



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



GREETINGS

We're about halfway between Imbolc and Ostara and the light of day is noticeably longer every day.

I'm writing this on a snowy weekend – one of several this winter so far. And yet, it seems we have less snow fall this year than in the past. So every time that snow falls, I'm happy to see it – especially if it's falling in the mountains where we really need it.

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone thanks Brook and members of our local Reclaiming community, led by Kath and Sif, for offering our Jan. 29 Open Full Moon ritual. We called in the Elements together, using the Feri names. We absorbed the dramatic story of the Star Goddess giving birth to the Feri Divine Twins, from whom we came, whose echoes exist within us. Through dance and song we experienced our twin desires for joining and separating, and other of our personal paradoxes. All participants actively raised energy together and invoked the beautiful Peacock God to bring our inner twins to wholeness. One of the final concepts in the ritual was "May the beauty you love be what you do."

Our gratitude flows to Brook and our Reclaiming community for bringing this ritual to life for all of us!

Arynn

FEBRUARY 26 OPEN FULL MOON

Hearthstone meets the Friday before or the Friday of the Full Moon in the upstairs chapel at the First Unitarian Church at 14th and Lafayette in Denver. The church doors open at 7, and we like to start at 7:30. (We are NOT big proponents of Pagan Standard Time, but if there is weather related driving trouble or a problem on the freeway, we've been

known to wait a bit longer.) This month's ritual is FRIDAY, February 26, 2010.

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 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 contact Alia or Catherine to discuss -- and hopefully resolve and heal -- the issue.

—Alia

Living Earth will officiate at the February 26th OFM.

"Whenever you have need of anything, once a month and better it be when the moon is full..." begins the Charge of the Goddess. Living Earth's full moon ritual will focus on our immediate spiritual needs. Through a collaborative planning process just before ritual (at Gypsy House, 6-7pm, if you'd like to participate in the planning), they will help to find a common thread that connects us in our spiritual need. The result will be a participatory, welcoming, and rejuvenating ceremony that helps us meet those spiritual needs as well as connecting us in community and in spirit.

—Catherine

ON DONATIONS

Many of our local Pagan organizations run on a shoestring. Your donations do make a difference, and the cost of a movie ticket to one of these organizations from several of their patrons can make the difference between failing and thriving. (Not to mention making the organizers excited and happy that their efforts are of value to you.) If you'd prefer not to donate to Hearthstone, I encourage you to donate something to the organization of your

choice. Your donations can make the difference between an organization thriving and folding.

We appreciate that many of you donate to the church. **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 Community Church, Inc. running as long as possible, and we need your support to continue to serve the community.**

We aren't going to start collecting at the door, and no one will be turned away for not having a donation. However, we would like to suggest a donation of 5 to 10 dollars per person. (The extra is to cover the pagans that are unable to donate.) If you can't afford it, you are still welcome – if you can afford more, we'd be delighted to accept it.

NOTE: Hearthstone is a church and your donations to Hearthstone are **tax deductible**. If you would like to write a check so you can keep track of your donations, we can certainly handle that as well.

SECRECY AND LISTENING TO YOURSELF

One of the things that many people find puzzling about the lodge and Order system of Golden Dawn is the fact that the members swear to keep secret symbolism and ideas that are already public knowledge. This puzzlement extends to other systems where initiates take a vow of secrecy. The use of secrecy by the lodges and other esoteric groups has led some to believe that the members of the lodges are involved in some form of conspiracy.

After all, the symbolism and lore being kept secret often is to be found in dozens of books. Many of these books were readily available before the Orders that swore to keep this information secret were actually formed. If the members of these societies are not involved in a conspiracy, then why are they keeping this information secret?

There are many reasons for this secrecy: most of them not sinister at all. Yes, the tool of secrecy can be, and has been abused by some Orders and traditions; but for the most part, the tool of secrecy is a benevolent part of the initiated system. As noted already, there are many reasons for this secrecy, a point that probably cannot be stressed enough. To fully explore these uses would require much more time than either the writer or the reader has to spare at moment, so let's just look at one of the legitimate purposes that the tool of secrecy can be used for.

In order to successfully keep a secret, one has to watch every word that comes out of one's mouth. The slightest slip of the tongue and you can reveal secrets best left unsaid. This is the key to one of the more helpful uses of secrecy. By consciously agreeing to keep some information secret, a person has to watch everything that they say and do.

This active monitoring of what one says often leads to a conscious awareness of what one says about oneself and others. Have you consciously listened to what you have said today? If you haven't, you might be appalled to learn how negative some of your statements were.

It does not matter what one says and does in a ritual if one's positive affirmations are promptly killed by one's own negative statements. Every "I am a failure" undermines your potential success. Every "You are not good enough" statement undermines the success of others. Our own negative statements, said both to ourselves and others, are part of the sea of negativity that we are drowning in.

By consciously taking an oath of secrecy, and attempting to fulfill it, the initiate is forced to actually listen to themselves. By realizing how negative their comments are, they can modify them; they can make them more positive. Every little reduction in the sea of negativity helps increase the effectiveness of the positive affirmations that we are using. By monitoring and removing the negative statements from our speech, we help strengthen

the positive statements and actions that we are engaged in.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery traditions on his blog at: <http://gleamingsfromthedawn.blogspot.com/>

ELEMENTS OF MAGIC

Start your spring off by Connecting with the Elements!

For the first time, we are offering an Elements of Magic class near Boulder at the Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Lafayette!

We are offering this workshop over three Saturdays, beginning on the Vernal Equinox and finishing up the day before the Christian holiday Easter.

This is an experiential workshop for folks just learning about the Reclaiming Tradition, Witchcraft or the Elements and for more experienced folks to re-establish relationship with the Elements.

March 20 & 27, April 3

Elements of Magic is the first of the core class in the Reclaiming tradition of Witchcraft. In this class, we will explore our personal relationship with the elements of Air, Fire, Water, Earth and Spirit.

Techniques we will use include breathwork, song, visualization, sensing and raising energy, trance work, movement, spellcrafting and creating sacred space.

A limited number of spaces for teens and young adults. Please call if you have questions – 303-618-7702.

TEACHERS

SKathACH is a Reclaiming witch cleverly disguised as suburban mother of two. She is a priestess and teacher dedicated to facilitating the exploration of personal and immanent Divinity. Trained in Celtic and Feri Witchcraft, Skathach delights in listening to beauty, creating with passion and singing loudly with loving devotion.

Amy was trained in the Reclaiming tradition in Massachusetts and has recently relocated to the

Denver area. She is a mother, a scientist, a martial artist, a teacher and a joker. Her personal practice is an eclectic form having Feri, Buddhist, Shinto and traditional Reclaiming components. Amy enjoys skiing, SCUBA, hiking and skinny-dipping.

Class Schedule:

Saturday, March 20

10:30 am Registration

11:00 am Class begins

1:00 – 2:00 pm Lunch Potluck

2:00 – 5:30 pm Class Continues

Saturday, March 27

11:00 am – 5:30pm Class w/Potluck

Saturday, April 3

11:00 am – 5:30pm Class w/Potluck

Note: We start class on time, so please be prompt. The classes are designed to work together, so please commit to attend all.

Prerequisite: 1st 6 chapters of *The Spiral Dance*, by Starhawk (HarperCollins Publishers, November 1999).

Elements of Magic will be drug and alcohol free so safe, nurturing, sacred space is created for all.

Items you may wish to bring: A journal, a water bottle, drums or rattles, a divination tool such as runes or Tarot, a potluck lunch item to share, a compassionate heart and a mirthful and reverent mind.

Course information

Tuition: \$45 to \$60 sliding scale paid in full at first session. Partial scholarships are available. Please inquire if you would like to know more.

Deposit: \$25.00 deposit is nonrefundable unless class is canceled by the teachers. Deposit is applied toward your tuition.

Phone: Kath at 303-618-7702

EMAIL: morgans_insight@yahoo.com

Registration

Pre-registration is required!

Class size is limited.

Registration Deadline: March 10 or until class is filled, subject to availability.

A limited number of spaces for teens and young adults.

The location for this class is:

Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship
1241 Ceres Drive
Lafayette, CO 80026
Mail: Reclaiming Spirit Colorado
P.O. Box 270172, Littleton, CO 80127
Paypal accepted at:
morgans_insight@yahoo.com

A YEAR AND A DAY IN FERİ

A Year and A Day in Feri

Begins April 17 & 18

The Feri path might be, as the Faerie Queen says to Thomas the Rhymer, "that bonny, bonny road" that is the third way from the crossroads winding across the "ferny" moors. Most certainly the Feri path does not run in a straight line to a known destination. It doesn't often run in a predictable time period or at a predictable speed.

A Year and a Day in Feri will be a five session, year long intensive that will introduce participants to basic Feri practice: ritual, mythic, personal. Participants will meet once per quarter year, until a year and a day have passed. Each workshop session will take place over a weekend, Saturday and Sunday in Denver.

Each session will focus on one aspect of Feri Witchcraft. These weekends are designed to be an Intensive Apprenticeship, please commit to attending all five weekends.

TEACHER -----

Brook is a Feri initiate of Anne Hill, Gwydion, and Rose May Dance. He puts a distinctly Reclaiming <http://www.reclaiming.org> spin into his Feri teaching.

Course information

Tuition: \$95 to \$135 per weekend sliding scale paid in full each weekend.

Deposit: \$95 deposit to hold your space in class, which will be credited toward your tuition at the end of the Year and a Day.

Contacts: Kath at 303-618-7702 or Sherri at 520-560-1084

EMAIL: morgans_insight@yahoo.com or beckoning_earth_whispers@yahoo.com

Pre-registration is required!

Class size is limited. To ensure your space in this amazing training, we will accept registration until April 3 (or until space is filled).

Mail: Reclaiming Spirit Colorado
P.O. Box 270172, Littleton, CO 80127

Paypal accepted at:
morgans_insight@yahoo.com

Reclaiming Spirit Colorado is a Colorado Non-Profit Corporation and a Church.

Reclaiming believes strongly in making classes available to everyone in the community. Partial scholarships with work study are available.

We welcome all genders, all races, all ages and sexual orientations and all those differences of life situation, background and ability that increase our diversity. We strive to make our public rituals and events accessible and safe. We try to balance the need to be justly compensated for our labor with our commitment to make our work available to people of all economic levels.

EARTH TEMPLE

Earth Temple rituals are held at Ye Old Firehouse, 3232 Depew Street, Wheat Ridge. With a few exceptions, all of our rituals will be held at this location. Also with a few exceptions, all dates are Saturdays, with community announcements starting at 7:30 pm, and ritual starting when announcements conclude.

Earth Temple 2010 dates

Event	ET Date SATURDAY
New Moon	Mar 13
Ostara	Mar 20
New Moon	Apr 17
Beltaine	May 1
New Moon	May 15
New Moon	Jun 12
Midsummer	Jun 19
Lammas/NM	July 31
New Moon	Sep 11
Mabon	Sep 25
New Moon	Oct 9

Samhain/NM
Yule

Nov 6
Dec 18

WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-680-1741. Southwynde's is 303-698-1066. Catherine's is 303-534-5264. If you would like to officiate at a future Open Full Moon, for Pagan or Wiccan clergy, or for any other Hearthstone business, please contact either Alia or Catherine.

Hearthstone Community Church has a website at <http://hearthstone.fnorky.com>.

Alia's e-mail address is alia@fnorky.com; Southwynde's is Southwynde@yahoo.com; (it is not frequently checked). Catherine's e-mail address is catherine@fnorky.com

GUEST COLUMNS?

If you have something to say, and are willing to let Alia or Catherine edit it slightly, (generally for grammar – Alia has the soul of an English teacher and Catherine wants to be one) please feel free to submit your writing to catherine@fnorky.com. Content will not be edited. We can usually make room for more voices.

This newsletter is for Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. of Denver, Colorado. Editor: Catherine Mock. Publisher: M. Alia Denny

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2010 Open Full Moon Dates

February 26, 2010

March 26, 2010

April 23, 2010

May 21, 2010

June 25, 2010

July 23, 2010

August 20, 2010

September 17, 2010

October 22, 2010

November 19, 2010

December 17, 2010

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