



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



DECEMBER 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 to the 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, December 21, 2018.**

Vella Rose will lead our December 21, 2018 Open Full Moon ritual, which is on the official date of the Winter Solstice/Yule, followed on Saturday morning with a Full Moon in Cancer. Join us at this ritual as we celebrate the return of the Light. Both the Solstice and the Full Moon can be used as times of reflection, looking at what you have accomplished this last solar year and moon cycle; and as an opportunity to begin thinking about your goals for the New Year. We will spend some time in darkness, reflecting on this past year, followed by a celebration of the return of the light, and a chance to focus our energies on some of our hopes and dreams for this coming year. Since this is traditionally a time of caroling, there will be some singing during the ritual and if those who arrive early are interested, we will do some informal caroling during the gathering time. Some song sheets will be available, or download your own on Vella Rose's Musings at: <https://vellarose1.wordpress.com/songs-and-chants/187-2/> and bring it with you. As always, all ages are welcome to attend Hearthstone rituals.

----Catherine

GREETINGS

Yuletide has returned. The Winter Solstice celebrates the return of the Sun – when it is with us longer each day.

In my workplace, we have posters celebrating the way several different religions and cultures recognize the day. There is Hanukkah, the Jewish celebration; Kwanzaa – a celebration of African-American culture; Lucia Day (December 13), a particularly Norse holiday; Yule; Christmas; 12th Night. I know there are more, but these are the ones that come to mind right now. Each of these holidays involve light; mostly candlelight. It seems to be an almost universal theme for the Winter Solstice time.

Another poster in the atrium of my office is about something much more serious: the members of our Armed Forces deployed at this time. These men and women are away from their loved ones at the time when almost all of us are celebrating family. Their loved ones must celebrate while those deployed are away from them. I look for this poster every time I come in the building to remember those men and women. There are ways you can remember them too:

- There are a number of websites where you can simply write messages to say "thank you" to troops. One of those is www.americasupportsyou.com.
- Donate to [Operation Holiday Joy](#). 100% of your donation goes to food and toys.

- The Red Cross [Holiday Mail for Heroes](#) program enables Americans to “Give Something That Means Something” during the holiday season.
- [Operation Christmas Spirit](#) supports local military families by: “Adopting” over 100 families and fulfilling their Christmas wish lists with gifts for all family members.
- Thanks to the Marines [Toys for Tots program](#), military and civilian children alike, have the opportunity to receive a new toy for Christmas.

We celebrate the returning of the light in so many ways. Let us remember those here – and those far away from their families.

–*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 the team of eight individuals who offered our meditative November Open Full Moon ritual. Our thanks to Ziva, Sandra, Moon, Mary, Tara, Will, and Bruce, who are students in the 2018 Hearthstone Study Group facilitated by Arynne.

Circle was cleansed and consecrated, then each participant received a fragrant sachet and was guided to use it to self-cleanse and ground. Circle was cast hand-to-hand, the Elements called, then Hecate and the Dark/Sage Lord were invoked for this darkening season. The Wheel of the Year was explained, then participants learned about Hecate, ancient Goddess of witchcraft, crossroads, prophecy, and magick. Each person received a laminated card with a depiction of Hecate's lantern on the front, and the words to a beautiful chant to Hecate on the back. Each was asked to silently identify a dilemma in their life where they felt they were at a crossroads, then all participated in a guided meditation. During the meditation Hecate was asked to use her lantern to allow us each to see various possibilities that lie down different paths we could choose in response to our individual dilemma. Several times we chanted to Hecate of the Crossroads, asking for Her light, wisdom, and guidance. When we finished, cakes and juice were blessed and shared before Circle and the energies were released.

Thank you to this hard-working group who successfully performed their first public ritual together! Blessings of Hecate and Her Lantern to all throughout this dark season of Winter.

---*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 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 and age-appropriate vaccinations** to any Colorado cat regardless of owner's income. DDFL also offers **\$50 dog spay/neuter surgeries including basic vaccinations 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!

Finding a home in tradition

Robert Frost wrote, in his poem "The Death of the Hired Man" that 'Home is the place where, when you have to go there, // They have to take you in.'

I find that is true in tradition, in selecting a path and then fulfilling a commitment to it. I have sometimes felt, in a sacred space, that I did not belong there, or that I didn't belong there any more, although I once did.

But like the 'hired man' who is the subject of the poem, it's more than being the right tradition, or the wrong tradition; it's the commitment, the sense that I have a part in something, that I contribute.

I was long ago told that it's harder to fall off of the middle than the edge, and when I find myself a stranger, I should pitch in. People tend to be more welcoming to a willing and useful stranger with a smile, than to a mystery that never quite introduces themselves.

And that helps me to belong, not merely because the people already in a place accept me, but because I accept me being there. I have contributed something. I am a part of what is going on. I have set the metaphorical table, taken out the trash, greeted the newcomer.

This last Full Moon was on Thanksgiving, and it was cold, and, not for the first time, I was the only person that showed up for it (well, aside from my dear husband who wasn't going to let me go

running off to a city park on a quiet holiday night in the dark all by myself). But to light the fire, to connect with the triad of realms, to move through the ritual, is so sacred to me, so much a part of the rhythm of lunar time, that it's a home to me. When I go there, They take me in.

More than three decades ago, I decided to get over my Christmas trauma by taking back Solstice. I thought about how I wanted to celebrate, and I decided to specifically exclude the things that disturbed me and put in all of the things that comforted and affirmed me. I decided to make the Winter Solstice my home.

I needed peace. I needed refuge. I needed to eat better and not be rushed. I needed more harps and fewer carols. I wanted to avoid blinking lights and bask in the warmth I find in candlelight. I needed to completely sidestep the arms-race of gift giving as an expression of love and value. I needed to be immersed in the sacred preparation of food. I wanted to give that which I felt was the highest quality and the most wholesome and I wanted to give it to whomever walked through the door. I wanted the giving to be based on what I thought was best, and not based on who would receive it.

And that's what I did. I made Winter Solstice an open house celebration. No dinner times, no gifts. The friendship of soup and home baked bread rather than the roller coaster flirtations of holiday candies. An open temple room, quiet and available for a guest to stop in, to meditate, to light a candle, or to release into the cauldron whatever they were ready to let go. Comfy chairs, classical music, conversation with whomever happens to be there at the same time; these were the elements of refuge to me.

It's more than a generation now since I started. I have Winter Solstice and other traditions besides. I have learned how to walk in the landscape. I have had long conversations with the Gods. I have taken out the trash and set the table. I have made space for the newcomer. I have lit the fire, lit the candle, spoken the words, even when I was alone. Now I am the host and the householder. I am the teacher and the historian. I am still exploring the meaning of the word "Welcome." I have a tradition that I have offered and that I carry with me.

When I am tired and frustrated, when I am completely wrong and cannot get right, when I am overwhelmed and inadequate, I have a tradition to turn to. When I am too old for working, when I am worn out and broken, when I tell you I have come to light the candle, but I have no matches and my hands tremble too much to hold the flame, still, you will understand. I have made my home in a tradition.

I have created a place that where, when I have to go there, They will take me in.

Peace of the Mountains to you,

Paulie Rainbow

founder: Denver Celtic Women's Circle.

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

12th Night! A Yule Concert and Gala Viking Reception Orpheus Pagan Chamber Choir

Saturday, January 5, 2019 at 7 PM – 10 PM

[Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theater](#)

119 Park Ave W, Denver, Colorado 80205

Tickets:

www.orpheuspcc.org

When we learned that the Mapleton Board of Ed had changed its liquor policy, we realized that we needed to reimagine 12th Night so that it could return to Denver and still be at a reasonable price.

We found the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Theater, an intimate state-of-the art theater with ample comfortable seating and free parking, conveniently located in the heart of Denver.

Though not large enough to host the concert and the dinner, they offered us the both the entire theater for a gala onstage reception. We realized quickly that we could offer 12th Night in Denver at a lower ticket price than last year and still be able to offer party seating for the concert!

It will be all the magic of 12th Night: the beautiful music, the toasts, the silent auction. But rather than a fully seated dinner, there will be a magnificent smorgasbord of Scandinavian delights!

Join us for the best 12th Night ever!

December 1-January 4th

\$40 per person

Party groups of 4 or more: \$35 per person

At the door, if available:

\$45 per person

EARTH TEMPLE

Here is the list of 2019 ritual dates for Earth Temple. We are still at Full Moon Books and Event Center, 9106 W. 6th Ave. (at Garrison) in Lakewood.

We have a NEW DAY for rituals this year; these dates are all **FRIDAYS**. Start time is 7 pm, the same as last year, so 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!

Jan 4, 2019

Feb 1, 2019

Mar 8, 2019

Apr 5, 2019

May 3, 2019

June 7, 2019

July 5, 2019

Aug 2, 2019

Aug 30, 2019

Sep 27, 2019

Oct 25, 2019

Nov 22, 2019

Dec 27, 2019

---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 2019 except August! 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

January 18, 2019
February 15, 2019
March 15, 2019
April 19, 2019
May 17, 2019
June 14, 2019
July 12, 2019
August 9, 2019
September 13, 2019
October 11, 2019
November 8, 2019
December 6, 2019