



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

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, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016.

Circle of Light and Shadow will work with Kwan Yin, goddess of compassion, balance and abundance to present a ritual focusing on the concepts of giving and receiving, acknowledging the balance point of the year, and abundance as we make our way toward Mabon. We will receive a gift from Kwan Yin and have the opportunity to give a gift in return.

—Catherine

GREETINGS

It's getting colder. I can tell because one of the dogs has decided it's much better to cuddle up with me at night – rather than sleep by the window. I very nearly rolled over on her this morning.

My yard is overgrown, but many of the plants have seeds rather than blossoms. I will have to find time in the next little bit to crop those heads. Never a dull moment.

We are arriving at a time of balance in the world. Autumn is well and truly arrived, and the leaves will start turning soon. Every afternoon we have at least a teaser of a storm, if not a full blown one. I've been watching one roll in today. It seems like just a little while ago we were complaining of the heat.

The circle of the seasons continues... There will be more to come later (say for October, November, December...)

—Catherine

<http://hearthstone.fnorky.com>

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

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

In August, Hearthstone Community Church Inc. celebrated the 25th anniversary of our first public ritual! In place of a contemplative ritual, we cast circle and invoked, then Board members and participants shared Hearthstone's history and what makes Hearthstone special to us all.

Whether people come once or come regularly, or anything in between, monthly Hearthstone rituals and the Hearthstone community are available as a resource, a touchstone, an opportunity to center oneself, a glimpse into the breadth of our community's spiritual practices, and a way to meet and join with others in the Wiccan/Pagan community. At the end of our sharing, we had cake. Not "cakes and wine", but real birthday cake. Happy 25th Birthday to Hearthstone! May we be blessed with many more!

—Arynn

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

WANTED—A TEACHER OF TIBETAN MAGIC

One of the truisms of writing and teaching magic is that the popularity of various magical styles and cultures come and go. Students tend to gravitate towards the hot magic of the month. I was reminded of this the other day on Facebook when one of my FB friends posted in a comment that they were just asked by a student if they were going to teach a course on Tibetan magic. My friend said that they were not going to offer such a course, to which I responded that everyone's favorite Big Name Magician would be sure to offer such a course for three easy payments of \$666 by the end of the week.

(For those who missed the memo, the reason that Tibetan magic is the hot magical style of the week is the Doctor Strange movie. Doctor Strange is a Marvel Comics character, the Sorcerer Supreme of the planet Earth, and was taught by a Tibetan master. Honestly, the style of magic used is not Tibetan, but rather comic book magic with lots of mystic words, rays of light, looming clouds of darkness, and a bag of mystic objects and artifacts. But hey, the master who teaches Strange is Tibetan, so let's all get onto the Tibetan magic train.)

Now, if someone actually did start offering Tibetan magical classes, especially if they are a white dude like my friend is, or like the Big Name Magician, I am quite sure that I would hear cries of Cultural Appropriation. It is a sad fact that white people have stolen a lot of spiritual and magical concepts from the non-white people that the various world empires have subjugated. And when someone turns around and starts teaching such stuff, especially if they did not go through the traditional route of spiritual apprenticeship to learn the system, it is probably a safe bet to say that they are only doing it for the money.

In an attempt to offset such thievery, the Social Justice Warriors in the magical community, scream Cultural Appropriation whenever they see something that was lifted from another culture other than the one that the practitioner is from. And the magical model used by the SJW mirrors their belief that one should stick to the spiritual and magical practices of one's own race and culture—they insist that magical techniques lifted from other cultures do not work as well as those of one's native culture.

Now, it should not surprise anyone that I don't buy into their magical model. All it takes to cast doubt on such a theory is to run into a single black man who practices Norse magic—after all, if you find one exception to the rules of a magical model of the universe, there are probably others, and that just leads to the conclusion that perhaps being native to the culture and race that a type of magic springs from is perhaps not the necessary requirement that the SJWs make it out to be.

And a study of the history of magic reveals a lot of borrowings where one culture borrowed a magical technique from another culture. In fact, whenever two cultures meet, we find an exchange of ideas and techniques. To insist that magical styles and techniques remain pure, isolated to their originating races and cultures, ignores the simple idea that magic is a kind of science.

Now, my favorite example of a borrowed magical technique is the art of writing. The idea of writing, the idea that symbols can represent things, sounds, and ideas, is quite revolutionary in terms of human history and evolution. The idea is such a game changer that we talk of pre-history (where there is no writing) and history (where there is writing)—literally, we go from not knowing what people thought, being able to only guess what they thought and felt, to knowing that some scribes found writing to be tedious.

And the ability to transmit such thoughts across both distance and time was viewed initially as magic by those who could not read and write. This idea would result in spells being written down by people casting them. Later, the Unseen University aspect of magic would often take the form of books written by magicians in an earlier age. Even today, some people study magics from other cultures, though the medium of the written word.

So yeah, it is possible for a white guy to teach Tibetan magic, and to have learned it from the written tradition and not through a person-to-person transmission of master to apprentice teaching. But if they do jump on the Tibetan magic bandwagon, we are going to kick around the fact that they might only be doing it for the money.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery traditions on his blog at: [Musings from the pen: The writer blog of Morgan Drake Eckstein](#); [Gleanings from the Dawn: Thoughts about Golden Dawn from one of its members](#) and [Book Reviews by Morgan: My archive for the book reviews that I have done](#)

Editor's note: As usual, the foregoing column reflects only the views of Morgan and are not necessarily those of Hearthstone or any of its other Board members. Please direct all comments to Morgan.

[Morgan's wife, Khari, sells mundane pottery on Etsy at:
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/celticsouljewelry> and witchy pottery at:
<https://www.etsy.com/shop/Khariswiccantreasure>

TURTLE MONKEY CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Hi all, this is Jo. We recently revamped the children's books and several are scheduled to come out in print later this year! Stop by our website and sign up for our newsletter. Thanks for your support!

www.turtlemonkeybooks.com

-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

Ritual dates 2016

October 1

Oct 22

November 26

December 17

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

WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-521-6620. 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 teal.cuttlefish@gmail.com; Catherine's e-mail address is fionnula.harp@gmail.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 fionnula.harp@gmail.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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2016 Open Full Moon Dates

September 16

October 14

November 11