



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



APRIL 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. This month's ritual is FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2013.

Beltaine is right around the corner, but before you get ready to light the fire, you need to make sure things are cleaned up! On April 19, we will cleanse negative emotions and create a cleansing sanctifying space using the elemental energies of water. Some of the folks from Sapphire Circle will be there to facilitate this experience.

—Catherine

GREETINGS

It must be April in Colorado. It's snowing in Denver. When I see spring snow, I think about the fact that snow on both the Front Range and Western Slope is generally better as far as the drought goes – the runoff is more likely to flow into our reservoirs. This is true in Fall, Winter and Spring. So, these April (snow) Showers may just bring May Flowers. We can only hope so!

As I was writing this, news came in of the terrible events in Boston this afternoon. The members of the Hearthstone Board are keeping the people of Boston in our thoughts and sending any positive energy we can spare for blessing and healing them at this time.

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Our Hearthstone community celebrated Eostar and the full moon at our March OFM. We thank Amy and her children Mars, Alora and Adara for this ritual, which included both creative crafts and meditation to bring into balance whatever aspects of our lives need greater balance. Supplies were offered for each of us to decorate a plastic egg that became our "Inspiration Egg." We also each received a clear glass "stone of clarity" into which to focus our intentions during meditation. We were invited to ask deity, and/or our guides, to aid us in manifesting our desires as we charged our eggs with our intentions.

Thank you, Amy and family, for sparking our creativity and assisting us to move into Spring in balance!

Bright Blessings of Spring to All!

—Arynne

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.



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



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.

–Alia

FAMILIAR ANIMAL SPIRITS AND THE MODERN PAGAN

Recently, one of my sisters has started to complain about me. Or rather, resumed complaining about me. One of the complaints that my sister has about me is that I seem to care more about animals than I do human beings. She especially does not like it when I point out that animals have not invented nuclear bombs, credit ratings, and the IRS, therefore they are more worthy of my respect. She does not see the humor of that logic. But I must admit that I often have more empathy for animals than I have for some human beings. (There are some humans I really enjoy the company of, and there are the other ones that I just want to whack with a stick.)

In the records of the witch hunts, one often encounters the claim that witches have familiar spirits, often in the shape of an animal. Honestly, most of the people harmed during the witch hunts were Christian, and a high percentage of them seemed to be property owning unmarried women. And many of them seemed to have been crazy cat ladies. A good number of animals and their owners seemed to have been tortured and killed by the Christians in their quest to rid the world of the devil and to line their pockets with other people's property.



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



And yes, I am on the side of the accused witches, be they pagan or Christian.

Scanning the literature concerning primitive religious beliefs, and the early days of religion, there seems to be a lot of respect given to our animal brethren. In shamanism, often a shaman would channel the power of an animal, such as a bear. The shaman often had that power because they survived an attack by such an animal – the logic being that if you survived a traumatic attack by a hostile animal, then you must have some power over that type of animal.

Fortunately, the modern pagan does not need to go to such extremes to be able to access the power of an animal. But it still can be dramatic to gain such a familiar spirit. For instance, my wife used to have nightmares about spiders. It took her a long time to come to terms with the spirit of the spider. Today, spiders are perfectly safe at my house. Proof of this can be found in the fact that I did not freak out a few minutes ago when I found a spider crawling on my coffee cup.

Correction – the idea that spiders are perfectly safe at my house is not completely true. The familiar animals that I work with the most – cats – tend to eat them if they venture into reach. There have been many of a time that I have watched one of the cats hunting and then eating one of the spiders. There is probably a lesson there about the spirit of one entity absorbing the life force of another entity...we probably do not want to think about it too hard.

So how did I start working with cats? At first, I started by adopting one. Well, actually two. Well, really four of them. I wanted one cat, and my friends (who were moving) insisted that I take the other one also. I agreed. Turned out that one of the cats was pregnant. I became an instant kitty daddy. A few years later, when my wife and I brought a house, we were surprised that it came complete with its own feral cat colony.

I like to think that I earned the right to have cats as one of my totem animals by serving as a caretaker to them. After all, we trapped, fixed, and released the members of the feral colony, and continue to feed and watch over them to this day. And Bast, the Egyptian goddess of cats seems to agree with my logic.

So instead of having to survive vicious animal attacks, the modern pagan seems to have gone the route of the medieval witch, gaining the companionship of animal spirits by caring and living with animals. And I imagine quite a few of them like their animal companions better than some of the humans that they know. Heavens knows that I like my cats better than I like my sister at the moment – that probably also makes her upset. I wonder if she would like a big box of spiders.

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 meets at Full Moon Books and Event Center, at 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood. All of our dates are Saturday evenings. Please arrive at the store before 7:30 pm, since the store closes and the doors lock right at 7:30. Please check out our Witchvox page for more info about us: http://www.witchvox.com/vn/vn_detail/dt_gr.html?a=usco&id=35084. Thank you, Hearthstone, for sharing information about our circle!



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



Event	ET date
Beltaine	Apr 27 (Note: This ritual starts at 6:30 p.m.)
New Moon	May 11
NM/Litha	Jun 15
New Moon	Jul 6
NM/Lughnasagh	Aug 3
Mabon	Sep 14
New Moon	Oct 5
NM/Samhain	Nov 2
Yule	Dec 14

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

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.

2013 Open Full Moon Dates

April 19
May 24
June 21
July 19
August 16



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



September 13
October 18
November 15
December 13