



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



NOVEMBER 11, 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, NOVEMBER 11, 2016.

Vella Rose will officiate the November Hearthstone Open Full Moon ritual which will be held the evening of Veteran's Day. This ritual will take place a little over a week past Samhain, the cross quarter day when the veils are thin and we mark the beginning of the dark time of the year. By the 11th, the election will be over (finally) as will Daylight Savings time. To honor all of these events, there will be three parts to the workings for this ritual. First, a brief honoring of our Veterans and our freedom which they have helped us maintain. Second, a working on reflecting on the dark time of year, and finally some energy raising to send out healing to ourselves and fellow Americans after all the pain we have experienced through this "out of the norm" election cycle.

—Catherine

GREETINGS

I am exhausted – the last weeks of October are always so busy. Two weekends ago, I needed to attend two major events: MileHiCon – a science fiction convention that has been in the Denver area for 48 years; and the Witches Ball – which, in one form or another has been in existence for 25 years. After all that, Orpheus still had to rehearse on Monday night because we had the Orpheus Rite of Remembrance concert last Saturday. I do hope many of you were able to attend this magical night.

We all have rituals, whether it's attending a long-standing convention or party, celebrating the full moons and sabbats, or the holy days of other religions; civil holidays, or annual concerts. We look forward to these rituals and get frustrated if one conflicts with another. We make our choices and hope that the next time we will be able to participate in all of them.

I am writing this on the day of another ritual: Election Day. I voted two weeks ago. Even so, I've been fascinated once again by the ritual we go through every four years. Today we (hopefully) learn the direction our country will take for the next two, four, six, or eight years – depending upon which elective office we look at. This is, however, a ritual we mustn't be conflicted out of. Thank goodness for early voting.

I do hope everyone who can vote did so this year.

—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's October Open Full Moon celebration was led by the Denver Celtic Women's Circle, honoring the sacred spirit of water – especially that from the Colorado River, which starts in Colorado and then helps to quench some of the driest states in the country. Together we called upon the Caillach – Snow Bringer and Mother of Mountains – to give thanks for Colorado's sacred river.

Thank you Kellene, Paulie and the Denver Celtic Women's Circle for leading us in our tanks to the great river of our Western Slope!

–Catherine

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

DON'T READ THIS—IT IS A POLITICAL RANT

By the time you read this, the longest election cycle in human memory will be over. Maybe. Or maybe it will still be going on, and we are still facing months, if not years, of outrage and violence because the wrong person won.

Years ago, I made the decision that my goal (as a pagan writer and blogger) was to get pagans and witches to vote, but that I would avoid telling people who and what to vote for whenever

possible. In other words, I wanted to remain neutral. Over the years, I would like to think that I managed to accomplish this goal—but I will admit that my own political opinions occasionally have bled through on occasion. Especially in this election cycle.

For instance, as a satirist, I have made fun of both primary political parties...but let's be honest, I made fun of one side much more than the other. Still there is nothing quite like saying, "Congratulations America, you just elected the worst President ever!" to make both sides hate your guts. And yes, I firmly believe that for the next four to eight years, I am going to see talk that whoever won is literally the worst President ever.

I also believe that I am going to watch the losing side do everything in their power over the next four to eight years to prevent the winner from accomplishing a damn thing. We just had eight years of one political party doing everything in their power to prevent the President from accomplishing a damn thing—even voting for things that they knew were bad, and against things that their own party originally suggested because their party didn't control the Presidency—in other words, they automatically opposed the President's position, simply because he belonged to the opposite party. Basically, the entire country was held hostage because voters elected the wrong person for President.

And we are going to see that again. The Republicans have already come out and promised to block every Supreme Court nominee that Hillary Clinton puts forth. Think about that. If Hillary wins, the Republicans have promised to block every nominee she suggests for the next four years (or eight years, if she wins a second term). Already there are problems because the Supreme Court is deadlocked on many cases. Now, imagine the rest of the members of the Supreme Court dying one by one, and never being replaced—and that is what we have been promised. And if it is Trump that has won...well, he is a barrel full of monkeys that might have both political parties trying to slow him down.

For the one person who have not heard or read my satire—I believe that a Trump presidency will result in large parts of the Constitution being crossed out, numerous military personnel being tried for treason for disobeying orders, several more wars, the use of at least one more nuke on a civilian packed city; and journalists, cartoonists and comedians being locked up after their professions are made illegal. And the punchline is that he won't accomplish a damn thing that he promised.

Ok, maybe that is merely my satirist eyes looking at the situation. The real punchline may be that he goes back to the political opinions that he held a decade or two ago (which mirrors Clinton's), and it does not matter who wins because we end up with the exact same decisions being made—the only difference is the plumbing of the person sitting in the oval office.

And there are certain problems that it does not matter who gets elected, we still screwed. For instance: trade and manufacturing. If the borders are closed, and companies are forced to make products here, prices go up (because cheap foreign stuff doesn't get in), wages do not keep up (and if they do, you find yourself replaced by a robot). If we continue being part of the global trade community, well, we are decades away from global wages being equalized; and years before that happens, the workers who end up with higher wages (no matter where they are) are replaced by robots. In the end, it does not matter what solution that you try, people get replaced by robots. The only bright note is that if you follow the trend, and assume that businesses always go for the cheapest labor option, is that everyone in the entire world eventually is replaced by a robot—our country, being first world, merely gets to experience the problem sooner than the rest of the world.

Let me be clear here—some problems are so big and nasty that it doesn't matter who gets elected; the problems are still going to screw almost everyone. Issues with healthcare, social security, the impending mass student loan defaults, and unemployment are not going to go away, and are going

to get worse—and there are no solutions that will magically fix them. We are talking structural problems that sooner or later will have to be dealt with. It is just too bad that no politician actually wants to be the villain that fixes them.

And the reason that no politician wants to do what is actually necessary to fix them is the voters will automatically howl at them for being villains. The voters firmly believe that these problems are not part of their world; and that if only the poor people worked a little harder, poor people wouldn't be so poor and need government help in the first place. Basically, voters believe that all poor people are lazy (even if they are working two full time jobs) and that is why they are poor, and that all welfare recipients are cheats. Furthermore, the reason that the federal budget is so out of control is welfare...and not the fact that we are secretly (or not so secretly) fighting five simultaneous wars, allowing corporations get away with paying no taxes in some cases, giving wealth-aid to corporations who know that they are not paying their employees a living wage (as in, they instruct their employees how to file for food stamps), and a bunch of other stuff that seems to only aid the rich.

OK, maybe not all voters. But enough that we will have to go into a depression before anyone is allowed to fix any of the big structural problems facing us.

My favorite example is the Florida mandatory testing of welfare recipients (because all welfare recipients are drug abusers) where the governor's wife's company got the contract and they did not even catch enough violators to offset the cost of the testing program. In fact, they caught less than a hundred. But people still demand it, despite the fact that all it really accomplished was making a rich person richer...because everyone who gets government aid is a drug addict.

These same poor people are accused of voter fraud because they love welfare. This idea completely ignores the real and very legal voter fraud in this country where congressional district maps are redrawn periodically, so that congressmen can maximize the number of voters that support them while removing those areas populated by those most likely to vote against them. It also conveniently ignores the fact that voter id laws are designed to remove poor people and minorities from the voter rolls. But whatever, because all poor people are lazy and welfare cheats.

But the most interesting thing I experienced this election cycle is people calling me a traitor to the United States for talking about these very things. We now live in a culture that believes, on some level, that voting for the "wrong party" and the "wrong candidate" and for the "wrong issues" is a form of treason. How did we get here? I am not surprised by this, for I have seen every President in my lifetime be called the "worst President ever"—but I am a little unclear when it became an act of treason to exercise my right to vote for whoever the hell I wanted to vote for.

And the really sad part is that four years from now, it is going to be worse. We are going to continue making the rich richer while blaming the poor for all the problems, continue to ignore the structural problems that will result in a recession, if not a full-blown depression. And continue to call people who decide that they don't like such things, traitors. This election will have changed nothing, and is merely the warm-up act.

But then again, I could be wrong—after all, I am just a happy little cynic.

(Reminder: Any opinions related by Morgan are his personal opinions, and do not necessarily represent those of the other people in Hearthstone)

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](#)

Editor's note: As usual, the foregoing column reflects only the views of Morgan and are not necessarily those of Hearthstone or any of its other Board members. Please direct all comments to Morgan.

[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



Introducing the Turtle Monkey children's book series.

Turtle Monkey and Mama Monkey are the only green monkeys in the village. Turtle Monkey has lots of gas. She received Fuzztastic, her cat, as a Yule gift. Fuzztastic also has lots of gas—but he's afraid of it! Turtle Monkey spends most of her time outside when she isn't in school. Turtle Monkey's Uncle Red and Aunt Tawny live a ferry's ride away, and her Grandma and Grandpa live at the beach. Aunt Fuchsia and Uncle Titian are honorary family members that live down the street from Turtle Monkey and her mother. Turtle Monkey and her friends Coco Monkey, Cap Monkey, and Squirrel Monkey hide in the forest when Little Ape and his friend, Orangutan, are outside. Little Ape is mean, and Turtle Monkey and her friends avoid him as much as possible. Turtle Monkey is mischievous, this gets her into many awkward situations for which she has to think and talk her way out of. There are certain situations that Turtle Monkey cannot talk her way out of, and the results are hilarious. Her hobbies include hunting fairies, catching her own pets, and meeting new friends. Visit our website to sign up for our newsletter at www.turtlemonkeybooks.com

Turtle Monkey Book Launch
**Books 2 & 3: Turtle Monkey and the Unfriendly
Mushrooms AND A Turtle Monkey Halloween**

Location: Ross-University Hills Library
4310 E. Amherst Avenue
Denver, CO 80222

Time: 3:30pm-4:30 pm

When: November 12th, 2016

Join us for our book launch and get free coloring pages
and sign up for the raffle to win the last monkey!

-Jo

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

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

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.

2016 Open Full Moon Dates

November 11
December 9

2017 Open Full Moon Dates

January 6
February 1
March 10
April 7
May 5
June 9
July 7
August 4
September 1
September 29 (for October)
November 3
December 1

The first full moon of 2018 is January 1, but due to the fact that a December 29 OFM would mean 13 in a year, plus how busy everyone is around the end of the year, we will not have an Open Full Moon on that date.