



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



SEPTEMBER 5 OPEN FULL MOON

Hearthstone meets the Friday before or the Friday of the Full Moon, in the upstairs chapel at the First Unitarian Church at 14th and Lafayette in Denver. The church doors open at 7, and we like to start at 7:30. This month's ritual is FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2014.

The September ritual will be presented by Chris and Kelley of Cró Dreoilín as a homecoming for all of us who have found our way to Hearthstone at one time or another. If you are a past presenter, attendee, or board member, please join us for this celebration. Bring your stories and your memories!

Help us celebrate the September Full Moon by paying our respects to the spirits of First Unitarian, the host for Hearthstone almost since its beginning.

—Catherine

GREETINGS

It's September already! It seems like we have had a very wet August, although the amounts are just a little over the average. In fact, August is one of Denver's wettest months. I haven't watered my yard all year. Of course, I don't have much grass: my yard is mostly xeric plants. Some of the plants were planted deliberately, others are volunteers.

Despite the wet weather, we are still in a dry climate. This was brought to the forefront of my mind when I had the opportunity to tour Denver Water's Recycled Water Treatment Plant last week. The treatment plant has been online for 10 years now – providing landscaping water for parks and schools, as well as a few local industries. It was exciting to see the concept of reuse and recycle in practice. Using the recycled water on landscape areas saves treated water for other uses – such as drinking. Every little bit helps.

By the way, Denver Water does provide the opportunity for group tours, if it is set up in advance. You can find out more at <http://www.denverwater.org/EducationOutreach/Tours/>.

We're part of the way between Lughnasagh and Mabon. It is the harvest season. Time to save our resources for the long winter. It's nice that some of our institutions take that concept as seriously as we do. With luck, we will see that attitude spread.

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone Tips our Hat to the coven Chrysalis Circle for leading our August OFM, in a ritual encouraging us "to be our best selves." They explained how they begin ritual planning by consulting the astrology for the date and utilizing the tarot to divine a central intention for each ritual. For this Open Full Moon, they were led to the concepts of conscious change and setting realizable goals. Rainah and Trent led this ritual as HPS and HP, with Sage and HavenWood in supporting roles.

Artemis and Apollo were invoked to aid us. Each participant received small blank cards, pens, and skewers. We were encouraged to think of a 30-day goal we were willing to commit to. We wrote the goal on one card, and then wrote short term steps on additional cards, skewering each so

as to build a "ladder" of steps to achieve our goals. We also stepped forward toward the altar with each written step, signifying our willingness to act upon our intentions. When all were complete, we chanted to raise energy for changing in the direction of our intention.

Last, we were offered stones upon which we could write or draw to bless our intention, with options of carrying in our pocket as a reminder, or building a blessing cairn at home.

Thank you, Chrysalis Circle, for your dedication to our community, and for offering this thoughtful ritual through Hearthstone.

Chrysalis Circle teaches classes and has a web site: <http://chrysaliscircle.org/>

Blessings to All!

–Arynn

HEARTHSTONE RITUALS

Remember, please, that Hearthstone doesn't expect everyone to enter in Perfect Love and Perfect Trust, as there are people you don't know there, 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 disturbs someone attending an Open Full Moon. It is one of the risks of exploring different traditions. Should anyone be uncomfortable, unsettled, or upset about any ritual presented by Hearthstone, please contact Alia or Catherine to discuss – and hopefully resolve and heal – the issue.

–Alia

ON DONATIONS

Many of our local Pagan organizations run on a shoestring. Your donations do make a difference, and the cost of a movie ticket to one of these organizations from several of their patrons can make the difference between failing and thriving. (Not to mention making the organizers excited and happy that their efforts are of value to you.) If you'd prefer not to donate to Hearthstone, I encourage you to donate something to the organization of your choice. Your donations can make the difference between an organization thriving and folding.

We appreciate that many of you donate to the church. **We ask that you please give what you can to support the work and service of the church to the community. The more you can spare, the longer we will be around, and the more we can help those who need it. We will keep Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. running as long as possible, and we need your support to continue to serve the community.**

We aren't going to start collecting at the door, and no one will be turned away for not having a donation. However, we would like to suggest a donation of 5 to 10 dollars per person. (The extra is to cover the pagans that are unable to donate.) If you can't afford it, you are still welcome – if you can afford more, we'd be delighted to accept it.

NOTE: Hearthstone is a church and your donations to Hearthstone are **tax deductible**. If you would like to write a check so you can keep track of your donations, we can certainly handle that as well.

–Alia

ABOUT OUR ANIMAL COMPANIONS

Our Hearthstone community includes many pet-lovers, and we strongly encourage spaying and neutering to reduce the tragedy of excess, uncared-for animals. Many beautiful, sweet animals are euthanized due to excess births, and many others sadly try to fend for themselves without needed food and veterinary care.

People with lower incomes can get spay/neuter services for their cats and dogs at reduced fees, subsidized by Dumb Friends League donors, when one of their mobile spay/neuter clinics visits their neighborhood. DDFL also partners with local animal welfare organizations in a trap-neuter-return (TNR) program for community (un-owned) cats to help reduce the number of unwanted litters born and the number of kittens and cats brought to shelters. Please call DDFL's mobile spay/neuter help line at (720) 241-7098 for questions and information, or find details, schedules, and locations at: <http://www.ddfl.org/content/mobile-spay-neuter-clinics>

SACRED TOKENS

There is something so provocative, so evocative, about a pilgrimage, great or small, to sacred space. We have done this for millennia. It can refill us with the sense of the divine that mundane life tends to drain away drop by drop.

Whether it is something old, or something breathtaking, or some place that is exotic, or challenging, we know what it is like to physically travel to meet with the divine, and this is even for those of us who are dedicated to a practice that recognizes the divine in every moment, every object, and every spirit.

It is such a human thing and it connects us not only to the divine, but to the gestures of ancestors from thousands upon thousands of years ago.

Not surprisingly, we long – not only to see, to seek, to find the divine – but we long to be recognized and remembered by it. If some part of us is motivated to get physical to find the divine, then it is logical that we will seek to leave some physical mark or token of our presence in its hands.

For this reason we have graffiti, both sacred and profane, scratches and splatters on walls both contemporary and ancient. Whether done with reverence and artistry or done with selfishness and carelessness we have long left our mark on the places we have been.

But even when made with the best of intentions, our efforts can be destructive. There is a romantic bridge in France that is about to collapse under the weight of all of the locks clasped around its bars, keys thrown in the river as tokens of the steadfastness of love. There are ancient trees in the Celtic countries that are literally suffocating in the plastic and polyester ribbons wrapped, tied and tangled in their branches; caretakers post frantic pleas on the internet for the devoted to cease.

There must be other ways.

And there are, and they are tied into the very flows of sacred energy that we seek.

I have spent many years journeying to, and sitting with, the sacred trees in our own area, spending time attuning to and understanding the energies of their spirits. Most of us have had some kind of training in energy work: the ability to feel it and to work with it.

When I went to Ireland last year I was thrilled to find a hilltop spot, overlooking a famous lake, where the ruins of an old Catholic church stood on the site of what was rumored to have been a Druid school. Knowing the usual tree associations for those places I looked around and quickly spotted two very old yew trees. I was thrilled to my little Druid heart!

I went over to stand by them, closed my eyes and waited, but I felt an unsettled and cluttered sense. So, I opened my eyes and really looked at the spot.

At the base of these sacred trees was a tangle of plastic grocery bags and trash, matted down by fallen leaves and dirt. The energy of the spot was being effectively disturbed by it. When I put aside my preconceived notions and became truly aware I could feel it.

It only took a few minutes to clear up the clutter and bundle up the trash. When I was done I felt a real sense of connection to the trees and the space they stood in. The meditation that followed was so much more clear.

I have carried this experience with me more consciously than before my trip. It was never unusual for me to pick up trash while hiking or out in the parks, but now I see it as opening up the energetic connection to the natural sacred world. I'm not just seeing the sacred; the communication is flowing both ways.

I admit I have been known to whimsically stack five or six rocks as a small, precarious monument to my presence, but that's rare enough for me, and I tend to do that where tide or snow, or spring floods will tumble my little sculpture down.

Mostly my offerings are actually takings. I take away the careless detritus of human consumption to open up the connections between me and the natural world, and while my efforts may last no longer than a small stack of stones, my benefit is so much more.

--*Paulie Rainbow*

TURTLE MONKEY CHILDREN'S EBOOKS

Hi all, this is Jo. I recently completed the 14th book of my new Turtle Monkey series! This is a pagan friendly children's eBook series. The only difference with this next book is that it will soon be available in print through Crystal Publishing.

Here is the link for Crystal Publishing: <http://www.crystalpublishingllc.com/>

The first 13 books are still available online at Apple, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble.

Here is the link to our books at Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/artist/jo-fontana/id677705293?mt=11&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

This is the link for our books on Amazon:

http://www.amazon.com/gp/search/ref=sr_nr_seall_1?rh=k%3AJo+Fontana%2Ci%3Astripbbooks&keywords=Jo+Fontana&ie=UTF8&qid=1397343482

This is the link to our books at Barnes & Noble:

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/s/Jo-Fontana?store=allproducts&keyword=Jo+Fontana>

Also, please check out our new and improved website @ <http://www.turtlemonkeybooks.com>

Thank you for all your support!

-Jo

EARTH TEMPLE

Earth Temple meets at Full Moon Books and Event Center, at 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood. All of our dates are Saturday evenings. Please arrive at the store before 7:30 pm, since the store closes and the doors lock right at 7:30. Please check out our Witchvox page for more info about us: http://www.witchvox.com/vn/vn_detail/dt_gr.html?a=usco&id=35084. Thank you, Hearthstone, for sharing information about our circle!

Sep 20

Nov 1

Nov 22

Dec 20

---*Chris, Dara, and Michelle*

WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-680-1741. Catherine's is 303-886-7067. If you would like to officiate at a future Open Full Moon, for Pagan or Wiccan clergy, or for any other Hearthstone business, please contact either Alia or Catherine.

Hearthstone Community Church has a website at <http://hearthstone.fnorky.com>

Alia's e-mail address is teal.cuttlefish@gmail.com; Catherine's e-mail address is catherine@fnorky.com

GUEST COLUMNS?

If you have something to say, and are willing to let Alia or Catherine edit it slightly, (generally for grammar – Alia has the soul of an English teacher and Catherine is simply a fanatic) please feel free to submit your writing to catherine@fnorky.com. Content will not be edited. We can usually make room for more voices.

This newsletter is for Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. of Denver, Colorado. Editor: Catherine Mock. Publisher: M. Alia Denny

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2014 Open Full Moon Dates

September 5

October 3

October 31

December 5