



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



JULY 27, 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**. 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, July 27, 2018.

Clyde and Cynthia Killingbeck and friends will present this ritual. This night actually falls on the Full Moon. Earlier the same day is a full lunar eclipse visible on the other side of the world. The eclipse is ruled by Mars, making it emotionally challenging. In Wicca, the Elements are invaluable allies and guides. This night we will be working with our ally the Element of Water and doing personal work with our Emotional Body. Please come prepared for a deep personal meditation and energy raising of gratitude through song.

---Catherine

GREETINGS

What a difference a month makes. No, my car hasn't been repaired, but it is at the body shop. I had hoped to have it back by now, but the shop found additional damage and is getting that additional damage appraised and approved. Meanwhile, since the car is now in the shop, I finally have a rental car. A very fancy rental car – at least compared to what I'm used to driving.

Meanwhile, we have entered Colorado's monsoon season. What, you didn't realize we had such a time? 'Tis true; 'tis true. In mid- to late-July, we get moisture from the West, bringing hot sun most mornings, and heavy rains most afternoons. This does not necessarily mean more water. Because June was so dry, much of that water runs quickly downstream.

For me, however, the change in the weather is welcome. It has been almost too hot to sleep: this morning, I woke up rested and refreshed because of the cool temperatures.

As many of you may know, I haven't actually watered my yard in years. It's mostly native plants (okay, it's weeds – but weeds are just plants in the wrong place). My neighbor across the street gently mentioned last week that he'd be happy to help me cut the plants shorter. I'll probably take him up on it. The only part I'd hate to cut much is the Russian sage in the very front of the yard. I suspect the postman would not agree – the flowers attract the bees. I hate to take a pollen source from the bees: they must be protected. Perhaps I can tie them up?

Summer is upon us in all its variety. Let us enjoy 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

For our lovely June/Solstice Open Full Moon ritual, Hearthstone Tips our Hat to Lady Nightshade, Lady Rowena, Laurel, and Tanya. Adapting a ritual from Silver Ravenwolf's book Mindlight, this rite focused on the Sea of Potential. The Elements were powerfully invoked, Circle was cast, and Guardians called in the four directions. Brigid and Lugh were called. We were introduced to the concept of tapping into the Sea of Potential to access what each individual most needs/wants right now. We created mindlights: balls of white energy between our hands, and blew our desire into the energy ball, then pulled it into our heart. The priestesses encouraged us to recall our mindlight each morning as we awaken, and pull in the energies daily. Goddess and God and the guardians were thanked and released, and cakes and juice were shared.

Thank you, Ladies Nightshade and Rowena, and Laurel and Tanya! The four of you work together with so much ease and grace! Thank you for sharing your tradition and this ritual with our Hearthstone community! 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 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!

THE CELTIC PLANT WALK PRACTICE

“Of Baile and Aillinn you need not speak,
All know their tale, all know what leaf and twig,
What juncture of the apple and the yew,
Surmount their bones; but speak what none have heard.”

— Ribh at the Tomb of Baile and Aillinn

In Irish lore it is never enough to say that some dastardly villain put the head of a beloved warrior on a spike, they bother to specify that it is a spit of rowan. The Fianna, the famous warrior band were said to have a famous apple tree. The Magh na Beithighe, the plain of the birch tree, was known as a fairy palace. Willows are empowered to heal by holding secrets, and magical weapons are made of holly.

For the ancient Irish each tree was known, each had their own magic and practical properties, and the original stories weave in the identities of the trees to create richer narratives for the original audience.

Our ancestors lived in a world before electric lights and shopping centers. To begin to understand their magic it is necessary to have the opportunity to view the world as they viewed the world, to understand the lengths of the days and the identity of the plants in our own world.

This why I have taken the time to earn my Native Plant Master certificate from CSU extension, and strengthen and hone my skills by sharing with others. The native plants are the song of the landscape and the landscape is a part of the lore. If we are to know Earth Magic, here in this location, we will be greatly aided by a deeper understanding of this song.

Recently my family returned to one of the Denver Mountain Parks to celebrate the 4th of July, as we have for many years, but this time I realized that I could recognize and name the trees that shaded and surrounded us. Native Boxelder is in the maple family and was used by local indigenous people to make a sugar syrup. Juniper, with berries used in meat cakes, was standing right in front of me and I recognized it as a native, not an imported accident. I love chokecherries now that I know they're native to Colorado, previously I thought of them as escapees from cultivated urban landscaping. I realized that they were all around us, reaching out from the edges, dangling unripe berries in a very green greeting. I could see the interrelationships between the present and the past, between the shrubs, the trees and the landscape. Magic is about relationships, about the flow of energy and this arises so naturally from the slant of the sun, or the slant of a hillside. I could suddenly see it.

I realized that our family tradition had been long intertwined with silent and powerful natural forces.

The Botanic Gardens at Chatfield farm has a native butterfly exhibit this year and I learned that the native plants eaten by caterpillars provide the precise nutrition needed by the migratory birds who prey on those insects. We are a circle within a circle.

I have deepened my practice by taking advantage of meditation opportunities at sunrise and sunset, at moonrise and moonset and I have discovered that, when I quiet my busy internal narrator, I can suddenly hear the moment. It's similar to realizing that you really want to pay attention to the person right in front of you and you force yourself to focus on their words and let your own thoughts fall away. It's like looking around and realizing that the green background is made up of specific trees, and you know their names, you know them, they belong together. Suddenly you will see that the combination of time and land is a story itself, constantly unwinding, that it is from this that the stories arise within us and that it is a natural progression from a relationship with the trees to the tales of magic that keep community and culture alive.

And so, I will continue to offer a Celtic Plant Walk, at parks around the area, and at Dragonfest next month. The lore is in the landscape and the landscape is sacred.

If it happens to you, that you will die if you do not tell your secrets to some tree, then you will want to know that tree's name.

And you can. Perhaps you will happen to walk with some druid, skilled in lore of the land, the connection between the tale and the trees. Perhaps you will share this with someone else, and in some way, save a life.

“Then he had lain long in a wasting condition, a skilful druid came to visit him, and told his mother that the cause of his sickness was the burden of a secret, and that he would not be well till he revealed his secret to some thing; and he directed him, since he was bound not to tell his secret to a person, to go to a place where four roads met, and to turn to his right and to address the first tree he met, and to tell his secret to it. The first tree he met was a large willow, and he disclosed his secret to it. Thereupon the burden of pain that was on his body vanished; and he was healed instantly as he returned to his mother's house.”

—The History of Ireland Author: Geoffrey Keating

Peace of the mountains to you,

Paulie Rainbow

founder: Denver Celtic Women's Circle.

<https://www.facebook.com/DenverCelticWomensCircle/>

<https://www.meetup.com/Denver-Celtic-Womens-Circle-Events/>

Turtle Monkey children's book series

We're diversifying our brand. Stay tuned for changes! If you'd like to give us input, we'll be creating a survey on the new website that should be ready by July 1. Speaking of new websites, our new web address is: www.jofontana.com

About Turtle Monkey: 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.

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!

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

July 27, 2018
August 24, 2018
September 21, 2018
October 19, 2018
November 16, 2018
December 21, 2018