



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



JUNE 26 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 26, 2015.

Hearthstone Board member Morgan Eckstein will lead the celebration of the June 26th ritual. During the ritual, Morgan will discuss and describe a sample Inner Form of a ritual. Participants will be guided through a walking meditation involving a Temple of the Elements, with a focus of lighting up and connecting with the elements, learning how the Outer Form of a ritual (the words and movements) can be linked to its Inner Form.

Check out Morgan's explanation of the Outer and Inner Forms of Ritual in his column for this month.

—Catherine

<http://hearthstone.fnorky.com>

GREETINGS

The Solstice seems to have brought Summer's heat. I know many people think of the Solstice as the "first day of summer." I tend to think of it as the middle. Shakespeare wrote of a magical time called Midsummer Night's Dream, where the worlds of magic and day-to-day combine – which is what I was taught is at Solstice. (Okay, at all the Sabbats!)

Summer is the growing season, starting at Beltane. We planned and planted the garden in the Spring – beginning with Imbolg. At Beltane, we began to see the fruits of our planning. Now at Midsummer, much of the growth is at its highest – with the long days of sunshine to give nourishment to our plantings. It is truly magical.

In another six weeks or so, we will begin the Autumn with the first harvest at Lammas. The days will get shorter – and we notice the difference around the beginning of August. We'll gather our harvest until the beginning of Winter at Samhain. Then at Midwinter, we'll celebrate the return of the light that started to get shorter and shorter at the Solstice we celebrate now.

And the Wheel turns ever on... But it's still hot.

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

We Tip our Hat this month to Paulie Rainbow and the Denver Celtic Women's Circle, who offered a Welsh-based ritual for our Open Full Moon in late May. The Welsh deities Lleu Llaw Gyffes and Blodeuwedd were invoked, and the energies of different trees were invoked in each quarter. The ritual altar had on it an actual 5' oak tree growing in a pot! The Oak (Duir in Welsh) has long been held sacred by many European traditions. This particular oak was blessed in ritual, then later in the ritual, it blessed the intentions for transformation that each of us brought to it. We each received a token, with the affirmation that "The gifts of your next transformation approach."

Thank you, Paulie and friends, for offering us this experience of the old ways of Wales, and the opportunity to seek Oak's blessing for our personal transformations.

–*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*

ABOUT OUR ANIMAL COMPANIONS

Our Hearthstone community includes many pet-lovers, and we strongly encourage spaying and neutering to reduce the tragedy of excess, uncared-for animals. Many beautiful, sweet animals are euthanized due to excess births, and many others sadly try to fend for themselves without needed food and veterinary care.

People with lower incomes can get spay/neuter services for their cats and dogs at reduced fees, subsidized by Dumb Friends League donors, when one of their mobile spay/neuter clinics visits their neighborhood. DDFL also partners with local animal welfare organizations in a trap-neuter-return (TNR) program for community (un-owned) cats to help reduce the number of unwanted litters born and the number of kittens and cats brought to shelters. Please call DDFL's

mobile spay/neuter help line at (720) 241-7098 for questions and information, or find details, schedules, and locations at: <http://www.ddfl.org/content/mobile-spay-neuter-clinics>

OUTER AND INNER FORMS OF RITUAL

A ritual is a busy place. Take for instance, a random Open Full Moon ritual. There is the casting of the circle, the calling of the quarters, the calling of the Lord and Lady or other energies, the “middle part” (the part where the night’s work or celebration occurs), cakes and ale, the thanking of the deities or energies present, the dismissal of the quarters, and the cutting of the circle. (It should be noted that my version of a random OFM ritual is my version; and therefore, the listed parts are not always used, or even necessarily in the order that I described—different people, different standards.)

Each one of these parts has its own set of actions. There are ritual words, gestures and movements, assigned to each individual part of a ritual. This is the Outer Form of a ritual. It is what you can see and hear and feel as you go through a ritual. There is no hiding of the Outer Form—what you see is what you get. Everyone who attends the ritual will be able to tell you what words and gestures were used, even if they do not understand their meanings.

But the Outer Form is merely the tip of the iceberg of what is happening in a ritual. Besides the Outer Form, there is often an Inner Form occurring during a ritual. In the case of a public ritual, this second layer may or may not be mentioned. When it is mentioned, it frequently takes the form of a guided meditation or path-working.

During a guided meditation, you are often told a story with its own set of symbols. The conductor tells you what you see, hear, and feel—but often only in a general sense. If there are trees mentioned, the type is quite often left up to the choice of the individual undergoing the meditation. The same goes for most other items encountered. And this too is sometimes, but not always, the tip of an iceberg.

There are some initiated traditions that use a finely detailed Inner Form. A full initiate in such a system is given a much more detailed map of the guided meditation. Instead of just a tree, they will have a specific type of tree that they visualize. If there is a lake, they will be told the shape and color of the lake. If there is a treasure chest, they will have been told the exact symbols carved on it.

The reason for an initiate to be given such highly specific imagery for a guided meditation is that the more a particular set of imagery is used, the stronger it gets. The energy that fuels imagination can pool in the symbols of a guided meditation, enhancing its effect over time. Needless to say, initiates tend to guide such details for their own tradition.

And this too can be just a tip of an iceberg. Imagine that each part of the ritual has its own set of visualizations—a ritual that in the mind of an initiate is one long guided meditation happening both in the physical world and the world of the mind—a ritual that draws its powers from both worlds. For some people, this is how busy a ritual really is, with symbols piled onto the words and movements, a world of imagination where only a small tip of the iceberg is experienced by those not schooled in the fullness of its hidden form, yet fully experienced by those who are initiated into the secrets of its inner beauties.

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

Hi all, this is Jo. I recently completed the 14th book of my new Turtle Monkey series! This is a pagan friendly children's eBook series. All of the series is transitioning thanks to Crystal Publishing.

Here is the link for Crystal Publishing: <http://www.crystalpublishingllc.com/>

The new editions of the first book and the holiday book are now available on Amazon.

Here is the link: http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss?url=search-alias%3Daps&field-keywords=Jo+Fontana

The hard copies will be coming out shortly. Also, please check out our new and improved website @ <http://www.turtlemonkeybooks.com>

Coming soon: My new Young Adult Novel: **The Egg Quest!** More information should be available soon.

Thank you for all your support!

-Jo

EARTH TEMPLE

Earth Temple meets at Full Moon Books and Event Center, at 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood, for New/Dark Moon ritual work. All of our dates are Saturday evenings, and we normally begin our rituals right on the dot at 7:30 PM. Join our Meetup Group for reminders and information about specific rituals: www.meetup.com/EarthTemple. And, check out our Witchvox page for more info about us:

http://www.witchvox.com/vn/vn_detail/dt_gr.html?a=usco&id=35084

Our 2015 dates:

Jul 11
Aug 15
Sep 12
Oct 10
Nov 7
Dec 12

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

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 real.cuttlefish@gmail.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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2015 Open Full Moon Dates

June 26

July 31

August 28

September 25

October 23

November 20

December 25—we will not meet, as it would be the 13th OFM