



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



JANUARY 22, 2016

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 22, 2016.

The January 22nd ritual will be presented by Cynthia and Clyde Killingbeck. The theme and intent for our full moon ritual will be to foster harmony within ourselves and our communities. The world community is disturbed with violence, anger, retribution, and intolerance. Our own community has had its own struggles as well, maybe even our own homes and groups we practice, or work with. As we step into the New Year we want to create a centering thought, a centering belief, a magical blessing of energy to carry us through the year on its wave: 'Let us be together in Harmony'. Hearthstone represents and fosters the very diversity and community togetherness that we are seeking to invoke, so please join us in drum, chant, and song as we come together in acceptance and fellowship at this the first Hearthstone Open Full Moon of the New Year!

GREETINGS

And the western New Year has begun. Along with it came the cold and some snow. I have a very old house that retains the heat in the summer and the cold in the winter. That's all right: I rather like the cold. I don't like the ice, but the cold is fine.

At this time of year, the western tradition is to make resolutions for the coming year. Rather like we do at Imbolq. So I am starting to plan my "garden" for the year. What do I want to grow for the year? Music, that's a given. What else can I do? Find more satisfaction at my job? Find more social avenues?

That's the wonder of a new year. So many paths are available. Which ones will I follow?

—Catherine

<http://hearthstone.fnorky.com>

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*

BELTANIA

Beltania, a Pagan festival and musicfest, is having its 9th annual event on May 19-22, 2016 at La Foret Conference and Retreat Center near Colorado Springs. Tickets go on sale January 1 at 8am at www.beltania.org

THE MAGIC OF BEITH

Whether you celebrate Samhain, Winter Solstice, or January first as the beginning of the new year, it's here! The days are gradually getting longer, the rush of the holidays are behind us, the Julian calendar turns over, and the possibilities of the year to come are spread out before us.

While I know my ancestors never used the Ogham as a calendar, it always feels right to me to delve into the magic of Beith (bey) or Birch as I begin the Julian year.

The Ogham itself is written either as a “I” with a short, vertical body and long horizontal arms, or as that same two lines turned ninety degrees with the short bit out to the right, kind of like an “E” with just the middle horizontal remaining.

I have carved it in candles and pressed it into clay. I have drawn it into sand and onto a piece of paper that I burned.

The Book of Ballymote makes it clear that this is the Ogham of beginnings, but your intentions matter when using it because the text contains a tantalizing warning about being carried off by fairies. Viewed from a metaphorical perspective, I take that to mean that it is important to be clear and grounded in my magical workings.

That's why I like working with my calendar. It gives me a structure within which to think of the year to come. I flip through the months filling in birthdates, then marking the weekend dates for full and new moon gatherings. I go through the astrological information and highlight Mercury changes, both retrograde and direct.

I think about my garden, about trips I want to take. Then, magically, with the year laid out before me, I suddenly get a clear sense of the big picture, of just how big, and how actually little, it really is. There's only one February and one June, only one summer, with a specific number of weekends. I can't just hope for my dreams to come true, I need to lay out some plans.

Then I'm ready to do the magic of beginnings. I have a sense of what's really important, what I don't want to miss out on. Looking at the year with its possibilities and limitations I gain focus, and from focus I gain intention.

After that I can plan the magic. Reduction? Waning Moon. Increase? Waxing Moon. Work? Moon in Taurus. Passion? Moon in Scorpio. Grounding? I pick out an onyx. Prosperity? I choose malachite. It flows so much more naturally once I have clarity.

I hope that the same happens for you, that you find the ritual before the ritual that helps you to gain your clarity and focus so that the power of your intentions shines clearly through your magical workings for the new year.

Blessed be,

--Paulie Rainbow

founding priestess: Denver Celtic Women's Circle

ACTING AS A PRIEST OF BAST

Welcome to a new year. Or as I like to call it, "A whole new chance to annoy people." For some of us, it is also the start of a new fiscal year; though in my case, thanks to being a writer, my efforts to generate income for this calendar year actually begin in October. The same holds true for my wife, who is a potter (a production cycle for her takes seven to eight weeks).

One of the "wonderful, ever delightful" things about being a creative person in business for oneself is the need to advertise one's work. I will admit that I am horrible at this; at least, when it comes to making money from my own work. I am slightly better when it comes to advertising my wife's pottery.

Last week, I did a round of advertising for my wife, promoting her custom-made pet urns. I always feel a little ghoulish when advertising the pet urns. I always wonder if I am taking unfair advantage of the grieving. I am not sure of why I feel that way, but I do. I imagine that some relative once complained in front of me about a mortician, and the complaint entered my subconscious.

I know that this is not necessarily true. Years ago, when living in Brush, a god-awful small town out in northeastern Colorado, I had a conversation with a funeral director who said that funerals are for the living. I have also read essays by priests stating the same. Intellectually, I understand it; emotionally, I don't. Then again, my disconnect is probably not a big surprise, considering that I am the furthest one can get from being a priest.

Sitting in a drawer in my office is a piece of paper that says that I am a member of the priesthood. The certificate is not framed. It is buried beneath other paperwork that swears that I was born in the United States and that I somehow managed to graduate college with some basic knowledge of history and literature. The only reason I have it is so that I can smile at the

government while doing Tarot readings and magic operations, and claim that what I am doing is part of my services as a minister. I seriously doubt that anyone, even the government (who might legally have to honor the piece of paper), actually believes that I am a minister.

So there I am, posting ads for pet urns on Facebook, when I get a private message. It is from one of my Facebook friends, who recently suffered the loss of a cat. This is something that I understand; I bawled my eyes out the last time that one of my cats died. I end up texting back and forth with my friend for more than an hour. It was only after getting off the computer that I realized that was the most ministerial I have acted in months.

And it was with some amusement that I noted that the manner of my ministry fit right in with my chosen goddess. Years ago, I found myself developing a connection with Bast, the Egyptian cat goddess. In Ancient Egypt, quite a few cats were mummified; some of which were beloved pets. I also realized that my dear wife, a ceramic artist, was busy serving as a priestess for Bast, for making urns for deceased pets is a modern funerary service. It was an interesting revelation. And it is probably the closest that I will get to acting like a minister this year. Meow.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery traditions on his blog at: [Musings from the pen: The writer blog of Morgan Drake Eckstein](#); [Gleanings from the Dawn: Thoughts about Golden Dawn from one of its members](#) and [Book Reviews by Morgan: My archive for the book reviews that I have done](#)

[Morgan's wife, Khari, sells mundane pottery on Etsy at: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/celticsouljewelry> and witchy pottery at: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/Khariswiccantreasure>

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

Ritual dates 2016

February 6

March 5

April 9

May 7

June 4

July 2

August 6

September 3

October 1

Oct 22

November 26

December 17

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

WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-521-6620. 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 fionnula.harp@gmail.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 fionnula.harp@gmail.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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2016 Open Full Moon Dates

January 22
February 19
March 18
April 15
May 20
June 17
July 15
August 12
September 16
October 14
November 11