



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



APRIL 27, 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, April 27, 2018.

Our April 27, 2018 ritual will be led by Amy Harper, aka NyteRose. We will take a brief look at April's Pink Moon in Scorpio, what that energy can mean, and ways to make it useful. According to folklore, the period from the full Moon through the last quarter of the Moon is the best time for killing weeds, thinning, pruning, mowing, cutting timber, and planting below-ground crops. This can also be true for weeding the things in our lives that no longer have a place or are no longer a positive influence. We will take a look at these things and what to do about them in order to continue along our paths in the way that suits us best.

----*Catherine*

GREETINGS

About the middle of March, I finally gave in to temptation and ordered one of those DNA kits from Ancestry.com. I haven't heard back on the results yet (it takes about 6-8 weeks), but in the meantime, I have been exploring my family tree. I have a little bit of a headstart: My Uncle LeRoy traced back several lines on my father's side. My cousin Shari did the same thing on my mother's side. From the little I can do without going to the actual sources (or paying for an Ancestry membership), I have a very mixed, Northern European, background. I knew about the German side – LeRoy traced that back to the 1600s. There are also Dutch, English and Scots ancestors in that mix.

On my mother's side, it's all Swedes. Those are the ones Shari found. I've found that tracing those folks back is a little harder. Scandinavians used the father's name, with a designation of "son" or "dotter". So, often all I can extrapolate from a grandparent or great-grandparent is the father's first name.

Doing the family tree is a little like a game: is this the right person? Do the dates match? How about the places? It's a puzzle to solve. The website tries to "help" by giving suggestions, however, some of those parental suggestions involve a person who was born a year or two after the child.

I don't really think any of it is terribly, terribly important. I may find some cousins I didn't know I had; I may not. It is a great way to personalize history.

I got to do some other decision-making this month. I was once again called for jury duty and this time I got on to a jury and it did not plea bargain while I was at lunch. It was interesting; it was also long and tedious. Three days in an oddly-lit courtroom (some really bright lights and some dimmer), looking at exhibits and listening to lawyers insisting on their viewpoint. I won't tell you

how it turned out – except that we all argued strongly when we were deliberating. The attorney who had the best argument won.

So one way or another, I made judgements this week. Some were important in the present to several people; some were just interesting to me. I still don't know which is more important.

–*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 Tip our Hat this month to the coven and students of the Circle of Light and Shadow, who led Hearthstone's late March Open Full Moon ritual on the eve of the Full Moon.

Participants were guided through a grounding exercise, then Circle was cleansed, cast, and Elements called. The deities invoked were Asclepius, the ancient Greek god of medicine, and his daughter. This rite's intent was to bring healing to ourselves and dispel negative self-talk.

We were given time for contemplation to choose the negative message, word, or phrase we wanted to release, asking our inner wisdom to show us which self-message most limits our energy, willpower, and confidence. We each wrote this down on dissolvable paper. Then one at a time we stepped up to the altar to release it into a large bowl of water and be cleansed with incense, blessed with fragrant mist, and receive a stone. Wellyssa, high priestess, held each person's hand and spoke a whispered message to each participant.

Cakes and juice were shared, then Elements and Deities were thanked and released.

We thank Amethyst and Lupine who led the ritual, and their covenmates and COLS students who assisted. Thank you for your efforts to offer us this opportunity for healing and inner peace. Blessed Be to all!

---*Arynne*

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 a concert coming up? The Family Concert in April went wonderfully. Now we present the full version.

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.

For the second act, we will expand on
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.

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!

ANCESTRY

There's no sense wearing rose-colored glasses at the altar of our ancestors. They were human, after all, as human as we are.

Yet, stop for a moment and consider how incredibly lucky we are to be here. Or, as Monty Python put it in the Galaxy Song, "So remember, when you're feeling very small and insecure, How amazingly unlikely is your birth" Because it is. We are each, entirely unique, a one-off event in a moment in time that will pass in less than a blink of the Universe's eye. We are precious and so incredibly temporary.

So, whether they were honorable, or they were scoundrels, whether they would approve of us, or we would approve of them, it is the lives and survival of our ancestors that has created this chance opportunity of our existence and we have inherited from them much more than we know.

Who but our ancestors can provide us with the guidance we need to deal with the inheritance that they gave us? Whatever our shortcomings, we likely have predecessors that bequeathed them to us. Our strengths are as likely to be a hand-me-downs as well.

And trauma. My family is mainly from Ireland where one out of every eight persons is estimated to have died during the "Great Famine." Another million, some of my ancestors among them, fled their country for opportunity elsewhere. Roman crucifixion terrorized Europe, as it was designed to, leaving cultural scars that were passed along through the generations. With what little we know of so-called prehistory, the movements of cultures, technologies, and DNA across the world, we likely carry ancient scars unknown, in our own psyches, because not all of that exchange would have been bloodless or peaceful. People die, and every death matters to someone.

And what of the scars of the perpetrators? Anyone who walks very long on a spiritual path knows how much we are burdened by our own wrongdoing, we are changed by witnessing our own carelessness, cruelty, dishonesty. When we seek to mend the tears we have rent in friendship or community, we seek also to mend the damage we have done to ourselves. Can we mend the damage of our inheritance? The very land that we stand on is soaked in blood and suffering.

We stand on land that was taken by force. We stand in the echoes of such bitter sentiments that we would be disturbed to hear the words aloud today. Like the words of Colonel John Chivington, ordained Methodist minister and author of the 1864 Sand Creek massacre, "Damn any man who sympathizes with Indians ... Kill and scalp all, big and little; nits make lice." It was a popular sentiment among the settlers that preceded us in this city. We stand amid ghosts of bitterness, and violence.

And so what are we to bring to the altar of our ancestors, if we are to leave behind false romanticism and still celebrate the wonder of our existence?

I suggest that we bring gratitude; it's a natural and positive reaction to the happy accident of our birth. We live in a world that has sunsets and chocolate, native flowers and honeybees, and sex, and friendship, and any and all other experiences that depend entirely on our human senses for appreciation. Gratitude is a good place to start as it implies not only thankfulness but awareness, a wakefulness to that which is good. My own path requires a wakefulness. To be grateful that circumstance brought me into being does not require approval of the wrongdoing of the people who preceded me. An English proverb that dates back to 1546 says "It is an ill wind that blows no good," referencing the fact that misfortune for one will likely bring good to another. It is rare that anything is either all good or all bad.

Next we can bring healing. This life is our turn, it is our opportunity to do our best, to choose our own best path, our own highest good. As the Indigo Girls said in the song "Galileo," "But then again it feels like some sort of inspiration, To let the next life off the hook..." Yet we are magicians of a spiritual order, why only pass the good forward when we can heal the past by dealing with the scars and darkness that we have inherited? We have, as a community, the resources that we need to mend some of the tears in community, in human relationship. We can choose to make a difference.

And we take that difference back to the altar of our ancestors. Out of all that they were, this is what we have become. I want the descendent who honors them to be the best, or at least to be good, to be honorable, to be growing. I want to trust myself to follow the best path that I can in my present tense, while still paying homage to the footsteps that brought me here. So, finally, what we bring is honor, not just whatever honor we have inherited, but whatever honor we can live.

Let me be the best human I can be today. And when I approach the altar of my ancestors, may I leave behind falseness, and bring gratitude, healing, and honor. May I pay tribute to the humans of the past with the actions and magic of the present. I am the best offering that I have to give...although a little chocolate couldn't hurt!

Peace of the mountains to you,

Paulie Rainbow

founder: the Denver Celtic Women's Circle

author: the Colorado Celtic Weekly Planner 2018

Should Initiates in Training be required to do public ritual?

Much of what I would include in a course on Wicca falls into the category of "Other people do not require that, so why do you?" I have been told that all the astrology, all the Golden Dawn, all the history (think Ronald Hutton and his ilk) that I would include is unnecessary and quite frankly, other people are not testing on it, so why should I be allowed to test people on their knowledge of such nonsense. In other words, for a small minimum fee, I should issue a piece of paper saying that a person is fully trained, and not test them on a damn thing. As if my Virgo sun would allow such a thing to happen.

My logic for including such stuff in any course that I teach is simple—it is what I know.

(Again, I am not actually going to teach a course on Wicca; I am just using this idea to explore the question of "What things should a properly trained witch know?")

Now one of the no-brainers, one of the requirements that I would shove in, for those who would be aiming to get a shiny bit of paper saying that they actually know something about Wicca, is the performance of public ritual.

For me, this is a no-brainer. Everyone who wants to have a degree in Wicca must, in my head, be required to do a certain amount of public ritual during their course work. For most of the people reading this newsletter column, performance of public ritual is do-able—performing public ritual is scary the first time, but you know it can be done because you have seen many people do it. In fact, if you are reading this newsletter column in its original issue, there is a good chance that you saw someone perform a public ritual to check off that box for some course or another.

If you are reading this column after it has been reprinted (either on my blog or in the collected article ebook), then there is actually a chance that I have just mentioned something that is totally undo-able.

It has taken me awhile to realize that there are places in the world where no one has ever done a public Wiccan ritual. That what for me is the one no-brainer that everyone should agree with, is in reality, a sure way to ensure that no one gets that coveted piece of paper if they happen to live in one of those areas.

(Let's pretend that the training I would provide is actually worth something, shall we?)

Now, part of my blindness here is due to the fact that I had an aunt who was into Wicca and witchcraft during the sixties and seventies, an aunt who had no problem talking about such matters in front of her nephew. I think that being a performer (ok, I just like being the center of attention) also has something to do with it.

But hands down, the biggest reason that I am blind to the difficulties faced by people in other regions is the simple fact that I have spent my entire occult career...life...period of annoying others...in the Denver Wiccan community. I simply do not think about how odd our community is, compared to other areas of the world.

By the time, I joined the Denver occult community in 1984, there was already an undertow that inclined people to do public ritual. An undertow that has gotten stronger over the years. An undertow that is not necessarily present, or even possible, in other regions.

One of the standard parts of a Denver witch being trained in the ways of Wicca, preparing for a degree, is the performance of public ritual. In many cases, it is a "This is how I was taught—therefore, it is how I am teaching my own students." I am fairly sure that it was Judith Brownlee that started this trend, but I could be wrong—it might just be a coincidence that so many students trained by her, and by her students, have embraced public ritual performance.

And the reason that it could become a standard is the simple fact that the Denver community has places to do public Wiccan ritual. In fact, there is a chance that you met your teacher at a public ritual.

But when I mention this online, among people in less open-minded communities (or worse, communities that are nothing but infighting and clichés), the idea of doing public ritual is like me trotting out a three-headed goat. People are perhaps intrigued by the concept, but have absolutely no idea how to go about creating the necessary community to allow it to happen. It could be high energy DNA laser manipulation as far as some communities are concerned.

Yet, this is one of the things that I would insist on. I live in a community that has several shops and organizations that cater to such a concept. This is how I was trained. And so it goes.

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!

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

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