



Newsletter: July 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 July 28, 2023 Ritual is in person! Join us!

GUIDELINES What a relief that Covid is abating! However, if you are sick or not feeling well, please stay home. Thank you.



UPCOMING OPEN FULL MOON RITUAL

Friday, July 28, 2023

The July 28th Hearthstone rite will be presented by D, Wiccan High Priestess and Witch.

Please join us as we use the energies available to us, our intention, and some “old school” spellcraft, in the form of a Witches Ladder, a.k.a. Witches Garland to manifest our will under the Full Leo Moon.



Thanks and a Tip of the Hat for our June 30 Ritual

Hearthstone heartily thanks the Coven of the Unforged Path for leading our Open Full Moon ritual on Friday, June 30th.

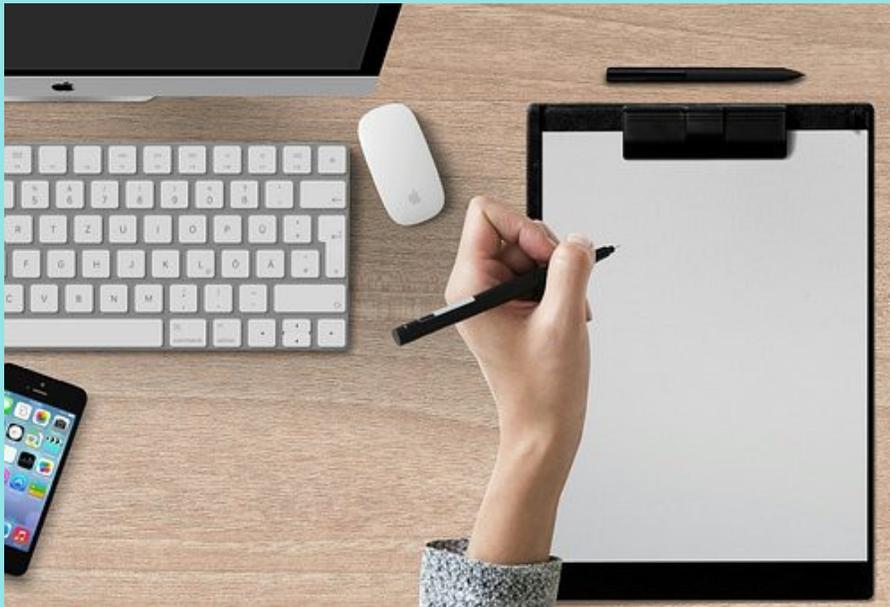
To celebrate the full moon closest to the Solstice, we called on Sol to aid us as we harness the energies of the sun, still within its peak strength from the Summer Solstice, and Luna, chasing him through the day, to aid us in balancing those energies with those of the full moon.

In the working, we brought balance to the influence of those energies within each of us, harnessing the light of the sun, so that we may call upon it when needed during the dark time of the year.

Thank you for this wonderful ritual!

-- 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 Content will not be edited. We can usually make room for more voices. We appreciate our contributors!

Articles from our community members!

Blue Moon



Our New Blue Moon: a celebration of grief.

"Brig came and keened for her son. At first, she shrieked, in the end, she wept. Then for the first time weeping and shrieking were heard in Ireland." *Cath Maige Tuired section 125*

The DCWC will be facilitating a new public ritual, a celebration of grief, that we are calling the Blue Moon. We will offer it through Meetup, online, using Zoom.

As Pagans we know the deep value of ritual, how it changes us and the world around us. It brings concepts into being and transforms mundane actions and objects into icons, and literal space into sacred space. Ritual is built into the human experience and personality. We are designed to respond to the symbolic. We have been doing it for millennia.

One of the most common rituals of humanity, dating back to other human species that came before us, is the ritual for the dead. We grieve, we honor, we release.

Having lived through the AIDs crisis of the 80's I can tell you that it is critical that the community which experienced the loss, gets to mourn that loss in their own ways, and in their own words. When outsiders or interlopers decide to narrate our losses for us, in terms that describe their view of our pain, the result is not transformation, not wholeness, but disconnection and frequently suppression of the experience of grief. We cannot be silent. It is unhealthy to be silent. It is transforming to raise our voices, or to hear voices raised with expressions that we recognize from the inside out.

We are living in a time of so much disruption and change that as a culture we are not merely mourning single deaths, but many deaths, and many losses. We mourn the loss of companion animals, and the loss of abilities, or possibilities. We mourn the loss of the world that still exists in our memories but is no longer available to us. We mourn youth when it has left us. We mourn personal losses that we cannot or will not express.

And it is right to mourn, to grieve the things we have lost. It helps us to accept the world that has been changed.

The world is changing continually. When our unmourned grief freezes us we fall out of step with our continually changing world. We fall out of alignment with our seasons, our moons, our days and our nights. Sometimes it's just a part of us that is blocked, but even that creates a dissonance, a lack of harmony with ourselves.

As an Irish Polytheist practice, the Druidry Centered Women's Circle recognizes the power of the keening, the *caoineadh* (QWEEN-eh), the heartfelt lament that was the center of the ritual of mourning for centuries in Ireland. The keening woman, *bean chaointe*, gave voice to the shared loss, gave permission to name how truly awful and terrifying loss, especially death, can be. The *bean chaointe* gave the community permission, within the ritual, to fall apart, which gave the community the opportunity to come back together again, to step back out into the ever-changing world together.

Rituals don't "fix" grief. They aid the processing of loss to help us acclimate to a new reality, to set our bodies in motion in harmony with our own lives, after a loss has put us into discord.

The ritual we share will have some of the same shape as our Full Moon ritual. We'll ground and center ourselves in our own space, in relationship to the sun, the moon, and the directions where each of us sit. We will share some of the lore of Don Firinne, whose hall is open to welcome the dead as they wish before their journey onward. We will share some poetry and each person who attends will have the opportunity, as they wish, to name their loss. We will share the keening song of Pádraigín Ní Uallacháin, and at the end, accept back the energy of life into our hands, the hands of the living, the changed, the continuing, to strengthen us as we move on again.

We hope that this opportunity will be of service to our community, and we are planning to offer it again if it seems appropriate.

However you are, however you mourn, celebrate and heal, we wish you well.

Peace of the mountains to you,

Paulie Rainbow

founder: Druidry Centered Women's Circle
<https://DCWC.earth>

Healing the Healer By Moon



As healthcare workers age, there comes a point in their career where they must make the decision whether to stay in their current role or transition to something less stressful. This is especially true if you are not an advanced practitioner like a doctor or a nurse practitioner. I'm fortunate to have transitioned to a position that does not involve direct patient care—but it took an ample amount of time and effort to secure it. After almost twenty years and a pandemic, I felt ready for a change.

And I'm not the only one leaving for career-adjacent positions. The pandemic has driven many to do the same. Some healthcare workers have even completely changed careers. Healthcare delivery takes an emotional toll on healthcare workers. There are physical tolls too. While many healthcare workers experience some type of injury on the job, others sustain injuries that are not acute, but have been acquired over an extended period. I belong to the latter part. After almost two decades of working in awkward positions to turn a patient, pack a wound, and pushing wheelchairs has taken a toll on my lower back and feet.

Where a healthcare worker is employed can affect their ability to do self-care. And no, I do not define self-care as having that dessert that you know you shouldn't have, using the good china, or getting a pedicure. I'm talking about being able to take time off to go to doctor's appointments, physical therapy, and have procedures done if necessary. A flexible schedule becomes a necessity. But most positions outside of the hospital require five-day work weeks. Taking time off in a typical healthcare milieu is taboo in most cases, and I don't know of a nurse who has told me recently that their workplace is well-staffed. The consensus among my current colleagues is that they will feel guilty for missing even an hour of work for an appointment. While it's a relief that I have a new gig, I'm saddened that I had to make a drastic change for my health and have been proud to work in public health.

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 14th 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.



Earth Temple

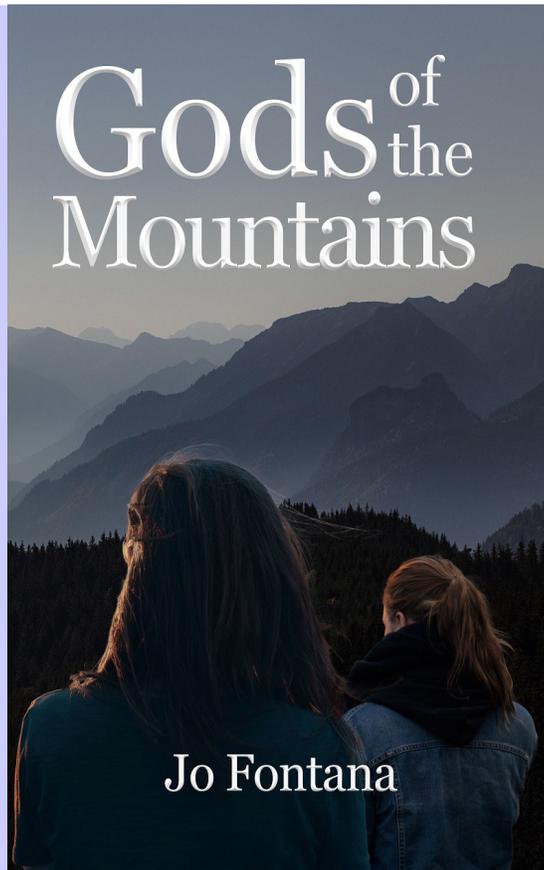
Earth Temple hosts Wiccan rituals each month around the time of the New Moon. All our rituals are open to the public and are held at Full Moon Books in Lakewood. For all the most current information about Earth Temple, visit our Meetup Group: www.meetup.com/EarthTemple or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EarthTempleColorado>.

Our 2023 ritual dates:

August 18
September 15
October 13
November 10
December 8

Earth Temple Facebook Page

Community Vendors and Artists



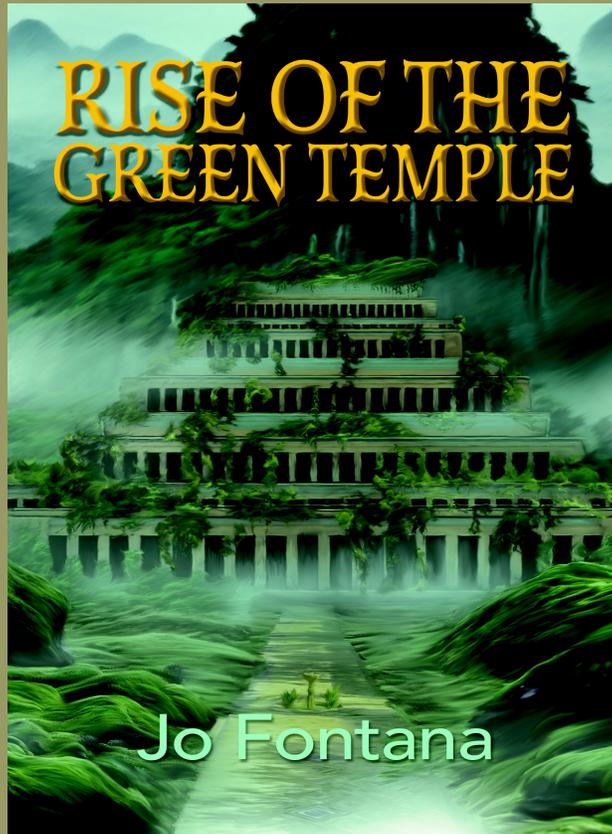
Gods of the Mountains

The highly anticipated second installment of the Gods series follows Katie through the second phase of her life as she is thrust onto the front lines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Her role as a school nurse in Colorado begins to evolve through the responsibility of safeguarding the well-being of her students and staff in the face of a relentless and novel virus. She immerses herself in her work as she navigates shifting regulations and protocols, where the line between safety and uncertainty blurs with every passing day. Because she was also on the disease reporting hotline, Katie began to eat, drink, and sleep COVID.

Amidst the chaos and unrelenting pressure, threats to Katie and her family's mental well-being emerge. She longs to visit her hometown but is unable to make the trip during the first year of the pandemic. To combat the mental fatigue, Katie and her family make trips into the Rocky Mountains. Katie makes a plea to their mysterious gods, asking for their help in fighting the anxiety and fear that is threatening to overwhelm her. Through nature, Katie and her family strive to emerge unscathed from the clutches of the virus.

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

General Community Information



Low-Cost Pet Cat Spay/Neuter & Vaccines & Free Spay/Neuter & Vaccines for Feral Cats

[Spay/Neuter | Denver, CO | Dumb Friends League \(ddfl.org\)](http://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

If you would like to lead a future Open Full Moon, please contact Arynne at 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!



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** 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!

<http://hearthstonecommunitychurch.org>



UPCOMING 2023 OPEN FULL MOON RITUALS

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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