



## **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 (Arynne, Vella Rose, Amy, and Catherine) 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 for the safety of our community, our next Open Full Moon ritual will be LIVE on Zoom on February 26th. Please join us! 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 for Attending Ritual:

\*You can use a computer, your phone, or other device that has audio. A camera allows your image "to be present" for others to see. A larger viewing screen makes for a nicer ritual experience.

\*Join the Meeting from the URL below in the Zoom Meeting Invitation.

\*Please connect with Zoom and join us between 7:00 - 7:20 for casual conversation. We will Lock the virtual door at 7:30 just like we do when we gather in person and will begin announcements at that time, followed by the ritual.

\*You and the other participants will be visible on the screen which gives us all a feeling of being part of this community, so please be dressed (!) and have some light on your face.

\*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.

\*We encourage all participants to set up your desk / space for ritual - this helps enrich your experience.

\*Remember to provide yourself with "cakes and wine"! (drink and snack)

\*Read the information about this month's ritual for any additional items you may be asked to have on hand during the ritual (see next section below).

Hearthstone Community Church invites you to join us on Zoom!

Topic: Open Full Moon ritual

Time: February 26, 2021 7:00 PM Mountain Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82586423025?pwd=TkNRN1lzWWpjdFpMVFdQN2hBZWcyZz09>

Meeting ID: 825 8642 3025

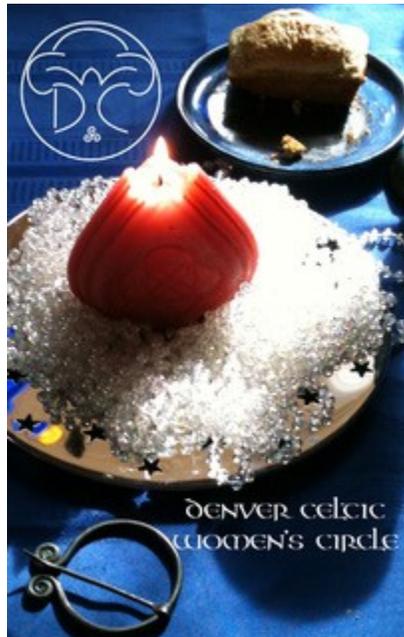
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## Open Full Moon Friday February 26, 2021



The Denver Celtic Women's Circle is so pleased to again join the Hearthstone Community for the Open Full Moon on 26 February 2021.

This year we are focusing on the three aspects or sisters of the Goddess Brigit/Brigid/Brighid, daughter of the Good God, the Dagda.

Brigit is revered and invoked in every part of Ireland, and each area has their own customs and rituals for honoring Her and ensuring Her presence in their homes. We took some time this year to delve into the traditions from Ireland through "The Rites of Brigid; Goddess and Saint" by Seán Ó Duinn.

We also looked at ways to make this ritual personal and tactile, to allow each participant to invoke the blessing of the generous and compassionate Goddess into the items that each person brings to the ritual. By joining our energies together we create a magical connection that imbues the items that we each will have gathered with the protection and healing of this ancient and much loved Goddess.

Each participant in the ritual should have 3 items for this rite:

- a candle
- a small bottle of water
- a small cloth to serve as a healing charm in the year to come. (It doesn't have to be terribly small, but it should be manageable during the ritual)

The rite will last about 45 to 50 minutes and will start with a guided meditation, taking you to a small village in western Ireland near the sea, on the dark night when Brigit is expected to arrive at the door, be greeted and given entry and honor on the family assembled there. The meditation will end with the song Brigid Buach

## TRANSLATION:

Gifted Brigid finest of kin,  
Gifted Brigid king of heaven's sister,  
Gifted Brigid most noble one,  
Gifted Brigid life alive.  
Gifted Brigid life alive  
Gifted Brigid mother of the Gaels,  
Gifted Brigid welcomer of guests,  
Gifted Brigid seed of wisdom,  
Gifted Brigid life alive  
Gifted Brigid life alive.  
You are the happiness of all enchantment  
You are the light of the beam of the sun  
You are the open door of hospitality  
You are the brightest star of knowledge  
You are the leap of the deer on the hills  
You are the stride of the horse in the field  
You are the grace of the swan in the water  
Gifted Brigid expansive flame

You can find the original here: <https://www.irishsong.com/brigid-buach-another-new-song-from-pdraigins-creative-well-in-2021-it-celebrates-the-gifts-of-the-goddess-saint-brigid-and-heralds-a-new-dawn/>

After the meditation and song we will begin the opening portion of the ritual, honoring the Four Gifts of Ireland, invoking the Three Realms and offering the blessing Altú Paganách in Irish and English.

There will be a call/response for the gifts: "Hail the gifts" The Three Realms provides an opportunity for each participant to connect with the realms and draw their energy into our selves and our collective center. The words of the Altú Paganách, by Dennis King, are here:

I láthair mo mhuintire  
siar go dtí tús na beatha,  
I bhfianaise na ndéithe  
agus na n-aindéithe,  
In ómós do fhéile  
ollmhór na cruinne,  
Gabhaim buíochas  
roimh mo chuid.

In the presence of my people  
back to the beginning of life,  
In the witness of the gods  
and the not-gods,  
In homage to the immense  
generosity of the universe,  
I give thanks

The next portion of the ritual is the Wisdom of the Druid Path, a challenge between the two women leading the ritual to share the guiding principles of the Denver Celtic Women's Circle.

And then, as a group, we will recreate the Threshold Rite with participants providing the three knocks on the door, three times as the Goddess reveals Her blessings and finally enters!

At the heart of the ritual, offerings are made to the Goddess, and then together we welcome Brigid and Her blessing into the symbols of Her power and compassion, lighting the candle, transforming the waters, imbuing the cloth/brat with Her healing.

Having created a virtual spiral into the center of the magic we will begin to circle our way out, reciting Her Genealogy, offering gratitude, invoking Her shield of protective power over our homes.

At the end we will blow out our candles and sing again, that old favorite from Circle Round & Sing, "Holy Water, Sacred Flame" by Anne Hill.

You can listen to a very slow version here: <https://youtu.be/xCI1L3PPpOg>

Holy Water, Sacred Flame  
Brigid we invoke Your name  
Bless my hands, my head, my heart  
Source of healing, song and art.

We hope you enjoy this sacred rite to Brigid and are able to enjoy the blessings through the candle, waters, and healing cloth as you need for the rest of the year.

Peace of the mountains to you,

Paulie Rainbow & Kellene Rees  
Denver Celtic Women's Circle

## Thanks! and a Tip of the Hat



All of us with Hearthstone thank Maeve Wilde, of Brighid's Forge Coven, for leading our first Open Full Moon of 2021 in celebration of the full moon and the sabbat of Imbolg.

Maeve cleansed, cast, and invited Brighid to join us. She explained that Brighid is goddess of Earth, Sea, and Sky, with stories going back as far as 500 BCE. In the

Middle Ages She was re-conceptualized as Saint Brighid, and is associated with light/flame, healing, poetry, smithcraft, and other gifts. We learned about various spellings and Irish pronunciations, and learned the Brighid chant with the line "Bring us your light and your healing power." Maeve shared some of the traditional practices to honor Brighid and seek her healing blessings. Then Maeve led us in guided meditation down a path to a shoreline where earth, sea, and sky come together. As we walked along the shoreline we passed young lambs, and came to a stone circle where we lit a fire and summonsed Brighid. Brighid asked each of us "Who or what needs healing in your world?" After Maeve guided us out of meditation we each lit a healing candle, and Maeve encouraged us to send Brighid's healing to our hurting world. We shared cakes and ale, and opened our circles.

Thank you, Maeve (and camera-man Doug), for allowing us to spend the evening with you and Brighid! Blessed Be!

----- Arynne

## Articles from our community members!



### Digging the Well - looking for the wisdom of the path

The Denver Celtic Women's Circle loves doing the Hearthstone OFM once a year. It's a fun challenge, delving into the things we love, like opening a treasure chest in the attic and looking for the perfect hat and wand out of a grand and sparkling collection!

Because the rest of the year we are, separately and together, digging down into the deep rich earth of our tradition, reading books, attending workshops, discussing our findings, exploring what we've learned and sharing our rituals together as we grow.

This is the second year of my work on my MA in Irish Literature through University College Cork. I'm done with my classes and working on my final in-depth essay. To get myself started on reviewing the material I think I want to incorporate, I picked back up the book "The Rites of Brigid; Goddess and Saint" by Seán Ó Duinn. It's a favorite reference in our circle but this time I ripped into it looking for the morsels I want to highlight in my thesis essay. We will be making good use of some of the material in our upcoming OFM ritual, but it won't have a strong presence in my essay. I'm focusing on the manuscript materials for modern American Pagans, and this wonderful book centers on beliefs and practices over texts, but it is rich with hints of true faith, enduring values, and truly Irish cultural habits and traditions.

I have made an ironic discovery in the midst of my degree work. While I intended to mine the manuscript materials for Pagan/Pre-Christian truth, the truth of the pre-Christian practice was encoded in gestures and songs, spoken oaths, alliteration, and paths so worn into the landscape that footsteps are the story, and seasons are the words. What of this un-literate, lived world might have been chosen for the record created by monkish hands and monotheist minds is the subject of many, many scholarly debates, and will still be the subject of my final assignment.

But all of this has brought me to an appreciation of what we do together, as a community. I have a new, deeper regard for the power of sung and spoken words, for the personal handling

of sacred objects, for the value of moments that we spend in sacred ritual together.

I am still in the mines of the manuscripts, sifting through the living earth of Irish tradition to screen out nuggets I hope my community will eventually assay favorably. I want to make a gift of my learning, to strike a spark in dark times.

In the meanwhile, I will be joining with my sister, Kellene, and possibly another member, and with you all in our greater community as we weave our magic in moments and words. This is what matters. It may seem ephemeral, but it has the enduring qualities of the traditions that strengthened, healed, and blessed our ancestors for thousands of years.

This month is our annual Brigit's Basket Food Drive for Food Bank of the Rockies. As it has been a challenging year for so many we doubled our online donation goal and partnered with Spiritways Metaphysical who offered to donate 5% of their profits for their February Festival weekend on 13-14 Feb 2021. Although that weekend is over by the time you read this, please drop by when you're out shopping again and let them know we appreciate their contributions! Every dollar given to FBR provides 4 meals for our neighbors in need, and allows Food Bank of the Rockies to purchase fresh produce and other specialty items for local pantries. If you would like to donate online please go to:

<http://fbr.convio.net/goto/BrigitsBasket2021>

Peace of the mountains to you,

Paulie Rainbow

founder: Denver Celtic Women's Circle

[www.meetup.com/Denver-Celtic-Womens-Circle-Events/](http://www.meetup.com/Denver-Celtic-Womens-Circle-Events/)

[www.facebook.com/DenverCelticWomensCircle](http://www.facebook.com/DenverCelticWomensCircle)

## Predators. Liars. Same thing.

Dear ladies\*,

When a counselor (or therapist, healer, teacher, reader, clergy person of any kind – shamanic, pagan, Wiccan, Christian, Buddhist, whatever) tells you that entering a sexual relationship with them will validate your divine womanhood, or heal your wounded inner child or whatever the f\*#% but it sounds great, and especially if this relationship will be a secret known only between you two... You are not being validated or healed.

You are being used.

Someone in a position of trust is taking advantage of your vulnerability.

\* They are a predator. \*

And you probably aren't the first person to be entrapped, because they know all the key words to make you feel wonderful and special and compliant.

This isn't special. It's predatory, and it's also oath-breaking conduct that goes against every professional and ethical standard.

And P.S. This is NOT standard or acceptable behavior within the pagan community.

And when you break it off, or when they're done using you, if they tell you that no one will believe you,  
that it's just your word against theirs, they're lying about that, too, and trying to keep you powerless. How healing is that?

Speaking to trusted friends and Elders helps reclaim your power. Break the isolation and find someone who can hear your truth.

Speaking up makes it harder for this predator to continue stalking your sisters in the community.

And the opposite: Our silence enables them, and helps them keep on using, abusing, preying on the vulnerable.

It means we're keeping the predator's dirty secret.

Be a good ally to yourself and your sisters. Speak up.

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\* This note is written from my personal perspective, speaking to what I've seen, but this topic does not apply only to women:

All variety of people are preyed upon sexually, energetically, psychologically, et. al.  
Rather than presuming that my voice can adequately to speak to your experience, I encourage you to speak your own truth.

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Illustration: "The Fable of the Wolf in Sheep's Clothing" by Gustave Doré (1832-1883).

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## Flower Essence Chocolates

By Cynthia Killingbeck CH, CN, FEP

I am feeling the need for little comforts and the season is speaking to me in the form of chocolate...

A year ago I began a journey away from coffee. Finding out I was most likely allergic to coffee I decided to do a 6-week elimination, during which I found out I was indeed seriously allergic to coffee. I had the worst healing crisis I had ever experienced. So, I stopped drinking coffee and went through some tea ideas like dandelion tea (Dandy Blend), but it didn't satisfy me, and made my tummy unhappy. I then settled on a masala chai. The chai I used was a rooibos based one so was caffeine free and it was nice and spicy, so it distracted my taste buds from the idea of coffee. I recently tried a mushroom cocoa and that really hooked me. I really enjoy my own blend of cocoa powder with a little honey and coconut milk in the morning or anytime!

In this winter season I feel the little pleasures are needed, it is cold, and we are mostly home bound so I wanted to share a fun recipe for little chocolates you can make at home. Cocoa powder contains magnesium responsible for stress relief and calming to your mood, and it also contains antioxidants responsible for helping the body clean up free radicals in the body. And because I am an herbalist I am adding tinctures of Damiana (an antidepressant), and Albizia (an anti-anxiety herb) along with some Flower Essences. I am also trying my hand at a hot coconut oil infusion of Damiana to make some chocolates with; if you want to know how that turns out you can check my Facebook page (link below).

Flower Essences are energetic vibrational medicine and are used to help balance our many different emotional states. They can be subtle or potent but powerful in both cases. Flower Essences are floral infusions heated by the sun's solar energy and steeped in living mineral rich spring water. Water all over the earth is affected by its environment and what it comes into contact with. We are made mostly of water and gain our energy from the sun directly with Vitamin D production through our skin and by the plant and animal nutrients we eat. All living things require water, solar energy from the sun, and minerals from the earth to survive. Every flower carries its own energetic emotional gift to us. The system of Flower Essences was brought into being in 1930 by Edward Bach M.D. and since then just like all the flowers on the

earth blossomed and spread.

If there is an emotion or the possibility of an imbalance with our emotions then there is a corresponding flower essence to help heal, process, and support us. In my little chocolates I included Rock Rose, a flower essence used to help one remain grounded in the face of adversity and even catastrophic situations. I use it to calm in the event of a panic attack or anxiety. I used Larch to support a healthy self-esteem and encourage confidence. I added Buttercup as it brings in radiant light and supports feelings of positive worth. Last I added Corn flower as it brings us into alignment with the earth and supports grounding especially when feeling stressed in chaotic environments or situations and having difficulty staying centered. As you can see flower essences are very personal and they have a variety of purposes and uses.

For your own formulation you can always try Rescue Remedy as a place to start as it can be used in stressful, traumatic, or difficult situations you are having trouble managing. Flower essences do not take away your emotions or feelings, but they can help support you through them, offering enough calm and balance to help you process and work through them in a healthy manner. I just find flower essences to be a beautiful way to feel beautiful and peaceful. Self-heal flower essence is a great way to tap into the healthy lifestyle choices needed for body and soul and could be a good choice as we leave winter and enter spring. Mariposa Lily flower essence is a fabulous way to heal if you have had issues with your mother, or are missing your mother, as the flower brings you into the embrace of the Great Mother. I call this the Goddess essence.



#### Flower Essence Chocolate Pieces with Herbal Kisses

100 ml Cocoa Butter (3 oz.)

50 ml Honey (you may reduce if like a darker bitter flavor)

100 g Cocoa Powder

Needed one silicon mold/ice cube tray

You can do this all in a glass Pyrex 2 cup measuring cup

Place the cocoa butter in a heat safe measuring cup and microwave in 30 sec intervals stirring in-between until melted completely. Add the Honey and mix completely. Add the cocoa powder and mix completely with a silicon spatula.

Optional: My mold has 21 sections, so I calculated one drop per section of each. I added 21 drops of Damiana tincture, 21 drops of Albizia tincture, 21 drops of flower essences as stated above or of your own choosing, (I did this from a stock bottle). Mix thoroughly.

Optional: add 1 oz. crushed nuts or dried fruit pieces.

Pour into molds and freeze for 20 min. Store in a fridge as they may become too soft at room temperature. If they do not set right more cocoa butter is needed.

Enjoy!

If you're interested in a more personal complete flower essence session, I am available for 1-hour consultation sessions via video chat for \$60 (the actual bottle of spring water with your personal FE formula we create during the session is an additional \$5) . If you want what I call a sample session you can do a 20 min session for \$30 the flower essence you receive will be a two-week supply of only three essences in spring water and is an additional \$5.

Visit my website for an appointment <https://www.vitalblossom.org/services>

Email me at [Cynthia@vitalblossom.org](mailto:Cynthia@vitalblossom.org)

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

## February Birthstone – Amethyst

By Vella Rose Pagan, Educator, and Geologist

Gregorian Birthstone Poem - Author unknown, published in 1870 by Tiffany and Company

The February born shall find, Sincerity and peace of mind,  
Freedom from passion and from care, If they, the Amethyst will wear.

Beautiful purple Amethysts have been used by many cultures across the globe since antiquity and have been associated with the month of February for several centuries. This article will share the roots of the name, symbolism and uses, and a bit of science and things to be aware of when buying Amethyst.

### What's in a Name?

There is widespread misinformation that the name comes from an ancient Greek myth about Dionysius being upset with a young maiden named Amethystos and he turned her into stone – but this story actually originates from a poem written by Frenchman Rémi Belleau in 1576. It must be stressed that no connections can be found to tie the story that Belleau wrote to any actual Greek or Roman myths.

The term “A-methyst” does come from ancient Greek, the “a” means without, just as it does in modern English, and “Methe” was the goddess of Intoxication, who is associated with Dionysius, but not in the story so widely shared as mentioned above. So the name “Amethyst” means “without intoxication”; we would say “sobriety” in modern English.



Grapes made from Amethyst in this 19th-century paperweight from the Fersman Mineralogical Museum. The green is serpentine, the base is marble. Photo by Shakko, licensed under CC By-SA 3.0.

Rhea, the Titan goddess of fertility and motherhood, gave a stone of Amethyst to Dionysius to protect him from the tyranny of madness when drinking wine. Rhea was Dionysius' paternal grandmother and this story was preserved in the *Nonnus Dionsiaca* written by Panopolis, a Greek poet who lived circa 380 CE to 420 CE. This is the only known reference to the stone Amethyst in Greek Mythological writings.

"Methyst" refers to the goddess Methe, who Panopolis included in his *Nonnus*. Methe is the spirit and personification of drunkenness, and was an associate of Dionysius in many tales. In the *Nonnus*, Methe is married to Staphylus of Assyria and is the mother of Botrys. The morning after a banquet, Staphylus dies, and Dionysius honors the family by naming the state of drunkenness after Methe, and honors her husband and son by naming "Bunch of Grapes" and "Grapes" after their names, respectively. In later tales, Dionysius gave Methe a wine-colored robe and she traveled with him to India.

### **Some Symbolic Meanings of Amethyst**

Historically, Amethyst is strongly associated with sobriety by its very name, and in many cultures has been used by warriors as a form of protection in battle. Starting with St. Valentine, it became associated with love, and had a variety of other positive attributes given to it by many cultures. In Arabian and Hebrew lore, Amethyst was used to protect one from bad dreams. The color purple has been associated with spiritual endeavors including mysticism and magic; and historically purple has been a visual symbol of luxury, power, and royalty - going back to the use of the purple dye from the Murex snails on fabric, which only the wealthy and powerful could afford. Psychologically, purple is considered a cooling color and is associated with feelings of calmness.

### **Used Since Antiquity**

Egyptians mined Amethyst from the Wadi el-Hudi mine, located in Egypt's Eastern Desert. This mine was active during the Middle Kingdom (circa 2050 to 1710 BCE) which encompasses the dates of Queen Mereret (circa 1878 to 1839 BCE) but was before King Tutankhamen (circa 1342 to 1325 BCE) both of whom were buried with Amethyst scarabs and other Amethyst pieces as were most nobles of Ancient Egypt. In fact, the Egyptian Book of the Dead directs that Amethyst be fashioned into heart-shaped amulets which should be included in the burial goods. It is said that Egyptians believed Amethyst would protect them from malign influences of many types and that Egyptian soldiers carried amulets (protective stones) of Amethyst to keep them from being killed during battle. Women wore girdles of Amethyst and cowrie shells to increase their fertility and protect them during pregnancy and childbirth.



Left: Amethyst scarab (Egyptian Middle Kingdom, ca. 1981 to 1640 BCE). From The Metropolitan Museum of Art collection; CC0 1.0 Universal (CC0 1.0) Public Domain Dedication.

Right: Amethyst scarab on string of Amethyst beads. Egyptian Middle Kingdom, from The Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology collection, London; Photo by Osama Shukir, Muhammed Amin FRCP (Glasg) – Own Work, CC BY-SA 4.0.

The Judaic Breastplate of Aaron contains Amethyst as the ninth stone; the third stone in the third row. The twelve stones on the breastplate are believed to be the roots of the use of birthstones and were originally assigned to the twelve tribes of Israel, and later to the signs of zodiac and the months. There is no agreement on which of the tribes is associated with Amethyst; it has been suggested that it belongs to the tribe of Gad, Dan, or possibly Issachar. The Tribe of Gad is considered a warring tribe which would line up with the use of Amethyst as good luck piece by warriors; the Tribe of Dan was the judges; and the Tribe of Issachar was the men of learning. Some Judaic writings suggest that Amethyst was associated with dreams and was used as a cure for eye ailments.

The Story of Cleopatra's Ring is a widely circulated tale that she wore an Amethyst ring engraved with the goddess Methe. This information comes from an ancient Greek quatrain: "I am Drunkenness, the work of a skilled hand, but I am carved on the sober stone Amethyst. The stone is foreign to the work. But I am the sacred possession of Cleopatra; on the queen's hand even the drunken goddess should be sober."

There is a problem with this tale: which Cleopatra is this text referring to? If this quatrain was written by Asclepiades of Samos (born circa 320 BCE) which is the common citation (Asclepiades, 44 G-P = Anthologia Palatina 9.752), then the Cleopatra mentioned must be the sister of Alexander the Great; this woman died in 303 BCE. The Cleopatra of Julius Caesar and Mark Anthony acquaintance lived much later than this text (Cleopatra, 69 to 30 BCE); however if the quatrain was written by Antipater of Thessalonica as some suggest (he wrote many texts between 20 BCE and 20 CE) the tale of Cleopatra's Ring could indeed be referring to the later Cleopatra.

The Ancient Romans loved Amethyst and used them as seals, rings, and other jewelry. Pliny the Elder (23/24 to 79 CE) compared the color of Amethyst to that of wine and also said: "To the first rank belongs the amethystos"; "The falsehoods of the magicians would persuade us that these stones are preventive of inebriety, and that it is from this that they have derived their name;" and "All of these stones are transparent and of an agreeable violet color and easy to engrave, those of India have in perfection the very richest shades of purple and it is to attain this color that the dyers in purple direct all their endeavors" (from *Naturalis Historia*, by Pliny the Elder). Pliny noted that the Magi believed carving symbols of the Moon and Sun on Amethyst was a powerful charm of protection and granted good luck, success, and favor with those in authority.

St. Valentine (226 – 270 CE) was a Bishop in Rome who was martyred on February 14, 269 CE, which is the original source of our Valentine's Day holiday. He is said to have worn an Amethyst ring that bore a carving of Cupid. Roman soldiers recognized him from his ring and would ask that he perform their marriage ceremonies, something that was not permitted under Roman law, but was by the Christian church. This is believed to be one of the sources for the association of Amethyst with love.

The Catholic Church, at some time during the Middle Ages, began issuing Episcopal rings when clergy rose to the position of Bishop. These rings were traditionally set with Amethyst, were symbols of the marriage between the Bishop and the Church, and were used as an official seal. The choice of this stone may have

been because it was believed to help control evil thoughts and was a reminder to stay sober when drinking wine in Mass.

During the Renaissance (circa 1401 – 1550 CE), Amethyst was as valuable as Rubies and Emeralds and was much loved by those in power. It was not until the enormous Amethyst deposits of South America were discovered in the 1860's that the stone became affordable for everyone. During the Renaissance, Amethyst was associated with humility and modesty. Due to its royal purple color and expense, it was associated with royalty, noble classes, and clergy and Amethysts were incorporated into the crown jewels of many countries, including the British Crown.

Use in Asia – Amethyst has been part of the Hindu tradition since antiquity, mentioned in Indian texts going back to at least 1500 BCE. It is one of the 'uparatna' or secondary stones, associated with the celestial body Saturn and is believed to remove evil effects of this powerful planet. Amethyst is said to bring its owner wealth and fame.

Chinese geomancy, called Feng Shui, is an ancient practice, started in the 5th Century BCE, but the widespread use of Amethyst in Feng Shui seems to be a more modern adaptation. In modern Feng Shui, Amethyst brings luck, health, and reduces pain and suffering; Amethyst is placed in the wealth corner of homes and business to enhance the flow of material wealth, and is used as a tool to clear negative energy and drive away the hazards of life. Please note that no ancient Chinese use of Amethyst could be found by this author prior to the Qing Dynasty (1644 to 1911 CE).



Cup carved from Amethyst, Qing dynasty (1644–1911), Qianlong period (1736–95)  
From the Metropolitan Museum of Art collection, CC0 1.0 Universal (CC0 1.0) Public Domain Dedication

## Mineralogy

Amethyst is a purple variety of Quartz ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) with a hardness of 7, a specific gravity of about 2.65, and color that ranges from shades of lavender to dark purple. Amethyst forms in igneous and metamorphic rocks, hydrothermal veins and hot springs deposits, and in some sedimentary rocks. To form, it needs a silica-enriched solution that has a trace amount of Ferric Iron ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ); must be heated to  $50^\circ$  to  $250^\circ\text{C}$ ; and after the crystals grow they must be exposed to a tiny amount of gamma radiation which causes the Ferric Iron to lose an electron thus making the stone purple. Many Amethyst crystals are darker at the tips than the base, reflecting a change to increased amounts of the Ferric Iron in the solution as the crystal was growing. Ultraviolet (UV) light can fade Amethyst to a paler purple, so avoid prolonged exposure to the Sun.

Some forms of purple Amethyst can be heat treated to change their color to green, called Green Amethyst. There is a naturally occurring green variety of Quartz called Prasiolite, but if the stone is heat treated to get the color it should be called Green Amethyst. There is also a new find of Pink Amethyst from Patagonia that hit the rock circuit a few years ago. Like purple Amethyst, the color in this pink variety is caused by the Ferric Iron, hence the name Pink Amethyst and not pink Quartz. It is not Rose Quartz which is a pink variety of Quartz whose color is due to fibrous nanocrystals of a Borosilicate mineral.

### Buyer Beware Information

Treatments to Change Color: Amethyst is often irradiated to darken its color. When heated to between 300° and 400°C, many Amethysts will turn a dark yellow and look like Citrine; this color change from purple to yellow is because the Ferric Iron changes its oxidation state to Ferrous Iron. When only part of purple Amethyst has changed to yellow, the trade name for the combo purple-yellow Quartz is Ametrine.

Synthetic Amethyst, aka lab-grown Amethyst, is very difficult to differentiate from natural Amethyst without running expensive tests. Most of the faceted Amethyst that is available in jewelry is lab grown – some sources say over 80% to 90% of such material is lab grown.

### Additional Attributes

Using Pythagorean numerology, Amethyst has a value of 33 which reduces to 6. Amethyst is the official gemstone of the state of South Carolina; Georgia recognizes both Quartz and Amethyst as the state stone. Most sources say Amethyst is the gemstone for Wednesday. There does not seem to be agreement on which anniversary should be associated with Amethyst, the list of possible anniversaries includes the 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup>.



## 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](mailto:ArynneD@aol.com) Content will not be edited. We can usually make room for more voices. We appreciate our contributors!

## 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

Earth Temple is an open Wiccan circle, meeting near the time of the New Moons for ritual work. When there's not a pandemic, we meet at Full Moon Books, 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood. Currently we meet on Zoom. 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: astrology. Learn more about us at [www.meetup.com/EarthTemple](https://www.meetup.com/EarthTemple) and visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/EarthTempleColorado>

Due to COVID-19 please visit our Facebook page or Meetup group for updates and links to online rituals. [Link Below.](#)

Upcoming Earth Temple 2021 dates:

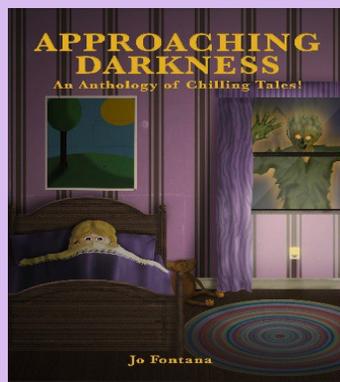
Mar 12  
April 9  
May 7  
June 11  
July 9  
August 6  
September 3  
October 8  
November 5  
December 3

[Earth Temple Facebook Page](#)

Check out Vendors and Artists in our Community!

New books released by Jo Fontana.  
For more information visit [www.jofontana.com](http://www.jofontana.com)

*Approaching Darkness*: This is an anthology of seventeen short stories that are influenced by *The Twilight Zone*, *Stories to Tell in the Dark*, and *Tales from the Darkside* that aren't for the faint of heart. Some stories contain elements of horror, some are bizarre, and some are unnerving. Join us as a little girl fends off a horror from beyond the grave using her trusty nightlight, listen in as Gods debate the future of mankind, or root for twins battling against a lady made of plants.



*Turtle Monkey and the Magic Garden*: A bilingual illustrated picture book about a green monkey who gets in trouble all the time. Now Turtle Monkey has to help in the garden. Will the punishment fit the crime? Un libro bilingüe ilustrado sobre una mona verde que se mete en problemas todo el tiempo. Ahora Mona Tortuga tiene que ayudar en el jardín. ¿Se ajustará su castigo al crimen?



[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](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 2021!  
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 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 \$5-10. 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 2021**

(See above--Gather for a LIVE ZOOM Ritual)

February 26

March 26

April 23

May 21

June 18

July 23

August 20

September 17

October 15

November 19

December 17

*Blessings from all of us at Hearthstone!*

**Subscribe to receive our  
Newsletter**



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