



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.



"The Full Moon Folk"

GREETINGS

The First Harvest has come and gone. In a simpler time, this might have been the first time in the year when country dwellers might have had feasts of fresh bread and vegetables. It's still the time for wheat harvesting – I can remember visiting my relatives when I was a child and riding the combine as the wheat was harvested – and chewing gum from pure wheat kernels.

This last month was also the beginning of the time of sacrifice. Sacrifice doesn't necessarily mean "to give up". It translates from the Latin as "to make holy." It gives the word and the time a whole new feeling. The sacrificial king makes his life holy for the land. We make the harvest holy for our nourishment. I wonder what else I can make holy for the coming year?

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

For our July Open Full Moon ritual, Hearthstone offers our Thanks and a Tip of the Hat to Morgan Drake Eckstein and assistants Toni and Derek. The ritual's opening and closing were based on Golden Dawn's Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram and included powerful toning (my best word for it) and invocations of archangels. Volunteers called & dismissed the four quarters, and Morgan called Osiris and Isis. Morgan based the ritual's teaching core on the book The Omnivore's Dilemma. When he read the book, he was surprised to find that some parts of the book could be correlated to religious mysteries about Grain. Morgan and participants discussed grains, common packaged foods, omnipresent high fructose corn syrup, and related food issues. Morgan suggested participants consider eating purer foods and eating lower on the food chain. Thank you, Morgan, for this thought-provoking, almost-Lughnassad OFM about Grain and the foods we harvest.

Additional comments from Arynne:

Please learn about the significant environmental and health benefits of vegetarianism, as well as the cruel factory-farm and slaughterhouse industries. You can get a free Vegetarian Starter Kit from GoVeg.com. If you are brave enough to learn about the treatment of animals who are raised and slaughtered for food, please go to PETA.org or other animal welfare sites. Thank you.

-- Arynne -- a happy, healthy vegetarian for 28 years and counting

AUGUST 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, AUGUST 22, 2008.

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

Reclaiming Spirit Colorado will present the August 22nd Open Full Moon.

Witches practicing in the Reclaiming Tradition believe that "All life is sacred and interconnected, and each of us embodies the divine. We imagine a world with shared power,

intellectual, spiritual and creative freedom, a questioning attitude, open leadership, and a balance of individual autonomy with responsibility. We envision a world which values all genders, races, ages, sexual orientations and people of different life situations and abilities."

To that end, our intention is to raise and direct energy toward influencing individuals, politicians and corporations to call for peace in the world, elect ethical leaders at all levels of government and make environmentally responsible policy.

We will include song and dance.

We need one or two drummers to create the chant and dance.

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. **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 still 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.

ON LUGHNASADH

It's that time of the year again! It's the first of the Harvest Festivals!

It's Lughnasadh!

Ok, I admit maybe I'm getting a little carried away. Actually, I'm just trying to make up for the lack of enthusiasm I usually see for this holiday.

Maybe it's just here in Denver, where everyone is so focused on Dragonfest, which happens the second weekend of August, that the holiday just gets pushed aside.

Maybe not.

Of the other seven holidays in the year, I have vivid memories of rituals for each. Not Lughnasadh. There have been rituals for the holiday, but it seems that this holiday just goes unnoticed for the most part.

Lughnasadh is the beginning of the last quarter of the Celtic year. Named for Lugh, the Celtic God who held funerary games in honor of his foster mother Tailtiu, Goddess of agriculture, who died while clearing the Irish forests to make way for farm land.

Lughnasadh is also called Lammass, which may be the contraction of the words "Loaf Mass", which was a ceremony done in the middle ages by the Catholic Church.

Loaves of bread were baked and blessed, to mark the beginning of harvest.

This was the culmination of the peasant's year. They had been working six days a week, sun up to sun down, or 14 to 18 hours a day, tending the fields.

This grain that was now being produced, would be what carried them through the long winter...if there was enough.

Oats, barley, and wheat were all grown, and fed both livestock and people.

If the grain got wet, it would either mold, or germinate. In either case, it would be useless for eating, though the resourceful people did find a use for grain that sprouted.

They made beer.

Grain that has begun to germinate, is called 'malt', and is used heavily in the making of beer. Benjamin Franklin may have made the phrase, "Waste not, want not" popular, but he certainly didn't come up with the idea.

There were also various insects, rats, and other vermin that could ruin the store of grain, if they got to it.

We call what we eat for breakfast cereal, because it most likely is made from cereal grains. We are still extremely dependent on these grains for survival.

Lughnasadh was our ancestors recognizing that without the grain, we simply could not live. It's not even a matter of not living well, we just would not survive.

It is the survival aspect that is enacted when we do a Lughnasadh ritual about the Corn King. The Corn King is an old story with many variations.

Basically, the idea is that someone is chosen each year, to be the Corn King. That person spends the year with every wish being fulfilled by the people of the village.

There is nothing the Corn King wants for, no matter what it may be. It truly is a life of luxury.

On Lughnasadh, the Corn King is brought out dressed all in white, and his life is celebrated. He has reigned over a fruitful year hopefully, and now it is time for him to ensure the next year's success.

There, at the edge of the fields, in full view of everyone in the village, the Corn King is killed. His life's blood is gathered, and poured over all the fields, to ensure that they are fruitful the next year.

People soak themselves in the blood, and run through the fields and to other villages, proclaiming, "The Corn King is dead! Long live the Corn King!"

Modern society looks at human sacrifice as distasteful and barbaric. We condemn our ancestors for practices that we see as cruel, and inhuman, yet we do not look at the reasons behind them.

Actually, I doubt that human sacrifice was ever carried out, at least not in Europe, and certainly not on a regular basis. If such a sacrifice were to be carried out, it would have been an act of desperation.

Life is Sacred. If drought or blight had been going on for several years, the sacrifice of something so precious might be thought about. Sacrifice of anything is very serious. It isn't a sacrifice if it's easy to give up.

If a human was to be sacrificed, it would have been because there was no other alternative. If you ever get the chance, rent the original Wickerman, with Christopher Lee.

In order to be a sacrifice, that which is lost, must be dear to the one losing it, and not given up easily. In our rituals, we substitute grain for people, and the sacrifice is a mock death, but the meaning behind the pageantry and drama should always be foremost in our minds.

Grain is life. Life is sacrifice.

This article was brought to you by CyberWitchcraft. Read more at <http://www.cyberwitchcraft.com/HS>

--- *Greyhart*

EARTH TEMPLE

Earth Temple rituals have moved to a new location: Ye Old Firehouse, 3232 Depew Street, Wheat Ridge. With a few exceptions, all of our rituals will be held at this location. With one exception, all dates are Fridays, with community announcements starting at 7:30 pm, and ritual starting when announcements conclude. Here are the remaining dates of ET's 2008 schedule with the exceptions and locations listed.

Earth Temple 2008 dates

Aug 29 – NM – Ye Old Firehouse
Sep 19 – Mabon – Ye Old Firehouse
Oct 3 – NM – Ye Old Firehouse
Oct 24 – NM – Ye Old Firehouse
Samhain – November 1 (Saturday) from 5:30 - 9:30 pm at the Wheat Ridge Senior Center.
Nov 28 – NM – Ye Old Firehouse
Dec 19 – Yule – Ye Old Firehouse

NEW MOON CIRCLES AT WITCHES BREW

Mary Reeves and Robin Vinehall, from Tree in the Circle, will be holding New Moon Esbat rituals at Witches Brew on the Sunday closest to the New Moon. If the New Moon falls on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday the ritual will be the Sunday before. If the New Moon falls on Thursday, Friday or Saturday the ritual will be held on the Sunday after. Mary and Robin will be invoking gods and goddesses from a variety of pantheons, whose energy is consistent with the astrological energies of the particular New Moon. This energy will also be consistent with each sephira of the Qabalistic Tree of Life, taken in the order of the "Downward Striking Lightning Flash". (Don't worry! They'll explain things before each ritual. No previous knowledge of Qabalah or even astrology is necessary.) The rituals will be in traditional Wiccan form, incorporating both Qabalah and astrology into powerful and empowering Wiccan rituals.

Witches Brew Coffee House is at 4900 West 46th Avenue; Call: (303) 997-9571 or go online at:
<http://www.myspace.com/witchesbrewdenver>

RECLAIMING CLASS

The Iron Pentacle

THREE SUNDAYS - Sept 7, 14 & 21

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.

Class Schedule:

Sunday, September 7
9:30 Registration & Settle In
10:00 am 7:00 pm

Sunday, September 14
9:30 am Gather & Settle In
10:00 am 7:00 pm

Sunday, September 21
9:30 am Gather & Settle In
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.

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

Teachers

Amelia is a witch, Tarot reader, and writer. As a Tarot teacher, she seeks to give students the tools to access the deep wells of intuition. She is a student of the Feri tradition, and her work is to live each day from her center. On the weekends, she captains an intergalactic star ship.

Scarlet has been a self-identified Witch since age 5, and has been consciously following the path of Transformational Magick for 25 years. She's trained in Alexandrian (Bluestar) and Gardnerian Wicca, the Western Mystery Tradition, as well as AfroCuban Santeria (Lucumi) and yoga.

Skathach is a Reclaiming witch cleverly disguised as suburban mother of two. She is a priestess and teacher dedicated to facilitating the exploration of personal and immanent Divinity. Trained in Celtic and Feri Witchcraft, Skathach delights in listening to beauty, creating with passion, and singing loudly with loving devotion.

Course information

Cost: \$75 to \$125 sliding scale

Deposit: \$35 non-refundable

Phone: Kath @ 303-618-7702 or Amelia 720-200-9971

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.

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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2008 Open Full Moon Dates

August 22, 2008
September 12, 2008

October 10, 2008
November 7, 2008
December 12, 2008

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