

# Temple of Diana

Temple of Diana, Inc. P.O. Box 6425 Monona, WI 53716-0425 Phone: 608-577-7863

## The Spiral Door

Women's Mystery School of Magick and Ritual Arts  
A Training Program for Dianic Priestesses

*with Ruth Rhiannon Barrett, Falcon River,  
Rain Gaia, Firehawk, Medea Wolf and others*

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## The Spiral Door Mystery School (cont.)

### Overview and Who May Apply

#### **Overview:**

When women share a cosmology, common skills, language, and consistent magical practice, they are able to create ecstatic, transformative ritual that is infinitely powerful. This program is specifically designed to train Dianic Wiccan priestesses. The first four years of the Spiral Door curriculum will cover advanced energetic and magical practices, the crafting and use of magical tools, and in-depth ritual creation and facilitation and other related topics, within the context of a matrifocal partnership model of women sharing power. For women who complete this part of the program and intend to seek ordination there will be an additional 1-2 years of mentored independent study. During this time they will be expected to develop, and name, their own unique path of service.

#### **You are invited to apply if you are:**

- Dianic Wiccan Clergy seeking continuing education
- A woman seeking to deepen her experience of Dianic Tradition and spiritual service
- A woman interested in or already on the priestess path
- A woman called to seek Dianic ordination
- A woman who wishes to learn how to work in magical partnership with other women, provide energetic support, and acquire magical skills for use in daily life and within the ritual circle
- A woman who has completed Feminist Witchcraft in the Dianic Tradition class series which is currently offered in Madison, WI, Jackson, MI, and Los Angeles, CA. For more information about this prerequisite, please contact Temple of Diana.

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## The Spiral Door Mystery School (cont.)

### Faculty Philosophy, Primary Faculty

#### **Philosophy of the faculty:**

It is our goal to provide our students with a solid foundation in Dianic Tradition, magical and ritual practices from which to provide spiritual service. Through cognitive and experiential learning, students will stretch and hone their natural abilities. We do not believe in a "just add water" approach to learning. Witchcraft, like any other craft, requires disciplined practice in order to become adept. Participants will learn, develop, and practice demonstrable magick and psychic skills to use in our daily lives and/or in our roles as priestesses to the Goddess and Her women. To be entrusted as keepers of Her traditions, we must learn to effectively and responsibly facilitate Her rites. Our intention is that our students eventually become effective teachers so that Dianic Tradition is perpetuated, and able to evolve and pass on to future generations.

#### **Primary faculty:**

**Ruth Barrett** is a Dianic high priestess with over 25 years experience facilitating ritual with individuals and diverse groups of women. She is a ritualist, educator, musician, and award-winning recording artist of original Goddess-oriented songs. Ruth has been teaching Feminist Witchcraft and ritual-making internationally since her ordination by Z Budapest in 1980. She served as religious director of Circle of Aradia, in Los Angeles from 1993-2000, and co-founded Temple of Diana, Inc. in 2001. She is author of *Women's Rites, Women's Mysteries: Intuitive Ritual Creation* (Llewellyn, 2007).

**Falcon River** is an ordained Priestess of the Guardian Path, woodworker, healer, and clairvoyant working with people and animals since 1983. She grew up in the caves and trees of West Virginia, where as a child she was trained in traditional folk magic and medicine. Falcon studied and apprenticed intensively with Dawna Markova Ph.D., author of *The Open Mind*. This work incorporated perceptual learning styles, Feldenkrais, components of Ki Aikido, Ericksonian hypnotherapy, Rubenfeld synergy, and energetic healing. She has served as guardian for women's circles since 1976, and is passionately committed to awakening women to the guardian path, teaching practical energetic and magical skills.

**Guest Faculty** is comprised of ordained priestesses, specialized, seasoned practitioners and experienced teachers.

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The Spiral Door Mystery School (cont.)

## Program Locations, Dates, Structure, Fees, Application Process

### **Current Program Locations:**

Currently there are three program locations: Madison, Wisconsin, Los Angeles, California and Jackson, Michigan.

### **Dates: Please check the calendar of events on the Temple of Diana site.**

Wisconsin 4 Spiral Door Group

Los Angeles 3 Spiral Door Group (Opening Fall 2009)

Michigan 1 Spiral Door Group (Opening Fall 2009)

### **Group Program Structure:**

Women will participate in a minimum of 12 training days per year structured in six 2-day weekend intensive sessions spread throughout the yearly program cycle, with a long winter break. Sessions run from 9am to 5pm on Saturdays, and 9am to 4pm on Sundays.

Additional practice sessions may be offered in specific locations facilitated by assistant teaching staff, depending on availability of staff, venues and students.

Each group is comprised of 16 (minimum) to 24 women, on a first-come basis.

### **Program Fees:**

Currently, program fees are \$700 for each learning spiral. In addition, faculty airfare and facility rental expenses will be equally distributed among the students. Participants are asked to make a one-year commitment before entering each program Spiral. Flexible payment schedules can be arranged.

### **Application Process:**

Women applying to the Spiral Door must complete, at a minimum the class series, *Feminist Witchcraft in the Dianic Tradition*. After completion of this course, please request an application to the Spiral Door Program. Acceptance into the program is based on three things.

- Your written application.
- Recommendation of the Priestess from whom you took the class, *Feminist Witchcraft in the Dianic Tradition*.
- Mutual agreement between you, (the student) and Ruth and Falcon, (core faculty)..

Women applying to Spiral Door Program do not need to have taken formal Dianic initiation nor chosen a specific path of service.

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## The Spiral Door Mystery School (cont.)

### **What is expected from students enrolled in this program?**

There is a saying, "In a beginner's mind there are many possibilities, in an expert's mind there are few." We invite you to join us for what could be one of the greatest adventures of your life. Bring your beginner's mind and a wide-open heart. It will be challenging, sometimes terrifying, and outrageously fun. You will be stretched to your limits and then some. We will take our often elusive and mysterious natural, magical, and innate abilities, draw them forth and hone them with care. We will never ask you to give a book report or write a term paper. But if we ask you to help hold back the rain, until the ritual is finished, we will know very quickly whether you have done your homework or not. If you do NOT think that it is within the realm of possibility that with practice you can have an effect on weather, local or at a distance, this is NOT the right program for you. If you are NOT able or willing to discuss/debate the moral, ethical and ecological issues surrounding any sort of magical work, this is not the program for you. If you do NOT expect to gain tangible magical skills and do NOT have an interest in doing the hard work it takes to develop those skills this is also NOT the right program for you. Our teachings are NOT symbolic; we take a very practical, tangible approach to the PRACTICE of magick.

We hold our students to a high standard of magical academic excellence and ethical conduct. We will firmly, respectfully, hold you responsible for your actions, word and deed, and we expect you to respectfully hold us responsible for our conduct as well. We will require you to develop a working knowledge of the craft and demonstrate that knowledge in a variety of settings and situations. Our faculty will be there to support you all the way. As each woman discovers her own personal calling, she will be empowered to answer that call.

### **What is Dianic Tradition?**

Dianic Tradition is a Goddess and female-centered, earth-based feminist denomination of Wiccan religion. It is a women's ritual tradition that focuses on the spiritual needs, healing, and empowerment of women and girls. Dianic practice centers on the celebration of Women's Mysteries. By mysteries, we mean the physical, emotional and psychic life cycle passages that women share by having been born with a female body, and other personal rituals including healing rituals to counter the effects of living in patriarchy. Dianic rituals celebrate the earth's seasonal cycles of birth, death and regeneration, as it is reflected in women's own life cycles. Inspired by the nature and aspects of the Roman goddess Diana (and her predecessor, the Greek goddess Artemis) as a protector of women and wild nature, we are committed to finding positive life-affirming solutions for personal and global problems. We vision and strive to create a world where Her web of life, which includes all living things, is honored as the sacred creation of the Goddess.

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The Spiral Door Mystery School (cont.)

## What is a Priestess?

A priestess is a woman who chooses to pursue a path of spiritual service in sacred devotion to the Goddess and Her women.

**All Dianic Priestesses**, no matter what their chosen ministry may be, will benefit from this training. In the Dianic religion, personal and group rituals are our worship services. It is within group ritual circles that women have an opportunity to experience a sense of community, sisterhood, and the facilitated presence of the Goddess. The construction, facilitation, and maintenance of the ritual circle is a form of sympathetic magic which is a metaphor for life on every level.

Therefore, any skill that applies to ritual magic has a direct correlation to all aspects of the priestess path, from the most mundane to the esoteric.

**Many Priestesses** find that their primary calling is to create and facilitate the large group rituals at our public services. Another Priestess may be called to midwifery of the newly born. Others minister to the dying, care for the dead, and escort the soul to the Summerland. Some officiate marriages and union ceremonies, while others facilitate lunar and seasonal rituals, and assist women in creating their own unique rites of passage.

Still others serve through the healing arts and counseling. Some are called to the arts of astrology, divination, music and dance.

Priestess are often writers, some are Goddess scholars, many are visual artists. There are Priestesses who prefer to work with animals, plants, and nature. Some are skilled in ecological preservation and restoration, others are called to facilitating interspecies communication. Others are skilled craftswomen passing on the wisdom of the Crafts of the Craft. There are no limits to the possibilities of paths of service to Goddess and her children. How will you choose to serve Her?

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The Spiral Door Mystery School (cont.)

## Program Overview, Spiral One

### **THE PROGRAM**

Learning Spirals comprise the yearly curriculum. All the topics we cover are not necessarily included in this description. Class sequences change as needed. A woman does not need to be on the priestess path to embark on this training. All students will receive the same educational foundation and magical tools. Each learning Spiral is taught in a multi-sensory experiential environment. A foundational piece of the program is teaching students how to identify, understand and use their personal perceptual learning pattern. Having this personal information about the workings of their own mind, allows for the conscious ability to change from one state of consciousness to another. "Magick is the art of changing consciousness at will." (Dion Fortune) Throughout the program this information is expanded upon to enable students to work more effectively and deeper with others of different learning patterns in magick, ritual, and daily life.

Well into the program, women have the opportunity, if they wish, to choose a specialization defined by their own interests and calling. Through the foundation of skills taught, it is our intention that each woman be fully empowered to answer Her call.

### **SPIRAL ONE: Laying the Foundation**

- Foundation of Dianic Tradition:
  - Cosmology, ethics, daily practice, her-story of Dianic feminist Witchcraft
- Introduction to the practice of magick, ritual, and spellcraft
  - Word and movement magick
  - Knot magick
  - Full and dark moon magick
  - Herb lore
- Introduction to Elemental magick
  - Pathworking
- Introduction to Perceptual Learning Patterns
- Energetics of Magick in a Partnership Model
- Diversity Training and Conflict Transformation

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The Spiral Door Mystery School (cont.)

Spiral Two, Spiral Three

## **SPIRAL TWO: Building Upon and Creating**

- Women's Rites I: Creating Personal Ritual
- Ritual drumming/song and chant/sacred movement
- Elemental Magick II
- Continuing studies in Perceptual Learning Patterns
  - Telepathy
  - Shapeshifting
- Creation and use of sacred tools
- Women's Rites II: Women's blood mysteries and the Wheel of the Year
- Energetic Support in community and ritual guardianship
- Community Service/Spiritual Service

## **SPIRAL THREE: Deepening**

- Women's Rites II: Creating Small Private/Community Group Ritual
- Women's Rites III: Creation and Facilitation of Public Ritual
- Energetics for the Guardian Path
- Practicum in elemental magick (ongoing)
- Practicum in facilitation of public ritual (ongoing)
- The Priestess Path

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The Spiral Door Mystery School (cont.)

## Spiral Four

### **SPIRAL FOUR: Expanding**

- Between the Worlds – magical journeying into other realms
- Advanced elemental magick
- Shapeshifting
- Glamoury
- Interspecies communication
- Projection of will through time and across distance
- Continuing ritual practicum
- Identify and begin to develop a personal ministry

### **Contact Information:**

For more information or specific questions about the Spiral Door programs, please visit the Temple of Diana website at [www.templeofdiana.org](http://www.templeofdiana.org) and use the contact form.

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact:

Ruth Rhiannon Barrett and Falcon River by sending a SASE to:

Temple of Diana, Inc.

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The Spiral Door Women's Mystery School is sponsored by Temple of Diana, Inc. 501 (c ) (3) Tax Exempt religious, educational, and charitable organization.