



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



MAY 20, 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, MAY 20, 2016.

For May, Lady Nightshade and the Coven of the Golden Condors will celebrate a Peruvian Shamanic Full Moon Fire Ceremony. Bring a rattle or a drum. We will Create Sacred Space and Call the Directions asking Pachamama, Father Sun, Grandmother Moon and Star Nations to look down upon our medicine circle.

Be prepared to burn two light arrows (pieces of paper) with your intentions to remove something from your life and to bring something to you. This is the perfect time to make room for the opportunity that is presented by the Mars retrograde cycle to direct the creative forces of experience, to live your truth, to direct the expression of willpower and clear away emotional blockages.

The Coven of the Golden Condors will provide the fire and the light arrows. Come with your willingness to give something up in order to create a new reality for yourself and dream a new world into being.

—Catherine

GREETINGS

It's been a busy week. The week before a concert always is – but coming in conjunction with a local holiday it seemed worse. We had three rehearsals in the last week: which means I got home latish on two days. I don't get much sleep after rehearsals – the music stays in my head and I must listen.

We are well into May, although it's rainy enough to be a "traditional" April. If April showers bring May flowers, do May showers bring June flowers – and growth? I guess we'll see. I am looking forward to it. I may even get to cut the lawn some evening this week.

The concert went beautifully.

—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

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone tips our hat to Deb Hoffman, who led our April Open Full Moon ritual. Deb opened with a Lisa Thiel song, singing "The Spirit of the Plants has come to me in the form of a beautiful dancing Green Woman...."

After casting Circle, Deb lit candles for Truth and Protection. Each participant chose a small square of raw clay imprinted with a Celtic pattern, and a felt tip marker. Through guided meditation Deb led us to imagine ourselves as a seed carried on the wind, falling to the soil, feeling raindrops, awakening and reaching up toward the light, blooming into a flower, realizing our oneness with all, and filling with peace. We were asked to each consider what would be our one-word intention of how we want to express our flowering self this Spring, and write that onto our piece of clay. We were to take home our clay, place it in our yard or a potted plant, and each time the soil receives water, the clay will dissolve, and our intention will merge with the Earth.

Thank you, Deb, and assistants Clyde and Cynthia, for encouraging our individual blossoming and our attunement with Nature. May we all gently grow in oneness with our Mother Earth. Blessed Be.

—Arynn

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

TO GATHER

I founded the Denver Celtic Women's Circle (DCWC) ten years ago and have had the privilege to stand around the sacred fire with many different women. Some for many moons at a stretch, some for just one or two.

Along the way I have searched, practiced, and learned, and showed up moon after moon. It was a gathering of experience.

Three years ago I finally made it to Ireland for the first time and joined up with Ireland's Druid School (the Celtic Druid Temple) as a student. I have been back twice more, studying the language, standing among the stones, hiking marshy paths in search of ancient wells, standing in the sea-wind swept darkness in the lumpy shadows of a prehistoric ruin calling to the Goddess named on the Ogham stone there. It continues to be an important part of my personal journey.

I have watched so many in our community labor consistently and with love to foster covens, and classes and shops, full moon gatherings and festivals, and I have often wondered why I wasn't building something like that. Then I would wonder, just what would I grow? And why? There is no sense in doing something just for the sake of it, just because others are doing it.

It's better, most of the time, to take part in the wonderful things that we do have in our community. And we have so much! From the amazingly long running Hearthstone Open Full Moons through DragonFest and Beltania, the Orpheus Pagan Choir, the many, many shops and classes, the drummings and celebrations...it is not hard to find some group to gather with or some activity to join in here in Denver and the surrounding area. We have spiritual abundance here.

And sacred space. I feel the sacred nature of the land around us; backpacking and canoeing in Colorado has really opened my heart. We have excellent programs through CSU Extension and I'm working toward my Native Plants Master certification.

I've had great fun offering workshops at festivals and shops around town, and sharing OFM with Hearthstone! It was a way to branch outward, to share some part of the fruits of the journey with my community. It was just enough until now.

This spring something changed and I knew it was time to do more. I reached out and made some arrangements and everything seemed to flow.

I have the opportunity to share the Druid School Full Moon Ceremony with others here. I am so happy and heart-warmed!

My little DCWC will continue in private practice, but I can now facilitate a Full Moon Ceremony, every month, on the night of the full moon, just as they are doing in Ireland, at the Celtic Druid Temple's roundhouse and on the Hill of Tara.

I don't have something to build or to grow. I have something to share, something I find fulfilling and moving.

I can share this here, on this sacred ground in Colorado, the opportunity to stand, not just with my private circle of women, but with whomever wants to join us around a sacred fire, out in the open while the moon rises and the sun sets.

I have the opportunity to gather.

If you are interested in the Full Moon Ceremony, check out our meetup group. Otherwise, I can't wait to see you again at the Open Full Moon at Hearthstone in July. I've been working on the ritual to share with you and have great news about the Oak tree that we blessed together last year!

Blessed be,

---Paulie Rainbow

founding priestess: Denver Celtic Women's Circle

PROFIT AND OCCULT WRITERS

One of the constant ethical questions that I struggle with on a regular basis is the question of “Should occult writers get paid?” As in “Can they put a price on their occult writing? Or are they obligated to give their writing on the occult for free?”

Please note that I only struggle with this question as an occult writer, specifically as a Wiccan and as a Golden Dawn expert. I do not have this dilemma as a non-fiction writer in any other subject. Nor do I have it as a fiction writer, except in one tiny area that I am about to talk about. Hell, I don't even have this dilemma as an astrology writer. It is only when it comes to writing about Wicca and magic that I am constantly debating if I have a right to slap a price tag onto my work.

I blame the internet and pop culture for this ethical obsession. On the internet, lurking on discussion boards and in the comment sections, there is a special type of troll that insists that all occult writing, all group memberships, and all occult teaching should be free. These trolls insist that occult writers and teachers are ethically bound to do this work for free. And typically, they cite that “No magical works can be done for material gain. All spells, and by extension, all writings about such, done for profit are black magic and therefore, evil.” I think that this reasoning and ethical rule comes straight out of pop culture, including TV shows like Charmed.

The advanced troll of this type will also insist that “All information should be free,” which they use to justify piracy of computer games, music, movies, and anything else they can find in a digital format. These are the types of trolls that drive otherwise talented people out of the market because what is the point of struggling to create material, if you are never going to make a dime of profit from it.

What this has led to in the occult world is expensive books done in limited edition and private courses. Magic which has always been a specialty market (a niche of a niche of a niche) is increasing more so. At one time, an occult book would sell a few thousand copies, which was a poor showing compared to other forms of writing. Now, the number is a few hundred copies, for an occult book that is considered wildly successful.

Now as an occult writer, one that started out as something else, I am not sure that the limited edition route is the best route to take. My first paid gig as a writer was the hacking out of dubious erotica. I have never heard anyone ever claim that it is unethical for erotica writers to charge for their work; though I must admit that I have heard people claim that erotic writing is a sin and/or a crime.

Part of the drive towards limited editions is that occult writers have been told that the only worthwhile occult books are physical books. Combine this with the fear that an ebook version will sell just one copy, and then promptly be pirated, and one can understand the limited edition concept. It is less likely that your work is going to be pirated, if all your buyers paid a lot to be one of the few with a copy, and they would freak out if they broke the spine of a book because of how much it would devalue their copy. And those traditional publishers who do issue ebooks are often pricing them at the same level that they are pricing physical books, so people end up buying physical books instead of ebooks.

So how much does an occult writer make on a copy of a book? If it is a traditional publisher, probably just a dollar per copy sold. This little fact should lead you right into believing that occult writers are already doing it for free; but there are still those who argue that even making a couple of hundred dollars for creating an occult book is still unethical.

The occult market release schedule is typically limited edition hard cover, followed maybe by a paperback, and then an ebook on the tail end, if ever. My own release schedule is based on a

completely different market, with my ebook coming first, then maybe I will take time out to release a paper version if the ebook sales justified the effort. My release schedule is obviously based on my experience with the erotica market.

I sometimes describe my erotic writing as making burgers for perverts. I blame this on my twenty years in the restaurant business. One's profits in restaurants are typically cheap items that you sell tons of. I am trying to apply that same concept to my writing. This does lead to strange things showing up in my production schedule.

Last fall, one of my occult writing friends bitterly complained that Necronomicon rip-offs sell better than serious occult writing. Being a former business manager, I went to Amazon to see if he was right. Sadly, he was. And being "the great pornographer" as one of my critics calls me, I started to kick around ideas to capitalize on the Necronomicon market...because the dark fluff occult market always struck me as porn for black magicians, and who am I to stay out of it?

Which brings me to my current ethical dilemma—is it OK for an occult writer to capitalize on the dark fluff market? Especially one that has ties with Golden Dawn and Wicca?

In mainstream publishing, and in college programs, you are told that the goal of a writer is to create literature. The quickest way to bomb out of a creative writing program is to actually go for money, and decide to be a genre writer (fantasy, romance, all those dirty less worthy ways to spend your time writing). And the quickest way to bomb out of the ranks of regular occult writers is to decide to go and write in the dark fluff market.

In my case, it is not like I have respect as a serious occult writer, so I am not sure that it makes much difference. Sure, a few of my friends will complain that I sold out, but what else is new? After all, I am already the literary equivalent of a sex worker.

But wait, there is more. Because it would not be like me to just write dark fluff. No, I have habit of making jokes about the occult. And my little Necronomicon project has turned into a satire. I find myself making fun of the entire occult book market, especially those types that honestly believe that Lovecraft was talking about a real book, and not just making stuff up.

So if my little satire, which I plan on publishing under another pen-name, ends up getting talked about, and boy, it could be end up creating hordes of angry occultists armed with pitchforks and flaming wands, is it wrong if I profit by it? Not that it is likely for me to make a profit—but hey, it could happen. Is it wrong that I have created an occult fiction? And should I be allowed to charge for it? And these are the types of questions that make me the mad uncle that everyone knows and I would say, loves; but it probably more like loathes.

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](#); [Gleamings 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>

THE AFTERMATH OF APOSTASY

I learned an important lesson recently. I didn't realize the impact deity had on my life until I uttered out loud the phrase: "I don't think there are higher powers; I've gotten the most tangible results from hard work, education, and good friends." A friend of mine would say that that statement was the equivalent of standing out in a thunderstorm and yelling that god has small testicles. I'm pretty sure he was right about that one.

Shortly after this declaration, I had walked into what I thought was a much better job all around with very little effort. It just seemed that I was in the right place at the right time. However, I shortly discovered that no amount of money would be worth the stress and hassle of the job. It got to the point where I felt that everything was going wrong. Add some animosity from others in the work environment and I was not in a good emotional place.

I immediately talked to the above-mentioned friend who agreed that I needed to leave that job. I put in notice and was fortunate to not have to work the entire two weeks of it. Later I found out that my friend had intervened on my behalf. He actually spoke to his patrons about the situation.

I'm happy to say that I have acquired a position that is more appropriate for my situation and the pay is decent. And I came to realize that deity actually has affected my life; granted, in smaller ways than I expected, but the interventions were important. Do yourself a favor: if you ever feel like deity is not involved in your life, take time to reflect on the "coincidences" that have occurred. I have found that they're not usually random. For example, I began looking for a new altar piece shortly after I admitted to myself that deity had an impact on my life. I had planned on going to one metaphysical store to look for it, but unwittingly drove right past the store—one I have been going to for quite a while. I decided not to bother and stopped at a shop closer to my home. It was there that I found the exact thing I needed.

As soon as I re-examined my beliefs, things seemed to have turned around. I think everyone experiences a crisis of faith at least once in their life. However, I didn't realize that the small things meant so much until they were inaccessible. It was a blatant reminder for me that other forces are at work in my life.

—*Bluedreamer*

TURTLE MONKEY CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Hi all, this is Jo. We recently revamped the children's books and several are scheduled to come out in print later this year! Stop by our website and sign up for our newsletter. Thanks for your support!

www.turtlemonkeybooks.com

-Jo



Chrysalis Circle Drumming Down the Sun 2016

Chrysalis Circle invites you to the
Fifth Annual Drumming Down The Sun

on Saturday, June 18, 2016, 6pm to 9pm.*

*Sunset is 8:31PM, Moonrise is 6:54PM – Waxing Gibbous Moon.

We will be at the shelters at [Addenbrooke Park, 600 S. Kipling Parkway, Lakewood, CO.](#) —
Park amenities listed below.

http://www.lakewood.org/Community_Resources/Parks,_Forestry_and_Open_Space/A_to_Z_Park_Listing/Addenbrooke_Park.aspx

Bring your drums, rattles, pentagram tambourines, other musical instruments, and yourselves. Help celebrate the Summer Solstice (3 days early) and the change from the Light (Goddess) half of the year to the Dark (God) half of the year. (We try to make it easier for folks by making it on Saturday Nights.)

We offer this event as a way to bring balance and celebration to our tradition of Drumming Up The Sun on the Winter Solstice. Join us in honoring the changes that this solar event marks.

More details:

- Suggested donation is \$2.00 per adult (to cover park rental costs).
- Wheelchair accessible.
- Playground adjacent to shelters.
- RTD – [W Line Light Rail](#) connects (Federal Center Station) to [#100](#) and [#3](#) buses for bus stops within 1/4 mile.

See our website for links and all the details. <http://chrysaliscircle.org/cs-calendar/drumming-down-the-sun-2016/>

Rainah NightTiger

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

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

May 20
June 17
July 15
August 12
September 16
October 14
November 11