



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



JUNE 17, 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, JUNE 17, 2016.

The June OFM ritual: A Fairy Ritual in Poetic Form, will be presented by Morgan Drake Eckstein. The ritual will include High Ceremonial Wicca elements, along with the symbolism of four types of fairies (sylphs, salamanders, undines, and gnomes), to provide an omen (fairy fortune) to each of the attendees.

—Catherine

GREETINGS

Many, many years ago, I worked for a summer at Lakeside Amusement Park. Even more than all my years at the Renaissance Festival, this job gave me an appreciation for summer weather patterns.

In Denver, at least, our summer storms seem to roll in from the southwest. To me, the proper term is "roll," as you watch those clouds build up – then almost like a steamroller, push across the Front Range. In the early part of the summer, the storms come earlier in the day; but late summer storms seem like the sky's reaction to the heat built up by the summer sun. It's almost as if Nature is giving us a quick shower to cool down before we go back to a hot day's work.

Keeping track of the weather way back when I was at Lakeside was important. I operated a ride that had asbestos brakes – which did not work well (at all!) in the rain. One drop of rain and I had to shut down and make sure the brakes were dry. In a torrent, the ride had to be shut down altogether – and I went next door to help with the target shooting concession. One had to shoot out a star with BBs – even a little corner of the star didn't count. I enjoyed target shooting; if no one was there, we had to attract customers by practicing ourselves. I got pretty good, which seems to mean I had a lot of practice. I loved my ride, however. I was one of the three people on the site that year who could run the brakes. How else does a 19-year-old get the control to say when someone got to ride?

Later, working at the Renaissance Festival, I still had to watch the weather. It seems harps and rain really don't get along well. But I didn't have to run at the first drop. As long as I could find some shelter, I could keep playing – with no worries about others sliding along on wet brakes.

Nowadays, I watch the weather roll in – still from the southwest – and enjoy its splendor. After all, I have no brakes to keep dry. I can even get wet – and I have it on good authority that we don't melt.

—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 thanks Lady Nightshade and Lady Rowena for offering a Peruvian Shamanic Fire Ceremony for our community's May Open Full Moon Circle. First they explained what symbolism would be used and how they would create sacred space. After permission was asked, each participant was cleared and balanced. The Four Directions were called, and sacred space created.

For this transformational fire ceremony each person was asked to form two intentions, one for something to be released to the fire to be worked upon in a way that is for the highest and best good, and a second intention for something we want to call to ourselves. We received two light arrows, papers into which to channel each of our two intentions. When each person was ready, he or she stepped forward to offer each light arrow into the flame of the central cauldron. In a lovely expression of community, when one person stepped up to the cauldron, a second person voluntarily stood behind them in an expression of physical and energetic support. Throughout this working, all were chanting (in some Peruvian language, I would suppose) a chant that called to the Great Mother, Mother of the Waters, to be with us. Finally, one larger light arrow was passed around the circle, and each person channeled into it positive intentions for Mother Earth, then that final arrow was offered to the flame.

Thank you, Lady Nightshade and Lady Rowena, for welcoming our Hearthstone community to share this beautiful ceremony and opportunity for transformation!

—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*

THE MAGIC OF JOY.

I don't know that I've often thought much about the power of joy in the practice of magic or spirituality. The school that I am a member of, Ireland's Druidschool, emphasizes bringing smiles to ceremony. As their student, I have paid more attention to whether or not I'm smiling in ritual.

I remembered to smile when I worked in radio! You learn right away that the shape of your mouth and throat affects the tone of your voice. While we may not realize it, we can almost always tell by the sound when someone is smiling, especially if we know that person well.

Just as there is magic in music and tone, just as we channel different magic when chanting or *galdring* runes, the magic that we channel is affected by the emotional and spiritual space we are in internally. The question is, what is it that can best affect our inner crystal?

I have found that there are long term and short term answers to that.

For the longer term, I have practices that I use to try and keep my own spiritual balance. They involve my own spiritual practices, mediation and peer-mentoring, that is, keeping people around that I can discuss my challenges with.

For the shorter term I can relate some recent experiences.

June has turned out to be a busy month for me, I had the opportunity to perform two handfastings and a house blessing in a single weekend. Having an unusual number of ceremonies together in a short period of time gave me the chance to make observations that I might have otherwise missed.

Doing the third house blessing for a long term friend of mine reminded me that I feel lighter and more confident when I remember how much I am loved and appreciated. It really works for me to remember to draw on the strength I have in the love of family and friends. My self-criticism relaxes and my personal talents rise to the fore. Even if I am among strangers, when I can remember the love and respect of the people who know me best, I can tap into that energy and bring that light into my magic.

For a formal handfasting in an unknown location with a larger group of people that were unknown to me, I found grounding and connection in walking around the space where the ceremony was to take place. My practice is very earth-based and this venue, as for most commercial wedding venues, had taken special care with their landscaping. As I walked around the perimeter I spotted a nice bed of mint, a reminder of cool waters and clear-mindedness; yarrow which is also known as "Seven Years Love" and is frequently planted as a reminder of fidelity and constancy; grape vines were all around and in Celtic lore they are a symbol of strength and endurance, they carry delicious heavy burdens and (different from ivy) they do not kill their hosts. The trees also had great energy and I felt their light spirits as witnesses to the vows. It was a good idea to take the time and indulge in my own connections to the space. Sometimes it's a struggle to simply ground internally, and it's no shame to find an external touchstone for that work.

The other handfasting of that weekend was much more spontaneous and left me with a lot of latitude. The location was well known to me, there was no one present aside from myself, the couple and my dear husband who helped me bring and set up my small altar.

But for this experience I connected so clearly with the thread that ran through all of these celebrations: joy.

With all of the extra trappings and distractions aside I could see the important heart of the matter. The couple that I handfasted that day was so filled with joy.

The friend who dearly loves me and who is starting another chapter of life was also filled with joy.

The lovely couple who put so much thought and planning into sharing their celebration with friends and family was so filled with joy.

And, regardless of time, place, location, simplicity or complication, what brings me to this work is joy. Joy is its own magic, its own power, its own intelligence. When I allow the joy that drives me to be the power that flows through me all things are changed.

We use a lot of different powers and pick different colors, stones and herbs for our work for different reasons, but the one power, aspect, and influence that I best love is joy.

May you find joy.

—Paulie Rainbow

founding priestess: Denver Celtic Women's Circle

PUBLIC HEXING

—tool of justice or simply overkill?

One of the things that I occasionally joke about is that it is not a good idea to piss off a witch because they will hex you back into the Stone Age. And that is exactly what some witches decided to do earlier this month to convicted rapist Brock Turner.

For those who missed all the excitement: Brock Turner, a Stanford student and competitive swimmer, was tried and convicted of sexual assault on an unconscious woman who attended a fraternity party in January 2015. Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Aaron Persky sentenced Turner to six months in county jail and three years of probation; Turner must also complete a sex offender management program and register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

That sentence, as well as the defense of Turner – including a letter written by the boy's father stating that twenty years of prison was an unjust sentence for “twenty minutes of action” – exploded on social media. Turner, who had a blood level double the legal limit at the time of the assault, has expressed regret for being drunk, but not for the sexual assault itself. This omission of regret resulted in Turner's picture being plastered all over Facebook with people calling for the judge to be recalled, and for people to rethink the crime of rape.

One of the people on Facebook that took offense at the light sentence for Turner was Iowan Melanie Elizabeth Hexan, who works as a belly dancer and midwife. Hexan also self-identifies as a Priestess of the Elder Craft. Hexan created a ritual to punish Turner using a hex. “Witches doing spells in times when they're otherwise powerless goes back thousands of years,” Hexan said on Facebook.

Hexan created a page for the spell on Facebook, which included an instruction to chant, “Brock Allen Turner, we hex you. You will be impotent. You will know constant pain of pine needles in your guts. Food will bring you no sustenance. In water, your lungs will fail you. Sleep will

only bring nightmares. Shame will be your mantle. You will meet justice. My witchcraft is strong. Our witchcraft is powerful. The spell will work. So mote it be.” Originally, the curse was meant to be performed by just Hexan and her twelve coven sisters, but thousands of witches joined the event on the night of June 7th.

And as is typical of social media, there are plenty of people who believe that Hexan, and the thousands of witches who joined her, have stepped over the line of what a witch is allowed to do. Hexing people is wrong, and the court has already sentenced Brock, claimed some people on Facebook, making the curse unnecessary.

Now, it should not surprise anyone that I have an opinion about this. Regular readers of my commentary might even remember one of the more interesting times I weighed in on this subject.

A few years ago, an unidentified man was sexually assaulting women in the neighborhood that I lived in. Given the multiple assaults, and the fact that the police had not yet caught him, a few of the local covens decided to get together to bring the serial rapist to justice. The coven that I worked with did such a working. And one of the questions that came up during the planning of the ritual was whether or not the coven was willing to perform a death curse on the rapist, if that was the only way to prevent him from sexually assaulting other women. Those of us doing the working decided that we were perfectly OK if the rapist accidentally stepped under a bus.

This particular working became part of my own instructional material on ethics. It is a weighty question. Part of the origin myth of Wicca is that witches, in the days of yore, would get together to seek justice denied to them by those in power, by performing spells to redress the injustices done to them. The difference between the days of yore and today is that thanks to social media, one is not restricted to the witches of one’s coven when one performs a working. Today, one merely has to post an idea to do a working, and one could potentially have hundreds of witches involved. Most of the time, your idea will reach a few dozen of your friends; but thanks to the power of social media, one could find oneself brewing up a storm in a viral teapot.

Performing mass rituals is not a new idea. During World War II, the English ceremonial magic teacher Dion Fortune sent out instructions to the members of her organization on how to perform a series of meditations designed to protect England from invasion by the military forces of Adolf Hitler’s Third Reich. And today, there are occult leaders who organize rituals designed to bind and destroy terrorist organizations, and to protect citizens from the excesses of government.

There is some debate on how effective mass rituals can be. One of the difficulties with mass rituals is that outside of the overall intent, which is often rather nebulous and ill-defined, different people will use different symbol sets and have different ideas of what needs to be done in order to accomplish the main goal of the ritual. Without a common set of symbols and a well-defined goal, a lot of mass ritual simply fails due to the lack of cohesion. It is difficult enough to coordinate and direct a ritual done by a single coven which has been trained to work together; let alone attempt to perform a worldwide mass ritual being done by hundreds or thousands of people.

In fact, the difficulty of doing mass ritual is one of the reasons that I argue that there is often an ulterior motive behind such workings. Fame, the desire to lead others, wanting to appear to be an important voice in the community; these seem to be the real purpose of such mass rituals. I would be suspicious that the creators of such mass workings were attempting to siphon off the energies raised for their own purposes; but given the fact that there are easier ways to raise and stockpile energy, I am willing to give a mass ritual organizer the benefit of the doubt on that one.

The mass hexing of Brock is actually one of the few that I have seen that I think might have a chance to work as a mass working. Hexan gave detailed notes and suggestions, and the participants had a specific target. It is hard to bind an organization like ISIL whose public perception is ambiguous, and which acts like a hydra when attacked—an organization that has its own legion of

supporters praying for its success. It is a lot easier to target an individual, where it is a specific crime being punished, and you have the necessary biographical and identity markers to target that single individual. And the rage over the light sentence would be a boiling cauldron which in the right hands could be used to leverage the probabilities surrounding the individual.

So was it ethical to do? Earlier I mentioned a working I had been involved in. Some of the people who heard this story actually decided that based on my decisions that I was permanently unfit to be an occult leader, something that they used to justify the formation of another lodge of the tradition I worked. Maybe they were right. Or it could just be that they wanted to lead the parade, and I was in their way; it is always so hard to tell in these matters. But some of the mental gymnastics that they used to get to the place where they decided my judgment was completely untrustworthy makes me a little sick to my stomach. For instance, some of the people who thought that I was morally unfit declared that we did not even have the right to use a spell to help speed up the capture of the offender. Let me remind you that at the time of the working, no one, including the police, knew the identity of the serial rapist. Declaring that none of us had the right to do such a working implies that no one has the right to magically defend themselves and their community. I can understand being uncomfortable with death magic, but declaring magic to help discover the identity of a serial rapist off-limits seems to be overkill to me.

Was the mass hexing of Brock overkill? Perhaps, if all the spells descended directly upon him. If he burst into flames, then it would probably be overkill. But if it just causes him to feel guilt and shame for performing the crime he did, (*and possibly burp the flavor of pine needles – Alia*) then no, it is not overkill. And while I am uncomfortable with the media attention that the mass hexing received, for I am still trying to convince people that witches are mostly harmless, it might not actually be such a bad thing. I have argued before that witches need to be visible if we want the government and politicians to take into account our concerns.

And in the case of rape, there is the sad reality of how it is dealt with. When it comes to offenders, the concern is often that it is wrong to punish them for a single mistake, or even worse, multiple mistakes, and that we should allow them some freedom to reach their full potential. The victims, on the other hand, tend to be blamed for the crime, with people asking what the victim did to have caused a sexual predator to descend upon them in the first place. Part of this cultural bias is created by the dominant religions of our culture, which have holy books that state that the poor condition of the world, of mankind's expulsion from paradise, was caused by a woman. Furthermore, the holy books of the dominant religions state that women are second-class citizens at best, and really should be happy with their place in life as property of their betters, the male of the species. And don't even get me started on the fact that wealth is used to get offenders off the hook for their crimes, or at least, to get more lenient sentences.

Perhaps, a few more public hexings are in order. Perhaps, we should be loud about the fact that our religion does not give men a free pass to rape and pillage as they please. Perhaps, it is time for us to point out that certain actions are unacceptable, and that our magic is powerful, and that we are not afraid to use it. And perhaps, even, it might be good if Brock suffered spontaneous combustion. Yes, that would be death magic, but it would send a message that rape was unacceptable.

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>

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

Community Forum



Recognizing and Dealing with Predators in the Pagan Community Sunday, July 10, 2016

at the **Mercury Café** 2199 California Street
Denver, CO 80205

Doors open at 2:15pm, Forum from 2:30-5pm

In the interest of discussing tough topics with clear-eyed discernment and inviting all voices to be heard, WSLA is hosting a 3rd forum on Predators and Ethics.

Our community isn't immune to people who habitually manipulate others - energetically, sexually, financially, or in other ways that betray trust.

At this gathering, we'd like to look specifically at what our shared ethical basis might be, and come up with some suggestions for recognizing inappropriate behavior, and for responding effectively to protect ourselves and better support each other.

What do healthy boundaries look like? How can we foster our own good boundaries and support those of others, especially among our young people? How do I feel supported in community – and *not* supported? Where do I feel I'm not being heard? Among genders, are we "hearing" each other clearly? If not, how can we improve communications? What does my group need from me?

There will be time to break out into smaller groups by gender to discuss these points.

**This gathering is open to all in the Wiccan-Pagan community,
whether or not you attended the previous forums.**

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

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

June 17

July 15

August 12

September 16

October 14

November 11