

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.

E onipa`a...i ka`imi na`auao

Be steadfast in the seeking of knowledge

We gather together, dressed in blue and white, in shells and glitter, sparkling like the Sun. The heartbeat of the waves keeps the rhythm for our stories. "I am Jesa, daughter of Margaret, daughter of Angela, daughter of Ona. I am Jesa, daughter of Leilani, daughter of Zsuzsanna." Each womyn shares the names from her Mother's lineage, going back as far as can be remembered. Yemaya beckons to us and we can sit no longer. We process down to Her foamy shore, singing Her praises. A crowd gathers but we take little notice. It is time to thank Her for our lives, for our Sisters, for our triumphs and gifts. She receives our gratitude and washes Her strength down over us, holding each womyn in Her salty embrace.

)) Lesamyn Angelica



Aloha Daughters of the Goddess,

There are so many things happening in the world right now, including the upcoming Presidential election here in the States. We want change and a lot of energy and effort is going on to make that happen.

Leadership and the styles of leadership we want are big issues. It has become clear to me that the things I see as obvious about my role as High Priestess might not always be as transparent to others. I would like to shed light on my own style of leadership here in our Temple.

In the past eight and a half years as High Priestess of Daughters of the Goddess, I have worked through the issues women have had working with me and seeing a woman "in her power". Trust and intimacy become issues. I know we all carry around pain from past hurts and betrayals that we experienced with those seen in places of "authority": father, priest, teacher, husband. The leadership of our country is a current example of how this pain and hurt is alive and well.

Being raised by a Hawaiian mother, I feel I have had an advantage. In our culture, powerful women and inter-dependency are seen as assets and necessities—not threats. I look to the Spirit of Aloha to help weave together the varying backgrounds we all come from as we seek to build the community we crave. I know this is hard work!

I have intentionally chosen to use the title High Priestess with the understanding that this term sometimes triggers women. I ask you to dig deep within and find what it means to face a woman in power, and to feel that reflection. I use the term "High" to represent my connection and dedication to Spirit and the mystical realm. I do not use this word to invoke power over others. The title "Priestess" in this context is used to indicate my service to Goddess and Her women. Thus, I acknowledge my work and service to Her by the use of the term High Priestess as well as to indicate my ordination by Z Budapest.

As High Priestess of our Temple, I hold the prayers, spells and intentions that women make in circle in a very soulful and mindful way. I hold them until they come to fruition—long after the circle is opened and women have gone home. Often it is years before the transformation and manifestation of women's prayers come into actualization. I am here to see this magick through. This is the primary service I offer to women who choose to do their magickal work here. I am here to hold you and help you build yourself up. I am willing to sit and midwife your journey as long as you are willing to be here. I believe that when we put our magick together it is far more powerful.

I practice a leadership model of Aloha, co-operation and inclusiveness. I give my appreciation/Mahalo to all of you who have gifted me with the opportunity to hold your prayers and share your magick and I look forward to meeting those of you I am still to circle with.

A me ke aloha pumehana, *)) Leilani*



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 Patrick Makuakane and Mahea Uchiyama.

OPEN TO ALL SERIES: These 9 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 7:30 p.m for all rituals unless otherwise noted.** See below for cost and contact information.

Tuesday, November 9th, Celebrate Hi'iaka, Hawaiian Goddess and Spirit of the Dance. Waning Moon in Libra.

*****Sunday, February 6th, Daughters of the Goddess Dedication Ceremony**, *by invitation only*. Moon in Capricorn. **Free ritual.*****

Friday, November 19th, Celebrate Laksmi, Hindu prosperity Goddess, with a money pouring ritual. Waxing Half-Moon in Aquarius.

Thursday, February 17th, Celebrate Ceibhfhionn, Celtic Water Goddess of Inspiration, Intelligence, Creativity, and the Well of Knowledge. Waxing Moon in Gemini.

Thursday, December 2nd, Celebrate Sekhmet, Egyptian lion-headed Goddess of Justice and Courage. Moon in Capricorn.

Tuesday, March 1st, Celebrate Sedna, Inuit Sea Goddess of fishing, water animals, and beauty. Moon in Scorpio.

Sunday, December 19th, Winter Solstice, celebrate the return of the Sun and longest night of the year. Waxing Moon in Aries.

Friday, March 18th, Spring Equinox, celebrate the return of Spring and the feast of Holi, Hindu Goddess of fertility and purification. Waxing Moon in Cancer.

Thursday, January 6th, Motherpeace Tarot with Karen Vogel. Moon in Sagittarius.

Thursday, April 14th, Celebrate Kuan Yin, Goddess of Compassion. Moon in Gemini.



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.

GET OUT AND VOTE!!! Daughters of the Goddess Womyn's Temple reminds you to exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, November 2nd. This election is critical for womyn's rights, the environment, First Amendment rights, and many other key issues. Please make a serious effort to find out about the candidates running and then to **go out and vote!** Together we can turn the tides.

GOOD VIBRATIONS BAST CREATIVITY BUD IN FEBRUARY 2005! Daughters of the Goddess Bast Creativity Bud is pleased to announce an upcoming sexuality Bast Bud to be held this February, in conjunction with Good Vibrations. Come and join us for an evening of self-discovery and fun! Good Vibrations products will be for sale, just in time for Lupercalia! More information is forthcoming. Please call or email us with your questions or comments.

Courage in women is often mistaken for insanity. —Author unknown

<u>Packages</u>	<u>Exchange</u>
Newcomer Discount 1st 3 Rituals	\$30 each/please mail check to us
1 Open Ritual	\$40/please mail check to us
6 Open Rituals	\$195/due at first ritual attended
All 9 Open Rituals	\$245/due at first ritual attended
Deepening + 9 Open Rituals	\$495/due at first Deepening ritual

Please note... We offer significant **package discounts** to encourage regular circling. 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...

Caitlin Powell



How did you find Goddess?

I first discovered the Goddess at a young age through Greek mythology. I enjoyed reading the different stories and resonated with the idea of God as a Womyn. I was introduced to Witchcraft when I was 15, ironically by a girl who ended up becoming my arch nemesis in school. As it turns out, our greatest "enemies" are sometimes the best teachers. After four years as a practicing witch, I finally heard and answered Maa Kali's call ... and I haven't looked back!

How did you find our Temple?

I found DG through Temple Priestess Brook Lujan. She was my counselor in high school and noticed that I had an interest in the Goddess. She became my friend and mentor, inviting me to attend the annual Spiral Dance and eventually other DG rituals. I was instantly drawn to the wonderful community, and have met some of my best friends within it.

What is your role within the Temple?

I'm a member of Kokua and have been involved with our Spiral Dance for two years. I crafted and led a ritual for the Morrigan last year as well as a Kali Puja for Deepening/Mysteries (our closed groups) and co-led one for Venus and Aphrodite. Our community is comprised many different womyn, all of whom have wonderful gifts to share. I consider mine to be a deep devotion to the Goddess and a desire to share Her with anyone that will listen!

Is there anything else you would like folks to know about you?

I'm a devotee of Maa Kali and a practicing Shakta Tantric. I also consider Aphrodite to be a Matron of mine. I enjoy reading, yoga and long horse rides on the beach.

Blessed Be, *☽ Caitlyn ☾*

Daughters of the Goddess Community Announcements

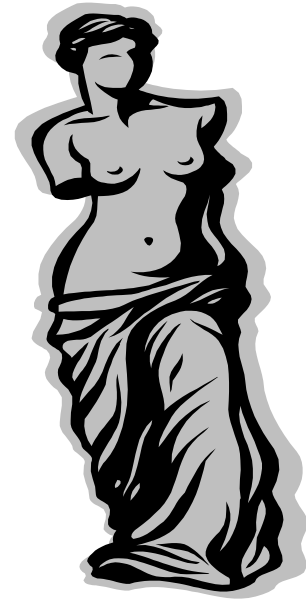


Kumu Hula Association of Northern California presents the "24th Annual Ia 'Oe E Ka La Hula Festival & Competition" at the Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton CA, November 5 -7, 2004. For more information: <http://www.kumuhulaassociation.com>; call or email: Ingrid Garlasa at 650/355-6451 or igarlasa@aol.com.



Don't forget about our 21st annual Hallowmas Spiral Dance on Friday, October 29th in Orinda, CA. For more information please call or email the Temple. We look forward to celebrating with you again this year!

Musings...



SEKHMET

by Caitlin Powell

Sekhmet of the Beasts,
Lady of Transformation.
Anger in your Roar,
Magick in your Voice,
Silence in your Eyes.
Laughter in your Heart.
The ritual of life is Your lesson.

The Priestesses Corner...

Daughters of the Goddess Temple Priestesses are pleased to announce the return of Temple Priestess Sarah Grace to the community. Please join us in welcoming our Sister home!