



**Newsletter: Late March 2023**

## **Hearthstone Rituals**

*Hearthstone doesn't expect everyone to enter in  
Perfect Love and Perfect Trust,  
as you may not know many of the other attendees,  
but to enter with a Willing Heart and an Open Mind,  
and leave your differences at the door.*

Some traditions are more controversial than others, or may contain a component that confuses or disturbs someone attending an Open Full Moon ritual. It is one of the risks of exploring different traditions. Should anyone be uncomfortable with a ritual presented by Hearthstone, please discuss your feelings with the Ritual Leaders or one of the Board members (Amy, Catherine, Sarajane, and Arynne) so that we may hopefully resolve and heal your concern.

*Hearthstone is a safe and sober environment. Please respect your fellow participants by not attending ritual under the influence of drugs or alcohol.*



## OPEN FULL MOON RITUALS

*Join us in person at the Althea Center, 1400 Williams St, Denver  
Doors open at 7 pm, Announcements begin at 7:30 pm followed by ritual.  
No late entry after 7:30.*

**Hearthstone's March 31, 2023 Ritual is in person! Join us!**

**GUIDELINES** Hearthstone is concerned about the various viruses active in Colorado at this time, and we respect each individual's assessment of risk/benefit of in-person events. However, if you are sick or not feeling well, please stay home. We encourage, but do not require, masks. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available. Thank you.

## UPCOMING OPEN FULL MOON RITUAL

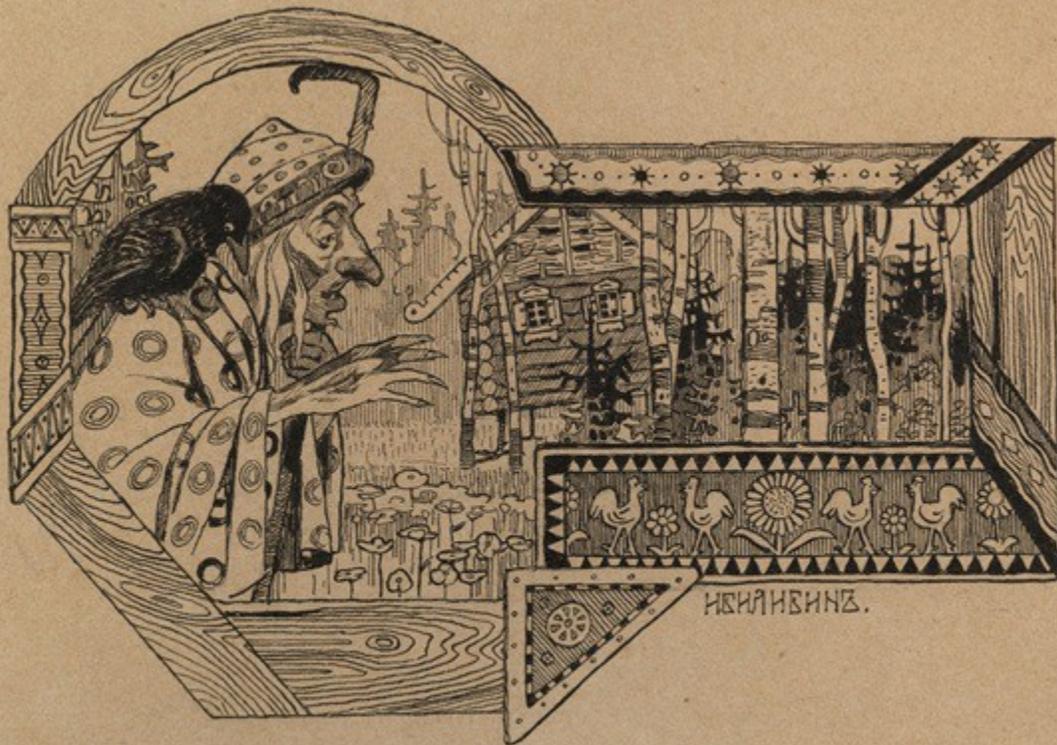


Friday, March 31, 2023

Hearthstone's March 31 OFM will be presented by Amy Harper aka NyteRoze.

For this Open Full Moon, we'll be celebrating the Paschal Moon - the first full moon of spring. Each moon has its own energy, and this energy is magnified during a Full Moon.

We'll do some community building along with some energy and gratitude work together in honor of persevering through yet another winter.



Thanks and a Tip of the Hat for our February 3rd Ritual

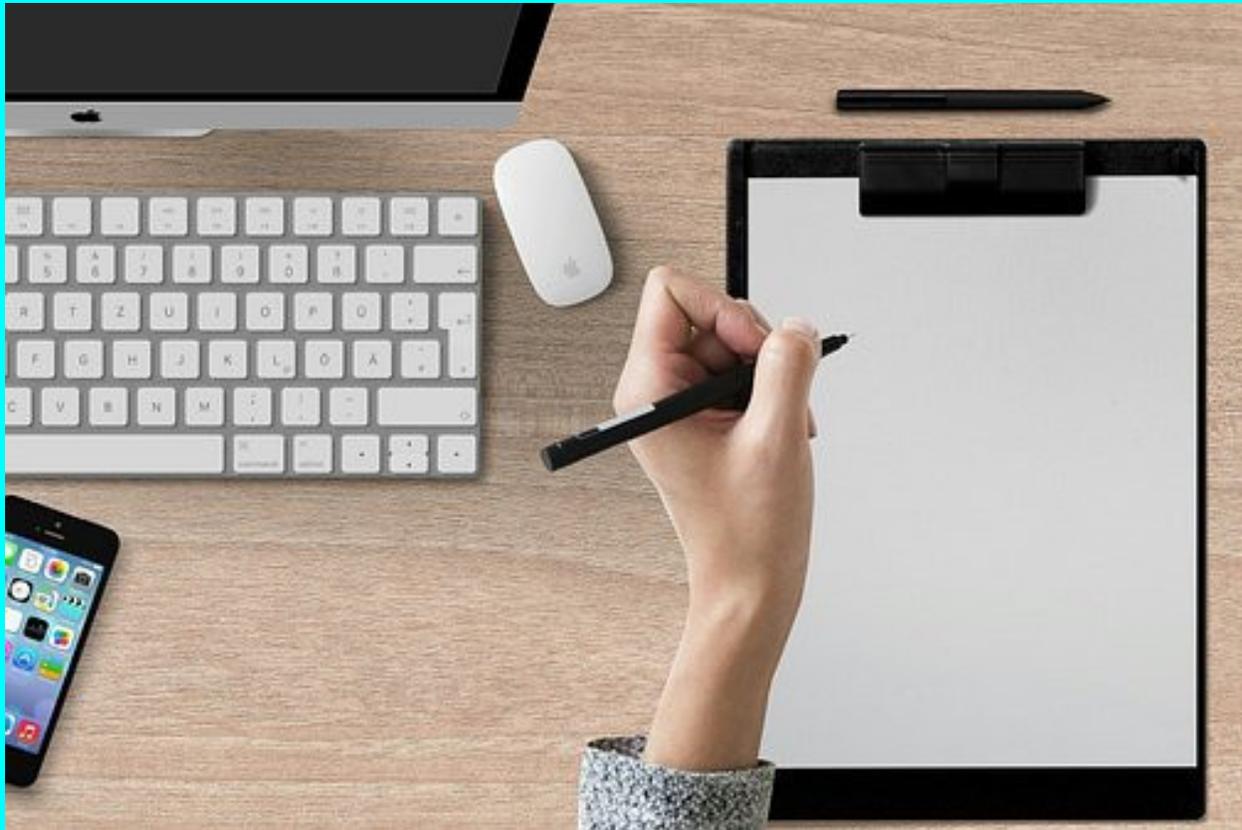
Hearthstone thanks Karelsis for her March 3, 2023 ritual helping us to prepare to approach the Crone Goddess Baba Yaga, guardian of the Waters of Life. We used the story of Vasilisa the Beautiful and her little doll (a Motanka) to learn how to prepare our intuition and generate the power needed to approach Baba Yaga. Using chant and song, we journeyed with Vasilisa to the Baba Yaga's house in the woods.

Blessings of the Water of Life were given those in the circle for the coming season.

Thank you, Karelsis for your wonderful ritual, introducing us to a tradition which is unfamiliar to many. I learned a lot and appreciated it greatly.

-- Catherine

Articles from our community members!



## **GUEST COLUMNS?**

If you have something to say, and are willing to let Arynne edit it slightly, please feel free to submit your original writing to [ArynneD@aol.com](mailto:ArynneD@aol.com) Content will not be edited. We can usually make room for more voices. **We appreciate our contributors!**



### **Unverified Personal Gnosis (UPG)**

We're now living in a culture where relativism has reached absurdity. Our deeply held principles about the value of difference of opinion have been twisted out of recognition into a thuggery that declares the supremacy of popular lies. This makes our discussion tricky, because faith is personal, and spiritual growth needs to be unencumbered.

As a community, we value freedom of conscience. We can tend to value personal experience over any "official" source of reference. Most of us refuse the idea of an official "source of truth" in spiritual matters. We've seen the damage. We're not interested.

But there's something unsettling about having absolutely no source of reference, no known points on the map. Equally, it's unsettling when a personal notion that seems whimsical when held by one person appears to have harmful consequences when it sweeps through a larger population.

And sometimes it's just annoying, or disrespectful. If you've spent weeks, months, or years studying a particular path or deity and someone pops into your mentions making declarations about that well-studied path that are well outside of what you have cherished and learned it is at least stressful.

But it's spiritual...so it can't be wrong? Right?

And what about our own intuition? What about our own personal experiences of the Divine? How do we protect them, and how do we evaluate them? Where is the balance?

I can tell you that my own judgment about my experience took a while to develop. The clues were there, but a fish doesn't really see the water she swims in... I finally realized why the world that seemed dark and sad before lunch was so much brighter in the afternoon. Of course, it was blood sugar! It didn't feel like it though. I'm embarrassed to measure how much time it took before I realized that I "fell in love" every 28 to 30 days like clockwork. It was clockwork, the clock was my ovaries. From the inside of this physical experience, there were a lot of sensations that felt like feelings, conclusions, or philosophies but turned out to be less portentous. In case you're wondering, I was in my late twenties long before I sorted most of that out, perhaps this happened a lot earlier for you, but all of us can be fooled by our own existence. It may be clarifying to mention that parental authority in my early years was complicated and challenging. People in a parental role in my later teens and early adulthood had no idea I was missing so much foundational information.

But I had other experiences as well, moments when I desperately needed help and followed what seemed to be ridiculous thought that saved my life, or asked who or whatever might be listening to help with a problem and had the solution materialize in a surprisingly unexpected way. I've been asked for input on a matter that I didn't really understand and passed along a phrase that mentally demanded to be said, only to have the person in front of me declare that it was the perfect answer. These experiences are real, almost all of us have had them. They are deeply meaningful to us.

We crave a personal connection to the Divine. It seems we are nearly hardwired for that. It can be a force for good in our lives.

And in areas that are entirely personal to us, no one else can be our expert, no one else can be our source of truth. We can choose to have relationships that balance us, that offer us sounding boards or insight. That's healthy. But we are the experts on our lived experience.

Beyond being an expert on ourselves, we are limited in what we know about the world. We expand our horizons through education, relationships, travel, and curiosity but there will always be areas of knowledge outside of our reach. There are plenty of things that feel familiar, or known to me, that turn out to be very different than what I thought. My interpretation was through the limited lens of my own experience and that was not enough.

As a creative child, I staged my own interpretation of Romeo and Juliet, based on a single line from Shakespeare's play. "Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou, Romeo." I built an

entire drama around that. If memory serves it looked a lot like an American western, or sci-fi, or rom-com as seen by the adults doubled over in laughter on the sofa. It felt right, though. I created a language, my very own! It followed the word order patterns of Spanish and had nouns and adjectives that were based on the names of people in my life and the characteristics that defined those people to me. These imaginative experiences were wonderful and fulfilling and they were very much limited by what I had already been exposed to.

It is curiosity, hard work, and personal discomfort that provides new influences and knowledge for me to imagine from. When it comes to working with deities from specific cultures and times, it is that hard work that provides me with the spiritual vocabulary with which to receive and interpret new spiritual experiences. Sometimes that hard work isn't mine. I have greatly benefitted from the research and study of people who have written and published their work.

I am passionately curious about the faith of my predecessors in the tens of thousands of years of the pre-Christian world. I am ready to learn from and experience religious expressions that arose naturally before the global sweep of the radical monotheistic insistence on One-Truth. But I know that my lived context of artificial light and store-bought food, instant communication, and the written word, have so shaped my thinking and language that I will always fall short of deeply understanding that experience.

My joy is in the journey. My grounding humility is in what I discover I don't understand.

I love the music of Padraigín Ní Uallacháin, it's not hard to sing and a lot of the songs express what I've wanted to sing! She's not just a singer though, she's a native Irish speaker who has spent years researching Irish music and folksong traditions. Her latest post on social media painfully exposed what so many were overlooking. There's a very popular song called MNÁ na hÉIREANN (Women of Ireland), that is set to a beautiful, evocative melody. Many gifted women singers have performed the song and it naturally makes the rounds on International Women's Day. The problem is that it is a violently, cynically misogynistic song. Verse after verse is completely demeaning and callous. But it's in Irish and very few people outside of Ireland, indeed not enough in Ireland, really understand the words. And, I must mention again, the melody is compelling. It "feels" as though you understand it. But if you can't read the words and understand them, you don't.

I have chosen to follow a path of Irish polytheism, where the inspirational culture is still in existence, the native language is one of the hardest for an English speaker to understand, and the pre-Christian lived experience was an oral culture, so the written record was made by monks, not by the Druids.

It's challenging.

And I teach a path that values the immediate experience of life and place, which is here and now, not in Ireland and not in the Iron Age. It's a balance.

I am always surprised by the very real way I experience my Gods, and in return, I express my desire to understand Them better and to respect Their histories through study and practice.

Just as taboos in Irish lore tend to be personal rather than global, I keep my personal gnosis personal and try to avoid making broad declarations about any one-true experience or "received" wisdom. This has the benefit of not appropriating culture, misinterpreting source materials carelessly, or closing down discussions with people who may have some research that will interest me!

Unverified personal gnosis is an important part of Pagan culture. In the current moment where science and documentation are being reviled, I choose to balance an intuitive life with a religious path of education and research. My own personal experience has shown me that more than I currently think I know will be revealed.

Peace of the mountains to you,

Paulie Rainbow

## Upcoming Community Events

## The Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality



Hearthstone meets the Friday before or the Friday of the Full Moon. We meet in the Historic Library Room at the Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality, 1400 Williams St., Denver, CO. There are two small parking lots: to the north (next to the building) and to the east of the building (across the alley), each with spaces for 20 cars.

Enter through the Main Door at the corner of Williams St. and 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. The door opens at 7:00 pm, and we lock the door at 7:30 pm to secure the building. There are no late admissions.

Hearthstone Community Church Website Link:

<http://hearthstonecommunitychurch.org/>



Earth Temple hosts Wiccan rituals each month around the time of the New Moon. All our rituals are open to the public and are held at Full Moon Books in Lakewood. For all the most current information about Earth Temple, visit our Meetup Group: [www.meetup.com/EarthTemple](http://www.meetup.com/EarthTemple) or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EarthTempleColorado>.

Our 2023 ritual dates:

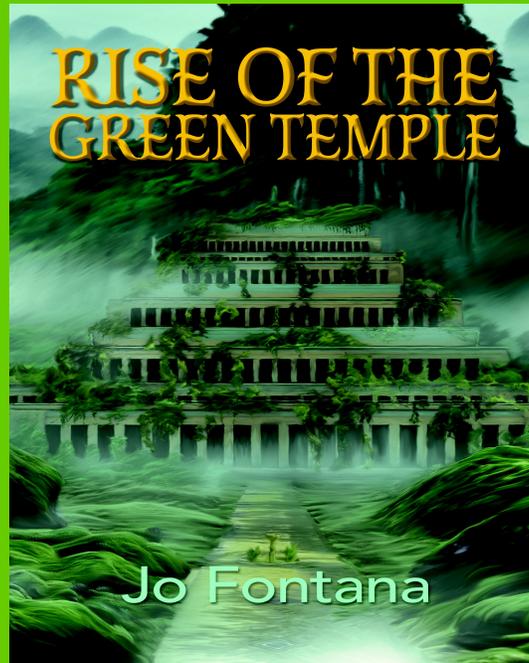
April 14  
May 19  
June 16  
July 14  
August 18  
September 15  
October 13  
November 10  
December 8

[Earth Temple Facebook Page](#)

Community Vendors and Artists

**AVAILABLE NOW!**

**Rise of the Green Temple**  
From Jo Fontana



The Goddess has tasked Jericho with pursuing and capturing the entity known as the Huskweaver. Jericho must take him back to Jahenna, where it all started, and find a way to trap him. If he is unable to do so, a battle of epic proportions between the two eldritch forces may threaten to destroy his world.

Jericho is joined by his friends, both magical and human. Since he has little experience or desire in the art of battle, he counts on them and his unusual luck. He has little guidance and faces devastating losses while trying to unravel the mystery of how to contain a preternatural being.

For more information visit [www.jofontana.com](http://www.jofontana.com)

**General Community Information**



**Low-Cost Pet Cat Spay/Neuter & Vaccines &  
Free Spay/Neuter & Vaccines for Feral Cats**  
[Spay/Neuter | Denver, CO | Dumb Friends League \(ddfl.org\)](https://www.ddfl.org)

The Dumb Friends League offers affordable spay/neuter services to all owned pet cats and feral/community cats. The details, locations, and qualifications are at their web site above. They are able to offer these services thanks to the generosity of donors. They recommend that tame, friendly cats without owners be taken to an animal shelter for adoption.

At this time DDFL is not able to provide spay/neuter services to dogs, for-profit breeders, or rescue groups.

It takes ALL of us to reduce the overpopulation problem and move toward a world where all pets are loved and cared for. Thank you!



Priestess Support, Services, and Potential Presenters  
For Pagan or Wiccan clergy or for any other Hearthstone business, email us at  
[hearthstonecommunitychurch@gmail.com](mailto:hearthstonecommunitychurch@gmail.com)

If you would like to lead a future Open Full Moon, please contact Arynne at [ArynneD@aol.com](mailto:ArynneD@aol.com)  
At this point we have ritual leaders scheduled for all of 2023.  
Thank you for volunteering your talents!

***Donations ---  
in person or through Zelle!***

Thank you for supporting the work and service of Hearthstone Community Church.

We meet our expenses through the generosity of our participants and supporters. We accept donations at our in-person rituals, or if you prefer, you may contribute through **Zelle** instead. Zelle is a direct funds transfer method offered by most banks. It is super easy to use online and no fees are charged or withheld. Hearthstone is registered in Zelle by our **email address**:

[hearthstonecommunitychurch@gmail.com](mailto:hearthstonecommunitychurch@gmail.com)

We suggest a donation of \$5-20/OFM. If you can't afford it, you are still welcome to participate. If you can afford more, we'll be delighted to accept it.

Hearthstone's primary expense is the rent for the room at the Althea Center. We appreciate any and all support from our community to help meet our obligations. Thank you!



**zelle®**

**Hearthstone Community Church Website Link**



*UPCOMING 2023 OPEN FULL MOON RITUALS*

March 31  
May 5  
June 2  
June 30  
July 28  
August 25  
September 29  
October 27  
November 24  
December 22

*BLESSINGS from HEARTHSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH!*

**Subscribe to receive our Newsletter**



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