



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### NOVEMBER 16, 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 16, 2018.

Our Nov. 16 Open Full Moon has a seasonal theme of going inwards, in sacred space, to explore a dilemma in your life. We will call upon Hecate, Goddess of the Crossroads, to aid us in looking down different pathways that are available to us as we privately contemplate a dilemma through guided meditation. Come learn about Hecate; we hope you will come away with more clarity and confidence about a choice you are facing, and that Hecate's lantern will become another tool in your spiritual tool chest. This rite has been prepared by Ziva, Sandra, Moon, Mary, Tara, Will, Bruce, and Arynne.

Our friends with *May You Have Enough* have been invited to attend OFM this Friday to collect donations of coats, sweaters, socks, hats, and gloves for their homeless assistance project. Please bring what you can to help our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. Contact Pamela ([just.pamela@gmail.com](mailto:just.pamela@gmail.com)) or Mary Ann ([ladyimage@hotmail.com](mailto:ladyimage@hotmail.com)) with questions.

----Catherine

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### GREETINGS

Catherine is brain-dead from this last weekend's activities. Her column will resume next month.

—Catherine

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### 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.

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### THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone Tips our Hat to Morgan, who led our October Open Full Moon. Don and Amy assisted with cleansing and consecrating, then Morgan performed the Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram, then Amy and Don called the Elements. The Lord and Lady were invoked, and the Circle cast “with Love and Light.”

Morgan explained that pagan communities in other cities have been known to have a lot of infighting between groups, and no open rituals. How did Denver originally create the openness we’ve enjoyed through many years? One way has been metaphysical store owners who create welcoming space and foster respect and connections. Another way has been teachers and leaders who encourage mutual respect and inclusiveness.

Morgan shared his personal story, and expressed his tremendous appreciation for his Aunt, for MorningGlory of the store Herbs & Arts, and for Alia Denny of Hearthstone. All of them supported him through difficult times and guided his spiritual path. He gives MorningGlory and Alia credit for contributing greatly to the cooperative and mutually supportive community we all enjoy.

Participants received cups and water, and the rite concluded with participants invited to offer three rounds of Toasts. The first was to our Gods, the second to our wants, and the third to our accomplishments.

Thank you, Morgan, for helping us to truly appreciate our welcoming, cooperative, collaborative spiritual community, the community which benefits all of us. Blessed Be!

---Arynn

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## 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 are **tax deductible**. If you wish, you can write a check so you can keep track of your donations.

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## **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 and age-appropriate vaccinations** to any Colorado cat regardless of owner’s income. DDFL also offers **\$50 dog spay/neuter surgeries including basic vaccinations 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!

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## **Silence, a Refuge of Peace**

### **Tost: Dún Síochána**

I have studied meditation practices for many, many years now and have spent the last few years seeking an authentic Colorado Druid practice of meditation to make practical use of my path and my training, and to share some tools with others.

Let me tell you why I have sought out meditation: I need it. I can get overwhelmed by feelings and I consistently choose a life that is slightly too busy for me. In my twenties I spent months on rigorous dietary practices seeking relief from troubling symptoms, only to finally realize that I was just trying to run away from grief. Well, I'm not able to run away from my feelings, and no one likes feeling overwhelmed by them.

I greatly admire people who can take a book to a beach, or a joint to a concert, and become languorous, easy-going, peace loving, and cool. I'm not built that way. It just doesn't work for me.

My mind is a gift that I cherish, and a chattering companion that doesn't seem to know when to shut up. You may find me quirky, curious, and tangential in conversation; well, imagine that energetic presence living in your skull. I can be exhausting to myself. Under stress, this only gets worse. If I'm really off-centered I'll try to make up for my kinetic interactions with more of them. On a bad day this feels like an endless rebound of impulsive action and apology. My mistakes, real or imagined, continue to pile up.

What I want is a reset button, or a home-base, like we had when playing tag as kids. Some place I can just stop myself and start over.

That place can sometimes be silence.

Seeking the benefits of meditation, I've visited temples (even in India), chanted the names of deities, went on a solo retreat where I meditated eight hours a day, went to a monastery maintaining days of silence where the devotional services began in darkness and repeated throughout the day until darkness fell again and I slipped into bed, still silent. I took instruction from respected teachers in Buddhism and Hinduism.

I learned a lot knowing I needed to gather up the best information and practice that I could and then share some practical results. When I began working on my calendar, the Colorado Celtic Weekly Planner, all the way back in 2012, I opened up an awareness of the solar and lunar cycles that led me forward in a more grounded, local practice. When I visited Ireland and stood in the stone circles set into place thousands of years ago by my own ancestors and observed the solar and lunar alignments that they captured, I realized that I was onto something that would work for me.

It is likely that our ancestors used the alignments of the stars in their rites, but it is certain that they used the alignments of the sun and the moon. Those huge rocks didn't roll themselves into place. I added these observations in with the others I was gathering.

On a practical level, there are moments in life when one should just shut up to avoid making things worse. Maybe those moments happen more often than we realize. I discovered that it doesn't have to be a crisis to sit down and shut up. I can sit down and shut up on a regular basis, proactively, and get some long-term benefit from the process. I discovered that if I used the information from my own calendar for sunrise and sunset, moon rise and moon set, new moon and full moon, I was in tune with the here and now in a very real way, and I quickly reaped benefits that had been hard to

achieve by other methods. I was able to validate for myself that a regular practice of short meditations was easier to integrate into my life, just as effective as longer sessions, and that I was more likely to be successful in the effort.

The funny thing is, as I researched ways in which my meditation fit into my Druidry I explored the concepts of silence and quiet in the Irish language. I discovered that in many phrases that are translated to mean “silence” or “quiet,” the word being used in Irish is “éist!” It means “listen!” And that very much matches my experience in regular meditation. There comes a moment when suddenly my awareness opens up, when that inner voice really, really has shut up for a second, and I can hear the world around me much more clearly. I am listening effortlessly with all of my senses. I am present in that moment.

To make a connection to the spirits of the land, an essential part of my path, I need to be able to hear them, clearly. Whether I am engaged in communication with a friend, a tree, or a mountain, I’m not really listening when I’m still talking. Meditation took me deeper.

There is a phrase from the tales of the Fiannan, originally in Middle Irish: *Is deibedach in raet in Gaeidel*. The Irish are impetuous. My experience confirms this, my meditation helps me to balance it.

My Druidry has many facets. Meditation is my practice of ‘tost,’ silence. It provides a refuge for me when I need to retreat, a Dún Síochána, a refuge of peace. I don’t need a perilous sea journey to a beehive hut of stacked stones, I just need a place to sit, and the right timing to do it in.

I’ll offer one more *seanfhocal*, or proverb:

*Ní bhíonn an rath, ach mara mbíonn an smacht.*

There is no prosperity unless there is discipline.

In my path, discipline for its own sake is not helpful, but a method with practical benefits is something worthwhile.

Peace of the Mountains to you,

*Paulie Rainbow*

*founder: Denver Celtic Women’s Circle.*

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## **Can a witch do that? What if they are fictional?**

Yesterday, I watched someone protest online that a popular entertainment show is tarnishing the reputation of witches everywhere. The protester was losing his poor little mind over the fact that The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina had the characters practicing human sacrifice. And that it reflected badly on us innocent witches.

“But the characters are Satanists, so how does that reflect badly on me as a Wiccan?” one person asked.

That was not an acceptable response. The protester said so.

Someone else pointed out that it was entertainment, a popcorn television show, not a documentary.

That too was not acceptable answer. Our protester wanted outrage and chest-beating, maybe some rhythmic wailing. I could tell this by his insistence that society would not put up with this, if it was black people or Muslims doing the sacrificing. Therefore, we should protest and get the show taken off the air.

In the meantime, a group of Satanists are suing the producers of the show...for copyright violations—not slander or libel. Something to do with a statue made in protest of the Ten Commandments at some courthouse—and the fact that in one scene, the characters are positioned

in a position below the statue of their lord in the exact same manner. It is a promotional lawsuit, just like their statue, which is a combination of a twentieth century French occult illustration and the positioning of the figures in several of the Waite-Smith Tarot cards (including both the Devil and the Pope). Obviously, the Satanists don't care about what the characters are doing—what they care about is people talking about them.

But I could see that the protester wanted to exercise his right to police the popular image of witches because he kept saying that society would not stand for it, if it was blacks or Muslims doing the sacrificing. He would not let it go. So, I did what only a creative entertainer could do—I asked the protester to give me a list of things that my own fictional witches could do. I figured that it was as good of time as any to try to beat the Christmas rush; my witches are sure to offend, so I need a list to make certain that my fictional ones are as horrifying as possible.

I assume that the list – which the protestor has not given me, having shut up as soon as I demanded a list of acceptable behavior for my fictional witches – consists of farting rainbows and riding unicorns. This assumption could be wrong; but until the protester says something short of sainthood for all my fictional witches, I feel safe in my imagined list. After all, I had other people tell me that they wish writers would not show witches cursing people, and I learned that was acceptable behavior when I first started reading about witches.

Now, one of my many flaws is that I am not a Cunningham Witch – I started my witchy reading off with books like Sybil Leek's *Life of a Witch*. For those who do not know who Sybil Leek was, she was part of that first generation in the heady years following the repeal of the British Witchcraft Act and the sudden freedom to be an English witch without fear of a jail term simply for being one. Today, we forget those first pioneers in modern witchcraft – many who appeared on television, drumming up that old time religion, not to mention the nude photos.

“We don't sacrifice people. For one thing, it is hard to find virgins. And for the other, let's talk about sex!”

Oh, yes, the founding generation of modern witchcraft were so concerned about our public image. Let's be honest—a lot of modern do-no-harm witches would plotz at some of the things the first generation did and encouraged. And those were the first witches I read.

By the way, this is same reason that I do not recommend books to people. My reading list is not a fluffy list—it has books with instructions for cursing people. That and I have a bad habit of rating Ronald Hutton and a few other historians higher in truth value than the accepted stone age religion that survived the witch hunts myth that many people still think is the gospel truth.

Now, I need to go back to working on my novel. A fictional witch is about to kill someone in a particularly evil fashion. Is it wrong that I am looking forward to the day when protesters whine about my work? Probably, but then again, I only pretend to be a good witch—my style has always been a little flying monkeyish, so bring it on!

### **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>

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## 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](http://www.jofontana.com)

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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.

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

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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](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)

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# 12th Night! A Yule Concert and Gala Viking Reception Orpheus Pagan Chamber Choir

Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 7 PM – 10 PM

[Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theater](#)

119 Park Ave W, Denver, Colorado 80205

Tickets:

[www.orpheuspcc.org](http://www.orpheuspcc.org)

When we learned that the Mapleton Board of Ed had changed its liquor policy, we realized that we needed to reimagine 12th Night so that it could return to Denver and still be at a reasonable price.

We found the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theater, an intimate state-of-the art theater with ample comfortable seating and free parking, conveniently located in the heart of Denver.

Though not large enough to host the concert and the dinner, they offered us the both the entire theater for a gala onstage reception. We realized quickly that we could offer 12th Night in Denver at a lower ticket price than last year and still be able to offer party seating for the concert!

It will be all the magic of 12th Night: the beautiful music, the toasts, the silent auction. But rather than a fully seated dinner, there will be a magnificent smorgasbord of Scandinavian delights!

Join us for the best 12th Night ever!

Through November 30th

\$35 per person

Party groups of 4 or more: \$30 per person

December 1-January 4th

\$40 per person

Party groups of 4 or more: \$35 per person

At the door, if available:

\$45 per person

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## 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!

Dec 8

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

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## 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](mailto:fionnula.harp@gmail.com). If you would like to officiate at a future Open Full Moon, please contact Arynne at [ArynneD@aol.com](mailto: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.

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## 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](mailto: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.

## 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.*

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### Upcoming Hearthstone Open Full Moon Dates

November 16, 2018

December 21, 2018

January 18, 2019