



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



SEPTEMBER 28 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 28, 2012.

On September 28, Amy will lead Hearthstone in a celebration of Autumn in all her glory and recognizing the sadness of the end of Summer's playtime.

--Catherine

GREETINGS

Last month, I told you that my father was entering hospice care. That Friday, August 31st, he died peacefully at the nursing home which had been his home for the last few years. My mother and brother were with him. My sister and I joined them at the nursing home shortly thereafter. As I said last month, I will miss him. I like to think that he is now with his brothers and sisters who passed before and that each of the ten now remembers each other. Only my father's youngest brother remains to represent that generation.

Endings and beginnings are difficult times for all of us. Whenever we begin something, in a sense something else is ending – even if it is beginning school (which ends some free time). A death in the family ends our loved one's presence in our lives. However, at that time, we all (loved one included) begin a new stage in our lives.

We're at Mabon right now. The second harvest. I think of Mabon as the middle of Autumn, when the colors are at their height and we can feel the chill of the coming Winter. However, it is also an end and beginning. We can see the sun setting earlier and earlier. It is colder now; the heat of August is gone. It's hunting season (or will soon be). I'd like to think that my father is hunting again – one of his favorite parts of Autumn.

---Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

A big Hearthstone "Thank You" to Ketiavia, Kathy, and students who offered us a traditional, beautiful Full Moon ritual celebrating the Blue Moon at the end of September. Kathy and students cleansed, cast, and called the Elements and elemental representatives Eagle, Lion, Serpent, and Black Bull. Ron and Ketiavia served as High Priest and Priestess (in gorgeous gold and silver robes, respectively). They drew down the Sun God Ra and Moon Goddess Isis. Numerous participants stepped up individually to quietly speak and listen to their guidance. Cakes and "wine" were blessed and shared.

Thank you Ketiavia, Kathy, Ron, and all, for sharing with us this solemn and elegant rite, and offering all who wished a chance to seek divine guidance.

—Aryne

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.



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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.

SACRED STONE CIRCLE

Sacred Stone Circle <http://sacredstonecircle.org/> is dedicated to advancing the study and practice of Wicca and service to our Pagan Community through reverence to the Goddesses and Gods of the Old Religions. We are an advanced Wiccan (Eclectic Tradition) studies and teaching group local to the Denver, CO metro area. We are always looking for those who are an initiated First Degree (or First Degree Initiate Level in training) who want to advance their study and practice in a group of like-minded folks.

Beginning in late Spring 2013, SSC will once again provide 8-week Wicca Basics classes.

For those interested in any of the above offerings, 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.

In service to the Goddess and God,

---Sage and HavenWood

High Priestess and High Priest of Sacred Stone Circle



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WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A LEADER?

One of the questions that I occasionally kick around is: What are the responsibilities of a leader? In particular, what are the responsibilities of a leader in the rarified atmosphere of modern paganism and the occult? In addition, if a person does not fulfill these responsibilities, are they still a leader?

The reason I typically kick around this set of questions is someone accusing me of being a leader. Normally, the label leader being attached to me is accompanied by the person accusing me of doing behavior that is unbecoming of being a leader. In another words, I am never called a good leader—just the type of leader that someone does not want the rest of the world exposed to.

Now, I will admit that this particular type of behavior both amuses me and annoys me—for the exact same reason. I am not a leader; I am a lunatic with a soapbox; there is a difference. In other words, I do not consider myself a leader. I am merely someone with very loud opinions.

Sure, I am a public representative of a group. In all fairness, to myself that is, I would like to point out that no one else in the group wants to be the public representative. The group also believes that if someone doesn't like me, then they will not be a good fit for the group. In other words, I am not a leader because I am the public voice of a group—I am a speed bump because of my visibility.

And being an officer of a group does not make me a leader. In the case of said group, I am an elected officer. This means simply that there are jobs to do that no one else wants to do, and that I am not clever enough to recruit someone who wants to do them. I suspect that a trained monkey could do my job as an officer—hmmm, I wonder if I could find a trained monkey who is willing to work for free.

The biggest expectation that I encounter of leaders is that they are supposed to work for free. Only in paganism and occultism are leaders expected to work for free. In other areas, leaders are expected to be paid—not necessarily well, but still paid. In Wiccan circles, I have seen people believe that the leader of a coven should not only give their time freely, but should also foot the entire operating cost of the group. As a lunatic with a soapbox, I disagree. While I am open to the possibility that the leader of a coven or lodge should not charge for their time, I believe that all members of an esoteric community should chip in on the operating costs. Furthermore, I believe that authors and teachers of occultism and paganism should get a token wage for their efforts.

The second expectation that I encounter is the idea that a leader in the esoteric community should be open to all ideas—as in they should never tell anyone that they are wrong. I am not sure where this idea comes from, but it completely does not fit into the universe I live in. This idea is often combined with the idea that a leader needs to be a more evolved spiritual being. I am sorry; the two ideas do not support one another. If everyone was right, then we would all be equally evolved. Therefore, in my little universe, a leader occasionally has to tell someone that they are wrong.

So what are the responsibilities of a leader in my universe?

One, they have chosen to put the interests of a group ahead of their own personal interests. A leader serves the needs of a group. It is an unpleasant job. Occasionally, this involves “herding



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cats" and moving the group in a direction that the individual members do not want to go. A true leader knows that one sometimes has to make unpopular decisions. One cannot please everyone when they are a leader. A leader also has to place the interests of their group ahead of other groups—if all opinions and interests were the same, we would not need leaders in the first place.

A leader leads by example and/or suggestion. They do not need to be officially in a position of power. Their ability to lead does not spring from the position that they hold in a group, rather it springs from their innermost being. Sometimes, a true leader seems more like a force of nature than a human being.

And most importantly, a leader needs to know the following two sentences: "I do not know," and "I made a mistake." A leader has to be able to admit when they do not know something, and they have to be willing to admit to occasionally (or often) making mistakes. A leader does not need to be right all the time, but they do have to be willing to admit mistakes and ignorance, and be willing to change directions when necessary.

Leaders are not leaders because they are popular or agree with everyone. They are leaders because they are willing to make unpleasant decisions, and are willing to put the best interests of others ahead of their own personal interests. A true leader will not change their behavior just because someone says that they are wrong. Being a leader is unpleasant on most days—which is why I am glad that I am just a lunatic with a soapbox.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

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

DENVER'S PREMIER PAGAN HALLOWEEN MASQUERADE BALL

Saturday, October 27, 2012

6PM to midnight

free midnight ritual

new location - PPA Event Center

2105 Decatur St, Denver

near Federal and 21st

DenverWitchesBall.com

303-935-6700

- New This Year:
- The Premier of Tierro's New Band, in addition to Tuatha
- Afternoon Workshops with Sara Rain!
- Hafla Belly Dancing Party!
- Ticket Combination Package Deals: Special pricing if you combine workshops with your admission to the Ball
- More Parking!



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- Food Drive at the Witches' Ball! Donate Nonperishable Food, Grocery Store Gift Cards or Money at the door for the Hand2Hand Food Bank

Also featuring the Magickal Marketplace, the Psychic Fair, trance drumming and dancing, costume contests with prizes, children's events, afternoon workshops with Sara Rain (separately priced), and -- of course -- the free Midnight Ritual with Silver Branch Golden Horn (not necessary to purchase tickets to the Ball to attend the Midnight Ritual only).

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	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.

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

September 28

October 26

November 23

December 28

2013 Open Full Moon Dates

January 25

February 22

March 22

April 19

May 24

June 21

July 19

August 16

September 13

October 18

November 15

December 13