



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



JANUARY 6, 2017

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, JANUARY 6, 2017.

Vella Rose will be presenting the January 6th ritual. The New Year has begun, a time of blessings, resolutions and good wishes. The Hearthstone / Open Full Moon ritual on the 6th of January will reflect this time of year with the opportunity to do a self-blessing and to send good wishes and positive energy to our community and the Earth. As with all rituals facilitated by Vella Rose, there will be singing to support our work, since singing is a way of breathing together and building community, but the focus of the ritual is on the blessings and being together in community.

—Catherine

GREETINGS

Happy 2017, CE! It is now time to practice writing a new date on all checks and letters – it may be April before we're fully used to it.

2016 was a year of highs and lows. It seems like we lost many of the actors and musicians who shaped my generation, and even those of the two after mine. Yes, I'm a baby-boomer. Leonard Cohen and David Bowie shaped much of my outlook. In fact, one of my favorite songs is Cohen's "Hallelujah" – as long as the last verse is included.

"I did my best, it wasn't much; I couldn't feel, so I tried to touch
I did my best, I didn't come to fool ya'
But even though it all went wrong, I'll stand before the Lord of Song
With nothing on my tongue, but Hallelujah"

To me, that contains the essence of that song – and to some extent, to the last year. Bitterness, hope and triumph all work together to defy the fates.

So many movie and television actors who made up a part of my youth passed this year. Newscasters and journalists; astronauts and heroes; cartoon characters and coaches; judges, lawyers, politicians and writers all passed. Yet, the world has kept turning.

One of the wonderful things about my generation, and those after mine, is that we have moving images of the people we lost. I can play a record and hear Leonard Cohen and David Bowie. Video in its myriad forms has captured our stars and heroes. We can see and hear them still.

Let us toast then, to 2016! Then another toast to 2017! May it be no worse than we feared and better than we hoped. *Sláinte! Hälsa!* To new experiences and to the New Year!

—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

For our beautiful, peaceful, candle-lit December Open Full Moon ritual, Hearthstone offers our gratitude to Carri and Martin of the Alexandrian Temple of Universal Metaphysics (ATUM). The circle was consecrated in the names of Cerridwen and Cernunnos, then volunteers called the Quarters. Martin deepened the atmosphere of quiet and peace with a centering meditation, guiding us in breathing in peace and balance, breathing out frustrations and tensions. We were reminded that we are each an eternal Soul in a temporary body. Carri spoke of the waxing moon in Aries and the Sun in Sagittarius, and the lessons of these. Carri and Martin proceeded to do a Drawing Down of the Goddess of the Moon, and a number of participants chose to go into the center and whisper privately with the Goddess. During cakes and juice, Martin and Carri explained more about their pagan prison ministry. Hearthstone very much appreciates and supports their efforts to teach and support our fellow seekers who are behind bars or reintegrating into the community.

As Circle concluded, Arynne offered to facilitate a small group of any Hearthstone participants who would like to explore Wicca/Paganism more personally in a smaller group, once a month. Details will be figured out in the first months of the new year. Please talk with Arynne at an Open Full Moon if you are interested.

Blessings and thanks to Martin and Carri for offering their beautiful rite to our Hearthstone Community! And blessings and thanks to all of our Hearthstone participants and officiates for sharing yourselves and your spiritual path with all of us. May the new year bring you abundant blessings and peace!

–*Arynne*

HEARTHSTONE CONGRATULATES

- * Brandon who completed college and graduated in December!
 - * Mars who completed Basic Training!
 - * Morgan and Ron who celebrated their 5th Anniversary together—and who met at an Open Full Moon!
-

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*

END OF THE YEAR

The end of the year can be laden with emotion, fraught with hope, possibly tinged with a hangover of too much food, or drink, or excitement. It's good to have ways to ground and center to keep the good feelings going.

When we lost Leonard Cohen this year, his song “Hallelujah” seemed to ring out from every channel, and it seemed a fitting anthem for a lot of news.

My husband and I ended up discussing the lyrics one day when I found myself puzzled by the phrase, “...how to shoot at someone that outdrew you.” With all of my movie watching experience I figured that this was impossible. The gun slinger that draws first wins, right? My former Marine informed me that the way to shoot somebody who outdraws you is to stay calm.

A fast draw usually goes wild. If you can keep your head, your balance, and your focus, you can take your time and make the shot that counts.

That's the lesson I'm taking with me from 2016 to 2017. There are millions of problems to be solved, for certain, but there are only a few of them that I know how to solve, or even address.

My focus is on what I can share.

Did you know that the Irish for Winter Solstice is *Grianstad an Gheimbridh* (green-stahd uh yee-rig)? How about this, did you know that one of the kennings for the Dagda is Great Father of Being, and that the same poem also names Him the Large-Lapped Farter? There's a poem in Middle Irish that names the twelve different colors of the wind, based on the direction, and there's a Colorado native plant that feeds butterflies, is great in tea, and can be carried as part of a love spell.

These are the things I know, and I put them into my calendar.

If you went to one of our loyal metaphysical stores this year and picked up a copy, please check out my meet up group: <https://www.meetup.com/Denver-Celtic-Womens-Circle-Events/>

I'll be hosting a class on how to use the calendar at Quantum Alchemy on 7 January 2017 (Saturday), and Celtic Full Moon Ceremonies throughout the year. Maybe I'll see you at the Paths & Traditions Fair at Jefferson Unitarian Church on 14 January!

But maybe the Irish Tree Ogham or Colorado gem stones aren't your thing. I know you have something that is your thing. I hope that you remember it and use it, maybe share it.

I hope that 2017 is the year when we remember how well we already know how to keep our head, our balance, and our focus.

Today is the only day that matters. Today is the only day in which magic can be done.

Peace of the mountains to you,

—*Paulie Rainbow*

Founder: Denver Celtic Women's Circle

Member: Celtic Druid Temple of Ireland

TREATING THE OCCULT COMMUNITY WITH THE RESPECT THAT IT DESERVES

Welcome to the beginning of a new year, a time to take stock and adjust our courses, to ask ourselves what we have done right and what we could have done better in the previous year.

From my personal perspective, 2016 was an interesting year—an important year—a year when my voice as a writer was tested. Each one of us judges the success and/or failure of a year by our own unique standards. And in my case, I tend to judge a year by what I have written.

Now, I know that at least one person would judge my accomplishments this past year as one gigantic failure after another. This is not a guess on my part, but rather the outright knowledge that they did not approve of what I wrote last year, and how I accomplished that writing. I know this because at one point, they asked me why I was content to remain a fool, a clown, a jester, instead of doing serious writing.

My response to the criticism? Oh, I made a joke about it. Because that is what I do. But it got me thinking again about my decision to be the court jester of occultism.

When I was a teenager, I spent some time reading stuff by Erma Bombeck, listening to my dad tell the same jokes dozen of times, and discovered the work of Douglas Adams. And I enjoyed it. And I wanted to do it—that is, I wanted to be one of those funny story tellers.

Now, someplace along the line, I got the idea that I was supposed to be a serious writer, maybe not a literary writer, but definitely not making jokes. There is only one little problem with this—I struggle to maintain a serious voice in my writing. Countless are the number of times I have struggled for days to write something in a serious tone of voice, and then proceeded to crank out a column about the issue that was on my mind in a couple of hours once I gave up on trying to maintain a serious voice.

And it is not just the ease of the writing that inclines me to write about stuff from a humorous viewpoint. I have been known to work extended periods on short jokes—you could say that I am willing to walk a mile for the sake of a joke. Heck, I once spent thirteen months writing a satire occult book...well, I struggled with it for almost a year, trying to pretend that it was a serious book before giving in and treating the subject matter in exactly the light that I felt that it deserved.

This inclination to make jokes about the occult annoys some people. For some reason, they think that the occult is a serious business, along with politics and the human condition. In fact, some people actually use the fact that I am a comedian to discredit everything that I say. And so it goes.

So should I quit making jokes about the occult? Should I treat it as a serious subject? And treat all of the self-proclaimed leaders of the occult with the respect that they deserve?

Or should I continue to treat the subject as if the lunatics has taken over the asylum? Now, I know what amuses me, and quite honestly I get my political news from Comedy Central and my philosophy from satires; but is it nice to inflict my sense of humor on the rest of the universe? Are

my haters right? Should I be serious, and maintain a serious voice, if I want to convince people that my opinions are right? Honestly, I don't know. But I do know what amuses me, and what my natural tone of voice sounds like—and because of that, I am betting that I am going to continue to write in a sarcastic tone of voice—even if it is not the best idea and plan for the upcoming year.

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>

STAY UP AND WATCH 2016 DIE

I don't think I can remember a year that was as rough on me with the exception of 1999, the year I lost my son. But even then, the entire year wasn't horrendous. I'll take particular solace this New Year's Eve in staying up to watch 2016 die. It was a year of tremendous change for a lot of people. The election of Agent Orange to the White House practically drained the life out of his opponents and hope from many people.

This was compounded by the fact that we lost so many talented folks. I'm sure a few people could argue that the artists we lost were getting older so we were bound to lose them eventually or that their loss should not affect us much as we didn't know them personally. But for me, it has been an ongoing year of mourning, starting with David Bowie and Alan Rickman straight through to Carrie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds. These people have affected me in a positive way. I could turn on Netflix, the radio, or put on a movie and they'd help me forget my troubles for a while.

Carrie Fisher was an outspoken mental health advocate that had done much to help decrease the stigma of mental illness. Florence Henderson was a great role model for her young co-stars and tolerant of others. George Michael was a very generous person and gave of himself, usually only when he could be assured it would not be publicly known. Mohammed Ali used his fame to better the cause for people of color. Elie Weisel, through his book, educated many about the holocaust first hand and the horrors of war. It may just be that we fear not having anyone to replace these extraordinary people. I'm not sure if we do, but I'm hopeful that there will be others to fill the void.

But the year didn't stop taking from us. Let us not forget the bloody massacre in Orlando as well. It became the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. And who could forget Harambe? The gorilla who was killed to avoid a lawsuit over a parent's lack of supervision. Or Brock Turner who only served 3 months for a rape sentence. It's enough to dishearten even the staunchest dreamers.

When I saw a meme circulating on Facebook last week, I took it to heart. It said something to the effect of: On New Year's Eve, I'm burning the 2016 calendar and sending it back to hell where it belongs. That's what I'll be doing on the 31st as we ring in the New Year, because I truly believe this year needs to be sent back there.

—AJ Hallows

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

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 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.

Ritual dates 2017

January 28
February 25
March 25
April 29
May 27
June 24
July 22
August 19
September 23
October 21
November 18
December

23

--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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2017 Open Full Moon Dates

January 6
February 10
March 10
April 7
May 5
June 9
July 7
August 4
September 1
September 29 (for October)
November 3
December 1

The first full moon of 2018 is January 1, but due to the fact that a December 29 OFM would mean 13 in a year, plus how busy everyone is around the end of the year, we will not have an Open Full Moon on that date.