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common ground

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**STARHAWK'S
ECOFEMINISM**

**BEAUTY
UNVEILED**

**LONGING AND
FEMINE POWER**

**MINDFUL
MOTHERING**

**OUT AND
PROUD**

The Women Issue

REVOLUTION OF THE HEART

Gender Healing as
a Path to the Beloved

THE INNER PATRIARCH

An Invisible Force
Holding Women Back

BRINGING DOWN THE WATERS

On Female Ejaculation

WOMEN IN POLITICS

The Rising Tide: A Pictorial

*The Common
Ground Interview*

**CHRISTIANE
NORTHRUP, MD**

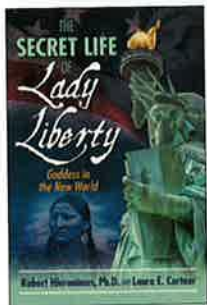
Women's Bodies,
Women's Wisdom

BOOK

The Secret Life of Lady Liberty
By Bob Hieronimus and Laura Cortner

The entertaining and elucidating new book *The Secret Life of Lady Liberty* by Bob Hieronimus and Laura Cortner offers surprising and deep meaning behind the symbolism of the Statue of Liberty. Intriguing revelations include that Lady Liberty was initially based on female symbols representing America on the earliest maps of the continent, which were then in the form of a Native American “queen.” This same image provided a symbol of independence to early revolutionaries to help them rile up the colonists against the Crown, fulfilling the role of “founding mother.”

Drawing on painstaking research and their own extensive knowledge of esoteric history, the authors also explain the more obscure meanings behind the symbol. Various traditions have influenced her symbolism, from the Neolithic Earth Mother, to Mary Magdalene, Columbia, and Joan of Arc, among others. Perhaps most interesting,



Hieronimus and Cortner reveal the sharp contrast between depicting “liberty” as female and the reality of women and other suppressed classes throughout history. The idea that the Statue of Liberty provides “Liberty Enlightening the World”

leads the authors to the groundbreaking but logical conclusion that the empowerment of contemporary women is essential for achieving sustainable liberty. The book serves as a clarion call from this “Goddess of the New World” to inspire us all toward peacekeeping, nurturing, compassion, and environmental stewardship. *The Secret Life of Lady Liberty* is a moving and inspiring read. Anyone with an interest in feminism or American history will find something to learn in this well-researched and well-written book. The conclusions drawn by the authors make this a truly groundbreaking read.

—RICHARD HAMILTON

MUSIC

MaMuse
Heart Nouveau

With deep roots in the folk and gospel traditions, and their hearts in the present, MaMuse (Sarah Nutting and Karisha Longaker) create uplifting music for the next seven generations to thrive on. Their newest release, *Heart Nouveau*, is a masterful mix of exquisitely blended heartfelt harmonies lifted with purpose and reverence above sultry strings and deep percussion.



What sets this album apart from their previous creations is the budding collaboration with singer-songwriter Molly Hartwell adding in a third harmony on five of the 13 songs, as well as a tasteful and spunky horn section, keys, violin, and guitar, which give new breadth to the well-loved sound the duo is known for.

Interweaving brilliant and haunting harmony with lyrics borne of honed emotional intelligence, MaMuse invokes a musical presence that inspires the opening of the heart. Playing a family of varied acoustic instruments including upright bass, guitar, mandolins, ukulele, and flutes, and backed by inspired drummer Mike Wofchuck, these two powerful women embody a love for all of life. The synergy that is created through this musical connection is palpable and truly moving to witness. It’s a magic carpet ride of delight, sailing through the clouds, enriched by the sun, in stillness near the waters, grounded and planted in the earth. As above, so below.

This merry and beloved MaMuse (as in “mama” and “the one who inspires”) weaves voices upon an instrumental palette with original songs transmitted through the heart and infused with improvised storytelling, leaving audiences softened and singing along. It seems that everyone who hears them falls in love with MaMuse—begin your own lifelong love affair in San Rafael on October 22 at TMS Performing Arts Center. MaMuse.org

—LLOYD BARDE (LLOYD@WELL.COM)

Simrit
Songs of Resilience

Some artists can bring true commitment to age-old meditations, urging everyone from pop stars to theater audiences to fall in love with the words of South Asian sages. Some artists have a presence that deeply engages and soothes, an ear that can hear the resonances that bridge continents and souls, and a voice that transmits pure humanity. Vocalist and songwriter Simrit—born in Athens, Greece, adopted and raised in the American South—is the rare artist who merges these gifts.

Drawing on the harmonic beauty of the Greek Orthodox chants she grew up with, adding the pulse and melodic sensibilities of West African traditions she studied, Simrit and her ensemble tease out distinct facets of devotional poetry and the intimate ardors of the spirit on *Songs of Resilience*. Working with an elegant, expressive musical palette—rich cello, exquisite kora, and rolling percussion—Simrit reveals new sides to ancient gems, encouraging listeners to find grounding endurance, hope, and transformation.

Several well-known mainstream artists have commented on Simrit’s unique and creative freshness, such as Snatam Kaur



who wrote, “Simrit’s voice, her music, and her teaching, reflect this devotion, which seems to come so effortlessly. This devotion is a gift, a tale beyond any, that will lead thousands in

the lightness of being and awareness so vital to humanity in this day and age.”

Simrit’s first four diverse and excellent albums, *From the Ancient Storms*, *Simrit, Oracle Sessions*, and *The Sweetest Nectar*, foreshadowed the beauty, power, and impact of *Songs of Resilience*. She plunges the depths of beauty while scaling the heights and the wildness of the Warrior Goddess on this new CD. Join Simrit and her band on October 28 at TMS Performing Arts Center in San Rafael.

SimritKaurMusic.com