



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### OCTOBER 22 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, OCTOBER 22, 2010.

WSLA (Women's Spiritual Leadership Alliance) will offer a Samhain-theme ritual at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Open Full Moon Ritual. This is the time of the Crone. She comes to us at this time of the year when the veil between the worlds of Life and Death is the thinnest. In this rite, participants will be invited to meet with Hecate in guided meditation. She is the One who stands at the crossroads, awaiting all travelers and seekers. Think about how life is filled with crossroads...with choices.... Ponder what help you might seek from Hecate. As is traditional at Samhain, we will also honor those who have gone before us, the ancestors, and we will remember especially those who have died this year.

—Catherine

### GREETINGS

I've been doing a lot of reading lately. Usually this would mean fiction, but because work has been particularly stressful, I've found my refuge in non-fiction – particularly books on my "always meant to read" list. I've had Deborah Lipp's "Elements of Ritual" around the house, and read bits and pieces, but having it an e-book edition so that I can read it during my lunch hours makes it much easier to study it properly. The same goes for Ronald Hutton's "Triumph of the Moon." Not only am I learning things I may have missed, but the study, in itself, is centering.

We talk about taking time to study, but in our busy days, we rarely actually have that time.

During this time of choices and beginnings, I think I will choose to make more time for study.

—Catherine

### THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Thanks and a Tip of the Hat to Amy for her thoughtful September ritual. For the September ritual, we began with a Wiccaning – introducing a child to the pagan community. In the circle, child's family promised to bring the child up respecting the Wiccan religion. Then, Alora, Amy's daughter, carried the baby around the circle, where members of the community gave their blessings for the child's life. Finally, Amy and Alora introduced the baby to the four elements and we welcomed him into our community.

The main ritual this month was about finding those parts of us that are being eaten away by negativity and finding a way to rid ourselves of the negativity. We were given colorful fabric leaves to charge with balance. As a part of a guided meditation, we breathed in the positive aspects of the year and breathed out the negative. During this time, we thought about what took from us more than it benefited us, as well as what things in our life were good for us, including people and things. We were encouraged to think of "pests" that might be chewing holes in our leaves and how we could get rid of those pests. After the meditation, we discussed positive and negative things that had happened to us recently.

Thank you, Amy, for this doubly inspiring ritual.

—Catherine and Alia

### 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*

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## 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*

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## 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.

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## How much astrology does a Wiccan need to know?

Being a cruel ceremonial magician of the Golden Dawn variety, I spend a lot of time with my nose buried in a book. In fact, I spend so much time with my nose buried in various books that one wonders how I manage to get any magic done at all. While that question must remain a mystery for another time, I must admit that my experience in the one tradition colors my opinions of other fields.

For instance, I tend to lean towards the more academically inclined branches of Wicca and paganism. Even when dealing with a branch that is typically non-academic, I tend to expect that the members have been required to crack open a book at some time during their membership. This tendency does not earn me many friends, and I am reminded constantly that modern-day Wicca and paganism tends to be all about belief and feelings.

Nevertheless, I maintain that it is useful for a modern Wiccan or pagan to actually know some information about the background to their tradition, as well as some occult lore. Given that the rituals are often based on esoteric symbols, it is useful to have some understanding of the symbols. If nothing else, it increases one's enjoyment of a ritual when one actually knows the "why" behind the use of certain ritual symbolism.

One of the sets of the symbols that inform the rituals of Wicca and paganism is astrology. It also informs the rituals of Golden Dawn, so my twenty-four inch rule tends to be the Golden Dawn standard when dealing with the matter of astrology in Wiccan and pagan systems. Occasionally, this standard is well beyond how much I should actually expect a member of these faiths to know. I know this; therefore, I have to remind myself that a different standard needs to be applied. So realistically, how much astrology should a Wiccan know?

First and foremost, they should know about the relationship of the seasons to the earth's journey around the sun. They should also know that the root of four Wiccan holidays are based upon the equinoxes and solstices. They should know the difference between the tropical and sidereal zodiacs. In addition to this, they should know how the seasons differ between the southern and northern hemispheres. Essentially, they should know how the Wheel of the Year is based on the apparent movement of the sun.

Beyond the astrology of the Wheel of the Year, a Wiccan should know the glyphs, keywords, and primary symbols of the zodiac signs and planets. Furthermore, they should know the positive and negative traits of both the signs and planets. There are two reasons to know this information. One is to enhance understanding of rituals designed around these astrological symbols; the other is because most people outside of Wicca presume that Wiccans actually know something about such matters. And finally, Wiccans should know what their own birth chart looks like.

## **Morgan Drake Eckstein**

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

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



**The Nineteenth Annual Samhain**

## **Witches' Ball**

**and free midnight Samhain ritual**

The Witches' Ball is almost here!

Saturday, October 23rd, from 6:30pm to midnight at the Highlands Masonic Temple, 3550 Federal Boulevard in Denver.

Once again we will fill the grand old temple with merchants, artists, psychics, community organizations, music, costumes, drumming, dancing and ritual.

\$15.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 12 and under. Tickets available in stores (cash only), at the door (cash/credit card) or online at:

[www.DenverWitchesBall.com](http://www.DenverWitchesBall.com)

### **Live Entertainment**

Orpheus Pagan Choir

Tuatha

Serpent Moon Belly Dance

Satori Belly Dance Troupe

Pandora Celtica

### **Costume Contests**

Children's Costume Contest at 7:40PM.

At 9PM our main Witches' Ball Costume Contest begins at the main stage, with prizes for the best ones.

### **Bar and Café**

Beer and wine are now available at the Ball!

Drink tickets \$5. Dinner, snacks, and non-alcoholic beverages at our café.

### **Trance Drumming**

Join in and co-create the magic of a Witches'

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Ball tradition — trance drumming and dancing!  
The more people participate the better it gets  
for everyone involved!!! Bring anything that  
makes a sound - drums, bells, singing bowls,  
shakers, etc. Most of all bring yourselves and  
your energy.

### **Pagan Ritual**

Sacred Earth presents the Opening Ceremony  
to open the way for our ancestors and faeries  
to come out and play.

COTW (Covenant of the Witches) leads our  
midnight mirthful ritual accompanied by live  
music, sending you away refreshed by our  
journey to the summerlands.

### **Bring Altar Offerings**

You are invited to bring pictures, mementos,  
messages, or offerings to the Ancestors and  
Dear Departed. Place on any altar for display  
through the evening.

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## **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
Samhain/NM	Nov 6	
Yule	Dec 18	

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## **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](mailto:alia@fnorky.com);  
Southwynde's is [Southwynde@yahoo.com](mailto:Southwynde@yahoo.com); (it

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is not frequently checked). Catherine's e-mail  
address is [catherine@fnorky.com](mailto:catherine@fnorky.com)

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## **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](mailto: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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Moon Dates. Those may be copied and transmitted  
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### **2010 Open Full Moon Dates**

**October 22, 2010**  
**November 19, 2010**  
**December 17, 2010**

**Newsletter subscribers:** The mailed newsletter will stop at the end of 2010. Please read the column titled “Changes in the Newsletter.”

***Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.  
3071 S. Dexter Way  
Denver, CO 80222***

**POSTMASTER: Address Correction Requested**