



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



MAY 4 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. This month's ritual is FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2012.

Carrie and Martin will be leading the ritual on May 4. The Full Moon in Scorpio also falls on the Astrological (15 Taurus) Beltaine cross quarter day, so we will be adding that energy into the mix. We'll be doing a meditation and Drawing Down.

If anyone has books they'd like to donate to Carrie and Martin's Prison Ministry, please bring them along (Wiccan, Pagan, Druid, Buddhist, self-help etc.)!

--Catherine

GREETINGS

Happy Beltaine! The newsletter is a little late this month, because I had a family emergency Saturday afternoon – which stretched from the afternoon into the evening. Almost everything is taken care of now, but it did remind me of the Chinese curse: "May you live in interesting times."

My lilacs came out in full force this year. It has been lovely to come home in the evening and be overwhelmed by the scent in the front yard. I seem to find more and more reasons to stay outside when I get home from work. After all, it's Spring!

--Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

All participants at Hearthstone's April Open Full Moon were honored to share in the celebration of the Rite of Passage for Alora and Sara, marking the ending of childhood and the beginning of womanhood. Both girls were Wiccaned at Hearthstone as babies, and went through the young maiden rites at Dragonfest last summer. This ritual brought their rites full circle back to Hearthstone.

Amy/Nightshade led the ritual, and a large cast of friends in our community served in roles as the Elements and the Gods (Maid/Mother/Crone and Youth/Father/Sage). Proud mothers Amy and Kath spoke briefly of their daughters' accomplishments. Each Element challenged each young woman to commit to going forward with integrity, i.e., South asked: Will you use my gifts of courage and passion to do right? The Gods and Goddesses spoke their wisdom, and assured Alora and Sara: We are always with you, and you are loved just as you are.

Thank you, Amy and Alora, and Kath and Sara, for honoring us by sharing this rite with all of us at Hearthstone!

Just as when Amy led the rite of passage for her son at Hearthstone a year or two ago, several adults were wistful afterwards about having never experienced rites of passage in their own earlier lives. They spoke of realizing, during these rituals, that there's a place deep inside where each person longs to experience being recognized, affirmed, and honored for their individual path through life, and be blessed and welcomed into the community of adults. So...maybe it's never too late to experience a rite of passage! Is there a priest/ess or group in our community who would like to develop such a ritual for a future Hearthstone OFM?



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Blessings to Sara and Alora, and to each of us, for demonstrating the fortitude to continue to dance along our paths!

—Arynn

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.

WICCAN BASICS CLASS

Sacred Stone Circle <http://sacredstonecircle.org/> is once again providing Wicca Basics classes! For those interested, please go to the website and fill out the New Student form at: http://sacredstonecircle.org/?page_id=1063. We will contact you with the particulars. Check out our other offerings as well. Lots of information on the site.

Also, we are hosting the first of what we anticipate to be an annual event on the Front Range:

FIRST ANNUAL DRUMMING DOWN THE SUN - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2012, 6 pm - 10 pm, Addenbrook Park, Shelters #1 and #2, Kipling @ Exposition. Bring your drums, rattles, pentagram tambourines and yourselves and help celebrate the Summer Solstice and the



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change from the Light (Goddess) half of the year to the Dark (God) half of the year. We offer this celebration as a way to bring balance and celebration for flip side of Drumming Up The Sun on the Winter Solstice. Come honor the changes that this solar event marks. We have more information available on our website: www.sacredstonecircle.org.

In service to the Goddess and God,

---Sage and HavenWood

High Priestess and High Priest of Sacred Stone Circle

OUR FUTURE ELDERS

One of the things that every spiritual tradition has to determine is where its future leaders are coming from. Modern paganism and Wicca, being a child of the esoteric lodge system, tends to draw its leaders from the ranks of people who joined the religion as adults. This tendency is a result of how new our religion really is. But the time is approaching when we no longer have to go this route.

We are approaching a time when some of our leaders will have been pagan since their birth. Not lifelong Wiccans merely in their hearts, they will have been born into Wiccan families and raised in the religion. Today, there are children who have lived their entire lives as pagans and Wiccans. Some of them are well known among us; others hide the fact that they do not remember any other belief system; others have not introduced themselves to the community yet.

Their experience, and the resulting leadership style they adapt, is going to be different from the leadership style that we are accustomed to. Part of the change will be a result of how they learned about their religion in the first place. Besides the input of books, they will have learned the ways of our religion from their own relatives. They will have spent their entire lives seeing other people live the religion.

For them, some things will be simpler; other things will be harder. Often, they will have memories of how one of their relatives dealt with certain situations when they arose. This will give them a baseline for their own reactions and decisions. They will spend less time inventing the wheel. On the other hand, many of these lifelong Wiccans are going to have some difficulties understanding how newcomers to the religion feel. They will simply not have the conversion experience that most pagans and Wiccans have undergone today. Other thing that they will have less experience with is the phenomena of coming out of the broom closet.

One of the myths that went hand in hand with Wicca when it first developed was the idea of the Fam-Trad, families who had always been Wiccan. It was a myth during the sixties and seventies. Yet today, there are truly Fam-Trads who walk among us. Some of them are in their forties, children and relatives of the very first American Wiccans of the sixties. Others are younger. And some have not been born yet.

And someday they will be our leaders. If our religion survives and grows, it is only matter of time before these individuals find themselves in leadership roles. Sometimes, this will be merely raising their own children in their religion. For others, their role will be more public. But all of them will have lived as an example to the world of what a Wiccan is. And that alone should remind us that every child of a Wiccan family is a future elder, not to us alone, but to the entire world.



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As such, it is only fair that we try our best to show them the best example. For the lessons that we teach them will be passed down the line, through the generations, to a time that we can't even imagine. The thought is both a little exciting and a little scary. And the only thing that we can do is to be the best example that we can be. The rest is up to them, today's children, our future elders.

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 celebrates New Moons and Sabbats. With the exceptions noted below, our rituals are held at our NEW location: Full Moon Books and Event Center, 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood.

We start announcements at 7:30, and then start ritual when announcements end. Our dates are all Saturdays. Hope you can join us!

Event	ET date
Beltaine	May 5**Wheat Ridge Active Adult Center, 6363 W. 35th Ave.
New Moon	May 19
New Moon/Litha	Jun 16
New Moon	Jul 21
Lughnasagh	Aug 4
New Moon	Aug 18
New Moon	Sep 15
Mabon	Sep 22
New Moon	Oct 13
Samhain	Nov 3**Location TBA
New Moon	Nov 17
New Moon/Yule	Dec 15

WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-680-1741. 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; 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.



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This newsletter is for Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. of Denver, Colorado. Editor: Catherine Mock. Publisher: M. Alia Denny

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2012 Open Full Moon Dates

May 4

June 1

June 29

July 27

August 31

September 28

October 26

November 23

December 28