

Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"

GREETINGS

I was recently asked about Wiccan holidays. My first thought was about the one closest to us. It's almost Samhain; one of the times of the year when the veil is thinnest. The nights are noticeably longer – the sun sets earlier. It's a time to remember those who have passed to the next life and sometimes to commune with them.

It's the final harvest festival of the year, when we gather the very last things that are in the fields in preparation for the long winter. Meats are hung and dried, fruits are stored in the cellars and everything makes ready for the winter. This is the time of the Crone. Am I ready to go into the Winter? What things should I take with me? What do I leave behind as extra baggage? These are the questions of Samhain.

—*Catherine*

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Amy, Mars and Alora presented a wonderful Harvest OFM for us in September. They urged us to do our “fall cleaning” of our lives – to clean out the things in our lives that we didn't need to carry with us for the winter. Mars and Alora passed out fallen leaves and urged us to fill those leaves with the things that should be left behind for the end of the year – and Amy would take those leaves home to burn them and send those things out. We ended the ritual with “She Changes Everything She Touches. Thank you Amy, Mars and Alora for this wonderful house cleaning

--*Catherine*

SEPTEMBER OPEN FULL MOON

Hearthstone meets the Friday before or the Friday of the Full Moon 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. (We are NOT big proponents of Pagan Standard Time, but if there is weather related driving trouble or a

problem on the freeway, we've been known to wait a bit longer.) This month's ritual is FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2007.

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*

The October OFM will be led by Morgan Drake Eckstein, a member of Bast Temple (a Golden Dawn based lodge). Many Golden Dawn techniques can be utilized in wiccan and pagan rituals. In October's OFM, we will look at some of them. Morgan will be asking for some volunteers to help with the performance of the ritual.

PREPARING FOR FEBRUARY'S OPEN FULL MOON

The February 2008 OFM will be a Wiccaning presented by Amy for children ages 4 to 11. We have selected this age group mostly for parents who have found this path later in life and missed the traditional Wiccanings done for children during infancy. This is not a Dedication; this is a formal introduction to the elements, directions, and Deity. Each child will receive a token from each element and the Lord and the Lady, and a bag to keep them in. They may be dressed in formal ritual robes or dresses if you choose, or in ordinary attire. Due to time constraints, we will have to limit participation to 25 children who need to be pre-registered by the end of January. There will be a \$4 cash only fee to cover supplies which will be collected upon admittance on the 14th. You can contact Amy a 303-487-8784 (cell) ANYTIME. She has voicemail that is checked regularly, and you will receive a confirmation callback.

Please contact Amy before February 2008 to arrange a Wiccaning during that ritual.

A NOTE ON PARKING

From our landlords:

One of the challenges facing us as an urban congregation is a lack of available parking. As our congregation grows, we take up more room and make it increasingly difficult for our neighbors to find places to park. Those using the building are highly encouraged to carpool, walk, bike, or use public transportation whenever possible. If you do drive to evening events or meetings, please make an effort to park in designated parking spaces in the Alta Court parking lot on the northwest end of our block of Lafayette. Spaces marked FUSD E or Visitor are available for our use on evenings. Window decals can be purchased in the office for \$1 (call 303-831-7113 ext.101 for details).

All metered spaces on Colfax are free after 6:00 p.m. Please show concern for our neighbors and consider these spaces before attempting to park on Lafayette.

In addition, please do not park in the spot "Reserved for Minister" in the back of the church.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

—Alia

ON DONATIONS

New information – please read!

We appreciate that many of you donate to the church. **Unfortunately, donations have diminished over the years, to the point where Hearthstone is once again losing money. Since Alia can no longer support the church on her own, we ask you to 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. While we will keep Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. running as long as possible, we do feel we should let you know that 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.

PAGAN COFFEE HOUSE

Witches Brew is a new Pagan coffee shop. They sell locally mixed teas, books, jewelry, art and other various and sundry

THE IRON PENTACLE

October 20 & 21, 2007.

Reclaim the qualities of Sex, Pride, Self, Power and Passion. Call them back to you and claim them as your birthrights. Our culture has twisted these words: we, as Witches, know that we can use these words, they are sacred. They are the building blocks to becoming more human.

Using our magical skills, moving and shaping energy, transforming ourselves through trance to explore the five points of our inner pentacle: Sex (primal energy), Self, Passion, Pride (self-esteem), and Power (effectiveness in the worlds).

Reclaiming is a community of individuals working to unify spirit and politics. Our vision is rooted in the religion and magic of the Goddess, the Immanent Life Force. We see our work as teaching and making magic; the art of empowering ourselves and each other.

Teachers

Sif is a Reclaiming teacher and witch who loves earth-moving magic and songs offered in praise to the gods. She believes in the healing power of kisses and friends and finds great joy in dancing with the Fey in the moonlight.

Skathach is a Reclaiming witch cleverly disguised as suburban mother of two. She is a priestess dedicated to the Goddess for ten years. She is a full-time graduate student. She facilitates a Children's Circle & teaches classes on Tarot and Wicca.

Branwyn WhyteRaven is a Reclaiming witch, a writer, and a mother. She's no spring chicken, so she feels one of the important things she brings to a circle is a reminder that, as Mae West said, "You're never too old to become younger."

Class Schedule:

Saturday, October 20

10:00 am - 9:00 pm

Sunday, October 21

10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Note: We start class on time, so please be prompt. The classes are designed to work together, so plan to attend all.

Prerequisite: Reclaiming Elements of Magic or equivalent.

The Iron Pentacle will be drug and alcohol free so safe, nurturing, sacred space is created for all.

Course information

Cost: \$95 to \$145 sliding scale

Deposit: \$35 non-refundable

For more information, please see:

www.reclaimingspirit.org

Or

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/reclaimingspirit/>

Phone: Kath at 303-618-7702

EMAIL: morgans_insight@yahoo.com

EARTH TEMPLE DATES

These are the 2007 dates for Earth Temple rituals. Earth Temple meets on Fridays at 7:30 pm we start announcements, and ritual begins at 7:45 pm; at Small Gatherings, 66th and Wadsworth.

If you have suggestions or questions about Earth Temple activities, please write to us at earthtemple-owner@yahoogroups.com.

Earth Temple 2007 dates

November 2 - Samhain

December 7 - New Moon

December 21 - Yule

WHO TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-680-1741. Southwynde's is 303-698-1066. 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> It's kept current, so anything you miss here should be there.

Alia's e-mail address is alia@fnorky.com; Southwynde's is Southwynde@yahoo.com; (it is not frequently checked). 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. Edited by: Catherine Mock. Published by: M. Alia Denny

2007 Open Full Moon Dates

Oct. 19, 2007

Nov. 23, 2007

Dec. 14, 2007

Several of our dates are a week early this year, in an effort to separate them somewhat from Sabbats very close to the date. This allows for Hearthstone to focus on Full Moon celebrations and allow other groups to focus on the Sabbats, whether that be public groups or closed circles.

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