



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### DECEMBER 29, 2017 OPEN FULL MOON

Hearthstone meets the Friday before or the Friday of the Full Moon in the Library Room at the **Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality, 1400 Williams St., Denver, CO.** The Althea Center is easy to find, exactly four blocks east of our previous location. Enter through the Main Door at the corner of Williams St. and 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. **The door opens at 7:00 pm, and we must lock the door at 7:30 to secure the building.** Please be prompt as we don't want you to be locked out! This month's ritual is Friday, December 29, 2017.

On Friday December 29, Deb and Cynthia of the Hearthstone Board will be facilitating the Hearthstone Open Full Moon. Please join us as we worship the Goddess and the God. We hope to see you there.

---Catherine

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### GREETINGS

Yule has come and gone and it's COLD! As I've probably mentioned before I have a really old house and it's drafty. Both my elderly dog and I have been feeling the cold. Luckily, I have lots of blankets. It's really nice to snuggle up in blankets with the addition of a dog. Somehow even the coldest night is better then. Of course, when the dog wakes up at 7:00 a.m. and stands on your chest while insisting that she must be fed now, it dissipates that cozy feeling.

I don't have much to say in this newsletter. Between the holidays and Orpheus rehearsals, I haven't had much time to muse over anything. I'll just say Happy New Year to all of you!

Blessings,

—Catherine

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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 confuses or 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 discuss it with the ritual leaders or one of the Board members (Catherine, Arynne, Morgan, Amy, Cynthia, and Deb) so that we may hopefully resolve and heal your concern.

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### THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

For our early December Open Full Moon, Hearthstone offers our gratitude to Martin and Carri of the Alexandria Temple of Universal Metaphysics (ATUM). Carri and Martin are priestess and priest, and also pagan prison chaplains serving prisoners in Colorado since 1997!

For our Hearthstone community, they offered a traditional Wiccan Full Moon ritual including a Drawing Down of the Goddess. After cleansing, casting, and calling, they invited the Lady of the Full Moon and the Horned Lord of Winter. Martin led us in his renowned relaxation & grounding meditation -- always a treat! He brings us into deep relaxation, calm, serenity, peace, and balance using conscious breathing with intention.

Carri explained the current astrology and the significance of the supermoon. She emphasized that each person has their unique path to the Divine. Martin and Carri explained Drawing Down, then commenced the process. The Goddess spoke to the group of Her love for each and every one of us, then individuals were invited to speak with Her privately. When all who wished to speak with Her were finished, then the Drawing was ended, cakes were blessed, and Circle opened.

Thank you, Martin and Carri, for sharing your gifts and your service with all of us at Hearthstone!

---Arynn

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## ON DONATIONS

Hearthstone's primary expense is leasing the space for our monthly Open Full Moon rituals. Your donations to Hearthstone (and other Pagan organizations) make the difference between failing and thriving, as well as assure the organizers that our efforts are of value to you. We encourage you to donate to Hearthstone or to the organization of your choice.

We appreciate that many of you do donate to Hearthstone. Thank you! **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 don't collect at the door, and no one will be turned away for not having a donation. However, we *suggest* a donation of 5 to 10 dollars per person. If you can't afford it, you are still welcome. If you can afford more, we'll be delighted to accept it.

Hearthstone is registered as a church and your donations to Hearthstone are **tax deductible**. If you wish, you can write a check so you can keep track of your donations.

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## NEW LOCATION FOR HEARTHSTONE OPEN FULL MOON RITUALS

Hearthstone is now meeting in the Library Room at the Althea Center for Engaged Spirituality, 1400 Williams St., Denver, CO. It's simple to find, exactly four blocks east from our previous location. Enter through the Main Doors at the NE corner of East 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Williams St. There are two small parking lots on the north and east sides of the building. Because there is no building representative present, we must lock the doors at 7:30 PM. Come join us! We will meet for OFMs at the Althea Center well into 2018.

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## 12<sup>TH</sup> NIGHT: A YULE CONCERT AND VIKING FEAST ORPHEUS PAGAN CHAMBER CHOIR

The deadline for Orpheus' 12th Night 2018 concert and feast has arrived! Reservations must be made by Wednesday, January 3, or it will be too late. Don't miss this wonderful event!

With a new home and a sparked up menu, this year's 12th Night with Orpheus will be better than ever!

Renovations at Jeffco Fairgrounds sent us searching and we've come up with a gem! The beautiful Rosa Auditorium at Skyview/Academy High School is a state of the art theater with lots of comfortable cushioned seating, excellent sight-lines and sound, plenty of free parking, and easy access for the disabled.

The sparkling new banquet hall is huge, so we'll all be feasting together in one wonderful place. And we're working with our amazing caterer to add some twists to our traditional menu.

All this, and all the exceptional music and joyful camaraderie that makes 12th Night with Orpheus such a unique experience!

Skyview High School, also known as Academy High School, is easily reached from all metro Denver highways: I-25, I-76, I-270, I-70 and Route 36.

Prices are \$55 per person and \$495 for a party table of 10.

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## **Cat & Dog Spay/Neuter Clinics**

<http://www.ddfl.org/spayneuter/>

Hearthstone cares about pet overpopulation! The Denver Dumb Friends League (DDFL) cares too, and through generous grants and donors, they offer **FREE cat spay/neuter surgeries** to anyone regardless of income. DDFL also offers **\$50 dog spay/neuter surgeries to lower-income dog owners**. The details, locations, and qualifications are at their web site above. It takes ALL of us to reduce the overpopulation problem and move toward a world where all pets are wanted and cared for. Thank you!

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## **Grianstad an Yeerig - Winter Sun Standing**

I admit it, I am slaughtering the spelling of the Irish language, just so that you have a chance of hearing it in your head. It's pronounced gree-in-stahd un yee-rig. It's actually spelled: Grianstad an Gheimhridh. You can see why I cheated.

It's because I just want to share it with you.

I am continually seeking the balance between a clear and accurate practice and a practice that embodies the triad of Coir: Truth, Hospitality, Right Action.

It is hospitality that wins out on the Winter Solstice. In our household, the day is a ritual dedicated to hospitality. We begin with the lighting of the sun candle in the dark, and honoring the Gods and ancestors. We welcome the light of the sun into our home.

And then we cook.

The house fills up with warmth, steam, floating scents of good food, and we are super excited when the first guest comes across the threshold. We never know who it will be, or even when it will be. Our celebration is an Open House with a time range, rather than an appointment. People arrive when it suits them, and the combinations that are formed by coincidence add as much to the day as any other element.

If they come early enough, we might only have coffee and bread ready, but for our loved ones whose busy day will not allow them to arrive after noon, they know.

The bread is good enough, I'm constantly asked for the recipe! But the soups are good also, and the colcannon, which is traditionally a Samhain dish, but is too good to be limited to that!

You may have noticed a theme; we serve real food. My prohibition on sweets is sometimes overturned by hospitality; if a guest shows up with cookies, they are graciously added to the table! But the intention of the day is to truly nourish, to fortify, to ground at a time when the world seems windswept and stressful.

And when the sun goes down we light the house with candles, in every room, every corner. There's Irish harp music, classical music, and some Pagan favorites playing in the background. People eat, people talk, if they want to, they sing, or play. They stay as long as they want to, imitating the sun.

Because the sun seems to stand still for the days around the solstice. For most people it is difficult to tell the difference between the day before, the day of, and the day after the Solstice. They are only seconds different in length, only degrees different on the horizon. The sun, which has been marching south, seems to stand still for just a little bit, before it begins its march north.

And so we encourage our guests to do the same: just stop for a moment and be nourished, welcomed, and rested. The coldest months are still ahead of us, but the darkness will lift. So, fill your mug with tea, or spiced cider, or hot coffee, fill your plate with good food.

The triad of hospitality is: Generosity, Friendliness, Welcome. This is the spirit of the day.

And when the last guest leaves, when we offer our thanks to the day, to the Gods, and to our ancestors, when the food is secured and the last candle is extinguished, our house is so full of the blessings that come from hospitality that it is as if it were entirely renewed. The structure itself seems to be changed by love and welcome.

As we move forward from this day, into the rest of the year, I hope to continue to share these precious and nourishing traditions with you. This is a life worth living.

Peace of the mountains to you,

Paulie Rainbow

founder: the Denver Celtic Women's Circle

author: the Colorado Celtic Weekly Planner 2018

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## **Oh let us judge ourselves in a scale of impossible achievement**

And so we find ourselves at the end of another year. Or as I like to call it, "That period of harsh self-judgment that is worse than the everyday version and makes you wonder why you even bother to get up in the morning."

I sometimes wonder if other people have this year-end accounting period and self-evaluation. And if so, is it their mother's voice that they hear. Do any of us judge ourselves harshly for our failures? Or is it the echoes of the voices of our most critical relatives?

In my case, it is my mother's voice. She was the one that always disapproved of everything I have ever said and done. It took me years to realize that it was her voice, not mine, that was judging me for failing to accomplish the impossible.

I never had this intense year-end bout of self-judgement and depression when I was still a kid. It only showed up after I moved away from home. There is a reason for this – I was judged unworthy of existence every damn day that I lived with her. I did not need to make up for the lack of judgement at the end of the year – for I had consumed my daily allowance of disapproval each and every day of the year.

Today, I can go whole days without judging myself. Sometimes I can even string several days together. And once I had an entire week where I did not judge myself harshly. I am no longer taking the daily harsh judgement vitamin supplement.

Therefore, I have to make up for this at the end of the year. It is like having scurvy. But without the necessity of taking a long boat ride. What is scurvy? I don't know. But I have just received a billion million "I am unworthy" points for not knowing.

Over the years, I have developed coping mechanisms for dealing with my harsh self-judgment. One of these is to assume that other people disapprove of whatever I am currently doing. For instance, I just assume that this column will not be printed in the newsletter – that the editor is going to have fair higher standards than I do, and is wisely going to say, "This has nothing to do with Wicca; and therefore, it will not be published." The editor will say this in a posh English accent. It does not matter that the newsletter editor does not have a British accent – in my head, they do.

Every month, I start off with a list of things I might write about for the newsletter. Joys of having kittens. How binding hurtful people is not black magic. Why we need the concept of the three-fold law, despite the fact that I really don't believe in it. After writing down a godzillion ideas, I disregard the whole list and proceed to the next stage of the process.

This stage is called "writer's block." It involves opening up Word a couple of times a day, staring at the black document for ten – fifteen minutes before closing it. This is the entire week before the official deadline for the newsletter article. Open – stare – close. Open – stare – close. Open – stare – close. This is done until we are well past the deadline.

At this point, we can finally enter the final stage of the writing process. This is the "Any words on any subject is good because there is space to be filled." Having tossed out all the ideas I had over the space of the month, I proceed to randomly pick a topic. And then I rapidly write stream-of-consciousness until I fill a page or two, before sending to the editor without reading what I have written...because if I actually read what I have written, I will never send it off. My own harsh editor, who speaks in my mother's voice, had already rejected the article – sight unread.

This method of production is used for all my writing. Blogging, actual journalism, short stories, etc. I only send the writing out into the world where there is no more time to write anything else – and most importantly, there is a blank space that I am supposed to be filling with words. This is why you will never see me write an entire novel, or a Llewellyn book. I am capable of writing short stuff only – the longer stuff is automatically stamped "Rejected for not being good enough."

In many cases, I do not need to write a single word to get this esteemed award. At the end of every year, I make a list of projects that I might work on in the coming year. Projects that will never be finished because I am unworthy of doing them.

For instance, I have kicked around creating a dictionary of American Sign Language signs for Wicca. A dictionary for all those specialty terms that I do not want to sign letter by letter ... mainly, because I am not sure how they are spelled. Signs for things, such as the eight Sabbats. Surely, they are signs for these holidays. "Gee, it is so cold that my arm froze and shattered." There should be a way to sum this up without having to spell it all out. Besides, I am horrible at reading spelling. I mix up the letters in my head, and get something that looks like the name of a super-villain. So if someone sign-spells something at me, I have no idea what they just said. I am like a really dumb dog that has not learned that B-A-T-H means that there is a chance that I am about to be drowned for digging up the lawn.

But the most serious reason for not doing this project comes directly from that voice in my head that sounds exactly like my mother. Let us listen in. "That project is fair too complicated for someone of your mental abilities. You failed high school – have you forgotten that? And shouldn't this project be done by someone who knows more sign language than you do. What sign language do you know?"

Oh, yeah, you can make the sign for 'wanker.' That is hardly useful. And how are you going to find out this information? Google it? And even if you do the project, there is no need for it. How many deaf people do you see in circle? Just because you once met a deaf person at a ritual, it does not mean that there are more of them who would be interested in your silly fake religion. Furthermore, you are a loony. If this project is going to be done, it should be done by someone who is an authority in Wicca – someone respected....”

And now you know why I have never completed a long project in my entire life. For I do not have the emotional fortitude to withstand such criticism for an extended time period. And the longer I avoid paying attention to it over the space of the year, the worse it is at the end of the year. Does anyone know the signs for “My mother’s disapproval is haunting me”?

### **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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## **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).

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

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## **WHOM TO CONTACT**

For Pagan or Wiccan clergy or for any other Hearthstone business, please contact Catherine by phone or email, or contact Arynne by email. Catherine’s phone number is 303-886-7067, and her e-mail address is [fionnula.harp@gmail.com](mailto:fionnula.harp@gmail.com). If you would like to officiate at a future Open Full Moon, please contact Arynne at [ArynneD@aol.com](mailto:ArynneD@aol.com). At this point we have ritual leaders scheduled for all of 2018! Thank you all for volunteering your talents!

Hearthstone Community Church has an active website at <http://hearthstone.fnorky.com> where our dates and newsletters are posted monthly. You can contact us through our web site. Hearthstone also has a Facebook page.

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## **GUEST COLUMNS?**

If you have something to say, and are willing to let Catherine and Arynne edit it slightly, (generally for grammar and spelling: Catherine has been known to grammar-check television

commercials) 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. We appreciate our contributors!

This newsletter is for Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. of Denver, Colorado. Editor and Publisher: Catherine Mock.

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### **Upcoming Hearthstone Open Full Moon Dates**

December 29, 2017

January 26, 2018

February 23, 2018

March 30, 2018

April 27, 2018