



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



OCTOBER 14, 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, OCTOBER 14, 2016.

Bandia Dui! (*Goddess With You*) The Denver Celtic Women's Circle will present the Open Full Moon for October 14th. This full moon we will be honoring the source of the precious water that sustains our life, grows our crops, and makes our planet livable.

We all call upon and value the element of water, but have you taken time to think about where your water comes from? How fragile a resource it is? Water is sacred, and nowhere is it more so than in the arid lands of the American West. Here in Colorado our water starts as snow in the great Rocky Mountains, then melts and runs off into the rivers that feed all of our land. The greatest of these is the landscape changing Colorado River, our own sacred river and spirit of the west. Its water quenches the thirst of some of the driest states in the country, irrigates our food, and provides us with recreation and beauty. Join Denver Celtic Women's Circle as we invoke The Cailleach, the Snow Bringer and Mother of Mountains, and give thanks for the winter and the snows that are the source of our life giving water. The season is changing and we welcome the change!

—Catherine

GREETINGS

Winter is coming faster. We've already had a couple of freezing nights and I actually had to scrape my car's windshield one morning last week. Samhain approaches – and with it the quiet time of the year.

We gather together the last bits of our harvest so that we may face this cold time: the last of the apples, the squash, any beans or other vegetables that still hang on the vines. These will go into the cellar to help us through the dark time. The nights already seem longer. We've brought the heaters out – or at least turned up the thermostat.

For those of us who don't have gardens, we reap another kind of harvest. Our successes during this growing season will help us through the dark, cold time. What little (or big) things did you achieve this spring and summer? I was able to reach a couple of notes higher and a couple lower while singing. A little thing, but singing will help lighten my house and my mood.

Blessings.

—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's September Open Full Moon celebration was led by Azur Iris and the Circle of Light and Shadow (COLS), with an eye to the approach of Mabon, the Autumn Equinox. After COLS completed cleansing, casting, and calling the Elements, Azur Iris explained the astrology of this full moon and lunar eclipse. She emphasized the challenge of integrating both practicality and spirituality. She led us in invoking Kwan Yin, the goddess of compassion, balance and abundance. All participants were offered supplies and assistance to make a small packet dedicated to Kwan Yin, into which we placed dry rice and tea leaves. We also received a cotton ball dipped in fragrant oil associated with Kwan Yin. We were led in meditation to meet Kwan Yin, who took our hand and filled us with Her compassion. After meditation we were each invited to write a note expressing compassion and give it to anyone in the circle, while all chanted Om. For "cakes and wine" COLS served everyone a small plate of steaming cooked rice and a cup of hot tea, inviting each of us to partake of the energies of Kwan Yin. In closing, Azur Iris emphasized that Kwan Yin is an accessible goddess, and encouraged us to sustain our connections with Her.

Thank you very much, Azur Iris and Coven of Light and Shadow, for offering our Hearthstone community this beautiful, rich, meaningful ritual experience. Blessings to all.

–Aryme

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

ORPHEUS RITE OF REMEMBRANCE



A Rite of Remembrance Orpheus Pagan Chamber Choir

*Gather with us and light a candle for your loved ones
on our Dia de los Muertos altar
during our hour-long Rite of Remembrance*

Saturday, November 5th at 7:30 PM
Wash Park Center for Music & the Arts
400 S. Williams St. at Dakota Ave., Denver
\$10 per person/under 12 free

*A limited number of free tickets are available
for members and veterans of the Armed Forces.*

Made possible by the SCFD

For tickets: www.Orpheuspcc.org



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SERVICE AND SEEKING.

There was a lot of information in the news about Mother Teresa lately and so I found out more than I ever knew. She felt that suffering brings people closer to her God, and that identifying with the sufferer can have a similar effect. In her institutions she offered comfort, but she did not offer relief. Her work brought in millions of dollars, but she didn't need millions of dollars. She didn't provide any medicines. She didn't do any work to alleviate suffering. She didn't believe in it. According to her supporters, she "unburdened herself" of the excess money by passing it onto the Catholic Church for their own purposes.

There were people who took offense at this and believed that she was dishonest, taking in all of that money, but spending almost none of it on "the poorest of the poor." There were those who gave money because they believed that their money would end suffering, alleviate poverty; they didn't give money to be used for other purposes, and they clearly didn't understand how her work was done.

I don't feel that she was dishonest, although I disagree with her approach and I do not share her values. I do think that she consistently acted according to those values. She believed that suffering would bring salvation. She provided a place for that suffering. She followed her path and she provided a service to others based on her own sincerely held beliefs. She did not waver. She was seeking salvation and she was sharing what she sought.

I am a seeker, a seeker on the Celtic path. I have climbed mountains, slept alone in the wilderness, traveled to Ireland, studied the difficult language of my great grandfather, with more determination than success. I have stood outside and honored each new moon for many, many years.

It took a while to find this path. I started out a child witch, horrifying babysitters and parents alike. I found the words of Diane Stein and Starhawk, and metaphysical stores with all of the things I had looked for all my life, including community. I became a solitary. I was lucky enough to find a Dianic group and walked that path with delight and a full heart. I partnered with people from other paths, joined a Nordic kindred. I studied Tibetan Buddhist meditation and the Shakti/Goddess path of Hinduism. All of these things nurtured and informed me. I came to the Celtic path as an experienced woman.

I seek to share this path with others because I love it. I believe in it. I am fascinated by it.

It is a complicated path, peopled by Gods who defy the classical model and who frequently have unpronounceable names. It is steeped in a language so different from English that is comparable to Russian in difficulty. It is based on a landscape that is over four thousand miles away on a sea-surrounded island, where most of the days it rains. It is as different as possible from Colorado. It absolutely lights me up, regardless of that; or because of it, I can't tell.

And so sharing this has some challenges. Most people only want a little of it. Most people want only as much as they can understand at this time. Most people want the things that we all want: community, comfort, inspiration, a reason to hope, and, along with that, some of this complicated path. And I think that's great.

There is seeking, and there is service. I don't think they have to be the same. I think that people come first, and that there is a balance between the complications that fascinate me and the simple truths of human existence, of which I am a part.

When we prepare to share this path with others, as we do when we have the opportunity to share ritual at Hearthstone, we consider the whole of the experience. We make some changes to the ritual to make it better flow for a Wiccan Church. I am comfortable with this because I don't believe that my path is the only way that anyone else's soul will be saved. I believe that ritual helps us to feel connected, and feeling connected gives us the heart to go on. I believe that many people

who are present for our rituals or workshops are genuinely interested in the Celtic path, and that we should offer as much insight and information as is practical for the situation.

I point this out because I think it's important for people to know that our private practice looks different than what we share in public. This is because I see a difference between seeking and service and I am comfortable with that difference. I see that I walked many paths to find this one, and I am comfortable with that also.

I have a book of *Friotháil*, service or ministry, and in it I have recorded the details of handfastings, house blessings and a rite of remembrance that I have performed. Almost none of these were done in the manner of the Celtic path. Every one of them moves me as I reflect on the passages of the lives of the members of my greater community. As much as I can envy a life with such ideological purity as other people may live, I could not live without the sense of connection to and service for the community that I live in. To be of service is an important balance to the seeking that also makes me very happy.

If you made it this far in this column, I want to mention that I am very proud to be walking this path with Kellene, who put together all of the details for the Hearthstone ritual of the October Full Moon and who will be leading it. It is a fine thing to share this experience with someone who loves the path as much as I do, and who shares my sense of service and love.

Peace of the mountains to you,

Paulie Rainbow

Founder: Denver Celtic Women's Circle

WAIT – SLAVERY IS STILL LEGAL?

The other day, I received the voter's blue book, that delightful document that informs a voter of the items that will be on the state ballot, or as my wife calls it, "something terribly boring that Morgan should read instead of me." The voter's blue book is not necessarily coma-inducing, but it is definitely a sleep aid. And there always seems to be at least one measure on the ballot, that even after reading the blue book, one is not sure how to vote on, leading one to debate whether flipping a coin is the best way to determine one's vote (it is not – one should use the Morgan Law of Voter Guidance instead in such cases: When in doubt, vote No).

One of the joys of reading the voter's blue book is the discovery of things that are laws that one had no clue were laws. And I say, "joys" because I have no proper term for "gee, the laws are even more messed up than I thought they were" which the Germans or the Japanese probably have a word for; but given the fact that I only speak two languages (English and Bad English), I will never know if someone does not angrily email me proof of my total ignorance.

(It should be noted that after several years of studying French, that I remember all of nothing of that language, and the little bit of Hebrew and Yiddish I know is merely some technical terms for a system of mysticism that makes Zen look simple – one should not issue the advice that I should learn a foreign language, because I have already proven that I am a complete dunderhead in that department...well, unless you consider Cat to be a language, I am pretty fluent in that. But I digress...)

This election cycle, the surprise discovery was that slavery and involuntary servitude was still legal in the state of Colorado. Well, not for everyone. Just for those duly convicted of a crime. It is not really surprising from an historical sense, but a modern person still half-looks-around and says, "Are we in Ancient Rome?"

But the shocking part was the argument that the clause should remain in Colorado's constitution – "Amendment T may result in uncertainty around current offender work practices in the state." Yeah, just like the confusion its exclusion creates in the twenty-five states whose constitutions this clause is absent from. After all, every day some where in the news, there are reports of prisons, both governmental and private company-run, suffering from the inability to force inmates to work. Oh wait, no, there is not (well, to the best of my knowledge, I am sure an angry reader will email me tons of links to such news reports to prove that not only am I a complete and total dunderhead, but that I am an ignorant liberal hippie who does not understand the economics of the modern prison system). Isn't prison bad enough without having to resort to slavery?

(By the way, for those who are curious, slavery "is a situation in which one person has absolute power over the life, fortune, and liberty of another person," and involuntary servitude is "a condition of servitude in which one is forced to work for another person by the use or threat of physical restraint or physical injury, or by the use or threat of coercion through the law of the legal process." Or as I like to call it, "my childhood, living with my mom, from ages twelve to eighteen." [Yes, I know that I should not compare life-threatening child abuse with slavery and involuntary servitude, but I did – remember I read all the angry letters, so keep sending them.]

But then again, some people probably believe that slavery is too good for some criminals. I know a few people who think death is the only proper punishment for liberal, wise-cracking witches – slavery is too good for that sort of crime. Come to think of it, I am quite sure that some of those films I saw about the violent crime caused by marijuana use, were secretly arguing slavery as a punishment for getting caught with a joint. (As it is, getting caught with a joint can get you more prison time than being convicted of rape, and carries a lifelong sentence of being ineligible to vote [in most states], and requires you to admit to every potential employer for the rest of your life that you were as bad of a human being as murderers, thieves, and terrorists. From where I sit, the entire war on drugs is nothing more than a thinly veiled political maneuver designed to eliminate the voting powers of minorities and those dirty filthy hippies who believe wars and corporate greed is bad.)

Of course, the saddest part is that the law books are full of laws designed to punish certain types of people. A lot of them probably made sense at one time, well, provided that the sense was to punish certain types of people for being "not white" and "not rich." For instance, there are anti-gypsy laws in almost every state. One particular one that I, a poor white boy, ran afoul of, was a Denver law requiring fortune tellers to pay a fifty dollar a day licensing fee. That's not a typo – it was literally fifty dollars a day for the privilege of reading someone's Tarot cards. A few years ago, the Denver Police decided to try to enforce it. And in the same mode that smoking marijuana makes you a murderous terrorist, fortune telling was called a "gateway crime" that leads to even worse crimes. OK, maybe some con-men, or is it con-women, do use fortune telling as the opening bid to the "you are cursed – for a thousand dollars, I can un-hex you," but one hopes that type of con-game has its own separate law forbidding it. (And yes, send me all the news reports of crooked psychics and fortune tellers to prove that we need to stop this stuff at its source because obviously, not only am I a liberal dunderhead, I am also completely ignorant of how often it actually happens.)

And there are sillier laws out there, if one bothers to look. One of my jokes this election season, typically after someone tells me that making jokes will not make America great again, has been to point out that the next President will make it against the law to make jokes about the President on the first day that they are in office. (If you think I am truly making a joke, just remember that one of the campaign promises that has been made is to make it easier to sue journalists for reporting the truth – as in reporting the actual words said by a person will be an offense worthy of big dollar judgments against journalists. One imagines that comedians are not far behind in being outlawed.) And if you don't think that it could happen, consider this: The leader of

North Korea, who is admired for being a strong man and a winner by one of the Presidential candidates, outlawed sarcasm last month. Hell, sarcasm is most of my writing style – if the next American President takes their cue from strong-arm countries – I will soon be arrested, convicted, and jailed, with a judge exclaiming that slavery is too good for me.

(Reminder: Any opinions related by Morgan are his personal opinions, and do not, necessarily, represent those of the other people in Hearthstone)

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>

TURTLE MONKEY CHILDREN'S BOOKS



Introducing the Turtle Monkey children's book series.

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. Turtle Monkey's Uncle Red and Aunt Tawny live a ferry's ride away, and her Grandma and Grandpa live at the beach. Aunt Fuchsia and Uncle Titian are honorary family members that live down the street from Turtle Monkey and her mother. Turtle Monkey and her friends Coco Monkey, Cap Monkey, and Squirrel Monkey hide in the forest when Little Ape and his friend, Orangutan, are outside. Little Ape is mean, and Turtle Monkey and her friends avoid him as much as possible. Turtle Monkey is mischievous, this gets her into many awkward situations for which she has to think and talk her way out of. There are certain situations that Turtle Monkey cannot talk her way out of, and the results are hilarious. Her hobbies include hunting fairies, catching her own pets, and meeting new friends. Visit our website to sign up for our newsletter at www.turtlemonkeybooks.com

Turtle Monkey Book Launch

Books 2 & 3: *Turtle Monkey and the Unfriendly Mushrooms AND A Turtle Monkey Halloween*

Location: Ross-University Hills Library

4310 E. Amherst Avenue

Denver, CO 80222

Time: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

When: October 15th 2016

Join us for our book launch and get free coloring pages and sign up for the raffle to win the inspirational monkey!

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

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

October 14
November 11