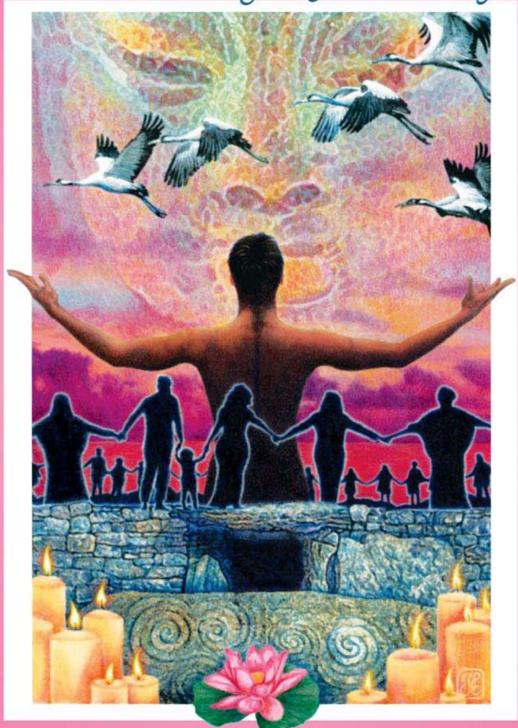
Sage Wolland Celebrating the Goddess in Every Woman



Women & Men

Wisdom Keepers of the Goddess Spirituality Movement Crystal Blanton: Bridging the Gap · The Deeds of Isis Fathers & Daughters · Marriage by the Stars

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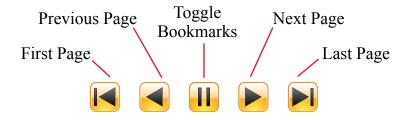


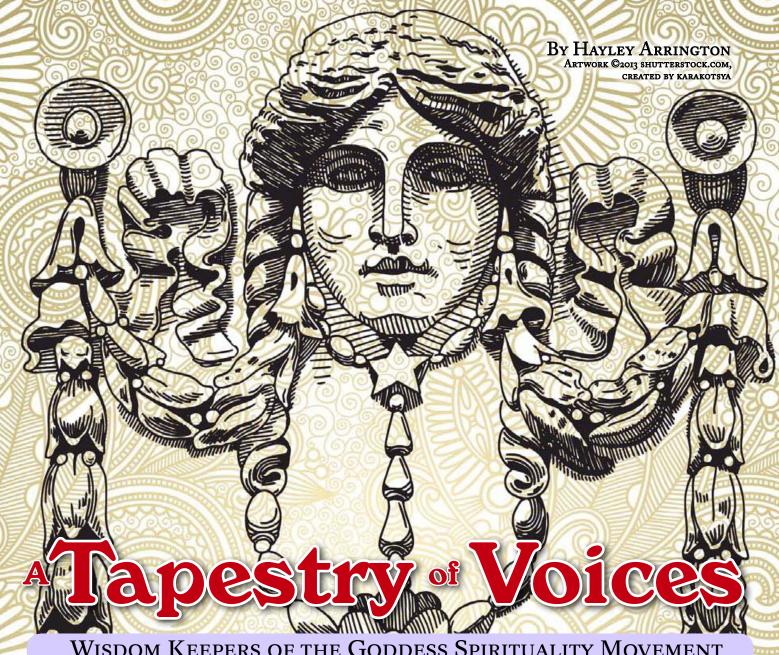




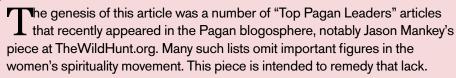
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WISDOM KEEPERS OF THE GODDESS SPIRITUALITY MOVEMENT



For clarity, I have categorized this list chronologically. It is not my intention to bracket any person exclusively into a specific time frame. Many of those listed herein are deceased, and their influence remains; while others remain with us but are known primarily for past work. Within this list, you will see scholars, authors, artists and women (and a few men) of all walks of life, chosen specifically for their influence on Women's Spirituality. Many are Pagan, but not all, as the Goddess movement crosses many thealogical and ideological boundaries. This collection is but the tip of the Goddess' iceberg. It has been quite an experience writing this list. Having to make cuts (simply for space) was hard; so if you think we've missed someone, please drop us a note with your recommendation so we can update this story in future issues.

Pioneers: 19th to mid-20th Century

The mid-to-late 19th and early 20th centuries were a time of social ferment. First Wave feminism contributed greatly to the Spiritualist movement of the 19th century; new Protestant Christian sects offered women opportunities in the pulpit and church leadership, while on the western frontier new states and territories predominantly gave women the right to vote earlier than their eastern cousins. With the ratification of the 19th amendment in 1920, American women could vote, and the sky seemed the limit to their aspirations.

It was within this social climate, amidst a strong yearning for better rights for women that scholarship on women's places in society first really began. Studies of history and religion prior to the turn of the 20th century mostly reflected the viewpoints of men, since few women were members of the academy. The seven people I have chosen for this first section were scholars in their own right, who wrote about women's positions in religion and the formation of culture and, in particular, popularized the new field of matriarchy studies — which became a major influence on the Goddess Movement in the decades to follow.

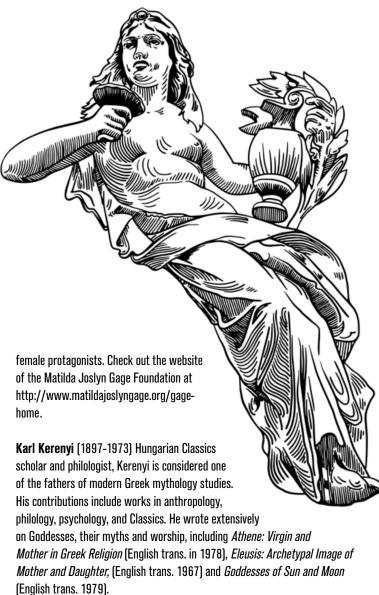
Johann Jakob Bachofen (1815-1887) Swiss antiquarian and anthropologist, Bachofen's great work is *Das Mutterrecht, Mother Right: An Investigation of the Religious and Juridical Character of Matriarchy in the Ancient World.* He is essentially the first proponent of matriarchy; his work posits that society came into being because of the many roles of motherhood. Essentially a cultural evolutionist, he is the wordsmith behind the Golden Age of Matriarchy.

Robert Briffault (1876-1948) New Zealander surgeon, later anthropologist and author. Penned the influential *The Mothers*, considered a germinal work in matriarchy studies.



Matilda Joslyn Gage (1826-1898) American suffragist and author, Gage co-wrote (with Elizabeth Cady Stanton) the three volume *The History of Woman Suffrage*, and contributed to *The Woman's Bible*. She spoke out for revisions to rape laws, treatment of women prisoners, and equal pay for equal work, was also a member

of the Underground Railroad and rallied for Native rights. Additionally, it is believed that she was the first to write about the Witch Craze as a patriarchal construct put in place to persecute women. (A theory included in her 1893 work, *Woman, Church, and the State.*) Gage was the mother-in-law of L. Frank Baum, famous for his children's Oz novels which include many empowered



Erich Neumann (1905-1960) German psychologist, Neumann was a student of Carl Jung and lectured frequently at the C.G. Jung Institute in Switzerland. Neumann's psychological contributions include a deep look at feminine archetypes. Best known for *The Great Mother* (English trans. in 1972).

Jane Ellen Harrison (1850-1928) An English suffragette, Harrison was a classics scholar and archaeologist. Her works on women in ancient Greek religion include some of the first descriptions of the Thesmophoria and other women's rituals. Her books include *Prolegomena to the Study of Greek Religion* and *Themis: A Study of the Social Origins of Greek Religion*, among others.



Robert Graves (1895-1985) An English poet and novelist, Graves wrote *The White Goddess*, which popularized the Triple Goddess motif of "Maiden, Mother, and Crone." One of the most ubiquitous symbols in Goddess culture, this metaphor mirrors the Christian trinity, but characterizes deity — and ways of knowing — through women's life cycles

and embodied experience, www.robertgrayes.org.

Popularizers: 1970s and 1980s

The end of the 1960s was a time of great social change; the women's liberation movement brought awareness to historically suppressed information and paved the way for Goddess-centered spiritualities. With the founding of discussion groups, magazines, and books that looked at women's contributions to religion, myth, liturgy, and worship, the idea that women had specific spiritual needs (as opposed to those of normative males) moved from the rarified atmosphere of the academy into popular culture.

By the 1980s, what had only been hinted at in the 1970s had fully bloomed. This decade saw a huge expansion in the popularity of concepts ranging from matriarchy to Dianic Wicca. The Goddess was back and magick was definitely afoot.

DeAnna Alba (1952-2012) was an organizer, writer, and goddess spirituality leader. Alba helped found Circle Sanctuary in the late 1970s and was a columnist on solitary practice for twenty-two years at *SageWoman* magazine.

Marion Zimmer Bradley (1930-1999), was a science fiction novelist best known for her highly influential novel, *The Mists of Avalon*. Published in 1983, this New York Times bestselling feminist re-envisioning of the Arthurian cycle has introduced concepts of the Goddess and Celtic spirituality to countless women and men. A website in her honor can be found at www.mzbworks.com.



Z Budapest (b. 1940) Hungarian-born feminist Witch, ritualist and activist, Budapest coined the term "Dianic" to describe female-only Goddess worship. Z's creation of the Susan B. Anthony Coven No. 1 in 1978 and writing of *The Feminist Book of Lights and Shadows* (1975) and *The Holy Book of Women's Mysteries* (1989) are among her notable

contributions to the Goddess movement. Her position on trans-gender persons in Dianic culture has brought controversy in recent years. www.zbudapest.com.

The Beltane Papers (1984-2011). Founded by Helen Farias during the 1980s. In 1991, Waverly Fitzgerald, Joanna Powell Colbert, and a collective of women joined with Helen to publish the title. After Helen's death in 1994, TBP was led by Marione Thompson-Helland and Lise Quinn. http://thebeltanepapers.net/

Susan Seddon Boulet (1941-1997) Brazilian-born artist Boulet's paintings have been iconic in goddess-oriented visual culture since the early 1970s.

Judy Chicago (b. 1939) is a feminist artist known for her large collaborative art installations examining the role of women in history and culture. Chicago's most well-known work is *The Dinner Party* (1974); her later installations have reinforced her preeminent position as a feminist artist. www.judychicago.com.



Carol Christ (b. 1945) Author of the classic essay "Why Women Need the Goddess," Christ co-edited the anthology Womanspirit Rising (1979) and has written five books on Goddess thealogy. Christ has lived in Greece since 1987 and leads women's goddess-oriented pilgrimages there. www.goddessariadne.org.

Mary Daly (1928-2010) Radical lesbian eco-feminist, educator, and scholar, Mary Daly was the author of numerous feminist works and critiques of patriarchal religion, most notably *Beyond God the Father* (1973) and *Gyn/Ecology* (1978). She wrote non-apologetically about patriarchal subjugation of women, and was famous for her rejection of all forms of patriarchal religion.

Max Dashú (b. 1950) Dashu founded the Suppressed Histories Archives in 1970; in the four decades since its inception, she has collected over 30,000 images. Dashu's themes include shamanism, women's power, the European witchcraze and ancient (and modern) matriarchies and global women's histories and heritages. www.suppressedhistories.net.

Riane Eisler (b. 1937) Best-known in the Goddess community for her international best-seller *The Chalice and the Blade*, Eisler is a scholar, writer, and social activist. Her work draws substantially on matriarchy studies, though she notably advocates for what she terms a "partnership" framework which moves beyond gender essentialism. www.rianeeisler.com.



Marija Gimbutas (1921-1994) A Lithuanian-born archaeologist and scholar, Gimbutas created an evolutionary methodology she termed archaeo-mythology, that combined mythology, archaeology, anthropology, philology, religious studies, and history. Gimbutas' work

on what she dubbed Old Europe included extensive research on matrilineal prehistoric societies. Her most well-known books *The Goddesses and Gods of Old Europe* (1974); *The Language of the Goddess* (1989), and *The Civilization of the Goddess* (1991), remain immensely popular in the Goddess spirituality community. www.opusarchives.org/gimbutas_overview.shtml.

Naomi R. Goldenberg, Ph.D. Dr. Goldenberg specializes in religions and gender, religion and pop culture, and religion and psychoanalysis and is best known in Goddess circles for her book *Changing of the Gods: Feminism and the End of Traditional Religions* [1979]. naomigoldenberg.com.

Judy Grahn (b. 1940) Poet, playwright, and social theorist, Grahn helped to found lesbian feminist presses in the 1960s. Her most significant work in the field of women's spirituality is her 1993 book *Blood, Bread, and Roses* which posited that menstruation created human culture. www.judygrahn.org/.

Judith Laura (b. 1942) is a ritualist, author and thealogian. A prolific author, her first rituals were published in the journal *WomanSpirit* in 1978. Her articles have also appeared in *The Beltane Papers, Matrifocus, SageWoman,* and *Voices of Women.* Laura champions the evolution of Goddess spirituality into a legitimate religion with a concern for inclusiveness in language and practice. Her most recent nonfiction book is *Goddess Matters.* www.iudithlaura.com.

Asphodel Long (1921-2005) was a British writer, activist, and academic; a founding member of several groups dedicated to matriarchy studies, Long was known primarily in UK Goddess circles for her work in re-discovering Wisdom Goddesses in Hebrew and Near Eastern traditions. www.asphodel-long.com.

Audre Lorde (1934-1992) Acclaimed African-American poet, Audre Lorde was a feminist, lesbian, and African American woman. She published ten volumes of poetry, five of prose, and helped to popularize the orisha, in particular Yemanjá, among feminist circles. She received many awards during her lifetime, and at the time of her death was the New York State Poet. www.alp.org.



Shekhinah Mountainwater (1939-2007) Priestess of Aphrodite, Dianic musician, tarotist, and author, Shekhinah Mountainwater was a mother of the early Goddess Movement. Her 1991 book *Ariadne's Thread* is her best-known work, www.shekhinah.net.

Ruth and Jean Mountaingrove (b. 1923 and 1925, respectively) published *WomanSpirit* Magazine — one of the first, and most influential, lesbian, feminist, goddess magazines — from 1974 to 1984. [*SageWoman's* original publisher, Carol SheBear, credits *WomanSpirit* as her inspiration.] http://nwda.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv51562.

Ffiona Morgan (b. 1943) Creator of the popular women-based tarot deck, *Daughters of the Moon Tarot*, Morgan is also a ritualist, astrologer, and author. www.daughtersofthemoon.com.

Vicki Noble (b. 1947) co-creatrix with **Karen Vogel** of *The Motherpeace Tarot*, a ground-breaking deck which brought imagery of women and goddesses to a wide audience. Vicki has written many books about the Motherpeace tarot, the shamanic powers of women, and Goddess studies. www.motherpeace.com.

Of a Like Mind Magazine (1983-?) **Jade River** and **Lynnie Levy** co-founded this widely-distributed magazine of Dianic and goddess culture as the voice of the Reformed Congregation of the Goddess, a legally-recognized Dianic church. RCGI continues its work today. http://www.rcgi.org.

Judith Plaskow (b. 1947) co-founded the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* in 1985, authored the first book on feminist Judaism, and has contributed immensely to feminist religious studies. manhattan.edu/faculty/

Rise Up and Call Her Name (by Elizabeth Fisher, 1995) and Cakes for the Queen of Heaven (Shirley Ranck, 2006) authored these ground-breaking Unitarian Universalist religious education curriculums focusing on feminist spirituality and woman-honoring traditions. www.uuwr.org.

Charlene Spretnak (b. 1946) Author, eco-feminist, and activist Spretnak is best-known in the goddess movement for her 1978 book *Lost Goddesses of Early Greece: A Collection of Pre-Hellenic Myths* (1978) as well as for editing *The Politics of Women's Spirituality: Essays on the Rise of Spiritual Power within the Feminist Movement* (1982), www.charlenespretnak.com.

Monica Sjöö (1938-2005) Acclaimed Swedish painter, eco-feminist, and author, Sjöö painted the Goddess in Her many forms. Her most famous painting, "God Giving Birth" was a sensation (and a scandal) when it was unveiled in 1968. She is also known for her book *The Great Cosmic Mother*, co-written by Barbara Mor. www.monicasjoo.com.



Starhawk (b. 1951) A prolific writer and fervent activist, her best-selling *The Spiral Dance: A Rebirth of the Ancient Religion of the Great Goddess* (1989) combined feminist thought and Wicca and was instrumental in creating modern popular witchcraft. She co-founded the Reclaiming tradition and is

known for combining witchcraft with political action, www.starhawk.org.

Diane Stein (b. 1948) is a prolific author, writing many of the early classics of women's spirituality, including *The Women's Spirituality Book* (1986), *The Kwan Yin Book of Changes* (aka *The Woman's I Ching*) (1986) and *Casting the Circle* (1990), and concentrating on women's health, spiritual healing, and reiki. www.dianestein.net.

Merlin Stone (1931-2011) Merlin Stone was an artist and professor of art history, best known for her book *When God was a Woman* (1978.) Stone believed there was a prehistoric matriarchal religion that was destroyed by patriarchal Indo-Europeans. She was also widely known for *Ancient Mirrors of Womanhood* (1990. www.merlinstone.org.

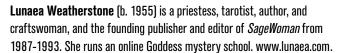
Genevieve Vaughn (b. 1939) pioneered the concept of the gift economy (a facet of matriarchal studies) when she founded The Foundation for a Compassionate Society in 1987. In 1993, she founded The Temple of Goddess Spirituality dedicated to Sekhmet in Nevada. www.gift-economy.com.



Alice Walker (b. 1944) is an internationally celebrated author, poet, and activist whose books include seven novels, four collections of short stories, four children's books, and volumes of essays and poetry. She's best known for *The Color Purple*, her 1983 novel for which she won the Pulitzer Prize and the

National Book Award. http://alicewalkersgarden.com.

Susun Weed (b. 1946) is an American herbalist, author, and director of the Wise Woman Center. Known for her writing and teaching of the "Wise Woman Way" of herbalism, her teachings emphasize women's intuitive knowledge as a source of spiritual wisdom and healthy living and have influenced generations of women to experience the Goddess. www.susunweed.com.



Marion Woodman (b. 1928) Canadian author, poet, and Jungian analyst, Woodman's best known for her books on women's psychology. Her organization, the Marion Woodman Foundation, strives to reawaken body consciousness, mwoodmanfoundation.org.

Remodelers and Renewers: 1990 - Present.

The last quarter-century has seen many triumphs for the Goddess movement. We are freer than ever to proclaim ourselves "Pagan" or Witches, and we have Goddess fairs and temples all around the world.

Political feminism has also made great strides, which has led some to wonder if gender-specific spiritual paths are still necessary in a (supposedly) post-gender world. Foundational ideas of women's spirituality, including gender essentialism (the belief that women are spiritually different than men) are being increasingly questioned. Will the Goddess movement fade into the past, a victim of generational die-off, or will new voices arise and bring us into an increasingly complex world? Whether our communities will have the wisdom to honor the past while finding the flexibility to adapt to an uncertain future is a question only the Goddess of Time can answer.

Paula Gunn Allen (1939-2008) Laguna Pueblo/Metis American author, professor, and lesbian activist. The main focus of her writing was on the Divine Feminine, including the assertion before the coming of Europeans all Native tribes had been matriarchal. www.paulagunnallen.net.



Lynn V. Andrews (b. 1940) New Age author, Andrews' popular *Medicine Woman* series has brought many into an awareness of feminine spiritual authority. http://lynnandrews.com.

Chandra Alexandre, Ph.D., (b. 1967) is a priestess dedicated to Kali, and the founder of SHARANYA, a spiritual community dedicated to engaged spirituality for social justice and transformation. www.sharanya.org.



Barbara Ardinger, Ph.D. (b. 1941) is the prolific author of many books on Goddess spirituality and Pagan subjects. Barbara is best known for her snarky, humorous, yet everso-true creation of new archetypes, *Found Goddesses*. www. barbaraardinger.com.

Ruth Barrett (b. 1954) A Dianic High Priestess and musician, Barrett cofounded the Circle of Aradia and, (with Falcon River) the Temple of Diana, a national Dianic organization. Her position on transgender persons in Dianic culture has brought controversy in recent years. www.dancingtreemusic.com.

Crystal Blanton is a popular blogger, Wiccan priestess, journalist and author specializing in bringing forth the voices of people of color working in magical communities and their spiritual practices. http://crystalblanton.com

Geraldine Charles (b. 1952) is the founder and editor of *Goddess Pages* magazine. She is also a Priestess of the Goddess and a founding member of the Glastonbury Goddess Temple. http://www.goddess-pages.co.uk.

Joanna Powell Colbert (b. 1952) is an artist, author, teacher, and mentor, best known as the creatrix of the Gaian tarot. www.gaiansoul.com.

Mary Condren Th.D. Irish academic Condren has published widely on issues of feminism and religion. She is the author of *The Serpent and the Goddess: Women, Religion, and Power in Celtic Ireland.* http://www.tcd.ie/cgws/staff/mcondren.php.

Elizabeth Cunningham (b. 1953) is the author of *The Maeve Chronicles*, a series of novels featuring the feisty Celtic Magdalen. Cunningham's novels bring a feminist and goddess-inspired point of view to the "Jesus had a wife" genre. elizabethcunninghamwrites.com.

Sorita d'Este (b. 1974) is an author, folklorist, and prominent Priestess of Wicca and owner of a goddess-oriented publishing company, Avalonia. She is the founder of the Covenant of Hekate, an international organization dedicated to the Goddess Hekate as the Cosmic World Soul. http://sorita.co.uk.

Waverly Fitzgerald (b. 1959) is a writer and teacher best-known in Goddess circles for her book *Slow Time: Reclaiming the Natural Rhythms of Life*, and her online course "Living in Season." www.waverlyfitzgerald.com.

Elinor Gadon (b. 1925) American cultural historian and professor, Elinor Gadon studies the intersection amongst myth, gender, and image. Her best known work is *The Once and Future Goddess: A Symbol for Our Time* (1989).

Francesca De Grandis (b. 1949) a long-time teacher of Goddess spirituality and founder of her own Faerie spirituality tradition, the Third Road. She is best known for her book *Be a Goddess! A Guide to Celtic Spells and Wisdom for Self-Healing, Prosperity and Great Sex* [1998]. www.stardrenched.com.

Heide Goettner-Abendroth (b. 1941) Feminist and matriarchal scholar Goettner-Abendroth founded HAGIA: International Academy for Matriarchal Studies and Matriarchal Spirituality in 1986 and organized the First World Congress on Matriarchal Studies in 2003. http://www.goettner-abendroth.de.

Donna Henes (b. 1945) Mama Donna is a feminist activist, ritualist and spiritual teacher specializing in multi-cultural ritual celebrations. She is also known for promoting the Queen aspect of the Goddess. http://donnahenes.net.



Ubaka Hill is a nationally-recognized musician, drummer and poet, founder of the Million Women Drummers Gathering 2013, the Drumsong Institute Museum Archives, and music director of the National Drumsong Orchestra and the ShapeShifters. www.ubakahilldrumsong.com

International Council of Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers (convened 2004) This Council meets every year to support world peace and the end of the destruction of Mother Earth. http://grandmotherscouncil.org.

Kathy Jones (b. 1947) is a Priestess of Avalon, teacher of priestesses, co-founder of the Glastonbury Goddess Temple, and organiser of the fabulous Glastonbury Goddess Conference. www.kathyjones.co.uk.

Candace Kant Ph.D. (b. 1945) teaches courses in Goddess Spirituality at the Temple of Goddess Spirituality Dedicated to Sekhmet and is co-founder (with Anne Key) of Goddess Ink. www.goddessinstitute.org.

Anne Key Ph.D., is a ceremonialist and priestess at the Temple of Goddess Spirituality dedicated to Sekhmet, located in Nevada, from 2004-2007. www.goddessinstitute.org.

Sue Monk Kidd (b. 1948) An American writer, Kidd's bestselling book, *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter* (2006) chronicles her spiritual awakening to the Divine Feminine. www.suemonkkidd.com

Karen L. King, Ph.D. (b. 1954) A Harvard academic, King's work is popular in goddess circles for her emphasis on Mary Magdalene. http://www.hds. harvard.edu/people/faculty/karen-l-king.

Ann Kreilkamp Ph.D. (b. 1946) Visionary, activist, and writer, Ann is known for her work in reactivating the Crone archetype. http://exopermaculture.com.

Yeshe Rabbit Matthews, Pan-Dianic priestess and foundress of CAYA (Come As You Are Coven), Rabbit is best-known for her break with other Dianics on transgender participation in female-only rituals. http://cayacoven.org.



Patricia Monaghan (1946-2012) Irish-American poet and scholar Patricia Monaghan was a beloved leader in the Goddess community and wrote over a dozen books in Goddess studies. www.patricia-monaghan.com.

Anne Newkirk Niven (b. 1959) has been an editor and publisher (with her husband Alan) of Pagan and Goddess media since 1990, including *SageWoman, Witches&Pagans, Crone,* and the blog portal PaganSquare. www.bbimedia.com.

Ava Park priestess and founder of Goddess Temple of Orange County in 2002. It was one of the first contemporary Goddess temples, and still continues its work today. www.goddesstempleoforangecounty.com.

Nancy Passmore (b.1950) has been the publisher of *The Lunar Calendar*, a non-Gregorian calendar of women's spirituality inspired by *The White Goddess* by Robert Graves, since 1976. www.thelunapress.com.

Diana Paxson (b. 1943) is an author, ritualist, seer, and Pagan leader known in Goddess circles for creating the Liturgy of the Lady (performed for more than twenty years. www.diana-paxson.com

Anique Radiant Heart (b. 1947) is an Australian priestess and singer, best-known for organizing Goddess gatherings in Australia and around the world. www.goddess.net.au.

Layne Redmond (b. 1952) Drummer, composer, author, and filmmaker, Layne is best known for her book *When the Drummers Were Women: A Spiritual History of Rhythm.* www.layneredmond.com.

Marguerite Rigoglioso, Ph.D. (b.1962) Scholar/
practitioner of the ancient Mediterranean mystery
traditions, Rigolioso is the author of *The Cult of Divine Birth in Ancient Greece*, (2011) and *Virgin Mother Goddesses of Antiquity* (2013). www.
sevensistersmysteryschool.com

Karen Tate (b. 1957) is a radio host, author, and activist known for her book *Sacred Places* of *Goddesss:108 Destinations* (2006) and her podcast "Voices of the Sacred Feminine." www. karentate.com.

Cheryl Straffon is the author of several books including *Pagan Cornwall: Land of the Goddess*, *The Earth Goddess*, and *Daughters of the Earth*, and editor of the

magazines Meyn Mamvro and Goddess Alive! www.goddessalive.co.uk.



Luisah Teish (b. 1948) An Oshun chief in the Yoruba Lucumi tradition, Teish gained widespread fame for her bestselling Jambalaya: The Natural Woman's Book of Personal Charms and Practical Rituals (1988.) She is a community leader, organizer,

ritualist and gifted oracle reader. www.luisahteish.com.

Nancy Vedder-Schultz Ph.D. (b. 1947) An academic thealogian, Vedder-Schultz received a Feminist Theology Award from the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation to record *Chants for the Queen of Heaven*, a CD of Goddess chants from around the world. www.mamasminstrel.net.

WeMoon (b. 1981) The iconic feminist datebook, astrological moon calendar, and visionary collection of women's creative work has been a part of goddess culture for over 30 years. www.wemoon.ws. @



HAYLEY ARRINGTON was born and raised in the greater Los Angeles area. Her master's thesis is entitled "Celtic Solar Goddesses: From Goddess of the Sun to Queen of Heaven." Recently initiated into the Twilight Wiccan Tradition, she is an active member of Twilight Spiral Coven. She and her husband. David. live in Whittier.