

Vicki Noble  
P.O. Box 1558  
Freedom, California USA 95019  
(831)475-2025  
Web address: [www.motherpeace.com](http://www.motherpeace.com)  
Email: [vicki@motherpeace.com](mailto:vicki@motherpeace.com)

### Educational Qualifications

#### Education:

Masters Degree, Creative Inquiry, New College of California, 2007  
BA (Honors), Women's Studies, Colorado College 1975

#### Books Published:

##### *The Double Goddess: Women Sharing Power*

(Inner Traditions/Bear & Co., 2003) A synthesis of archaeology, prehistory, and mythology of ancient Goddess cultures using images and icons of sacred double females from Africa, Asia, and Europe. Special focus on Amazons and the long lineage of female shamanism in Asia, Africa, and Old Europe. Received the 2003 Enheduanna Award for Excellence in Women-Centered Literature. Spanish, French, and Italian publications.

##### *Rituals and Practices With the Motherpeace Tarot Cards*

(Inner Traditions/Bear & Co., 2003) Simple everyday rituals and layouts using the Motherpeace cards; fascinating information on Amazons and oracular priestesses.

##### *Down Is Up For Aaron Eagle: A Mother's Spiritual Journey with Down Syndrome*

(Harper San Francisco, 1994) Personal narrative of raising a child with a disability as a transformational experience, with a focus on natural medicine.

*Uncoiling the Snake: Ancient Patterns in Contemporary Women's Lives* (Harper San Francisco, 1993) Created and orchestrated this anthology of writing and artwork devoted to women's healing and emergent transformations.

##### *Shakti Woman: Feeling Our Fire, Healing Our World (The New Female Shamanism)*

(Harper San Francisco, 1991) Conceptual handbook for contemporary healers, with historical and ethnographic overview; how-to and hands-on procedures; autobiographical. Many printings, translated and published in German, Italian, and Spanish.

##### *Snakepower: A Journal of Contemporary Female Shamanism*

(self-published, 1989) Conceived, designed, developed and self-published quarterly journal on female shamanism, 64 pages, full color. Won *Utne Reader* nomination for Best New Publication.

*Motherpeace Tarot Playbook*

Co-authored with Jonathan Tenney (Wingbow, 1986) Intricate systems of esoteric practices and forms of play using the Motherpeace Tarot Deck.

*Motherpeace: A Way to the Goddess through Myth, Art and Tarot*

(Harper & Row, 1983) The classic Motherpeace text. A scholarly feminist revisioning of world history told through the Motherpeace images. This early intuitive research is now largely corroborated by recent excavations and linguistic evidence. Many printings, re-issued in new cover in 1995; translated and published in German, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian.

*Motherpeace Tarot Deck*

(U.S. Games, Inc., 1983) Conceived, researched, co-published with Karen Vogel, the original full-color, popular feminist deck which sold over 200,000 copies internationally. (Originally self-published in 1981.)

*Circle One: A Woman's Beginning Guide to Self-Health and Sexuality*

(co-edited and self-published 1975 in Colorado Springs under married name Vicki Ziegler) This handbook on women's health was used by feminist gynecological clinics around the U.S.

## Teaching Experience:

2008-2009: Professor, Women's Spirituality masters program, ITP (Institute for Transpersonal Psychology) in Palo Alto, California. Teaching, advising students, working on thesis committees. Facilitating community public healing rituals quarterly.

2005-2009: Teaching in Italy one month each year, transmitting adapted Tibetan Buddhist Dakini practices and Motherpeace courses.

2006-2007: Scholar in Residence, Women's Spirituality masters program, New College of California. Part-time core faculty position, teaching Female Shamanism; redesigning and implementing core course on Archaeomythology; advising students on projects, courses, and thesis management.

1999-present: Conceived, developed and facilitated private three-day tutorials for independent students and clients from U.S. and internationally. Scores of students have studied with me to privately learn healing, shamanism, divination, and adapted Tibetan Buddhist Tantric practices.

2000-present: Conceived, developed and executed several five-day Motherpeace Certification training programs and private tutorials for students from the U.S., Canada, Japan, and Europe.

1992-present: Organized, researched, and led tour and pilgrimage groups of women to Peru, Ireland, England, Bali, Malta, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, and the Aegean Islands. Eclectic interdisciplinary teaching combining history, prehistory, archaeology, and rituals related to each place, utilizing sacred sites, museums, and meetings with archaeologists, local scholars, and native guides.

1992-1998: As adjunct professor, taught graduate college courses on female shamanism, eco-feminism, and divinatory systems in Masters and PhD programs at CIIS (California Institute of Integral Studies) and New College in San Francisco.

1988-present: Taught by invitation in U.S. and internationally on a variety of subjects including Motherpeace, female shamanism, and the Transformational Healing Ritual. Taught at universities, such as San Francisco State (1982) and UCSF Women's Resource Center (1990), and medical centers, such as The Permanente Medical Group in Oakland, CA (1981). Taught frequently at retreat centers in U.S. such as Omega (Rhinebeck, NY), Oasis (Chicago), Interface (Boston), Esalen (Big Sur, California), Rowe Conference Center (New Hampshire), Women of Wisdom Conference (Seattle, WA) and others (1985-present). Taught five-day women's retreats in England, at Grimstone Manor in Devon, for several years in a row (1992-1995). Taught at large women's retreat with twelve other international teachers in the Swiss Alps near Bern (1991); in Santiago, Chile, spring and fall of 1989; in Mexico City (1988). Taught with Native and non-Native teachers at women's retreat in Ontario (1993-1994). Taught at Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (8,000 women) five-day intensives on healing (1999-2001); New England Women's Herbal Conference (1997, 2004). Taught at "Wild & Wise: Women in Celebration of Buddhist Practice" at Spirit Rock, California (1997, 2003).

1987-1991: Established the Motherpeace School for Shamanic Healers in Oakland, California (501C3 not-for-profit). Founding Director of School. Created scholarly and original work in Goddess spirituality and healing for hundreds of women. Designed and taught the 9-month training program intensive on shamanism and healing arts. Developed original model for advanced groups called the Transformational Healing Ritual, which has been presented nationally and internationally at conferences, gatherings, and other large group events up to the present.

1983-1986: Designed and taught courses in Motherpeace and shamanism to men and women in California, Arizona, Oregon, Minnesota, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico.

1981 – 1983: Developed and taught Motherpeace tarot and divinatory systems to men and women in private classes in Berkeley.

1978 – 1981: Developed and taught original form of Lunar Yoga to (mainly) women in Berkeley.

1975: Designed, developed and taught interdisciplinary women's studies course at Colorado College.

1972-1975: Taught women's self-health and sexuality courses, and co-founded feminist gynecological clinic (Women's Health Service of Colorado Springs).

Invited Presentations as Keynote Speaker, Facilitator, and/or Ritualist:

2009: Keynote talk at international conference in Toronto, (A)Mother World is Possible, The Gift Economy and Matriarchal Studies. "The Scientific Underpinnings of Matriarchal (Mother-Based) Social Organization & Gift Economy Behaviors."

2008: Facilitated emergency meeting of IFUN (International Feminist University) Board meeting at Omega Center in New York. Spent five days with members of Board of Directors, facilitating conflict resolution using Motherpeace and adapted Tibetan Buddhist Dakini practices and meditations.

2003: Gather the Women congress in San Francisco (October). Gave talk and presented original adaptation of Tibetan Buddhist Dakini practice.

2000-2005: Mistress of Ceremonies for three "Praises for the World" events held in Oakland, California, and Atlanta, Georgia. Audience of twelve hundred people participated in multicultural ceremony with fifty collaborating artists, musicians, ritualists, and performers.

2002: Keynote Address and presentation of Dakini practice at Pagan Goddess Gathering (Illinois).

2002: Keynote Address and presentation of adapted Tibetan Buddhist Dakini practice at Regional Conference of Unitarian Universalists (Wisconsin).

2002: Spoke by invitation at Harvard Divinity School conference "Religion and the Feminist Movement," which has been published as anthology edited by Ann Braude, *Transforming the Faiths of Our Fathers: Women Who Changed American Religion*. (MacMillan Palgrave, 2004).

1996-present: Presented and facilitated (with drummers, singers, and healers) large community healing rituals to audiences in collaboration with the San Francisco Dance Brigade's performances of "Ballet of the Banshees" (1996-1998), "Cave Women" (1999-2003), and "Spell!" (2004).

1995: Keynote address, "Feeling Our Fire, Healing Our World," at First Annual Goddess Alive! Festival, Santa Barbara, California.

1995: Spoke by invitation at Mt. Holyoke College (public talk, “Transformative Healing,” sponsored by Women’s Studies) and Smith College (invited to speak in theater class regarding shamanism).

1993-present: Keynote Address at Women of Wisdom Conference (Seattle) and Sunday morning sermon in Unity Church. Forthcoming: Presenting keynote at same annual conference, February 2005.

1990: Keynote Address at Mother’s Day Gathering, Nevada Nuclear Test Site, outside Las Vegas, NV.

1989: Conceived, produced, and gave keynote address at large Bay Area Spring Equinox public event, “Healing the Earth: Gaia Reborn,” to benefit Riane Eisler’s Partnership Center. Twelve hundred people participated at Galleria Center, San Francisco, in this collaborative ceremonial event with ritualists, musicians, artists, speakers, and performers, in conjunction with students from the Motherpeace School.

1988: Keynote address and performance of public ritual at ICA Conference (Cuernavaca, Mexico) along with Jean Houston. Performed public ritual on Day of the Dead (November 1<sup>st</sup>) in Mexico City’s Zocalo for hundreds of people (sponsored by Quarto Crecienta, a women’s center in Mexico City).

1988: Invitational talk at Tibetan Buddhist Dharma Center in Santiago, Chile. Subject of talk was “Feminism, Shamanism, and the Tibetan Buddhist Black Dakini.”

1982-1998: Created and implemented unique presentation style and format to involve large audiences and gatherings to experience the subtle energies felt in yoga, ritual, and shamanistic healing. Spoke on radio, television, and at international conferences about women’s health, shamanism, astrology, and Goddess spirituality.

Minister, Religious Facilitator, Spiritual Advisor, Astrologer

1986-present: As a Universal Life Church Minister, I perform legal marriages in the state of California (including registration of the marriage certificate) as well as facilitating other forms of pair-bonding ceremonies. Also occasional funerals and memorial services, as well as rituals for pregnant women (called “Blessing Way” ceremonies). I attend births of my students and clients at their request, providing spiritual support and grounding during labor and delivery.

1990-present: As a professional astrologer, I perform chart analysis and astrological counseling for clients in the U.S. and internationally, in person, by telephone, and/or in written form.

## Independent Scholar:

2005: Invited to participate in scholarly exchange at Catal Höyük in Turkey with archaeologists at the site, as part of a Goddess tour and conference at Ephesus sponsored by GoddessConversations. Paper given at Ephesus conference: "How the Amazons Got Their Name."

2004: Presented by invitation a paper on the female origins of agriculture in Old Europe, "Beer, Bread, and Blood: The Womanly Arts of Agriculture," at conference in Bulgaria (June 2004); publication in anthology forthcoming (Institute of Archaeomythology).

2003: Attended and participated in international congress on Matriarchy in Luxembourg. Wrote paper, "From Priestess to Bride: Marriage as a Colonizing Process in Patriarchal Conquest," to be published in anthology edited by Cristina Biaggi,. Book in progress: *Those Without Husbands: Revisioning the Amazons as a Matriarchal Clan Structure*.

2000-2003: Adapted, developed and taught Tibetan Buddhist Dakini practices to private students, tutorials, small and large groups, with authorization of reincarnated Tibetan lama, Tulku Thubten Rinpoche, from nearby Pema Osel Ling, International Tibetan Buddhist Vajrayana Center. Now presenting this adapted Dakini practice to large groups of women in conferences around the U.S. and internationally.

2001: Presented scholarly paper by invitation, "Medea and the Shaman Women of the Silk Road," at the First International Symposium on the Black Sea Flood held in Bogliasco, Italy. Paper to be published in anthology (forthcoming).

1997: Traveled by invitation with archaeologists from U.S. and Russia to visit museums and sites along the Don and Volga Rivers as part of ongoing investigation into ancient female shamanism.

## Featured Subject (in anthologies, t.v., films, magazines, and interview books):

Forthcoming: "Genesis Derailed," a documentary in production. Featured role as ecopsychology and grounded feminist spokesperson. Regular contributor on syndicated radio program called "Global Medicine Hunter," a search for healing remedies and rituals around the world with Meg Jordan. Senior medical media advisor, Luminar Media Corporation, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

2004: *Transforming the Faiths of Our Fathers: Women Who Changed America Religion* edited by Ann Braude. "Vicki Noble, co-creator Motherpeace tarot." (NY: Palgrave MacMillan)

2003: *Signs Out of Time: the story of archaeologist Marija Gimbutas* (a documentary film) by Donna Read & Starhawk, narrated by Olympia Dukakis. (Belili Productions) I

am one of several featured artists and scholars who comment on the influence of Gimbutas in our lives and work.

1997: *New Age Journal* (June issue). "Awakening to the Goddess" by Marguerite Rigoglioso. Long general article on Goddess Movement that discusses Motherpeace and the Transformational Healing Ritual.

1993: *Voices on the Threshold of Tomorrow: 145 Views of the New Millennium*. Edited by Georg Feuerstein & Trisha Lamb Feuerstein. "Vicki Noble: The End of the Millennium: An Opportunity for Healing." (Wheaton, IL: Theosophical Publishing House)

1992: *Visionary Voices: Women on Power: Interviews by Penny Rosenwasser*. "Vicki Noble: Back to the Instincts." (SF: Aunt Lute Books)

1990: *Good Morning America*. Motherpeace School for Shamanic Healing and Vicki Noble featured on Sunday morning t.v. news show, specifically a clip of the Transformational Healing Ritual being performed at the school.

1990: *The Ceremonial Circle: Practice, Ritual, and Renewal for Personal and Community Healing* by Sedonia Cahill & Joshua Halpern. "Vicki Noble: Circle is the Wheel of Life." (SF: HarperSF)

1989: *Woman of Power: A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics*, Winter Issue #12. "Vicki Noble: Female Shamanism," Profile (interview) by Cathleen Rountree.

Scholarly articles and book chapters:

Forthcoming:

"Dakini: The Goddess Who Takes Form as a Woman" in *Goddesses in World Culture*, Three Volumes, edited by Patricia Monaghan. (vol. I, 2010)

"Medea and the Shaman Women of the Silk Road." In *The Black Sea Flood and its Aftermath; Papers from the First International Symposium on the Interdisciplinary Significance of the Black Sea Flood, Liguria Study Center, Bogliasco, Italy, June 3-7, 2002*. Joan Marler and Miriam Robbins Dexter, editors.

In print:

"How the Amazons Got their Name" in *Societies of Peace: Matriarchies Past Present and Future*, edited by Heide Goettner-Abendroth. Talks given at the First and Second World Congresses on Matriarchal Studies in Luxembourg (2003) and San Marcos, Texas (2005). (Inanna Publications, 2009)

"She Gives the Gift of Her Body." In *Women & The Gift Economy*, a book of talks given at an international conference on the Gift Economy held at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas, September 2005. (Inanna Publications, 2008)

"From Priestess to Bride: Marriage as a Colonizing Process in Patriarchal Conquest" in *The Rule of Mars: Readings on the Origins, History, and Impact of Patriarchy*, edited by Cristina Biaggi. Manchester, CT: KIT (Knowledge, Ideas and Trends), 2006.

2001: *The Invisible Alliance: Psyche and Spirit in Feminist Therapy* edited by Ellyn Kaschak. (Co-published simultaneously as *Women & Therapy*, Volume 24, Numbers 3/4 2001.) "Vicki Noble: Letting Nature Take Its Course." (Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Press, Inc.)

1995: *The Beltane Papers: A Journal of Women's Mysteries*, Issue #8, Samhain (Autumn/Winter). "Vicki Noble: Goddess Regeneratrix: Marija Gimbutas and the Restoration of the Goddess." (Bellingham, WA: The Brideswell Collective)

1995: *Woman of Power: A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics*, Summer issue #24. "Authorizing Our Teachers: Teaching in a Feminist Spiritual Context" by Vicki Noble. (Cambridge, MA: Woman of Power, Inc.)

1989: *Woman of Power: A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics*, Winter Issue #12. "The Dark Goddess: Remembering the Sacred," by Vicki Noble. (Cambridge, MA: Woman of Power, Inc.)

1989: *Mirrors of the Gods: Proceedings of a Symposium on the Huichol Indians* edited by Susan Bernstein. "Vicki Noble: The Matriarchal Backbone of Huichol Shamanic Culture." (San Diego, CA: San Diego Museum of Man, San Diego Museum Papers No. 25)

1986: *Shaman's Drum*, Spring Issue, Number 4. "Vicki Noble: Female Blood Roots of Shamanism." (Albany, CA: Cross-Cultural Shamanism Network)

#### Scholarships, Awards, Fellowships:

1997-present:

Monetary grants received from individuals and small family foundations for travel and research (educational purposes), including Newman's Organics, the Rachael and Ben Vaughan Foundation, the Dougherty Foundation, and the Center for the Divine Feminine.

1997 Bogliasco Fellowship

A month-long residential fellowship for artists and scholars in Bogliasco, Italy, near Genoa at the Liguria Study Center for the Arts and Humanities. Private bed, bath, and separate studio for work allowed me to write the first draft of a book published by Random House (Three Rivers) in 1998 (*Making Ritual With Motherpeace Cards*).

1972-1975 Full Scholarship to Colorado College (Honors BA in Women's Studies)