

THE GODDESSES OF CENTRAL MEXICO with GODDESS GATE February 28-March 12, 2000

Join YA-YA for a pilgrimage to the myth, images and sacred sites of the cultures of the central basin of Mexico. Our wise women guides are Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, GATE, Global Awareness Through Experience, bridges ancient images and myths with the present. We travel to sacred sites, explore principal goddess myths and engage with local women to explore the feminine divine. As spiritual seekers, we hear with the heart and see with the soul. Our home base is the Lutheran Center, a beautiful, quiet green oasis surrounded by the largest city in the world.

Goddess GATE begins at Cuicuilco, a 5000 year stone pyramid sacred site, surrounded by modern Mexico City. We visit the great National Museum of Anthropology, the Zocalo, main plaza of Mexico City, the Aztec Templo Mayor, and Teotihuacan with its pyramids to the Sun, Moon and Serpents.

Singing "Guadalupeana", we make a pilgrimage to Guadalupe, La Diosa Reina, the Goddess Queen of Mexico. The Spaniards brought their images and stories of the divine feminine from Europe to Mexico. They joined with the divine feminine of the earlier cultures. Juan Diego, a humble peasant, had a vision of Nuestra Señora La Virgen Guadalupe at Tepeyac, a hill site with a cave sacred to Tonantzin, the Aztec Great Dark Mother. Her shrine is visited daily by thousands of pilgrims from all over the Americas and the world.

Guadalupe's birthday, December 12, is the most important holiday and celebration in Mexico. (See YA-YA Journey, December, 1999.)

Twentieth century artists, writers and visionaries have powerful stories. Visit Frida Kahlo's studio. Diego Rivera's murals. Dolores Olmeda's museum and hear about their lives from Suzanna Glusker who knew them as a child. Women in the barrios of Mexico City are healers. Experience the Witches' Market to smell herbs and learn about ancient healing traditions still practiced today. Picnic and celebrate music, dance and nature at Xochimilco's floating chinampas gardens. Honor the Shopping Goddess with native artisans in ceramics, weaving, wood, baskets, jewelry.

Travel outside Mexico City to Xochitlcatl, the 4500 year old place of the dancing flowers. From its spiral pyramid, view Popocatepetl the active male volcano and Iztaccihuatl, the dormant female volcano. Dance with the black butterfly Goddess Iztzpapalotl of the Aztecs. Explore Cholula, the largest pyramid in Mexico with a labyrinth of tunnels. See beautiful murals of Xochiquetzal, Goddess of Spring and Chicomecoatl, Corn Goddess in Tlaxcala. Seek Our Lady of Ocatlan and her healing waters.

Our farewell celebration cena/dinner is in Coyoacan, an artist's community. Gracias! Muy Bien! Adios! VIVA LA DIOSA!!!



Xochitlcatl



Guadalupe at Tepeyac



Cecilia Corcoran at Teotihuacan

CONFERENCE FACILITATORS

CECILIA CORCORAN, PhD.
Cecilia is Co-Director of Goddess GATE, Global Awareness Through Experience, in Mexico City. She designed Goddess GATE which connects contemporary lives and issues of women with personal and group exploration of the rich spiritual traditions and cultures of Latin America. A mystical experience at the ancient ceremonial site of Cuicuilco, led Cecilia into doctoral research centered on the Goddesses of Central Mexico. Cecy calls and teaches the stories from Mexican mythology of Coatlicue, Coyolxauhqui, Chalchihuitlicue, Tonantzin, all predecessors of the Great Mother Guadalupe.

MARIE DES JARLAIN, FSPA
Marie is Co-Director of Goddess GATE in

Mexico City. She also leads GATE programs in Guatemala, El Salvador and the Czech Republic. Marie is active in justice issues which affect people around the globe.

LINDA MERSHON, FSPA
Linda is Director of Outreach for GATE programs. She joined the GATE staff in January, 1999 after three months of language school in Cuernavaca, Mexico. She is an excellent facilitator of ritual and sacred space as well as a performer of Goddess myths.

SUZANNA GLUSKER, PhD
Suzanna grew up in Mexico City. Her mother, Anita Brenner, was an author of children's books and a journalist for the *New York Times*.

Her circle of friends included Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo. Suzanna played in Frida's studio as a child. Presently Suzanna is writing a book about her mother's powerful story which she will share with slides and her story.

LYDIA RUYLE, MA
The Ancient Mothers have been calling Lydia for fifteen years. She will facilitate finding your sacred language and symbols with art. Her Goddess banners will fly at the Lutheran Center spreading their healing energies, beauty, compassion and wisdom.