



December 2021

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, Catherine, and Ziva) 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 for In-Person ritual!

Meeting Place: Althea Center 1400 Williams St. Denver CO, 80218

Hearthstone Procedures for In-Person Ritual Updated December 2021

We have returned to in-person ritual, but since the Covid Pandemic is still here, and with the more contagious delta and omnicron variants, we are taking extra precautions, and following the guidelines of the Althea Center, City of Denver, and State of Colorado.

1) We request that if you are not fully vaccinated, do not feel well, or have recent exposure, that you stay home and not attend Hearthstone's ritual.

Althea Center requires proof of vaccination for their events, but since we are renting from them, they allow us to decide whether to check your vaccination card. At this time we are opting to not require proof of vaccination, but be aware that this may change. Vaccination IS required, in love and trust. Thank you.

2) Masks are currently required for everyone indoors at the Althea Center.

3) Hand sanitizer will be offered to all who enter our meeting room, and bottles of sanitizer and wipes will be available in the room. Bathrooms are also available for washing hands with soap and water.

4) We request that all participants give adequate space between themselves and others, and refrain for now from handshakes and hugs. We suggest a slight bow, elbow touch, or some other suitable way to interact with friends and community members.

5) For cakes and wine, to reduce physical interaction, we request that you bring your own water for the "wine" in a resealable bottle and either forgo "cakes" or bring a small, mess-free snack.

December 17th Open Full Moon Ritual

Season's Greetings to our Magickal Community! Hearthstone's Open Full Moon Ritual on Friday December 17th will be presented by Cynthia Killingbeck and Spiral Moon Coven. Our Ritual will honor Gatherings, Connection, and Festivity. Yule will be just days away and even though we are experiencing the darkest and longest nights of the year, the Full Moon Mother Goddess is ripe and burgeoning, ready to give birth to the Sun God. We will learn a little about the old traditions and perhaps create some new celebratory practices for Yule, and gather and connect around a living tree, while preparing for the Sun God's arrival. It will be a night of Light and Blessings. We look forward to seeing you all!



November 19th Tip of the Hat



Hearthstone offers harmonized gratitude to Vella Rose for leading our Open Full Moon Ritual held during the dark time between Samhain and Yule on November 15, a period of introspection and internal work. Our Circle held many new faces and Vella Rose gracefully balanced Teacher and Priestess. We were reminded how singing together unifies us, even when fully masked.

The Kore Chant was sung to bless with water/salt and fire/air. "Spirit of the Wind" aided Calling the Quarters followed by a Wiccan invocation of the Lord and Lady, and then the Ancestor Invocation: "History, Mystery, Legacy, Destiny, These are the gifts, and we pass them on. Blood and Spirit of those gone before, Blood and Spirit of those yet to come."

Vella Rose introduced the realigning our triple soul, like a figure 8, between our solar plexus, emotive heart, and spiritual head to prepare us for meditation. Supplies were provided and we were invited to journal our insights after a meditative time, scrying into a small mirror, gazing with self-love. "What might be something in my life that needs attention?"

To raise energy for our intention, we sang "Air I Am". Vella Rose led us in building a cone of energy to send out to the Elements (the stuff we're made of.) The rite of Cakes and Ale was replaced with community sharing, "popcorn" style, with words shared by participants including: restored, gratitude, home, energy, insight, growth, community, happiness.

Thank you, Vella Rose, for offering the needed pause to go deep, exploring images illuminated by our internal light. This evening of ritual was deeply satisfying. Blessings of the season to all!

--- Ziva and Arynne

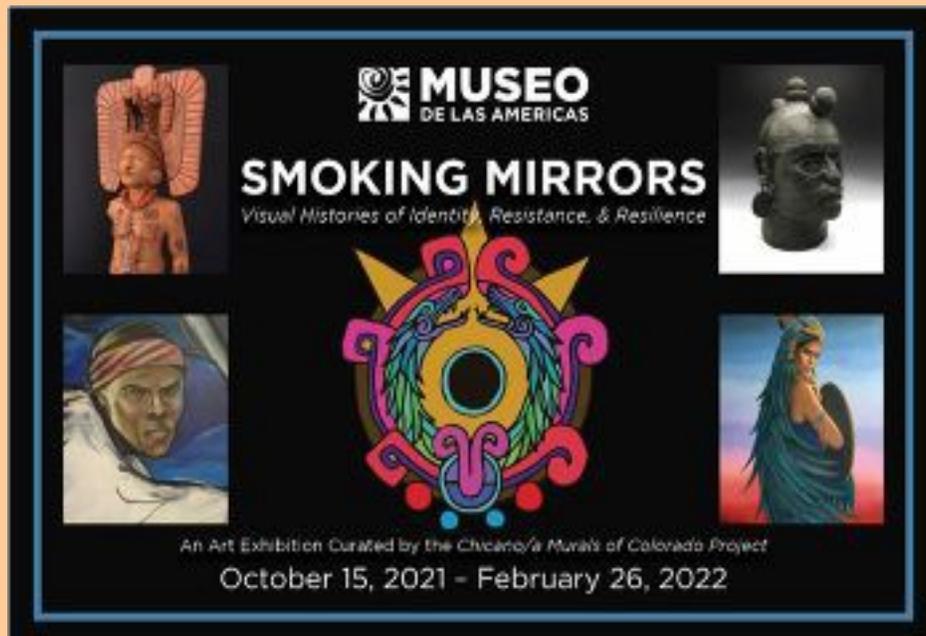
Colorado's Museo de las Americas has curated an exhibition inspired by the Nahuatl mythology of Quetzalcoatl and Tezcatlipoca. [Smoking Mirrors: Visual Histories of Identity, Resistance and Resilience](#) runs through February 26, 2022.

Date: Oct 15, 2021 to Feb 26, 2022

Schedule: Tue-Fri, noon-6pm; Sat, noon-5pm

Cost: \$8 admission

This visual arts exhibit curated by the [Chicano/a Murals of Colorado Project](#) will honor the Colorado Chicano/a tradition of using public art and murals in service to the people and communities that are historically dehumanized and oppressed in US society.



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 writing to ArynneD@aol.com Content will not be edited. We can usually make room for more voices. We appreciate our contributors!

Finding the Moon, Finding the Sun

Back when I had a handful of beginners in my circle, and they were offered the chance to raise a cup in honor of the new moon, I would watch in dismay as each one in turn would scan the dark sky optimistically, and then raise the vessel deliberately in a vaguely overhead direction, directing their words to the nadir of the star-sparkled dome overhead.

Nearly every morning someone on my Denver work team will post a “Good morning!” meme and nearly half of the team will respond with a “sunrise over the mountains” emoji. I have noticed that most of the time a weather forecaster will use the symbol of the waxing moon to represent night, regardless of the actual state of the lunar cycle, or whether or not the moon will actually be in the sky at night. It does spend half of its time in the day sky! Each of these represents some common misunderstanding about the sun and the moon. And all of them arise out of the facts of our modern, well-lit lives.

We don't live by the sun and the moon, but most Pagans really want to. We want to have that rhythmic relationship in our lives. We just generally aren't really sure where to start. And this is why I publish that calendar, the Colorado Celtic Weekly Planner, every year. I have learned so much from the process and I love sharing it.

A calendar is really just a framework placed over the cosmic dance that we are whirling in the middle of, so that we can follow along, improvise our own steps, have some idea of what is going on. The dance itself is both too far and too near, too fast and too slow for us to really grasp without someone or something pointing us in the right direction.

It is beyond the means of most of us to reconstruct the lives of our Pagan predecessors. We are not going to live and work by sunlight and candlelight. We can't even escape into the darkness most of the time; satellite pictures show that the glow of artificial light is bleeding across all nearly all the spaces of the planet, and so we have to make an effort to insert the experience of true time into our lives if we want it.

And why would we want it?

Because we are still affected by it, even if we don't notice it.

Because we are incarnated on a whirling blue sphere, lit and warmed by an ongoing explosion, in a galaxy with arms of stars.

Because the moon was once a part of the Earth and her sacrifice gave us the tides that drew life out of the ocean.

Because in our bodies we know that we danced along for tens of thousands of years and we miss hearing the music.

Because even with the lights on we know that the season is dark.

Pick a time, or a period of time and use the internet or an app to find where the sun will rise, and when, and be there for it. You could sing to it if you like.

Go outside at solar noon and marvel at how long your shadow is right now, even at midday. Yes, do that even though you already know it, or did it before. Let yourself experience light even though you, intellectually, already understand it.

Treat yourself to seeing the sunsets for a whole week, and not just on the Solstice.

Trace the rise and setting of the moon and notice the days when it crosses the meridian of midnight and there's a day that is missing either the rising or the setting...notice how they are reversed after that. Can you make a promise to the moon and keep it? To greet her every day?

You are in luck if you're curious about the moon. It is around the solstices that her path is the most dramatic. On the weekend of the 18th, when the moon is full, she will rise and set about as far north as she can. But then she will fling herself southward over the course of the next fortnight, racing to join the sun in the sun's southern winter path, at the time of the next new moon just after our "new year."

There are so many resources available to supply the information you need to join back in the dance. My calendar is one of them, but there are apps like Night Sky, and Sun Calendar, books like "Night Sky" by Jonathan Poppele.

And so we start with books, and calendars and apps, but our goal is living, feeling, experiencing our moment in the dance, knowing when to spin and reach out our hand and find the pale sliver of the daylight crescent resting in it.

Peace of the mountains to you,
Paulie Rainbow
founder: DCWC

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

<https://www.meetup.com/Denver-Celtic-Womens-Circle-Events/>

<https://www.instagram.com/paulierainbow>

This holiday season the Denver Celtic Women's Circle is raising money for the Denver Indian Family Resource Center. Check out our events for the weekend of 18 December, or simply donate directly here: <https://www.coloradogives.org/difrc/>



Lessons Of A Young Black Mystic



Author's Note:

In recent months there has been nothing more important to me than the words from my Grandmother.

When you lose a sibling (perhaps your only sibling) yet manage to get along in life, and in my case, reluctantly come out of a stupor in life, many people will tell you how proud they are of you.

But for me, this is bittersweet.

What others see as you pushing forward, feels like making up for lost time you can't get back.

My Grandma said one important thing about me that makes my life feel valued: "Brandon is the writer, the person who loves to express his feelings through words"

I'm not exactly sure why it matters so much.

For a while I was worried I wouldn't have a submission for this month. I'm out of stockpiled material and given my recent streak of "quality" contributions, refuse to publish something that feels halfhearted.

(Not to mention I'm hopeful to start getting paid for professional blogging soon.)

Yet miraculous...

For December I've chosen to write this loosely lyrical poem inspired by the song, "I'll Be Good" by: Jaymes Young

(It's a song I stumbled upon randomly in an animated music video. I know little else about the song or singer.)

I won't explain all the lyrics. Like many of my pieces I wrote something that my heart wanted to say but my mouth is too shy to speak.

Generally speaking, the sentiment comes from recently catching up with some old and dear college friends.

I was reminded of a saying about friendships and a general truth about most aspects of life worth having.

Happiness, Friendship, Love, it's all hard work.

Rarely do these things last all on their own.

You get out of life what you put in. So, the results shouldn't surprise you if you're paying attention.

"Almost Lost Along the Way"

By: BroomHill Bran

I woke up from a night of dreaming.

Didn't realize it been years.

So many faces started changing.

On the outside I'm the same.

People's hearts had all been breaking.

Somehow mine had never healed.

I thought I knew my friends so well.
Turns out I tend to sleepwalk.

We see the world changing so easy.
Slowly drifting to the side.

But when it comes to all the people.
More like one blink of the eye.

I'm just a stranger in the wind.
So much fight and so few wins.
Born in the dark with all my sins.

How long can I hold my shield?

I don't let people get to know me.
Use the Mad Man as my guise.

Feel the passion burn within me.
Use the cold to chill me down.

So many faces on the surface.
Too afraid of who I am.
(Afraid that they won't understand)

I'm just a stranger in the wind.
So much fight and so few wins.
Born in the dark with all my sins.

How long can I hold my shield?

Lost a brother in his forties.
Putting tears in sleepy eyes.

So much I could still have shown him.
Even now I'm losing time.

The Shadows are a heavy burden.
Sometimes pain is all I am.

And if you ask me if it's worth it?
Sometimes this is all I have.

We all find our ways to function.
Not a dealer, (so) take the hand.

I'm like an ember in the darkness.
Wouldn't stand out in the light.

I'm just a stranger in the wind.
So much fight and so few wins.
Born in the dark with all my sins.

How long can I hold my shield?

So here I am, with what to show for?
Not a dreamer anymore.

It's time I put the first foot forward.
Or I'll lose another hand.

Trust my life, I've made a story.
Who will read it, in the end?

A little boy, who felt so lonely.
No matter who held my hand.

A good son running from the reaper.
Afraid he'll take what I have.

And don't you dare think you can judge me.
Never shown you who I am!

I'm just a stranger in the wind.
So much fight and so few wins.
Born in the dark with all my sins.

How long can I hold my shield?

Grabbing starlight in the darkness.
Watching fires turn to ash.

I couldn't tell if it's worth it.
(Cause)
sometimes this is all I have...

Like a photo on the mirror.
Like the tear that leaves a stain.
All we have are little moments.

I hope you notice as you change.

Sacred Herbal Scents

Smoke-free

By Cynthia Killingbeck CH, CN, FEP



In our homes and in our witchy practices we utilize incense and herbal bundles to burn for all manner of purposes: cleansing, protection, altered states, energetic shifting, etc. Many of us use them as symbols of the Elements Fire and Air, and while these are traditional not everyone can handle smoke in their homes or ritual space. Many people have respiratory ailments or allergies that may preclude them from using the burning of herbs or incenses. This time of year, I love having seasonal scents in my home, whether from baking, cooking, or burning incense, but I don't always want smoke in the house. There are some alternatives that I'd like to share with you that I have been enjoying both mundanely and in ritual that are Essential Oil free. Essential Oils are lovely for Aromatherapy and used in diffusers for the home, and I still utilize them in many of my blends, but these can also be dangerous for our little furry friends and still may invoke allergies for some depending on the scents, so the recipes below will be simple and created without them.

Scents bypass the thalamus and go straight to the brain's smell center, known as the olfactory bulb. The olfactory bulb is directly connected to the amygdala and hippocampus, which might explain why the smell of something can so immediately trigger a detailed memory or even an intense emotion. Creating seasonal scents that remind us of positive memories can fill us with nostalgia and warmth. But just the opposite can of course occur as well. If any herbs in the recipes below do not work for you, please use an alternative, use something that you truly enjoy and brings you peace, and happiness.



For an Elemental Fire and Air alternative try a Smoke-free Herbal Warmer. This is my name for it: you will use an aromatherapy diffuser that uses a tea light or candle, but instead of using a scented candle melt or essential oil you can place the dried or fresh herb directly in the bowl and warm it by lighting the candle. This provides a gentle and subtle scent without it overwhelming the space like an essential oil or incense, and uses very little plant material. I made the Winter Blend, pictured, with 5 whole cloves, 3 whole allspices, ½ inch of a cinnamon stick, a few slivers of fresh and dried orange peel broken into pieces, a cranberry, and a couple of dried rosehips. I lit the candle, and it only took a few minutes for the room to fill with the aroma. You can mix and match whatever you'd like. I kept the ingredients to items easily sourced from your herb and spice cabinet or the grocery store.

Smokeless Herbal Warmer Recipes

Fresh or dried ingredients

Self-Love

Rose petals

Cardamom

Orange peel

Hibiscus

Winter Blend

Clove

Cinnamon

Orange peel
Allspice
Rose Hips
Cranberry

Safe and Well Blend:

Rosemary
Sage
Lavender
Lemon peel



For Fire, Water, and Air you can make a Simmer Pot for the stove. This is a pot of herbs, fruit, and spices filled with water, just enough to cover the herbs, and then placing the pot to warm on the stove. This warms the contents, and they release their scents into the air via steam. These scents are the Aromatics, technically the volatile oils or essential oils of the plant but are in much smaller particles and for our purpose, safer amounts than in a highly concentrated Essential Oil from the store. Essential Oils are made using a large quantity of herb and then distilled down to just the oil and the hydrosol (water from the distilling process). This condensed oil is extremely potent and powerful, much different from the small amount of aromatics released while warming or cooking a little bit of the plant. Have fun being creative in your holiday choices. I hope your holidays will be filled with beautiful scents that bring only good memories or create new ones for you and your family.

Simmer Pot Recipes:

Fresh or dried ingredients

Yule Full Moon Blend

Orange slices represent the Sun God

Apple slices represent the Moon Goddess

Cinnamon

Nutmeg

Clove

Allspice

Rosehips, Rowan berries, Cranberries, or Pomegranate

Evergreen needles, Pine needles or some Rosemary

Healthy Gathering Blend

Ginger

Cardamom

Nutmeg

Lemon Slices

Cranberries

Magickal Meanings of the herbs and fruits used:

Allspice: Healing, Luck, Prosperity, Empowering Energy

Apple: Love, Friendship, Healing, Immortality, Protection, Balance, Vitality

Cardamom: Love, Passion

Cinnamon: Success, Healing, Protection, Love, Luck, Strength, Prosperity

Clove: Love, Prosperity, Protection

Cranberries: Courage, Healing, Love, Passion, Positivity, Protection

Evergreen, Pine: Healing, Protection, Purification, Prosperity, Vitality, Longevity

Ginger: Prosperity, Success, Energy, Confidence, Healing, Protection

Hibiscus: Love, Sensuality, Beauty

Lavender: Love, Protection, Purification, Peace, Happiness, Vitality

Lemon peel: Vitality, Love, Purification, Friendship

Nutmeg: Prosperity, Luck, Protection, Healing

Orange: Love, Sun, Luck, Blessing,

Pomegranate: Protection, Dreams, Wishes, Wisdom, Luck, Fertility, Prosperity

Rose: Love, Friendship, Peace, Happiness, Beauty, Moon

Rose hips: Love, Healing, Vitality, Good luck

Rosemary: Protection, Love, Mental Powers, Purification, Healing

Rowan berries: Protection, Power, Success, Healing, Luck

Sage: Wisdom, Protection, Wishes, Vitality

Yule and Winter Solstice Blessings to you!

Cynthia Killingbeck

I am a certified Clinical Herbalist (CH), Clinical Nutritionist (CN) and Flower Essence Practitioner (FEP) in the Bach Flower Essences. If you are looking for a personal health coach or would like a personal consultation, protocol, and formulation or a Flower Essence session for emotional support, please visit my Facebook page

at <https://www.facebook.com/vitalblossomllc/> and message me privately, or email me at Cynthia.Killingbeck@clinicalherbalism.com

I also sell products on my Etsy page at VitalBlossomHerbals and at SpiritWays Metaphysical Shop in Denver. I can also do Flower Essence Sessions at Spirit Ways.

Upcoming Community Events

The Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality



Hearthstone meets the Friday before or the Friday of the Full Moon in the Historic Library 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 to secure the building. Please be prompt as we don't want you to be locked out!

We are happy to return our Open Full Moon rituals to Althea's lovely building!

MASK NOTICE from Althea Center:

"Based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Althea Center will require masks to be worn at all times while indoors.

While each Althean may have opinions about the current state of the pandemic, let us do our very best to keep our thoughts, feelings, and prayers focused positively and with love and compassion for each other, the ill and their families, and those working tirelessly day after day to care for people who are sick. The Board made these decisions with the safety of everyone's Health utmost in our minds, and we will continue to modify our policies based on regional and national recommendations.

With Sincere Gratitude and Love,
The Althea Board"



Earth Temple

Earth Temple is back to open rituals in person at Full Moon Books. For the time being, we'll also be streaming those rituals via Zoom, to help in the transition back to face-to-face. For all the most current information about Earth Temple and our New/Dark/Waning moon rituals, visit our Meetup Group: www.meetup.com/EarthTemple or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EarthTempleColorado>.

[EARTH TEMPLE FACEBOOK PAGE](https://www.facebook.com/EarthTempleColorado)

A decorative poster for the Orpheus Pagan Chamber Choir's 12th Night concert. The poster features a central illustration of a Viking on a horse, surrounded by a red and white border with holly leaves and berries. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout.

Orpheus
Pagan Chamber Choir
Presents

12th Night

A Yule Concert & Viking Feast

Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 5 pm

Box Office and Silent Auction open at 5 PM
The Concert is at 6 PM. The Feast follows the Concert.

**First Baptist Church of Denver
& The Speakeasy Under the Spire**
1373 Grant Street, Denver, CO

\$55 per person/\$395 for a party table of 8
Concert-Only Tickets: \$20

For info and tix:
www.orpheuspcc.org

We Rise Again with

12th Night with Orpheus:

A Yule Concert and Viking Feast!

All the Joy! All the Camaraderie!

All the Feasting!

*What better way to rise out of
isolation and dissonance and into
Harmony! Community! Joy!*

Saturday, January 8th, 2022

Doors and Silent Auction open at 5:00 PM
The Concert is at 6:00 PM
The Feast follows the Concert

1st Baptist Church of Denver
& The “Speakeasy Under the Spire”
[1373 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203](#)

Free onsite parking available.

Tickets on sale now!

Tickets: \$55 per person.

\$395 for a party table of 8.

Concert-Only Tickets: \$20

**Proof of vaccination or a recent negative Covid-19
test required.**

For complete info and tickets:

www.orpheuspcc.org



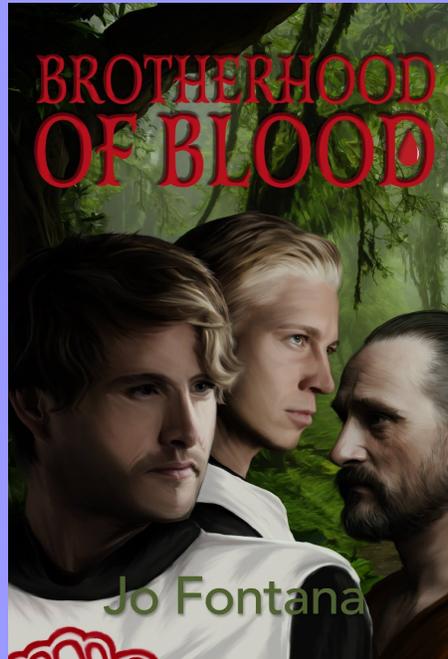
Hearthstone Community Church Website Link:

<http://hearthstone.fnorky.com/home/>

Community Vendors and Artists

Brotherhood of Blood

A new book by Jo Fontana



Imagine a world where a blood sacrifice is required for the simplest cure. The mysterious Brotherhood has this power. Jericho Brightbrook came to the temple as a child after losing his parents and is the most promising acolyte the Brotherhood has ever encountered. So great is his power, the temple leader makes exceptions for him even when Jericho's actions don't align with the temple ideals.

Tired of the waste of human life, Jericho begins to experiment with alternative forms of healing. Disillusioned by the temple and the failure of his efforts, Jericho looks to break away. Once his deeds catch up with him, he is forced to flee into the land north of the mountains to evade his former master.

For more information visit www.jofontana.com

General Community Information

Community Assistance Spotlight - December

Energy Outreach Colorado

Financial aid for utility bill may be available, call 1-866-432-8435.

Faulty furnace or without heat, contact Crisis Intervention program at 1-855-469-4328.

[Energy Outreach Colorado](#)



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

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

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 2022.
Thank you for volunteering your talents!

Donations --- in person or through Zelle!

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

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

We suggest a donation of \$5-10. 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!

[HEARTHSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH WEBSITE LINK](#)



Open Full Moon Dates 2021

Althea Center 1400 Williams St. Denver CO, 80218

December 17

Upcoming Dates in 2022:

January 14th

February 11th

March 18th

April 15th

May 15th

June 14th

July 13th

August 11th

September 10th

October 9th

November 8th

December 7th

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