



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 it with the Ritual Leaders or one of the Board members (Catherine, Arynne, Vella Rose, Amy, and Cynthia) 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 MOONS

Joining you from our house to yours, one light to another

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the safety of our community, our July 31st Open Full Moon will be LIVE on Zoom at 7:00 pm. Please join us! If you've never joined a Zoom meeting before, have no fear. It's easy! It will be wonderful to be together and see one another! Please come together Friday, online, as the beautiful community that we are!

Here are some Tips:

You can use a computer (or your phone) with camera and audio. A larger screen is nicer. "Join the Meeting" from the URL below in your Invitation. Please Join between 7:00 - 7:20.

We will Lock the virtual door at 7:30 just like we do when we gather in person.

You and the other participants will show up on the screen, so you need to be dressed(!) and have some light on your face. Please turn off your video if you go to the bathroom ; >

We ask that you Mute your Audio to keep down background noise from your home. Please Unmute yourself, though, when you want to join the conversation! Everyone will be muted during Ritual.

We hold intention that we can share safe and sacred space together online. We have monitors who will remove any disruptive participants.

Please set up your desk or space for ritual so you can participate, and provide yourself with "cakes and wine"!

Hearthstone Community Church invites you to a Zoom meeting

Topic: Open Full Moon

Time: Jul 31, 2020 7:00 PM Mountain Time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89481387585?pwd=MkJsNG5sUTVJbDV0MXNZSTdqWENwZz09>

Meeting ID: 894 8138 7585

Passcode: 078557

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,89481387585#,,,,,0#,,078557# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,89481387585#,,,,,0#,,078557# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kw3h3D5Nc>



Open Full Moon Live Lughnasadh Celebration via Zoom
Friday July 31, 2020

Join Vella Rose and the Hearthstone Community at our next OFM, which falls on the eve of Lughnasadh (the word means “Lugh’s assembly”). This is one of the “fire feasts” of the Old Gaelic/Irish traditions which make up the four cross-quarter holidays on the Pagan/Wiccan Wheel of the Year of eight solar holidays (the other four being the solstices and equinoxes). Lughnasadh is considered the first of the three harvest feasts, the end of summer and the beginning of fall.

Lugh is a Celtic Sun God that some say is the Celtic equivalent of Greek Hermes and Roman Mercury. He is also associated with the Greenman in his face as John Barleycorn (grain) who “loses his head” at this time of year, so we can make our bread.

There are many stories of why Lugh had such a great, joyous feast at this time, including, but not limited to being a feast to celebrate his wedding; or the feast of the wake he held for his foster mother Taitiu, an Irish goddess who died of exhaustion after clearing the land so it could be cultivated; or his celebration of his victory over his foe *blight* – preventing blight from ruining the grain crops of the people. (On a side note, in parts of Europe, the term corn means grain, not maize like we think, since maize – our corn – is a New World crop).

Some of the traditional celebrations at this time include: 1) the sacrifice of a bull, or John Barleycorn, and then consumption of the meat or bread from this sacrifice; 2) games of skill – the ancient Celt’s equivalent to the ancient Greek Olympic games; 3) mock battles between Lugh and his foe; 4) country fairs; and 5) climbing local mountains and burying gifts such as flowers or grain.

These types of events are challenging to do in a public ritual, and even more difficult to accomplish in our current online venue! So in lieu of any of the above, we will come together and celebrate this season with songs, poems, and stories, and invite and encourage all to participate. If you have something to share, you can let Vella Rose know in advance by emailing her at HearthstoneCommunityChurch@gmail.com on or before Wednesday the 29th of July, or bring your piece to share to this Zoom ritual. Come and be part of the celebration of the first harvest from our gardens and fields!

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Thanks and a 'Tip of the Hat' to Last Month's Ritual Presenters

Hearthstone thanks Mary Ann and Pamela (and videographer Ellen) for offering a powerful and relevant ritual on the theme of Social Justice on July 3, the eve of Independence Day. Pamela began by reading an essay written by abolitionist Frederick Douglass 168 years ago. The piece spoke eloquently to the disparity in opportunity and equality between Americans with different skin colors, emphasizing that liberty, justice, happiness, and prosperity are meant for ALL.

Pamela and Mary Ann guided everyone to ground our roots down to the heartbeat of the Earth, then raise our branches up to the Star Nation. The Elements were invoked, circle was cleansed & cast, and Hecate was invoked to aid in the fight against social Injustice. The two priestesses gave a powerful and heartfelt recitation of the Charge of the Goddess. They had a black candle, and had invited participants to have their own ready for the candle magick. They explained how they carve a sigil to meld their intention into the candle, and all could do so simultaneously as they carved theirs. We chanted "No Justice, No Peace!" as the candle was anointed and lit, energy was raised, and a focused cone of power was sent into the universe to further the cause of social justice. Everyone was encouraged to burn their candle completely, whether all at once or a little each day, and bury the remaining wax in a special place. Cakes and wine were "shared" and circle opened.

Mary Ann and Pamela, we thank you (and Ellen!) for bringing this rite to us at this time when protests are active and racial justice is in the forefront. Know Justice, Know Peace!

Blessings to all.

----- Arynne

HEARTHSTONE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The members of Hearthstone's Board of Directors regret to announce that Deb has resigned to fully pursue travel and new pursuits! We thank Deb for her assistance in keeping Hearthstone going in recent years. Deb helped us scout and choose a new venue when our long time site closed for renovation, welcomed our guests at the door for many an OFM, and helped us draft Bylaws. Thank you so much, Deb! Best wishes!

Articles from our community members!



DENVER CELTIC
WOMEN'S CIRCLE

On Truth

We are in strange and exhausting times.

Especially for those of us who track the news or engage on social media, this year feels like a non-stop emergency. The drama of it is mesmerizing and draining.

We are being subjected on a daily basis to a word salad of seeming critical importance being blasted at us from all directions. New lies. New drama. New affronts to our democracy. Even words like “family” and “patriotism” have long been pulled from our hands and twisted into weapons, into deceit.

If it was all just politics and opinion it wouldn't matter, but it's not. It's all very real. One hundred thirty thousand real COVID-19 deaths. Ten percent very real unemployment. More of our neighbors losing their homes and ending up living out of cars, or tents, or shelters. They disappear from our view as new strangers crowd into our urban landscape, someone else's disappeared neighbors, now living on the

sidewalks and in the parks that used to seem empty. It's an overwhelming moment.

It sometimes seems like it's so very important to respond, to some of it, to all of it, or to none of it and withdraw. When we do respond, counter the lies, find the facts and figures, point out the logical flaws, the ridiculousness of things that should never be considered truth, it doesn't do us any good. We never seem to get ahead. Being right, correct, accurate isn't bringing us any closer to the end of the pandemic, a restoration of our environmental laws, a new world of radical justice, a sheltering of our fellow citizens and their children. We're just reacting.

If we are reactive we lose. No one can run defense forever. The ball gets past us at last, a punch finally lands. We are telling the truth and still losing.

If truth is important, then what is truth? Out of all of the accurate words that are possible to say, or write, out of all of the accurate words that have filled our ears and our eyes, which ones should we chose to share, to contemplate, to wield?

With our simple human mouths, capable of a mere single sentence at a time, truth is a series of choices, steps on a path. We are not legion, we are linear.

To get to the usefulness of truth we need some judgment.

"...anything which he will not judge according to its profits will not give them with full increase."
" Let him estimate the right and justice, truth and law, contract and regulation of every just ruler towards all his clients."

These quotes from the Audacht Morainn, the guidance for a king, so useful for modern self-rule, signal that we cannot take anything, even truth, for granted, but we must judge outcomes, and estimate effectiveness, or we will not obtain full value.

In our Circle we have three triads, and one of them is Truth.

Truth is: Honest, Noble, Enduring.

Truth is more than just verbal accuracy. For it to have the weight and depth that we need for spiritual guidance it has to be free from fraud or deception, but not merely free from fraud or deception. Out of all the accurate words swirling in our minds we need those words which possess outstanding qualities. We need the words of the highest order, from our most dearly held values, our passionate goals.

We cannot even remember these things when we are constantly reacting in a chaotic whirlwind. And if we cannot remember them, we cannot examine them and allow them to be molded by new circumstances and revelations.

Because, lastly, truth, real truth, is enduring; it is able to last for a long time without significant deterioration in quality or value.

And how can we achieve that if we do not stop and engage with our own spiritual practice? Our eyes are being opened to injustice, to privilege, to the violence of supremacy. We need to integrate that into our learning. We are experiencing divisions over personal rights, community action, patriotism, freedom, public health. We need to consider how to find unity with antagonists, with people who have become repugnant to us. What kind of spiritual outcome arises from contempt? And we have fear. We have so much fear. For some it has become a driver, for others a block to effective action. We must make the time to stop.

More than ever we need the spiritual practices that bring us together, that affirm the values that ground us in our lives. Without that grounding, we are losing our spiritual nourishment. Whether it is the new moon, the full moon, the upcoming Lughnasadh, or a daily acknowledgment of our Gods and Goddesses, our guides and our ancestors, we must help each other to enact the patterns that bring us back to our spiritual values, knowing that we cannot question them or evolve them if we do not remember them, live them, enact them. And, finally, we know that it is critical that we do evolve. Whatever our truths, they must grow with us. If we let them ground us, we can evolve them. When we affirm them through our actions, they provide us with the strength to meet the moment. We must stop, not merely out of exhaustion or to ignore the problems of the day, but to follow the practices of our faith, and evolve within them.

We will remember to speak about the things we prize the most. Even as we respond to the immediate needs of these many crises, when we find ways to stay connected with our original values it becomes possible to speak from our truth. This is the movement that cuts through the chaos. This is the action that has consequences.

Peace of the mountains to you,

Paulie Rainbow

Founder: Denver Celtic Women's Circle

[facebook.com/denvercelticwomenscircle](https://www.facebook.com/denvercelticwomenscircle)

[meetup.com/denvercelticwomenscircleevents](https://www.meetup.com/denvercelticwomenscircleevents)

[instagram.com/paulierainbow](https://www.instagram.com/paulierainbow)

For exploration consider:

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/durable>

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/noble>

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/honest>

<https://www.ancienttexts.org/library/celtic/ctexts/morann.html>

GUEST COLUMNS?

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



Upcoming Community Happenings and Events



The Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality

As we await a vaccine we continue to “social distance,” particularly not gathering in groups indoors. Open Full Moon rituals will likely be online on Zoom for many months...but thankfully that adaptation allows our Hearthstone Community to still come together each month. It is a joy to see each other’s faces and share ritual together. We are grateful our Ritual Leaders are successfully adapting their skills and creativity to a very different way of offering ritual for our community.

Online gatherings have become a much bigger part of our lives in other ways as well, from social visits to classes. If you seek classes and gatherings with an uplifting spiritual focus, we invite you to check out The Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality! You can view their eclectic online offerings on Facebook or at <https://www.altheacenter.org/>

Althea Center features Hearthstone's Open Full Moons in their weekly e-newsletter, and we are happy to give a shout-out for their own virtual offerings! Like every organization that isn't currently having people come through the doors, the Althea Center needs revenue to stay afloat. We hope to return our Open Full Moon rituals to Althea's lovely building eventually!



Earth Temple is an open Wiccan circle, meeting near the time of the New Moons for ritual work at Full Moon Books, 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood. Our circle is open to adults 18 and older. Earth Temple rituals are appropriate for beginners on the path, while seasoned practitioners will also find meaningful ritual work here. This year we have a connecting theme for our rituals: (re)visiting the basics of Wicca. Learn more about us at www.meetup.com/EarthTemple and visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/EarthTempleColorado>

Upcoming Earth Temple 2020 dates:

Due to COVID-19 please visit their Facebook page for updates and links to online rituals. Link

Below.

Aug 21

Sep 18

Oct 16

Nov 13

Dec 11

[Earth Temple Facebook Page](#)

Check out Vendors and Artists in our Community!



Turtle Monkey children's book series

Jo Fontana, Author

Turtle Monkey is a read to me book series. There are just enough pictures to hold their attention while being read to before they eventually read the books on their own prior to tackling chapter books. Turtle Monkey and Mama Monkey are the only green monkeys in the village. Turtle Monkey has lots of gas. She received Fuzztastic, her cat, as a Yule gift. Fuzztastic also has lots of gas – but he's afraid of it! Turtle Monkey spends most of her time outside when she isn't in school. Join us as Turtle Monkey learns about the world and how to cope with challenges.

Now available at Amazon: APPROACHING DARKNESS. This is an anthology of twelve short stories.

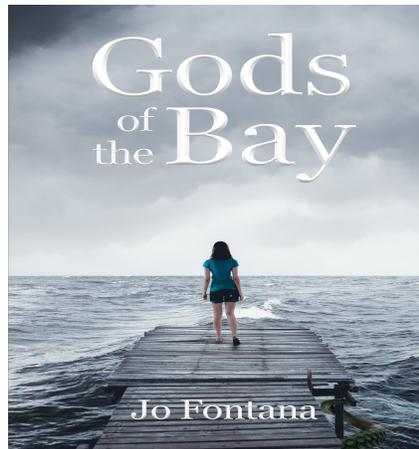
Some are horror, some are bizarre, and some are unnerving. These stories will make you look under the bed and keep your feet from dangling over the edge at night. Read as a child fends off a horror from beyond the grave with just a nightlight, listen in as Gods debate the future of humankind, or root for twins who battle a lady made of plants. Written by Jo Fontana under A. J. Hallows, one of her many pen names.

Print book available on Amazon at: https://www.amazon.com/Approaching-Darkness-J-Hallows/dp/197915001X/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1516143137&sr=8-4&keywords=Approaching+Darkness

THE EGG QUEST. Book One of the Demon Coast series by Jo Fontana & Teresa Horton. Reyden Frost leaves the sanctuary of the library to experience the world, despite the advice of Master Levik. His focus, a petrified egg, is stolen by a mysterious criminal his first night in the town of Hollow Harbor. Reyden reluctantly joins forces with a man of the law and another magic worker who was also a victim of the thief. The chase takes them across the continent of Ator, gathering new companions along the way. Will Reyden's past interfere with his future, or will he overcome it on the journey to retrieve the egg?

Print book available on Amazon at: https://www.amazon.com/Egg-Quest-Demon-Coast/dp/198354714X/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1518571543&sr=8-2&keywords=The+egg+quest

Now Available:
Comfort Food for All Seasons - Gods of the Bay



Summary

Katie Russo grew up on the east end of Long Island. She spent her youth in nature where the reeds and the canal would send her visions of things to come. As she entered adulthood, the Great South Bay and its murky waters fascinated her and eventually, Katie met what lurked under the waves. The memories of Fire Island and the Great South Bay would not easily fade from her memory and continued to haunt her long after she left Long Island.

For information on any of our books please visit:

Email: turtlemonkeybooks@gmail.com

Website: www.jofontana.com

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TurtleMonkey2>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/turtlemonkeybook>



Cat & Dog Spay / Neuter Clinics
<http://www.ddfl.org/spayneuter/>

Hearthstone cares about pet overpopulation! The Denver Dumb Friends League (DDFL) cares too, and through generous grants and donors, they offer **FREE cat spay/neuter surgeries and age-appropriate vaccinations** to any Colorado cat regardless of owner's income. DDFL also offers **\$50 dog spay/neuter surgeries including basic vaccinations to lower-income dog owners**. The details, locations, and qualifications are at their web site above. It takes ALL of us to reduce the overpopulation problem and move toward a world where all pets are wanted and cared for. Thank you!

Hearthstone Community Church Website
Link



For 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 2020! Thank
you for volunteering your talents!

Donations --- now 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. Since we can no longer "pass the hat" (hard to do on Zoom!) we are set up to receive donations through Zelle. Zelle is a direct funds transfer method offered by most banks. It is super easy to use from your bank website/app and no fees are charged or withheld. Hearthstone is registered in Zelle by our email address: HearthstoneCommunityChurch@gmail.com We suggest a donation of \$5-10. If you can't afford it, you are still welcome. If you can afford more, we'll be delighted to accept it. Hearthstone's primary expense right now is our Zoom account, but we are planning and saving for our eventual return to leasing space at Althea Center for our monthly Open Full Moon rituals. Thank you!



Open Full Moon Dates 2020

July 31, 2020 **(See above--Gather for a LIVE ZOOM Ritual)**

August 28, 2020

September 25, 2020

October 30, 2020

November 27, 2020

Note there will be no December OFM in 2020

Blessings from all of us at Hearthstone!

**Subscribe to receive our
Newsletter**

