



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



MAY 25, 2018 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. There are two small parking lots, to the north (next to the building) and east of the building (across the alley), each with spaces for 20 cars. 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, May 25, 2018.

Our May 25, 2018 ritual will be led by Deb Hoffman, who will lead us in a ritual of remembrance. Please come prepared with memories of a loved one to share.

---Catherine

GREETINGS

Well, I got the results from my DNA testing. I suspect that it will surprise no-one that I am 59% Scandinavian. The rest is a mix of German, Dutch, Scots, Irish, and English. It also seems that I may have at least two ancestors who were hanged for witchcraft in the Connecticut witch-hunts. These actually happened before the more famous ones in Salem, Massachusetts. I still can't take it terribly seriously. I know where the Swedes came from and when they came over (mid- to late-1800s). As far as my father's family; well, they appear to have been on the North American continent since the Northern Europeans arrived. I am still having fun with the puzzles of who is the parent of this person.

This month also saw the final concert of the year for Orpheus. It was truly an exciting concert! During the first half we celebrated Celtic heroes: We sang for Amergin and Charles Stuart (Prince Charlie) in English and in Gaelic; and we sang for those Celts who have died in wars, both ancient and modern. During the second half, we told the tale of Orpheus and Eurydice in song and dance.

I had the chance to reflect on what makes our heroes. Yes, sacrifice is there: both in the sense of giving something up, and in the sense of making something holy. Bravery: Think about what it took for Amergin to defy the Tuatha de Danaan to bring his people ashore in Ireland. Scotland and Ireland both faced the loss of the man they felt to be "their" king; although it was his grandfather who was deposed by Cromwell.

What must it have taken for Orpheus to brave the underworld to bring back his love – and then to stay alive after he had lost her again?

We sang of the Irish soldiers who joined the English army to support their families, who then came home unable to work. We sang of those who sacrificed their lives to make the world a better place.

As far as I can tell, many of my ancestors were among those: accused witches, soldiers, members of non-conformist groups, and even pioneers. I plan on continuing the study of my family – and the history that goes along with it.

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 Tips our Hat to Amy/Nyterose who led our Open Full Moon in late April. Her daughters cleansed and consecrated the Circle, and Amy cast. The ritual's intent was to help participants "weed our gardens" so our relationships can succeed without old habits or unhelpful people being impediments. Each of us received a piece of paper and time to charge it with what we wanted to weed out of our lives, and anything that was simply wrong in our lives. There was much rubbing of paper between our hands, filling it with who and what we needed to release or weed out. Amy then collected the papers in a basket and committed to taking them away and burning them for us. We then were guided to close our eyes, connect to our Earth and community, and breathe in the love and kindness in the room and in our community. Amy reminded us we are not alone; we can take the caring of our community with us when we leave Circle.

Amy, we thank you for a lovely rite that left us feeling lighter, brighter, supported, and loved. Blessed Be 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 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 \$5-10 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 Community Church, Inc. 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.

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!

Excited for spring and future events

It is spring, and I have been spending a lot of time in my garden. I haven't been this excited for spring in years and years. And the excitement is all about the remodeling, and what I plan on doing later once it is finished.

My wife and I bought our house fifteen years ago, and have always meant to re-do the yard. Over the years, it has grown steadily worse. For instance, there was the Sidewalk of Death. Whoever put the front sidewalk in, they did not do it up to code. The sidewalk was cracking when we bought the place, and it did not help that tree removal could only happen though the front of the house (we live in an "alley house" set right next to the alley). There is nothing like a heavy two-foot diameter log accidentally dropping on the sidewalk to ensure breakage.

Now, I am sad about how we are able to afford this. I feel a little guilt. It is natural when you are using inheritance money to do something. My mother-in-law died last summer shortly after we lost Alia. She was the last mother figure in my life. She does live on in the presence of a small oak tree that she started, which was transplanted into my yard a couple of years ago.

Oh the trees – the horror of the trees.

Over the last few years, we lost both black walnut trees, as did everyone else in the neighborhood, due to a tree disease – first one went; and then the next year, the other went. Our neighborhood, originally known as the Walnut Hill development, is now completely without walnut trees.

Then we lost the elm tree. No surprise there, for that is what elms do – they grow tall, seed all over the place (they are like weeds), and then they die, becoming a safety hazard.

The last tree we lost, making it a clean sweep, was the pine tree. This one caught us off guard, for we had been planning our yard and garden remodel around this tree. The pine tree was the victim of the high winds that occurred last month. Fortunately, when it fell over, it missed everything of importance, including my mother-in-law's oak sapling. I feel lucky that it missed the house, the art studio, and both storage sheds. The loss of a single wheelbarrow was a small price to pay, considering that it could have landed in far worse places – basically anywhere else.

And all these trees had to be removed though the front, and each removal resulted in further damage to the sidewalk. At some point, I started to joke that it was only a matter of time before the Sidewalk of Death took someone out. Fortunately, the last tree came down before the new sidewalk was put in.

So we are getting the sidewalk replaced, and doing some other remodeling. And it is all being done with a goal in mind.

Dark arts-and-crafts garden parties – that is what I am calling the goal. I intend to hold a few garden parties every year, gathering some pagans and artists and generally reminding my neighbors that I could win the game of Most Obnoxious Neighbor, if I were really interested in winning that dubious game.

One of the nice things that I like about the Denver Wiccan and pagan community is that we have always been big on gatherings. Here in Denver, it is not a zero sum game – it is a growth market, and we can grow baby witches to ensure that there are enough witches to go around. For me, I came up through classes held at Herbs and Arts (thanks, Morning Glory), open full moons (heres to Alia and the rest of the Hearthstone board), and drummings held at a private residence near Children’s Hospital (thanks, Cassandra).

It is that last one that I am trying to reproduce. Cassandra and her husband, Brian, seemed to have great fun hosting drummings over at their house. I was heartbroken when they moved out of state – their gatherings were part of my community. At some point in time, I decided that I wanted the type of community that they had. And the remodeling of my garden is a step in that direction.

Basically, I would like all the fun of an occult shop slash art gallery without all the troublesome aspects of owning one. Yes, I realize I am selfish. But my interest in being a shop owner really stops at the crossroads of “I am trying to write an epic science fiction series” and “I have been a manager already, and it made me grumpy.” My solution to get the fun bits without the expense is my little garden parties.

Of course, it amuses me that part of Cassandra’s garden lives on in my yard. It annoys my wife. But really it is her fault, as she was the one who brought the motherwort from Cassandra’s yard – the word “weed” has been applied to the motherwort by my wife.

Being energy sensitive, and greedy, oh so greedy, over the years, I have brought in plants from other people’s yards, for the sole purpose of seeing how many fairies you can stack in a yard. I have wild crafted a lot of seeds from other people’s gardens. And I have helped myself to plants from every pagan and witch I knew who was moving out of my neighborhood. My yard is a happy yard; my gardens are full of spirits, and tours can happen – especially if we are talking about herbs.

So that is why I am excited by my yard this spring. And even more excited by the idea that the drumming and fun will be coming to my house. Ain’t I a greedy bastard?

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 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 book series

Turtle Monkey is a read to me book series. It's printed in the font in which children are taught to read and write. There's just enough pictures to hold their attention while being read to before they eventually read the books on their own prior to tackling chapter books. 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. Join us as Turtle Monkey learns about the world and how to cope with challenges. www.turtlemonkeybooks.com

Now available at Amazon: ***APPROACHING DARKNESS***. This is an anthology of twelve short stories. Some are horror, some are bizarre, and some are unnerving. These stories will make you look under the bed and keep your feet from dangling over the edge at night. Read as a child fends off a horror from beyond the grave with just a nightlight, listen in as Gods debate the future of humankind, or root for twins who battle a lady made of plants. Written by Jo Fontana under A. J. Hallows, one of her many pen names.
Print book available on Amazon at:

https://www.amazon.com/Approaching-Darkness-J-Hallows/dp/197915001X/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1516143137&sr=8-4&keywords=Approaching+Darkness

It's here! ***THE EGG QUEST***. Book One of the Demon Coast series by Jo Fontana & Teresa Horton.

Reyden Frost leaves the sanctuary of the library to experience the world, despite the advice of Master Levik. His focus, a petrified egg, is stolen by a mysterious criminal his first night in the town of Hollow Harbor. Reyden reluctantly joins forces with a man of the law and another magic worker who was also a victim of the thief. The chase takes them across the continent of Ator, gathering new companions along the way. Will Reyden's past interfere with his future, or will he overcome it on the journey to retrieve the egg?

Print book available on Amazon at:

https://www.amazon.com/Egg-Quest-Demon-Coast/dp/198354714X/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1518571543&sr=8-2&keywords=The+egg+quest

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 have a NEW start time for most rituals this year. Please arrive at the store between 6:30 and 7:00 pm, since the store closes and the door locks right at 7. Hope you can join us!

June 16
July 14

Aug 11
Sep 8
Oct 6
Nov 3
Dec 8

--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. At this point we have ritual leaders scheduled for all of 2018! Thank you all for volunteering your talents!

Hearthstone Community Church has a website at <http://hearthstone.fnorky.com> where our dates and newsletters are posted monthly. You can contact us through our web site. 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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Upcoming Hearthstone Open Full Moon Dates

May 25, 2018
June 22, 2018
July 27, 2018
August 24, 2018
September 21, 2018
October 19, 2018
November 16, 2018

December 21, 2018