



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



JUNE 21 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, JUNE 21, 2013.

The June 2013 Open Full Moon ritual will be a meditation (guided visualization) led by Morgan Drake Eckstein, a member of the Ba Iset Order of the Rosy Cross. During the mediation, we will walk through the eight Sabbats of the Wiccan year. Along the way, we will look at some of the primary symbolism of the eight Sabbats; this symbolism will be condensed into a "magical image" suitable for later work by those so inclined.

—Catherine

GREETINGS

I am a Master of Arts, with an emphasis in Management and Leadership. While I earned the degree in March and received my diploma in late May, I got to walk in the graduation ceremony June 1st. There's something about participating in ceremony including wearing the cap, gown, hood and the other paraphernalia – the "garb" of the graduation ritual – makes an achievement "real."

We have many rituals: day to day rituals, such as going to work; and seasonal rituals, such as Sabbats and Esbats, birthdays and anniversaries. Then there are the special rituals – the rites of passage, such as coming of age, initiations, and – most significantly for May and June – graduations. Those rituals recognize an achievement; an entrance into larger responsibilities or the acknowledgment of knowledge attained.

We all celebrate those rituals and remember them the rest of our lives. What special rituals will you celebrate?

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone would like to give a big thanks to Arynne and StarFalcon of Elvenhome for presenting the May 2013 Open Full Moon ritual.

The circle was cast by everyone attending, and was very relaxing.

During the ritual, we shared images and concepts relating to our individual understanding of the Triple Goddess and of the moon in an exercise that can be described as a game of magical telephone, using those images and concepts which meant the most to them. I associated the Triple Goddess to the field of writing, with a "the first sentence on the page" being associated with the Maiden; "the rough draft" being associated with the Mother; and "revision and beta readers" being associated with the Crone aspect. During the ritual, Catherine (of Hearthstone) led us in song to unite the circle and build energy.

Again, a big thanks to Arynne for a relaxing ritual well done.

—Morgan Drake Eckstein

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.

–Alia

MAGICAL IMAGES—ASTROLOGY AND MAGIC

The systems of magic and occultism practiced today are vastly different than the systems practiced before the nineteenth century. Some of the differences lay in the fact that we view (and map) the magical universe in vastly different terms now than we did then. Because of these differences, certain things found in the old grimoires and alchemical texts are completely foreign to most modern pagans and magicians.

One of the things missing from most modern systems of esoteric instruction is a set of graphical descriptions referred to as “magical images.” A magical image is a description of a picture that was commonly used for instruction or magical purposes. They tend to sound odd to modern

ears unaccustomed to the process of packing esoteric lore into visual form; but in reality, they are no stranger than using the picture of a floppy disk as an icon for the “save file” function — they merely seem strange because we are unfamiliar with the concepts and mythology that underly their creation.

An example of magical images can be found in the *Picatrix*, a grimoire from the twelfth century. Three of the magical images from the *Picatrix*, assigned to the zodiac sign Aries, are a tall, dark, man with red eyes, bearing a sword; a woman dressed in green, with one of her legs bare up to the knee; and a man in scarlet robes, wearing golden bracelets on his arms. These three images are each assigned to ten degrees of the zodiac sign of Aries, roughly ten days apiece.

A further example of a magical image can be found in the *Atalanta Fugiens*, a seventeenth century alchemical text. One of the alchemical emblems from the *Atalanta Fugiens* is of a road that runs through a valley alongside a river. There are cubic stones that lie in the mud of the road, on the hillsides, in the waters of the river, and even in the air itself. The people, who travel along this road and in boats on the river, all fail to see these stones. One theory is that the cubic stones might symbolize the *prima materia* (first matter) of alchemy.

The magical images were used for instruction, as well as for magical purposes. For instance, if one desired to know more about the energies of the first ten degrees of Aries, one would create a picture of a dark man with a sword and meditate on it. Likewise, the same image could be used to tap into the energies of that section of the zodiac; therefore a ritual involving a full moon in Aries could be performed at any time of the year by a magician who knew the correct magical images for Aries and the full moon.

Now, in my less than humble opinion, the truncated system of magical symbolism that we inherited from Theosophy and Golden Dawn handicaps us on occasion. It need not handicap us; for the empty places in our systems can be filled with a little research and experimentation. But it does require thinking outside of the box on occasion. For instance, the modern Wiccan who practices magic is not accustomed to working directly with the signs of the zodiac, let alone the ten day spans that the *Picatrix* uses. Instead, we are more accustomed to working with the eight Sabbats of the Wiccan year. Because of this, Wiccans who practice magic and want to use magical images need to experiment to figure out the best magical images to stand in for the energies of the eight Sabbats. It can be done if a person really wants to do it.

(Please note that not all Wiccans practice magic, for magic is a specialized study and not central to being a Wiccan, so if you do not practice magic, no problem. Likewise, if you do magic, and have no need of this type of stuff, again, no problem. Think of this whole idea as a thought experiment, and feel free to dismiss me as a lunatic if you are so inclined.)

Of course, then again, I could be wrong. Maybe Wicca doesn't need to have such things. Perhaps we could live without magical images for the eight Sabbats. And maybe I am the only person who ever needed to tap into the energies of Beltane during the month of December. After all, I am that strange lunatic.

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!

Event	ET date
New Moon	Jul 6
NM/Lughnasagh	Aug 3
Mabon	Sep 14
New Moon	Oct 5
NM/Samhain	Oct 26 (6:30 – 9:00 p.m.)
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 is simply a fanatic) 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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2013 Open Full Moon Dates

June 21
July 19
August 16
September 13
October 18
November 15

December 13