



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



MAY 1 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, MAY 1, 2015.

On May 1st, Cynthia Killingbeck, Bonnie Lee, Lisa Todd, and friends will lead Hearthstone in honoring the season of Beltaine and the burgeoning land. We will be calling on the Three Graces; ladies imbued with Pleasure, Love, and Beauty. We will look within, kindling and connecting with three of our chakra centers; 'as within so without'. All of our energy work will be done through the medium and focus of Song. Come and celebrate! Bring your enthusiasm, and your willingness to discover your own inner Grace. Nothing else is required.

—Catherine

<http://hearthstone.fnorky.com>

GREETINGS

I am back to being independently mobile. In other words, I again have a vehicle. My van is still disabled, but with the help of a friend at work and whoever donated cars to Warren Tech, I bought a new/old car. It's much smaller (thank goodness) and in fairly good condition – especially for a 15 year-old car. I had forgotten how much fun it is to drive a stick shift.

Meanwhile, it seems that we're living in something of a cliché. April showers are definitely here. Given the amount of lilac flowers on my hedge, I would say that it is definitely bringing May flowers, even if they're a couple of days early. While the skies are grey, the rest of the world seems bright. I go out my front door, take a deep breath, and delight in the scent of the lilacs. What a wonderful time of the year.

Of course, some of that may be from the sun roof in my new/old car.

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone tips our hat to Lady Nightshade and her student Rowena. They led our last Open Full Moon in honor of the Element of Water, at the time of the Seed Moon. After circle was cast, Water was blessed to give everyone peace, happiness and joy, then special water offerings brought by participants were added in. Each person was anointed on their forehead with the commingled, blessed water, with the blessing "May the Light and Wisdom of the Moon guide you through this season, and bring your hopes and dreams to fruition." Everyone was able to take a small bottle of this water home with them.

Thank you, Lady Nightshade and Rowena, for blessing us and our dreams as we enter into Spring, within and without. Blessed Be!

—Arymne

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>

WICCA BASICS CLASS

Hello to all Hearthstone Wiccan Church friends!

Chrysalis Circle, an eclectic Wiccan teaching coven, is offering its eight week Wicca Basics class beginning on June 21st each Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m. Openings are still available. Completion of our Wicca Basics program is a pre-requisite for admission to our Foundations of Wicca program, which will be starting in September 2015. This will be the final offering of Wicca Basics in 2015.

For more information about Chrysalis Circle, the Fourth Annual Drumming Down the Sun event and our Wicca Basics program, as well as our other offerings, please go to www.chrysaliscircle.org.

You will also find more details about the Fourth Annual Drumming Down the Sun event in Lakewood, CO, on Friday, June 21, 2015, which is sponsored by Chrysalis Circle as a free (\$2/person suggested donation to help defray cost of space), open to all, public event.

Cordially,

Sage (HPS), HavenWood (HP), Rainah and Trent Chrysalis Circle

Sage and HavenWood

HPS/HP of Chrysalis Circle

SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT LINEAGE

The last couple of weeks, I have been watching the antics of a person, who I occasionally call “Must Collect Them All” when it comes to the number and kinds of initiations and lineages that they brag about having. At a recent festival, they received their third degree in one of the strains of British Traditional Wicca. Since then, they have been online announcing to the BTW community about the glories of their advancement and the fact that they are only two links away from the founder of that particular strain of Wicca.

The reaction of the BTW community, particularly of that specific flavor of Wicca, has been less than welcoming. First, the BTW community asked exactly who the initiator was...because none of them had ever heard that he was part of the chain. Must Collect Them All screamed that it was a flame war against him, something that he does whenever people call into question his version of history. The BTW community did not care what he thought, and continued to question his claim. Finally, it was confirmed that the initiator was indeed a member of the branch of Wicca in question—well, it was confirmed that he got his First Degree— but that there was one or two more links in the chain than he was initially claiming (it depends on whether you count lineage by the First Degree or the Third Degree on whether it was one or two additional links), provided that the initiator had actually received the Third that he claimed (a fact still in doubt). This fact caused several people to come out and say that Must Collect Them All was guilty of trying to establish more authority than he actually had.

Needless to say, this set of reactions was not what Must Collect Them All wanted to have happen. After all, he had just set up a new Facebook page, and made several video ads for a new group that he was setting up for him and his wife, a group that teaches low magic and Wicca. So once again, He Who Wants to Be King of All Things Occult, the collector of lineages and initiations, was flouted by the evil witches twirling their mustaches and calling every claim he made into question.

This story, and the general behavior of Must Collect Them All, illustrates several ideas about lineage that some people believe.

First, there is the idea that the closer that you are to the source of a tradition, the better a witch you are. The second generation of a tradition (the first generation being the actual creators of a tradition) are better than the third generation of a tradition, and so forth. This idea actually falls apart when you actually look at the skills of a lineage of witches. There are examples of later generation witches being far more powerful and knowledgeable than their own initiators.

The idea behind the closer to the source you are, the better your witchcraft belief is that the tradition started out perfect, and that the further one gets from the source the more corrupt the knowledge and rituals become. It is the magical version of bit rot, the loss of paradise, and the fall of humanity. The belief rests upon the idea that at one point in time, the world was perfect and we have been going downhill ever since.

Must Collect Them All also claims to belong to magical traditions that traces back to before the dawn of Christianity, traditions that have successfully passed the knowledge of a perfected system of spiritual development from one initiate to another in the form of the oral tradition, systems that he is the chosen spokesperson for. In a move that boggles the mind, at one point Must Collect Them All declared that it was his being chosen by the holders of these secret oral traditions that made him the most knowledgeable member of all traditions—and therefore the proper leader of the entire occult world.

Now, the quicker readers will notice that the idea that the closer you are to the root of a tradition, the better you are, conflicts with the idea that a tradition can successfully transmit information from the dawn of time. If traditions can successfully transmit information through the oral tradition, then it does not matter how far away you are from the source of a tradition. Yet Must Collect Them All has used both ideas to argue that he should be the one to run a tradition. At some point, those of us who are suspicious of those who set themselves up as occult authorities start to wonder if the claims are nothing more than attempts to collect money from gullible students, and maximize the potential pool of funds (eh, I mean potential pool of students) by appealing to both beliefs.

In addition to this conflict of beliefs (and some people actually believe what Must Collect Them All says), we must note that collecting lineages, in the belief that one lineage can somehow heal the holes contained in another, something that this collector of lineages has claimed on occasion, is the one of the dumbest ideas that we have ever heard. This is especially true, when the super-guru is claiming that possessing the rituals, lineage, and lore of a system, allows him to build higher degrees of another system—degrees that not even the original founder of the lineage held. If such an idea was true, then the collector of First Degrees (such people do exist), who never took a Second Degree, would eventually be the equal of a Third Degree.

The true glory of this third belief is that it makes complete hash of the other two ideas. If it is true that only close proximity to the source produces power and authority, then healing from another system is not going to make a damn bit of difference, for healing the holes in a tradition would be like unsouring milk. And if the oral tradition could successfully transmit information down the lineage, then you would not need to collect lineages...well, if you were not trying to be the King of All Things Occult, that is (aka maximizing the number of students that would scream at you to take their money).

And people wonder why I hate certain people in the occult community.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery traditions on his blog at: <http://gleamingsfromthedawn.blogspot.com/>

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. All of the series is transitioning thanks to Crystal Publishing.

Here is the link for Crystal Publishing: <http://www.crystalpublishingllc.com/>

The new editions of the first book and the holiday book are now available on Amazon.

Here is the link: http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=Jo+Fontana

The hard copies will be coming out shortly. Also, please check out our new and improved website @ <http://www.turtlemonkeybooks.com>

Coming soon: My new Young Adult Novel: **The Egg Quest!** More information should be available soon.

Thank you for all your support!

-Jo

ORPHEUS: GODS AND MONSTERS! SAT., MAY 30!!!

Get your tix now for Gods and Monsters! www.orpheuspcc.org

Orpheus celebrates deity and some of your favorite monsters with tunes from around the world that range from the sublime to some inspired silliness, from classics like Brahms and Ravel to Sondheim and music from India.

That's Saturday, May 30 at 7:30 PM in the Wash Park Center for Music and the Arts: 400 S. Williams (at Dakota Avenue) in Denver. Tix are \$20 per person/\$15 seniors and students/Under 12 free!

Check out our website for complete info: www.orpheuspcc.org



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. All of our dates are Saturday evenings, and 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. And, check out our Witchvox page for more info about us:

http://www.witchvox.com/vn/vn_detail/dt_gr.html?a=usco&id=35084

Our 2015 dates:

May 16
Jun 20
Jul 11
Aug 15
Sep 12
Oct 10
Nov 7
Dec 12

*---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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2015 Open Full Moon Dates

May 1

May 29

June 26

July 31

August 28

September 25

October 23

November 20

December 25—we will not meet, as it would be the 13th OFM