



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, JULY 23, 2010.

Les, Michelle and Sapphire Circle will be presenting a ritual that, well, defies description. We will focus on the internal and external concepts of circle and the Path we are walking. Bring an open mind and fresh eyes. The circle will be pseudo Gardnerian in flavor.

This will not be an extremely physically active ritual and there will be times for contemplation. Les and Michelle warn that exceptionally active children might want to bring something quiet to amuse themselves outside the circle.

—Catherine

GREETINGS

Summer has arrived after a rainy start. We've approached 100° most afternoons this last week. Summer is becoming green and gold.

This summer, I haven't had much time to spend outside: I have a lot of homework and work has been incredibly busy. I need to take more time to get outside and work in my yard before the weeds take over entirely. Still, a quiet afternoon with music and a book is my favorite way to waste time. Always set aside some time to waste. It renews the soul.

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone thanks Morgan Drake Eckstein, of Bast Temple for June's very interesting Open Full Moon, which was a teaching circle, offered in the Golden Dawn

tradition. Morgan introduced Golden Dawn, explaining its intertwining with Wicca. Volunteers invoked the Quarters, and Bast was invoked and asked to aid us all in understanding the hidden aspects of ritual (e.g. astrological and sephirothic energies).

Disks visually representing the Qabalistic Tree of Life were placed on the floor, with Kether in the East, and the altar in Tiphareth. A second set of disks was placed correlating moon phases with the first set, followed by disks of the zodiac. Seasonal correlations were discussed also, with, for example, East/ Kether/ Greatest Power/ Dawn/ Full Moon/ Summer correlations explained. Morgan explained that Golden Dawn rituals involve a layering of seven layers of meaning. (Morgan provided a handout after the ritual with the diagram of the interrelated systems of correspondences. Thank you!)

Pens and note cards were given to each participant to write a positive affirmation, and we chanted to raise energy for our intentions. Assistance in the ritual was provided by Jo and her daughter Mary.

Thank you and a Tip of the Hat to Morgan for generously sharing his tradition! Thank you also, Morgan, for the interesting series of articles you contributed to the Hearthstone newsletter leading up to this ritual.

—Arynn

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.

Do Wicca and Golden Dawn Have an Ethic Code?

One of the books in my library is the first volume of A Code of Jewish Ethics by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. It is over five hundred pages, and just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to understanding the complexities of Jewish ethics. I have nothing similar to it when it comes to Wiccan or Golden Dawn ethics. I am not even sure that one could scrape together five pages on ethics for either tradition.

Wicca and Golden Dawn are in a similar position when it comes to ethics. It is up to the individual to develop their own ethics. There is no authority on high insisting that one act in a certain way. This is both an advantage and a disadvantage---it all depends upon whether or not, the individual chooses to examine their own acts and come up with a set of individual ethics.

This absence of a higher ethical authority gives both Wiccans and students of Golden Dawn the potential to have very highly individualized codes of ethics. In theory, our ethics should be appropriate to the world that we currently live in. In practice, esoteric students seldom think about anything that they

are not required to think about; the result is quite predictable.

Now, many of my readers will respond that I am wrong, that both Wicca and Golden Dawn have an ethic system built into their respective traditions. Furthermore, they will cite the basis of this assumption. On the Wiccan end, it will be the Three-Fold Law; on the side of Golden Dawn, it will be the oath of obligation. Both proofs are on the thinnest of ices.

The Three-Fold Law is often cited when someone in Wicca openly starts to poke at the issue of ethics. Quite simply, the Three-Fold Law states that the energies of your actions will return to you three-fold. It is a nice theory. In practice, one is often hard pressed to provide proof that the Three-Fold Law actually works. The world is full of people who should have suffered spontaneous combustion (or worse) if the Three-Fold Law was a law of nature, such as gravity.

The problem with using the Three-Fold Law as the basis of an ethic standard is that the Three-Fold Law was not about ethics originally; it was actually a set of ritual instructions. The Three-Fold Law first appears in Gardnerian Witchcraft, and is a concealed set of instructions to fulfill the sexual needs of Gerald Gardner. The Three-Fold Law is vital in its original context for Gardner could not perform sex magic without being aroused in a specific manner, but that context did not actually have anything to do with ethics.

Similarly, in Golden Dawn, the oath of obligation has a ritual purpose, one that only loosely applies to ethics in general. The most cited clause of the obligation involves not doing “evil magic,” a term that is never officially defined by the tradition. The individual Adept ends up defining the term.

So does this mean that Wicca and Golden Dawn do not have ethics? No. It merely means that the individual is responsible for deciding their own ethical standard. One’s ethics in Wicca and Golden Dawn are freely decided upon, and in many ways more binding

than a standard imposed by an outside authority.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

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

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

ON WICCAN ETHICS

I usually write only one column in our newsletter. This month, I write two, simply because I feel the need to clarify a point on Wiccan Ethics.

Much is made in public about the “Three-Fold Law” or the “Law of Return”. Yes, there may have been an ulterior motive for the concept of your actions returning to you three-fold. I prefer to think of it as “what you put out there comes back, bigger, stronger, faster,” much like the ripples from a stone being dropped in still water.

It’s not always a physical return of energy or action. People who do harm do not always receive harm in return, nor do people who do good always receive good. But one, who puts that negative energy out there, causing harm, will suffer damage to his or her inner being, that inner kernel which makes each person into that particular person. The more negative energy put out there, the more it erodes. On the other hand, doing good things: putting good energy into the universe, strengthens that kernel.

When putting any kind of energy into the universe, a Wiccan must be prepared to accept responsibility for that energy.

I was once told that “a Witch, who cannot curse, cannot heal.” It’s true. But a Wiccan Witch who curses, must be ready to accept responsibility for that action and its consequences.

For more on Wiccan ethics, I suggest reading Robin Woods’ “When, Why, If”.

—Catherine

ELEMENTS OF MAGIC

THREE SUNDAYS

Sept 26, Oct 3 & 10, 2010

Elements of Magic is the first of the core classes 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.

Reclaiming is a community of individuals working to unify spirit and politics. Our vision is rooted in the religion and magic of the Goddess, the Immanent Life Force. We see our work as teaching and making magic; the art of empowering ourselves and each other. This class is open to women and men.

A limited number of spaces are available for teens and young adults. Please call if 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.

Scarlet (Leni Hester) has been a self-identified Witch since age 5, and has been consciously following the path of Transformational Magick for 25 years. She's trained in Alexandrian (Bluestar) and Gardnerian Wicca, the Western Mystery Tradition, as well as AfroCuban Santeria (Lucumi) and yoga. She raises 2 lil girls in Aurora with her dear husband.

Terpsichore has been a Reclaiming witch since 1998. In 1986 she committed to the Craft thanks to the serendipity of stumbling on a feminist course about Women, Myths and Fairytales. Terpsichore delights in all dance, felt and seen (including adorning bodies and

shaping spaces). She co-founded Reclaiming's first all-ages Witchcamp.

Class Schedule:

Sunday, September 26

11:30 am Registration

12:00pm – 5:00pm Class w/Potluck Lunch

Sunday, October 3

12:00 pm – 5:00pm Class w/Potluck Lunch

Sunday, October 10

12:00 am – 5:00pm Class w/Potluck Lunch

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: \$60 to \$90 sliding scale paid in full at first session.

Early Bird: \$45 paid by Deadline of September 19, 2010

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

Phone: Kath at 303-618-7702

EMAIL: morgans_insight@yahoo.com

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.

Registration

Pre-registration is required!

Class size is limited.

Registration Deadline: Sept 19 or until class is filled, subject to availability.

The location for this class is:

Spirit Wise
6590 S Broadway
Centennial, CO 80121
303-730-2974

For Registration please mail to:

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.

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

July 23, 2010

August 20, 2010

September 17, 2010

October 22, 2010

November 19, 2010

December 17, 2010

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