



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



OCTOBER 26 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 26, 2012.

On October 26, we will celebrate the coming of Samhain in a traditional Wiccan ritual led by Ketiavia and friends.

—Catherine

GREETINGS

The veil is growing thin and we're moving quickly toward Samhain. Samhain is so many things to us. In some ways, it's the New Year, and as such, the ending of the old. In others, it's the beginning of the winter. Darkness comes earlier each night: the dark half of the year is upon us. It's the final harvest: a time to take stock of the year passed and what we will need to survive the darkness until the light returns.

At this time, we remember those who have passed into the Summerland before us. With the veil thinner, we can sense their presence and have them with us once more. We remember them as they were – or at least how our mind's eye saw them. Each year we add to those remembrances. But we also remember that the cycle begins now again.

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Our thanks to Amy and Alora, who presented the September Open Full Moon with a nod to the harvest season, and an invitation to examine our lives as a tree, with what we wanted to grow in our lives as well as what habits or actions are strangling it. We drew a depiction of the things that were holding us back as vines strangling the tree, and then drew what we wanted in our lives as flowers, as a seed, sprout, or flower depending on how well we were realizing our goals. Our work for the fall was to eliminate negative things and nurture the positive, so that our time during the winter could be spent productively.

—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. 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.



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—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.

RESPONSIBILITIES WE ALL HAVE

Last month, I talked about how leaders should act. On the other side of the equation lies the issue of how a community should act towards its leaders. Now, just like with the issue of what a leader is responsible for, we are often presented with some ideas about the responsibilities of the community that do not actually work.

For instance, the figureheads of groups, who often believe themselves to be true leaders, tend to insist that their decisions be obeyed and their opinions respected. The more abusive a group is, the more likely that its figurehead insists that their decisions are obeyed as gospel. A true leader, who may not even be willing to be a figurehead, would never insist that people actually follow their lead – a true leader knows how to herd cats, which occasionally involves letting the cats wander off and get lost. Because the suggestions for what a community owes to its leadership often comes from people who are trying to control a community for their own benefit, we can consider ignoring a lot of the cult-like ideas that some figureheads toss out.

And because leaders are often not the figureheads of groups, and are prone to hiding in plain sight, leading by example, we have to treat the responsibilities of a community towards its leadership as duties that it owes to the entire community. So what duties does a member of the community owe to the community?



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The most important is the simple social courtesies. Be polite to people. Don't fight. And if you do fight, play fair. If a member of the community is sick or depressed, visit them or send them a positive message. Basically, the golden rule of treat others how you like to be treated in the same circumstances. From this basic rule, the golden rule, we can figure out all the rest of a community's responsibilities.

For instance, last month I mentioned that often people expect leaders to pick up the entire cost of running a group. Applying the golden rule and imagining ourselves in the position of a leader, we realize that saddling a leader with the entire cost of running a group is wrong. We would not want to do it ourselves; in fact, often we would not be able to afford to – therefore, a community needs to make an effort to spread the cost around. And the cost of running a group or caring for a community is more than just monetary; leaders spend part of their limited time and energy caring for the groups in their care. One does not need to necessarily donate money to help support a group; occasionally one can donate energy and time to a community and have it do more good than mere money ever would.

One of the responsibilities that a community owes to its leaders, and to itself, is remembering and honoring its own past. This is not a slavish adherence to how we did things in the past, but rather an acknowledgment of our past history. For instance, it is polite to acknowledge where you got ideas and teaching from. Not only is it a nod of thanks to those who taught you, it is also an act of compassion towards the other members of the community because it helps keep the sources of our knowledge visible. Yet this simple social courtesy is often ignored because people think that citing their sources make them somehow lesser in intelligence and wisdom. It really doesn't – in fact, a wise person is very much aware of where they got ideas from.

This all sounds very simple and common sense. And it is, provided that one has actually thought about it. But unfortunately, we often forget these things and just do what is easy or convenient. Or worse, what society tells us to do, a society I might add that is based on a completely different religion. One of the most important duties that the community owes to itself is to think about the very nature and ethics of the community itself. What do we want the community to be like? How do we get there? And what can we do as individuals to move the community in that direction? Remember our community is still young; we have miles to go before we can rest.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

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

THE DENVER WITCHES' BALL

DENVER'S PREMIER PAGAN HALLOWEEN MASQUERADE BALL

Saturday, October 27, 2012

6PM to midnight

free midnight ritual

new location - PPA Event Center



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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!
- 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
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



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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

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