

Daughters of the Goddess Newsletter



Fall 2005 to Spring 2006
925/787-9247

www.DaughtersoftheGoddess.com
Leilani@DaughtersoftheGoddess.com

3527 Mt. Diablo Blvd, #353
Lafayette, CA 94549

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.

Pupukahi i holomua.

Unite to move forward.

We know this path; it is the one deep inside of each of us. Walking over hills, through valleys, we greet the animals, guides, and keepers of our inner landscape. Ahead of us, we see it—our own sacred Temple. It is beautiful, and all is how we like it, perfectly suited for each womyn, each Priestess of her own inner Temple. Upon entering, we see that She is there. Maa Durga. The Blessed Protector and Mother of each of us. We give to Her what we can no longer bear or carry on our own, asking for Her to grant us transformation. Her fierceness brings great comfort and joy. We spend time talking with Her, sharing our fears and worries, accepting the gift that She gives us. Finally it is time to leave. We follow the path back, then upwards, and fall into the loving arms of our Sisters. *∴ Jesamyn Angelica ∴*



Dear Daughters of the Goddess,

This has been an extremely overwhelming and demanding Spring and Summer for me. Loss has been all around and now Katrina has swept in to create more change. The thing that has kept me strong is my spiritual path. Being around Her altars has given me the strength and support I desperately needed. I thank all of you whom I have had the opportunity to share ritual with during this time. I would not feel held in the way I do without our circles and Temple.

In the midst of this emotional upheaval, I want to address a practical question I get from time to time: Why do we “charge” for our rituals? Community outreach through our Temple events, functions, and ceremonies is a main focus of funds. Part of our mission is to call as many of Her names as possible, and it will take a lot of ritual to get close to She of 10,000 Names! However, I'd like to address the part of our vision that is dedicated to manifesting sustainable priestessing—creating a viable model for women who are called to serve Her on a full-time basis—and bringing forth the understanding that this is important and sacred womyn's work in and of itself.

To answer this question, I am enlisting the help of our Newsletter Editor and my Temple Priestess Sister Jesamyn. We have been working on creating a longer written piece that will speak to this issue and help to better illuminate our Temple's intention and philosophy. We will let you know when the piece is finished and uploaded on our website!

Dear Sisters,

I am often asked, “Why do you pay your High Priestess?” I pay her—with money and with my time-energy—to support the work she does for our community. I support her so she is able to support our community to her fullest potential. I make a tithe to Goddess through my tithe to my Priestess. I make a tithe to all womyn called by Goddess through my tithe to my Priestess. I create and hold space for other womyn to be supported as they do their life work through my tithe to my Priestess. I show that I value the time and life-energy of my Priestess by exchanging my time- and money-energy with her.

I believe each and every womyn on this planet should be paid for her skill, her calling. It is time for us to stand up—together—and let our voices be heard. Our sacred womyn's work is important, and needs to be valued. It is my intent to make the political personal by paying my priestess. I want to spend my money-energy on those things I value and care for. If each dollar spent truly is a spell, what am I casting for?

I want full time Priestesses, tending the cauldrons of their communities. I hold space for other womyn to survive—and thrive!—as full-time clergy. It is possible.

One womyn at a time?

In Sisterhood and with our deep Aloha, *∴ Leilani and Jesamyn ∴*



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 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 7:30 p.m for all rituals unless otherwise noted.** See below for cost and contact information.

Friday, November 4th, Celebrate Laksmi, Hindu Goddess of Prosperity and Abundance, at our annual money-pouring ritual.

Tuesday, November 15th, Celebrate Goddess Coatlique, Aztec Mother Goddess and Matron of Flowers. Full Moon in Taurus.

Thursday, December 1st, Honor Tonantzin, Ancient Aztec Goddess now called Our Lady of Guadalupe. New Moon in Sagittarius.

Sunday, December 18th, Winter Solstice, Celebrate Evaki, Amazon Goddess of Day and Night. Moon in Capricorn.

Tuesday, January 3rd, Celebrate Erzuli, Caribbean Moon Goddess of Self-Love. Moon in Pisces.

Friday, January 13th, Full Moon in Cancer. Celebrate Carmenta, Roman birth Goddess who brings in future generations.

Thursday, February 2nd, Dedication ritual and honoring of Brigit. **By invitation only** Dedicate to our Temple for a year and a day.

Thursday, February 16th, Celebrate Lupercalia, Roman festival of purification and fertility, and the origin of Valentine's Day.

Thursday, March 2nd, Celebrate Hebrew/Canaanite Goddess Asherah. Waxing Moon in Aries.

Tuesday, March 14th, Celebrate Spring and Goddess Cybelle. Full Moon in Virgo.

Tuesday, April 11th, Celebrate Kuan Yin, Goddess of Mercy and Compassion. Waxing Moon in Libra.

Thursday, April 27th, Celebrate Oshun with a Prosperity Ritual. New Moon in Taurus.



THE 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 in the Open Series, participation in Kokua, and prior circling with DG for at least a year is required.** You must sign up for all of the Deepening rituals to participate; attendance at all rituals in the is series expected. 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.

DAUGHTERS OF THE GODDESS HAWAII TRIP! The long-awaited Daughters of the Goddess trip to Hawaii has been scheduled—Friday, March 3rd, 2006 through Wednesday, March 8th, 2006. There will be less than ten womyn on this trip with High Priestess Leilani, and registration is first-come, first-served. Please write to Leilani for more details at Leilani@DaughtersoftheGoddess.com, or call 925/787-9247.

JOIN US AT OUR THIRD ANNUAL WOMEN'S RITES OF SPRING FESTIVAL! Daughters of the Goddess, in conjunction with the Lilith Institute, is pleased to announce our Third Annual Women's Rites of Spring Festival to be held on Sunday, May 7th, 2006 in Napa, CA. Please mark your calendars now! Join us for a day of celebration, wisdom, words, drums, sacred song, dance and ritual. More information forthcoming, including early bird ticket prices and vendor opportunities. Watch your email box, or check our website: www.DaughtersoftheGoddess.com.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR ONLINE NEWSLETTER! Our expanded content newsletter is available on our website located at www.DaughtersoftheGoddess.com. To change your newsletter subscription on online-only, please contact Patrice@DaughtersoftheGoddess.com.



Onipa`a ~ Stand firm. —Motto of Queen Lili`uokalani



Packages

Newcomer Discount
1 Open Ritual
6 Open Rituals
All 12 Open Rituals
Deepening + 12 Open Rituals

Exchange

First ritual \$30 or 3 rituals for \$90
\$40/please mail check to us
\$195/due at first ritual attended
\$295/due at first ritual attended
\$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 & food to share to each circle

BEHIND THE SCENES...



Anne Jewett

How did you find the Goddess?

I found the Goddess through a hard and twisted path that I am still on, as I am always learning and discovering more about Her. In late high school, I started to rebel against the Methodist Church that I was raised in. I did not understand why my Hindu friend would not be loved and taken care of like me, just because she did not believe the same way the Church did. I could not accept that a good, honest, and loving person was damned because of her faith. Then, during my junior year in high school, I fell in love with a female classmate. Knowing that the Church would never accept me for who I was, as a lesbian or as an artist, I left the Christian faith.

I was sitting in my room feeling extremely frustrated and asking for guidance from the Divine Spirit. Then the whole room changed into rainbow waves, and a woman's face formed. The face kept morphing into different women of all races and ages. A huge tree formed behind her, loaded with every imaginable fruit, all ripe, glistening, and smelling sweet. There were peacocks and naked children on the branches, singing and laughing. This amazing woman said, "You are my daughter. You cannot hide anymore. FIND ME!" Then a herd of wild horses flew out of her mouth with clouds at sunset; it then became the night sky, and I could see a bright, Full Moon with rainbow rings around it. The woman turned into clay and melted away in to the sky. I heard the ocean, smelled the salt water, and felt a strong wing over my body. Then everything started to fade except the sound of the ocean. I was alone in my room again.

About two years after this vision, while recovering from my first bout of depression and coming out to my family, I went to a workshop on how to start Women's Circles. At this workshop I heard about a yoga center which held a women's Full Moon Circle every month. A few months later I went to the Circle and was hooked. The Tree House Circle was interfaith and focused on the Goddess/Divine Feminine. Tree House and the women there became a huge part of my life. It was not until I joined Daughters of the Goddess that I experienced the many faces and the depth of the Goddess.

How did you find our Temple?

The second week after I moved to the Bay Area, I found a flyer for the 2000 Womyn's Spiral Dance. The night of Spiral I took the BART to Orinda, climbed up the hill to the Masonic Temple, and had one of the most incredible nights of my life. Then, on Summer Solstice 2001, I went to my first ritual at the Yemaya House. I have been part of Daughters of the Goddess ever since.

What is your role within the Temple?

My roles in the Temple include: Co-leader of the Bast Creativity Hua, participant in Kokua, Hea Hea Sister, Co-Creatrix of the Spiral Dance environment, set-up and clean-up of rituals, and designing altars and other ritual enhancements.

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

Yes! My Matron Goddesses are Hina, Yemaya, Lakshmi, Bast, and Sedna. I am a Ceramic Artist, and the Goddess deeply inspires my work. My art is filled with Goddesses, Her images, and my dreams. I love making art for and with my Circle Sisters. I am currently working on creating ceramic children playing, a zine about wedding dresses, and the new banners for the upcoming Spiral Dance.

"May your head be full of ideas and your hands be full of clay!"

Ask Witchy...



Dear Witchy,

Why does Daughters of the Goddess create ritual for Goddesses of so many cultures? Isn't this cultural appropriation?

Love, Wondering

Dear Wondering,

Thank you for writing with your concerns! This is a question that often comes up for womyn beginning to circle with Daughters of the Goddess.

Part of the mission and vision of Daughters of the Goddess is to call as many of Her names as possible in this lifetime. We are shooting for "She of 10,000 Names", although I prefer to say we are working towards "She of Infinite Names"! We consider our magical work to be creative, intuitive, and dynamic, and we intend for our rituals to be a vehicle to experience Goddess directly. It is our goal to uncover, rediscover, and honor Her in as many forms as possible, from as many different places in the world as possible. After all, we all belong to one race—the Human Race!

We deeply honor diversity and respect living traditions, especially with those Goddesses who have been continually honored in indigenous cultures since time unwritten. We always hold the intention to bring honor and integrity to Her in whatever form we name. In some cases, (for example, our annual honoring of Yemaya), we ask advise of an - Elder, Priestess, and/or other Kumu of a tradition if it is okay to honor the Goddess in the form we have chosen. We intentionally do not name a ritual in a traditional way (i.e., honoring Lakshmi and naming the ritual a "puja") unless we have a Priestess specifically trained in that tradition and qualified to perform or lead a traditional rite. We also sit with the Goddess and ask Her permission to be called into our circles.

We are thankful for the permission and participation we have been given by the Elders and Priestesses of various traditions to celebrate Her Her many guises, and we honor Her in whatever form seems to call the most intensely when crafting our twice-yearly ritual series. We invite you to come and experience our rituals for yourself, to feel and participate in the energy of deep love and homage we give to all Goddesses, of all cultures, of all times and places.

I hope you found this answer helpful! Thank you for writing.

Love,
Witchy

Please email Witchy@DaughtersoftheGoddess.com with any Daughters of the Goddess-related questions!