



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



MARCH 22 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 22, 2013.

The March 22nd ritual will be presented by Amy, Mars, Alora, and Adara Harper, and will focus on balance, spring, and new beginnings. There will be friendly guinea pigs in attendance, arts and crafts, and will be kid and adult friendly

—Catherine

GREETINGS

I'm feeling very accomplished right now. As of March 9, 2013, I am the proud possessor of a Master of Arts in Management and Leadership. I had to stretch out the process over three and a half years, mostly for financial reasons, but I am done!

People keep asking me what I'm planning on doing with my degree. To be honest, I don't know. Perhaps it may lead to a better job; perhaps not. I am better off for the learning no matter what I do with it. The seeds have been planted and have started to grow – I'll wait to see what the harvest may be.

Right now, I'm just looking forward to some down time – time to focus again on my music, reading something (anything!) not involving school and, maybe, just maybe going to see a movie in a theatre!

—Catherine

SHARE YOUR TRADITION

We still have space available this year, and would like to have some of you share what you know with the group. We still have May 24, August 16, October 18, November 15, and December 13 available for an officiate. If you would like to present at one of these rituals, please contact me. We would love to help out if you are new to public presenting of ritual, and no one is expected to be perfect. It wouldn't be an OFM without a bobble – I called the wrong direction last month, for starters! It's a great tool for developing your presentation skills and perhaps finding more people to work with, if that is your goal. Give me a call.

—Alia

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

February's ritual was a wonderfully personalized ritual, orchestrated by Alia & Morgan Drake, focused on planning this year's crops & harvests with seeds and songs and arts and crafts. Everyone who attended created their own artistic altar additions to keep their spring seeds safe and charged for planting this Spring.

—Amy



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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.

ANIMALS, CHILDREN, AND RITUALS – OH MY!

One of the things that Alia and I agree about is allowing children to attend Wiccan and pagan rituals. Well, provided that it is not a high-energy ritual or a rite dealing with adult subject matter. The logic behind this decision is that if the children of pagans do not know what their parents are doing, odds are that they will not know that paganism is a real option when they become old enough to choose their own religion.

Furthermore, Alia and I both have personal experience that supports the idea that it is ok to expose children to ritual. In Alia's case, she has a daughter who was exposed to Wiccan ritual while



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growing up; if there was a problem with exposing children to rituals, you would expect a pagan parent to be able to spot it.

And in my case, I was exposed to conversations about various Wiccan beliefs (astrology, reincarnation, magic) as a child. This exposure was the result of my aunt being a member of British Traditional Wicca, a fact that she never bothered to conceal around me. By the time I was fourteen, I knew that Wicca was the religion that I belonged to. In addition to being exposed to the belief system, I was also exposed to some "quick and dirty" spell casting and divination techniques – techniques that I occasionally still default to.

In turn, I have influenced an impressible young girl – my god-daughter – who is probably going to credit me with exposing her to Wicca when she gets older. My god-daughter has helped my wife in the herb garden, mainly by complaining that she does not want to pull weeds with the rest of us. She has touched my personal working tools, including my lotus wand (a Golden Dawn tool associated with the zodiac), something that some people would frown upon – she did not explode, and the tools still work. And she walks in and out of my ritual room as if it is as much her ritual room as it is mine.

That last part is interesting. My ritual room has a standing semi-permanent circle cast in it. Much of my work is ongoing; and being a dedicated ritual room, it is just easier to set up a "gate" and leave the circle up most of the time than it is to recast it from scratch every time I use the room. The circle I use is a multilayered version that looks more like something that you find in the old grimoires than the quick circle that we use in public ritual. When I bring an adult into the room for the first time, I have to warn them about the presence of the energy barrier and the fact that the energies will be different on the other side of the barrier. At the very least, an adult has to take a deep breath to cross the threshold when it is fully charged. My god-daughter just runs in and out; she could care less about the barrier's presence.

My god-daughter is not the only one that runs in and out of the ritual room. My cats also slip in and out of the circle. The cats also have been guilty of playing with my magical tools. I have to be careful about leaving my Tarot cards out; one of my cats likes to chew on them.

Why children and animals can do these things without disrupting the energies is an important question to answer. My current theory is that children and animals are more innocent than adults; and by this, I mean that they are closer to the raw forces of nature than adults are. A large part of our lives is spent having our society and culture remove our connection with nature. We are trained to work in small boxes, and to plan our activities around an artificial time schedule. Animals generally refuse to work (well, for the most part), and children make rather poor employees (can't even get them to pull weeds on some days). Of course, I could be wrong; but this is my explanation until a better one comes along.

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 meets at Full Moon Books and Event Center, at 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood. All of our dates are Saturday evenings. Please arrive at the store before 7:30 pm, since the store closes and the doors lock right at 7:30. Please check out our Witchvox page for more info about us: http://www.witchvox.com/vn/vn_detail/dt_gr.html?pa=usco&cid=35084. Thank you, Hearthstone, for sharing information about our circle!

Event	ET date
Beltaine	Apr 27
New Moon	May 11
NM/Litha	Jun 15
New Moon	Jul 6
NM/Lughnasagh	Aug 3
Mabon	Sep 14
New Moon	Oct 5
NM/Samhain	Nov 2
Yule	Dec 14

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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2013 Open Full Moon Dates

March 22

April 19

May 24

June 21

July 19

August 16

September 13

October 18

November 15

December 13