



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



DECEMBER 17 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, DECEMBER 17, 2010.

The December 19th ritual will be presented by Sapphire Circle. This time of year, our Wiccan sensibilities are in tune with the thought forms of the days growing ever shorter and the approach of the longest night. This Longest Night is unique in that it is a full moon which will be eclipsed! Imagine the primal power of this event, a night so long and dark that even the full moon is swallowed by it. Imagine too the power to call forth and rekindle the light of both moon and sun!

Since Yule is so close, please bring an ornament that you have made or one you find that seems properly pagan. We will provide a few extra for folks who may not be able to scrounge any up. Part of the ritual we will charge these ornaments and you'll take one home (Not the one you bring, the exchange of gifts and energies is part of this season as well!)

Children are welcome but be warned we WILL be turning out as much light as possible during a portion of the ritual and so please prepare them for that!

— *Les, Michelle, Teri, Sherrie, Bonnie, Clyde, Cynthia, Lisa, and Jil: aka Sapphire Circle*

GREETINGS

I recently was part of a discussion online about what the original poster called "The Law of Attraction." It turned out that we each had a different definition of this "law" – he felt that it meant that anything he thought about would come to pass – good or bad. Others in the

discussion believed that such a definition was impractical; while still others believed that negative thoughts could be offset with the proper recitation of certain words. It was an interesting discussion – and like most such discussions, we did not come to a consensus: the fun was in the discussion.

However, the discussion did get me to thinking. For the past month, I've been trying an experiment of my own. I made up my mind that I would not let anyone ruin my day for me. It has taken some work and a goodly number of deep breaths and a lot of grounding. However, as I've refused to lose my temper, thus ruining my day, I've noticed that people around me are in a better mood. It seems that my good mood has attracted other good moods.

Of course, all of this cheer is helpful during this time when the days are getting shorter and shorter. To end with a cliché: Smile – it's contagious.

—*Catherine*

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

For our November Open Full Moon, Hearthstone offers our thanks to Damian, Harper, and Toma, advanced students of Covenant of the Witches (COTW). We grounded and breathed together, focusing on the ritual intent of perceiving the sacredness of all things, living as a witch every day. Within Circle participants were guided in an effective "virtual walking meditation" while being physically still. We pictured our favorite natural place by a stream or river, and "walked" alongside the water which represented the river of our life with its occasional rocks or obstacles. We observed a second river flowing beyond the river at our side -- a golden river, a spirit river. As we walked on, the two rivers merged, our waters of life river and the spirit river, mixing and swirling together. When we looked back, though, we saw there was really only ONE river, all along.

Thank you, Toma, Harper, and Damian, for guiding us to understand and remember that we are spiritual beings, living lives infused with spirit!

—Arynn

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.

The Four Cardinal Points of the Sun's Journey Through the Seasons

From the earliest time of human consciousness, mankind has been concerned with the seasons. As the seasons came and

went, moving in their annual cycle, mankind dealt with the annual cycles of the weather and food supply. It was only a matter of time before mankind realized that the seasons, annual weather cycle, and availability of food were all interconnected in a repeating pattern.

Having noticed the circle of the seasons, mankind looked for a way to be able to tell where they were in the pattern of the year. Unlike modern man, our ancestors had a clear view of the heavens; the stars were not blighted out by the lights of modern civilization. As the year went through its yearly cycle, mankind started to notice that the wheeling stars in the nightly sky also underwent an annual cycle. And more importantly, certain annual events could be timed by watching the heavens. The nightly sky had become a calendar.

Besides the stars, humankind also noticed that the sun underwent an annual pattern. For many emerging civilizations, the sun was a better marker of time than the nightly sky was. By observing its daily position and the differences between the amount of daytime and nighttime, humankind learned to use the sun to figure out its position in the seasons.

There are four positions of the sun cycle that are especially important as the sun moves through the seasons. They are the Vernal and Autumnal Equinoxes, and the Summer and Winter Solstices.

The Vernal Equinox, the first day of spring, occurs approximately on March 20th. On this day, there are twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of night. In the tropical zodiac, which is adjusted to correspond to four cardinal points of the sun's journey, the Vernal Equinox marks the spot of the zero degree of Aries (the beginning of the sun sign of Aries). On this day, if one is living at the equator, the sun will appear directly overhead at noon.

The Summer Solstice, the first day of summer, is the day that the sun reaches its most northern height. This day marks the zero degree of Cancer, and occurs approximately on June 21st. This day is the longest day of the

year in the northern hemisphere. In Denver, there will be fourteen hours, fifty-nine minutes, and eight seconds of daylight on this day.

The Autumnal Equinox, the first day of fall, occurs approximately on September 22nd. Like the Spring Equinox, the lengths of day and night are equal and the sun appears directly overhead at noon if you are at the equator. This day marks the zero degree of Libra in the tropical zodiac.

The last of the cardinal solar points is the Winter Solstice, the first day of winter. The Winter Solstice occurs approximately on December 21st, and is marked by the sun being at its furthest southward point in its journey. This day marks the zero degree of Capricorn in the tropical zodiac. This day will be the shortest of the year. In Denver, there will be only nine hours, twenty-one minutes, and twenty-two seconds of daylight on this day.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

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

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

EARTH TEMPLE

We're still at the Firehouse Community Center in Wheat Ridge for all rituals except Beltaine and Samhain. We start announcements at 7:30, then start ritual when announcements end. Our dates are all Saturdays with one exception: Ostara will be held on SUNDAY, March 20. Hope you can join us!

The ET steering committee, Chris, Dara, Michelle, and Vella Rose

Earth Temple 2010 dates

Event	ET Date
Yule	SATURDAY Dec 18

2011 ET Ritual Dates

Event	ET Date
New Moon	Jan 8
Imbolc	Jan 29
New Moon	Mar 5
Ostara	Mar 20 SUNDAY
New Moon	Apr 2
Beltaine	Apr 30**

New Moon	Jun 4
Midsummer	Jun 18
Lammas/	July 30
New Moon	
New Moon	Aug 27
Mabon	Sept 24
New Moon	Oct 22
Samhain	Nov 5**
New Moon	Nov 19
Yule	Dec 17

**Location TBA

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

December 17, 2010

2011 Open Full Moon Dates

January 14, 2011

February 18, 2011

March 18, 2011

April 15, 2011

May 13, 2011

June 10, 2011

July 15, 2011

August 12, 2011

September 9, 2011

October 7, 2011

November 4, 2011

December 9, 2011

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

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