



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



DECEMBER 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, DECEMBER 28, 2012.

On December 28, several priestesses and a priest will draw down the Goddess and God. If you have never participated in a drawing down, this is your chance to meet with them face-to-face, as it were.

Depending on how many people we have attending the ritual, there may be some waiting time involved. It is traditional to do quiet divination or quiet singing while waiting.

Parents, this can be a very heavy energy ritual. Please consider this if you plan on bringing children. They will be expected to be quiet during the period where the priestesses and priest are with the gods. Thank you.

—Catherine

GREETINGS

Yule! The sun is returning! I marked the holiday by lighting my fire bowl in the front yard and singing songs of the season.

This is truly Midwinter; spring will be peeking out in just a little while. Of course, now it's cold, as befits this part of the Wheel. We bundle up and hurry from one place to another. Very shortly, some of us will be making resolutions to help us in the western New Year. I plan to take part in my office's fitness challenge: walking, eating extra veggies and drinking lots of water. I'll have help in this because we do this challenge in teams. Our teams support us and cheer us on to accomplish our goals in this challenge.

Do you have goals for the coming season? How about support? You don't have to have a family member or even an enthusiastic friend. Perhaps the best way to have that support is to ask the gods. Then there is really someone out there to tell that wee, small voice in your soul to stay on track.

Have a blessed season.

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

The November OFM was led by Alia and Catherine, who with the help of volunteers performed a "wing-it" ritual. The ritual focused on being thankful for the blessings and changes that have occurred in our lives; several of the audience members shared stories about life-changing events that they had experienced – any within the last year. As always with any ritual involving Catherine, there were songs. Overall, the ritual was moving and fit very nicely into the energies that were around us that night. Thank you Alia and Catherine for this pleasant ritual.

—Amy and Morgan



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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.

MEMORY AND DRAWING DOWN THE MOON

One of the crown jewels of Wiccan practices is the ritual of Drawing Down the Moon. During the ritual of Drawing Down of the Moon, the priestess becomes a conduit for the voice of the divine feminine. The ritual allows a group to interact with a Goddess through the medium of their priestess. The masculine side of the divine is addressed in the associated ritual of Drawing Down the Sun.

There are certain experiences that seem to be common among those who perform the Drawing Down ritual. Many report that a Drawing Down is like watching oneself from the back



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seat while someone else drives one's body around. This is quite freaky the first time that one experiences it; there are some priestesses and priests who have never been willing to perform a Drawing Down after their first experience. Given how some react to the experience of Drawing Down, one can understand why other esoteric traditions have created elaborate techniques on occasion to ensure that the individual human stays in control while working directly with the divine energies, such as the Golden Dawn technique of Assumption of Godforms. Yet there are certain advantages to the procedure of Drawing Down that techniques such as the Assumption of Godforms do not have, therefore Drawing Down remains for many the preferred method for contact with the divine.

Another common experience among those who choose to use the techniques of Drawing Down are issues of not being able to remember clearly what occurred while they were "the body of the divine." Some are unable to remember anything that happened from the time that the divine stepped into their bodies until the divine left their body. Others can only remember what occurred for a short period of time, sometimes just for a few minutes, after the end of a Drawing Down; it is because of this phenomenon that one is always advised to ask any lingering questions before the Circle is cut open. It seems to be a rare person who can remember details about what the divine said and did for any extended period after the ritual is over.

To understand this memory issue, one needs to understand that energetic entities, such as the Lord and Lady, process memories differently than flesh and blood human beings do. An energetic entity stores its memories in the form of non-physical energy. Flesh and blood humans, on the other hand, store memories in the physical matrix of the brain. It is a matter of energy memory versus physical memory. Because of this difference in memory storage and processing, priests and priestesses, even if they are aware of what happened during a Drawing Down, have a difficult time transferring the memories to the longer term memory locations of the human brain. In other words, the memories degrade before they are processed out of short term memory.

This memory problem, energetic versus physical, also shows up in other areas of esoteric work, such as astral journeying. This is one of the reasons that a student practicing astral projection is encouraged to immediately write down their experiences as soon as possible after an astral journey experiment. The reason that this type of record keeping is not encouraged for those who do Drawing Downs is that the words and advice given to the individual audience members is considered to be a private conversation between the human and divine; the priest or priestess is merely a vessel that allows the communication to happen – it is ok if they do not remember any of it the next day. Therefore, if one needs something clarified after a Drawing Down, one needs to ask the necessary questions as soon as they can, for waiting until the next day will result in the memories fading back into the ether.

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 Full Moon Books and Event Center, 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood.

Hearthstone hopes to have the 2013 dates from Earth Temple shortly.

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

December 28

2013 Open Full Moon Dates

January 25

February 22

March 22

April 19

May 24

June 21

July 19



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August 16
September 13
October 18
November 15
December 13