



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



APRIL 7, 2017

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, APRIL 7, 2017.

The April 7th ritual, presented by Chrysalis Circle, will provide an opportunity to confront unfinished business through meditation. It is recommended that participants bring the journal of their choice in which they can record their meditation experience and reflect upon it – time will be provided within ritual to do so.

–Catherine

GREETINGS

April Showers Bring May Flowers? If the beginning of this month shows anything, that may be true. Or it may be that March showers are bringing April flowers. My lilacs are starting to bud.

I'm torn by the weather, because we really need the water – water we didn't really get in February and March this year. I just attended a meeting where it was pointed out that the snow in the mountains now melts two weeks earlier than it used to – which means the water we need in August and September won't be there. Trying not to waste the water we do have takes on an even greater importance.

Several years ago, I pretty much gave up watering my yard. It's still green – I just don't have a lot of grass. Unfortunately weeds grow taller than grass, so I must take a weed whacker to them more often. Still, it does look nice, especially when the flowers are blooming on top.

And I will have lilacs very soon!

–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 offers our gratitude to Amber Z for the celebration of the Virgo Full Moon. Volunteers called the quarters and Amber led us in celebrating our connection to the earth and

moon and honoring their embodiment in ourselves and the stirring of seeds within us and those to be planted in the earth.

Thank you, Amber, for your inspirational ritual!

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

ORPHEUS PAGAN CHAMBER CHOIR



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A multi-sensory celebration of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water, with Orpheus' unique blend of amazing music spanning seven centuries, featuring the magical "Spell of the Elements" by Abbie Betinis.

Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 7:30 PM

Wash Park Center for Music & Art

400 S. Williams St., Denver

\$20 per person/\$15 Seniors & Students/Under 12 free

To order your concert tickets, go to www.orpheuspcc.org

BELTANIA

[Beltania 2017](#): May 18-21, 2017, Our 10th Anniversary Beltane Festival

It's 4 days of music, magic, spiritual connection, camping, and community. [Special guests include Amber K and Azrael K](#), spiritual teachers who are well known throughout the Earth religions community. We have [musical performances](#) from Celtic singer Celia Farran, the lovely Ariana Saraha, and local performers like Michael Heartsong and Joyous Pool, Kaedrich Olsen, and many more. Concert performances are outside once again, near our [Merchant's Row](#)! We invite you to participate by [joining the staff](#), becoming a [merchant](#), or [presenting a workshop, class, or ritual](#).

Come weave the ribbons around the maypole, dance and drum around the fire, lift your heart in song and ceremony, learn and grow at dozens of workshops and classes, shop at Merchant's Row, hang out in the adults-only Wild Woods or join your kids at our greatly expanded children's activities. Visit the Rainbow Welcome Center that celebrates our diversity, visit the HearthFire Sanctuary or Ancestors Shrine. Walk the labyrinth with us, enjoy soaring views of Pike's Peak amongst the towering pine trees, and commune with centuries-old Native American prayer trees and medicine trees. All of these are explored on our [Spaces and Traditions](#) page.

We have yurts, cabins, RV parking, and tent camping for those who get 2, 3, and 4-day admission tickets and single day tickets for Friday or Saturday are also available. Get [info on admission and lodging](#). Tickets are available now for Beltania. Prices go up on Feb 1, March 22, and May 1 so early registration has the best prices.

Beltania is unique in that we are especially supportive of our diversity. Those who are differently abled will find many ADA accommodations, from the comfortable heated cabins and powered yurts to the many indoor cabin facilities to the free shuttle all around the grounds. We have an [Accessibility Coordinator](#) and ASL sign language interpreter available before and during the festival to provide assistance. Our special [Senior ticket prices](#) we hope will encourage more of our Elders to feel welcomed and valued. Many different spiritual paths are represented at Beltania, and if you don't see our diversity expressed on our [Master Schedule](#) we invite you to offer a workshop or ceremony to help make that happen. The [Rainbow Welcome Center](#) is here to celebrate love and individuality in all its forms, and really bring us together as a community. We offer [rites of passage](#) for both young men and young women. We have greatly expanded [Children's Activities](#) too! ALL ARE WELCOME!

It's May 18-21, 2017 on one hundred of private acreage at [La Foret Conference and Retreat Center](#) located in the Black Forest between Denver and Colorado Springs.

Future Year Special Guest Info: We have Selena Fox returning to Beltania in 2018, and Janet Farrar and Gavin Bone returning in 2019!

[Get Tickets](#) - [Learn More about Beltania](#) - www.beltania.org

IN SEARCH OF AN IRISH PEACE

It turns out that a whole lot more of us are anxious and depressed. According to the World Health Organization, rates of depression have risen almost twenty percent, worldwide, in the last ten years. It seems like we could use some help.

While I certainly don't believe that all religions are the same, I do tend to believe that what any religion can provide, at its best, are comfort, strength, and guidance.

And so I've searched for the practice of peace in my own religion, on my own path, in two directions, first through the myths and lore, and second through the language.

I might have started with the language, but I did not. Relying on English translations I have found "peace" primarily in relation to war, treaties, truces, or sometimes in relation to sleep. Even in the great Blessing of Badhbh, peace seems to be related to the absence of armed conflict.

And yet peace is more than that and I knew, by practice and instinct, that my path contained other expressions of peace.

And so I turned to the language.

In my correspondence I offer, by way of a sign off, "peace of the mountains." As challenging and dangerous as our wilderness can be, spending time in it, becoming competent in it, sleeping in that sacred space, has given me peace. The sight of the mountains gives me a sense of peace. Canoeing in the canyonlands, or just sitting beside a river, can help ground and settle me.

Peace has many aspects.

Probably a lot more of them in Irish.

I've been studying the language for some time now and I knew that it wouldn't be as simple as popping "peace of the mountains" into google translate. Language is trickier than that and Irish is trickier than most. Google thinks that the Irish word for "peace" is "*síocháin*."

Síocháin: to make peace, to keep the peace. Truces and treaties.

There's more to peace than that.

I went to the thesaurus. It helped me to reconsider.

- *Suaimhneas*: quietness.
- *maireachtáil gosuaimhneach* - to live in peace (and quietness)
- *Réitigh*: tranquility.
- *de ghrá an réitigh* - for the love of peace (tranquility)
- *Sámh*: serenity.
- *Duine sámh* - peaceful, easy-going, person.
- *Comhtheacht*: agreement, harmony
- *Dailbhe*: love of kind
- *Duineatacht*: humaneness
- *Láiocht*: pleasantness
- *Méiniúlacht*: friendliness.
- *Dea-mbéin*: benevolence
- *Nádúrtha*: natural.
- *Labhairt go nádúrtha* - to speak naturally, mildly, unaffectedly.
- *Féith* (Of sea, air): calm, still; hushed, quiet
- *Socair*: quiet, still; calm, unruffled

As I reviewed all of the different aspects of peace and their Irish cognates, I realized that the search for the breadth of peace and the aspects of peace was well worthwhile.

I was struck, when working my way through the definitions associated with "*nádúrtha*," at how closely goodness was associated to true human nature.

I tend to think of serenity, "*sámh*" as the peace I seek, but the term "*duine sámh*" translates as an easy-going person, which reminds me of all the good natured people I know and what effect they have on others.

Both quietness, "*suaimhneas*," and tranquility, "*réitigh*," translate as peace, but in Irish, as in English, the words are very different and get me to consider how much easier it is to be quiet, than to be tranquil.

The word that denotes an absence of armed conflict, or a truce, is different from the word for agreement and harmony. That word, “*combtheacht*,” contains the word “*comb*” which means mutual or common.

To my American ears the word “*féitb*” sounds like “*fae*” and reminds me of magic, and although it refers to a calmed sea or still air, will now make me think of that feeling when the world seems to hold its breath, or the descriptions of the battles when Druid women would raise the storms or kill the winds to keep the enemies of Ireland at bay.

“*Láiocht*,” pleasantness, and “*méiniúlacht*,” friendliness, are associated with amity, another synonym for peace, yet I noticed that “*láiocht*” was also associated with convenience and this made me think of how often I mistake ease and comfort for peace, when what will really pull me up is some sort of effort. I have found that, when I’m seriously down, seeking comfort has diminishing returns.

“*Dea-mbéin*” translates as benevolence but is literally “*nice disposition*.” It also can mean kind regards, a bit of niceness crossed with generosity. In each case I noticed, in both languages, that this has an outgoing energy; we direct the energy of benevolence and regards. It is a granting, it takes place between people, from one to the other. As far as peacefulness goes, it is good to be on the receiving end of benevolence; a sense that the world or the community is benevolent certainly lends itself to security.

To be unruffled would be a super-power at this point, I think. “*Socair*” is probably, to me, the most spiritually mature form of peace and surely must arise from a path of practice and learning that allows a person to face the challenges of daily life and even of world-changing events with a steady foundation and a view of the long and complex history of this world.

As I have shared before, my practice includes a very simple Druid meditation. It involves being present at sunrise to say, “*Tá an solas air dtús*,” or “*The light is at the beginning*,” and then spend ten minutes in quiet observation. And then to be present at sunset to say, “*Tá an solas i ndeireadh*,” or “*The light is at the end*,” and then spend ten minutes in quiet observation. This part of my practice grounds me directly in the rhythms of the true time of the day and I can think of no better way to find that flow of natural energy that is a part of the song of the earth.

But there is more to my practice than that. To seek those things which bring us closer to our common, natural, good humanness, which remind us of the basic benevolence of the world and the community we choose, and which provide us with the foundation from which we can walk in the world unruffled, is a journey of great spiritual value. It is the journey that brings the rewards; the destination only exists to inspire us.

I hope that this exploration of meaning refreshes your journey to peace. As J.K. Rowling said, through the character of Dumbledore: “*Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic. Capable of both inflicting injury, and remedying it.*”

Peace of the Mountains to you!

--*Paulie Rainbow*

Founder: Denver Celtic Women’s Circle

Member: Celtic Druid Temple of Ireland

TO TATTOO OR NOT TATTOO

Seen on Facebook: “*I am so in love with my lover. I am going to get their name tattooed on me. The tattoo is going to be in runes. There is absolutely no way that this idea can go badly.*”

We will now bow our heads in a moment of silence as the lords and ladies of trickery descend upon the hapless utterer of those words before the high priest hands out marshmallows on sticks. This will conclude our sermon on famous four sentence horror stories.

In a kind universe, this person would live happily ever after with their lover, growing old and prosperous together. Unfortunately, we don't live in a kind universe, and the court jester of occultism sadly shakes his head while stepping back out of the range of the fireball that is about to explode.

I could be wrong. Maybe we do live in a kind universe. Maybe there will not be a fireball erupting at the ground zero of this person's relationship. Maybe these marshmallows will turn into fossils as the planet keeps turning peacefully around. But based on my calculations, there is going to be a critical fail in this person's future, and soon there will be a nice little fire to warm up the marshmallows on.

First, there is the "so in love" part. Nothing wrong with being in love with doves flying gently around you. After all, cats have to eat too and what is more refreshing than a pair of delicious doves? Cats with names like Jealousy and You-act-just-like-your-mother. The problem with passion is that it is hot and sticky, and the raging emotions that create love can quickly sour and turn into a blaze of Why-were-you-flirting-with-the-waitress? and Do-you-know-what-this-axe-is-for? Yes, it is perfect for roasting doves, but one wonders if maybe one can survive with a little less heat. Chance of critical fail—twenty-five percent.

Second, "let me get their name tattooed on me." The cynic in me reacts to this much the way I would to a golfer screaming "Thor has a little hammer, and his goats are small too" during the middle of a raging thunderstorm. Sure, there is a chance that Thor might not be listening, but then again what if Thor actually hears this? Chance of critical fail—fifty percent.

Now personally I would never dream of getting a tattoo—a regular tattoo that is. First, I grew up around a father that liked to point out that his "Italian friends" frowned upon anyone getting permanent identification marks. Combine that with the reminder of the holocaust, and one thinks twice about getting any type of tattoo. The closest I have come to getting a tattoo is when I stabbed myself with a steel pen nib during an art project. Not that I haven't thought about it. But given my snobbishness when it comes to artwork, and my inability to stick with Facebook profile picture longer than a couple of days, I have to wait until they invent subcutaneous nano-octo-ink technology, so that I can change my tattoo every couple of days. In the meantime, there is a reason that some companies specialize in tattoo removal.

But to get the name of my lover tattooed on me? *shudders* Not once have I felt that passionate about someone, that it ended well. But maybe that was just me. After all, I lived most of my life as an untreated bipolar sufferer. Maybe this person is truly wiser and more stable than I ever was in my youth.

Third, "let me do it in runes." It is bad enough getting a regular tattoo of your lover's name. But to get it in runes...again, why are you yelling that some Norse god has small equipment? It is bad enough to get it tattooed in normal English letters—as in, you could end up with a permanent reminder that life is modeled on a learning curve. To up the ante and use runes, or any other magical alphabet, and one is saying that "may the lords and ladies of mischief take a personal interest in my life." If the script was purely alphabetic, yet used in books of shadows and magical work, such as the grimoric scripts, one would hesitate—that is like the golfer using a bullhorn. Unfortunately, the runes are a touch more complicated.

The difficulty with the Norse runes is that both ancient and modern magicians have associated the symbols with potent magical forces. All the world's alphabets were created by gods according to legend. Most alphabets have become more mundane as time gone by with only specialized study

keeping it magical in select situations. Not so with the Norse alphabet. Just like the astrological symbols are associated with planets and the zodiac, and their energies, the Norse runes represent universal energies, only it is not nearly as clear what energies and effects the runes symbolize. And to tattoo the runes onto oneself, that is making oneself a part of a living “always on” talisman. One really needs to double-check and triple-check the potential runes and their energies, and think long and hard before proceeding.

For those keeping score, the chance of critical fail here is most likely seventy-five percent with the addition of the tattoo being in runes.

But not satisfied with the possibility of a troublesome near miss, the Facebook poster had to say that they saw no way that this could go wrong, even after some nice witches pointed out that maybe, just maybe they should rethink the idea. I guess nothing less than a surefire direct atomic hit could warm the cockles of their soul. Yes, the romantic decided to go all in for love. Maybe my math is wrong; maybe the chance of critical fail is not one hundred percent certain; maybe I am just a cynic witch. Nevertheless, I will be on the other side of the mountain until the all-clear sounds. Would you like to join me?—I have marshmallows.

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

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. 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.

Ritual dates 2017

April 29

May 27

June 24
July 22
August 19
September 23
October 21
November 18
December 23

*--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.

<p>This newsletter is for Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. of Denver, Colorado. Editor: Catherine Mock. Publisher: M. Alia Denny</p>
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2017 Open Full Moon Dates

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, and how busy everyone is around the end of the year, we will not have an Open Full Moon on that date.