



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



AUGUST 16 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, AUGUST 16, 2013.

This month's ritual recognizes the end of summer and will guide us to recognize our blessings and the things we are grateful for. We will then send our blessings and gratitude out into the universe to share.

—*Alia*

GREETINGS

What a month! August (in Colorado) weather has become well-established. For the last week, in Denver at least, we have had some sort of rain. My family informs me that in Lakewood and in Fort Collins, they haven't had more than a sprinkle. Meanwhile, in Boulder and Colorado Springs, torrential rain has led to floods and warnings of floods. I hope everyone is safe!

Two weeks ago, someone very important to me died. She was a friend, a mentor – and my therapist. I saw her for more than ten years – longer than most of my other relationships. This wonderful woman got me through depression and PTSD. She recognized that I might have a deeper problem and got me the help I needed. She supported me through the most stressful times of my life, including break-ups and deaths. I was able to tell her anything. We talked of politics and literature, science and business, music, religion and drama, and so many other things. She made me feel smarter every time I spoke with her.

I have often wondered about my mother's habit of telling me who has died or has been injured. For a long time, this has been her version of "the news." As I get older, I begin to understand it. As we get older, more and more of our friends and acquaintances go on to the Summerland. That is the one immutable fact of life. While we know we will see them again, we also know we will miss them in our lives. Yesterday, when our usual appointment time rolled around, I thought of my friend – my therapist. I will miss her greatly and I celebrate her wonderful life.

—*Catherine*

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

A Tip of Hearthstone's Hat to members of Sapphire Circle who led our Open Full Moon/Lughnassadh ritual. Thank you Michelle, Les, Clyde, Cyn, Bonnie, and Lisa!

Lugh and his foster-mother, Taitiu, were invoked for this ritual. Les played guitar and sang Gwyddion's Lughnassadh song, with all of us joining in on the chorus, "At your festival sounds the horn, Calling the people again. Child of barleycorn, newly summerborn, Ripening like the grain." At this celebration of the first harvest we recalled our goals for this year, especially those that

may have lagged as the year has gone by. We then practiced tantric energy raising through our hands, first pairing off, then three people together, then 4, 6, 10, 15, and finally the whole group. We explored the difference when we concentrated on raising male energy or female energy. Lastly, we shared cakes and juice, with the "cakes" being a beautiful home-baked round of braided bread.

Thank you, Sapphire Circle, for bringing your coven's lovely energy to share with the broader community at Hearthstone! Blessed Be!

–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

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

My wife and I have a monthly routine – sometime after the Open Full Moon ritual we talk about it. If she wasn't there, I attempt to explain what happened. If she was there, we talk about what we thought worked and did not work. In both cases, we discuss what we might possibly want to incorporate into our own personal work. Yes, we raid useful techniques and lore from the performances of other people's rituals...that is what the OFMs are for, ain't they?

Now over the years, I have discovered something interesting: Some people are uncomfortable with me admitting to the fact that I consider any lore and/or technique displayed in public to be fair game. Even more unsettling for some people is the fact that I openly admit to this selective bit of piracy, citing exactly who I stole what from.

I have gotten good at being able to spot the people who will be disturbed by my tendency to grab anything shiny that is not bolted down. The poor disturbed souls are the same ones that try to impress me with the spiritual teachers that they have studied with and the breadth and length of their lineage which typically stretches back to the early Stone Age and sometimes before. They are the people who have talked to members of the Invisible College, and have been anointed into the Fellowship. They are the people who believe that only a perfected being of the proper divine nature can create a useful esoteric system.

And I drive these people nuts. Not only do I grab interesting bits and pieces that were left lying around, I will twist and bend them until they are left in a shape more pleasing to my aesthetic senses. Worse, if I have nothing useful in my bag of "liberated" treasures for the task at hand, I have no problem with just making something up. In other words, I dare to walk upon the ground reserved for the unknowable and perfected creators of the esoteric systems. To these people, I am not only a lunatic – I am a possible heretic.

Now, please do not think that I am referring to anyone that attends the Open Full Moon rituals. Our attendees are quite open-minded, and probably do the exact same things that I do, which is to grab anything useful or shiny that is exhibited in front of them. No, I am talking about people who would never dream of leading an OFM (because the mysteries and rituals are meant only for the eyes of initiates), attending an OFM (what could they possibly learn that could enhance their pristine tradition), or even admitting that they learned something from a flesh and blood human being (because only perfected beings should be teaching).

I think that what drives them mad the most is the simple fact that I give credit to the people that I am borrowing information from. Many of these disturbed souls hide the sources of their information behind deep oaths of secrecy. And often, the information is credited to the occult equivalent of Superman, the terrible and awesome Secret Chiefs that have throughout history guided mankind to a better future. I guess that they think that if a superior being created the information, it somehow makes it more valuable. To cite one's sources, placing the information and techniques that I am using into the world of imperfect human beings threatens their position at the top of the occult food chain – it implies that their information too must have been created by flawed human beings, and that is something that they just can't seem to tolerate.

Yet I think that they miss the most important aspect of citing my sources, and borrowing from the living and oh-so flawed human beings that I know. And that is, if the flawed human beings around me can create techniques of beauty and usefulness, then so can I – and so can you.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

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

“Nine words th'eclectic rede attest:

Steal what works. Fix what's broke. Fake the rest.” –*Steve Storm* (addendum by Alia)

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
Mabon	Sep 14
New Moon	Oct 5
NM/Samhain	Oct 26 (6:30 – 9:00 p.m.)
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

August 16
September 13
October 18
November 15
December 13