

# Daughters of the Goddess



Fall 2013 - Spring 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.***

**I hele i kauhale, pa'a pu'olo i ka lima.**

*In going to the house of others, take a package in hand.*

*A ritual or ceremonial gift is given to nurture the relationship between giver & receiver in return for Mana ~ Spiritual Energy.*

Our Temple is founded upon the traditions of Hawai'i; it is the heart of what we are. Ho'okupu is a traditional protocol among the Kanaka Maoli 'O Hawai'i (Indigenous people of Hawai'i) that is dictated by hō'ihi (respect) for the host, land, ancestors or gods. It establishes a connection between the giver and the receiver that is culturally appropriate. We practice this tradition in our Temple.

Recently, we made a pilgrimage to the Orange County Goddess Temple; to share, to connect, to share ritual ~ 8 womyn taking time to journey. We arrived early Saturday afternoon to prepare; creating the beautiful altar in the ritual room. Our sacred drumming signaled the beginning of the ritual. As the womyn entered the room they joined my sisters dancing around the altar, swaying, spinning, and smiling; flowing into the space to the rhythms of the drum. The circle was cast and we came together, both Temples as one, around the altar, connecting with the rhythmic energy. To the altar the womyn approached, kneeling or standing to give their prayers. Our Priestess approached and placed upon their shoulders a sacred snake skin imbued with the transformational healing of the animal. We then danced around the altar giving thanks for the gifts; chanting and connecting. And so the evening ritual concluded. We stayed the night in the Temple, held with love by the huge Sekhmet statue and large picture of our Queen Lili'uokalani. They smiled down upon us. The next morning we prepared to attend OCGT's Sunday service and in this ritual several womyn from our Temple approached Ava, High Priestess of OCGT and offered her the gifts we gathered ~ candles, incense, charcoal, TP, and many other things. Surprise showed on the face of our hostess and her Initiates/Priestesses. Our offerings were unexpected. And so we teach through our actions what Ho'okupu means, and we continue to teach about the gifts that we have learned from our Hawaiian foundation



Aloha Daughters of the Goddess,

Many blessings to all of you. This Summer, I had the honor of taking my youngest daughter Eden to the Iolani Palace on O'ahu, Hawai'i. I had been there with my eldest daughter Jade in 2008 with the Huaka'i journey we took with our Kumu Patrick and Hula Halau. The palace was built by King Kalakaua in the late 1800's and was a place of diplomatic, cultural, and political pride. The palace also became a place of discord when the United States began its illegal and continual occupation of the Hawaiian Nation and held the King's sister and successor to the throne, Queen Lili'uokalani, prisoner within the palace walls.

Being in the palace is always a very profound experience for me and I am taken back to a time and place where our Hawaiian culture was honored and revered. As Eden and I made our way through the many rooms and halls with Koa wood floors and carvings, I came across a written plaque with the Hawaiian proverb we are using at the top of this newsletter. I thought it relevant as part of the teaching, to bring an exchange for ritual and ceremony to help educate those who might not have had the same upbringing or understanding of Aloha that I have been gifted with in my lifetime. The saying is deeper than simply bringing a 'hostess gift' when you go to someone's house. It encourages us to always bring something of significance when we visit another's home, temple, ceremony or gathering. Offerings such as these are ideally something of deep worth, meaning or significance, and will continue to bring forth prosperity and spiritual mana and energy to those being given to. Such acts of grace and aloha, are offerings of gratitude/mahalo, as well as an energetic exchange for the gifts/mana/offerings received during the visit/ritual.

To me this energy is also connected to ongoing things I support and give myself to. The offering of the new book Luisah Teish and I have written: [On Holy Ground: Commitment and Devotion to Sacred Lands](#) which is now available through the website is such an example. The pictures from the front and back cover are designed by my daughter Eden and were taken by me while on sacred pilgrimage to Hawai'i. Within the covers, more offerings and stories are shared for our readers to learn more about how to love the land more deeply/Aloha Aina from both a Hawaiian and an African perspective.

How do we continue to let Aloha and Grace be the victorious energies that we embody and perpetuate? It is very important to remember to give and to offer from a place of empowerment, not from victimhood or martyrdom. We do this by offering our Ho'okupu from the heart, because from this place it has the power and beauty of the rainbow, the blessings of the moon and the healing power of the Hawaiian beaches and waters. Open yourself to a life of drinking deeply of wisdom and Aloha and I hope we will be blessed by being in circle together.

Aloha,

Leilani



# Daughters of the Goddess Ritual Schedule

Leilani Birely – Hawaiian Kahuna, Ordained Dianic High Priestess, and Ceremonialist, brings ancient Hawaiian healing and Goddess wisdom to the community. Leilani gives thanks and honor to her teachers: Luisah Teish, Yoruban Chiefess 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. She is a graduate and faculty of the Women's Spirituality Masters Program at the Sofia University.

**OPEN SERIES** ~ These 10 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.

**Friday, November 15th, Celebrate Laksmi Hindu Goddess of Fertility, Abundance, Prosperity, Beauty & Health.** Full Moon in Taurus.

**Monday, December 2nd, Celebrate Mary in all her forms: Stella Maris, Tonantzin, Guadalupe.** New Moon in Sagittarius.

**Friday, December 20th, Celebrate Winter Solstice & Hawaiian Snow Goddess Poliahu.** Waning Moon in Leo.

**Thursday, January 2nd, Celebrate White Buffalo Calf Woman and honor the call of the Peacekeeper.** New Moon in Aquarius.

**Thursday, January 23rd, Celebrate Ma'at Egyptian Goddess of Truth.** Waning Half Moon in Scorpio.

**Tuesday, February 4th, Celebrate in our Annual Temple Dedication celebrating Bridgid, Laka, Artemis.** Waxing Moon in Aries.

**Thursday, March 6th, Celebrate Kunapipi Australian Aboriginal Mother Goddess.** Waxing Moon in Gemini.

**Thursday, March 20th, Celebrate Spring Equinox & Hi'iaka sacred younger sister of Pele.** Waning Moon in Scorpio.

**Saturday, April 5th, Celebrate Kuan Yin, She Who Hears the Cries of the World, Goddess of Compassion.** Waxing Moon in Cancer.

**Monday, April 14th, Celebrate Hina Hawaiian Goddess of the Moon, Tapa & Women's Crafts.** Full Moon in Libra. Total Lunar Eclipse.

**THE TITA SERIES** ~ Full sign-up in the Open Series is required; you must sign up for the entire Tita Series to participate. Women who are Kokua, and/or Temple Dedicants are especially encouraged to attend. Please see below for exchange information.

**Monday, November 25th, Celebrate Alahtin Chumash Goddess of Moon, Night, Health, Healing, Luck & Time.** Waning Half Moon in Virgo.

**Monday, February 24th, Celebrate Sha'taqat Syrian Goddess of Health & Healing.** New Moon in Libra.

**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.

**DAUGHTERS OF THE GODDESS WITCH SCHOOL 2014** Has the Goddess been visiting you in your dreams? Do you long for a deeper understanding of Womyn's Mysteries? Delight in Daughters of the Goddess Witch School, a year of study in the Aloha Dianic Tradition. Beginning in February 2014 the class will gather for one meeting each month (most on Sunday) culminating in the students' Initiation as Dianic Witches in January 2015! If you are interested please contact [Leilani@DaughtersoftheGoddess.com](mailto:Leilani@DaughtersoftheGoddess.com).

**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.com](mailto:Leilani@DaughtersoftheGoddess.com) 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, it 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:

*Newcomer	Exchange: 1st ritual \$15 or 3 for \$45
*1 Open Ritual	\$35/please mail check
*All 10 Open Rituals	\$270/due at first ritual
*Tita Series+10 Open Rituals	\$300/due at first ritual
*Deepening + All Rituals	\$450/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.