



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



OCTOBER 7 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, OCTOBER 7, 2011.

At the October 7th ritual, Shen-Tat will be leading an "any age" working, guiding us through visualization and breath work, designed to open an awareness of one's own Divine nature.

Shen-Tat lives and serves in the Denver area, where he has practiced Witchcraft for 20+ years, studying and experimenting in other religions, focused on fusing what works in each. He is the High Priest of the Covenant of the Witches.

GREETINGS

It's already October! This year has sped away so quickly. I've been doing a great deal of writing this term and that writing has reinforced my belief that using simple terms is more powerful than using dozens of technical or specialized terms. By the way, my class this term is in Training and Development – a subject rife with technical terms and much gobbledygook. One of the things I've learned is that we must always gauge our presentation to the audience.

This has gotten me to thinking about how I deal with the rest of the world. I can always show how much I know by using three- and four-syllable words. But the simple ones will show who I am. The same goes for my devotional practice. Fireworks are all very well, but don't the Gods know me in my inner soul – that small voice that speaks the loudest of all? The Wheel is still somewhat balanced between light and dark. Perhaps dealing simply with ourselves is another small way of balancing.

---Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone thanks the Crones of Dragonfest for offering our September Open Full Moon ritual. As part of cleansing and casting, participants were each offered a squirt of waterless hand sanitizer, a novel and practical approach for cleansing ourselves in preparation for entering sacred space.

The Crones reminded the community that they are happy to share what they have learned over their lives. They invited us to ask them about various life experiences for which they can provide support and counsel, such as the joys and pains of bearing and raising children, returning to school, caring for the aged, and losing loved ones. We chanted, and opened circle.

Thank you, Crones of Dragonfest, for reaching out and offering your wisdom and experience to our community!

—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.

WICKED WITCH VERSUS FLUFF BUNNY

I was reminded the other day about how much the Wiccan community had changed over the last couple of decades. I was leafing through an old book, looking up the ingredients of a spell for a friend of mine; it has been years since I last used it. As I did so, I was surprised to see the number of revenge and get-ahead spells in the book. I sometimes forget that decades ago, wicked witch spell books used to sell like hotcakes.

Today, there are a ton of nice, light, happy spell books out there. One could even argue that *The Secret* is a spell book. The slur used for these types of books, and the people who buy them, is “fluff bunny.” The term “New Age” is also used for them. Yet I am not so sure that we should look down our pointed noses at the fluff bunnies and New Agers.

The wicked witches were actually a bigger public relation nightmare. It was all about power, getting ahead, and looking fabulous while doing so. Or if you could not look fabulous, looking positively like a denizen who crawled out of the fifth circle of hell. In hindsight, I think a lot of it was done for shock value and striking back at authority figures, typically one's parents.

Now, don't think that I am saying that the whole Wiccan and pagan community was this way. Saying that the whole community was just a bunch of wicked witches years ago would be like saying that we are all a bunch of fluff bunnies today. I am just saying that if you believe certain books, the literary evidence might cause you to think that. Given the choice of explaining the wicked witches or the fluff bunnies to an outsider, I think that I would go for the fluff bunnies. I might not agree with their opinion that the universe is a friendly place; but it is much easier to explain that someone is mostly harmless, rather than having to explain how the diabolical is more for show than anything else.

I am also not saying that there were no powerhouses in the wicked witch category. It is just that most of them that I met did not impress me. In fact, I would say that we have as many

powerful magic workers today as we did a generation ago. Someone powerful can clothe themselves as easily as a fluff bunny as they can as a wicked witch. Poison can come in pretty packages, just as easily as it can come in packages heavily inked in skull and bones. Sometimes power chooses to not wear a costume, sometimes it does.

Outside of the book market which is just a tip of the iceberg, though perhaps the easiest for outsiders to see, I am not sure that the actual community has changed all that much. At any public gathering, I typically can find someone to label a wicked witch as easily as I can find someone to label a fluff bunny.

I would argue that the shift from wicked witch to fluff bunny is merely a marketing change. Publishing houses have chosen to market books to a different type of buyer. There is as much actual information content in today's popular spell books as there was in yesterdays. In reality, you are just as likely to need "the secret code" to figure out how to actually get the spells to work right today as you did in the old days.

And in a few years, we will be awash in some other category of books, aimed at a perceived type of believer that few of us actually are. I am not sure what that category is, but I do plan on surfing that wave. That might make me a wicked writer.

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	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

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.