



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



AUGUST 12 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, AUGUST 12, 2011.

The August ritual will be presented by Circle of Light and Shadow. The Full Moon in August is in Aquarius. Aquarius invites us to expand our service to humanity and to create new and exciting visions for our future together. Much like the vision that was created 20 years ago this month for Hearthstone.

Yes, this month marks the 20th anniversary of Hearthstone!

There is also a very auspicious 5 planet conjunction occurring during this full moon placing even more emphasis on the altruistic nature of Aquarius. Join us in a journey through the solar system as we visit these 5 planets to seek their wisdom and special energy for the betterment of humanity.

And join us in celebrating and acknowledging 20 years of service to our community by Hearthstone.

GREETINGS

Well, July turned out to be incredibly busy – and incredibly rainy. I found myself practicing inside more than outside, including celebrating Lughnasadh inside with my harp since it was pouring rain outside. During this very busy month, I rediscovered the wonderful centering power that music has for me, even during the rain and storming. However, my playing indoors did disturb the dogs. "Why on earth is Mommy playing music indoors? We must needs gather around her feet and it's not so easy here." They soon got used to it.

At and around Lughnasadh, I rediscovered the wealth of harvest music we have – both in pagan and non-pagan traditions – that can be played to celebrate the first of our three harvests. And since I was playing at the County Fair just around that time, it occurred to me that Denver itself was presenting its first fruits for this harvest. What a wonderful celebration this year! May we have many more!

---Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

For our July Open Full Moon, we offer our Thanks and a Tip of the Hat to Deena Larsen for an interesting, participatory ritual. Deena provided handouts with a set of "umpire signals" to facilitate loving, clear communication with our families and loved ones, especially during challenging, stressful times and then demonstrated those signals ably aided by Aylah, Sophie Blue and Sydney Rose. We learned and practiced the signals, then blessed and powered up our intentions for positive communication.

Thank you, Deena, for caring about all of us, our relationships, and our families enough to present this practical ritual to us!

—Arynn

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

TWENTY YEARS?

It's hard to believe, but Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. is 20 years old this August. I was a young (OK, 30), single witch when I started on all of this with Gypsy; she now lives in Portland. I've been married 19 and a half years, and have a very independent minded 17 year old daughter. I get called an "elder" now, and people seem to think that my opinion counts for something. It's been a very interesting trip.

The Open Full Moons were started by Morgan Stott and Bried Foxsong about 23 years ago. They drafted various Priests and Priestesses to perform the ritual, which at that time had a script. (If anyone has a copy of that script, I would love to have it for our archives.) When they became busy with other things, they passed it on to Gypsy and Dove, who started sending out postcards drawn by Dove to remind people of the ritual. At that time we met "informally" at Washington Park. Eventually, Dove moved on to other things, and I started helping Gypsy with the mailings. I (gasp) computerized the mailing list, and printed it off on a dot matrix printer attached to my Apple //gs. Gypsy and I began to encourage officiates to present their own tradition rather than reading from the same script every month.

In August of 1991, we had an "informal gathering" of over 100 people for an Open Full Moon. Gypsy and I felt perhaps it was time for a more formal structure, and we incorporated into Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. that month. The original board members were Gypsy, Southwynde, and me. We discovered that to meet at the park legally it was \$125 for the park rent, and about \$400 for site insurance per site rental. We couldn't afford that. Someone suggested the Unitarian Church on Capital Hill, and we have been there since.

We started a newsletter then too, and it has been going on fairly consistently since then. We gradually moved more and more to an electronic format, and last year completed the move. I still mail this newsletter sometimes to an expatriate in Kansas; everyone else reads it on line, which is more efficient, ecologically sound, and saves money as well. E-mail, after all, uses 100% recycled pixels, right, Catherine?

Our board now consists of me as President and organizer, Southwynde as Vice President, Catherine as Secretary and co-organizer, and Arynne as Treasurer. Priestesses and Priests now schedule when they will be presenting rituals a year ahead of time; this year we managed to have a different group present every month of the year, a trend I hope to continue in the future.

Please join us on August 12 to celebrate 20 years of Hearthstone being an entrance to the community for folks new to the community; and a haven for some people for as long as 20 years! I'm honored to be a part of the church for so long. We will be having cake and goodies for a small celebration after the ritual.

—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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HEARTHSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

One of the difficulties encountered by the newcomer to the Wiccan community, whether they are new to the Craft itself or just to a particular geographical area, is locating like-minded individuals to talk to and perhaps even practice ritual with. The members of the other esoteric communities also face this difficulty, though some areas of esoteric interest are easier to find fellow members in than others. For instance, a Thelemic newcomer very seldom has a problem locating an enclave of OTO members.

Some of the difficulty lays in the size of the local community. Denver is fortunate to have a reasonable size Wiccan community. Yet a greater part of the difficulty lays in the fact that Wicca doesn't have people standing on the street corner telling passersby that the goddess has a plan for their lives. For the most part, Wicca is an invisible community; this is one of our strengths, but it is also one of our religion's weaknesses. Let's be honest – the very nature of Wicca makes it hard to find an entry point into the community, especially if one is interested in meeting people in person.

It is for these reasons that those "entry points" that we do have into the local pagan and Wiccan community are so important. Some of these entry points are the local occult shops. Others are local organizations that have no problem being visible, like froth on a beer. Hearthstone Community Church is one of these precious entry points into the local Wiccan community. Now, some people might object to my description "froth on a beer." Nevertheless, it is true. The occult shops and public organizations are merely the surface indications of activity that is happening elsewhere in the community, generally out of sight.

As most of those reading this column know, volunteers do the Hearthstone Community Church's Open Full Moon rituals; these volunteers design, practice, and perform the rituals. Hearthstone's function is to help organize and provide a place for volunteers from the local esoteric community to do public ritual. And a lot of the time, the sole public activity that the volunteers do are the Open Full Moon rituals. Some of these volunteers are solitary practitioners; others hold membership in groups. They are active individually and collectively in the greater community, a community that is generally invisible.

And that is why organizations like Hearthstone Community Church are so important to the Wiccan community. They provide entry points into the greater, and generally invisible, Wiccan

community. They are the bubbles rising to the top showing that there is activity happening beneath the surface. They provide a place where newcomers to the local community can come and meet people, ask questions, and perhaps even make friends. It is important to the community that such entry points exist.

It is not an easy task to fulfill. There is a laundry list of complications that make manning such an outpost difficult. Some years are better than others. Over the years, I have watched organizations come and go. Hearthstone Community Church is celebrating their twentieth anniversary serving the Denver Wiccan community this month. And that is a major accomplishment.

On the behalf of the group that I am a member of, I extend our thanks to Hearthstone for serving the local Wiccan community faithfully for twenty years. You have provided us with laughs, topics to talk about, and some memorable rituals. Thanks to the board members, and thanks to the volunteers who have performed rituals. Here is to the last twenty years. May there be many more years of ritual still to come.

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
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

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.