



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



FEBRUARY 19, 2016

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, FEBRUARY 19, 2016.

The February 19th ritual will be presented by Hawk Shadow and friends. Please join them at this time between Imbolg and Ostara for an exploration of tenacity and triumph.

GREETINGS

Snow followed by sun; cold followed by warmth. Am I talking about the wheel of the year? Nope, just the last month. We even had a couple of late start days at my office due to snow. That really doesn't happen often.

However, the last month has, in a way, been a small wheel. The grey cold has been followed, in short order, by sun, blue sky and relative warmth. The wheel goes round and round.

My nephew, who had been staying with my mother, moved to California in December; my brother and sister-in-law came back to the U.S. My cousin's son moved to Denver for a job – and is staying with my mother. The next generation of our family is taking care of the last generation.

Wheels among wheels. And the sun is out today.

–Catherine

<http://hearthstone.fnorky.com>

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

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone thanks Cynthia and Clyde K. for the beautiful Full Moon ritual they prepared for us in January. We had a large turnout of participants who absorbed the message of enhancing harmony within our selves, our homes, our communities, and the world we share. We were invited to contemplate that along the journey of each life, we are part of many different groups—families, schools, workplaces, friends, etc. We do not go through this life alone. Energy was raised with the Sanskrit chant "Saha Navavatu", which invokes the power of togetherness for spiritual growth,

protection, and learning. Each person received a bag of Harmony Salts to take home for grounding and harmony. Before sharing cakes and "wine", we sang the song "One Spirit in the Dark" which includes the lines: "There is strength in community, A circle empowering you and me." Clyde and Cynthia thanked Hearthstone for offering acceptance, fellowship, and spiritual light to our community.

We thank you, Clyde and Cynthia, for being part of our community and sharing your ritual intention of being together in harmony. May we all progress through the days and seasons ahead in harmony with ourselves and one another. So mote it be!

—Arynn

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 pawns 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

A Midsummer Night's Sing

Saturday, May 14th at 7:30 PM

Wash Park Center for Music & the Arts

400 S Williams St. in Denver, CO

*Magical music and lusty lyrics for Midsummer,
with poetry and music by Shakespeare (of course),*

Loreena McKennitt, James Agee, Brahms,

Morton Lauridsen, Mendelssohn, Eric Whitacre, and a host of others.

[Click here to see the full concert program](#)
\$20 per person/\$15 Seniors & Students/Under 12 free
[Click here to buy tickets](#)

BELTANIA

Beltania, a Pagan festival and musicfest, is having its 9th annual event on May 19-22, 2016 at La Foret Conference and Retreat Center near Colorado Springs. Tickets can be purchased at www.beltania.org

COMMUNITY FORUM RECOGNIZING AND DEALING WITH PREDATORS IN THE PAGAN COMMUNITY

Sunday March 6, 2016

at the fabulous **Mercury Café** 2199 California Street, Denver, CO 80205 (get there by the Light Rail station at 16th and Stout, come by bus or there's parking all around)

Doors open at 2:30pm, Forum from 3-5pm

One of the great beauties and strengths of the Wiccan-Pagan community is our inclusiveness.

And one of our thorny, seldom-mentioned shortcomings is when undiscerning inclusiveness allows those who cause real harm to flourish in our midst.

Predators, people who habitually manipulate others - energetically, sexually, financially, or in other ways that betray trust - can operate in any community, and on any path. Other Wiccan-Pagan communities across the country have been publicly rocked by revelations and arrests in past years.

We in the Rocky Mountain area aren't immune. How can our community best respond to allegations of predatory activity? How can we help support those who have been victimized, and foster strong strategies to avoid victimization?

Do we have a shared ethical basis that guides us?

In the interest of discussing these topics with clear-eyed discernment and inviting all voices to be heard, WSLA is hosting a community forum on Predators and Ethics.

If you would like to read some related articles to get advance food for thought, you can go to www.neopagan.net/ABCDEF.html and www.sott.net/article/268449-Empathic-people-are-natural-targets-for-sociopaths-protect-yourself

ON HUNGER AND GIVING

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, as I drive past a local, Christian church on my way to work, I see a line of people waiting for the doors to open so that they can get some food.

On cold mornings I see mothers rubbing their bare hands vigorously up and down their children's arms and shoulders to keep the kids warm.

Some of the people are older and stand in line with little wheeled baskets to spare them from having to carry food in their arms. There is a real need for the food provided.

On billboards around town I see brightly lit images of crosses with quotes from Christian scripture accompanied by information about resources for food and shelter.

It is good that these organizations harness our natural desire to help each other through tough times.

And yet...

You don't have to stand in sacred circle with me as a condition of my giving.

You don't have to go out into the woods and learn about the natural spirit of the land, to receive what I have to give for your sustenance.

While my desire to serve on my own path drives me to set aside time, energy and money for benevolence, for charity, for giving; my abiding passion for a democratic public sphere makes me recoil from asking another person to connect their human needs to my personal faith.

I am avowedly anti-evangelical.

And so I carefully choose the charities for the Denver Celtic Women's Circle events.

I chose Food Bank of the Rockies for our Brigit's Basket Food Drive because it is highly efficient, it has a very long reach and, while some of the pantries are a part of local religious organizations, many are not.

The food that arrives at those pantries is not marked in any way by the source of the donation. It's just food.

Bottom line: at the coldest part of the year, the most vulnerable among us will have food, will have what we can gather and offer. We will do what we do in Brigit's name, but those who receive that bounty, will not have to compromise their own path to receive it. In fact, they will never even know.

I stood in the wilderness on Imbolg. The circle was shoveled into the snow. The points for the sunrise and sun set were marked out and the winter branches overhead had the first hints of buds. The hope of spring is everywhere now, if you know where to look.

My soul was fed by good company and the natural landscape, by the opportunity to offer my devotion and to breathe freely in the fresh air. I believe that when we nurture ourselves, we can better nurture each other. I hope that this season finds you well and that the blessings of your life and your path are awake in your heart. I hope that you have what you need, and when you do not, I hope that you are able to find what you need, when you need it.

The Denver Celtic Women's Circle will be at Spiritways Metaphysical on 20 and 21 February (Saturday and Sunday!) for the annual Brigit's Basket Food Drive benefiting Food Bank of the Rockies. If you would like to donate, please bring non-perishable canned and dried goods like: canned vegetables, fruits, tuna or soups, noodles, cereal, dry beans or rice. Please do not bring: Expired foods, Glass containers. Your gift is needed and your presence is welcome!

We would love to see you again and thank you for considering a donation!

Peace of the Rocky Mountains to you. Blessings of Imbolg to you

---Paulie Rainbow

founding priestess: Denver Celtic Women's Circle

TROLLING THE REAL WITCHES
(or How dare I say that you about to poison yourself?)

As my regular readers know, I spend far too much time on social media, watching train wrecks and avoiding working on my novel. And lately, what I have seen makes me think that the next generation of witches will not be able to hex their way out of a wet paper bag.

(I should note that I am talking about a segment of the next generation, not the entire generation. But having to say, “those damn numpties who seem to suck all the oxygen out of the room every time they take part in a discussion while declaring that they are the most enlightened and knowledgeable magicians of all time, and who think that everyone who disagrees with them is a government sponsored troll hell-bent on keeping them ignorant and enslaved to big corporations” would make this little essay impossible to read. Just assume that I am not talking about you; for my readers are some of the most intelligent witches on the planet today. And now into the breech, we go.)

Let’s be honest: Every generation looks at the following generation, and thinks that it is getting dumber and softer because of some trend or technology. My generation had first television, then video games making us dumber, and our preferred music was pure brain rot—or at least, that is what my mother thought. I suspect that the idea is as old as mankind; while we do not have records of a cave man complaining that the local cave art was rotting his children’s brains, we do have records of an Ancient Greek bemoaning that his civilization was getting softer with each passing generation.

But I swear on a stack of cats that social media, in particular Facebook groups, is turning the next generation into a herd of drooling goobers. And that includes magicians and witches.

However, blaming social media might be going too far—it is more of how the next generation of witches is using Facebook that is the problem, rather than the actual technology itself.

First, there is the tendency of the next generation to communicate with memes. For those who have never tried to create a meme; first you need a picture (either of a cute animal, or something that makes you ask how stupid someone can get), to which one adds a factoid or snappy quote—a meme is instant information and truth; it is the cup of noodles of the internet—all you need to add is a bunch of likes and shares—and Boom! It is true. Please note that its believability and truth rests on its sound bite nature, and how many people share it—not its actual information content.

And while the entire scope of information that the older generation had is still available, unless it is in meme form, it is too long for the next generation to bother with. (Please remember to cross out “next generation” and insert “those damn numpties...”) For instance, we still have videos—unfortunately, any video longer than thirty seconds is too damn long. The same goes for books, who has time to read a book—just give us the meme that sums it up.

Now this would not be so bad if the next generation (those damn numpties) would bother to fact-check stuff. If I had a dollar for every time this week, I saw someone of my generation ask a numpty, “There is this thing called Google—did you bother to use it?” I would be able to buy a dozen pizzas. By the way, the answer to the Google question is always, “No” which is often followed by “Why would someone share a meme if it wasn’t true?!” It hurts my brain to reconcile the fact that these numpties believe that the government and corporations only share mistruths while also believing that no one in their generation would actually spread lies and false information.

Now somewhere along the line, the next generation has gotten a rather warped view of magic. They seem to honestly believe that all it takes to do magic is to wave a wand encrusted with the correct gemstones (often in neon unicorn colors) while loudly saying some secret magic words, and Boom!—magic is done! Boyfriend problems? Wave, chant—boom! Not enough rent money? Boom! Mental and health problems? Boom! Boom!

Trust me—magic does not work that way. “Oxycleantrius! Laundrus Dunnem!” Nope, laundry still dirty.

As a result of this belief, there are a metric ton of numpties on the internet asking others for spells, shiny magical bullets, to clean up and improve their lives. And anyone who dares mutter, “It doesn’t work that way,” is labeled a negativity troll. The solutions that are typically trotted out by “real witches” tend to consist of thinking good thoughts while asking Hecate and Morrigan, the nicest of the witch goddesses, to intervene. In the meantime, those nasty fake witches of the last generation are in the corner wondering if people have ever heard of a concept called “getting up off the couch.”

And heaven forbid that you do not feel like sharing your super-magic bullets with the internet, for all witches and magicians are brothers and sisters, obligated to help one another. The older generation is wrong when we think that our obligation ends at the limits of our coven, friends and family. No, we are actually obligated to help anyone who says that they are a witch.

Furthermore, we are obligated to help anyone who decides to set up a coven. And forget that nonsense we have that covens are groups that actually meet in person—today’s witch knows that one merely needs to say hello on Facebook, and voila—instant coven! We older witches are being pure trolls when we mutter that we do not need to share our Book of Shadows with whining puppies; we should join up with the real witches. Plus, if others can’t hex their way out of a wet paper bag, we should roll up our sleeves and do the magic for them—that is what real witches do.

And we should do all this while remembering the Golden Rule of the true and current generation, do not brag about being in witchcraft longer and knowing more, and do not (under any condition) try to teach the current generation our old and outdated ways. For the only people who are qualified to teach beginners are other beginners.

I was reminded of this fact the other day while reading the posts on a Facebook group that is advertised as “a valuable resource for beginners.” The group owner declared that only beginners should be in the group, and that anyone who was more advanced needed to leave the group. This declaration might have something to do with the fact that several of the older nastier false witches said that he couldn’t find both ass cheeks when the lights were off. I would say that it was just one bad apple, but I know of two dozen group owners who kick out anyone who dares to say things like, “Drinking hemlock is a good way to die” and “GMO conspiracies and chem-trails have nothing to do with magic.”

But what do I know? I am a bitter nasty troll witch who believes in actual books with hundreds of damn pages, that I am allowed to poke anyone in the eye who calls me “brother” without my permission, that my Book of Shadows is private and secret information confined to my coven, that magic takes hard work and practice, and that the quickest way to make money is to create an actual product that people would gladly buy; I do not believe in instant covens, nor that the gods are nice, and horror of horrors, I believe in telling people that they are wrong when I see them about to seriously injure themselves and others with memes that have the information content of a booby trap.

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](#)

[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>

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

Ritual dates 2016

March 5
April 9
May 7
June 4
July 2
August 6
September 3
October 1
Oct 22
November 26
December 17

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

WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-521-6620. 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 fionnula.harp@gmail.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 fionnula.harp@gmail.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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2016 Open Full Moon Dates

February 19

March 18

April 15

May 20

June 17

July 15

August 12

September 16

October 14

November 11