



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



OCTOBER 4 OPEN FULL MOON

Lady Judith and Lady Ketievia are old friends, having known each other in Denver for more than 35 years. Both were trained in Gardnerian Wicca, but will be doing a more eclectic ritual for this full moon. They will be joined by our own Southwynde as Priest. This November Moon marks the first full moon of the new year, so it will be a contemplative and quiet ritual that will welcome the season of Winter into our lives. Very appropriate considering the recent weather. Come with your own question or wish for the season and it may be that the Goddess herself will answer you.

Some of you know one or both of these Ladies as long time teachers for beginners in Denver. They are currently in the process of putting together a class they will team-teach, which will be for those who have graduated from a Wicca 101 and would like to learn what comes next. It will be structured in quarters, and the first quarter will begin the first week in January. More information will be available on this class at the Full Moon.

GREETINGS

Once again, it has been a busy month. I finished one class and immediately started another. This business of higher education certainly keeps you busy.

Winter has decided to come in right on schedule – that is on schedule for Colorado. This last week's storm was lovely to watch, but not so fun to drive in.

I had a chance to sit in my yard this afternoon and watched the leaves fall. I'll miss those leaves on the trees, but I know they must give way for new growth, just as the year gives way for the new year of Samhain. It's time to think about the coming winter knowing that it will bring new growth. And watch the trees, if I forget.

---Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Thanks and a Tip of our Hat to ShenTat, Covenant of the Wicca (COTW), and friends, who presented our October Open Full Moon ritual emphasizing that divinity dwells within each of us.

We were guided through breathing, grounding, casting, calling the Quarters, and invoking the Divine within. While gently tapping our hearts, we meditated on being as a tree, reaching our roots down to sip from Earth's warm core of life force. We continued meditating on seeds, sap, leaves reaching up, and the divinity and connectedness of all life. After blessing and sharing cakes and juice, thanking the Divine and Quarters, the ritual ended with "Beautiful Selves, be with us forever."

Thank you, ShenTat and friends, for leaving each of us knowing that our inner divinity has been recognized and honored. Blessed Be, Beautiful Selves!

—Aryne

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.



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



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.

MAY YOU NEVER...

It is that time of year again when American society reminds us to count our blessings, time for the penultimate holiday of the year, Thanksgiving. This is a holiday that tends to be all about food. Personally, I find that all holidays involving food to be fascinating; my interest extends to weddings and funerals also. If there is food involved, you have my attention. I blame this fascination on my childhood.

I grew up poor. Well, poor for an American. Let us be honest; when you look at the overall standard of living that humanity has enjoyed down throughout the ages, few Americans can be considered poor based on global and historical standards. So when I say that I grew up poor, let me be clear: there were holes in the roof; we accepted donations from the local food bank, and my school clothes were bought at yard sales.

I suspect that this fact, the fact that so few Americans are really poor, is the reason that we had to create the mythical holiday of Thanksgiving. And let's be honest, our image of Thanksgiving is mythical. It is very unlikely that a society that was on the verge of extinction by starvation would have such a large feast as depicted in the American mythology. There was probably no turkey. Personally, I tend to imagine the feast as some eels and a few ears of corn. And if the Pilgrims did get a windfall of food, they probably rationed it out as long as they could.



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



Thanksgiving is the feast that the Pilgrims would have liked to have. It is much like the number of feasts that one encounters in fairy tales, chivalry tales, and Northern mythology. It is not that people were constantly having feasts; it is that they would have liked more food on a daily basis.

One of the things that I know from my impoverished childhood is that at a certain level of need, there arises a constant concern about where your next meal is coming from. You never really get over it. It is one of the reasons that I automatically hate politicians who want to get rid of subsidized school breakfast and lunch programs. Growing up, I was constantly hungry. The free breakfast at the local school was a meal that I could count on. I remember this when a politician claim that schools are only for instruction, and presume that the politician needs to be voted out of office.

This impoverished background colors my views of the current political and economic environment. I am suspicious of any solution that shifts more of the economic burden onto the poor, but I am equally leery of any protest screaming that the rich are hogging all the wealth that does not contain anyone that I would classify as being truly poor. Through most of my childhood, my parents wondered how they were going to keep a roof over their children's heads, where the next meal was coming from, and if they could afford to turn on the heat.

My background also colors how I react to the most common blessing in Wiccan ritual (or at least, it is the most common blessing that I have encountered). "May you never hunger; may you never thirst." Having been poor, this blessing, in many ways, represents the height of human civilization as far as I am concerned. You can talk about spiritual experiences and personal growth; but let's be honest, I have always been more interested in food.

Of course, as a Golden Dawn member, I would modify the blessing slightly. (The Golden Dawn counterpart of Cakes and Ale, the Mystic Repast involves a rose, a lit lamp, bread and salt, and a cup of wine when done according to the official ritual documents.) Or maybe the modification is because I grew up poor. Whatever---it does not matter. What matters is that I extend this blessing to you this holiday season.

May you never be ignorant; may you never be cold; may you never hunger; may you never thirst; may you always be thankful. So mote it be. Happy holidays.

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.

Hope you can join us!

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

2011 ET Ritual Dates

Event	ET Date
Samhain	Nov 5**
New Moon	Nov 19
Yule	Dec 17

**Location TBA



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



ET Samhain:

Please join us for this celebration of the Old Gods. Note the different start time of 6:30. Please be prompt; no one is admitted after ritual begins.

Sapphire Circle once again will be presenting this ritual and offering a drawing down of the god Arawn. Each participant will have the opportunity to speak with him. We will have readers and grounders available as well. This is a looong ritual. We do have chairs available, but feel free to bring blankets to sit on the floor if you like. This is a quiet, meditative ritual, so bring divination tools and notetaking materials to work with if you like. As with all other Earth Temple rituals, attendees must be 18 or older to attend. Hope you can join us!

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

STANDARD DISCLAIMER and COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Please note that information and opinions contained in the articles in this newsletter are the responsibility of the authors only. No endorsement by Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. is implied.

All writings are copyright to their respective authors. Please obtain permission before reprinting anything here with the exception of the Open Full Moon Dates. Those may be copied and transmitted as needed.

2011 Open Full Moon Dates

November 4, 2011

December 9, 2011

2012 Open Full Moon Dates

January 6

February 3

March 2



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.
"The Full Moon Folk"



April 6 (actual full moon)

May 4

June 1

June 29

July 27

August 31

September 28

October 26

November 23 (Friday after Thanksgiving)

December 28 (Actual Full Moon)

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