



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



NOVEMBER 19 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, NOVEMBER 19, 2010.

At the November OFM, the Covenant of the Witches will be working with the domestic energies of the full moon in Taurus, allied with the power of change from Pluto to encourage spiritual involvement in the matters of everyday life, and the recovery of our power from outdated habits. The Covenant of the Witches can be found at: <http://cotw.us>

—Catherine

GREETINGS

I am not a morning person. I mention this because a week ago the clocks rolled back from Daylight Savings Time to Standard Time and suddenly I lost what little light I got in the evening. This week has suddenly seemed very dark – just after one of our darkest holidays of the year. It has seemed like a very long week.

However, this is also the week when we honor those who have offered their service to our country. These men and women have shown the true meaning of the word "sacrifice", that is "to make sacred." I thank each and every one of you. This service is a ray of light to celebrate.

It is at this time that we need to look for rays of light to lead us into the darkest time of the year.

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Thanks and a Tip of the Hat to the Women's Spiritual Leadership Alliance

(WSLA) for leading Hearthstone's Samhain OFM ritual. Participants were invited into sacred space where the Worlds of past, present, and possibility meet and mingle. We honored our ancestors, and family and friends who have passed away, with a simple candle ceremony. Each person was given a tea light, and as each was ready, each stepped into the center, lit the tea light from a central candle, and while saying the honoree's name, placed the light onto the altar amid many crystals. This solemn sharing of love and loss was moving and meaningful as emotion in the circle grew, and the altar glowed more and more brightly.

When this was complete, we chanted to and invoked the Goddess Hecate. We participated in silent, guided meditation, visualizing a night journey to a crossroad, where we received Her guidance and wisdom for the choices in our lives. After returning from meditation we released Hecate, and grounded with chocolate-covered pomegranate seeds, taking in the energy and knowledge we received.

Ancient Queen of Wisdom, Hecate, Knowing One, Old One, we give You thanks!

Thank you, WSLA members, for offering this beautiful Samhain rite for us all to share.

—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.

Clarifying my definition of 'Wicca' and 'Should'

Last month, I wrote about how much astrology that I believe that a Wiccan should know. Shortly after the article went "live," I received the first of several requests to clarify what I wrote. The requests fell into two piles: one, who did I consider Wiccan; and two, why did I believe that any astrological knowledge was required in the first place to be Wiccan. The former informs my opinion of the latter; clarifying the first will help clarify my reasons for the second.

Who do I consider to be a Wiccan? Well, if you are reading this newsletter, and occasionally show up at the Hearthstone Community Church open full moon rituals, then odds are that I consider you to be a Wiccan. Or at least, Wiccan-friendly. My definition of Wiccan tends to be inclusive, and tends to include almost everyone I have ever met at a public Wiccan gathering. Basically, if you have not told me or acted otherwise, and we know each other from public Wiccan events, I consider you Wiccan.

As for my opinion of how much astrology a Wiccan should know, it is only an opinion. No one is going to take away your union card if you do not know that much astrology.

Furthermore, my opinion is where I picture the bottom-line level of how much astrology a Wiccan should ideally know. Everyone and their cat is free to disagree with me, including members of the initiated traditions. Nevertheless, I stand by my opinion that ideally a Wiccan should know some astrology.

Why? Because I have been at several rituals that started out literally with the person conducting it saying something along the following: "Tonight, the full moon is in Leo, therefore our ritual tonight, we are going to...." Hopefully, the person leading the ritual knows the skill and knowledge sets of their audience. However, having been present at many public rituals, I know that those conducting the ritual do not necessarily know the education and background of their audience.

And if the person leading the ritual starts off by stating astrological information, you can bet that information was considered important while the ritual was being designed. Without some knowledge of astrology, there is a good chance that you are not going to notice some of the design elements of the ritual. Given the experience and ritual skill of the people conducting the ritual, you may not even notice that you missed a layer of the ritual.

Therefore, when I say "should know," I am talking about an idealized standard. Consider my opinion of how much astrology a Wiccan should know to be the goal. It does not matter what you currently know about astrology; no one is going to consider you less of a Wiccan if you can't explain everything on my list. My opinion is based on how much astrological symbolism and techniques I have spotted over the years lurking in public rituals and classes, often unexplained and perhaps even unknown to the very people that are conducting the rituals. My "should know" is not about where you are today; it is where I plan on getting you to by the end of this particular set of articles.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

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

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

A Wiccan's view on Wicca and astrology

I take up my keyboard once again to clarify misunderstandings that might arise.

First, not everyone who shows up at a Hearthstone ritual is Wiccan. Wiccan is not the umbrella term for anyone who shows up at a public ritual. While Hearthstone is incorporated as a Wiccan church, it hosts and has hosted rituals from groups as diverse as Asatru and Heathen to Feri to Discordian. And yes, we have even had some Wiccan groups. Hearthstone is also a relatively safe place for people who have just begun to explore paganism to meet people and experience those different traditions.

Second, most groups will not begin a ritual with "we will be working with the full moon in Taurus." However, if they do, they generally explain what they will be doing with those energies and why. A good priestess or priest will be able to help people at all levels experience the ritual to that person's best ability. If a particular astrological alignment must be understood by the people participating in the ritual along with the officiants, then it is the job of the officiants to explain it, not that of the people attending to puzzle through.

---*Catherine*

Addendum: Remember, Hearthstone is a place for people exploring spirituality to attend. We don't require any specific knowledge, we will answer all questions, and we expect our ritual leaders to explain any principles they use in their rituals. Once you have found a group or coven to work with, your teacher will determine what you need to know in order to work with your coven, and will ensure you learn the things you need to know for that tradition.

--*Alia*

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.

Earth Temple 2010 dates

Event ET Date SATURDAY
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

November 19, 2010
December 17, 2010

2011 Open Full Moon Dates

January 14, 2011
February 18, 2011
March 18, 2011
April 15, 2011
May 13, 2011
June 10, 2011
July 15, 2011
August 12, 2011
September 9, 2011
October 7, 2011
November 4, 2011
December 9, 2011

Newsletter subscribers: The mailed newsletter will stop at the end of 2010. Please read the column titled “Changes in the Newsletter.”

Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.
3071 S. Dexter Way
Denver, CO 80222
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