



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



AUGUST 31 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, AUGUST 31, 2012.

August 31, 2012 is one of those rare phenomena, a Blue Moon. Ketiëvia, Kathy, and students will celebrate the Blue Moon with a traditional ceremony where we will call both the Moon Goddess and the Sun God. Since this is the Blue Moon, we encourage everyone to wear something blue.

--Catherine

GREETINGS

What a month!

The good news: I finished my thesis. I only have two classes to finish the Master's degree (okay one and a half since I'm currently taking one).

It has been an up and down month. My best friend was hospitalized for most of the month. She's home and recovering now.

My father's only remaining sister passed from this world two weeks ago. Of all eleven of his brothers and sisters, only he and his youngest brother remain. However, I am not sure if he realizes that his sister has passed. You see, he has Alzheimer's and is failing rapidly. When I visited him this weekend, I saw that my mother has decorated his portion of his room with a picture of his mother and father, their wedding picture, and pictures of the family. She showed me pictures that his sister had kept: my father as a little boy, graduating from high school and when he was in the army. I was struck by how much my brother looks like him. I've been told that I look much like his mother.

Sometime in the next week, my father will enter hospice care. He has had a full life and seems to be at peace right now. But I will miss the man who helped me to build my first harp and quietly encouraged me to embrace my music. I won't say goodbye yet. But somehow, it seems right that this Kansas farm boy go to his final home during harvest time.

--Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

At the time of our late July Open Full Moon gathering, Alia was recovering in the hospital. The priestess who planned to lead the ritual withdrew at the last minute due to a family health emergency. We needed a new plan quickly under these circumstances, so what better ritual work to do than Healing?

Catherine led the ritual, and volunteers called the Elements. Arynne led the group in a guided chakra balancing meditation. We then sent healing energy outward as an offering to our friends and families. We finished by wrapping ourselves in healing energy, and grounding.

The intention was to bring each of us closer to balance, peace, and health, and to send an offering of healing energy to others in need. It was an ambitious goal for a public ritual with nearly two dozen people of varying backgrounds, yet everyone beautifully focused and participated for the full time, which was over half an hour of intense meditation.



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Thank you, Hearthstone community, for coming into sacred space together each full moon. It is a privilege to share this path with you.

Blessings

—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.

SACRED STONE CIRCLE

Sacred Stone Circle <http://sacredstonecircle.org/> is dedicated to advancing the study and practice of Wicca and service to our Pagan Community through reverence to the Goddesses and Gods of the Old Religions. We are an advanced Wiccan (Eclectic Tradition) studies and teaching group local to the Denver, CO metro area. We are always looking for those who are an initiated First Degree



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(or First Degree Initiate Level in training) who want to advance their study and practice in a group of like-minded folks.

In addition to our advanced studies, on September 16 we begin our first offering of The Foundations of Wicca, a one-year program of classes designed to provide students with skills, experience and application of the Wiccan religion so that they are at the First Degree Initiate Level when the year is completed.

Beginning in late Spring 2013, SSC will once again provide 8-week Wicca Basics classes.

For those interested in any of the above offerings, 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.

In service to the Goddess and God,

---Sage and HavenWood

High Priestess and High Priest of Sacred Stone Circle

A THREEFOLD INTERPRETATION OF THE CAKES AND ALE

One of the key documents of the Golden Dawn tradition is the Z-Document. This is the document that transformed Golden Dawn from a simple lodge system studying esoteric lore to the magical Order that influenced the esoteric thinkers of the twentieth century, including the creators of Wicca. Without the Z-Document, Golden Dawn would just turn out learned gentlemen and ladies; with the Z-Document, Golden Dawn created magicians.

What is special about the Z-Document is that it turned ordinary lodge ritual into a tool that could be used by the aspiring magician. In one part of the document, the common trappings of lodge ritual, such as the passwords and secret handshakes, are examined to expose not only their pragmatic lodge use and symbolic myth, but also the use that the magician could put them to in their private magical workings. And while Wicca does not have an official Z-Document of its own, one can see that the way many of us understand Wicca was influenced by the prism that Golden Dawn used.

An illustration of the threefold interpretation of Wiccan ritual can be found in the Cakes and Ale, the sharing of wine (or fruit juice) and some form of cookie or bread among the celebrants of a Wiccan ritual.

On the pragmatic level, the Cakes and Ale does two things. First, it helps build a sense of community through a sharing of food and drink. Second, it helps restore the normal body chemistry and mind set of the celebrant; it refocuses them on the physical world.

On a symbolic level, the mythology of the Cakes and Ale varies with the understanding of the person experiencing it. For some, Cakes and Ale is an outer exoteric expression of the Great Rite; for others, it represents the sacrificed body of one of the deities; to the nature worshipper, it represents the fruit of the field. These are not the only ideas and myths that the Cakes and Ale can represent—the reader is sure to think of something that I have not mentioned.

On the magical level, the Cakes and Ale can be energized in a ritual to nourish not just the physical body, but also the non-physical layers of the human soul—the astral body, etc. It can also



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be used to build up a connection with those divine and elemental forces that we evoke during the course of ritual. One can literally ingest a part of the divine.

One can go beyond what I mentioned here, and expand further on the Cakes and Ale. Furthermore, all parts of Wiccan ritual can be examined through this type of threefold interpretation. It is not necessary for a celebrant of Wicca to do such work, but for those who chose to do so, the threefold template will yield many hidden treasures.

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
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.

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

August 31

September 28

October 26

November 23

December 28