



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



JUNE 10 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, JUNE 10, 2011.

Morgan Drake Eckstein, will be leading the June 10th OFM. It will be story time as Morgan tells myths to the children (both kid kids and adult kids). This ritual will focus on something you want (desire), something you would like to get rid of, and some talent you wished you had. The June 10th OFM is definitely children and beginner friendly.

GREETINGS

Summer has definitely arrived! I spent my early summer vacation getting some of the chores done that had been neglected over the winter. Or is that winters? I now have extra storage space and a functioning back gate – as well as a lower lawn and much brush cleared. And my sister has promised to come into town once a month over the summer to work on some of the other things that must be done. Thank goodness, we managed to get this done just before the heat settled in. Even so, I managed to get my nose burnt.

The sun is setting later and later, preparing for the Solstice. My summer plants are thriving – as is my lawn. In fact, the lawn I mowed on Monday was ready for mowing again the next Monday. Nature is enjoying the weather, even if I am not. The circle of the year continues. I suppose I'll have to sit under the lilac bushes for some coolness for the next several weeks.

---Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

A grateful Tip of our Hat to Martin and Carrie of Alexandria Temple of Universal Metaphysics (ATUM) for leading a thoughtful Beltane-related ritual for our Open Full Moon in May. Carrie and Martin are very engaged in pagan prison ministry, and shared with us relaxation, ritual, and meditation techniques they have refined for use with prisoners. After Martin led a peaceful progressive relaxation exercise, Carrie guided a meditation, leading us into an ancient dark forest where we met with the Divine Mother. We were taught that Spring is a time of new life, hope and possibility, and later in the cycle we receive the gift of death, bringing us calm and rest. Neither gift is more powerful than the other; Beltane and Samhain balance one another.

We were prompted to consider that "Everyone is here to teach and to learn. Have you taught the lessons you're supposed to be teaching? Learned the lessons you're supposed to be learning? If so, then today is a good day to die, and a good day to live."

Carrie and Martin then did a Drawing Down, and several people went forward to speak with the Goddess.

Thank you, Martin and Carrie, for sharing your deep skills and worshipful ministry with us! Blessed Be!

—Arynne

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.

STORYTELLING AS OUR RELIGIOUS HERITAGE

One of the “facts” that has come out of historical research of British Wicca is that the religion was made up from bits and pieces that were assembled from various sources (fairy tales, books about pagan mythology, Freemasonry, etc.). We do not have an unbroken lineage dating back to the Stone Age. We are a new religion, built in modern times to address the needs of modern people.

It is the fact that the religion was assembled from bits and pieces that gives us a heritage. Myths and pagan customs were filtered down through the ages clear up to modern times, hidden in books. For instance, while the last Egyptian Temple closed in early fifth century, the legend of Isis and Osiris continued to be told in books throughout the Middle Ages. It can be shocking to chance upon the story of Isis and Osiris in the literature of that time, for Isis and Osiris are considered to be real people, proto-Christians.

One of the hazards of using the surviving material is that the stories are so varied. There is no one story, no one myth, except in those cases where only one copy has survived. But this is also a great boon to those people who are designing rituals and practices to address modern needs.

The variation in the stories is not a new thing. The Egyptian literature is full of variations. You can see some of the gods evolve as time goes on. For instance, Imhotep starts off as a real flesh and blood human being; he was an actual official in Ancient Egypt. Imhotep then was elevated to being a god. Later, his cult would forget that he was once a human being, with only his godhood

remaining. One does wonder what the Ancient Egyptians would have thought of the recent set of movies featuring this character.

The mythology of Egypt, with its four thousand year history of development before the last Temple was closed, shows a richness of variation. Different eras stressed different gods, as did different regions. There were also variations that seemed to exist between different storytellers in the same region and time period. The purpose, the mood, and the audience---all seemed to inform how the stories were told.

A vast range of variation is present in every mythos that we have a significant body of textual evidence for—Greek mythology, Arthurian mythology, even Christian lore. And it is not just Western lore that shows this level of variation; both African lore and the mythology of India contain vast variations in detail. The cherry on top is that this is merely the areas that I am aware of; other people can add to this list.

To put this in perspective, consider this: We all know the stories of Cinderella, Red Riding Hood, and Jack and the Beanstalk. But what version(s) do you know? Jack and the Beanstalk, also known as Jack the Giant Killer, has variations that trace back to the Vikings. Red Riding Hood starts off as a French tale, and has over a hundred retellings. And Cinderella has over seven hundred known retellings.

Today, one of our jokes about Wicca is that you cannot define what it is. No wonder, considering that Wicca was built from the bones and remains that were scattered throughout nineteenth and twentieth century literature---we are lucky to be able to agree on anything. Our heritage is to retell stories, more or less aimed at the mood of our current audience. That includes our religious stories.

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, 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
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

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.