

Full Interview with Dawtas of the Moon
June 2016

The Wild Hunt: More about the organizer(s). On the EventBrite site, the name of one person is listed with a bio. Is she the only organizer? If not, who are the others and bios? Please share a photo(s).

Dawtas of the Moon: Dawtas of the Moon is a collective of seven women who have joined together to send out the call to all women of color who are witches, shamans, priestesses, oracles, diviners or healers to convene and and uphold the indigenous ways of our foremothers.

An L Kenion aka MoonLight Star of [MoonLit Journeys](#). A woman. mother. daughter. sister. healer. shaman. diviner. seer. oracle. wellness seeker. crystal finder. intuitive. lover. sage. star traveler. time bender. galaxy resident. Mystic. MoonLight a spiritually led woman whom straddles the realms of light and dark. She gazes through the blinding light and see clearly through the shadows of darkness. Through her own spiritual healing she has been able to pull from all sources to assist others on their designated path. She is born from a long line of spiritual workers: seers, sages, medicine women, oracles, diviners, hoodoo practitioners.

[Magic Moja](#) is an initiative created by three women through the guidance of our ancestors. Moja (pronounced "Moy-ya") is Swahili for ONE. We are here to assist in the reawakening of the Divine Feminine in melanated women. By doing so this also helps to heal and uplift our melanated men to the Divine Masculine. They want our people to be balanced on an emotional, mental, social, physical and spiritual level through the restoration and practice of ancient African principles. We don't want to just merely survive. In this world it is our birthright to thrive. They are one with the ancestors and our men and women must be one with each other.

Ayanna Barmore of [Sahu 2 Suns](#) is a Flower Child & Passionate Wild Child. As a Free Spirit, she greets the World with an Open Heart & do as she pleases. She is an Ancestral Led Healer & Doula specializing in Ritual Practices.

Shirleta McKann of [Yoni DReMs and Desires](#) is a holistic sensual healer whose mission is to bring women back in balance with their feminine energy.

TWH: Tell us about the catalyst for this event? What moment, event, thought, dream, inspiration etc. was the driving force that led to "we need this event"? Be specific.

DOTM: Mama Omi is open to collaborate with other sisters of likeminds. Her specific vision for the Black Witches Convention came through a meditation. In this particular meditation she was surrounded by generations of women, some she knew and others she didn't. The only words she heard was "It's time!" From there, she approached other sisters who are now working with her to plan the convention. They fell in love with the idea.

When you decided to create it? Why Baltimore? Is there a reason or is it just convenient to you?

The decision to create this was made in May. The decision to do it in Maryland was made because Mama Omi and The sisters of Magick Moya heard a lot of desire coming from sisters who wanted more things to happen in the Maryland area.

TWH: You call it a "coven gathering for women of color." Can you illustrate further why you use the word "coven," a word use to describe a typically very small, intimate magical community, to describe the gathering of a large group of attendees?

DOTM: While the word coven may be generally applied to a small group, to Mama Omi it also implies a group that comes together as a community and even in some cases with a sense of family. A coven, to Mama Omi, also represents a coming together of those with like minds. Since we are focusing on sisterhood and those who embrace the term "Witch" it only seemed appropriate to use that word.

TWH: The event focus is on people of color, more specifically, women. Are men welcome in any capacity? a. If not, why? Is the event going to be designed as a safe space? b. If so, in what capacity (as allies?) and what do you hope men will get out of an event focused on women's mysteries?

DOTM: Yes, the event is focused on women of color, however we do welcome our men to attend. Yes, we are creating a safe space for the women to gather. We hope that the men will gain an even deeper awareness of the value of the embodiment of the goddesses they have living in their home.

TWH: Similar, the event is focused on women of color. Are white women (or men if appropriate) allowed to attend? And the secondary questions would be the same as above. a. If not, why not? Is this designed as a safe space? b. If so, in what capacity (as allies?) and what value would you hope this would provide?

Mama Omi: Yes, the event does focus on women of color. This was intentional. There is not much out there for women of color to be able to come together in a safe space and discuss their spiritual journey especially when it is not connected to Christianity or Islam. Because women of color are not able to connect openly, it causes great distress, depression, loneliness, and a lack of sisterhood. All of the women involved are spiritual healers and some are womb healers. The one thing we constantly see are women who are not connected to their own feminine energy due to a variety of trauma. Our experiences with white women may have similarity here and there, but they are not the same. By bringing black women together, you are creating a community of shared experiences, healing, awareness, and sisterhood. While a lot of us have attended events with white women, there is still nothing like gathering with your sisters and feeling free to be yourself and hearing each other's experiences and fully relating to them. We are not banning white women; it is a public facility. However, we do ask anyone who is not a person of color to understand that these are women who are Africans living in diaspora, indigenous Native Americans, and we identify as such.

Ayanna: I have spent some time to myself to think of an honest answer that would be clear for everyone to understand. My upbringing was in the AME Church, when my spirit was calling for something more, it was my childhood friends of non-color that understood my need for more. As I have grown into accepting myself for who I am and what I do, I feel that I was able to heal because of the people in my community that looked like me, acted like me, understood what it is to be tossed aside by your family because of your Truths. Women of Color have very few safe and sacred spaces... there are now many sacred spaces for women, native american women, etc... but very few for women of color.

TWH: Now, what do you hope the conference will achieve for women of color? What is the goal at the community, interpersonal and personal levels?

DOTM: Our goal is to help our sisters understand that they are not alone in their journey. When An and Omi do their weekly blog shows with Divine Wisdom Radio, we often hear our sisters speak on the fact that they don't have other sisters in their area to connect with and they feel alone. By coming together, we hope to create a time for sisters to create lasting connections with sisters so they no longer have to feel alone. Facebook and other social networking sites have been a wonderful catalyst but there is nothing like actually coming together and holding each other and being able to see someone's eyes.

TWH: What religious/spiritual/magical practices do you plan to support or highlight? Do you have limits or are practitioners from many paths welcome?

DOTM: We do not have any limits of those who will participate. Some will come from the African Traditional Religions such as Ifa, Akan, Kemetic, Vodun. Others will may not be part of those particular traditions and work with Hoodoo and other earth based religions. The purpose is to come together. Since we are welcoming everyone from the Seasoned practitioners to the newbie, we hope that this will allow those who are in attendance to find what resonates with their spirit.

TWH: You describe Black Witches or women of color practicing magic in various methods as being underrepresented and that "their voices need to be heard." If you were at a microphone with a global audience listening, what would the first thing you'd say to that global audience to begin a conversation? What does the world need hear?

Mama Omi: We are not sinners, we are not Satan worshipers. We are women who have chosen to return to our traditional indigenous way of life. We have chosen to honor the Divine Feminine and honor our connection to nature.

Ayanna: It is time for you to listen to us, and to take heed. To my sisters, within you is everything that you have prayed for. You are your own manifestation. It is time to do the work.

An: The world needs to hear, feel and truly understand that we are present regardless of our battered history. We have been denied the right to be powerful due to lack of understanding and misplaced fear. We as women of color or indigenous women only want peace to be free.

TWH: You said "The time is now." Why is the time now?

Mama Omi: Yes, the time is now. Each of us involved in this project have women coming to us who are ready to learn. We have more women of color who are moving away from traditional religion and want to heal mind, body, and spirit. More women are also coming out and boldly using the word "Witch", "Wise Woman", "Shaman", "Healer". Many women want to learn from other women of color.

Ayanna: Yes. The time is now, the time was actually generations ago. I feel that the inter generational wounds are being healed and it is time to come together. It has BEEN time. We're late.

An: We are being guided by Gaia, Mama Earth however you want to call her. She is demanding the harmony to be returned to this planet. The energy shifting demands the respect of those who inhabit this earth to adhere to the Universal Laws which this planet is governed under. Everyone needs to hear the call, however women of color are the first mothers and hold the keys to ensure the harmony is being brought forth.

"We are the ones we've been waiting for." - Hopi Elders

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors. We borrow it from our children." - Native American Proverb.

TWH: What is the "take away" that you hope people get from the day?

Mama Omi: Be your authentic self and be bold with it.

Ayanna: I would hope that my sisters understand that they are no longer alone. That I am here for the conversations, the rants, the healing, the loving and growth. To know that after the convention that we are family, and that I am here for you if and when you may need me. We are all that we need.

An: They are being welcomed back to the beginning. We have always held space for them.

TWH: What is your hope for the future of the conference - the bigger dream / picture?

DOTM: The vision is to make this an annual event. Through time and nurturing this event will expand to accommodate all who wish to be included.

TWH: Specifics. Where will it take place? Who are your speakers?

We will be at Wisdom Book Center at 5116 Liberty Heights Ave, Gwynn Oak, MD 21207. We are still planning our speakers however we do have Iyalosa Osunyemi Akalatunde of [Got2BOshun](#), Queen Mother Imakhu of [Renegade Wise Woman Media](#) and Iyanifa Alase Olori Oyadele of [Ile Oya Botanica](#). More presenters and Workshop facilitators will be announced in the near future. To keep up to date please subscribe to the Dawtas of the Moon [page](#).