



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



JULY 15 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, JULY 15, 2011.

On July 15, Deena Larsen will lead a ritual to celebrate open communication within your family (which could be your family of origin, your family of choice, or our greater family of community). We will go through a set of umpire signals and teach you a new method of identifying problem areas in your communication, before they lead to fights and hard feelings. But more than that, we will "power up" communication paths, open the channels of love and understanding to build a solid "soul foundation" to use these new tools. This ritual is designed for your whole family--whoever you define as your true, loving, supportive family. So bring your kids, bring your friends, bring the people you *love* the most. (As the little ones can get a bit bored with all this talk, please bring their favorite "noiseless" toys--and we will have an "activity area" within the circle where they can play or draw relatively quietly.)

GREETINGS

I ended my last column with the sentence, "I suppose I'll have to sit under the lilac bushes for some coolness for the next several weeks." Famous Last Words. As it happens, that is the place I like best to practice in. Shortly after the last OFM, I received an e-mail, asking if I wanted to play a very special gig. I jumped at the chance -- so I have ended up spending a great deal of time under those lilac bushes. That is, when it isn't thundering and raining.

Oh, and the special gig? I'm playing on the stage in the Holistic Pavilion at the Denver County Fair for the VIP Grand Opening Pre-party. I'm incredibly excited -- especially because I had already intended to go to the Fair!

---Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

A Tip of our Hat to Morgan Drake Eckstein of Bast Temple for the June Open Full Moon ritual. Morgan and Jo used myths from different cultures to add energy to the ritual participants' intentions, which each person wrote on separate parts of an index card. Morgan asked each participant to come prepared with a desire, something to get "rid" of, and a skill he or she wished she had. For "Desire" Morgan told the story of Anansi and the dinner pots -- to remind us to focus on our desires. For the "Undesired" things, we were told the story of the stone giant Hrimthurs and why the walls of Asgaard are not finished to remind us to bury what we need to get rid of. Finally, Morgan and Jo related the "bad monkey" story of Hanuman from India. This reminded us that we have the potential to do what we want, but may bury it. Morgan then took from each person the part of the index card that he or she "wanted to get rid of" to be burnt.

Thank you, Morgan and Jo, for this fun and exciting ritual.

---Catherine

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.

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

A question that I occasionally kick around is "What qualities should a leader have?" Inside the initiated traditions, such as Golden Dawn, this question is generally ignored. In the initiated traditions, you are taught that the person who has the most initiations is the leader--after all, the person with the most initiations (and the most secret documents) has the most knowledge. And that is what the initiated traditions are all about--the preservation of esoteric knowledge.

But this standard does not work outside of the initiated traditions. In fact, one could argue that this idea does not really produce good results inside the initiated traditions. With leadership being based on a single thing--initiations and secret information--the system makes would-be leaders focus on pursuing just that goal. If you want to be a leader in Golden Dawn and other esoteric initiated systems, all that matters is collecting Degrees and Grades. Everything else can be ignored. As a result, one ends up with leaders whose sole qualification to be a group leader is the fact that they have undergone multiple initiations. Leadership inside the esoteric traditions often lacks even the most basic skills that leaders in other fields must have.

For instance, it has been my experience that leaders who pride themselves on knowing the most are the ones who are least able to clearly communicate the essence of that knowledge to others. Now, the happy little cynic says that part of this is the simple unwillingness to hand over information to potential rivals. But I suspect that it is also the way that their teachers taught them --

after all, we learn to teach the system based on how we were taught the system ourselves. If someone learned the system from someone who was as clear as mud, one tends to teach it to others in the same slurry-licious manner.

One of the ongoing gripes that one hears from leaders of the initiated traditions is that no one outside of their own groups ever listens to them. It hurts their tender feelings that they have lessons to teach, and people tend to choose to give the opinions of non-initiates more weight. They hate people like myself that openly say, "I would rather follow a Neophyte [the lowest Grade in GD] who is willing and able to clearly explain the little that they know. The most advanced Ipsissimus [theoretically, the highest Grade in the GD system] is completely useless if they are unwilling and incapable of explaining their great wisdom." As one can guess, I do not make many friends with this attitude.

This attitude of mine, which is occasionally referred to as an "attitude problem," illustrates a primary difference between the way that the initiated and non-initiate communities choose their leadership. Outside of the circles where possession of knowledge is the holy grail of leadership, it is the ability to communicate that is the key factor in deciding who to follow. The leaders outside of the initiated community are sometimes not even called "leaders." The leaders in the greater esoteric community are bloggers, workshop teachers, ritual organizers, shop owners, artists and authors, and those people you call when you need some advice. The really great ones all have the ability to communicate their knowledge and opinions. They may not be the most knowledgeable, or even the most pleasant people to hang around with, but they all capable of clearly conveying what is on their minds. And I do not know about you, but to me that counts more than all the initiations and secret documents in the world.

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.

Hope you can join us!

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

2011 ET Ritual Dates

Event	ET Date
Lammas/ New Moon	July 30
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

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.