

Daughters of the Goddess



Spring 2014 - Fall 2014
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A Dianic, Womyn-only Goddess Temple dedicated in the Spirit of Aloha to the preservation, perpetuation and promotion of Goddess culture, public ceremony, ritual and Womyn's Mysteries.

Ho'okahi No La'au Lapa'au, O Ka Mihi.

The first remedy is forgiveness.

~Kapuna Alapa'i Kahu'ena~

The altar is a shimmering, deep, blue~green in color with gold at the center. Tinctures and other Earth based medicines circle the altar in pretty green bowls. Candle light flickers on the faces of the womyn who have gathered on this night at the altar of Sha'taqat, the winged Syrian Goddess of Health and Healing. As we hold hands and begin our ritual, we sink deep into a place of knowing and understanding. We feel the angst of our Syrian Sisters who are living as displaced persons and refugees as a result of the civil war in their country. We wonder what will become of Syrian ethnic heritage? How will the knowledge of handcrafting that has defined the lives of hundreds of generations of Syrians survive in such chaos and bloodshed? As our voices rise in harmonious song, womyn after womyn prays to Sha'taqat for herself and for the Syrian people. A vision appears. It is of Syrian womyn gathered, two or more, feeling the support, empathy and magick of one another. They support each other, sharing their medicine, singing their songs, and remembering. At once we know that Syrian ethnic heritage will persevere and carry on. Just as Sha'taqat flew over hundreds of miles to find the perfect medicine ~ we send our magick out to the womyn of the world who desperately need it. We are a nation of womyn with wings. We watch. We care. We heal. We fly. As our time with Sha'taqat comes to a close, womyn sing and move around the altar with their scarves, skirts, and sweaters serving as beautiful wings. Our prayers fly across the ocean to caress the hearts of those who need us. We are Sisters.



Aloha Daughters of the Goddess,

As I mused on what to share with you through this newsletter, the theme that kept playing over and over in my mind was "Sisters and Sisterhood". Reflecting back on my childhood with my sisters Paris, Cyd, and Tanya, I know that this early girlhood tribe configuration has led to my life's passion of creating Sisterhood and Women's community. I was the eldest child and daughter of this raucous girl collective where endless amounts of lip gloss, hair brushes, mascara, bubble bath, hot curlers, blow dryers, clothes, candy, boom boxes, loud music, sleep overs, and dance parties happened around the clock.

My Mom told us over and over how lucky we were to have one another. Even without her saying this, I knew in my heart this was true. We all did and we still do. I can't count the number of times our Mom would tell me that as the only girl in her family and with three brothers, she would pray and wish she had sisters. When we would fight she would tell us what a blessing it was to have a sister and when she realized she would not have sisters after her baby brother was born, she wished that she would have seven daughters. She didn't get seven, but she got the 4 of us! I remember my Mom's friends saying, "Oh! Isn't it nice that you have gentile girls, how sweet and calm!" and my Mom would say, "Not my girls!" We were feisty and rowdy and she raised us to speak our truth unlike her own strict upbringing.

I was taught to be responsible for my sisters, to love them in good times and in bad, and to have a fiercely protective and loyal connection with them. Although I can still recall to this day some of the big childhood fights I had with my sisters, I can't recall a time in my 50 years where we were officially out of touch or not speaking. Even through the worst of disagreements we always left with a sense of reconciliation and loyalty to one another, knowing that this special and precious bond is one to be honored and cherished.

How surprised I have been to see that many women have not been raised with this deep and profound sense of sisterly love; a deep knowing that you have women who give and receive love and trust, no matter what you go through. These bonds and relationships of sisterhood are not expendable or disposable. They are lasting forged bonds that are to sustain us a lifetime. They are a priority and central in my life and not treated as auxiliary as many 'women's things' are in the American culture at large. I take my vows to the women I call friends and sisters very, very seriously.

I want to give great thanks/mahalo nui loa to my blood sisters Paris, Cyd and Tanya for teaching me a lesson that still serves me well and for our mother Judy for really showing us how much it means to always have a friend, someone to talk to, a lifelong companion and someone to just have a blast and a lot of fun with. I call forth this deeper vision of sisterhood into our temple. Let us all know what it means to be loyal and true to Sisterhood.

Blessings,

Leilani



Daughters of the Goddess Ritual Schedule

Leilani Birely - Author, Hawaiian Kahuna, Ordained Dianic High Priestess, and Ceremonialist has been bringing ancient Hawaiian healing and Goddess wisdom to the community for nearly two decades. Leilani has received her M.A. in Womyn's Spirituality from New College in San Francisco. She started The Daughters of the Goddess Womyn's Temple in 1996.. Leilani gives thanks and honor to her teachers: Luisah Teish, Yoruban Chieftess and author of Jambalaya; Kahuna Auntie Pahia; Vicki Noble, author and co-creator of the Motherpeace Tarot; Starhawk, author and founder of the Reclaiming Collective; and Kumu Hula Patrick Makuakane and Mahea Uchiyama.

OPEN SERIES ~ These 9 circles are open to all womyn desiring knowledge and experiential work with the multifaceted aspects of Goddess in ritual. These are NOT drop-in circles; please let us know in advance if you are planning to participate before the day of the ritual. **Gathering time is 7:30 p.m. for all rituals unless otherwise noted.** Please see below for exchange information.

Wednesday, May 14th, Celebrate Lunar Beltane and Cordelia Celtic/British Goddess of the Summer Flowers. Full Moon in Scorpio.

Monday, June 2nd, Celebrate Vesta Roman Goddess of the Hearth, Ceremonies & Fire, Sacred Flame Goddess of our Temple. Moon in Leo.

Friday, June 20th, Celebrate Summer Solstice and Igachinvdo Cherokee Sun Goddess. Moon in Aries.

Thursday, July 31st, Celebrate White Shell Woman Navajo Moon Goddess. Moon in Libra.

Saturday, August 9th, Celebrate Lunar Lammas and Nut Egyptian Goddess of the Sky and Heavens. Full Moon in Aquarius.

Sunday, August 31st, Celebrate Yemaya Yoruban Goddess of the Ocean with our Annual Pilgrimage to the Sea. Moon in Scorpio. ***Please note this ritual is 11am - 4 pm.***

Monday, September 22nd, Celebrate Fall Equinox and Laka Hawaiian Goddess of Hula and the Forest. Moon in Virgo.

Monday, October 6th, Celebrate Tin Hau Chinese Goddess of the Sea with a Pilgrimage to her Temple in San Francisco. Moon in Pisces. ***Please note this ritual is 11am - 3 pm.***



Friday, October 24th, Annual Womyn's Spiral Dance Celebrating the Ancestors & the Cronos.
New Moon in Scorpio.



SISTERHOOD OF THE DEEPENING is for womyn who are core members of Daughters of the Goddess, who are dedicated to the work of promoting the Mission of the Temple, and who have the Temple as a primary focus in their lives. Deepening is for womyn who desire to be a part of sustaining the Temple and working magic for this purpose. We create an in-depth experience with the technique and magic of ritual in conjunction with the Open Series. This series meets once a month for Deepening Rituals.

HAWAII WALKING WITH ALOHA PILGRIMAGE 2015 ~ Thursday January 22nd ~ Tuesday January 27th 2015

Daughters of the Goddess embarks on our 3rd Temple Pilgrimage to O'ahu. Ceremony and activities include: Queen's Palace, North Shore -- Haleiwa Town, visit and work in the Taro Patches, rituals, snorkeling & swimming in the beautiful ocean. \$1300 due in full by November 1st, 2014. Non-refundable deposit of \$400 due by September 1st, 2014. Price includes lodging & 2 meals a day. This Pilgrimage will be limited to 13 womyn.

DAUGHTERS OF THE GODDESS NEWSLETTER is published and distributed via U.S. mail twice per year in September and March on the Equinoxes. The Newsletter is also posted on the DG Website. If you have been receiving the Newsletter via the postal service and would prefer to receive it electronically, please send an e-mail to Leilani@DaughtersoftheGoddess and we will make the appropriate change. We are always happy to reduce our footprint on the Earth. Of course, if you are a Sister who loves to receive this treasure through the mail, we are happy to continue mailing it as we always have.

ON HOLY GROUND: COMMITMENT & DEVOTION TO SACRED LANDS Leilani & Teish's new book is hot off the press and is now available on our website is a self-published, quality paperback. It contains the authors personal stories, cultural myths and folktales, prayers, chants, rituals and exercises to help you define your relationship to Mother Earth and Her Children. It also contains photographs from their travels to several sacred sites and their original artwork. This book will be useful to those wishing to travel as kindred spirits, to address ecological and environmental issues, and to experience the joys of rituals in nature. To order a copy please see our website at <http://www.daughtersofthegoddess.com/Shop/books.html>

Packages:	Exchange:
*Newcomer	1st ritual \$15 or 3 for \$45
*1 Open Ritual	\$30/please mail check
*All 9 Open Rituals	\$225/due at first ritual
*Deepening + All Rituals	\$375/at first Deepening ritual

Financial programs are available for qualifying incomes/budgets. Sorry no refunds.

Individual consultations, healings, Rites of Passage, and Temple Priestess training available upon request. Please call or e-mail Leilani. Her contact information is on the top of the newsletter.

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