



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



NOVEMBER 15 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, November 15, 2013.

On November 15, we will celebrate the special days in the year – those days we share and those that are our own personal holidays.

There will be singing!

–*Catherine*

GREETINGS

There is a time for us to wander
When time is young and so are we
The woods are greener over yonder
The path is new, the world is green.

There is a time for love and laughter
The days will pass like summer storms
The winter winds will follow after
But there is love and love is warm.

There is a time when leaves are falling
The woods are grey, the paths are old
The snow will come when geese are calling
You need a fire against the cold.

So do your roamin' in the springtime
And you find your love in the summer sun
The frost will come and bring the harvest
And you can sleep when day is done.

Samhain has passed, and the year moves on. In Wicca, this means that the next holiday is Yule. It seems that, in this, our society agrees. There is another holiday before the official Midwinter holiday, but it's hard to tell that if you look around you. In fact, we have a couple of holidays before Yule: one that honors those who served the United States, and one that honors those who took the risk to come to an unknown land to make new lives.

At the end of November, we thank whatever deities we honor for the harvest. We honor the men, women and children who came to this continent to begin new lives. We celebrate their desire to worship deity in their own manner, without interference from the government.

Earlier in the month, on November 11, we honor men and women who volunteered to fight for this country. Those men and women put the safety of our country and our constitution before their own safety. They also fought to enable us to worship deity in our own manner.

Those holidays between Samhain and Yule must be remembered and honored, in order that we may celebrate all holidays, including the pagan Wheel of the Year.

–*Catherine*

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

A Tip of the Hat to Hawk Shadow, Sarajane, and other priestesses from WSLA who provided our Open Full Moon ritual on the night of the full moon in October. Wiccan with a Greek flavor, the ritual expressed the Samhain theme of wondering about the role of Fate in our lives. Cynthia, Hawk Shadow, and Kat effectively embodied the roles of the Fates: Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos, respectively.

Clotho conjured vivid stories of past lives and challenged us: "Was it Fate, or did you will it?" Lachesis challenged us to ask ourselves what we have woven in this life that will go forward with us into future lives. Atropos spoke of coming to us when we are injured or aged and bringing relief by cutting the cord that ties us to this lifetime. Knowing that the end will come helps us honor and appreciate the time we have...although the "length of our cord" is unknowable to us. We were challenged to "Live! Weave your life well, before your threads are cut."

The chant from the three Fates: "I conjure / I weave / I cut" will stay with many of us. We were left with this challenge and blessing: May we weave our lives in strength and beauty, with wisdom and passion.

Thank you, Hawk Shadow and priestesses, for the gift of this visually and spiritually beautiful rite!

–*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.

–Alia

DO WE REALLY NEED A COMMON BOOK OF SHADOWS?

Last week, I ran across an Internet fundraiser to produce a Common Book of Shadows. The idea is to create a book that is free to be shared with one's own students and other interested parties without fear of violating any copyrights. And the first question out of my mouth upon learning of this fundraising campaign was, "Do we really need a common book of shadows?" followed quickly by, "And who gets to determine what's in it?"

The example given on the web page for the fundraiser was about a chant that was used for many years in the community, and often changed. Last year, the original author decided the chant was no longer going to be allowed to be changed from her original version. It was the author's right, by copyright law, to attempt to put the genie back in the bottle. I seriously doubt that her attempt actually succeeded, or that it could even succeed, for most of us tend to sing whatever we want behind closed doors. And honestly, if not being able to use a modified version of a chant threatens your spirituality, I am not sure how strong your faith is in the first place.

From this example, the fundraiser spun a tale that the increased ability of corporations to enforce copyrights would prevent Wiccans from freely sharing information with one another. Yes, corporations – in theory – could do such. Maybe. But honestly, as a writer who depends upon copyright law to protect my earning ability, I view copyright law as a necessary evil. Besides, the really important parts of Wicca, the beliefs and ideas, cannot be copyrighted or trademarked (just their individual expression); plus there is a little matter called "fair use."

Yes, every ritual text – in theory – is currently under copyright; after all, Wicca is a young religion. But given how often the various rituals of the first generation of Wiccans have been published and republished over the last decade, one suspects that the ability of anyone to slam the copyright barn door shut is very limited for the original source documents of Wicca. And the ability to create variations of the rituals dilutes the threat even more. Plus, the fact that some of the first generation material did not get renewed, or may not have been properly copyrighted in the first place muddies the waters more, as does the origin myth of Wicca itself.

Furthermore, the "fair use" doctrine includes the ability to teach others facts and theory. For instance, essays that I write about the Sabbaths are under copyright, but not the idea of the Sabbaths themselves. Furthermore, there is nothing that says that one cannot buy multiple copies of the books and magazines that contain such essays for use to teach the concepts to others. And one is free to photocopy a million copies of anything that is out of copyright (more or less, anything that was written by someone who has been dead for over seventy years).

So, on the copyright end, odds are that we do not need a common book of shadows, provided that we can stay safely inside the guidelines of fair use. This brings us to the other part of this issue – who gets to decide what goes into such a common book? Well, the leader of this fundraiser, and the authors who volunteer to help him put such a book together – who else would get to decide?

In other words, a limited number of people actually get to decide what is in the Common Book. Needless to say, there is a part of me that gets the screaming willies at the very thought that in the future, some kid is going to believe that the Common Book represents what all Wiccans believe and do, especially considering that anything that the committee cannot secure permission to release into public domain or re-word beyond recognition gets tossed out.

So in the future generations, they might have a Common Book of Shadows that has been watered down before it became the standardized text of choice, just because people did not want to have to pay authors for their work, or respect their rights to control of the use of their copyrighted material. And all this because someone got upset that they could not freely use and modify a chant, feeling that it prevented the free expression of their religion. It is just me, or does this whole idea read like a dark science fiction dystopia?

Morgan Drake Eckstein

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery traditions on his blog at: <http://gleamingsfromthedawn.blogspot.com/>

TURTLE MONKEY CHILDREN'S EBOOKS

Jo Fontana has a new e-book series out.

Jo, who attended OFM's before moving to Wyoming, recently completed 12 books of her new Turtle Monkey series. This is a pagan friendly children's e-book series.

The books are available at Smashwords:

<http://www.smashwords.com/books/search?query=Jo+Fontana> and Amazon:

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=sr_nr_seeall_1?rh=k%3AJo+Fontana%2Ci%3Astripbooks&keywords=Jo+Fontana&ie=UTF8&qid=1384142676

These books are also available at Barnes & Noble and the Apple iBookstore.

To win a copy of A Turtle Monkey Yule, go to <https://www.facebook.com/turtlemoneybook> and like our page. There will be several chances to win A Turtle Monkey Yule. Thanks!

-Jo

WSLA EVENT

Saturday Nov. 23 from 2:00 – 5:00 PM

The Women's Spiritual Leadership Alliance (WSLA) invites everyone to celebrate our pagan community and get information about upcoming community events. We are hosting a free social event at the fabulous Mercury Café on Sat. 11/23/13 from 2-5 PM. See old friends and meet new friends! This event welcomes the entire Wiccan/Pagan community. Whether you are new, seeking, teaching, an elder, or whatever, please come! Meet local teachers, leaders of several Wiccan/Pagan organizations, including members of WSLA, and other people just like YOU who are searching for community. We will have name tags available for everyone, a time for brief community

announcements, and resource tables for fliers and information about groups, classes, etc. Let's get connected! Coffee and tea will be served, and light snacks will be available for purchase.

The Mercury Cafe is located at 2199 California St., Denver CO 80205. We reserved the large upstairs room. You can get there by the Light Rail station at 16th & Stout, come by bus, or there's parking all around. We look forward to seeing you! Free event, no RSVP required. WSLA's web site is www.WSLA-CO.org

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 |
|--------------|----------------|
| Yule | Dec 14 |

From their announcement list, information on the dates for 2014:

Once a month ritual seems to be working pretty well for us, so we'll continue in this mode for 2014. We're still meeting on Saturday evenings at Full Moon Books at 9106 W. 6th Ave. (at Garrison St.) in Lakewood, and the default start time is still 7:30 PM (though we may have certain rituals start sooner - we'll let you know). Hope to see you there!

---Chris, Dara, and Michelle
the Earth Temple steering committee

Feb 1
Mar 1
Mar 29
Apr 26
May 24
June 28
July 19
Aug 23
Sep 20
Oct 25
Nov 22
Dec 20

WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-680-1741. Catherine's is 303-886-7067. 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

November 15

December 13

The 2014 dates are being negotiated this week. We will send out a special notice as soon as we have the dates.