



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



MAY 13 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. This month's ritual is FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011.

ATUM -ATC will be facilitating the Hearthstone Full Moon on Friday May 13. The focus will be the Beltain/Samhain polarity and the issue of Life/Death for our Pagan ancestors (Sun in Taurus, Full Moon in Scorpio). Today is a good day to die!

We will be pleased to accept any book donations to the ATUM-ATC ministry and will be soliciting mentors for incarcerated Wiccans/Pagans.

GREETINGS

Beltane has come! To me, Beltane is the start of Summer. I like to quote a Jonathon Coulton song, "First of May," but I will leave it to the reader to find it on Youtube if you are interested.

The weather certainly does warm up once we hit May 1, with an occasional venture back into cooler temperatures. Today was quite warm, though not in comparison to summer. Alyria mentioned she could see summer right around the corner, though.

With the warming, I see flowers and herbs and I want to plant, though I am no longer physically capable of gardening, I still feel the urge to do so. I notice our rose bush needs some dead canes removed. If I can find gardening shears, I should be able to do that bit of garden work, at least. May you each find the fertility and creativity that is yours for the upcoming summer – and if you grow extra tomatoes, bring them by!

—*Alia*

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

A deep Tip of the Hat to Amy (Nightshade), who led Hearthstone's April OFM, assisted by her daughter Alora. The ritual was a coming-of-age ceremony for Amy's son Mars, who turned 13, and who has attended Hearthstone OFMs since he was a very young child. His Wiccaning occurred at Hearthstone, and the family graciously shared this rite of passage ceremony with our community as well. The ritual's tone was a very nice balance of affection, motherly pride, respect, and challenge. Amy briefly highlighted Mars' accomplishments, after which she presented him to each of the Elements. Spokespeople for the Elements each reminded him of his Wiccaning pledges to honor the creatures and qualities of each Element, thanked him for keeping his promises, and challenged him to commit to continuing to do so. Upon his affirmation, each Element presented him with a gift, including a journal and an athame. Mars was then presented to representatives of the Lord and Lady, who promised him "You are always loved exactly as you are. You are never alone."

Amy and Mars, thank you for generously including us in this beautiful and solemn rite. Afterwards, several men said wistfully, "I wish someone had done this for me when I was that age."

Blessings, Mars, on your continuing sacred journey from Youth to Manhood!

—*Aryne*

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

I've had a long essay here for years. I'm sure you have all become quite adept at skipping over it. So instead, I will be short and sweet:

Running open rituals does cost money. For years, I supported Hearthstone from my own pocket, and then I became ill and could no longer do so. Now, I need your assistance to keep the church running. One of the ways we can tell if what we are doing is pleasing to you is if you tell us so. The other way would be to provide us with financial support. If you were to go out for a date on a Friday evening, what would you spend? Dinner is fairly expensive. Movie tickets are pretty steep these days as well, unless you go to the discount theater for somewhat older flicks. What's a ritual and time with people who are of like mind worth to you? Can you show that when it's time to pass the cauldron?

As I have said before, support your local groups. It helps us to know that you value our service. If you don't want to donate to one group, then donate to the group you do support. Green folding energy goes a long ways, and rents and other costs do continue to increase with time. To keep a group alive does take community support.

—*Alia*

THE WICCAN STYLE OF TELLING STORIES

One of my jokes about lineage is that when you ignore the energetic transmission, what you are left with is a bunch of strange ideas and weird stories. Or at least, that is what I received along with my initiation.

Not that you need to be an initiate to receive a bunch of stories as a pagan/wiccan. Attend a couple of open rituals and discussion groups/classes wearing a friendly attitude and you will leave with a hatful of stories. For the really shy, there are books and the internet.

We are a story telling community. It comes from our ritual style, a kind of gather around the campfire and heckle the story teller style of ritual. Our audience is not the sit quietly while taking copious notes audience of the university system; it is not the sit quietly and buy things crowd of the mass media; nor is it the listen and agree style of the major religions. It is more of "And you thought this was a good idea---why?" style. We tend to want to know why we are doing things.

There are some common stories that we all seem to know: the burning bush, the sawed-off broom, and the sliced apple. Most of these seem to be advice about what not to do.

My personal storytelling style annoys some people. Most of the stories that we tell are so far removed from their sources that we do not remember who was originally involved. I tend to insert names (and often myself) into the stories. This is called thievery by non-story tellers---my father used to call it joke telling.

Another aspect of my personal storytelling style is that I have no problem with changing details to suit my purposes. For instance, I have no problem with taking a story from mythology or another religion and changing minor, or even major, details to get it to fit into the piece of work or story that I am currently engaged in. Some people refer to this as cultural thievery, and consider it disrespectful. I call it being creative. Obviously, I do not make many friends with my attitude.

I tend to describe it as being a magpie. “Look, it is a shiny bit! Gimme! It will look beautiful weaved into my nest of lore and magical trivia.” Out there somewhere in the world, a shaman cries because I stole a description from them. And so it goes.

Now, many pagans and Wiccans will argue that my personal story telling style has nothing to do with how they tell stories. And they would be right. After all, I am a story unto myself. I am the militant in-your-face determined to do as I please Wiccan. I am used as an example of how not to be.

So do not do as I do. Never change the details of the stories you tell. Never make the stories personal. Never borrow the shiny bits from other cultures. Be a good Wiccan, respect other people’s stories, and future generations will respect you. And that is all any of us desire, right?

Morgan Drake Eckstein

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery traditions on his blog at: <http://gleamingsfromthedawn.blogspot.com/>

(Publisher’s note: I have no idea what Morgan is on about here. Perhaps it is his own brand of sarcasm. He describes a very common method of making stories our own. We are not a group of parrots; we do adapt what we teach. —*Alia*

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, and 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

2011 ET Ritual Dates

Event	ET Date
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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2011 Open Full Moon Dates

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: As of January 2011, we have ceased delivering the newsletter by U.S. Mail.