Goddess Temple News

Samhain 2023 Donations Welcome





SAMHAIN EDITORIAL

he wheel turns once again towards the time of Samhain. The time of cosy fires, cooler weather, and the nights drawing in. Here on the Sacred Isle of Avalon the conkers are dropping rapidly now from the Horse Chestnut trees, towards the earth as nature starts to prepare for the coming deep winter slumber.

At this time of Samhain, in the northern hemisphere, we delve deeply into the festival and time of the Crone Goddess, as the old year ends and the new one begins. We connect and honour Keridwen, Black Nolava, the Dark Goddess and Morgen Mazoe who guide us into the Underworld and the cauldron of death, transformation, and rebirth. What will you be transforming this Samhain?

This is the time to honour our ancestors, those who went before us and whose wisdom we each carry within. They whisper to us across the veils, which are thin at Samhain, asking to be remembered. For their names to be spoken, and we do, as we welcome their presence.

I had my own initiatory, transformative journey with Nolava as the Crone, Dark Mother of us all. In my late twenties, I had a medical emergency that precipitated a near-death experience. On that day, I travelled into the Underworld with Her, guided by a dear dead aunt named Bridget.



The Goddess Temple 2-4 High Street Glastonbury, BA6 9DU www.goddesstemple.co.uk News Editor, Lisa Fletcher News Design, Paul Williment I was aware of many beloved relatives in this place I was guided to, both known and unknown, on the edges of my vision. They wanted me to go with them. I knew what was happening, I was fully aware and conscious in this place, so present. Bridget told me it was not my time. That I had to return to life. I had so much more to do (apparently!). Time stopped, or slowed down, I am not sure which. At one point I was aware of the nature of all existence, in its iridescent, wondrous glory, of the knowledge of past, present, and future. I wanted to stay, held and safe.

Bridget told me the phone would ring, and I had to answer it. The sounding of the phone facilitated my return to my body and this physical realm. Later, in hospital, the doctors would marvel at the miracle of life, that I was still here. This experience was my call to seeking out Goddess, to find and honour Her.

Any journey with the Dark Mother, Crone Goddess into the Underworld will be deep, transformative, and maybe challenging, or hard to integrate at the time. It will also be the most enlightening journey you can take, full of surprises, love, and treasures along the way. So, at this time of Samhain, give to Goddess all that you wish to transform and know that She who knows you so well, is holding you in love. Always.

By Lisa Fletcher ,Priestess of Avalon, Goddess Luminary, Morgen Sybil. Temple Teachings director

THE SACRED BIRTH CENTRE AT SAMHAIN

By Kristina Turner, Sacred Birthkeeper

we approach the borderlands of life and death again, we can hear more clearly the whispers of the ancestors and find ourselves back on the threshold of rebirth.

The Sacred Birth Centre is growing organically through the nurturing hands of the women and men that are naturally drawn to this work, many of whom have been striving tirelessly for years to enable better birth experiences for all. Every single one of us is born and how it happens matters profoundly.

Just after Samhain, the Sacred Birth Centre will be hosting the world's first Sacred Birth Conference with an amazing range of speakers and activities that bring together the local community and the wider world.

As the old structures die and a new world is born, we stand as guardians of the portal ushering in a new era: the coming together of all of humanity into a single whole. We now have the potential to fuse the vision of Motherworld with all that has been gained throughout the era of patriarchy, such as the beneficial aspects of democracy and the rule of law that enable us to meet and host this conference, and the scientific discoveries sprung out of empiricism that ensure hospital births are available for those who need them. Of course, the

he Gacred Birth Conference 11th & 12th November 2023 | 10am - 5pm Hosted at the Goddess Hall Glastonbury by The Sacred Birth Centre, A celebration & sharing of the sacred spiritual nature of birth parenting. Talks, workshops, music & ceremony held by Birthkeepers & Priestesses. Inspired by the MotherWorld vision of community supporting families in the work of guiding & growing the future. All proceeds will go to a start up fund for the Sacred Birth Centre 📽 to the creation of a Sacred Birth bursary fund.

SPECIAL SHOWING OF ELISABETH UBBE'S BIRTH METAL MUSIC VIDEO And an evening concert with HELOISE PILKINGTON & JENNY BLISS Tickets:

Weekend day ticket £100, concessions £60 / £30 Saturday Concert - £10 advance, £15 OTD www.buytickets.at/sacredbirthcentre www.sacredbirthcentre.org



knowledge now understood and backed by science is that naturally physiological birth mostly unfolds best when left alone.

It is time for something entirely new. HER seeds are germinating deep beneath the earth, spiralling upwards in an unstoppable, interconnected mesh that is already absorbing the nutrients seeping out of the decomposing body of patriarchy.

We now enter a period of rest and healing before the miraculous rebirth that inevitably occurs at the darkest time of year. The moment of death and the moment of birth lie wall-to-wall with each other outside of time, and we welcome you to join us in exploring the Mystery of Birth.

The date of the Sacred Birth Conference is 11th & 12th November and it will be held at the Goddess Hall in Glastonbury. Please share widely with anyone you know that would like to join us in celebrating, sharing and learning about supporting Sacred Birth.

www.buytickets.at/sacredbirthcentre Find out more about the Sacred Birth Centre in Avalon at www.sacredbirthcentre.org or follow us on social ,media to stay updated www.facebook.com/SacredBirthCentre www.instagram.com/sacredbirthcentre

ROOTS AND WINGS

Roots and Wings is a children's alternative education project that is based in Glastonbury and is part of the Goddess Temple. We are a group of parents, educators and visionaries who are passionate about creating New Earth and MotherWorld education! As the world is transforming and more people are awakening, we feel that we are all being asked to step up and co-create the future we dream of. For us this starts with how we bring our children into the world and importantly how we educate them.

The Roots and Wings vision has been to create an earth-based education which follows the wheel of the year and honours Mother Earth in all her seasons and cycles. Our curriculum includes creativity, art, yoga, movement, dance, performances, play, literacy and numeracy, cooking, ceremony and being in nature.

We are looking for financial support so this amazing project can continue to flourish. Ideally, we are looking for people that may want to set up a regular monthly donation. With this we will send a newsletter several times a year with information about the project and how it is evolving.

We are looking for regular monthly donations of $\pounds 10, \pounds 20, \pounds 30$ and are also open to one-off donations. If you feel that you would like to support New Earth and MotherWorld education, we would be so grateful! *Visit our website for more information: www.earthinspirededucation.org*

Much gratitude, Iona and the Roots and Wings Team



GODDESS TEMPLE PILGRIMAGES



We are delighted to share two pilgrimages that are happening in 2024!

Egypt Pilgrimage with Anna de Iberia (Dr Anna Osann) Friday 23rd February–Friday 1st March Unveil the mysteries of Ancient Egypt and

immerse yourself in its transformative energies...

Our 8-day Sacred Journey will take us from the Deep South in Nubia to the Other – and Outer – worldly landscape of the Giza plateau, all along the Sacred River Nile, the lifeline of old and modern Egypt. We connect with our deepest core and our galactic origins, thus enabling the unfolding of our highest potential, our Goddess Self. This will be a deep journey where we will connect to the ancient Egyptian Goddesses and Gods... the Nubian Earth Mother, Hathor, Nefertiti, Isis, Sekhmet, Saqqara, Amun-Ra/Ramses, Osiris and more!

We start in Abu Simbel in the southernmost part of Egypt. Our first ceremony on the shores of Lake Nasser will connect us with the land and the water. We will bring our intentions for our Journey and call in the blessings from the Nile Goddess and the Nubian Earth Mother. The next day we perform ceremonies at the Temples of Hathor/Nefertiti and Amun-Ra/Ramses II to get their blessings for activating the seed of our Goddess Self and seventh dimensional potential.

Our next major station is Aswan and Philae with its Temple of Isis. Here we connect with the Divine

Feminine and celebrate the Divine Union within us. At Luxor and Karnak, we connect with Sekhmet and awaken her fierceness within us. At Dendera, we dance and play music with Hathor.

The Temple and Osirion in Abydos will lead us into a process of honouring the ancestors and a journey into the Underworld, where we leave behind all that no longer serves us, to be reborn as our New Self. At the Giza plateau, we connect with the cosmic forces that guide us. We journey into the pyramid's healing chamber as well as into outer space, supported by the architecture of the pyramids. We discover the amazing secrets hidden all over the plateau and in Saqqara.

Sardinia Pilgrimage with Sarah Perini and Sonia Desiderio Wednesday 17-Monday22 April

This 6-day pilgrimage will take us to the beautiful Italian Island of Sardinia, situated in the turquoise Mediterranean Sea. This is a journey of discovery and introduction to some of the numerous and very interesting Sardinian and proto-Italian archaeological and sacred places. We will get to know the Faces of the Goddess in Sardinia and honour the directions, elements and the archetypes of the Wheel of the Year, the expression of the indigenous spirituality of the Sacred Island and of our ancestors. We will rediscover the important cultural and historical roots of this land, we will walk, meditate, celebrate, share, spend and live the time of the Wheel of the Mother Goddess of Nature.



Visit our website for more information: www.goddesstemplepilgrimages.co.uk

SAMHAIN TO IMBOLC ASTROLOGY



enter the Samhain season with Sol and Mars in the sign of the Scorpioness, calling us to descend into the shadowlands. On the 4th of November, Saturnia, the Crone Goddess stations direct at 0 degrees Pisces. She has been retrograding since the 17th of June 2023. What has been dissolving in your life that you can now begin to restructure? What old addiction and delusions have you released?

The Scorpio New Moon rises on the 13th of November, in conjunction with Mars. It is time to shed, transform and be reborn as we dance with the darkness. Sol enters Sagittarius on the 22nd of November, closely followed by Mars the warrioress on the 24th. They will sit in opposition to the Gemini Full Moon, rising on the 27th of November. This Lunation invites us to expand our minds and express our truths.

On the 1st of December, Mercuria the messenger enters the sign of Capricorn, now in Her retrograde Shadow, She will be transiting back and forth across the Sagittarius/Capricorn cusp as we head into 2024, teaching us how to ground our big visions for the year ahead. Venus enters Scorpio on the 4th of December, immersing Herself in the archetypes of the sorceress, witch and temptress. Our desires for intimacy are heightened as seek to connect beyond the superficial realms.

Neptunia the MerQueen stations direct on December the 6th, bringing clarity to what has been shrouded in illusion since the 30th of June. The Sagittarius New Moon on the 12th of December also receives a challenging square from Neptunia, just as Mercuria stations retrograde in practical Capricorn. As we look ahead to the New Year, we are being asked to be honest with ourselves about which of our dreams can be anchored in reality, and which are fantasy. Are we willing to put in the work and effort needed to build our legacies?

Sol also enters Capricorn, initiating the winter Solstice on the 21st of December, quickly followed by the Cancer Full Moon on the 27th. The Cancer/ emotional and financial security, as we work to heal the wounding our inner children and ancestry. Jupitera the Golden Goddess regains direct motion in the sign of Taurus on the 30th of December. She asks us, how much more open are you to receive love abundance now than you were when She turned retrograde on the 4th of September? We enter 2024 with Mercuria stationing direct

Capricorn axis speaks to us of our needs for

at 22 degrees Sagittarius on the 1st of January. After a period of reflecting on our true purpose, we can now begin to move forward again. Mars enters Capricorn on the 4th of January, giving us strength and motivation to begin to take determined action towards our goals. The first New Moon of the year rises in the sign of the SeaGoat on the 11th of January. This Lunation calls us to refine and crystallise our intentions for the coming 12 months.

On the 20th of January, one of the biggest astrological shifts of our lifetimes continues to unfold as Plutonia the Dark Mother, re-enters Aquarius. She will remain here until September of 2024, when She returns to Capricorn for a few months. The energy of radical societal reform and revolution is once again rising as the shift into the Aquarian Age continues to unfold.

The radiant Leo Full Moon on the 25th of January stirs the first flickers of Imbolc fire within us, reigniting our creativity and passion as the winter draws to a close.

Maria Jones, Priestess Astrologer & Priestess of Avalon. Maria's course Silver Spiral starts on 23rd/24th March 2024. Come and learn Goddess-Centred Astrology and become a Star Priestess/Priest. See https://goddesstempleteachings.co.uk/silverspiral for all the info!



GOING TO THE MOUNTAIN

here we were, all on our way to the sacred mountain. The journey had been planned for a full sun-cycle. Some of us had booked our fares well in advance, paid our fees, spread the announcement far on the great web of connections. We had packed our best robes and sacred objects, sat on many occasions meditating on the new era that was dawning, the return of the Great Mother.

For a couple of days clouds had been gathering, softening the intense Mediterranean September sun. There was even a sprinkle of rain making the uneven pavement in the narrow alleyways in the heart of city, slippery to walk on. The light became milder, the breeze was cooling. I even shuddered a bit and pulled my scarf around my shoulders. That same evening my friend and hostess alerted me to the news of cataclysmic rainfall and flooding in the city we would have to pass on our way. Still, after some enquiries it seemed the trip would still be possible.

The following morning we gathered outside the beautiful Goddess Temple and took our seats in a large vehicle, expertly maneuvered by our amazon driver. She would eventually and safely bring us to our goal. Alas, what trials we had to endure on our way! It started off easily enough. We sang and joked; the roads were clear. The previous night's horror images felt vaguely unreal. A few hours passed as the surrounding landscape rolled away, dotted with charred tree skeletons from the recent wildfires. Then the wind gathered strength, the rain became a raging downpour, the skies opened, the cyclone whirled around us like crazy weather witches stirring their cauldron. The air electric, deep thunder and bolts of lightning thrown willynilly from above. We were being welcomed by the old wise one of the mountain but also shook up by reports from the other participants who were stuck on the road. Some responded with anger and fear, emotions that always manage to worm their ways in like thriving parasites, but we searched in our hearts and knew that the best way was forward.

Forward: passing sinkholes, through flooded streets, starting our climb up the mountain, rivers overflowing, old stonewalls collapsed on the roadside together with all the debris the streams had flushed out, everything thoroughly cleansed. Eight of us arrived at our destination which was caught in the gloom of the day without proper light, shutters closed to the pounding rain seeking every little crack it might penetrate. Forward: creating sacred space, transforming a crowded conference hall. Beauty, presence, Goddess of the land, all welcomed, visible and sensed. Before we started the first ceremony two more travellers had made it up the mountain, against all odds, and one more the following morning.

Goddess might not have got the festival that was planned, but the one she wanted. We were made aware of our smallness in the face of the forces of nature, Her forces. We could sense the loss and suffering around us: on a small scale the changes we had to negotiate and the friends we would not



meet, on a grander scale the tragedies in so many lives around us; lives lost, livelihoods lost. Balancing on the threshold of bliss and compassion, grief and immense gratitude, we listened and waited, adapted and celebrated. We walked the path of reincarnation, we welcomed Goddess in Her different apparitions around the world, we danced and created ceremonies. We were blessed by Her waters, cleansed and refreshed, just as the land around us.

As I write this, I realise that it was only two weeks ago that we shared our closing ceremony back in the temple. Since then, so much has passed. I can sense a change in visibility, and I hope I will be able to trust my initiation and the connection I felt with Goddess, Her world, Her people. There is no separation: one planet, one biosphere, one love, I dare believe that. *Aditi Blomgren, Priestess of Avalon.*



The Morgen Tales – Morgen Mazoe, Samhain

At this time of year, Morgen Mazoe's thoughts turned to the sea. Not a sparkling sea, with a powder blue sky, but a dark, heaving sea, whispering of the Underworld. That was why she liked the mists that descended on the land this time of year. It reminded her of a sea mist, that clung to everything, rolling up the land, enveloping the Tor.

She wasn't sure her other Morgen sisters would get it, her understanding of dark places. But she loved them, and she had loved living with them all on the edge of the Tor, in the ramshackle house with no roof and no walls. It was just that she was so grumpy in the mornings no-one would have guessed.

Morgen Thetis' insistence that she come into the town to witness the Zombie Walk was not welcome. Morgen Mazoe liked to doze under her wing when she could – not as much as Morgen Tyronoe perhaps – but nevertheless, it seemed very appealing.

'Oh please...' begged Morgen Thetis, 'The Zombie Walk is such good fun... I know a place where we can perch and see everything... 'Sighing, Morgen Mazoe relented. So here they were, watching a motley collection of people with masks, cloaks and trailing bandages, lumbering down the High Street.

Of course, Morgen Mazoe could see a few of the undead herself, as they kept a wide berth of the Zombies, clinging to the edges as usual. Avalon and her ghosts, she thought. One day, perhaps not too far away now, she would be joining them. Just then the sky blackened, and the Zombies were in the middle of a downpour, which scattered them in all directions into doorways and cafes, into shops decorated black and purple, with twinkly witchy lanterns. Those who chose to shelter in the George and Pilgrim failed to come out, even later that afternoon when a watery sun appeared.

Morgen Mazoe felt the rain on her feathers, and an icy wind in her heart. Nothing beats Samhain, she thought to herself.

Lorraine Pickles, Priestess of Avalon, Morgen Sybil.

SHEELA na GIG



heela na Gig is making Her appearance known. Eyes wide, vulva open for all to see her deeply intimate wombtomb, she who is Stone Woman, Hag Woman, Divine Icon of power and transformation carved into the ancient stones of the body of our Mother Earth. She is found mainly on the walls of Mediaeval churches and castles and at Sacred Wells and ancient Holy Sites, many too are hidden away in museums and in private collections.

But like all great original Goddesses she has been hiding in plain sight. Exiled, frozen in patriarchal time as a wicked woman, a sexualised whore, a stone hag, a witch in the wall Now she is being remembered, recovered, rediscovered, reclaimed, reinvented and reinvigorated because now we are ready to see her and discover her true gifts of transformation.

The origins of Sheela na Gig are lost in the mists of time but Marija Gimbutas suggests that her image was originally that of the ancient Frog Goddess, symbol of womens fecundity and fertility. We are invited into the deep chamber of her holy womb to remember who we really are. Stripped of our patriarchal persona, stripped of our words of patriarchal power we remember the pulsing heartbeat of our motherlines, we remember the ancestral holy Grandmothers connecting us to our greater cosmic origins to reclaim our regenerative heritage.

Her wisdom and power are not born of this world only, she exists in the liminal spaces between worlds, always and unflinchingly holding her yonic gateway open with an invitation to all – enter ... and be transformed.

When we enter into her sacred embrace we will inevitably meet our shadow, the deeper darker one underneath the shadow of who we think we are.

The parts of us shamed and blamed, the parts of us hunted and exiled for being different, the parts of us that have been demonised and ostracised because we too have been living in a world where



we have been conditioned to exclude all the parts of ourselves not considered good enough, clean enough, sane enough, Sacred enough!

Sheela na gig is the final frontier. She is both/and of our experience, offering a paradox that takes us into the mystery of our very existence. She is the portal into the cosmic void beyond time and space.

And when she calls you you will know, you will be invited to join her in the great cosmic spiral dance. She knows where we live !

You are invited to join us at Beltane 2024 for a weekend with Sheela na Gig. with great speakers and workshops, Anasyrma for those interested, crafting and making in the heart centre of Avalon. and new for 2024 is a Sacred pilgrimage to meet Sheela na Gig at Fiddington, with ceremony and cake! Details of all our speakers and the full weekend's events can be found below. You can also email Sheelanagiginavalon@gmail.com or contact me Susie Quatermass directly for further info on our Sheela events in Avalon.

https://buytickets.at/sheelanagiginavalon/976109

SAMHAIN POETRY

At Her Cauldron

I sat with the darkest place of my being, Scared tears fell upon my cheeks, Releasing together on a journey towards my heart, Where they were met with love. Stirring Her cauldron, she said 'I am forever you and you are forever me.' *by Amanda Eleanor Amor*

In the Cave

I tread the decaying earth, damp soil beneath my feet, still darkness a cloak I wear, the silvery moon reflected in my eyes. I gladly enter the cave, to shed my grief and leave my despair, time to howl with the wild winds, to roar with the thunder above, and lie with the pain so deep, moss and lichen in my hair, roots in my hands and damp soil beneath my feet, time will pass in the cave of mine, emotions will ebb away seeping into the bowels of the earth, the power of the Crone, Cerridwen, by my side and within,

leading the way. by Raven Tree

Kindy reproduced with the permission of Bee Helygen from her 2023 book 'In Her Dark Bright Spirit' by Bee Helygen and Emma Clark *et al.* Thank you to all the students of the Priestess of Cerridwen Two Spiral Training, taught by Bee Helygen. Thank you to Amanda Eleanor Armor, Priestess of Cerridwen and Raven Tree, Priestess of Cerridwen for sharing their poems here. Please see www.cerridwen.co.uk for more information.





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Pearl Mothers in Avalon Women without Children

Workshop with Uni Arndísar ~ November 18-19 at 10:00 - 16:00 Sister Circle - Online event ~ November 16 at 19:00 - 21:00

Uni Arndísar will also be speaking at the Sacred Birth Conference!

Bookings & Sign up: www.goddesstempleteachings.co.uk

Goddess Temple Experiences

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Our Goddess Temple Melissae & Priestesses of Avalon / Goddess are ready to welcome you home to Avalon, to The Glastonbury Goddess Temple. Here the living energy of The Avalonian Goddesses & The Lady of Avalon have been honoured for the last zo yrs. We offer them in Her Sacred Temple space, out in Her landscape, or in The Goddess House. We are pleased to offer your group these sacred experiences to meet Goddess and receive Her healing loving presence. Please see our website for more info on private group wisits & the wide variety of cremonial Goddess remeineres on offer.



www.goddesstemple.co.uk/temple experience templeexperiences@gmail.com



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First Spiral: Eight Circles begins 25th/26th November 2023 Info:www.goddesstempleteachings.co.uk/ Glastonbury Goddess Temple 2-4 High St, Glastonbury, BA6 9DU



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