



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



SEPTEMBER 9 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, SEPTEMBER 9, 2011.

For the September 9th ritual, the Cronos of Dragonfest will present a ritual in honor of Mnemosyne, Goddess of Memory, and Ganesha, God of Scholars. This will include reaching out to the community and reminding the community that the Cronos are happy to share what we have learned over our lives.

GREETINGS

School has started again! For me as well as for most of the students of the Denver area. This means that I am chronically short of sleep – at least until I get used to the schedule. However, I am enjoying my class, so I guess that means it's worth it.

I suppose we all have trouble getting "back into things" after a break or a summer vacation. The break refreshes us, and then we drop headlong back into school or work. It would be nice to even things out a bit more. But then, how would I know I had had a break?

I am enjoying this long Labor Day weekend. Even if I do have homework.

---Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Warm thanks, and a Tip of the Hat, to the Circle of Light and Shadow (Wellissa, KiraDawn, AzurIris, and Amethyst) for presenting Hearthstone's special 20th Anniversary ritual. The Full Moon in August was in Aquarius, and the ritual theme was how Aquarius invites us to expand our service to humanity and to create new and exciting visions for our future together.

After circle was cast, the officiants described Hearthstone as an example of Aquarian energies, particularly Alia's and friends' vision and initiative to organize Hearthstone 20 years ago. (Hearthstone was the only open monthly public circle in the metro area then.) Wellissa called the four longtime Hearthstone Board members to the center, and all present joined hands and raised energy with the OM chant, sending energy and gratitude to the Board for giving the gift of Hearthstone to the community.

The current astrology was further explained (a very auspicious 5 planet conjunction). We each selected a small crystal, and in guided meditation, traveled to these five planets and built, planet by planet, a dream/goal and confidence in our ability to make a contribution for the betterment of community, in accord with the altruistic energy of Aquarius. We charged our crystals with the energy of each planet, and raised energy for successful manifestation. After circle, we celebrated Hearthstone's 20th with a large birthday cake!

Thank you, Circle of Light and Shadow, for this beautiful and timely ritual, for the crystals, and for our journey among the planets. Board members were surprised and touched to be recognized for our service. Thank you! Bright Blessings to all!

—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

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.

TO EXPLAIN OR NOT TO EXPLAIN

A few weeks ago, I was sitting in a restaurant with my mother and several members of my extended family. It was definitely a red-letter day for all of us---the last time I talked to mom was twenty-one years before. It was one of those days where you did not want to say anything wrong. So naturally, before the night was over, I said something that I regretted.

There was a ceiling fan above the table that had a wobble---a huge wobble; one of my sisters expressed concerns that it was going to come down upon her. My nephew laughed that knowing his luck it would bounce and hit him instead. My sister laughed that if he was going to die, no ceiling fan was going to be responsible, that she would sacrifice him herself. I joked that it would be a virgin sacrifice.

Mom overheard that joke. I am positive that she glared at me. I thought about explaining that my religion frowns on human sacrifice. Fortunately, the tide of the conversation washed over her and she seemed to forget my bad joke.

I was reminded of this conversation a couple of weeks later. I was on the phone with one of my sisters. During the course of the conversation, I mentioned that morning that I was positive that I saw my grandmother. My dead grandmother. There was silence on the other end of the phone. I quickly changed the subject.

Both of these incidents reminded me that I live in a slightly different universe than my relatives do. Twenty years ago, I would have attempted to explain that Wiccans do not perform virgin sacrifices, and that seeing dead people was not actually a sign of insanity. I was more militant twenty years ago. Today, for the most part, I don't find it worth my time to attempt to provide explanations. I am not sure if it is a sign of character growth or not. Perhaps I am just getting old and tired.

One of the ways that we attempt to explain our religion to others is through the use of negatives. "We do not sacrifice virgins or animals. We do not worship the devil. We do not believe in hell, etc." The problem with this style of explanation is that at the end of the day, no one understands our religion any better than they did before we attempted to explain things.

Part of the problem is that Wiccan and pagan beliefs vary so much that the only things that we can safely and firmly say about the religion is what we do not believe in. The other part of the problem is that there are many people who believe that we are insane devil worshipping virgin sacrificers, and we tend to just to convince them otherwise.

I do not have a solution to this problem. Or is it problems? But I think that perhaps we should really consider coming up with a list of positives to describe our belief system. Perhaps some workshops and meet-ups to practice explaining our beliefs to others, with one person role-playing the part of the confused outsider and another person role-playing the part of the confused insider. Certainly, it would be better than having to decide at the drop of a hat whether you want to explain the truth about human sacrifice and ghosts to your relatives.

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
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

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.