



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



NOVEMBER 3, 2017 OPEN FULL MOON

Hearthstone meets the Friday before or the Friday of the Full Moon in the Library Room at the **Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality, 1400 Williams St., Denver, CO**. The Althea Center is easy to find, exactly four blocks east of our previous location. Enter through the Main Door at the corner of Williams St. and 14th Ave. **The door opens at 7:00 pm, and we must lock the door at 7:30 to secure the building.** Please be prompt as we don't want you to be locked out! This month's ritual is Friday, November 3, 2017.

Please join Hawk Shadow for Samhain at the November 3, 2017 Open Full Moon Ritual.

Together, we will turn toward the darkness, toward the night. Samhain is not only a time of remembering those passed on and sending them lovingly onward.

It is also a time of inward reflection, of deep knowing, of cultivating the future in the remnants of the past. This rite will build on the Earth Temple ritual and the drawing of the God rite done in October, but it is also absolutely a stand-alone event.

Please join us at this most sacred time of the year.

---Catherine

GREETINGS

It's Samhain. The time to remember and cherish those we've lost in the past year – and before. This year, I have plenty to remember both from the immediate past and earlier.

During the last couple of years, both of those who presided at my wedding have passed. Anie also helped me through the end of that marriage. Good travels to you Curtis and Anie. I miss you.

I still miss my father, although he died several years ago. He helped me to build my first harp. When I was in college, he made sure to take off time from work to attend my recital and tape it for my mother who was ill at the time. I came across that tape a while ago and didn't recognize the voice – we never do sound like ourselves in recordings.

Last year, my sister-in-law died too. She was born two days – and several years after I was. I didn't get to know her as well as I would have liked to. She and my brother always lived in other states (and countries!)

Especially hard was the death in the last year of my best friend, Alia. I knew her as Margaret – those in her family called her Meg. She was there at all hours to listen to my doubts and fears and tell me that it wasn't me – it was them. She was fierce in her defense of her friends. In my case, fiercer than I was of myself. I miss her every day.

In the last weeks, someone gave me a reading from Starhawk in the [Pagan Book of Living and Dying](#). It is the most appropriate thing I can think of. It describes all of my ancestors and beloved dead perfectly:

Be free, be strong, be proud of who you have been, know that you will be mourned and missed, that no one can replace you, that you are loved and beloved.

Move beyond form, flowing like water, feeding on sunlight and moonlight, radiant as the stars in the night sky. Pass the gates, enter the dark without fear, returning to the womb of life to steep in the cauldron of rebirth. Rest, heal, grow young again. Be blessed.

Blessings,
—Catherine

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 confuses or 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 discuss it with the ritual leaders or one of the Board members (Catherine, Arynne, Morgan, Amy, Cynthia, and Deb) so that we may hopefully resolve and heal your concern.

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone's late Sept. Open Full Moon ritual was profound and powerful, and we have Paulie Rainbow and Kellene to thank for that. Paulie leads the Denver Celtic Women's Circle and holds private events and also public all-gender events. Her tradition is based on both history and science.

In this ritual Paulie and Kellene's intention was to teach and honor the three Celtic values of hospitality, truth, and right judgment, which come from the stories of the Dagda and the Morrigan.

Circle was cast hand to hand. We listened to a prophetic story of the Morrigan about the danger to society if right judgment were not to be practiced and held high, and we learned more about these three Celtic values. Then we went around the Circle three times, one person at a time, taking the hand of the person to our left, looking them in the eye, and pledging "I give hospitality (truth, right judgment)", and that person responded "I accept hospitality (truth, right judgment)" before turning to the person on their left and making the same pledge. This took on great meaning for each person as we expressed aloud our personal commitment to honor these values. In the background, Paulie and Kellene chanted and maintained the energy and focus of our Circle. The experience was solemn, beautiful, and moving.

Kellene recited a beautiful, evocative blessing over cakes and juice, and Circle was opened.

Paulie and Kellene, we offer our gratitude to you for bringing this powerful experience to Hearthstone and seeding our selves and our community with these important values. Blessings to all!

---Arynne

ON DONATIONS

Hearthstone's primary expense is leasing the space for our monthly Open Full Moon rituals. Your donations to Hearthstone (and other Pagan organizations) make the difference between failing and thriving, as well as assure the organizers that our efforts are of value to you. We encourage you to donate to Hearthstone or to the organization of your choice.

We appreciate that many of you do donate to Hearthstone. Thank you! **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 don't collect at the door, and no one will be turned away for not having a donation. However, we *suggest* a donation of 5 to 10 dollars per person. If you can't afford it, you are still welcome. If you can afford more, we'll be delighted to accept it.

Hearthstone is registered as a church and your donations to Hearthstone are **tax deductible**. If you wish, you can write a check so you can keep track of your donations.

NEW LOCATION FOR HEARTHSTONE OPEN FULL MOON RITUALS

Hearthstone is now meeting in the Library Room at the Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality, 1400 Williams St., Denver, CO. It's simple to find, exactly four blocks east from our previous location. NE corner of East 14th Ave. and Williams St. There are two small parking lots on the north and east sides of the building. Enter through the Main Doors. Because there is no building representative present, we must lock the doors at 7:30 PM, so please arrive between 7:00-7:29! Come join us! We will meet for OFMs at the Althea Center well into 2018.

RITE OF REMEMBRANCE ORPHEUS PAGAN CHAMBER CHOIR

Gather with us and light a candle for your loved ones on our Dia de los Muertos altar during our Rite of Remembrance

Sunday, November 5th at 5:00 PM
Wash Park Center for Music & the Arts
400 S. Williams St. at Dakota Ave., Denver
\$20 per person/under 12 free

A limited number of free tickets are available for members and veterans of the Armed Forces, made possible by the SCFD

Hearthstone Monthly Discussion Group

Want to join us? Since January, Arynne has been hosting an open discussion group one weekend afternoon per month. The intent is to offer small group discussion opportunities for those who enjoy Open Full Moon rituals and who would like to discuss topics and questions about Wicca, ritual, magick, deity, the local community, etc. Not all of us have like-minded friends and family with whom we can discuss these interests. This has been an open forum for whatever participants want to talk about in more depth, in a safe small group setting. We usually have 2-6 people attend, and we've had good, fun discussions and batted around interesting ideas with interesting people.

Now we are "advertising" the discussion group to our entire Hearthstone Community, rather than only announcing it at OFMs. We welcome all who might be interested to attend our Nov. 12 and Dec. 10 meetings. We'll meet those Sunday afternoons 2:30-5:00 pm at Goddess Isis Metaphysical bookstore, 2775 S. Broadway, Englewood CO (on a public bus line).

After these next two open discussion groups, we are considering "closing" our discussion group and transitioning into more of a consistent study group so we can dive deeper into the

topics we choose together. If this might appeal to you, please come in Nov. and Dec. Please direct any inquiries to Arynne at: ArynneD@aol.com

We hope to also see/meet you at Hearthstone's upcoming Open Full Moon rituals.

Blessed Be!

----- Arynne

Cat & Dog Spay/Neuter Clinics

<http://www.ddfl.org/spayneuter/>

Hearthstone cares about pet overpopulation! The Denver Dumb Friends League (DDFL) cares too, and through generous grants and donors, they offer **FREE cat spay/neuter surgeries** to anyone regardless of income. DDFL also offers **\$50 dog spay/neuter surgeries to lower-income dog owners**. The details, locations, and qualifications are at their web site above. It takes ALL of us to reduce the overpopulation problem and move toward a world where all pets are wanted and cared for. Thank you!

Reflection on the Year's End

Blessed Samhain to everyone.

It is the last of the harvest, the end of the spiritual year, a time for revelry, for reflection, and for gratitude.

I have so much gratitude. I love my family, I am so lucky to have a home, a job, a roof over my head.

This year has been a year of growth. From the Yuletide drive to collect socks for Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, through the Brigit's Basket Food drive, both hosted by SpiritWays Metaphysical, I have felt so blessed to be a part of such a giving and loving community. We are growing in numbers, and with that comes an increased ability to benefit the community at large. It is a wonderful thing to be a part of.

My Colorado Celtic Weekly Planner was even more popular in 2017 and I took the opportunity to have a calendar workshop at Quantum Alchemy and finally got to meet some of the people who buy it. My calendar is a work of love and I love talking about how it works and why I've included so many different things. The 2018 edition is at the printers, Littleton Print and Copy, much later than I hoped, but even better this year than the last!

As I type this out I realize that, again, our metaphysical shops do so much work to connect us, even in these days of the internet! I greatly admire the bravery and persistence of our shop owners. They are all small business owners and they have all given me and other local authors and teachers a chance to share our work with our Denver community. In addition to the two shops above, I am so grateful to Isis, as well as Herbs & Arts, Shining Lotus, Spiritwise, and Full Moon Books.

Hearthstone gave my circle, not one, but two chances to lead Full Moons this year! Long may Hearthstone rise and gather. With Hearthstone, we have suffered a great loss this year when Margaret Alia Denny crossed over to the Summerland. I have her picture on my altar and offer honor and gratitude to her along with all my beloved dead. I see the strength in Hearthstone. I love the new location. We will be honored to return in February 2018, and celebrate with you again.

Last year at this time I travelled to Ireland to take part in a Samhain ritual on the Hill of Tlacht. My vision and understanding of the Irish Celtic path I walk continues to deepen. The community of practitioners grows every year and we have so much more reliable lore and teachers

to learn from. This is a wonderful time for the Irish Celtic path. I was able to update my workshops to cover a broader range of topics in more manageable and accessible portions. I'll be offering them again after the first of the year.

And it's a challenging time as well. Divisions I underestimated rose up and made themselves known. Our little open Full Moon practice drew in more and new seekers even as a few fell away, due to the pressures of life and calendars that were full. But reckless and racist attitudes from old allies have forced me to pull my circle back from our international connection. I am dismayed every time I uncover this ugliness in people that I have considered friends, but I am hopeful that forcing these attitudes out into the light will help get rid of them. It has to. The U.S. history of keeping specific groups of people disadvantaged, so that we can label them inferior, needs to come to an end. We cannot thrive, we will not survive, without all of our citizens operating in freedom and equality. Profiteering off of suffering is bad for the spirit of our nation, and I oppose it.

All things change.

I was able to return to DragonFest this year, my first time in their "new location" and I loved it! There are so many native wildflowers there that next year I'll want to incorporate that into my teaching, especially now that I've completed my work for my Native Plant Master certification! I had a great workshop there with so many wonderful and courageous people, we were singing in Irish, and most of the attendees had never even spoken the Irish language before!

Once again in this last year we had a table at the Paths and Traditions Fair and had the opportunity to see just how broad our community is, how many people, and how many paths it includes. We are truly lucky in Denver and I'm grateful to Chris and Kelly for sponsoring that for so many years.

After ten years of practice, I've pushed the Denver Celtic Women's Circle farther out into the public eye. We have a new logo, this is our second year with a meetup page, and now we're on Facebook. We went from zero followers to nearly six dozen in the first month alone! We will continue to grow, and to offer what we have learned along the way as we move into the next year. We will keep allies like Hearthstone, and our local shops. I am reminded continually that, while no one is perfect, attitudes of sexism, racism, and willful appropriation are the exception rather than the rule; that most of us are on a spiritual path that leads us upward and forward.

As we honor our predecessors, our spiritual and familial ancestors, and celebrate our fantastic community, I know we will continue to grow, to love and to face whatever the future holds. I look forward to the year to come.

Peace of the mountains to you,

---Paulie Rainbow

Founder: Denver Celtic Women's Circle

At what point do I trust my gut?

Last month in my newsletter column, I talked about how a job offer conflicted with my own personal ethics—basically, I decided that it was bad form to accept a ghostwriting job to write "great benefits await all those who join a Golden Dawn Order" advertising letters for someone that I have repeatedly advised people to avoid. If you didn't read last month's article, it was a really great newsletter article full of witty comments. If you did read it, and don't remember it being witty, I am going to suggest that perhaps your memory is faulty, unless it is my memory that is faulty, in which case, never mind. All you really need to know is that the most special Golden Dawn leader in the entire history of the occult thought that I was a good enough writer to ghostwrite for them.

The decision to turn down the job offer was complicated by the magical work that I was doing at the time. Last year I started to do a series of Wealth Magic workings. This set of workings consists of a dozen rituals, each of which lasts several weeks. I started the set last summer, and finally over a year later had started the second ritual of the set.

One of the things that you see advised about money and wealth magic workings is: Do not turn down lifestyle changes or job offers just because they do not match your preconceived ideas of how money is going to flow into your life. I will not go so far as to claim that teachers of wealth magic tell you to hop onto any lifestyle change or job offer that shows up during or shortly after you do wealth magic, but I see more argument for blind acceptance than reasoned consideration of such offers.

Now, one thing to remember is that there is a difference between Money Magic and Wealth Magic. Money Magic is getting money into your life, but typically it is a one shot spell to offset a particular expense. Wealth Magic, on the other hand, is about actually changing one's life so that more money flows on a regular basis.

The job offer, while promising repeat business, felt more like a Money result than a Wealth result, especially when I considered the person offering the job. In fact, given the person who was offering the job, it felt more like greenmail, which is like blackmail except that you are paid to do something distasteful for money rather than being extorted out of money because of a past misdeed. Greenmail is being paid to commit distasteful stuff on an ongoing basis.

(Yes, I know that the term I am looking for is probably Whitemail, not Greenmail; but considering that whitemail involves behavior modification through positive rewards, I hesitate to elevate the offer to that status, for I am quite sure that the experience would be extremely unpleasant.)

One of the things that occult teachers teach today about money and wealth magic is to do divinations about the results that one is going to reap from the operation. The readings I had done for this operation and the preceding one of the set seemed to indicate that the increase in wealth, if any, was to come about through creative work—in particular, my own creative work. One could argue that it would be very creative work to lie about how much benefit I thought someone would get from entry into this person's Order. But one could also argue that the creative work could be referring to one of my fictional projects.

Personally, I was inclined to believe that the readings I had done were referring to a fictional project. This was partially because I am one of those writers who ignore the industry's averages and think that I can beat the curve. And it was partially because of what work I ended up doing during the first operation.

I had worked on a creative retelling of a famous non-existent grimoire, the *Necronomicon* during the first operation. Originally I planned on doing it with a straight face. But the project had taken a weird turn and ended up with my mocking the whole genre of fake grimoires and modern dark fluff spellbooks.

Part of the mocking was writing fake book reviews of my own fake book. Such occult luminaries as Buddha Night, Sister Seuss, and the Great Gherkin weighed in on how wonderful the fake was—all of which are based on real personalities and miscreants from the world of the occult. It was delightful fun...which was a good thing considering that the mocking effectively ensured that I would sell few copies of my own fake grimoire. Still, I wanted to do more with this rather odd set of characters.

When I started to do this second working, I suddenly found myself working on a project with this same set of characters. My gut told me that I was on the right path...that is until doubt set in.

One part of the doubt was this horrific job offer (it is not the writing—it is who the writing is for that makes it horrific); the other part was my mother-in-law committing suicide.

One of the reasons that witches and magicians are advised to do divinations before starting any money and wealth magic is the story of the magician who did a money magic working, and ended up with the requested amount of money coming from a life insurance claim. I first read this advice in a Donald Michael Kraig book (I think), but over the last couple of decades I have watched this story be trotted out whenever someone talks about doing a money or wealth working. And it is typically used to warn people not to do such workings.

There is that part of me, the same part that believed my own mother when she said that I was a Satanist for being a witch, that wonders if I didn't kill my mother-in-law off with my spellwork. Realistically, given my experience with my own suicidal tendencies and having seen my mother-in-law's careful planning, I seriously doubt that my own spellwork was at fault. The Virgo in me can safely say that my mother-in-law would have committed suicide sooner or later (she had major health issues) no matter what I did.

But while that should set aside any guilt that I have about the timing of what I was doing and my mother-in-law's suicide (it doesn't actually shut up the doubt), it still leaves open the question of whether this horrific job offer is how the universe wants me to make more income.

I don't know the answer. What I do know is that I have worked for some horrible bosses in the past (ask me about working for Burger King sometime), and that one of the satire characters that showed up during the time of the first working, the Great Gherkin himself, is based on this horrible person. I also know I would rather spend time writing a bad satire and remaining poor, than I would lying to boost this person's membership numbers to collect a few hundred dollars a month from him. Whether this means I am a failure as a magician or not, is something that only time will tell. But for now, I am trusting my gut that the fictional version is more likely to be a source of wealth than the flesh and blood person. The betting window is now open...

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](#)

Editor's note: As usual, the foregoing column reflects only the views of Morgan and 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>

Facing a difficult Samhain

The wheel turns and again it's Samhain. I would never have thought this year would be the year when I lost a friend I was so fond of that she became family. Her loss was even more sorely felt as I attended MileHiCon this afternoon. I realized all of the connections I had and the friends I had made through her. The venue felt less vibrant and I was unable to bear staying later than the mandatory time I needed to be at my booth.

Alia was one of my biggest supporters, and not just of my creative works. I think her loss is a theme and a lesson I need to work through during the next few turns of the wheel. She died shortly

before Beltane and I suspect it will take me until next Beltane to fully accept and absorb the lesson of this loss.

Alia was a major support system for many in the Denver Pagan Community. I know for many of us, her death has left a hole that is going to be difficult to fill. Not that it should or could ever be filled by another person, but there seems to be a lot less spiritual support for community members because she was so active in advocating for those who needed it and just being there for others when they needed it most.

I'm actually grateful that this Samhain falls during the work week because I have an excuse to cut the kid's trick-or-treating short and go home and do a full ritual in Alia's honor. I hope wherever she is, she is enjoying herself and is completely pain free. All hail the traveler.

--Moon Gazer

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:

November 18

December 23

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

WHOM TO CONTACT

For Pagan or Wiccan clergy or for any other Hearthstone business, please contact Catherine by phone or email, or contact Arynne by email. Catherine's phone number is 303-886-7067, and her e-mail address is fionnula.harp@gmail.com. If you would like to officiate at a future Open Full Moon, please contact Arynne at ArynneD@aol.com

Hearthstone Community Church has an active website at <http://hearthstone.fnorky.com> where our dates and newsletters are posted monthly. You can contact us through our web site as well. Hearthstone also has a Facebook page.

GUEST COLUMNS?

If you have something to say, and are willing to let Catherine and Arynne edit it slightly, (generally for grammar and spelling: Catherine has been known to grammar-check television commercials) 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. We appreciate our contributors!

This newsletter is for Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. of Denver, Colorado. Editor and Publisher: Catherine Mock.

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2017 Open Full Moon Dates

At the Althea Center, 14th Ave & Williams St:

November 3

December 1

December 29