



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



FEBRUARY 3 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, FEBRUARY 3, 2012.

At the February 3rd ritual Ketevia will lead a non-standard Candlemas ritual in the Wiccan tradition. While robes are not required, participants are encouraged to bring or change into robes, to mark the change from the mundane to the sacred. Ketevia will bring candles to take home to help us light our way into the new year. We will also be hosting members of Ketevia's Celtic History class at Iliff, who have been invited to observe.

--*Alia*

GREETINGS

Have you noticed that the days are getting brighter? Imbolc is close and despite the fact that some of the coldest days of the winter are still before us, I can feel the end of the cold season. This is the time of the year when we begin to plan our gardens for the spring and summer. The seeds will be planted around Ostara. It seems that the most important gardens we have are those in our minds and souls. Those gardens take the most planning.

I've begun my planting by sitting out in the front yard evenings when I get home from work. I let the dogs out to play and refresh myself (and my soul) by watching their antics. By sitting out and allowing myself to enjoy the evening, I believe I'm clearing the area so I can plan this year's crop. What shall I plant this year?

--*Catherine*

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Thanks and a Tip of the Hat to Alia, who led our January Open Full Moon ritual with a celebration of the growing light of the new year. Volunteers called the Quarters, and participants silently invoked Deity as they individually chose. We shared our personal intentions for the new season, bringing them to light! Round golden cookies represented the Sun in our "cakes and wine" ceremony.

Thank you, Alia, for this gentle ritual honoring our intentions for the new year. Blessings to all!

—*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



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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.

WICCAN MAINTENANCE

Today, I spent the day performing computer maintenance (virus scans, updating programs, moving files around, etc.). It is boring, but necessary. And I will admit that I put it off as long as I can. Sitting down to write this column, I find myself remembering that there are tasks that Wiccans need to do regularly that we tend to put off.

What does Wiccan maintenance look like? And is it as distasteful and boring as performing computer maintenance?

Wiccan maintenance, by my own personal definition, is all about maintaining our connection to the spirit of Wicca. It is about being the best Wiccan that we can be. The tasks that one needs to do will vary from person to person. For instance, for me, a large part of Wicca is about magic; therefore, a large part of my Wiccan maintenance is about maintaining a connection to the magical world.

One of the ways that I have learned to connect to the magical world is through divination. Yet left to my own devices, I tend to ignore divination. I have a habit of setting aside my cards and stones and other divination tools, and just generally ignore this aspect of my magical and Wiccan training. My excuse is that it is not really necessary for me to practice this art on a regular basis because I am capable of sensing the same energies without the props. The truth is that regular divination practice is time-consuming, and I am a busy person; any excuse to ignore practicing divination would work for me, and the days of skipping practice soon add up to months (and on a couple of occasions—a year or more) of not doing any divination work.

Unfortunately, if I spend a long enough period without doing divination, my ability to sense certain energies start to dull. In reality, I need to do divination work. While I am beyond the apprentice stage in divination and no longer need to do it daily, I still need to do it occasionally to



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maintain my connection to a wider sensory world; I need to occasionally pull out my divination tools to be the best Wiccan that I can be.

It is my friends who tend to remind me that I need to do this occasional maintenance work. Sooner or later, one of them will convince me that I need to pull out my tools to do a divination for them--and then I realize that I do not remember the last time I did a divination. Afterwards, I will realize that my senses have shifted a little, and that I really should perform regular maintenance to exercise my non-physical senses.

And we all have these experiences. We all have things that we really should do regularly to be the best Wiccan that we can be that we regularly put off because it is too time-consuming or boring. For some, it is making time to work with nature. For others, it is attending group rituals. We each have our own methods of maintaining our connection with the spirit and energy of Wicca; whatever it is, we should remember to regularly do it.

So do you know what you need to regularly do? And do you remember the last time you did it?

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

Earth Temple celebrates New Moons and Sabbats. With the exceptions noted below, our rituals are held at our NEW location: Full Moon Books and Event Center, 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood.

We start announcements at 7:30, and then start ritual when announcements end. Our dates are all Saturdays. Hope you can join us!

Event	ET date
New Moon	Feb 25
New Moon/Ostara	Mar 17
New Moon	Apr 21
Beltaine	May 5**Location TBA
New Moon	May 19
New Moon/Litha	Jun 16
New Moon	Jul 21
Lughnasagh	Aug 4
New Moon	Aug 18
New Moon	Sep 15
Mabon	Sep 22
New Moon	Oct 13
Samhain	Nov 3**Location TBA
New Moon	Nov 17
New Moon/Yule	Dec 15

WHOM TO CONTACT



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Alia's phone number is 303-680-1741. 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; 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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2012 Open Full Moon Dates

January 6

February 3

March 2

April 6

May 4

June 1

June 29

July 27

August 31

September 28

October 26

November 23

December 28