



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



SEPTEMBER 21, 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**. There are two small parking lots, to the north (next to the building) and east of the building (across the alley), each with spaces for 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, Sept. 21, 2018.

This month, the Full Moon roughly coincides with the major Sabbat Festival of Mabon, the Second Harvest. This makes the Full Moon Esbat and the Sabbat especially meaningful, as each boosts and supports the other, as we celebrate the Bounty of the Earth and the fullness of our lives. Please join with Carri & Martin of the Alexandria Temple as we worship together and celebrate this Esbat and Sabbat festival with a Traditional Wiccan worship, a seasonal meditation, and juice and gluten free cookies. There will be a Drawing Down, followed by fellowship and conversation.

---Catherine

GREETINGS

Wow! Mabon! Of course, we are in still in what feels like summer: Ninety-degree temperatures abound. My yard looks like a forest – many people might call the ground cover “weeds.” I prefer to think of it as xeric. After all, I haven't actually watered the yard in years.

Like many people, I spent much of the summer reading light-weight fiction. It's as though we have too much going on in the world to add thoughtful books to the mix. I've become fond of “cozy mystery/fantasies.” They generally involve a 20-something witch in the Samantha Stevens' mold, at least one outrageous elder relative, an incredibly handsome boyfriend, and magic that could never happen in the real world. The books are great ways to escape the heat, knowing that they have nothing to do with reality. Call it literary cotton-candy. Light-weight and empty calories. Fine for once in a while, but you can't live on a steady diet of candy.

It's fall now and my brain wants meat and veggies. I've just started a novel about Agincourt and have several history books and novels lined up. There are biographies and civics books to be read.

This time of balance asks us to add a bit of prose to the poetry in our lives. After all, it's hard to balance, when your mind is floating away.

—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

Hearthstone Tips our Hat to Hawk Shadow, who led our August Open Full Moon ritual. She developed a beautiful ritual inspired by a poem from the 16th century, "Gather Your Roses While You May". She noted that roses are still blooming even as summer fades and harvests await. Roses have a long spiritual history; for example, they are included in much religious art, and people have said they smell the scent of rose when Mary or Spirit is near. Hawk Shadow expounded on roses: rose plants are tenacious and adaptable, beautiful and fragrant, and express the paradox of soft yet thorny. She explained that she's always loved roses, and asked us to consider what brings us as much delight as roses bring to her? What delight do I want to call to me? She asked us, each when we were ready, to come to the altar, say aloud something that delights us, and take a small paper rose from a bowl to remind us. When all had done so, we charged our beautiful little roses with energy as we chanted "Rose, rose, with gentle might, Help me find my life's delight!" After the Lord and Lady and Elements were thanked, cookies and juice were shared.

Hawk Shadow, thank you for sharing with us your love of roses (and the adorable little paper ones), and inviting us to focus on what brings us joy and delight in this oft-times challenging world. Blessed Be!

---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 \$5-10 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.

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!

FAITH IN PERILOUS TIMES

As I lay helplessly stricken with a migraine the two days before writing this, I had time and reason to consider the ways that I deal with stress, as stress is one of the noxious ingredients of the brew that results in that debilitating condition for me.

Migraines are complicated, and so I hasten to add that nothing I write here is intended as prescription or pontification on any complex human condition, merely the musings of this modern druid on one facet of our intricate existence.

These feel like perilous times: unsettling, unclear, vaguely or specifically threatening. It's uncomfortable to feel like that.

Or worse than that. Lying there, with an unreasonable agony that felt like an ice pick buried through my skull, my eye, the bones of my cheeks and jaw, while the skin above that remained concerningly numb, and all things, including thought itself, created additional flickers of pain that rippled through my skull, I struggled to find any way to mitigate my unfortunate situation.

I'll spare you more details. Suffice to say that my behazed mind seized upon the notion of faith as a way to escape the ripping storms of my own brain.

Why faith? Because it has been for me, as for many others, a handy antidote to fear, a relief from exhaustion and anxiety, a hitching post in a road of destructive impulse. Faith has been very useful for me. Without faith I believe that I am in charge in a world that is filled with danger, despair, tragedy, and unpredictable calamity. I'm just not up to the job, but my brain tasks me with that job and then sets about creating an echo chamber of instability, panic, and response. It's not pretty.

Faith is tricky stuff for an intellectual. It does not easily or satisfyingly open itself up to what we call 'pure reason' which is also the lie we tell ourselves about our objectivity, another form of faith and comfort, but let's leave that to another time.

Faith, a powerful and handy asset of human nature, operates on a different level. It operates on the level of a four-year-old child, and so we must look at the world of that child, and what makes it work.

The faith of a child is not built upon books and dissertations. Science and magic are indistinguishable. Credibility is created out of relationship and results. Faith is built from tactile associations. Love is built that way. Trust is built that way. The human mind, so powerful and curious, uses as its first objective measurements the warmth of sunshine, the smell of cookies, the cold splash of clear streams, the delight of discovery.

We will not return to faith with intellectual exercises. We return to faith with actions.

The lighting of a candle, the singing of phrases, recitation of words, the eating of sacred foods: light, scent, spice, song. These are the elements which reinvoked faith.

It is not enough to recall our Goddesses and Gods in frenetic passing. When the incomprehensible Universe and our own kinesthetic spirit experience our spiritual gestures as the indicative associations of our intent, balance is achieved and faith can return.

The spiral stirring of flour into the rich mixture of eggs, butter and sugar, the hiss of the struck match and the shock of the scent of sulphur, the rhythmic murmur of sacred words transforming through the throat from breath to sound; when these are experienced by the child within each of us, there is an opening through which the gifts of faith, groundedness, perspective, and clarity can emanate.

And this is possible, somehow, because of our basic human condition, some aspect of our being which traces back thousands upon thousands of years, expressed in remains of pollen found with hominid bones, the lines of an ochre crayon on a flake of rock. What we do matters, it matters to us.

It changes our ability to respond in an unpredictable world. It gives us strength of character, an objective sounding term that only means the ability to live consistently according to our own values, rather than bouncing back and forth in reaction to our maddening fears.

Faith comes from actions and associations, it may be guided by our intellectual assessments, but in the end, it arises from something visceral and intensely human, something from when we are around four years old and that we carry with us through all of the decades that follow.

As an aside, I should mention that Irish seed cake is generally associated to midwinter festivities, but it's never too early to practice making it!

From "Irish Country Cooking" compiled by Norma and Gordon Latimer (1985)

Cácá Cearbhais - Seed Cake

4 eggs

1 T caraway seeds

2 C flour

4 T milk

1 C sugar and 1 C butter

Cream the butter and sugar and beat in the eggs one at a time. Sift the flour and add slowly to the mixture. Then, add the caraway seeds. Add the milk to make a soft mixture. Place in an 8-inch cake tin and bake in a preheated oven at 325 degrees for 1 1/2 hours. Test before taking out. Leave in the tin for 15 minutes then remove and place on a wire rack to cool.

You can keep up with the activities of the Denver Celtic Women's Circle on Facebook or Meetup:

<https://www.facebook.com/DenverCelticWomensCircle/>

<https://www.meetup.com/Denver-Celtic-Womens-Circle-Events>

Peace of the Mountains to you,

Paulie Rainbow

founder: Denver Celtic Women's Circle.

FOR YOUR READING SAFETY

Yesterday, I discovered that I can no longer share links to my blog on Facebook. Why? Because my website has been detected to have links to "dangerous websites." And for some reason, I rolled my eyes at being told this.

Welcome to the Facebook Song and Dance Overreaction Hour!

Yes, that is right—I don't think that it is actually my blog that is the problem.

I think it is that Facebook is trying to make up for the fact that their company allowed Russian Spambot Farms and Alex Jones so much bandwidth. And to convince you that Facebook cares about its users, it must crack some heads and take names.

In the meantime, I am still getting friend requests from profiles claiming to be hot, sexy women who love to post video links on their walls. Call me jaded and cynical, but I suspect that many of those video links lead to some dodgy websites.

Now, I will admit that it is possible that my blog might contain links to dodgy sites. Or things that FB thinks can be dodgy. A few years ago, in crafting circles, a popular craft and art website “Come and buy my artsy stuff” widget got flagged as a dangerous link. And it truly was a dangerous link because I would go look at stuff that I wanted to buy for...let's say “conversation value,” that my dear wife would never let me display in our house—something about not needing to redecorate the house in kitsch Midwestern cow motif.

And I am fairly sure that is what is happening in this situation.

But there are other possibilities, such as maybe my blog has been flagged by someone who is horrified that Wiccans are sharing information with one another. After all, we all know that pagans seek to convert everyone to our blood and sex soaked religion—never mind that I don't remember the last time I saw the Great Rite in any other form other than Symbolic, and I prefer to get my sacrifices from the bakery.

Of course, in my case that horrified person may have been someone that I decided was a poor example of what modern occultism should look like. In actual practice, having a decade of watchdog duty under my belt, I know that my average flagger is a fellow occultist. A few years ago, I had a delightful time playing with someone that insisted that as a High Priest, they could tell the quality of someone's worth as a witch by looking at pictures of the witch's lady garden. Oh, the flagging that occurred that fine summer.

I will admit that there is a possibility that it is not the occultism that got me into trouble, but some of the non-occult stuff I have talked about in the past. Think—politics. I might have mentioned some people by their proper names. And I might have mentioned slapping Nazis and Alex Jones at some point.

If Facebook is concerned about that stuff, then my blog should have been blocked long ago—about the same time that the news media started to use the name “Golden Dawn” for a Nazi-inspired Greek political party. And maybe that is what going on now...

But no, I think that this is just the song and dance that many, maybe all, social media companies engage in “Oh look, popular opinion says that we should not give Alex Jones a platform to hawk his wares, and this has been the general consensus for awhile...hmmm, maybe if we pound on some random people long enough, our users will believe that we stand for something other than raw profit.”

Give Facebook a week or two, and I will once again be able to share links to my blog. I have seen this song and dance before, and it has nothing to do with protecting the users of Facebook—it is all about trying to shape public perception, and attempting to convince you that big business really cares about humanity.

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>

Be Wary of Businesses That Do Not Have Any Negative Reviews.

I recently had to deal with a business that had no poor reviews for the past 3 years. This appears to be an affluent business with two young, attractive white owners. The dealings I had initially with the business were good. But it deteriorated when they refused to assist with a certain aspect that they could control. They told me to go through another route for complaints. That route was unsuccessful in assisting me.

I posted a poor review online. That was a bad idea. I was stalked on Facebook and then when they found my phone number, called, and left a message stating their attorney would become involved if I didn't respond to them within an hour. They were condescending when speaking with me, so I just gave up and removed the review. I'm still having major issues which will probably force me to move. If I had more resources, this may not have been the case.

I'm deliberately being vague because A: I don't want to be sued, and B: there are many more offenders out there than just this one. After this happened, I started talking to a few people and it seems that some local businesses maintain this practice. It's almost impossible to please everyone. If you run across this when researching a small business, my advice to you is to be careful and take the reviews with a grain of salt. Just look at the reviews. If there isn't a recent bad review, then they're most likely getting the reviews taken down, or bullying the complainants into submission with their rabid attorneys.

It seems that corporate America's attitude has permeated small businesses now too. They don't care about anything but making a buck. Anyone else's safety and well-being are not their concern unless the complainant is able to afford an attorney, and even then, good luck.

But in the small business owner's mind I am a nobody. I'm a single parent with no family and no extra time and money to fight this ridiculous battle. It's laughable that anyone would think that a google review is THAT important.

I miss the country I used to live in. This is the land of the corporations and no longer the land of the free or brave. Being brave and standing up for yourself costs too much. It's time to take our country back from the corporations before we all lose more rights to them.

---Moon Gazer

Turtle Monkey children's book series

We're diversifying our brand. Stay tuned for changes! If you'd like to give us input, we'll be creating a survey on the new website that should be ready by July 1. Speaking of new websites, our new web address is: www.jofontana.com

About Turtle Monkey: 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.

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

Orpheus MeadFest 2018

Join us for one of Denver's Tastiest Events

The 2018 MeadFest Tasting & Awards Ceremony
Saturday, September 29th 4-7 PM
The Tears McFarlane House
13th Avenue at Williams Street
on Denver's Cheesman Park

Nine of Colorado's finest meaderies are bringing their newest and best meads for your tasting pleasure!

Visit our website for all info

[:http://www.orpheuspcc.org/orpheus-meadfest.html](http://www.orpheuspcc.org/orpheus-meadfest.html)

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!

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

September 21, 2018

October 19, 2018

November 16, 2018

December 21, 2018