



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



OCTOBER 3 OPEN FULL MOON

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, OCTOBER 3, 2014.

The October 3rd Full Moon Ritual will be presented by the Circle of Light and Shadow Coven and Hearthstone as we celebrate the full moon in October. This ritual will be focused on our words and the power that they hold. We will be releasing words that are burdening us and we will invoke healing words in their place so we may continue into the dark time of the year with love and gentleness for ourselves and others.

We are looking forward to seeing each of you and sharing this powerful ritual experience with all.

—Catherine

GREETINGS

It seems the flu season has begun early this year – half of my office has been down with a respiratory illness (or as it's more familiarly called: "The Stuff.") I'm afraid I'm one of those afflicted. It has cut into my singing.

In spite of "The Stuff", I am enjoying this Mabon season. The weather has been warm enough to enjoy without being sweltering. Between the colors and coolness, Autumn is one of my favorite seasons. We are finally seeing how much we may harvest from the seeds which were sown in the Spring. What metaphorical seeds did you plant last March? And how is your harvest? I am finding my harvest to be incredibly satisfying.

—Catherine

MEADFEST!

And now for some shameless promotion: Have you gotten your tickets for the 4th Annual Orpheus MeadFest?

Join Dragon Meadery, Honey Jack Meadery, Hunters Moon Meadery, Meadery of the Rockies, Redstone Meadery, and your favorite local homebrewers at the only mead tasting in Colorado this year.

Tix are just \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door, *if available*. (Tickets are going fast!)

Just go to [Orpheus MeadFest](#) and get your tickets now!

Orpheus MeadFest

Saturday, October 4 from 4-7 PM

The Black Crown

1446 S. Broadway

on Denver's Antique Row

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

We Tip our Hat to Chris and Kelley of Cro Dreolin, whose Sept. OFM Homecoming ritual gathered a large group of participants for a special evening at Hearthstone. Chris and Kelley designed this ritual as a homecoming for all of us who have found our way to Hearthstone at one time or another. It was great to celebrate with both old and new friends.

First we were led to quiet ourselves, and sense the space and the sounds, then go deeper and sense the welcoming spirit of the beautiful old stone church that has hosted Hearthstone monthly for the last 23 years. Chris and Kelley invoked the Sacred Sea, Sacred Land, and Sacred Sky around and within us.

With the room very dark, all were invited to step forward and each light a candle to honor and give thanks for the blessings that have flowed from this church and from Hearthstone. Then we shared stories and memories from our many moons together, varied rituals created by so many different members of our community. Of course, the Dr. Seuss and Harry Potter rituals were remembered! Participants spoke warmly of Hearthstone's welcoming atmosphere and respect for individual traditions. We ended with much visiting over homemade cookies and hot peppermint tea.

Thank you very much, Chris and Kelley, for giving of your time, energy, leadership (and cookies!) to host this lovely ritual of reunion and reminiscence. And thanks to all who participated! Blessed Be!

You can find Chris and Kelley through their Meet Up group for Colorado Celtic Reconstructionists.

–Arynn

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

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*

ABOUT OUR ANIMAL COMPANIONS

Our Hearthstone community includes many pet-lovers, and we strongly encourage spaying and neutering to reduce the tragedy of excess, uncared-for animals. Many beautiful, sweet animals are euthanized due to excess births, and many others sadly try to fend for themselves without needed food and veterinary care.

People with lower incomes can get spay/neuter services for their cats and dogs at reduced fees, subsidized by Dumb Friends League donors, when one of their mobile spay/neuter clinics visits their neighborhood. DDFL also partners with local animal welfare organizations in a trap-neuter-return (TNR) program for community (un-owned) cats to help reduce the number of unwanted litters born and the number of kittens and cats brought to shelters. Please call DDFL's mobile spay/neuter help line at (720) 241-7098 for questions and information, or find details, schedules, and locations at: <http://www.ddfl.org/content/mobile-spay-neuter-clinics>

GENTLE PRACTICE BUT STRONG

Gentle means accepting; loving guidance before criticism; listening before rejecting; listening for the person more than the idea.

Strong is having boundaries and making sure you get your own needs met; stopping for your time of worship; getting up for that hike.

In community there are so many practices, and each of us will see them arrayed from the noblest to the bizarre, each seeing our own practice somewhere in the middle, where we are comfortable, but generally lower in our esteem than some idealized state.

The trick is to start out with loving, with gratitude for our community, and from gratitude the desire to preserve rather than to tear down.

The strength is to not personalize, to release the need to correct, while embracing the courage to speak for one's self when the opportunity arises.

What you do is not me. What I believe is my truth. It is good for us to have a space to exchange and to affirm.

I have lived long enough to see welcome ideas arise from unexpected places. And I have lived long enough to see bridges burned down needlessly.

Gentle is accepting my practice today, and strong is taking action to manifest it in the world; making space for it, getting off of the couch and the computer, feeding my need for the sacred: good food.

I believe that my practice lies in the great world, in the outside, in the molecular change in each stem and leaf and in the amazing symphony of the whole, dancing on a spinning planet, rising rhythmically to the passing warmth of the sun, spiraling in a galaxy of stars, named in my tongue after small, earthy things, things that those stars haven't bothered to dream of: a dog, a chariot, a woman.

But the truth is my practice is wherever I'm sitting, even as the house plants grow and the dust settles on my books and keyboards. The magic is still in my hands, the cosmos still spins in the spaces that seem solid to me; atoms with their spinning electrons vibrating in a tabletop that seems still.

The magic is right here and right now, neither you nor I need to strap on heavy packs, with survival gear and stiff boots to go find it. We can simply lift our attention and join it.

But when I do, when I push myself within my limits, to prepare my pack, to keep the car in shape, to review my gear, get up in darkness to drive; when I push myself within my limits to pilgrim, to sojourn, to seek, I am so richly rewarded. My life is dipped in the gold of my loves and values.

Even as you light your one candle, speak your one incantation, ensure that you join with your community for one celebration, you are rewarded for the effort of living as is true to your own heart. This practice is for you to cherish.

Gentle practice, but strong.

--*Paulie Rainbow*

HANDWASHING WITH SOAP AND WATER IS STILL THE BEST WAY TO FIGHT INFECTIONS AND DISEASES

I had an interesting discussion this past weekend with someone in reference to infection control and hand washing. I was at lunch with friends and the conversation segued into food preparation and food poisoning. There was a comment made that antibacterial soap should be used after employees used the bathroom or cleaned the bathroom. I would like to state for the record that I despise anti-bacterial soaps that are marketed to the general public. The main ingredient, Triclosan, may be carcinogenic; overuse of anti-bacterial soaps may lead to the increase of drug resistant bacteria; and there currently are no studies proving antibacterial soaps are better for every day infection control than soap and water.

I also stated that what is used in operating rooms are different chemicals such as CHG and Povidone Iodine. But these anti-bacterials are used because we are doing an invasive procedure. These products are not for use at home. The skin has its own resident bacteria that are actually beneficial and acts as a barrier to transient pathogenic microbes. When you wash your hands, the mechanical action of scrubbing, plus the surfactant in the soap you use, lifts these organisms off of your hands.

Handwashing with plain soap and water is still the best protection against illness, so please wash your hands!

See the following links from the FDA and CDC:

<http://www.fda.gov/newsevents/newsroom/pressannouncements/ucm378542.htm>

<http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm378393.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/>

-Jo

TURTLE MONKEY CHILDREN'S EBOOKS

Hi all, this is Jo. I recently completed the 14th book of my new Turtle Monkey series! This is a pagan friendly children's eBook series. The only difference with this next book is that it will soon be available in print through Crystal Publishing.

Here is the link for Crystal Publishing: <http://www.crystalpublishingllc.com/>
The first 13 books are still available online at Apple, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble.

Here is the link to our books at Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/artist/jo-fontana/id677705293?mt=11&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

This is the link for our books on Amazon:

http://www.amazon.com/gp/search/ref=sr_nr_seeall_1?rh=k%3AJo+Fontana%2Ci%3Astri-pbooks&keywords=Jo+Fontana&ie=UTF8&qid=1397343482

This is the link to our books at Barnes & Noble:

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/s/Jo-Fontana?store=allproducts&keyword=Jo+Fontana>

Also, please check out our new and improved website @ <http://www.turtlemonkeybooks.com>

Thank you for all your support!

-Jo

EARTH TEMPLE

Earth Temple meets at Full Moon Books and Event Center, at 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood. All of our dates are Saturday evenings. Please arrive at the store before 7:30 pm, since the store closes and the doors lock right at 7:30. Please check out our Witchvox page for more info about us: http://www.witchvox.com/vn/vn_detail/dt_gr.html?a=usco&id=35084. Thank you, Hearthstone, for sharing information about our circle!

Nov 1

Nov 22

Dec 20

--Chris, Dara, and Michelle

the Earth Temple steering committee

WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-680-1741. 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 catherine@fnorky.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 catherine@fnorky.com. Content will not be edited. We can usually make room for more voices.

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

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2014 Open Full Moon Dates

October 3
October 31
December 5