



August 2022

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 (Vella Rose, Amy, Catherine, Ziva, and Arynne) so that we may hopefully resolve and heal your concern.

Hearthstone is a safe and sober environment. Please respect your fellow participants by not attending ritual under the influence of drugs or alcohol.



OPEN FULL MOON RITUALS

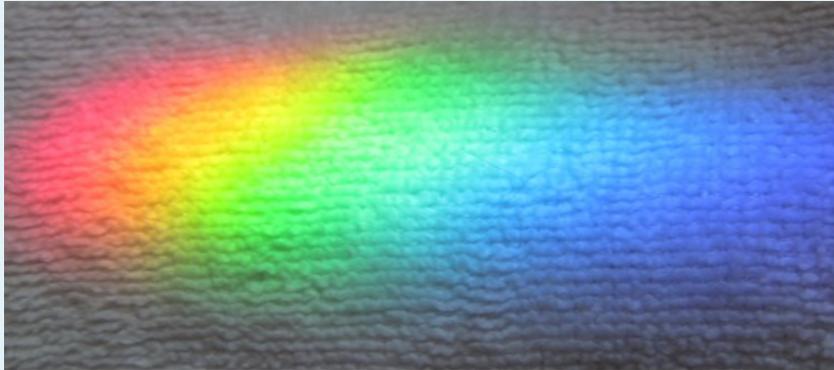
*Join us in person at the Althea Center, 1400 Williams St, Denver
Doors open at 7 pm, Announcements begin at 7:30 pm followed by ritual.
No late entry after 7:30.*

Hearthstone's August 5th, 2022 Ritual is in person! Join us!

GUIDELINES In the interest of maintaining good health for all, Hearthstone Board members will continue to wear masks at our public ritual and we encourage everyone to do the same. If you are sick or not feeling well, please stay home. If you are unvaccinated and want to attend, we ask that you wear a mask. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available. Thank you.

UPCOMING OPEN FULL MOON RITUAL

Friday August 5th



Come join Vella Rose and explore color at our August 5th gathering! We will start with doing some meditative work on our own personal meanings for various colors, so if you would like to bring a journal to record your thoughts, that is encouraged.

For the actual working, each person present will make their own prayer flags using the 100% cotton rectangles of various colors provided by Vella and cotton cord to tie them together. Prayer flags (often used in Buddhist tradition) are a type of spell work where your intention is put into each flag; then the flags are hung outside (or in a window) so that the wind can carry your intention out into the Universe. Not only is the work being carried out by the element of Air, but every time you see your flags waving merrily in the breeze, you are reminded of your intentions which adds more energy to the working.

With so much going on in the world, there are many ideas for making your own personal prayer flags and the colors you chose to use will be based on what came up in your color meditation. For example, asking for good health, prosperity, joy for you and your family are some ideas. Honoring the Elements and Deity is the basis of the Buddhist tradition prayer flags which is applicable for many of us as well. For our country, many are concerned about restoring women's reproductive rights, finding ways to reduce gun violence, protecting and respecting the rights of our citizens of color and LGBTQ communities, that our elections are free and fair, and much more. For the world, helping solve the Climate Change Crisis, world peace, protecting habitat - especially those that support endangered species, and finding sustainable ways of living are more ideas for your prayer flag working.

NOTE: Hearthstone meets the Friday before or of the Full Moon, our next meeting on August 5th is actually at the first quarter moon since the full moon does not occur until the following Thursday. This date is also several days after Lughnasadh – the first harvest of the wheel of the year. Since the ritual date does not align well with either the Full Moon or the Sun Cycle Sabbats, this alternate topic was selected as the focus of this ritual.

Thanks and a Tip of the Hat for our July 8th Ritual



The Hearthstone Board extends our thanks to Deb and her two Sufi friends Scott and Sophia for presenting the Sufi Service on the Divine Feminine.

The ritual started with lighting a candle to God, then candles to main traditions and finally one to the divine feminine - which they called Sofia.

- For Hinduism, they read a poem about Kali.
- They used the first Dali Lama's words to describe the lotus and eventually Tara.
- For Judaism, they read about the Shekinah - the Sabbath queen/bride.
- For Christianity, they read a Catholic prayer about the Virgin Mary.
- For Islam, they read the one line from the Quran about the three daughters of Allah, the daughter's names are al-Lat, al-Uzza and Manat.

Next came a sermon about how Sufi mystic Hazrat Inayat Khan was sent to America in the 1920's to convert westerners to the one way - to unite the east and the west.

We sang We All Come from the Goddess as each person was invited to come to the altar and take a flower and get a blessing from the divine feminine of the main stream religions.

Deb closed with reading the 10 Sufi ones - there is one God, one path, one master, one.....

Juice and Cakes were available after the service ended.

Articles from our community members!



GUEST COLUMNS?

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

Heroes can't help us. Community can.



It's so easy to love a hero, and it's so important to feel appreciated and special as a human. Maybe, especially as Americans, we are conditioned to feel like extra personal effort and courage will or should result in positive outcomes followed by adulation. It's practically addictive, sometimes to our detriment.

But right now it feels like there are more challenges, and more critical challenges than ever before, the news is exhausting, even the weather can feel ominous.

When the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade with the Dobbs decision my social media pages flooded with posts from my longtime friends making individual, heroic offers to provide help for anyone who wanted to come to Colorado to go "camping" wink-wink.

Two summers ago when the country seemed to ignite over the death of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minnesota, I, like everyone I know, ended up with a t-shirt, a yard sign, and a new image on my social media pages. I sincerely hoped that my yard sign would help people feel less threatened on my street. No one saw my t-shirt or my presence at a rally because I am so vulnerable to COVID-19 that I can no longer participate in activities that involve crowds. I felt frustrated and decided to learn more about the problems.

I've been an activist since the 80's, so it was challenging to be at a beginning place, but I had a lot of good reasons for being there, and there was a lot of information flying around about problems that I, as a white, cisgendered woman, don't have. But it was my background in activism and charity that helped me to quickly understand some concepts better than others. It was my experience as a woman in male dominated professional spaces that helped me to

understand other concepts.

First, let me say that I know what it feels like to be the one person in the room with a unique answer or perspective and not be able to make anyone listen. That doesn't happen often. I get a lot of respect in my spiritual community! But it happened often in school, and it has happened in work spaces where I was the only woman in the room. I think probably it has happened to everyone at some point. We all know how it feels to be overlooked when we have something valuable to contribute.

So, that helped me to understand that Black women, in particular, were more exhausted by that experience than I was. I learned how often I overlook some people, what my preconceived notions were when I size people up visually. Since I was reluctant to admit I had those behaviors, I spent a lot of time checking out what I was learning against what I knew about myself and I became convinced that it was true, that there were Black women leaders who had life experiences and expertise in the general problems that we are confronting and we're not listening. I felt better about my own shortcomings and mistakes when I could see a way to do things differently. It was a relief to be able to move forward from simply being wrong, from simply being biased, or racist, especially when those were things I didn't want or intend to be. It was the fear that I would end up finding out I was awful with no way to be anything else that had held me back.

But I knew another thing about being ignorant, that it's easy to take advantage of ignorance. Being a member of a liberal community that desperately wanted to do something to fix the problem that was setting our country on fire, I knew that "opportunities" could arise that were false, or flashy, without being real answers. I knew that there was nothing about the way that I live my life by default that would help me know who the Black women leaders were in my community, so that I could amplify their voices.

I researched. A lot. I looked for these leaders that had a history of activism that went back years. I looked to see who they lifted up. I looked to see if those connections were reciprocated and how old those connections were. I looked to see how the white leaders I was familiar with had reacted to them, and if any controversy around them meant anything to my values. I found names.

Let me tell you who I am listening to now and whose priorities I try to give a boost to. I'm listening to Denver City Council member Candi C deBaca, Candidate and activist Elisabeth Epps, RTD GM & CEO Debra Johnson, State Rep Leslie Herod, and Shontel Lewis of RTD on the local level. I'm listening to Representative Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, and Representative Cori Bush of Missouri. I didn't start right away promoting their ideas or priorities. I started with listening. It took me a while to come to understand the perspective of these very different individuals and it was important to me that I shared the goals that they were driving at.

Those names are just a sampling of how I've changed who I'm listening to. And I'm listening, because I'm worried and I feel like I don't really know what to do with the level of problems that we have in front of us. I want to help, of course I do, and I have a little bit of a background in that that made it easier to understand the next part.

The Druidry Centered Women's Circle (formerly the Denver Celtic Women's Circle) holds two charity drives a year. We do it because of our tree metaphor. Our personal studies and practice are "rooting" and what we share with community is "branching." We're a tiny little group so to be effective in sharing we partner with people who are already doing things. We couldn't possibly run our own food bank! So we partner with Food Bank of the Rockies for our February food drive. For our November/December charity drive, we vet local charities, pick one, find out what they need, and then make ourselves into a funnel for our community's generosity. We found our place in connecting generosity to need, and it is such an amazing experience...everyone wins. People who give through us are grateful we did the research and their gifts will matter. Local charities doing good but really difficult work are happy to have someone else do the work of rounding up what they need. We don't have to be a charity, and we don't have to give what we don't have. We just had to be a connection.

And that's really good news. Prior to the Dobbs decision there were already people who couldn't connect to the reproductive healthcare that they needed, and there are organizations that have been doing the work of funding, providing, and connecting to that care. They already exist, and they would love help and money. I had started following Gwen Snyder Isn't Civil on Twitter, and got schooled quickly that publishing posts about "camping" was creating evidence for prosecution and not supporting already existing networks. Again, my place wasn't to heroically rescue anyone. It was to lift up information.

The meaning of Martin Niemöller's famous poem about WWII finally made sense to me:

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

But I realized, to my horror, that in our time, they first came for the transgendered kids in schools. I realized that I hadn't recognized it as a test, a test of how much they could get away with if they picked the right target, a test to see how far they could go before *I* felt included in their aims.

They lied about transgendered people, about the parents of transgendered kids, and about those kids themselves. I knew it at the time. And suddenly I realized how dangerous it was to parcel out rights, to get ordinary people to put priorities on problems. I realized how important it was to pay attention to the least powerful or most hated groups.

I realized that if we had made sure that the people of Flint, Michigan had clean water, we probably all would. (They still don't, by the way.) I realized that if we made sure that Native people had access to food and healthcare, we all had a better chance of that. I realized that if Black communities had the resources they needed and weren't dumping grounds for pollution, we would all have had to deal with the issues that are destroying our environments. I realized if we had shoved back against the lies about "grooming" and "damage" and "danger" in the discussions on transgendered people all rights to freedom of conscience, expression, and difference would be safer than they are right now.

If we fight for the least of us, if we listen to the people with experience of the worst of it, we have a better shot at being okay.

There's a common lie about human greatness. Our greatness is not about individual success. Our success comes from alliances, from community, from making connections. That's what makes us great. It's not time for me to create answers. It's time for me to help the people who do. And it is critical for me to recognize my place in the web.

Community will save us, if we can recognize it.

Peace of the mountains to you,

Paulie Rainbow

founder: Druidry Centered Women's Circle

<https://dcwc.earth>

Upcoming Community Events

The Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality

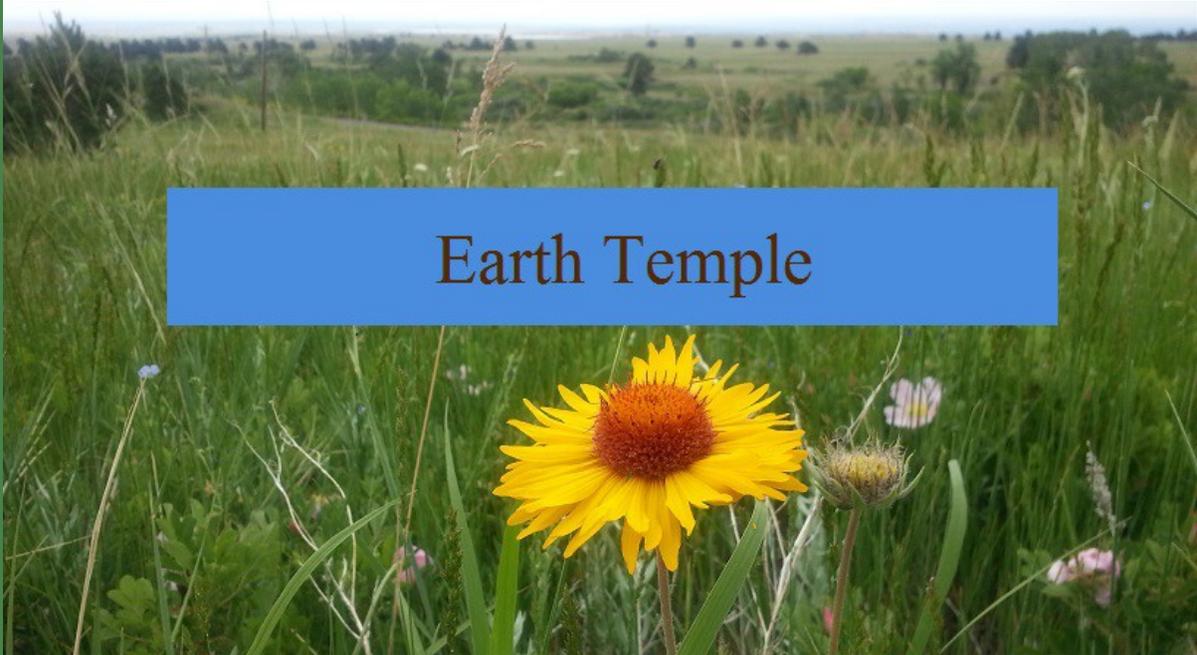


Hearthstone meets the Friday before or the Friday of the Full Moon. When we have in person rituals, we meet in the Historic Library at the Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality, 1400 Williams St., Denver, CO. There are two small parking lots: to the north (next to the building) and to the east of the 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 pm to secure the building. There are no late admissions.

Hearthstone Community Church Website Link:

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



Earth Temple

Earth Temple is back to open rituals in person at Full Moon Books. 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>.

ET Calendar for 2022

Aug 26

Sep 23

Oct 28

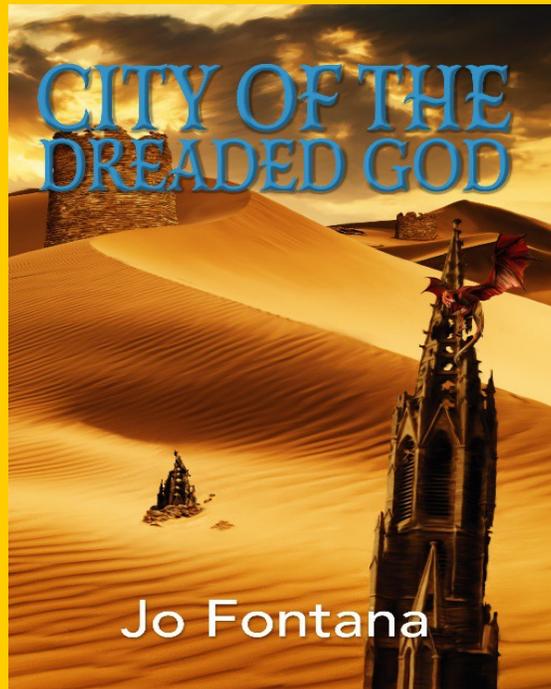
Nov 25

Dec 23

**Earth Temple
Facebook Page**

Community Vendors and Artists

COMING SOON
City of the Dreaded God
From Jo Fontana



It's almost been a full turn of the seasons since Jericho Brightbrook and his companions separated, each hoping to find clues that would lead to the downfall of their dreaded former master. After the companions reunite, they are compelled to travel into the heart of the desert where the elves of legend once ruled and magic flourished.

Meanwhile, the Brotherhood have not forgotten Jericho and are determined to force his return to the temple to take his rightful place. Though Jericho would rather die than accept his fate, problems continue to arise in the form of the mercurial guardian of the library, demands from the green lady, his emerging powers, and growing tensions with Balan. It will take every ounce of focus Jericho has to stay one step ahead of the Brotherhood.

For more information visit www.jofontana.com

General Community Information



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

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

The Dumb Friends League offers affordable spay/neuter services to all owned pet cats and feral/community cats. The details, locations, and qualifications are at their web site above. They are able to offer these services thanks to the generosity of donors. They recommend that tame, friendly cats without owners be taken to an animal shelter for adoption.

At this time DDFL is not able to provide spay/neuter services to dogs, for-profit breeders, or rescue groups.

It takes ALL of us to reduce the overpopulation problem and move toward a world where all pets are loved and cared for. Thank you!



Priestess Support, Services, and Potential Presenters
For Pagan or Wiccan clergy or for any other Hearthstone business, email us at
hearthstonecommunitychurch@gmail.com

If you would like to lead a future Open Full Moon, please contact Arynne at ArynneD@aol.com
At this point we have ritual leaders scheduled for all of 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 \$5-15/OFM. If you can't afford it, you are still welcome to participate. If you can afford more, we'll be delighted to accept it.

Hearthstone's primary expense is the rent for the room at the Althea Center. We appreciate any and all support from our community to help meet our obligations. Thank you!

[Hearthstone Community Church Website Link](#)



UPCOMING 2022 OPEN FULL MOON RITUALS

AUGUST 5
SEPTEMBER 9
OCTOBER 7
NOVEMBER 4
DECEMBER 2

BLESSINGS from HEARTHSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH!

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Newsletter**



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