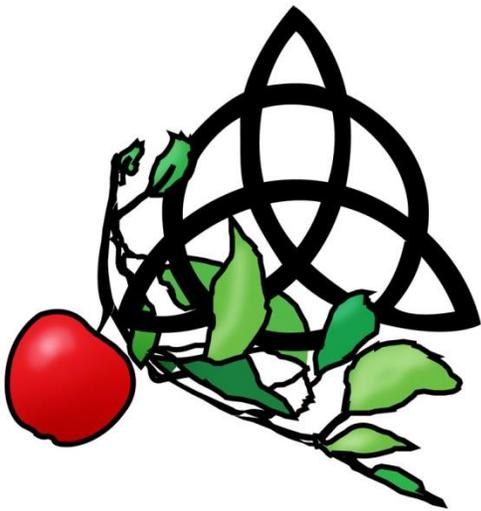


# The Apple Branch

## Feminist Dianic Wicca



### Priestess Mentoring Program

## Overview

Our Feminist Dianic Wicca Mentoring Program is open to all Women who wish to study in the Tradition of Feminist Dianic Wicca as originated by Z Budapest and receive clergy certification as a Priestess in the Tradition after satisfactory completion of the prescribed classes.

Service to the Goddess and to humanity is an important part of our life and character. We believe that there are many paths to enlightenment and to truth...no one path is "better" than another. All have validity. As such women of the Apple Branch serve in a variety of ways. All are trained to assist others in life passages. There are those who specialize in the healing arts. They may be teachers, counselors and artists. There are those who serve as "edge walkers" and who specialize in the awareness of and use of energy. Regardless of the specialty, all work with the natural order of life, in balance and harmony with all.

Magic is viewed as a potential for creation, a potential that exists within all things... living and non-living. We draw upon this energy and the energy within ourselves to bring into manifestation that which is needed for the highest good of all. We give thanks and offerings respectfully as we know that we still have much to learn.

Specialties may include, but are not limited to: Ritual Priestess, Guardian Priestess, Healer Priestess, Temple Priestess, Creative Priestess (writing and the arts), Eco-Spiritual Priestess (environmental), etc.

All women will follow the prescribed course for Feminist Dianic Wicca Priestess Mentoring, as well as chose whatever studies in her specialty. She may have more than one focus area if she chooses.

This is the list of classes currently being offered to women in this program:

### **Dancing With Goddess**

Introductory course for those just having found Goddess. The course gives the basic every beginning witch must know!

### **Feminist Dianic Wicca**

This is a class on the basics as presented by Z Budapest in her book The Holy Book of women's Mysteries. This is required of all women prior to initiation.

### **Working with the Elements**

Exploratory course working with the Four Elements – within and without – Be-coming!

## **Feminism 101**

Exploration of the feminist movement and the basics of feminism.

## **Book Studies – included with mentoring fee – you read these and do a report**

A definitive look at books written by prominent figures in women's spirituality

Z Budapest, Vicki Noble, Starhawk, Carol Christ, Dana Eilers, Oberon Zell-Ravenheart, M. Macha NightMare, Charlene Spretnak, Wendy Griffin, Cynthia Eller, Merlin Stone, Marija Gimbutas, Jean Shinoda Bolen, Shekhinah Mountainwater, Phyllis Curott, Patricia Monaghan, Ruth Barrett, Dawna Markova, bell hooks

## **Feminist Ritual Theology**

In this class we look at the task of re-making the world as a more just expression of human life through ritual – how to connect lives – work - politics- and spiritual strivings. We will examine feminism and religious ritual, social justice and spirituality, integrating them into a vision and practice of feminist ritual theology.

## **Ritual in Feminist Craft**

This course will look at ritual structure within goddess worship, tools, and consecration of tools. This is specific to Dianic Craft.

## **Wisdom of Menstruation**

This course helps you to understand how cultural attitudes affect women's health. You will learn to identify the different phases of your cycle and develop the ability to process feelings and emotions associated with your cycle.

## **Patterns of Natural Intelligence**

Learn to unlock the patterns of your natural intelligence for insight, creativity and better communication.

## **Women's Rites of Passage**

Explore the Dance of Women's Moontime Cycle. The Women's Rites of Passage program uses a large format workbook containing two comprehensive sections: one on the Mysteries of Menstruation and the second on the Mysteries of Menopause with accompanying journal pages. We will explore detailed ceremonies to adapt, complete with musical annotations to honor the various phases of womanhood.

## **Earth Path**

Working with Starhawk's book *Earth Path* as well as her audio CD package *Earth Magic*, we will use awareness exercises, inspiring meditations and magical rituals, teaching respect for the natural world and how to spiritually connect with and channel the powers inherent in nature.

## **Exploring Sensory Awareness**

This course is designed to help a person explore techniques for expanding sensory awareness for the purpose of engaging in full body experience. The human body is designed to utilize all

senses. The study includes an appreciation for nature, in fact, a return to nature. The exercises will explore sensory perception with trees, plants, stones, and animals and other life forms around us. Awareness of our inclusion within the web of life will be stressed and the benefits of becoming more attuned with nature will be explored. Engaging in full-body awareness with all of life will broaden our appreciation of the “whole” and our inter-connectedness to the web of life.

### **Guided by the Moon**

Learn how to live by the phases of the moon. Learn how the moon phases affect everything we do.

### **Menstrual Magic**

Learn to use your menstrual cycle to achieve success and fulfillment. This course is primarily for women who bleed. However, it can be taken by women who do not and the same information can be used in two ways. A non-bleeding woman can apply this information to the lunar cycle, using the energies prevalent under the phases or she can find her own cycles of ebb & flow in her energy levels, which may not run on a 28 day cycle.

### **Mysteries of the Dark Moon**

We will seek to uncover the secret of the moon’s mysterious dark phase by exploring the mythical, psychological, and spiritual symbolism of lunar darkness.

### **Intro to Magic**

This course will guide you through the basic steps involved in magic/spellcasting and give you an understanding of the purpose and how it works.

### **Introduction to Green Witchcraft**

In this course you will learn how to walk the path of the green witch, working in harmony with nature as well as how to create sacred spaces that will help you make your home a protected, powerful place.

### **Introduction to Hedgecraft**

In this course you will learn how to walk the path of the hedge witch, learning how to create sacred spaces that will help you make your home a protected, powerful place.

### **Ritual & Liturgy for Neo-Pagan Groups**

This course is designed as an intensive in the process of creating and structure ritual and liturgy for Neopagan groups. *Creating Circles & Ceremonies* and *Earth Path*

### **Ethics and Professional Practice for Neo-Pagan Clergy**

This course is designed to empower students seeking leadership roles within Wicca or Goddess-based paths to understand the religious ethics associated with these traditions and to be able to appropriately negotiate ethical dilemmas that emerge within such a profession. Further students will gain a definition of the parameters of professional practice and identity.

### **Energetic Boundaries**

In this course we will explore the concept of setting healthy personal boundaries as well as heal those already set that keep us from leading productive lives. We can create these boundaries and then selectively allow only what energies, people, guidance, situations, opportunities and healing into your life that you desire.

### **Psychic Self-Defense**

The art of psychic protection is an ancient skill found in every time, place and culture. Throughout the history of the world, ordinary people have been careful to observe wise customs and maintain boundaries between themselves and spiritual harm. This course will bring understanding and give you methods to employ to relieve psychic disturbance from your life.

### **The Goddess, Her Myths and Symbols \$25**

This course explores the concept of the Goddess or Female Deity Principal through myth and the associated symbols.

### **History of Goddess Worship**

This course will look at the archaeological and anthropological research of Goddess worship in pre-history and antiquity, competing theories will be explored.

### **Weaving Magical Webs**

This is a short mini course on weaving magical webs.

### **The Triple Goddess Archetype**

This course will explore in-depth the guiding themes of Goddess tradition associated with the image of the Triple Goddess. It will look at both the theological implications and personal application in daily life.

### **Sacred Groves**

Sacred Groves: Creating and Sustaining Neopagan Covens is an in-depth exploration of the role of groups within Neopagan religious practice.

### **Teaching Children in Pagan Traditions**

Here we explore the many ways in which we may teach our children pagan values, views and perspectives on life.

### **The Use of Thought Forms in Magical Practice**

Learn about as well as how to create and use magical thought forms.

### **Death & Dying**

An exploration of pagan views on death and dying and ways in which to honor a passing.

### **Crystals & Gemstones**

Working with gemstones and crystals will allow you to learn about our stone family and how they can assist us in life. The course includes getting to know them, choosing them for magical, spiritual and healing work and how to keep them strong and healthy.

### **Crystals and Gemstone Magic**

Learn the magical uses of crystals and gemstones as well as how to use them for divination.

### **Pagan Sabbats - Mentoring Program Only**

This course will explore in-depth the historical, symbolic and philosophical meanings of all eight Sabbats in Wicca. Course follows a full-year cycle to carry students through all 8 celebrations. Students attend online worship services and also craft their own celebrations.

### **Pagan Esbats - Mentoring Program Only**

This course explores the role of Moon celebrations within Wicca; students attend at least 2 online Esbats during the semester of study and also are provided with practical experience in crafting Esbat rituals.

### **Spiritual Mentoring**

Learn what is involved in becoming a spiritual mentor and the knowledge required to assume this role.

### **Intro to Divination**

An introduction to various types of divination to use for insight into our spiritual development.

Women attend our online Feminist Dianic Rites (all women - regardless of which program - attend these). They fall near the 8 Sabbats and are all based on Women's Mysteries as well as Full Moon Esbats honoring our goddesses throughout the year.

This program is entirely online. It is a combination of an online classroom setting as well as a Yahoo Group for conversation. There is a \$40 fee which covers all Apple Branch Classes for FDW and mentoring services established to guide you through the process. For further information, please contact Bendis (clergy@applebranch.org). Please be aware that class size is limited, so act now if this is for you!

## **Initiation**

Initiation Rites will be held at Imbolc for all new incoming students. Important to register now if you are interested.

## **Ordination**

Those students who are interested in ordination as priestesses must complete the appropriate classes. Qualification will be determined by the student's spiritual, intellectual, emotional, personal and professional readiness. Such readiness will be determined by your mentor and/or Bendis, Mother of our Tradition.

By the time the work is completed, each student will have done the work of the Tradition and will be considered for ordination.

The Apple Branch does not offer the title of high priestess in Feminist Dianic Witchcraft until such time that the work of the priestess is wide-spread and she holds a broader scope for her work than just at a local level. It is offered in recognition of her contributions to the Dianic Tradition.