

Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"

GREETINGS

Winter has well and truly come to the Front Range. As I write this, our second snow storm in two days is starting. It's a beautiful quiet night.

The time is fast approaching for the Oak King and Holly King to change reigns. The longest night is coming.

So many of our world's cultures have festivals of light at this time of the year – as if to defy the dark. Different cultures; different gods and goddesses – all defying the dark and waiting for the light to return. It seems everyone has the will for the light to return.

A Blessed Yule to you all. The Sun returns yet again!

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Our thanks to Gary and Misty for a simple and lovely ritual recalling the harsher life winter brought to those living in earlier, more primitive times. We were given a meditative opportunity to shed things we wished to bury with the winter into a rock (which the officiants gathered and buried for us as a later part of the ritual), and to charge a seed with our hopes for the next year. I also really loved the decorations that Misty made.

---- Alia

DECEMBER 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, DECEMBER 14, 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 December 14th OFM will be led by Shen-Tat and the Covenant of the Wiccæ. This ritual will be based upon *Cutting Through the Lies I Tell Myself.* The ritual itself will be eclectic Wiccan. All required tools for the working will be provided.

Covenant of the Wiccæ celebrates an eclectic path, holding open and closed Circles, teaching community and lending the services of its members as leaders and ritual coordinators. They are a teaching coven, offering entry level Wicca casual courses for students seeking Dedication into the Craft of the Wise, 1st year studies for students seeking Initiation into their Coven and Priest[ess] training at its Esbat and Sabbat celebrations.

Learn more about Covenant of the Wiccæ at www.cotw.us or by email at cotw@att.net.

--Shen-Tat

DRUMMING UP THE SUN

Saturday, Dec. 22nd, 6:30am ~ 7:30am

Red Rocks Amphitheater, Denver, Colorado
Drumming Up The Sun has been a Front Range tradition for many years at the Winter Solstice. Each year an hour or so before dawn, dedicated drummers assemble at the top of the Red Rocks Amphitheater and drum until the sun clears the horizon- moving the wheel of the year along.

Come drum, dance, and celebrate the return of the Sun at Red Rocks!

The park gates open at 6:00am and most people start to gather around 6:30am as the sky begins to glow. If all goes as it should, sunrise will be at 7:18am.

Please note that this is a spiritual gathering for many, and we ask everyone to act accordingly. Here are a few pointers to make the experience more pleasant for everyone:

* The roads leading behind and to the top of the amphitheater are often ice packed. Please allow sufficient time and prepare your vehicles to safely join us, all TOGETHER, at the top. Carpooling helps a lot.

* Please behave in the same manner that you would when visiting a church. Please don't talk loud or engage in other disruptive behavior.

* Please do not try to talk to the drummers, as many may be in trance or in a private ritual space. There will be time after sunrise to speak to someone if desired.

* There are also people dancing, chanting, or toning with the drumming. Many of these people are also in trance or otherwise need their own space, so please do not disturb them.

* If you are drumming and are not accustomed to drumming in a large group, please take cues from the more experienced drummers.

* If you have a question, there may be volunteers wearing PURPLE RIBBONS. Anyone is welcome to help in this way. Please seek them out. We also have some additional guidelines for photographers, videographers, and other media:

* Many of the participants are not willing to be part of a photograph or report about this event. Please do not record images of the main drumming group in which individuals may be recognized.

* If you would like to audio record the drumming, you may record and replay a portion of the event.

* If you would like pictures, either still or video, of the drummers, we will assemble drummers and dancers who are willing to be photographed or videotaped shortly after sunrise. They will be happy to continue drumming for a while.

* If you wish to interview someone here, please seek out those with PURPLE RIBBONS. These volunteers will be happy to answer your questions.

We have enjoyed a good reputation with the City of Denver for many years. Please continue this by adhering to all park rules and regulations.

Directions: <http://www.redrocksonline.com/pages/questions/directions.html>

Note: Access to the top is easiest from the Upper Lots.

Planning Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DUTS>

**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.

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

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 paraphernalia. They are open Tuesday through Sunday Noon to Midnight. In addition to being an excellent place for the

traditional post-ritual caffeine binge, they offer space for classes, discussion groups, and ritual. The coffee shop can be reached at witchesbrewdenver@gmail.com if you have any questions or are interested in their weekly newsletter. Coming up at the end of October, they will be starting their shop-hosted rituals with Samhain on the 31st of October at 10:00 pm. Located right off I-70 and Sheridan, they're easily accessible at 4900 W. 46th Ave. and can be reached at (303) 997 9571.



College of Wicca and Old Lore - Established in 1999, the College of Wicca and Old Lore has as its mission to teach Wicca and the Old Ways, to teach teachers of Wicca and to build community. To apply to either of the programs listed below, please go to our website: www.collegeofwicca.org.

Wicca Basics Classes

Wicca Basics is one of the ways that the College teaches Wicca and builds community. It is an eight-week course covering essential topics of the Craft, including: Esbats, Sabbats, history, traditions, grounding and centering, altars and tools, deities, energies and Craft ethics and etiquette. Wicca Basics classes are taught by experienced College of Wicca and Old Lore Faculty.

Upcoming classes*:

Mondays, beginning January 14, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. for 8 weeks

Saturdays, beginning January 26, 2008, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon for 8 weeks

Sundays, beginning January 27, 2008 at 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. for 8 weeks

* Additional classes beginning in 2008 – check our website! www.collegeofwicca.org

Tuition:

\$50 for entire eight-week course.

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Year and a Day Program

Our Year and a Day Program is a one-year program set up on the quarter system with classes on Sundays. It covers in-depth topics of the Craft, including Esbats, Sabbats, tools and energies, herbs, divination, ritual construction and ethics. Students are required to complete a Wicca Basics class or equivalent study before admission to the Year and a Day Program. Year and a Day classes are taught by experienced College of Wicca and Old Lore Faculty.

Air Quarter Schedule:

Sundays, January 6, 2008 through March 30, 2008

Orientation: January 6, 2008

Morning classes 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 p.m.

Afternoon classes 1:30 P.M. to 3:00 p.m.

Tuition:

Sliding scale from \$7-\$15 per required class (10 classes during each Quarter are required for dedication); elective classes are \$3 each.

Tuition payments are arranged on Orientation

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Colorado Pagan Children's Circle

Children's Circle is a magickal gathering for children of all ages to meet and celebrate! We do crafts, sing and tell stories. All ages are welcome!

During the summer months, we try to meet outdoors at a park. During bad weather we meet at Spirit Wise at 6590 S Broadway.

We gather at noon and cast at 12:30. If you come while we are casting please wait for us to cut you into the circle.

12/16/07 Yule

For more information join us at:

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

Or call Kath at 303-618-770

ELEMENTS OF MAGIC

Three Saturdays

January 26, February 2, and February 9.

Elements of Magic is the first of the core class in the Reclaiming tradition of Witchcraft. In this class, we will explore our personal relationship with the elements of Air, Fire, Water, Earth and Spirit.

Techniques that we will use include breathwork, song, visualization, sensing and raising energy, trance work, movement, spellcrafting and creating sacred space.

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 our selves and each other. This class is open to women and men.

Teachers:

Feral loves the ecstatic co-created rituals of the Reclaiming tradition and the swirling cauldron of the Reclaiming community. She has taught in several communities and at Reclaiming witchcamps, and is always excited to teach the Elements because for her this work is both the foundation offered to the beginner and a guide and inspiration for a lifetime of magical practice. She also enjoys intentional drumming and trance journeying, and is a longtime member of a moon lodge that celebrates women's blood mysteries and the turning of the year's magical wheel. Feral shapeshifts between the roles of teacher, priestess, soccer mom and scientist, often all in the same day.

Amelia finds her passions in the form of Tarot, writing, and exploration of the divine. She's studied the earth paths for the last 10 years, and is largely self taught. Therefore she has only herself to blame. She lives in a cottage with two cats and a husband.

Rozaylia Mooncat Mangoseed was raised pagan in the wilds of Northern California, and now as an adult has been passionately contributing to her local pagan community for several years. Rozaylia has been a teacher of several wicca 101 classes, and a participant in many different and fabulous witchy groups across the country. Rozaylia brings many and varied skills to her work. She has a degree in vocal performance, is Reiki level III, is an artist, an outdoor enthusiast, and plays weekly as a cast member of Denver's only Rocky Horror Picture Show Cast. She is also thoroughly enjoying and immersing herself in her training with Thorn Coyle, and is happy to announce that the past year has brought her to Reclaiming.

Pre-registration is required.

Class size is limited!

Registration Deadline: January 19 or until class is filled, subject to availability.

Registration sign up through Joy at Jefferson Unitarian Church.

For questions about this workshop, Amelia 720-200-9971 or Kath at

303-618-7702; or by EMAIL, tarr@bust.com or morgans_insight@yahoo.com.

A modest materials fee will be requested on a sliding scale of \$15 to \$39 (\$5 to \$13 per class). Reclaiming Spirit Colorado fiercely believes in making classes available to everyone in the community.

Work Exchange and Scholarships are available

We welcome all genders, all races, all ages and sexual orientations and all those differences of life situation, background, and ability that increase our diversity. We strive to make our public rituals and events accessible and safe. We try to balance the need to be justly compensated for our labor with our commitment to make our work available to people of all economic levels.

Prerequisite: Please read the first six chapters of *The Spiral Dance* by Starhawk.

The Elements of Magic will be drug and alcohol free so safe, nurturing, sacred space is created for all.

Tentative Schedule:

Saturday, January 26 Gather at 9:00 AM; Class begins at 9:30 AM Class concludes at 4:30 PM

Saturday, February 2 Gather at 9:00 AM; Class begins at 9:30 AM Class concludes at 4:30 PM

Saturday, February 9 Gather at 9:00 AM; Class begins at 9:30 AM Class concludes at 4:30 PM

Items you may wish to bring: A journal, a water bottle, a cup or chalice, drums or rattles, a divination tool such as runes or Tarot, a potluck lunch, a compassionate heart and a mirthful and reverent mind.

EARTH TEMPLE DATES

These are the 2007-2008 dates for Earth Temple rituals. Earth Temple meets on Fridays at Small Gatherings, 66th and Wadsworth. Look for the Starbucks and Golden Europe Restaurant; our space is in the strip mall behind those two businesses. Announcements start at 7:30 pm, and ritual begins right after announcements conclude.

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

Earth Temple 2007 dates

December 21 - Yule

Earth Temple 2008 dates

Jan 11 -- New Moon

Feb 1 -- New Moon/Imbolc

Mar 7 -- New Moon

Mar 21 -- Ostara

Apr 4 -- New Moon

May 2 -- New Moon/Beltaine

May 30 -- New Moon

June 14 SATURDAY -- Litha

Aug 1 -- New Moon/Lammas

Aug 29 -- New Moon

Sep 19 -- Mabon

Oct 3 -- New Moon

Oct 24 -- New Moon

Nov 7 -- Samhain

Nov 28 -- New Moon

Dec 19 -- 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

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2007 Open Full Moon Dates

Dec. 14, 2007

2008 Open Full Moon Dates

January 18, 2008
February 15, 2008
March 21, 2008
April 18, 2008
May 16, 2008
June 13, 2008
July 18, 2008
August 22, 2008
September 12, 2008
October 10, 2008
November 7, 2008
December 12, 2008

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