



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### **MARCH 10, 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, MARCH 10, 2017.

Under the Virgo Full Moon, we will gather and celebrate. The cusp of winter and spring, this Moon's ritual will focus on the Earth, Moon, and our Connection to both. Let's honor embodiment and the stirrings of seeds. There will be meditation and movement. Feel free to bring something for the altar space, if you feel drawn. Ritual led by Amber Zeta of Zeta Moon, mythologist, priestess, healer, and Goddesspreneur. [www.zetamoon.com](http://www.zetamoon.com). Any questions, text or call (832) 819-4824.

—Catherine

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### **GREETINGS**

March already! Time flies when you're having fun. The weather has been cold and warm — typical for a Denver February/March. How on earth can we plan our gardens if we can't tell what the weather will be? As usual, it will be guesswork. Deciding the day's clothes is also guesswork. Do I dress for cold weather? Will it be too hot for a jacket? Decisions, decisions!

This winter has been a long one for me. While there is some sunlight, it never seems to be enough. Although I know the sun is coming, it still miss it. I know we need more snow to prevent drought this summer, but the changeable weather hits every joint I've ever broken. And I've been remarkably clumsy in my life.

Thank goodness we are inching up toward Ostara! Finally, on that day of balance, we'll know that the Spring is really here; the planting can begin — the days are waxing strong.

—Catherine

<http://hearthstone.fnorky.com>

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### **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

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### **THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT**

Hearthstone offers our gratitude to Amy (Nytshade) for the inspirational Open Full Moon rite she offered in February in celebration of new beginnings and the lunar eclipse occurring at that

time. Her daughters cleansed the space, and Amy called the Quarters and Deity. She explained the symbolism of the Moon and Sun and how we would work with those themes in the rite. We proceeded to use the energy of the eclipse to release and "eclipse" that which was holding us back, preparing ourselves to go forward with more self-understanding, peace, and clarity. Amy offered each person small pieces of metal, and in silent meditation we channeled our obstacles, pain, etc. into the metal, then gave the metal back to her to recycle/transform it. She shared a quote from Rumi: "You are not just a drop in the ocean, you are the mighty ocean in the drop." Amy encouraged all of us to believe that we deserve to be happy, loved, and appreciated. She recommended the use of affirmations, and offered hand-outs to any who were unfamiliar with creating and using affirmations. Circle was opened, and then, cakes -- that is, chocolate kisses! -- were shared.

Thank you, Amy, for sharing your love and understanding with our Hearthstone community, and for your efforts to lift us all up toward greater love, joy, and gratitude in our lives. Blessings to all!

*Arynn*

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## 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*

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## ORPHEUS PAGAN CHAMBER CHOIR



### "It's Elemental!"

A concert for the entire family!

Join Orpheus for a special one-hour celebration of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water for the whole family, with elemental dragons, story-telling, and exciting tunes from our upcoming concert, "It's Elemental!" on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thanks to the SCFD, we can happily offer family-friendly tickets:

Adults: \$10 and Children are free!

\*All adults must be accompanied by a child

Buy your tickets here: [www.orpheuspcc.org](http://www.orpheuspcc.org)

It's Elemental! A Family Concert

Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 11:00 AM

Wash Park Center for Music & Art

400 S. Williams St (at Dakota Ave.) in Denver

To reserve seats for your family, go to [www.orpheuspcc.org](http://www.orpheuspcc.org)

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## BELTANIA

[Beltania 2017](#): May 18-21, 2017, Our 10th Anniversary Beltane Festival

It's 4 days of music, magic, spiritual connection, camping, and community. [Special guests include Amber K and Azrael K](#), spiritual teachers who are well known throughout the Earth religions community. We have [musical performances](#) from Celtic singer Celia Farran, the lovely Ariana Saraha, and local performers like Michael Heartsong and Joyous Pool, Kaedrich Olsen, and many more. Concert performances are outside once again, near our [Merchant's Row](#)! We invite you to participate by [joining the staff](#), becoming a [merchant](#), or [presenting a workshop, class, or ritual](#).

Come weave the ribbons around the maypole, dance and drum around the fire, lift your heart in song and ceremony, learn and grow at dozens of workshops and classes, shop at Merchant's Row, hang out in the adults-only Wild Woods or join your kids at our greatly expanded children's activities. Visit the Rainbow Welcome Center that celebrates our diversity, visit the HearthFire Sanctuary or Ancestors Shrine. Walk the labyrinth with us, enjoy soaring views of Pike's Peak amongst the towering pine trees, and commune with centuries-old Native American prayer trees and medicine trees. All of these are explored on our [Spaces and Traditions](#) page.

We have yurts, cabins, RV parking, and tent camping for those who get 2, 3, and 4-day admission tickets and single day tickets for Friday or Saturday are also available. Get [info on](#)

[admission and lodging](#). Tickets are available now for Beltania. Prices go up on Feb 1, March 22, and May 1 so early registration has the best prices.

Beltania is unique in that we are especially supportive of our diversity. Those who are differently abled will find many ADA accommodations, from the comfortable heated cabins and powered yurts to the many indoor cabin facilities to the free shuttle all around the grounds. We have an [Accessibility Coordinator](#) and ASL sign language interpreter available before and during the festival to provide assistance. Our special [Senior ticket prices](#) we hope will encourage more of our Elders to feel welcomed and valued. Many different spiritual paths are represented at Beltania, and if you don't see our diversity expressed on our [Master Schedule](#) we invite you to offer a workshop or ceremony to help make that happen. The [Rainbow Welcome Center](#) is here to celebrate love and individuality in all its forms, and really bring us together as a community. We offer [rites of passage](#) for both young men and young women. We have greatly expanded [Children's Activities](#) too! ALL ARE WELCOME!

It's May 18-21, 2017 on one hundred of private acreage at [La Foret Conference and Retreat Center](#) located in the Black Forest between Denver and Colorado Springs.

Future Year Special Guest Info: We have Selena Fox returning to Beltania in 2018, and Janet Farrar and Gavin Bone returning in 2019!

[Get Tickets](#) - [Learn More about Beltania](#) - [www.beltania.org](http://www.beltania.org)

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## ON WAGING WAR

There are so many of us who are deeply engaged with the political process at this time. Perhaps it is the first time for some, a continuation of activism for others, a return to activism for those of us who thought such things were now safe in the hands of the next generation. There are those who are unwilling to be involved in activism, who seek respite from a conflict they do not choose.

The divisiveness and acrimony that so frequently accompany a national election did not, this time, subside. Across the country, across communities and subcultures, emotions run high. While a few feel satisfied with the results of our recent election, there are so many who are unsettled, pushing back, rising up. Every report indicates that the political landscape is entirely changed from any we have seen in decades.

Whether this is for good or ill, remains to be seen. But, without question, good can come from this.

How then, do we wage war?

There are a few truths that can guide us.

It is a truth of a long life that fierce anger is not sustainable indefinitely. The soul, even of the warrior, must have peace. So, we cannot mistake anger for honor nor the other way around. If we can only rise up in anger we will soon become disillusioned with ourselves and the world. Wrongs and injustice do not lose their color when we take our rest. We have not failed the world when we sleep at night. It is possible to condemn injustice with words that are level and clear; sometimes that is the most powerful delivery of all. Anger is not the same as honor. Anger burns hot, and eventually burns out. Honor is a constant guidance that sustains us not only in battle, but in reflection.

While there is much in the world that is unbalanced, unjust, even horrible, there are actually very few evil individuals. Most of what is wrong in the world of humans comes down to the

imperfections of humanity. Therefore, it is both more efficient, and less damaging, in the long run, to fight the choices, actions and outcomes that are wrong, rather than focusing on the individuals. This has the result of helping us to focus and articulate our values, teach them to others, and bring about reconciliation when that is appropriate, without diluting our commitment to continuing to create a just world.

In many cases, future reconciliation is possible. Regardless of the heat of a conflict, many of us have lived long enough to see just how often those conflicts fade into the past, and how important and how fragile is human community. We will not all love everyone. But we will outlive most of our worst contentions and continue to live side by side. Also, we frequently overlook the collateral damage of hating a specific individual. Potential friends, employers and romantic partners who have no side in a battle will have the chance to observe how we handle anger, fear, and spite, and consider for themselves what that means about us in other situations. When we refuse the easy path of personalizing our anger, we pave the way for better situations in the future, if not with our immediate combatant, then, at least, with the people around us and around them. To refuse to demonize the enemy is to maintain strength in the fight, and to maintain more options for the future.

There is another value in refusing to demonize our opposition. When it is a principle, not a person, that we fight or stand for, we are less vulnerable to the treachery that hides behind goodness. Scoundrels seek out the blind spots that are above reproach. When we decide that a certain position in our culture, a clergy member, a medical worker, an emergency services worker, is above suspicion by virtue of that position, we set up a blind spot. When we refuse, on principle, to demonize our enemies we open ourselves to the truth that flaws can be found in our allies or friends. Rather than devastating us, this can strengthen and empower us to both survive a human betrayal and to recognize a pattern that is out of balance or should raise suspicion. It is too hard to wage a war against the people we love, but it is less draining to stand against choices, actions, and outcomes we know are wrong. It is still hard.

Joy. There are many reasons to stand up for what is right, but one of the best has to be: joy. It is good to stand up for what is right. It is satisfying to uncover the things in life that are truly worth fighting for and to take a place in that fight. It is deeply meaningful to discover our common values, to meet our comrades, our partners, and peers in the struggle for a just human community. It is a wondrous thing to recognize our common humanity in people we previously viewed as different or unrelated. There is little need to take a break from joy. Joy is a fulfilling experience and reminds us of why we cherish being human and being alive.

We arise to battle.

We are whole.

Peace of the Mountains to you!

--*Paulie Rainbow*

Founder: Denver Celtic Women's Circle

Member: Celtic Druid Temple of Ireland

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## SECRECY AND PUBLIC PROTEST

Recently, an anonymous witch put forth the idea of a global magic ritual to bind President Donald Trump and his allies, to prevent them from doing harm to the environment and individuals. Such ideas are not new. For instance, last year a group of witches hexed convicted rapist and

swimmer, Brock Turner, after his father argued that twenty years was a long time to be punished for “twenty minutes of fun,” and a judge agreed, giving Brock just six months in jail and probation. And before the advent of social media and even the internet itself, groups of witches would occasionally get together to cast spells in the public interest—for instance, decades ago, several covens cast a spell to ensure the arrest of an unknown rapist that was preying on Denver’s Capitol Hill neighborhood.

Such rituals are actually part of the DNA of modern witchcraft. Legends say that witches have gathered several times throughout history to cast spells at raiders threatening England. A tale from the Italian witchcraft lore that was in circulation before the formation of modern Wicca says that Italian witches gather together in times of need to magically correct wrongs being done to themselves. And while we know that such tales are made up to please researchers and believers, we must nevertheless acknowledge that the idea of resistance is there; and it did influence such people in the past as Gerald Gardner, the founder of modern Wicca, as well as informs the beliefs of some of today’s crop of witches. The idea that witches bind together for the greater good, or at least to protect themselves and their loved ones, is as much part of our modern practices as the wheel of the year. It may not be as widely taught today, but the traces of the idea are still there for those who decide to embrace such ideas.

Not everyone embraces such ideas. One of the reactions to the global binding of Trump, as well as the cursing of Brock Turner, was an outcry that real witches would never do such a thing. The most extreme reaction (outside of some trollish Christians who declared that this is why they support burning witches) was self-proclaimed authorities declaring that such spells violate the “harm none” law of Wicca and witchcraft, and that such spells are actually black magic.

Personally, I find it interesting that people line up to scream (figuratively, that is—though they might actually be screaming at their keyboards as they type) that such rituals are a form of harm to those that are being bound and cursed. Stop and think about it for a second. By invoking “harm none,” these critics of such binding rituals are arguing that the predators are allowed to continue doing whatever they like because the act of binding them actually harms them. In other words, they are more concerned that the predator will be harmed than they are about what harm the predator is inflicting on others.

Now, I will admit that in the case of binding President Trump, that such a discussion would be completely appropriate. After all, Trump is the President, and has been properly elected to represent the concerns and needs of the American people. And while many people loathe the man, and perhaps think that his policies and decisions are bad for everyone, not everyone feels that way—there are actually people who love our President and think that he is the best President that the United States has ever had. In the case of Trump, one is not merely binding a man in a limited way, but they are potentially preventing good that he might enable for some people. If one is honest, one must admit that for every person that Trump hurts, that he might be helping millions of other people. (Of course, the keyword in that sentence is “might”—the happy little cynic who says that Trump is only helping Trump himself could also be correct.) So in the case of binding Trump, one ends up using a slide rule and judging how much harm is allowed to be done to one set of people, or the environment, in exchange for how much benefit to another set of people, while arguing about what section of the population is actually the most important for the health of the nation and possibly, the world.

As a result, one could claim that the binding of Trump is pure black magic, and that all the witches taking part are crypto-fascists hell-bent to overthrow the sovereignty of the United States to hasten the day when we are controlled by a one-world government; in essence, cursing the entire United States. (Some of my readers may think that I am making that bit up—nope, that was the

actual reaction of one ceremonial magician who declared that he had been “secretly organizing” a resistance to the binding [hmmm, given his past behavior, that “secretly organizing” claim is just him being unwilling to admit that he is so out of the loop that his least favorite critic actually blogged about the ritual before he, the brightest light in modern occultism, heard about it], and that the resistance would be organized around the astral Liberty Tree with him leading the patriots on the astral while his wife, the mighty Witch Queen [again, his words, not mine] would be organizing the physical end of the counter ritual.) The amount of harm being done by Trump is all in the eye of the beholder, and the internet, predictably, was abuzz with arguments about whether or not he was actually harming America.

But the most interesting reaction was those who declared that the very announcement of the ritual was a mistake, for it violated one of the most holy principles of witchcraft, the virtue of silence—and that it gave notice to the enemy who could easily short-circuit the ritual, as well as muddling up the working itself with too many amateur witches. This response, in my less than humble opinion, overlooks what the global binding ritual of Trump was really about. The truth of the matter is that secrecy does play a part in rituals. The binding of Trump is not the first ritual performed in modern times against a political leader—other leaders have gotten on the wrong side of witches and magicians—but a lot of these rituals have been secret with just a small group involved. So why was this binding ritual announced and spread though social media? Because the ritual was not meant to be secret—in fact, the knowledge of its existence was the real magic of the ritual, not any binding effects that it would have on Trump and his supporters.

In other words, the global binding ritual was meant to attract attention of social media, and in turn, the free press. And it worked. Attention was paid.

One of the things overlooked often by the modern generation of witches, especially those who are ignorant of Wicca’s British history, is the fact that Wicca always had one foot out, trying to get into the limelight. Gerald Gardner, Aleister Crowley (like him or hate him, he influenced Wicca), Alex Sanders and his wife, Maxine, as well as Sybil Leek, were all attention whores (so to speak). They wrote books and articles, gave interviews, encouraged newspaper and magazine articles, appeared on television—they were the original Big Name Witches. For them, publicity and public attention was good—they pursued publicity for fun and profit.

What these early BNWs knew was that a tiny religion can get a lot of attention by being “dangerous.” Their opinions on religion and spirituality could get far more interest than the actual number of witches merited, by being outrageous. It was guerrilla marketing for the ideas and opinions of witches, a tactic of getting heard in a world that is full of other ideas.

And that, in my opinion, is what the public binding of Trump is really about—getting heard. It is about drawing attention to the possibility that perhaps Trump is bad news for everyone, other than himself, his nearest friends and their business interests—and that his values do not reflect the values of everyone. Modern Wicca and witchcraft with our values of common decency and environmental concern simply does not reflect the values that the Trump administration embodies, and we need to have our voices heard.

And this ritual, like it or not, will continue to draw attention in the future, for it is scheduled for every last quarter crescent moon between now and when Trump finally leaves office. The ritual will be a periodic reminder that not everyone is happy with a Trump presidency, and that some of those people call themselves witches and magicians.

### **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](#); [Gleanings 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>

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## 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](http://www.turtlemonkeybooks.com)

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## 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](http://www.meetup.com/EarthTemple).

Ritual dates 2017

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*

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## 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](mailto:teal.cuttlefish@gmail.com); Catherine's e-mail address is [fionnula.harp@gmail.com](mailto:fionnula.harp@gmail.com).

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## 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](mailto: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**

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, and how busy everyone is around the end of the year, we will not have an Open Full Moon on that date.*