



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



FEBRUARY 27 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, FEBRUARY 27, 2015.

On Feb 27 Deb Hoffman and Friends will be presenting a ritual in honor and praise of the goddess Inanna. You will hear the words of an ancient priestess from words written in 2200 BC, some of the first written words saved from that time. 4000 years later the power of her words still rings true and touches our hearts. We will sing and dance to Inanna and be consecrated in Her name. Please join us as we share the story of this most wonderful goddess!

—Catherine

<http://hearthstone.fnorky.com>

GREETINGS

Last month, I wrote about the potential for the coming of the Spring. I write this tonight with a foot of snow on the ground. Such is springtime in the Rockies – or in Colorado anyway. The truth is that it has been warm this winter, with occasional forays into the cold. I've been able to go out without a coat more often than I've needed to wear one.

This snowstorm has had another affect for me – no television. You see, I have a satellite dish and unless I want to go out in the cold and brush it off, I have to do without on these snowy days. That's not so bad a thing. Yes, I missed the Oscars – but I always do. I missed Masterpiece Theatre. (Okay, I'll have a small pout about this.) Mainly, it's been quiet. I've gotten a lot of reading done.

I grew up in an age when we always had background noise. If it wasn't television, it was the radio or the stereo. When I was a teenager, I couldn't imagine doing homework or anything else without at least one audio distraction going on – and this was long before computers made their way into our daily lives. Even doing a newsletter like this would have been in hard copy – onto a mimeograph copy so that it could be duplicated. And I would have had the radio or television on. In fact, until recently that's how we distributed this newsletter – except that we did use a computer to type the copy, took it to be copied and then printed labels to mail each person on our mailing list their own copy. It was a process that could take a couple of days and quite a bit of driving.

Tonight, I sit in my quiet house knowing that when I've finished typing (and inserting other articles) that I can send this newsletter out, first to Alia, and then to all of you, without getting my feet wet. Happy Spring!

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

For our well-crafted Imbolc Open Full Moon ritual at the end of January, Hearthstone offers our Thanks and a Tip of our Hat to Amber K and Azrael Aryn K of New Mexico, and local priestess KareIsis. This trio offered a three-part ritual for beginning our new cycle, involving cleansing/releasing, opening our heart chakras, and reconsecrating ourselves to our sacred purposes.

Circle was cleansed and cast, volunteers invoked the guardians/directions, then the priestesses invoked Lugh, Danu, and Brigid. For the first cleansing/releasing work, the Flame of Kildare was carried around to each participant, and we released anything we wished into the flame. Next, well water was poured over our hands for a second level of releasing.

To open our heart chakras we used breath to feel the love we have for those close to us, then expanded our love out farther and farther until we loved something we'd never loved before.

The final reconsecration work involved considering to what we had formerly initiated or consecrated ourselves, whether with or without ritual. The priestesses invited us to reconsecrate to that sacred purpose(s) if we chose. A priestess came around the circle and offered to each an anointing of our third eye, while we concentrated on our personal reconsecration. The water used for anointing was "Waters of the World", blended from many locations all over the world; this water was explained as a Covenant of the Goddess project. Lastly, we joined hands and while chanting "She changes everything She touches", we raised energy and sent it outward for peace throughout the world.

Thank you Amber K, Azrael Arynne K, and KareIsis, for offering this rich and meaningful ritual to our Hearthstone Community! Blessings and peace to all!

PS Information about Amber and Azrael's projects and classes can be found at www.ardantane.org.

–Arynne

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>

WICCA BASICS CLASS

Hello to all Hearthstone Wiccan Church friends!

Chrysalis Circle, an eclectic Wiccan teaching coven, is offering its eight week Wicca Basics class beginning on June 21st each Sunday, Noon to 4PM.

For more information about Chrysalis Circle, and our Wicca Basics program and all our other offerings, please go to www.chrysaliscircle.org.

You can also find more details about the 4th Annual Drumming Down the Sun event in Lakewood, CO, on Friday, June 21, 2015, which is sponsored by Chrysalis Circle as a free, open to all, public event.

Cordially,

Sage and HavenWood

HPS/HP of Chrysalis Circle

HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO BE MAGICALLY CURSED?

Over the last month, I have noticed a rash of “Remember to protect yourself from the dark arts” posts on the internet. First, a ceremonial magician talked about his fear that E. A. “Become a Living God” Koetting not only believed in human sacrifice (claiming to have actually done such deeds), but also had thousands of followers on Facebook, who could be mobilized into a dark army. Then Pat Robertson stated that covens of witches were using ultrasound pictures posted on Facebook to curse unborn babies. That last statement was embraced by another ceremonial magician, who cautioned people about the possibility.

Being the evil magician and witch that I am, I openly disagreed with all three. I believe that all three people are guilty of using “fear marketing” to get people to give them money. After all, why

wouldn't you give money to the people who can protect you from the dark and scary practitioners of the occult?

What are the actual odds of you being the victim of a random drive-by hexing? Lower than you would think. By the time that a witch or magician becomes skilled enough to curse you back into the stone age, they have much better things to do with their time and energy. Furthermore, there is no such thing as a random hexing. If someone decides to hex you, it is sure money that you actually know who they are. It is simply not worth the effort to hex some stranger on the bus, or Facebook, or in the grocery store, or wherever your favorite place is to meet strangers.

Besides, some magicians and witches suffer backlash issues. Think "instant threefold law karma." The moment that they curse someone, their own personal world becomes mighty interesting, much like yelling "Thor has little balls" on the golf course during a raging thunder storm. It does not take more than once for such a person to think twice and thrice before they hex someone else. In fact, it is just plain easier to invoke "May my enemy be visited by their own stupidity," provided that one can survive one's own mental defects.

Now, I will admit that there is one exception to my rule of personal contact with your offender. If you are the leader of a large group of magically minded people, there is a chance that you could be cursed by someone that you do not know personally. Remember the two ceremonial magicians that I mentioned at the beginning of this piece? Well, I have heard reliable reports that both of them have instructed their followers to curse their perceived enemies, aka the competition. Of course, that brings up the whole question of how much are they projecting their own lack of ethics onto other people. But my readers are probably safe from that possibility—in fact, I believe that most of my frequent readers would run away screaming before allowing themselves to get roped into such misfortune.

I will admit that it is easy to stumble into the black hole of believing that you are under some form of magical or psychic attack. By opening up your senses to the wider world of magic, every passing spirit can startle you, and people do think awfully loud with many of their thoughts being not being particularly nice. So yes, you might think that you are under attack, but odds are that you are just not used to hearing the constant mental and astral background noise that surrounds us every hour of every day.

But here is a secret that the fear advertisers do not want you to know—you do not have to pay them to learn to defend yourself from an actual attack. Even if you are under actual attack, you do not need someone else to protect you. You can learn everything you need to know without giving them a single dime.

The two basic defenses against magical attack are the Lesser Ritual of the Pentagram (favored by ceremonial magicians), and "Ground, Center, Shield" (favored by witches, pagans and Wiccans). The Lesser Ritual of the Pentagram can be found in multiple places on the internet; there are even decent videos of it on YouTube. The Ground, Center, Shield technique is basically the "Imagine yourself as a tree with roots deep in the earth, and branches touching the stars," exercise with the modification that the excess energy is not drained back into the earth, but rather formed into a "magical force field" instead.

Learn one of these techniques and you can turn most magical attacks into an instant karma day for anyone foolish enough to attack you with magic. If you practice one of the techniques regularly, only the really skilled can beat them; and trust me, most of the really skilled have much better things to do with their time and energy as long as you do not make a major menace of yourself. (Manners go a long ways).

Morgan Drake Eckstein

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery traditions on his blog at: <http://gleamingsfromthedawn.blogspot.com/>

OBAMACARE ISN'T SO BAD

This past Sunday I signed up for insurance on the Colorado health exchange website. I don't qualify for benefits at my job because as a private duty agency nurse, I need to work for the company for a year before I qualify. I had heard nightmares about the cost and the site but I was surprised that the experience was better than I thought it would be.

I did have a slight problem with the website, which caused me to attempt to speak with someone over the phone. This was a mistake. I was on hold for just over two hours. Most likely, I would have been on hold longer, but I figured out what the glitch was and signed up for coverage online. Once my application was completed and accepted, I hung up. I feel sorry for those who had to wait on the phone to apply for insurance.

The thing that surprised me the most, was that the cost for my daughter and myself is about \$200 less than what I would have paid for employer sponsored coverage at my prior job. No one likes paying for insurance, but the cost was not astronomical like many are claiming it is. I have decent coverage for less than a car payment, and that works for us. I hope more people will look into this option; it may save you money to apply on the marketplace instead of through your employer.

-Jo

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. All of the series is transitioning thanks to Crystal Publishing.

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

The new editions of the first book and the holiday book are now available on Amazon.

Here is the link: http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=Jo+Fontana

The hard copies will be coming out shortly. Also, please check out our new and improved website @ <http://www.turtlemonkeybooks.com>

Coming soon: My new Young Adult Novel: **The Egg Quest!** More information should be available in the next newsletter.

Thank you for all your support!

-Jo

AN ACCESSIBLE, WELCOMING FESTIVAL FOR ALL PAGANS

[Beltania](#), now in its 8th year, is moving to a location only about 45 minutes south of Denver at La Foret Conference and Retreat Center. From May 14-17, Beltaine will be celebrated just a tad later, in concert with our high-altitude Springtime weather. We've struggled with spring camping in the wilderness, and so have our guests, so this move to a facility with greater amenities and lodging options offer our guests not only greater comfort but greater safety and convenience.

Why focus on sharing this first? Are we turning into soft, suburban, latte-drinkers who can't handle Mother Nature? Well – maybe so (as I sip my latte at my laptop at Starbucks), but that's not the point. It's so we can get back to the reason for the season – celebrating Beltaine, worshipping as we choose, and building community. When our focus is so often diverted to basic survival in wind, snow, or broiling sun and cacti, we lose precious time of these few days we come together. Now, instead of canceling ritual we can simply move indoors to a gorgeous timber lodge's ballroom. Much better than shivering in a puddle alone in one's tent! Also we have many community members who simply can't camp in the wilderness due to being differently abled, and this way more of us can be included. The trees, meadows, and forests will still be there, but so will a shuttle van, actual cabins, yurts, showers and toilets, along with tents. We even have a full staff member who is our Access Coordinator, to do sign language interpreting and provide assistance to anyone with accessibility needs at this almost completely ADA-accessible site.

Beltania is hosting a truly top-notch group of [musical performers](#) this year, including Lunar Fire, SJ Tucker, Betsey Tinney, Orpheus Pagan Chamber Choir, Oak Ash and Thorn, and more. Sweat lodges, enhanced offerings of sacred space at [Hearthfire Sanctuary](#), an indoor merchant marketplace, two professionally-run food service areas and more rituals and workshops than ever before will be presented. In fact, please consider this your invitation to come present at Beltania! Occasionally the comments will come in, saying "Why don't you have rituals in X tradition?" and the response is, because you didn't volunteer to do it! If you'd like to share something, whether it be a discussion panel, ritual, workshop, or fellowship event, please [submit a proposal](#). This year you can look forward to a Girls' [Moonrite](#) (accepting candidates now!), a [Young Men's Rite of Passage](#), a [Croning Ritual](#) for our women Elders, and a [Saging Ritual](#) for our men Elders in addition to the maypole dance, all night drumming and dancing, and more. Our [Rainbow Welcome Center](#) is there to support and celebrate absolutely everyone.

Why go to a festival, if you've never been? It's hard to put into words. To have a place where you can just be yourself – your best version of you, working towards an even better version of you – with others who are deeply seeking connection with the Earth, the Divine, and with each other – is a very powerful thing. To me, it's a time to refuel my reservoirs so that I can make it through the rest of the year. My optimism in humanity is restored, a vision for the future clarified, and connections to the ancestors and the ancient ways of gathering together to turn the wheel and invoke the Gods of old are deepened. Gone is the day job, gone are the worries and concerns, and it's just people, as they are, and as they wish to be. Beautiful and blessed!

Other wonderful festivals that take place throughout the year include Dragonfest, Heartland, Starwood, Pagan Spirit Gathering, St. Louis Pagan Picnic, and of course several local Pagan Pride events. Smaller retreats include COG Summer Solstice near Bailey, Dancing with the Goddess Women's Retreat held each September, and many more. Colorado and the US are blessed to have the freedom and opportunities of many excellent events for Pagans and members of other alternative, minority, magickal, and Earth-honoring religions to gather.

-Joy Burton

[Living Earth Church and Open Circle](#)

[Living Earth Center](#) – 2120 S Holly St. #9 in Denver

SACRED WILDERNESS PRACTICE

There are a number of practices, available through books or association, that have specific sacred wilderness activities. If you are lucky enough to have an established and specific practice you

may need no further information. But if you are interested in adding a sacred wilderness practice to your path I can offer some practical suggestions.

First and foremost, put safety first. As I am fond of saying, having heard it from my first high priestess, "Above all witchcraft is a practical religion." I'm not sure where she got it but those are words to live by.

Always carry drinking water, more than you think you need. Dress in or carry layers. Carry a first aid kit that you know how to use. If anyone asks you about hiking with the sacred here in Colorado, start with those three things.

Do less. A sacred wilderness practice presumes that you are trying to be in communion with the Divine and not trying to set a personal best for hiking. Both are great but very different goals. Put your effort into getting up before the sun or making sure you have a good first aid kit, or getting like-minded others to join you.

So choose a hike that seems easy for you, one with trees, and possibly a river or creek nearby. You may need to get up before dawn or go on a weekday to get a little privacy but it will be worth it.

Find, or return to a spot that you feel good in. This could be a scenic overlook, a picnic table by a river, or a comfortable place at the base of a tree.

Stop there. If you have some invocation that offers you protection or opens you up to your connection with the Divine then this is the time to pull that out and read it, or recite it from memory. A practical effect of this is that it helps the symbolic mind to shift gears.

Take a deep breath and begin to notice without judgment all of the aspects of this place. What do you see? What do you hear? What do you smell? Be fearless. Reject nothing. If you can see power lines, so be it. If you can hear traffic, be aware of that. This place is sacred, just as it is. If you like, close your eyes and become aware of your own feelings as you settle in this natural space that you are a part of. If you are feeling grounded and comfortable become aware of that sensation so that you can draw on that memory when you need some grounding later.

Spend as much time as you like in this space, as long as you are comfortable and safe.

When you feel ready, you can read or recite a closing invocation or expression of gratitude, or of connection. Close your sacred experience like a well-loved book so that you can carry it back with you into your mundane life, and be appropriately alert on the trail returning.

Either while you are in your sacred practice or afterward drink some fresh water and have a trail snack. As we nourish and care for ourselves we nourish and protect the world we live in.

I suggest that you not go alone and that you make sure that someone who is not going with you knows where you intend to go and when you intend to come back.

I hope that this helps open the doors to adding our magical connection to the natural world to your own magical practice.

Bright blessings,

Paulie Rainbow

Denver Celtic Women's Circle

EARTH TEMPLE

Earth Temple meets at Full Moon Books and Event Center, at 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood, for New/Dark Moon ritual work. All of our dates are Saturday evenings, and we normally begin our rituals right on the dot at 7:30 PM. Join our Meetup Group for reminders and

information about specific rituals: www.meetup.com/EarthTemple. And, check out our Witchvox page for more info about us:

http://www.witchvox.com/vn/vn_detail/dt_gr.html?a=usco&id=35084

Our 2015 dates:

Mar 21

Apr 18

May 16

Jun 20

Jul 11

Aug 15

Sep 12

Oct 10

Nov 7

Dec 12

*---Chris, Dara, and Michelle
the Earth Temple steering committee*

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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2015 Open Full Moon Dates

February 27

April 3

May 1

May 29

June 26

July 31

August 28

September 25

October 23

November 20

**December 25—we will not meet, as it would be the 13th OFM
of the year and a US holiday.**