announce that we will be participating in the 3rd Annual Interfaith Pagan Pride Parade and Celebration, "Honoring the Divine Feminine" on Saturday May 15th in Berkeley's Civic Park, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. For more information check out www.paganparade.org, then email us to let us know you'll be joining in the fun! We will meet at 11:30 a.m. to walk in the parade together.

SUMMER SOLSTICE ALOHA RETREAT: Join us in Northern California, June 17-June 20. Workshops & presentations on movement, hands on healing, lei making, nightly rituals. Celebrate the Solstice & renew your spirit in a simple & natural camp setting. Celebrate the New Moon & set your intentions for the next year. \$285; \$250 if registered by 5/30; \$225 early bird if registered by 5/5. Email us, or see our website for details!

| Packages | Exchange |
|------------------------------|---|
| Newcomer Discount 1st Ritual | \$30/please mail check to us |
| 1 Open Ritual | \$40/please mail check to us |
| 6 Open Rituals | \$195/due at first ritual attended |
| All 13 Open Rituals | \$313/due at first ritual attended |
| Deepening Series | \$300/due at first Deepening ritual |
| Deepening + 12 Open circles | \$540/due at first Mysteries ritual |
| Aloha Retreat | \$285/\$225 by May 5. \$25 discount given if registered for series. |

Please note... We offer significant **package discounts** to encourage regular circling with DG. We offer a **Newcomer Discount** to any womyn who has never attended a DG ritual. Partial work exchange, payment plans, student and crone discounts available. **No one turned away due to lack of funds.** Sorry—no refunds. Call or email Leilani at the contacts listed on the front page. Individual consultations, healings, rites of passage and Temple Priestess training available upon request.

Please bring a candle for the altar, rattles, drums, something to sit on & a snack to share to each circle

BEHIND THE SCENES...



Lisa Parker
Web Creatrix



I officially found the Goddess in 1992. I began reading books and womyn on the Goddess path started popping up in my life. When I moved to Minneapolis I was happy to find a strong womyn's spirituality community there.

In Minneapolis I became involved with RCG-MN and participated in many rituals/events. I also participated regularly in a local open circle, meeting each month on the second Saturday. It was through the Second Saturday Circle that I became friends with four other womyn. We started meeting more regularly and formed a closed circle that we named Ancient Uprising. Although we are all in different areas of the country now we still are in contact and I will always consider these womyn my first Coven.

While in Minneapolis I also joined a group called Womyn of the Rite. We were the "ritual committee" in charge of leading the public Womyn-only rituals in the community. We learned and shared with each other and it was a great experience.

Shortly, after joining WOTR my partner Dawn and I moved to the Washington, DC area and I began yearning for more study on this path. I briefly joined the RCG-I Cella program but decided that type of training was not for me. I needed more interaction with other womyn.

After moving to the Bay Area, I attended my first Daughters of the Goddess circle, our annual Yemaya ritual. It impacted me in a huge way. I felt like I had finally found home and was in a group of Sisters. I haven't stopped attending Daughters of the Goddess rituals since!

In addition to participating in the Open Circles, I am also part of Deepening and participate in Kokua. As part of my kokua to Daughters of the Goddess I design and maintain the website and help out with any other computer and graphic stuff that comes up. I also am involved with various Daughters of the Goddess projects.

This year I began priestess training with Leilani and am excited to see where it leads me. I know the Goddess has grand plans for me and I am happy to be experiencing it all with my DG Sisters.

Blessed Be, *)Lisa(*



Daughters of the Goddess Community Announcements

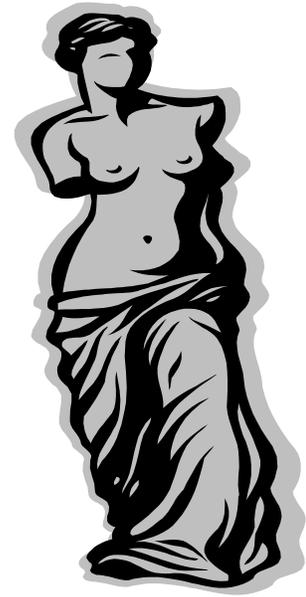


Daughters of the Goddess Womyn's Temple extends a huge Mahalo Nui Loa/Thank you very much to Stasi for her leadership, expertise and commitment to the Temple's newsletter. Over the past several years, Stasi has been Editor of our newsletter. She now hands this job over to Jesa.



Daughters of the Goddess Womyn's Temple is pleased to announce the initiation of a new Temple Priestess, Jesamyn Angelica. Jesa was initiated as a Dianic Priestess on January 6th, 2004 on the Full Moon in her Sun Sign of Cancer. For more about Jesa, please see the "Temple Priestesses" section of our website.

Musings...



Sekhmet in Cinquain

by Jesamyn Angelica

Midwife
Passage Priestess
Manifesting, Guiding, Releasing
Walking Between the Worlds
Psychopomp

Kali the Preserver

by Caitlyn Brooke Powell

Blood is the ultimate Sustainer,
it contains all the elements of life within it.
I am always bleeding, giving life to the lifeless, form to the formless.
I sustain and preserve, my body is all life.
Taste the blood that preserves you, without it life could not exist.
It connects all womyn to me and my ever watchful eye the moon.