



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



JANUARY 30 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, JANUARY 30, 2015.

This will be an evening of magick, song, and sacredness, to cleanse our spirits, open our heart chakras to the light, and re-consecrate ourselves to our spiritual paths and callings.

We will invite the Celtic goddess Danu, Lady of the Rivers; the sun god Lugh, Master of All Skills; and the fire goddess Brigit to join us. The Flame of Kildare and the Waters of the World will be used in the cleansing and consecration.

The January 30th ritual will be led by Amber K and Azrael Aryn K from Ardantane in New Mexico, authors of *True Magick*, *Candlemas*, *RitualCraft*, and other well-known Craft and Pagan books. (There will be a short booksigning following the ritual, for any wishing to purchase signed copies of their books.)

—Catherine

GREETINGS

Have you noticed? Have you? We're getting hints of the spring returning. Yes, we still have more cold days than warm, but the sun is staying out longer. And I truly appreciate that.

It's coming up on the time when we starting planning our gardens for the year. You don't need to live in a house to have a garden – in fact you don't even need dirt and flower pots. A garden is anything you want to grow – whether it's a plant or an idea. I have a yard and I love my lilacs, but I don't do as much physical gardening as I used to. However, I can plan the garden of my mind. It's time to start thinking about what I want to do with my year. Last year I wanted to start singing again. In fact, I gave my word to myself that I would find a way to do it. In spite of obstacles (anyone remember the teal cast? Or the scooter?), I did begin singing again. I joined a choir, which gave me an obligation to go to rehearsals and work. I'm enjoying it immensely. I performed in a talent show at work – and people loved it. I loved it too.

What shall I promise myself for next year? This is the time to start thinking about it. And then I need to tell someone about what I have decided. It helps to have someone who knows what you're working on for the year. Not so they can nag you, but so they can acknowledge your efforts.

Are you making plans for your garden? It's time to order those seeds.

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone offers a song of thanks to Vella Rose for leading our Hearthstone community in an enjoyable song/chant ritual at the first OFM of the new year. Vella Rose provided everyone with a song sheet, with 13 short chant/songs for everything from Cleansing at the beginning (She changes everything She touches...) to Opening the Circle at the end (May the Circle be open, yet unbroken...). In between, she led us in a magickal working of transformation, using each Element in turn as part of the transformative process, all woven together with Elemental chants.

Vella Rose, we appreciate your sharing your experience with ritual and your love of singing with us! This OFM ritual offered magick, the Elements, singing and chanting with friends...I can't think of any better way to have started the year! Thank you! Blessings to all!

—Arynn

YOU ARE INVITED TO IMBOLG, A CELTIC RITUAL OF FIRE

We will gather to celebrate the returning light and our spiritual community, and your presence is requested. Join us as we encounter the many aspects of the Celtic goddess Brigit, Who is Poet, Healer, Smith, and much more. Join us as we each light a candle from the Flame of Kildare, Brigit's sacred site in Ireland. Join us in dance and song and feasting as we bear witness to the strengths of the Denver Pagan community. Join us to receive the Blessing of Brigit, Bright Arrow, Sudden Flame, Lady of the Sacred Fire.

The ritual will be led by Amber K and Azrael Arynn K from Ardantane in New Mexico, authors of *True Magick*, *Candlemas*, *RitualCraft*, and other well-known Craft and Pagan books. (There will be a booksigning following the ritual, for any wishing to purchase signed copies of their books.)

Fee: None

Time and Date: 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 1.

Ritual clothing if you wish?

Directions: 2199 California Street, Denver, CO 80205 (303) 294-9281

Website: <http://mercurycave.com/>

--Kari

WORKSHOP WITH AMBER K AND AZRAEL ARYNN K

January 31st, Saturday, 9 AM until 5 PM

at a private convenstead in Lakewood

A host of holy days and celebrations cluster around the beginning of February, including Brigit's feast day, Imbolg, Lupercalia, Candlemas, and many more. Join us in a discussion of the many ways to mark this time of year, and the spiritual meaning the season can have for us. Legends, stories, and spells are included.

\$70 - Beaver Bucks and scholarships available

Contact KareIsis for more details at 720.360.9565 kari@mygoddess.org

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>

A STRANGE MENTAL DEFECT

As most of my regular readers know, I have a few mental quirks. Some of my quirks I can explain, typically in painful detail. Other quirks I possess, I have absolutely no idea where they came from. Needless to say, my mental quirks make my life interesting, perhaps a little too interesting. Some of my mental quirks also make it hard for me to relate to normal people.

Recently, I was reminded about one of my mental quirks. In passing, I mentioned, to a friend, some of the people that I have gotten to meet over the years. And they were impressed—really impressed. It turns out that I have met some people that my friend considered to be celebrities. And while my friend was impressed, I did not see what the big deal was.

Over the years, in my roles of being a minor occult authority, community clown, and angry blogger, I have interacted with some people that are occasionally referred to as “big names.” For the most part, these people were fellow writers and occult teachers. As a community, most experts of the occult either know one another, or merely separated from one another by just a couple of degrees.

Now, I am a little fish in a little pond. I suspect that my blog is read by a whole eight people. And all eight of them are cats. On a few occasions, my blog has been linked to by other bloggers. A couple of those times were when the late Donald Michael Kraig linked to my blog. But in all honesty, my blog has only light traffic compared to the traffic that the bigger names generate.

Despite my low traffic figures, on a couple of occasions, I have encountered people who knew me from my work. It is a little disturbing to say the least. Especially when they mention that they agreed with my opinion—something I strongly suspect that no one should actually be doing. Because of these encounters, I have some idea of the awe that some people have for the bigger names in the field.

Awe that I completely do not feel when I encounter the bigger fish. Now, one could argue that the reason I do not feel awe is the simple fact that my circumstances make me view these people as my peers. The flaw with that argument is that I have never felt any awe over celebrities.

I first became aware of this mental quirk when I was working food service. One night, someone came though the restaurant that I was working in—someone that made my co-workers all excited. It was Bobby Brown. I felt absolutely no excitement, and was rather amused watching how my co-workers were acting. My co-workers declared that I was damn strange. Other encounters with people I should have been in awe of have convinced me that I am missing some sort of normal human feelings and instincts.

The only possible explanation I can come up with is that I hang around with my dad too much as a kid. My father spent a lot of his time selling stuff to people. Everyone was a potential customer, and no one got special treatment because of their social rank. He was as likely to sell something to the employee washing dishes as he was to sell something to a restaurant owner. My father also knew some local politicians, and some individuals that we referred to as his “Italian friends.” And he treated them all the same—there was a simple respect and dignity presented to all that entered his sphere.

Of course, my treatment of people is slightly different. After all, I choose angry blogger as a career choice. I am as likely to rage about little people as I am about the big names. I am quite willing to ask everyone whatever question bubbles to the surface in my mind. And everyone I meet is subjected to my strange sense of humor. Given that last fact, celebrities should probably run the other direction when they see me—if only for the sake of their sanity.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

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

NEVER STOP AT YOUR FIRST ATTEMPT

I usually write health tips for the Hearthstone column but instead, I was inspired to write about persistence. We have all heard that in order for the things we want to manifest, we must first visualize it, then go out and make it happen. In other words, do the spell work, but make sure you do the follow up as well. I have seen many folks do this. However, sometimes just one attempt will not get you the results you want. Sometimes, it takes multiple attempts to achieve a desired outcome. It is easy to sit back after the first attempt which may or may not yield results and say: Ok, I have done the spell work and the follow up but nothing happened. The universe must have other plans.

I beg to differ. I have noticed over the course of a few years, that if you really want something, you must repeatedly focus your attention and goals. You must repeatedly follow up and follow through. Granted, you may have to go about things in a slightly or completely different way each

time, but the point is not to give up. The more you want whatever goal you want to achieve, the more time and effort you must put into it.

I do understand the other side of the coin, which is, when do you stop beating a dead horse? Well, that depends. If making the effort to realize a dream or a goal does not cause the individual grief, why should they stop at all? The answer is they shouldn't. Only the person who is making the effort can make that call. Either they will figure out what they wanted was not what they needed, or they will spend their life in pursuit of that particular goal. Never give up!

-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, worshiping 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, 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

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:

Feb 21

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

STANDARD DISCLAIMER and COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Please note that information and opinions contained in the articles in this newsletter are the responsibility of the authors only. No endorsement by Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. is implied.

All writings are copyright to their respective authors. Please obtain permission before reprinting anything here, with the exception of the Open Full Moon Dates. Those may be copied and transmitted as needed.

2015 Open Full Moon Dates

January 30
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.**