



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



FEBRUARY 18 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 18, 2011.

Living Earth will be officiating at the first full moon in Imbolc on February 18th. Taking a cue from the Charge of the Goddess, "Whenever you have need of anything, and better it be when the moon is full, you shall gather...", Living Earth's ritual will be based on the intents and needs of the participants at the ritual. They ask that participants come to the ritual with a need in mind.

If you are interested in being part of the planning process, you are welcome to join Living Earth at the **Gypsy House** Coffee Shop 1279 Marion St (one block Southwest of the UU church) at 5:30PM. There will be a Living Earth sign and they may be downstairs if it is available.

— *Catherine*

GREETINGS

It's coming up on the first full moon in the season of Imbolc. This is the time when we first notice the lengthening of the days and, despite the weather of the past couple of weeks, the first hints of warmth. It is still Winter, but we can see our way to Spring.

This is also the season of Brigid's flame – the flame of inspiration. That flame can inspire us to wonderful heights or to the wonders of the hearth and home. It's the time to plan the shape our gardens will take for the rest of the year. Those gardens are more than the ones containing vegetable life. Our lives are like gardens. We can let them run wild and let them be tangled and hard to get through. Or we can make a plan.

This is the time of the year to plan how we want our gardens to look for the next year.

— *Catherine*

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone offers our thanks and a tip of our hat to Reclaiming Spirit Colorado, who offered our January Open Full Moon ritual with the theme of Finding and Kindling our Heart's Desire. Five Reclaiming members shared responsibilities to teach us a chant-song, share with us the Reclaiming Tradition's Principles of Unity, ground, cast, and invoke the Goddess Brigid, especially Her aspect of metal worker at the forge. We meditated on letting go of life's annoyances, then focused on identifying that which our heart desires, what we want to bring into our lives. Each person received a piece of magick flash paper which we charged with our intentions while we danced, raised energy, and sang "I will dance in the heat of my heart's desire...." As each person was ready, we stepped to the central flame and ignited our paper, forging our intention into manifestation. So mote it be!

Thank you, Reclaiming Spirit, for sharing with Hearthstone your desire to serve our community! Many blessings to you, and to all of us as we dance into this new year.

— *Arynnne*

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.

TROPICAL! SIDEREAL! CONSTELLATIONAL! OH MY!

Last month, you might have heard from Fox News that your traditional sun sign was quite possibly wrong, thanks to precession (the slow drifting of the Vernal Equinox westward over the centuries) and the fact that there are actually thirteen constellations along the ecliptic (the apparent path of the sun). This may have caused you some concern, or it may have merely caused you to roll your eyes.

In my case, I said a few unprintable words and continued with my day. After all, this information was being reported on a slow news day, and their expert was an astronomer. I didn't expect the internet to explode with searches for information about this new “zodiac sign.” I should have---after all, since the 1970s periodic eruptions of this constellation-based astrology have occurred.

The first attempt to make astrology match astronomy (which I know of) was made in 1970 by Steven Schmidt. In his book, *Astrology 14*, he argued that modern astrologers should be using fourteen constellations, the traditional twelve plus Ophiuchus and Cetus. Astrologers who tried his system (for the most part) decided that his proposed system did not work.

Another serious attempt was made in 1977, or so it seemed. *Arachne Rising: The Thirteenth Sign of the Zodiac*, by James Vogh, made the claim that astrology should be using a thirteen sign system. The thirteen sign was Arachne, the spider. This was a serious attempt...to discredit astrology and all who believe in it. James Vogh was a pseudonym of the American science fiction writer John Sladek, who more or less proved that if you toss enough “proof” at people, they would believe anything. It turns out that he invented the constellation of Arachne---lock, stock and barrel.

Now, some astrologers during the recent interest spike pointed out that the Eastern astrologers use a system called the Sidereal (the Western twelve sign system is the Tropical). What they failed to mention is that there is some disagreement about where the zero point of their zodiac is; they also ignored the fact that some Sidereal astrologers use Serpentarius as a thirteenth sign. This is the part of the Sidereal astrology’s attempt to bring their system in line with the modern constellations. Few Sidereal astrologers actually use this thirteen sign.

This brief history illustrates some of the problems with the system of constellational astrology. Or at least, I hope that it does. So do the zodiac signs have anything to do with the constellations?

According to *The Essential Cosmic Perspective*, 4th edition (Bennett, Donahue, Schneider, and Voit), “A constellation is a region of the sky with well-defined borders; the familiar patterns of the stars merely help us to locate these constellations.” The International Astronomical Union chose the current 88 official constellations in 1928; this is the same organization that in August 2006 demoted Pluto down to a “dwarf planet.”

What is not mentioned in this definition is the fact that the constellations have changed though the ages. For instance, the modern constellation of Libra, the scales, was originally the claws of an earlier version of the constellation of Scorpio. Something else not mentioned is that while the modern constellations bear the same names as the zodiac signs, their only relationship is the names.

The zodiac is actually a system of measuring positions on the ecliptic. Around the sixth century BCE, the zodiac got divorced from the constellations, and became the current system of dividing the ecliptic into twelve equal parts. The only difference between the Tropical and Sidereal zodiacs, outside of those astrologers trying to synchronize their art with the modern science of astronomy, is the point where we start our measurements.

My advice is to all concerned, stick with your old zodiac sign until the constellational astrologers get their act together. The zodiac signs have been around for over two thousand years, while the constellations that some people think we should adopt have only been around for eighty -two years.

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

We're still at the Firehouse Community Center in Wheat Ridge for all rituals except Beltaine and Samhain. We start announcements at 7:30, and then start ritual when announcements end. Our dates are all Saturdays with one exception: Ostara will be held on SUNDAY, March 20.

Hope you can join us!

The ET steering committee, Chris, Dara, Michelle, and Vella Rose

2011 ET Ritual Dates

Event	ET Date
New Moon	Mar 5
Ostara	Mar 20 SUNDAY
New Moon	Apr 2
Beltaine	Apr 30**
New Moon	Jun 4
Midsummer	Jun 18
Lammas/ New Moon	July 30
New Moon	Aug 27
Mabon	Sept 24
New Moon	Oct 22
Samhain	Nov 5**
New Moon	Nov 19
Yule	Dec 17

**Location TBA

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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2011 Open Full Moon Dates

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: As of January 2011, we have ceased delivering the newsletter by U.S. Mail.