



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### **MARCH 15, 2019 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 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, March 15, 2019.**

Vella Rose will facilitate the March 15<sup>th</sup> Open Full Moon ritual. We will celebrate the upcoming Full Moon and the Spring Equinox which both occur on Wednesday 20 March 2019. The night of our ritual, the moon will actually be in Pisces, a sign of introspection and gestating our dreams. So, for this ritual we will begin by honoring the balance that comes with the equinox and the Libra Full Moon with discussion and song, and we will think about those things we need to clear out of our lives during our spring cleaning to make room for new growth. Since spring is the time of planting, the main working in this ritual will be examining the anatomy of seeds and using this information, metaphorically, to help us explore what we want to plant in our lives, and what steps we need to take to nurture our "seeds".

---*Catherine*

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### **GREETINGS**

Ostara, 2019. Time to plant the seeds planned for at Imbolq.

As it happens, some plants are forced upon us. Just before last month's OFM, I was given the chance to retire. I wasn't truly ready, but who really is? I have joined my younger siblings in retirement. It is ironic that the oldest of us is the last to retire.

Now we are reaching Ostara – the time to plant the seeds. What shall I do with my new garden?

Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to speak with some high school kids in their AP class on the Theory of Knowledge. Last month's seminar was on the knowledge in religion. Representatives of different belief systems were invited to a seminar with the teens where each of us spoke about our respective religions. Then we each spoke with a group of about eight kids, speaking further about our beliefs; what we believe, how do we demonstrate that belief, and what authorities we use for these beliefs. Whew! What a task!

Actually, it was fun. I'm afraid that of the three groups in our classroom, I was the only one that did not bring handouts – most of my research material is electronic these days. Still, we had trouble keeping the time to the 30-45 minutes we were allotted. How do you explain duality (or multiplicity) of deity, along with using two calendars. Not to mention the law of return and the Witches Rede. Or the difference between Wicca and other Neo-Pagan religions. The kids were great. They were willing to listen and asked very good questions.

I'd like to do more of that – along with my other ambitious plans: gigging out, composing, and – oh yeah, joining the local rec center. Maybe I'll enjoy retirement after all.

—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

All of us at Hearthstone Tip our Hat to Deb who coordinated a Triple Drawing Down ritual for our February Open Full Moon celebration...and we offer our gratitude to the priestesses and priests who carried out the rite. Deb focused the ritual on the goddess Brigit. Deb explained that her reading about Brigit revealed that this goddess came to the Celts from India, and is very ancient. Imbolc is a time of beginnings, meditation, and for consideration of our intentions for the coming season.

Each participant was cleansed and consecrated by Cynthia and Michelle. God and Goddess were invoked. The priestesses drawing down were Gina, Hawk Shadow, and Sarajane, each assisted by an anchor and a walker. The setting allowed for great privacy for individuals' time with the goddess, and an option was available for those who chose not to seek counsel. Catherine played harp during the time individuals were quietly seated in contemplation before and after their turn. Each person received a tealight, and cookies and juice were shared.

Thank you, Deb and many friends, for coming together with so much grace and cooperation to offer this rite to the Hearthstone Community! Blessed Be!

---Arynne

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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, and let the organizers know 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.

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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 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!

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## **The Earthly Power of Balance**

The vernal equinox, equal hours of day and night, frequently seen as a time of balance, has a magical power that I feel has been vastly underestimated.

The Irish have known this day as Lá Leathach an Earraigh, sometimes as Cónocht an Earraigh, the halves day, or equal night of springtime. The celebrations were usurped by St Patrick's day, just as the Autumnal celebrations were given over to St Michael's day.

Yet we know that this celebration is bigger and older than the history of either of those figures.

We know that in part from the dozens of stone circles that are aligned to this day, some of which are far too modest to deserve the term "megalith" yet fall into that time period and category. We know this, also, from the alignment at Knowth, a massive Neolithic passage grave and an ancient monument of the Brú na Boinne complex. The openings of this mound align to the equinox sunrise and sunset, in both the Spring and Autumn.

Which brings us to the contemplation of the mega alignment of the Equinoxes, the incredible, worldwide balance that is the result of our position in our 585 million mile orbit around the sun.

To understand just how incredibly balanced the equinox is, we should consider how unbalanced, or how unequal, the solstices are.

Because the earth is tilted, we have seasons. When the tilt of the earth points our hemisphere in the direction of the sun, we experience summer (and the southern hemisphere experiences winter). When the earth reaches the opposite side of its elliptical orbit, our hemisphere is tilted away from the sun and we experience winter.

But not all parts of our hemisphere experience summer (or winter) to the same degree, and the "degree" in this case is the heart of the difference.

The equator, being in the middle, doesn't experience the effects of the tilt at all. Denver, at 40 degrees north latitude sees sunset on the summer solstice around 8:30 pm. And in Ireland, farther north at 53 degrees north latitude, the summer solstice sun doesn't set until nearly 10 o'clock at

night! And, of course you know, places in Alaska, or anywhere close to the north pole, may not see the sun set at all on that date. Our solstice experiences are unique to our own latitudinal locations.

But when the earth is in position for Spring (or Fall) Equinox, the tilt doesn't matter a bit. All of the earth experiences roughly twelve hours of daylight, and twelve hours of night. The whole earth, whether northern or southern hemisphere, whether Alaska or the Equator, whether Denver or Dublin, all get an equal day and equal night. Everyone, the whole world over, is having the same day.

Interestingly, the equal hours of day and night don't fall right on the Equinox, but a few days before, on what is now St. Patrick's day.

So, as we celebrate during the week of equinox, we are sharing the experience of day and night with every single part of the globe.

And the journey of the earth around the sun hits this sweet spot exactly the same, twice each year. First in the spring as we experience the sun marching northward, and then in the fall as we experience the sun marching south again.

The sun during this time rises exactly east and sets exactly west, which is why sunrise and sunset align with some of the east-west road ways in our cities. And that is also why the passages in Knowth are equal armed, stretching out to the east and the west in alignment.

I find myself awestruck by the completeness, the wholeness, of this balance and shared experience, and the evidence, in the form of huge stoneworks dating back five thousand years or more, that this experience was impressive, shared, and important to our ancestors as well.

Just how much more can we do when we work together?

As the earth moves into its vernal alignment again this month, I invite you to pay attention to the sunrise and sunset alignments that so moved our predecessors. I invite you also, to call upon the power of our earthly shared experience in your magical and spiritual work, to help the people of this planet to work together to find solutions to our shared problems, to find balance, and, ultimately to ensure our shared survival.

The whole day conspires to give us a shared experience. Surely we can use this to our mutual benefit.

Peace of the Mountains to you,  
*Paulie Rainbow*  
*founder: Denver Celtic Women's Circle.*

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## **A Man Among Trees**

(Part 3)

*Riley Hosick, aka Thunderbunny Riley*

Taking a personal day from work, the man pulled his car into the always empty parking lot an hour before the sun rose. He had slept little the night before, with the woods constantly returning to his mind. His two encounters with unseen people also replayed in his head. The first encounter happened just over three years previously; a woman had helped him and kept him alive when he was hurt. She even supplied him with a walking stick so he could get out of the woods the next morning. The second encounter had occurred less than twenty-four hours before and it was fresh in his thoughts. He had protected a rabbit from three coyotes by using the walking stick gifted to him as a staff. He recalled how foolish he felt after getting angry and throwing the walking stick into the

nearby stream. He recalled as well as the unexplained markings that now appeared on it, rather than the bite marks he had suffered from one of the coyotes. He wanted to believe there were people out there when these chance encounters happened. He wanted to think that he had been lucky both times he came across trouble. He wanted to, but could not.

Grabbing his backpack and walking stick, the man entered the mountain forest just as sun broke over the horizon. Song birds sang all around as the man stopped to take a deep breath before walking the rest of the lightly worn path to his spot. He stepped over the fallen tree and smiled as he saw the rabbit burrow underneath it. "That's a good home Mr. Bunny," he lightly spoke as he walked on, toward the stream. "Much safer than playing with coyotes," he said chuckling as he approached the three stumps he fondly called "his spot". Placing his backpack on one of the stumps, he leaned the walking stick against another and walked thru the treeline toward the stream. The tree line broke to show the stream flowing peacefully in front of him. He had a plan today. He scanned the streamline until he saw a tree large enough, with low enough branches for him to climb up. It looked to be the same type of tree that had fallen three years ago. Here he would sit and watch his items, watch for anyone or -thing that might show up.

An hour passed and nothing happened. Instead of feeling discouraged, he decided he would try relying on his ears instead of his eyes, closing them. He sat still for several minutes, making himself familiar with the routines of nature around him. He started hearing more than birds moving around, fallen branches were being stepped on as he opened his eyes to see a figure standing over the walking stick. The figure was concealed behind a long hooded robe. The man could not tell if it was male or female and it gave no immediate movements to suggest either. His heart was racing. In the years he had come here, never had he *seen* someone else here. He was eager to climb out of the tree and approach the person, but he was not certain of the reaction. Though this person had helped him before, they had always done so from a distance. Would this be the right time, the man thought? The man had not really expected his plan to work, and he had not thought of what would happen if it did.

Sudden movement came from the corner of the man's eye, as a large black raven flew within inches from the man's face. In a panic, he raised his hands to cover his face from the birds talons. The shifting of his body caused him to lose his balance and he fell out of the tree. Falling face first, the man was able to absorb most of the impact by putting his hands down to catch his fall. Adrenaline allowed the man rise to his feet almost as quickly as he fell. He looked for the raven and saw it as it flew toward his spot. On impulse he followed, walking with caution, hoping that person was still there so he could tell them thank you. He made it to the edge of the tree line and saw the figure was still there. Its back was still turned but the man could tell it was larger than he first thought. The cloak that covered the person still revealed nothing as to the identity of who they were, but he could tell by the posture they were old.

With his palms sweaty and mouth dry, the man stepped out from the treeline and walked toward the figure near the stumps. "Know yourself, and you will know the world," a voice spoke appearing to come from the direction of the figure. It was deep but slightly cracked, he sounded old. The man froze in place less than twenty feet from the figure. "You want to know who I am, young one," the old voice spoke once again. "I understand that longing," the voice paused as the raven that the man had followed landed on the end of his walking stick. "Some have called me Nion, though more commonly I am called Ash. And like you, young one, I am just a traveler. A courier though, we are on very different paths." Another pause, a moment before continuing, "You want to know who aids you? Who tells you to stand firm? You want to know who gave you that staff you carry?"

The man felt the figure was inside his head, knowing his thoughts so clearly. "Those are not answers I can give you. As disappointing as that may sound, I have found it is better when you find

the answers yourself.” A second raven appeared and landed on the shoulder of the figure. “Now, I must be going, young one. My time here is almost done. However, your time and path here still has a few turns to go. For now, I can do something for you, young one.” The figure removed his hood to show himself as an old gentleman. Thick long white hair hung free, framing his face. He wore a matching beard and an eye patch covered his left eye. “I do have a gift for you, young one, but before you can have it you must go back to the tree you were in. I will leave it for you, not to worry.” The figure of the old man smiled as the man felt the urge to hurry up the tree. He turned to look toward the tree and when he looked back the old man was gone, taking with him both ravens that had landed on him and the walking stick.

The man ran to the tree and scaled it as quickly as he could. Yes, he had questions the man thought, but he took more comfort in knowing he was not alone out here. He also felt a new sense of pride, knowing that his determination and dedication was paying off. He reached the branch he had been sitting on before and looked over to his spot to see if he could see the gift the old man had promised. He did not see anything there, but the man was not discouraged because he felt comfortable knowing it would be there. He continued watching his spot until his eyes closed again and he dozed off. Only sleeping for a few minutes, the man awoke to something new. Upon opening his eyes, he found the world appeared to be slightly different than it was previously. The colors around him seemed more vibrant and clear. The smells of the forest were more pronounced as well, the man could smell the pollen coming off the trees and other plant life. When he listened, he could not just hear the birds around him, but he also heard other animals bounding from place to place as they played or foraged for food. Deer moved under his branch without panic or any cause for concern. They even looked up to the man, almost accepting him as part of the forest.

Waiting a few moments longer for the deer to leave, he climbed out of the tree, feeling different as well. The man felt more connected to the world that was currently around him now, and less connected to the world he was returning to. He walked over to his spot and recovered his backpack and walking stick. Neither appeared to look different, but upon grabbing the walking stick he heard the old man's voice once again, “Know yourself, young one, and you will know the world.” On impulse he looked around, but knew there would be no one there this time. While previously, the man had found the disappearances to be frustrating, he now felt more at peace than he had before. He could not explain what was happening to him, but he knew he was on a path that would lead to answers. The man smiled exhaustedly, as he looked at his watch. He has spent a little over nine hours here, from the time he climbed into the tree until now. He stepped over the fallen tree as the sun again kissed the horizon, this time though the sun was setting. “Until next time my friends,” the man spoke loudly, announcing his intent to return. The rabbit family stopped at the sound of his voice, ears perking up, but quickly returned to foraging. The man turned and headed down the trail to his car, excited for his next experience.

(Part Four continued next month)

--*Thunderbunny Rzley*

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## **Lessons of A Young Black Mystic**

*“Trials of An Empath”*

“Mind your own business!” Simple right? If you are anything like me that’s a tall order. Curious, imaginative, observant people are all a little nosy by nature. Even worse, if you’re an Empath, this invasive habit is somewhat naturally aligned with an emotional agenda.

Beware the Empath that takes no responsibility for their gift. Whether they are unaware due to contemporary society's quiet ideals on emotional responsibility or they are someone who simply possesses an overzealous personality when it comes to feelings, every individual has fought personal wars over maintaining a healthy state of mind. In an Empath's world this battle wages on with the silent intensity of a thousand endless flashes of blinding lightning. They hear the fear inducing thud that follows a split second after each strike. They feel the electrifying carnage of raw fiery voltage scorching all it touches far before anyone else. By the time everyone else is running for shelter from a storm, Empaths are cold, wet, and exhausted, burdened by the invisible toll that both connects and isolates them from more common realities.

Stop me if you've ever been told this before. "You're an Empath, honey. I suggest you start learning to put up shields." As much as I love and breathe in the occult world it's the everyday aspects of life that require a certain balance between a magical perspective and simplistic frankness that would make scientists blush. One person's shield is another person's word for boundaries. Some people call themselves Empaths while others simply acknowledge they're very empathic. If there is anything you walk away from this reading with today, let it be a unique take on the internal, but very real hassles that come with emotional responsibility. Whether you believe in Empaths or find yourself a very empathetic person, emotions are the invisible universal force that depending on your approach can be a blessing or a curse. Far too many grow numb to emotional health because of society's inability to address it directly.

I hesitate to call myself an Empath. From a magical perspective, one may argue I lack certain mystical characteristics. I'll never forget when one of my pagan mentors told me that she not only saw me as an Empath but that she believes Empaths are like a race of forgotten people who were perhaps destined with their gift to absorb people's negative energy as a form of emotional healing. While a spiritual part of me is full of childlike awe, I often find myself grounded by a lack of childlike naivete. On occasion, I've developed miraculous pains similar, if not the same, as the family members I live with. However, I almost refuse to believe I literally absorb their pain and heal them of their physical and emotional ailments. That's the defining quality of Empaths which is debated in most Pagan communities. People who have inherited a gift to connect, absorb, and heal negative energy which, because of physical and emotional pains related nature, leaves me with various possible realities I can accept. On one hand, perhaps I am an empath and my abilities are just immature. Regardless of the mystical characteristics of Empaths, there is a truth I've come to believe. When it comes to emotional investment in people around me, I struggle to maintain a healthy balance between acknowledging others' emotional situations and maintaining a healthy state of mind with my individual personal emotions.

My mentor also believes this race of gifted healers, not originally called Empaths but another name lost to time, were betrayed by the authority of their time, and their descendants now referred to as Empaths carry an emotional scar. To my mentor, Empaths are a race of healers who, on their journey to mature and live life in a modern world, must face the collective consciousness scars of being betrayed and essentially abused as the bad vibe sponges of society. The lesson of my mentor to me was that most, if not all, Empaths deal with learning responsibility for their own emotional health. Empaths must learn agency over their emotions, because part of being human is inherently tied to encountering the energy of the people that surround us in daily life.

In a world that thinks less magically, Empath is less a noun of a race of people and more a descriptor of a type of feeling. In this context I'm focusing more on the emotional state of being itself. Here I wish to convey the pros and cons of the emotional state of being that comes with being excessively empathetic. (Excessive empathy in my opinion may have inspired the belief in

Empaths as a race of gifted emotional healers.) To begin, let's make a distinction between empathy and sympathy before endeavoring to understand if one's empathy operates a bit abnormally.

Sympathy is observing someone else's situation in life and feeling a sense of pity. As unfortunate as this may be, let's consider for example a young adult male named Bill who discovers one of his college friends Ruby just recovered from a domestic dispute with her boyfriend. A sympathetic person like Bill would feel anger and disgusted that such a situation occurred to a close friend like Ruby. Bill may even become depressed over Ruby's situation, feeling guilty his friendship wasn't an element that could have prevented Ruby's fight. However, no matter how strongly Bill feels about Ruby's incident, he still understands he feels this way about what happened to someone else.

On the other hand: an empathetic person like Bryan would not only feel angry and upset about Ruby's situation, they would believe they share a similar understanding of her emotional state of mind. While it is possible to share feelings with other people through empathy, we must caution ourselves on the notion we understand other people's emotions. Sometimes excessively empathic people like Bryan assume their emotional response is not only similar but nearly identical to the person they empathize with, therefore it is within their reality to completely understand what people like Ruby are going through. With people like Bryan who internalize other people's emotion so deeply, it's not hard to imagine how empathy can be perceived as a magical gift or power.

The advice my mentor gave me applies to both magical and non-magical perspectives. An individual's emotional state of mind/health is a responsibility which unfortunately society does not always openly or objectively qualify. In the situation mentioned previously Bryan should caution himself when believing or assuming he understands the way he feels is the same as Ruby. Yes, Bryan and Ruby may share similar feelings toward her abuse getting angry and upset about discovering such a negative even violent turn of events. Even if Bryan's feelings are so vivid that he experiences the same bruises and anguish that Ruby received from the fight directly, Bryan is not Ruby. Bryan is confusing "understanding" with his "judgment" of the situation. In this situation, Bryan is male and Ruby is female. This alone sets an objective difference that divides the emotional state of mind shared between these two people. Ideally, Bryan has an unspoken responsibility to acknowledge how he feels about what happened to Ruby without assuming his shared feelings grant him intimate understanding of her experience. One might even go as far as to say that unless he could magically become Ruby with the same background and relationship history Bryan could never be fully empathetic towards Ruby's feeling without casting some form of judgement stemming from his experience in life uniquely shaped apart from hers. To a degree, Bryan would have a much healthier state of mind if he took a more sympathetic perspective like Bill.

Yet this world is far from ideal. There is a reality where Bryan is legitimately more empathetic towards Ruby's situation than Bill, to the degree that he is convinced of an understanding towards her abuse. Bryan's emotional state of mind is so affected by Ruby that, while not understanding exactly what she's going through, he is no less connected to a similar experience of intense feelings.

It is in this reality where I caution against the magical perspective. Empathic reactions can lead to intense actions. If Bryan possesses an unhealthy and magical perspective on Empathy his unique world of beliefs could motivate him to fulfill some act in his emotional agenda. Bryan's spiritual understanding of empathy affected by his illusionary understanding of Ruby's experience and feelings could lead to various actions, even physical violence towards Ruby's attacker, with the confused state of mind that Bryan acting out revenge on Ruby's behalf to him is defending a friend while validating a sense of "healing" that he is gifted with. This is not only judgmental but highly ignorant of Bryan.

When people take responsibility for their emotions and especially the emotions influenced by others, there is often a realization. The fact is no two individuals live the exact same lives; meaning acting for or on behalf of anyone other than yourself requires reasonable judgements. Good judgement is rarely born in irresponsibly intense emotions.

Whether you are a gifted descendant of a healing race of people or a highly empathetic individual, emotional responsibility is not for the faint of heart. It is nearly impossible to live life normally without a need for maintaining a healthy state of mind. Pagans' magical perspective in life often shapes their reality and society to better acknowledge openly and directly the importance of feelings. Pagans call it energy or vibrations, but it all comes back to the universal dynamic between the self and others.

When in doubt take a moment and build your shield. Realize what is you and what is not you. Do not judge or seek to understand what you are not. Merely be aware of the other and grounded in that reality. Embrace what is you. Know that this is where your feeling can be deepened. Be aware of the spaces that distinguish the profane and sacred spheres of life. These are the everyday trials of Empaths. Individuals both blessed and cursed with a sensitivity to the shifts and flows of emotional reality.

--- *Brandon*

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## **Some unsolicited writing advice**

*By Moon Gazer*

A funny thing began happening after I started telling people that I was a writer. I suppose that being published changes your credibility. I've noticed that it doesn't matter how much you earn, the mere fact of being published impresses people. Especially those who are inspired to write.

I feel very blessed for the fans that I have. I appreciate their support very much and I'm glad that we found a positive way to connect. It is very humbling and inspiring at the same time. That's why I continue to write; I've heard that a few people out there enjoy my writing.

However, there can be some unpleasant things that go hand in hand with any sort of success. I've noticed that sometimes there are those people who feel that they have a right to your time and knowledge without asking for it. I know it will sound stereotypical, but when it happens to me, it has always been a white male.

I understand being single by choice makes me appear much more vulnerable than I am. I know it's hard when you are starting out, but being friendly to someone solely for the fact that you want something from them is usually not going to get you what you want. The person will figure it out eventually and find a way to avoid you.

Using your child to elicit empathy usually does not work either. Especially when I know the person in question has a very supporting extended family. I've been a single parent for longer than I care to remember. I've fought battles that you could never understand and I've experienced horrors that you could never imagine. Some of these things come to life on paper; it is my way of coping and I'm thankful for having a positive outlet for these feelings.

So, in the interest of saving myself grief and you the effort of trying to be nice to me, I've decided to give you some unsolicited advice. Firstly, just because you've seen me in a public venue doesn't mean that you've met me. Trust me, there are days I'm not pleasant to be around. If you

need free advice on your work, join a writer's group. It has helped me immensely, I'm still part of a small group. I've also found that is where you can build supportive, life-long friendships.

Do research. See what is right for you. No one can predict if a publisher will publish your works. Think about self-publishing, there are many authors I know who started self-publishing simply because it makes them more money. Just remember to keep the quality high. Pay for the editing, and the cover art. Some authors are able to format their books themselves, so you might be able to as well. And when in doubt, just keep writing.

*--Moon Gazer*

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## **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](http://www.jofontana.com)

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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.

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

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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](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)

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## 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!

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*

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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 2019! 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.

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

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