



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



MARCH 2 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, MARCH 2, 2012.

At the March 2nd ritual Kath Morgan and friends will lead us in a celebration of the coming of Spring and the rising of Earth Energy with a Feri Reclaiming Wicca flavor!

--Catherine

GREETINGS

Winter continues, with Spring peeking through on an intermittent basis. I wish I could enjoy more than a few minutes of it.

The cold that has been going around caught me a few days ago. As a result, I haven't gotten much done this week. Like the groundhog, I finally emerged from my cave yesterday to ascertain that the world was wider than my little house. It is. And it seems that the cold is going away. The world continues.

---Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Thanks to Mother Nature and a very strong snowstorm, we were forced to cancel the Open Full Moon for February for the safety of everyone involved. That snowstorm has not yet left the street in front of my house, though the warm weather this week is working on it. The snow on my lawn may take a few days longer. Earlier this week, the husband mentioned "It's a beautiful day. I would bring out the lawn chairs to enjoy the weather if I could find somewhere to put them in the snow!" Colorado Weather is definitely capricious.

—Alia

PASSAGES

As many of you already know, Lady Judith Brownlee passed away on Imbolc. She was a well-loved member of the Pagan/Wiccan, Science Fiction, and Society for Creative Anachronism communities and will be sorely missed. She was one of the first people in Denver to provide Wicca 101 classes, and while at one time those classes were fairly restricted and secretive (as the entire Wiccan community once was), she learned and changed with the times and provided instruction, advice, and Priestessing to many of the Wiccans now leaders in our Wiccan community. She was also my friend, and I will miss her sorely. Enjoy your sojourn in the Summerland, Lady. It was well earned. Someday, we shall meet again.

—Alia

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.



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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.

WICCAN BASICS CLASS

Sacred Stone Circle <http://sacredstonecircle.org/> is once again providing Wicca Basics classes SOON! For those interested, please go to the website and fill out the New Student form at: http://sacredstonecircle.org/?page_id=1063. We will contact you with the particulars. Check out our other offerings as well. Lots of information on the site.

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HavenWood and Sage

Priest and Priestess of Sacred Stone Circle

TO SHARE OR TO HOARD

As many of the regular readers of this column know, I am involved in the Golden Dawn community. This involvement allows me to see how another tradition is doing things. Call it a "learning experience." Occasionally, the lesson learned is how not to do something.

Take for example, a recent revelation of "ancient secrets" made by one leader of the Golden Dawn community. Information that they are quite willing to share with the rest of the Golden Dawn community, provided that they are of the proper Grade (think "on the verge of being qualified to teach others") and they have never wrote about anything that falls under the secrecy oaths (in which in the opinion of this particular leader means "everything"). The cherry on top is that this GD leader insists that you sign a non-disclosure agreement to learn this new "never-before seen" material; and yes, this leader has been involved in court cases before.



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Their claim is that they are quite willing to share this information with the rest of the Golden Dawn community, to help enrich the community, but only with those people who will never tell anyone else what they learned. Maybe it is just me, but I am not sure how this actually expands the knowledge of the general Golden Dawn community. In fact, it looks like an attempt to siphon the "best and brightest" into their particular branch of the tradition.

Compare this to the teachers that I have seen in the Wiccan and pagan community. I have never been required to sign a non-disclosure agreement with any of the Wiccans and pagans that I have taken classes from. There is a "lord and lady" agreement that we will restrict information learned to qualified people; for instance, you do not teach initiated secrets to people who have not been brought fully into circle; the non-initiates do their Wicca 101s, etc. and then are brought into the mysteries. And while Wiccan and pagan writers have occasionally written about initiated secrets in books, I have never encountered a blanket ban against occult writers who have done so.

In the long run, I believe that the special "ancient secrets" that this particular Golden Dawn leader is guarding are going to disappear. Why? Because no one can pass them onto their own students. This person in the long run is not going to make a significant impact on their tradition.

Compare this to a teacher that recently passed in the Wiccan community--Judith Brownlee. Judith taught many beginning classes in Wicca. To the best of my knowledge, she never made anyone sign a non-disclosure agreement. Talking to friends who worked and studied with her, I learned some of what Judith was teaching. She was a model of teacher and expert for many of us, the standard that we judged our own performance by. And she became this model by sharing information; she did not hoard information, or try to limit it to people who would continue to answer to her.

And in the long run, the information and lessons that she taught will continue to live on in our local Wiccan community for years to come. Judith Brownlee truly enriched our local community, and her influence lives on in her students, who continue to pass the material she shared with their own students and coven members.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery traditions on his blog at: <http://gleamingsfromthedawn.blogspot.com/>



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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/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

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.



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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

March 2
April 6
May 4
June 1
June 29
July 27
August 31
September 28
October 26
November 23
December 28