



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



MAY 24 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, MAY 24, 2013.

Our May 24 OFM falls midway between Beltane and Litha, on the night of the full moon. This month we will celebrate our Goddess and Her symbol of the moon. In a playful yet devotional ritual, Arynne will lead us to expand our concepts of the Goddess and commune with Her beautiful presence. This will be a shared celebration of our Goddess which we'll create and enjoy together. No deep internal work this time – Arynne anticipates this ritual will be more like relaxing in a warm hot-spring pool in the moonlight and splashing some Goddess energy around!

–Catherine

GREETINGS

Beltane seems to have brought in the summer – with barely a wave to Spring. In the last two weeks, we have had snow, rain and heat in quick succession. I celebrated this change in weather by buying a bicycle – a bright pink bicycle. It was my annual gift to myself with my tax refund. It's been more than 20 years since I've ridden a bicycle, so I am more than a little out of practice. My current goal is to be able to participate in "Bike to Work Day" at the end of June. That is, after I learn to ride in a straight line again.

I suspect most of us are sensible with any "found money" we get. And I do pay a goodly portion of my bills when I get the refund. But as I said, I also buy myself a gift each year. The last several years, it's been things to help me with school – computers, books, etc. This year, however, I realized that I didn't need any new electronics. I suppose it would be nice to get the latest of anything, but what I have is sufficient. But I truly believe that we need to give ourselves gifts when we can. So I pondered what I really wanted – and realized that I wanted a reason and a way to get out in the sun more often. While I can do that working in my yard, I wanted something that was not "work." Thus the bright pink bicycle.

We need to find small ways to gift ourselves. It doesn't need to be impressive, like a bicycle. It could be as little as pie on "reverse pi day" (That was the 14th of May this year). It may be as wonderful as sitting under the lilac bushes on these warm days at the beginning of summer. But we all need to love ourselves – and what better way than to give a small gift? Summer is a coming in – and we must celebrate!

–Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Our thanks, and a tip of the hat, to members of Sapphire Circle for offering the Open Full Moon ritual in April. Thank you Terri, Cynthia, Clyde, Bonnie, and Les! They led us in an unusual, one-Element ritual, working with Water with the intention of cleansing and clearing prior to the season's transition to the fertility and creativity of Beltane.

After chanting and meditating, we each received a small vial of snow melt. We channeled into that water any negativity we wanted to release. When each person was ready, they poured their vial

into a bowl on the center altar, which the ritual officiants later took outside and offered to Mother Earth for transformation. We then each received a small cloth dampened with rose water. As we wiped it over our faces and hands and breathed in the fragrance, we replenished our Spirits with the beauty and positivity we were seeking. Before ritual concluded we were aided in centering with the concept of the omnil, so that we wouldn't leave ritual feeling too watery!

Thank you, Sapphire Circle, for sharing your caring and creativity with the Hearthstone community!

Blessings!

—*Arynn*

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.

—*Alia*

PROBABILITIES AND GENERALIZATIONS – WHEN PSYCHICS GO WRONG

One of the realities of being involved in an occult community is that occasionally we get to see someone mess up big time, in a manner where you want to say “A car crashes into the stands” (figuratively that is). The latest such pile-up involved the “world’s best-known psychic” Sylvia Browne.

For those of you who somehow missed the news, several years ago Sylvia Browne, during a televised talk show, told a grieving mother that her missing daughter was dead. Browne even passed a message to the mother from her daughter “from beyond the grave.” The missing girl’s mother died a year later; some believe from a broken heart and a lack of hope. It was a typical day in the life of a psychic celebrity.

And the reason that it is burning crash and burn moment is that it turns out that the daughter was still alive. This mistake was not only televised; it became an item of interest nationally recently when the authorities rescued the missing daughter and two other women – long after anyone would expect them to be alive.

So is Sylvia Browne a fraud? It is hard to say. I have my opinion.

She could be the real deal, but was merely having an off day. If that is true, then one wonders why she did not just admit to not knowing anything. The answer to that is you are never allowed to have an off day when you are a psychic being filmed on national television – so you take your best guess based on probabilities. And anyone who played the probabilities (crime statistics in this instance) would have made the same call – odds are that the missing daughter was dead. If Browne would just have said that she felt that the daughter was dead, this would not be the big mistake that it turned out to be; but no, Browne gave her a goodbye message from beyond the grave.

The nature of being a celebrity psychic is that you are entertaining people. It is not entertaining enough to just say that the missing daughter was probably dead. In order to fulfill the expected role of being a psychic, Browne had to pass on a message from beyond the grave if she thought the daughter was dead. And if she would have guessed that the daughter was still alive, she would have to provide some description of the location where the daughter was or of the person holding the missing woman. It is a job requirement that makes one wonder why anyone would willingly become a psychic celebrity.

Oh, yeah, right, there is a lot of money to be made if you are a psychic with some shtick.

My own opinion about Sylvia Browne is colored by the book that she wrote about secret societies. Being a member of a “society with occult secrets,” I had a strong opinion about her book. In my case, not a favorable opinion. In the book, Browne mentions the existence of a secret society that is so secret that she could find no information about it beyond what her spirit guide tells her. A complete lack of evidence that it exists. Yes, she claims that this secret society is involved in a “Big C conspiracy.”

For the uninitiated in conspiracy theories, there are two types of conspiracies. There are the “small c conspiracies” where it makes the news because there was a certain amount of illegal and/or dubious activity going on. I am a firm believer in small conspiracies: yes, the Skull and Bones helps guide governmental policies; yes, several publishers got together to rig ebook prices in their favor; yes, the banks who are “too big to fail” use their financial weight to ensure that they remain unregulated, and are guaranteed to be bailed out the next time that they melt down the economy. On the other hand, I do not believe in Big C conspiracies: the Illuminati are not trying to create a

New World Order. My explanation for the lack of evidence of this super-secret society: there was no evidence because it did not actually exist.

Those opinions informed my opinion of Sylvia Browne as a psychic and information source. My opinion was if I could not trust her about secret societies, then I could not trust her in other matters. It is the same rule that I use to judge other psychics by – if they can't give you true and clean information about a subject that you know a lot about, then you can't trust them for information in areas that you know nothing about.

The fans of Browne will scream that I know nothing about being a psychic. Really? I grew up with one in the family. And I used to be a fortune teller myself. I gave up the profession because I like being able to tell people what I really think or feel, not always an option when you are a professional psychic. I know the shtick that one uses to entertain and mystify your audience – I am just not particularly good at it...or maybe just not willing to lie that much. I am still an astrologer for “entertainment purposes only”; the internet is more forgiving of my delivery style.

And I can tell you that the shtick I see from celebrity psychics is just bad acting. Psychic powers are subtle, and not over the top. Plus, a real psychic tends to have “tells,” things that their friends watch for to decide if they are going to trust a prediction or reading. One Denver area psychic has what I call “Merlinus Laughitis” – they have the unfortunate problem that they tend to laugh when making true predictions – not exactly something that lends itself to becoming a celebrity psychic. Because of this unfortunate affliction, this member of the Denver Wiccan community will never become a celebrity psychic – at least, we know one psychic who won't crash and burn on national television.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

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

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?a=usco&id=35084. Thank you, Hearthstone, for sharing information about our circle!

Event	ET date
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 is simply a fanatic) 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

May 24

June 21

July 19

August 16

September 13

October 18

November 15

December 13