



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



AUGUST 20 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. (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 20, 2010.

For our August ritual, Shen-Tat and the Covenant of the Wiccae will present a ritual in which we will endeavor to establish a firm foundation, so that we may rise into our power as spiritual seekers. That foundation is within us, as those immovable parts of us, as a still place, silent even during the most chaotic of conditions without and within. The ritual will use the conflicting planetary the astrological energies of August 20th in order to learn how better to access that foundation and will cultivate stillness from within to face our challenges in life, work and art.

Covenant of the Witches celebrates open and closed Circles, educates Community, offers Witchcraft Training and Initiation, as well as the services of its Coveners as leaders, ritual and event coordinators. <http://cotw.us>

—Catherine

GREETINGS

It has been a time of harvest for me. I've been cleaning my yard – I even managed to sell the old car that has been sitting in my front yard for what seems like ages. The dogs were fascinated by the big empty space to explore.

We generally think of this time as gathering things in. It's also a time of sacrifice – the first indication of how we will do through the winter. I've cleared the decks (or my yard anyway) for the coming winter. I've got a fresh area to start in. Isn't that something of a harvest too? Besides – I got to

use the modern equivalent of a scythe: my battery-powered weed-whacker.

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone offers our appreciation and thanks to Sapphire Circle, led by Les and Sophia Michelle, for a moving and beautiful Open Full Moon ritual in July. Members of the coven had meditated on their assigned Elements and Deities for several months, asking what messages to convey. The results, shared in this ritual, were deep and powerful. In addition, healing energy was raised and all participants were invited to take of it for themselves, as well as send healing energy to the Gulf. The Circle then re-formed, facing outward and holding hands. The Elements and Deities offered further messages, asking us to not underestimate them, remember their gifts, and embody them as we moved outward from this Circle back into the World.

Thank you, Sapphire Circle, for sharing your strength and spirit with Hearthstone! Blessed Be!

—Aryne

PASSAGES

Isaac Bonewits, Druid, Author, Singer, and Pagan Polymath, passed into the Summerland on the morning of August 12, 2010. He will be missed by many. More information, a eulogy, and links to other writings about his passing are available on The Wild Hunt blog, <http://wildhunt.org/blog/2010/08/isaac-bonewits-1949-2010.html>.

Safe passages, Isaac, until your return.

--Alia and Catherine

CHANGES IN THE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter has remained virtually unchanged for the past 19 years. The board has decided to make the newsletter more interesting to read and easier to manage.

One step we will be taking is eliminating the paper newsletter and going to e-mail only. If you do not have an email address or computer, computers are available at your local library to set up an online e-mail account

We will also be redesigning the newsletter for HTML email delivery. This means that if you have a text-only email reader, you will need to upgrade to an account that can handle HTML. If you don't wish to change your primary e-mail address, you can get an online e-mail address and receive the newsletter there.

We believe these changes will make the newsletter more interesting and will make it easier for you to get the information you need from it.

As always, if you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Catherine or me.

—*Alia*

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.

Why the Initiated Traditions Require Students to Be Initiates

One of the complaints that many modern students of the mysteries have is that the initiated traditions restrict access to their teachings. Often, the only way to have access to the mysteries that an esoteric tradition guards is to be a member (initiate) of that particular tradition; and if one wants to have complete access, one needs to be a full member (initiate of the highest Grade/Degree) of the tradition.

Outsiders, especially those who do not even have the most basic idea about the interplay between secrecy and initiation, complain that the initiated traditions are unfairly hoarding access to information that should be made available freely to everyone.

Needless to say, the more experienced initiates see no need to break down the walls of secrecy, and shout the secrets of the ages from the rooftops. They could, but it would probably do no good. The mysteries that the initiated traditions guard, the true secrets of the esoteric Orders and covens, are not mere information. Rather the true secret of the initiates is the experience of initiation itself.

Even if the entire stock of the teachings of an initiated tradition was published, whole sections of the tradition would still make no sense if one has not received the initiations of that tradition. Only the actual experience of the initiations will allow you to fully unlock the mysteries of an initiated tradition; a mere reading of the initiation rituals will not suffice, for an initiation is a complex blend of energy and drama.

An experience of the initiations is required for understanding the other parts of a mystery tradition. For instance, the practical magical work of Golden Dawn is considered by many to be the most important part of that particular tradition. Yet when the magical workings are studied by themselves, they are often confusing; in the hands of a non-initiate, the workings still work, but they are not as effective as they are in the hands of a full-blown initiate. The reason for this is the simple fact that an initiate has been given exposure to the energetic layers of the initiation rituals, which in turn are the powerhouses that strengthen the magical workings of the system.

The most basic structure for an initiation ritual includes a physical layer (the physical movements and speeches of the officers during the ritual), a symbolic layer (the mythological story that provides the setting for the initiation), and an energetic layer (the actual energies involved). Depending upon the mystery tradition, these layers may be further divided and expounded upon in their course material; for instance, a full explanation of the Golden Dawn initiations involve dividing the energetic layer into six separate layers. Each layer of the ritual re-enforces the effect of the

others as the candidate undergoes the ceremony of initiation.

When people complain that the initiated traditions are unfairly restricting their teachings and hoarding them for their own members, they fail to realize that there are parts of the initiated traditions that can only be experienced directly. Mere explanations cannot enlighten one; only the direct experience of the mysteries can make them clear. It is not that the Priests and Priestesses of the traditions are hoarding information, rather they are conserving their energy for those who have been given eyes to see and ears to hear the mysteries.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery traditions on his blog at:

<http://gleamingsfromthedawn.blogspot.com/>

ELEMENTS OF MAGIC

THREE SUNDAYS

Sept 26, Oct 3 & 10, 2010

Elements of Magic is the first of the core classes 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 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 ourselves and each other. This class is open to women and men.

A limited number of spaces are available for teens and young adults. Please call if questions – 303-618-7702.

TEACHERS

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.

Scarlet (Leni Hester) 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. She raises 2 lil girls in Aurora with her dear husband.

Terpsichore has been a Reclaiming witch since 1998. In 1986 she committed to the Craft thanks to the serendipity of stumbling on a feminist course about Women, Myths and Fairytales. Terpsichore delights in all dance, felt and seen (including adorning bodies and shaping spaces). She co-founded Reclaiming's first all-ages Witchcamp.

Class Schedule:

Sunday, September 26

11:30 am Registration

12:00pm – 5:00pm Class w/Potluck Lunch

Sunday, October 3

12:00 pm – 5:00pm Class w/Potluck Lunch

Sunday, October 10

12:00 am – 5:00pm Class w/Potluck Lunch

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

Prerequisite: 1st 6 chapters of *The Spiral Dance*, by Starhawk, (HarperCollins Publishers, November 1999).

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

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

Course information

Tuition: \$60 to \$90 sliding scale paid in full at first session.

Early Bird: \$45 paid by Deadline of September 19, 2010

Deposit: \$25.00 deposit is nonrefundable unless class is cancelled by the teachers. Deposit is applied toward your tuition.

Phone: Kath at 303-618-7702

EMAIL: morgans_insight@yahoo.com

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.

Registration

Pre-registration is required!

Class size is limited.

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

The location for this class is:

Spirit Wise

6590 S Broadway

Centennial, CO 80121

303-730-2974

For Registration please mail to:

Reclaiming Spirit Colorado

P.O. Box 270172

Littleton, CO 80127

Paypal accepted at:

morgans_insight@yahoo.com

Reclaiming Spirit Colorado is a Colorado Non-Profit Corporation and a Church.

The Nineteenth Annual Samhain

Witches' Ball

and free midnight Samhain ritual

**Saturday, October 23rd,
2010**

**Doors Open at 6:30PM
Highlands Masonic Temple
3550 Federal Blvd., Denver**

\$15. for Adults and \$5. Children 12 and Under

Live Music by Tuatha

**Costume Contest
Drumming and Dancing**

**Beer and Wine
Café Serving Dinner and Snacks**

**Psychic Fair and Magickal Marketplace
Community Organization Fair and Fundraiser**

**Tickets for Sale Online, at Stores
and at the Door**

**Check Out Our New Website at
denverwitchesball.com
303-935-6700**

EARTH TEMPLE

Earth Temple rituals are generally held at Ye Old Firehouse, 3232 Depew Street, Wheat Ridge. With a few exceptions, all of our rituals will be held at this location. Also with a few exceptions, all dates are Saturdays, with community announcements starting at 7:30 pm, and ritual starting when announcements conclude.

Note: The Beltaine ritual will be held on May 1, 2010, at the Wheat Ridge Senior Center 6363 W. 35th Avenue. Start time 7:30 pm.

Earth Temple 2010 dates

Event	ET Date SATURDAY
New Moon	Sep 11
Mabon	Sep 25
New Moon	Oct 9
Samhain/NM	Nov 6
Yule	Dec 18

WHOM 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>.

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. Editor: Catherine Mock. Publisher: M. Alia Denny

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2010 Open Full Moon Dates

**August 20, 2010
September 17, 2010
October 22, 2010
November 19, 2010
December 17, 2010**

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