

Tonight, we honor Ganesha, the ever-blissful, elephant-headed deva known as "Lord of Beginnings" in the Hindu religion. For this reason, Hindus worship Ganesha before beginning any religious, spiritual, or worldly activity. Transcending religion, Ganesha is loved throughout the world and is revered as the "Lord of Obstacles" as He represents the power that removes obstacles and ensures success in human endeavors.



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2012 Rituals

Hallows Eve October 27, 2012

***Remember your tax-deductible donations
keep the temple doors open
and our work growing and thriving.***

**For information about Temple of the Goddess go to:
www.TempleoftheGoddess.org**



Celebrating the Seasons:
Autumn Equinox
September 22, 2012



Ganesha

"The seasons and all their changes are in me."
-Henry David Thoreau.

Autumn Equinox Ritual

Enter the Temple in Sacred Space

Pre-Ritual Activity: What are the obstacles blocking you from living a life of fulfillment? *Go To Ganesha's Altar:* Leave the burden of obstacles, worries, or endeavors that seek to overwhelm you at Ganesha's feet.
Altar Priestess: Caitlin

Welcoming/Grounding Prayer – Xia

Opening - Animus by Wendy Rule
Sung by Ananda
with Temple Musicians

All Things Change by Kan'Nal
Sung by Goddess Choir
with Temple Musicians
Dancer: CandyJo Dahlstrom

Guiding Principles of Temple of the Goddess
Led by Kamala (Page 4)
Gong: Ananda, Lighting Altar Candles – Xia

Casting the Circle
Zero by Wendy Rule
Sung by Ananda, Temple Musicians

East	Mnajdra & Lianna
South	Laura
West	Kamala
North	Kitty
Center	Pythia

I am Changing, Evolving, Ever-Renewing.
Spoken Word Goddess Liturgy
Call and Response (Text– Page 5)

Celebrant: Briana
People: **I am Changing, Evolving, Ever-Renewing.**

Cauldron of Changes by Lindie Lyla
Sung by Goddess Choir with Temple Musicians

The Mabon by Damh The Bard
Sung by Ananda and Patrick Cleary

Ganesha: Remover of Obstacles and Lord of Beginnings, Written and Directed by: Xia
Storyteller: Christine, Aapti: Haize; Ganesha: Briana,
Soundscape: Ananda

Facilitators

Adele Shakal	Ananda
Anya Bershatsky	Bodhi Rosen
Briana Murray	Brita Richardson
Caitlin	CandyJo Dahlstrom
Carolyn Potter	Christine Papalexis
Essence Williams	Haize Hawke Rosen
Ira Bershatsky	Isis Silva
Joanne Elliott	Kamala
Kitty McCormick	Lianna Nakashima
Mark Bershatsky	Mnajdra
Nona Sivley	Pythia
Satori Rosen	Xia

Temple of the Goddess Choir

Adele Shakal	Briana Murray
Caitlin	Carolyn Potter
Christine Papalexis	Jennifer Gaillard
Julie Raftery	Kristin Dwan
Kitty McCormick	Laura Jennings
Lianna Nakashima	Mnajdra

Temple Musicians

Patrick Cleary, Ananda

Music & Choir Director: Ananda

Ritual Producers: Pythia, Xia

Ritual Planners: Xia, RA, Pythia, Ananda, Caitlin,
Adele, Kamala, CandyJo

Ritual Art Directors: Ruth Ann Anderson & Adele Shakal

Altar Artist: Caitlin

Sacred Giveaway by: Mnajdra, Pythia, Xia, Kamala
Sets, Costumes, And Make-up, Masks (SCAMM): RA,
Adele Shakal, CandyJo Dahlstrom, Nona Sivley

Lighting: Briana Murray, Nona Sivley

Goddess Throne Created by: Fenton & Nancy Ann Jones

Media Director: Charles "Beautyseer" Elliott

Social Network Director: Joanne Elliott

Media Director: Caitlin

Media Artists: Charles Elliott, Les Nakashima, Roger Nolan

Temple of the Goddess Liturgy Call and Responses

Opening the Circle

Temple of the Goddess Liturgy: Call and Response
Celebrant: Ananda
People: "**Blessed Be You**"

Spirits of Earth, the North	Spirits of Water, the West
We honor your gifts	We honor your gifts
Blessed be You	Blessed be You
Blessed Be You	Blessed Be You

Spirits of Fire, the South	Spirits of Air, the East
We honor your gifts	We honor your gifts
Blessed be You	Blessed Be You
Blessed Be You	Blessed Be You



Words by Ananda
Music: EPITAPH OF SEIKILOS
(Greek Skolion from a Greek grave stele from the first century CE)

Offering Thanks

Temple of the Goddess Liturgy: Call and Response
Celebrant: Ananda
People: "**We Remember You**"

We offer our thanks	In gratefulness
Our hopes and our dreams	In thankfulness
To heal ourselves	To heal ourselves
To heal the Earth	To heal the Earth
We Remember You	We Remember You
We Remember You	We Remember You

Words by Ananda
Music: Classical Liturgy

Ritual Enactment Through Drum & Dance

As the myth comes to an end you will be invited to join us in dance, in movement, or sit in contemplation. Visit Ganesha in His Temple of New Beginnings where He will give you a prayer card to use when you are confronted with obstacles, worries, or endeavors that seek to overwhelm you. Let your mind, heart, and spirit open to guidance for your life's journey as you dance your courage, your strength, your wisdom.

High Hopes by Jimmy Van Heusen & Sammy Cahn

Sung by Goddess Choir & Temple Musicians; Directed by Briana; Dancers/Actors: Mark, Anya, Bodi, Satori, Essence, Isis

Communion - Xia, Communion Cookies provided by The Richardson-Bershatsky Family

"We partake of Her body and give thanks, in remembrance of Her never-ending Circle of Life."

Grounding - Blessing by Donna Hebert

Arranged by Sandi Peaslee
Sung by Goddess Choir
Temple Musicians

Prosperity Blessing - Xia, Everyone

Today, I celebrate my harvest.
I nurture the new seeds I wish to grow.
Mother Earth gives of Herself as we give to Her.
I pray for happiness, wholeness, and abundance for myself and all living beings.
Goddess provides everything.
We feast at a bountiful table,
and we offer this gift in thanks. Blessed Be.

Carry the Flame by Patricia Yates

Arrangement by Jim Scott
Sung by Goddess Choir
Temple Musicians

Benediction - Xia

May we be one with this Moment of Change.

Opening the Circle

Temple of the Goddess Liturgy: Call and Response
Celebrant: Ananda
People: "**Blessed Be You**"

Offering Thanks

Temple of the Goddess Liturgy: Call and Response
Celebrant: Ananda
People: "**We Remember You**"

Merry Meet and Merry Part - Everyone

Traditional

Guiding Principles Temple of the Goddess

- ◆ We believe that every person is the living embodiment of the Divine.
- ◆ We respect that every person is their own spiritual authority and no one can define the Sacred and Divine for any one else.
- ◆ We recognize that there are many paths to the Divine, symbolized by the many “goddesses” and “gods” of all cultures and all lands.
- ◆ We support an ideology and spirituality of partnership of relations based on equality, reciprocity, and caring.
- ◆ Though we recognize the Divine in many forms, the focus of that which we call the Divine is manifested in the feminine as “Goddess”.
- ◆ We respect and love Mother Earth, Gaia, as a sacred entity who is part of and connected to a vast living cosmos. She is immanent in all of nature, life, and the cycles of life.
- ◆ We believe the emergence of the feminine consciousness, in balance with the masculine, is the greatest hope for humanity and the planet.
- ◆ The feminine consciousness is the ability to create, nurture and enhance life.
- ◆ We accept the abundant goodness of creation which purports that all beings are meant to live in joy, love, and harmony.
- ◆ We believe in a morality and ethics in which the primary imperative is to harm none.

I Am Changing, Evolving, Ever-Renewing Spoken Word Goddess Liturgy by Xia Call and Response

Celebrant: Priestess or Priest

People: **I Am Changing, Evolving, Ever-Renewing.**

I am changing, evolving, ever-renewing.
Nature and the Earth are always turning.
I embrace their differences,
for the seasons abide in me.

I Am Changing, Evolving, Ever-Renewing.

I am changing, evolving, ever-renewing.
I surrender to change, let go of the old.
I shed, release and continue to grow.

I Am Changing, Evolving, Ever-Renewing.

I am changing, evolving, ever-renewing.
A seed planted at spring
In the nurturing dark of the soil
Reaching for the light, I become a new form.

I Am Changing, Evolving, Ever-Renewing.

I am changing, evolving, ever-renewing.
In the stark heat of summer,
Toiling with growth, reaching for the sun.
I am maturing, ripening, joyously becoming.

I Am Changing, Evolving, Ever-Renewing.

I am changing, evolving, ever-renewing.
Come Autumn I thrill to the colors of change
Adapting, slowing with the first breath of fall
I look within and honor all that I am.

I Am Changing, Evolving, Ever-Renewing.

I am changing, evolving, ever-renewing.
In the embracing dark of Winter I pause. I wait
Trusting in the stillness of a new creative space.

I Am Changing, Evolving, Ever-Renewing.

I am changing, evolving, ever-renewing.
Holding to courage and the alchemy of change
Awaiting rebirth in the passage of time
The Wheel of Life brings me back
To all that I am.

I Am Changing, Evolving, Ever-Renewing.