



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



JUNE 25 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, JUNE 25, 2010.

June's Open Full Moon ritual is being conducted by Morgan Drake Eckstein, the Chief Officer of Bast Temple, a small Golden Dawn lodge. The ritual will be suggestive, providing food for thought about one of the invisible layers of magical ritual. It will examine the astrological and sephirothic* energies that are present in Golden Dawn and certain Wiccan rituals.

—Catherine

* From the Kabbalistic Tree of Life

GREETINGS

What a couple of weeks! Last week, I tried to do the "socially responsible" thing and trim my yard down to a reasonable level. About half way through, I managed to trip and twist my knee. This is not unusual – I've led a remarkably clumsy life. I moaned and groaned and settled in for a weekend with my knee elevated. Until...Sunday when one of the dogs decided to have a discussion with a member of the local wildlife – probably a fox. We spent the rest of Sunday and part of Monday at various veterinarians. She's feeling better and is going to be fine, but she does look rather like she's been in a knife fight.

All this made me think about how we react to crisis. I found that during this crisis, I needed a second person around so that I could think with a clear head. It didn't matter who, but that second human contact helped me to ground and make the decisions that needed to be made. I think we tend to isolate ourselves,

even when we live with other people. We are not designed to be solitary people though. It's Litha – call a friend and celebrate life!

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone extends our thanks to Annabel K. Bugg, aka Draconis Leona, for leading our May Open Full Moon ritual. With a focus on building community, Annabel facilitated the attendees to create and perform the ritual together, and it flowed beautifully! She first asked all to move to the Element/direction with which they most identify. Volunteers called God and Goddess, and we cast hand to hand with the words "With my Will and thine, I cast this Circle."

Each of the four groups then had 10-15 minutes to get to know each other, and decide which portion of the ritual to offer and how, aided by a variety of ideas Annabel provided on notecards. Annabel checked in with the groups during this process, and during the ritual she served as priestess for additional sections. This successful ritual wove a beautiful web of community among us all. Thank you Annabel!

Aryne

CHANGES IN THE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter has remained virtually unchanged for the past 19 years. The board has decided to make the newsletter more interesting to read and easier to manage.

One step we will be taking is eliminating the paper newsletter and going to e-mail only. If you do not have an email address or computer, computers are available at your local library to set up an online e-mail account

We will also be redesigning the newsletter for HTML email delivery. This means that if you have a text-only email reader, you will need to upgrade to an account that can handle HTML. If you don't wish to change your primary e-mail address, you can get an online e-mail address and receive the newsletter there.

We believe these changes will make the newsletter more interesting and will make it easier for you to get the information you need from it.

As always, if you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Catherine or me.

—Alia

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 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

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.

LOOKING AT ESOTERIC DIAGRAMS

Leafing through various occult books or searching the internet, a student can find a diagram for almost any set of symbols and energies imaginable. Look hard enough and you can eventually find a second diagram that says that the first diagram that you found is completely wrong. And well before that point, you will have found an essay claiming such. Why are there so many esoteric diagrams? And why do some experts insist that some diagrams and explanations are wrong?

The first question is easily answered. Quite simply, there are some things that are best explained though the use of diagrams. If you are a visual learner, and we all are to a certain extent, a picture is worth a thousand words. Sometimes it is easier to explain relationships between symbols, points of energy, with the use of a diagram than to do it using a wordy description.

My proof of this—astrology. Imagine trying to do astrology without the use of a chart. It is a fair bet that if you practice astrology, and I mention that I am Virgo with a Cancer rising sign with my Mercury in Leo and Moon in Scorpio, that you ended up with a simplified picture of my natal chart in the back of your mind. To really understand me using astrology, you need the full birth chart.

If I need more examples, then I can invoke the Wheel of the year, the Kabbalistic Tree of Life, and the Tarot. Each of these has at least one diagram associated with the energies that are being used. The diagrams explain the relationships between the energies.

It is the second question that is harder to answer. Why do the experts insist that certain diagrams are wrong? Sometimes it is because the person simply does not understand the energies and relationships that a diagram describes while firmly believing that they do. Other times it is because they are using a different set of keys to understand the diagram. Differences in opinion are the result of understanding the diagrams differently.

One of the advantages of being an initiate is that (in theory) you were given the keys to understand the diagrams that your tradition uses during course of your initiations and their related support material. Unfortunately, it is impossible to come to a complete consensus among the experts because different traditions use different key sets. Also, some experts were never given keys to certain diagrams in the first place.

A diagram can look wrong or completely meaningless if you do not have the keys to unlock it. One has to look at a diagram from the right direction to see what it is really saying. The most perfect diagram describing the ultimate secret of the universe will look completely meaningless if you do not know any of the symbols associated with it.

A large part of the time that an esoteric student spends will involve symbols, their energies, diagrams, and explanations of them. A lucky student will be handed the proper keys in a timely manner; the unlucky student will be left drifting at sea without a compass to guide them.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery traditions on his blog at:

<http://gleamingsfromthedawn.blogspot.com/>

EARTH TEMPLE

Earth Temple rituals are generally 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.

Note: The Beltaine ritual will be held on May 1, 2010, at the Wheat Ridge Senior Center 6363 W. 35th Avenue. Start time 7:30 pm.

Earth Temple 2010 dates

Event	ET Date	SATURDAY
Lammas/NM	July 31	
New Moon	Sep 11	
Mabon	Sep 25	
New Moon	Oct 9	
Samhain/NM	Nov 6	
Yule	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

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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