



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



MARCH 30, 2018 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. There are two small parking lots on the north and east sides of the building; each holds 20 cars. Enter through the Main Door at the corner of Williams St. and 14th 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, March 30, 2018.

On Friday March 30, 2018, Circle of Light and Shadow will be presenting a ritual focused on removing and healing the injury that we inflict on ourselves through negative self-talk and beliefs. This ritual will promote change and transformation, opening the way for a more positive and healthy view of yourself. This ritual is open and appropriate for all ages. The Circle of Light and Shadow looks forward to seeing you there.

---Catherine

GREETINGS

Well, our roller coaster weather continues. At the end of last week, it was warm enough to need my fan at work. Of course, that is not actually an unusual circumstance. I work in an old building with HVAC which is not up to keeping everyone cool or warm. We can't have heaters because they are too big a draw on the electrical system, but the clever electronics elves in the world have figured out that fans can be developed that plug into USB ports. Thus, I stay cool when others are sweltering. When they are cold – well, I can turn off the fan.

I've spent a good deal of time working with Orpheus to get our family concert ready to present in April (April 7th!) as well as working on music for the May 12th concert. Part of my prep for the May concert involves deciphering the mysteries of Irish Gaelic pronunciation. Working through the pronunciation has re-awakened my interest in the language – which is not easy. Unlike the languages I've taken before, the verbs come at the beginning! In Spanish, French, and Italian, they're tucked carefully into the middle of the sentence. In German, they come in the middle – and at the end! Since I continue to practice my Spanish, this can lead to some confusion. Not to mention when competing with the German songs I'm also singing lately.

It looks like language is going to be part of my "garden" for the year.

Various experts like to opine that learning languages helps to keep the mind active as we age. They help to keep our minds active and flexible. If so, I suspect I may continue to have a very active and flexible mind. What fun to use a word from one language because English doesn't have one that means quite the same thing. Crossword puzzles become more fun because I don't have to look up clues that involve languages. I'm looking forward to seeing how my garden grows this year. Meanwhile, I'll practice Spanish with the cafeteria cook here at work, and practice my Irish and German through singing. I suppose I may even have time to keep up with English.

Blessings on this time of growth,

---Catherine

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.

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

We thank Paulie Rainbow and Kellene of The Denver Celtic Women's Circle for bringing to Hearthstone a lovely ritual of blessing for our late-Feb. Open Full Moon. Paulie explained that the Celts were people of many skills, who valued skilled work. As their Goddess, Brigid is known as a Goddess of many skills. In alignment, this rite was designed to allow each of us to dedicate our own work or endeavor to deity.

Circle was cast hand-to-hand. The flame of Ireland was kindled, and Kellene invoked the gifts of Ireland. Then around the Circle, each person in turn spoke and dedicated their work to deity, speaking to the person to their left, who responded: The blessing of Brigid on your work. (Paulie taught us to say that in Gaelic, but...don't ask me, you'll have to ask her and Kellene.)* Cookies and juice were blessed and shared by all.

Thank you, Paulie and Kellene, for annually offering to the Hearthstone community a ritual notable for its atmosphere of gentleness, peace, respect, and blessing! Blessed be!

Note: Paulie is a Certified Native Plant Master through CSU and offers local Celtic plant walks.

---Arynne

**"Bail ó Brighid ar an obair."* (byle oh breed un ubber) – Catherine

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 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 Community Church, Inc. 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.

HEROES!

I believe I may have mentioned something about concerts coming up? Here's more information!

Orpheus in the Underworld

An epic telling of the myth of Orpheus
with music, dance and narration

Let us enchant your family with Orpheus in the Underworld, an epic re-telling of the life of Orpheus, our own patron hero. With music, dance, & narration, this hour-long event tells of his magical birth, his heroic travels with Jason and the Argonauts, his perilous journey to the Underworld to save his wife, and his own tragic death. There will be plenty of surprises for your kids! (And you, too!)

Saturday, April 7th at 11:00 AM

Wash Park Center for Music & the Arts
400 S. Williams St. in Denver Water

All Children Free/Adults: \$10
All adults must be accompanied by a child
Or be a child at heart.

For complete info: www.orpheuspcc.org
We thank the SCFD for its generous support

AND

Heroes!

For our full HEROES! concert, we add legendary Celtic & Gaelic poet-warriors, kings, and the ordinary men and women of Scotland & Ireland, singing of their centuries-long battle for independence.

We begin with **Amerghin**, the legendary poet-warrior of the Gaels, whose 2nd century poem, **The Song of Amerghin**, created a uniquely Irish spirituality. We also sing **Mo Ghile Mear**, the goddess Brigid's lament for Bonnie Prince Charlie, the **Skye Boat Song**, and other thrilling music inspired by their heroism.

Saturday, May 12th at 7:30 PM
Wash Park Center for Music & the Arts
400 S. Williams St. in Denver Water

\$20 per person/\$15 Seniors & Students/Under 12 free

For complete info: www.orpheuspcc.org

Again, we thank the SCFD for its generous support

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!

ENERGY AND BALANCE

Greetings of the Equinox, Cónoch an Earraigh; as I write the balance that we seek is being expressed on the streets, on hand lettered signs, in voices raised, all across the country, and even across the world. I write this on the day that the community has risen up to March For Our Lives, and it is a beautiful thing.

There is much work to do and, thankfully, people seem energized to do it.

Energy is what is needed, and balance.

I speak from some experience. Activism has been an important part of my life from my teens onward: Gay Pride, Take Back the Night, ACT UP!, Link Arms to End the Arms Race, and many smaller moments that didn't coalesce into named movements, all the way up to the protests against the FTAA and standing at the gates of Fort Benning with so many others, demanding that our government stop training dictators to kill and torture democratic opposition. I have been thrilled with the strikingly colorful protests of the Handmaids, standing up for women's health.

Joining voices together is energizing and healing. It banishes the sense of isolation that injustice brings so keenly.

But the day ends, the sun sets, the next day begins and, in between those moments of empowerment, the weight of the problems that drove us into the streets, (or the costume shops!) can feel oppressive, even overwhelming. When we are alone with our thoughts, or our newsfeeds, many of us find a need for a sense of connection to something spiritual. I feel that this is healthy, even desirable.

Not everyone feels such a need and a person like me, drawn to spiritual practice, is well balanced out by people who need much less, or who shun religion entirely. I trust that each of us finds the way to our own balance, and that our community greatly benefits from this diversity.

But I am a religious person and I find comfort in my practices. It is a comfort that comes from years of work and hours dedicated. It is the well-worn staircase to the loft of my own consciousness, open to a loving sky.

To walk my circle or light a candle, to speak with my ancestors and Goddesses and Gods, even when I seem to hear no answers, to hike the wilderness and sit in the presence of the life there, to pause and observe the rising and the setting of the sun knowing the precious uniqueness of each day of light, these are the actions that reconnect me to my spirit in times of need and despair, not least because I have engaged in these practices repeatedly in times when my heart was untroubled, when my spirit was lightly seeking.

The buffer of my spiritual life can seem like a storehouse, as long as I have continued my seeking and my practice, as long as I have planted in the springtime, pulled weeds, provided water, remembered my tasks on the busy days as well as the lazy ones, I will have what I need on the day when I open that storehouse door and seek the sustenance I have set aside, season by season.

I am grateful for the teachers that have been there when I looked for them, who have shared techniques with me and have challenged me with tasks and exercises that opened up the path for me. And I have benefitted from every effort I have made, I have the tools I need to balance my life.

I need both kinds of empowerment, the sense of community and shared commitment, as well as the strength that I draw from time spent on the trail, or seated in front of a lit candle, or quietly honoring the sunrise.

In this beginning of the light half of the year, I hope that you find the balance that you seek and the teachers that you are looking for. I appreciate your unique contribution to our community and I am grateful to what each one of us brings to the work we have in common.

Peace of the mountains to you,

Paulie Rainbow

founder: the Denver Celtic Women's Circle

author: the Colorado Celtic Weekly Planner 2018

OH NO, IT IS THE EBOOK BASTARD

One of the joys of teaching the occult, or at least being one of the louder people in the room, is that you can install all types of silly ideas into those who accidentally come within the sound of your voice. Ideas that the rest of the occult, or at least a significant portion, will insist are really bad ideas and that the person who convinced them that these were good ideas should be flogged with an angry cat. Typically, the floggings are reserved for ideas like “Getting sponsored by a legitimate occult group is highly over-rated and may not be worth the price of having to hate the same people as the head of the sponsoring group.” No, I do not make many friends, for I am that whack job. I have made a list of things I believe that I really should not do, simply because I am one of the few that feels this way.

The other day I had to add something new to my list. Not really new—it is just that I hadn't made a certain business decision yet that puts me firmly in the “Does not believe what the majority of the occult community believes and therefore, he is really, really wrong.” Now that I have made the decision, let the flogging begin.

But long before the business decision was actually made, I was already wrong. Let me give you a quick illustration.

One of my occult writer friends recently published a new occult book and was advertising it on Facebook. I hopped over to the Amazon page to take a look. I was mildly curious, and just maybe thought that I might buy a copy to help my friend out (because I know how Amazon sales

ranking works). Yet upon learning that the book was not available in convenient and more economical eBook form, I choose to spend my money on a bundle pack about a cowboy who rides a unicorn instead. (Unicorn Western—if you are curious.) Bottom line, while I was mildly curious about my friend's book, I was not that curious.

Yes, I have become the eBook Bastard. That bastard who likes all his class handouts to be in convenient eBook form—preferably in Kindle format, thank you very much. And who plans on issuing all his future handouts on Amazon, for those people who do not live in reasonable distance of my charming voice. The bastard who believes that printed occult books, well printed books period, have become a shrinking niche market, and not worth the effort to format unless they are picture and chart books. I would totally consider buying a pop-up book; but if it is just words and a few pictures, eBooks are now my preferred format.

It is not just price, and not having to find space on a bookshelf for another book (“Look, I just brought nine novels and my Kindle is exactly the same weight as it was before I brought those books”). It is some of the stuff that I can do as an author that really makes me a supporter of eBook technology.

For those who have not seen my work, I tend to write stuff that less than a hundred people in the entire world will be interested in. The likelihood of a traditional gatekeeper publisher deciding to put my work in print is about the same as me suddenly sprouting wings and becoming an angel. And that is totally ignoring the fact that I am open about some of my opinions; you try to get a traditional occult publisher to publish your stuff when you are openly stating in your book that you are pro-pot.

The bottom line is that my stuff is only suitable for self-publication. Nevertheless, even as a self-publisher (I prefer the term “indie”), I could go the print route, as my friend did with his latest occult book. So why didn't I? Because I can do things with eBooks that I can't do with printed books.

(A quick aside—all the editing and support that a traditional publisher provides, or should provide, can be done by an indie directly, or paid for by the indie. A self-published book can be as good as a book that was vetted by a traditional gatekeeper publisher.)

For instance, I have a book (a really short book) that I have planned on expanding for years (code-named Bootstrap). To do it with a print version, I have to not only buy a proof copy (or several if I don't get it right the first time), everyone who currently has brought a copy would have to buy a new copy to read the new material added. Now, there are some that will argue that having customers buy new copies makes sound business sense. But in my mind, it doesn't.

First, there are things that I originally thought about putting in the book that I didn't...because I didn't have time. Getting the information out was more important than getting it perfect the first time. And let's be honest, the core information in the book would still not be available today if I waited for perfection. It was better to issue the information for the interested parties, and plan on updating later.

Second, I learned and developed the core idea over the last ten years since I first released the book. The readers that I would most like to read my developments are actually those who used the information in the first place. And with an eBook, I can be reasonably sure that those who brought the eBook through legitimate retailers will get the updated material. Such an immediate updating and ensuring that it gets to the people who brought the first version is easy with an eBook, and impossible with a printed book.

Third, I consider those who have used the material from the first edition of the book to be a community. I like my little community—occasionally, people thank me for releasing the information which gives a small thrill every time it happens. These are my tribe, and I don't see how

annoying them by making them buy a whole new copy at a higher price tag would be productive. (Yes, if I add a hundred pages of material, the price is so going to be increased.) I released the information because it was my solution to a reoccurring problem, a solution that I still believe in. Updating the existing eBook, rather than creating a whole new edition, is more supportive of the idea and the community that uses the idea than being a writer scrabbling after nickels and dimes.

(Another aside—yes, I know that there are those who believe that if I were really supportive of the occult community that I would just release the information for free and not charge a dime for it. To these critics, I would like to point out that I am a professional writer and what I am charging is far less than what the some legitimate occult leaders charge for their support. On the day that the world abolishes money and everyone gets a guaranteed livelihood, I will quit charging; but until then, I have bills to pay.)

Fourth and most importantly, by updating the eBook and not creating a new listing, I get to keep all the existing links to the book. And the work I have done over the years to promote the book (blog posts and linking to the sales page) carries over to the new expanded version. I don't lose my current sales numbers, and get to add to them instead. Try doing that with a new print edition that is a hundred pages longer and is essentially a brand new book.

And that is the crux of the matter, I can do things with eBooks that I simply could never do as a writer with printed books. It does not matter that “Real books are made with paper” and that “One should not never use a Kindle while performing ritual”; what matters is that eBooks allow me to give my customers a better experience.

Because of that, I am truly that Ebook Bastard.

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 book series

Turtle Monkey is a read to me book series. It's printed in the font in which children are taught to read and write. There's just enough pictures to hold their attention while being read to before they eventually read the books on their own prior to tackling chapter books. 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. Join us as Turtle Monkey learns about the world and how to cope with challenges. www.turtlemonkeybooks.com

Now available at Amazon: ***APPROACHING DARKNESS***. This is an anthology of twelve short stories. Some are horror, some are bizarre, and some are unnerving. These stories will make you look under the bed and keep your feet from dangling over the edge at night. Read as a child fends off a horror from beyond the grave with just a nightlight, listen in as Gods debate the future of humankind, or root for twins who battle a lady made of plants. Written by Jo Fontana under A. J. Hallows, one of her many pen names.
Print book available on Amazon at:

https://www.amazon.com/Approaching-Darkness-J-Hallows/dp/197915001X/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1516143137&sr=8-4&keywords=Approaching+Darkness

It's here! ***THE EGG QUEST***. Book One of the Demon Coast series by Jo Fontana & Teresa Horton.

Reyden Frost leaves the sanctuary of the library to experience the world, despite the advice of Master Levik. His focus, a petrified egg, is stolen by a mysterious criminal his first night in the town of Hollow Harbor. Reyden reluctantly joins forces with a man of the law and another magic worker who was also a victim of the thief. The chase takes them across the continent of Ator, gathering new companions along the way. Will Reyden's past interfere with his future, or will he overcome it on the journey to retrieve the egg?

Print book available on Amazon at:

https://www.amazon.com/Egg-Quest-Demon-Coast/dp/198354714X/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1518571543&sr=8-2&keywords=The+egg+quest

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 have a NEW start time for most rituals this year. Please arrive at the store between 6:30 and 7:00 pm, since the store closes and the door locks right at 7. Hope you can join us!

Apr 14
May 12
June 16
July 14
Aug 11
Sep 8
Oct 6
Nov 3
Dec 8

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

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. If you would like to officiate at a future Open Full Moon, please contact Arynne at 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 a 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.

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. 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

March 30, 2018
April 27, 2018
May 25, 2018
June 22, 2018
July 27, 2018
August 24, 2018
September 21, 2018
October 19, 2018
November 16, 2018
December 21, 2018