



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



JANUARY 10 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, January 10, 2014.

The January 10 Open Full Moon ritual will be presented by Alia. Join us as we celebrate the lengthening days.

—Catherine

GREETINGS

It's January in Colorado – which means that we have snow and cold. Truthfully, it isn't always cold in the month of January, nor do we always have snow. To be honest, the cold doesn't last very long here either. The forecast says it will be in the 50s by Wednesday. Tonight, however, it's hovering around zero. I hear it's even colder back east. Brrrrrr!

Someone told me recently that they would love for Spring to start now – no more cold or snow this year. While I am feeling the cold too, I can't wish for the snow to be over. Our Winter snows bring our Summer water. The white flakes we're seeing now will be waterfalls come May and June. Besides, when it's hot, we complain about that too.

To top it off, we've begun a new year! I hope 2014 will bring an abundance of happiness to everyone.

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone tips our hat and gives our thanks to Morgan Drake Eckstein for presenting our December Open Full Moon ritual/Yule celebration. Morgan is a Wiccan priest and ceremonial magician, and this ritual offered beautiful language and evocative imagery. Starting with "I cast this Circle with Knowledge and Love," the rite flowed with guided meditation on each of the eight sabbats. A figure for each of the sabbats, either male or female, was described with symbolic detail, and at each sequential sabbat in our meditation we were invited to ask each figure anything we wanted. The meditation ended with Yule, with the reassurance that although Yule is the coldest and darkest time of year, the edge of hardship, "The Wheel must turn!"

Our thanks to Morgan and his assistant Toni for a lovely journey through the eight holy days of our Wheel of the Year, and celebration of the Sun's rebirth at Yule!

—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

REFORMATION BY NAME CHANGE

As many of my readers know, besides being a Wiccan, I am also a ceremonial magician who has trained in the Golden Dawn tradition. In a nutshell, The Golden Dawn tradition was created in Victorian England. Unfortunately, the whole story is a little longer than that. Its original creator, whose identity is unverifiable thanks to the lack of a signature and the wild myth making of the esoteric lodge system of the time, outlined a set of five lodge based rituals – an outline that was obtained and used by two English Freemasons to create a new esoteric Order, which they called the Golden Dawn. Thanks to a couple of later members, who chose to break their oaths of secrecy and publish large chunks of the rituals and associated lectures, the system of initiation rituals and teachings that the Golden Dawn used became the *de facto* baseline of most esoteric ceremonial Orders. It also became a hidden influence and ancestor of modern Wicca, thanks to its wide-spread availability.

The original name, “Golden Dawn,” was abandoned around 1901 as the name got dragged through mud by the British press (a nasty court case involving a con-woman who tricked one of the founders of the system): the original Order broke up into warring factions. Then, in the 1970s, the name of the original Order – Golden Dawn – became a valuable brand; a way to quickly label a whole stew of working techniques, thanks to the published material. Shortly after the name became valuable, pretenders to the throne started to use the Golden Dawn system to create businesses, simply because seekers with money were looking for the spiritual descendants of that system. As one probably can guess, the name “Golden Dawn” became trademarked and fought over in court

shortly thereafter. Besides battling over the use of the name in court, followers and leaders fought over who was truly the successor to the original system – eventually engaging in flame wars on the internet. It was a dark time with a lot of people upset with one another.

And just when one thought it could not get any worse, it did. A few years ago, a political party in Greece, the *Chrysi Avgi*, whose Greek name translates into “Golden Dawn,” started to become popular. The political party had been around for thirty years, but until recently has been largely invisible (they won a mere 0.3 percent of the Greek national vote in 2009). Then the economy of Greece melted down, and the *Chrysi Avgi* suddenly leapt to having seven percent of the national vote. The rise of a Greek political party sharing the same name as an English esoteric society should not be a big problem, except that the political party is fascist at best, neo-Nazi at worst. Since one of the tactics during the esoteric tradition’s flame war was to label enemies as Nazis, the association with *Chrysi Avgi* tends to stick, even though it is completely untrue.

This winter Solstice, two different leaders and authorities of the esoteric tradition of Golden Dawn formally divorced themselves and their Orders from the Golden Dawn name. One of the dissenters cited the flame wars, court battles, and the need to focus on local problems as the reason that he was renouncing the use of the Golden Dawn name. The other dissenter stated that it was simply time to let the name Golden Dawn die, thanks to the search results that Google coughed up whenever the name was typed in. Both dissenters also stated that they were going to change certain aspects of their esoteric system. Basically, both of them are planning to reform the system. It is not the first time that the system has experienced a reformation; like all the other times, one could see the economic reasoning behind the decisions, even if both parties were careful to downplay that aspect of the situation.

The most visible part of both parties' decision is the abandonment of the name, Golden Dawn. And one wonders whether one can simply divorce oneself from a spiritual and magical system by loudly declaring that one will no longer call oneself by that name. It is a little comical reading the decisions of the two parties, especially considering that both parties were front and center as the name was being fought over, both in a court of law and in the cesspool that is the internet. Yet they both are abandoning the label of the name of Golden Dawn, in hopes that a name change will result in them getting applicants with better spiritual potential.

Being a Wiccan, I am reminded of the great name change that our religion underwent in the 1950s. And I will admit that it did result in a major change in how our religion was viewed – at least, by those of us who are inside the religion (outsiders, especially some media outlets still view us as if – well I am getting to their viewpoint, as you will see).

Before the term Wicca was coined, members of my religion were known as witches and we practiced witchcraft. Both the terms “witch” and “witchcraft” carry with them dubious at best connotations. Ask the wackier media outlets, and we are still guilty of sacrificing virgins and worshipping the devil, as well as having the most holidays of any religion ever – holidays that colleges should not be informing students about.

And historically, let’s be honest, our religion does seem to be pretty evil, at least if you go by the historical and religious records, that is. Witches cursed the King of England and decimated Europe with the Black Death (the last one was also credited to the Jews), and have poisoned people since Biblical times. The historical record, much of it being written by men who wanted good reasons to hang and burn people that they did not like, paints witches in a very bad light. Scores of witches (*and people labeled as witches – Alia*) were killed or jailed by the authorities to make the world a better place. For three hundred years, it was illegal to be a witch in England – and the English witches had to wait until 1951 and the Fraudulent Mediums Act before they could come out of the broom closet.

(Was there actually a religion of witchcraft before 1951? Yes and no. Yes, in the sense that many of the ideas that Wicca is built around were present in literature during the century preceding the Fraudulent Mediums Act; no, in the sense that there was no continuous cult stretching back to the Stone Age as the creators of Wicca, including Gerald Gardner, claimed as pedigree for the newly born religion.)

One of the claims put forth by the newly-legal witches was that our religion's proper name was Wicca, and that we were a peaceful and goodhearted people, even if we seemed more interested in being naked and having sex than was proper for an English person or American of the time period (ah, the opening days of the Cold War, where sex and nakedness were just ways to get tricked into doing nasty things by the Communists). The newly-legal witches also loudly stated that there had been few actual dark witches, hell-bent on cursing everyone in sight.

The name change from witchcraft to Wicca has not actually abolished the dark witch – as a quick search on Amazon reveals – there were and are plenty of “dark fluff” books (most either from the 1970s or the current e-book onslaught) that try to be scary and dangerous, all in the mighty quest for the happy buck. But the name change did allow us to redefine who we are without the cultural baggage of the last two and a half millennium. Today, a Wiccan is more likely to be considered a tree hugger than a wicked person cursing their neighbors. Or at least, that is what those of us inside the religion believe.

Ironically, Wicca has, in the eyes of many, gone too far and became too “fluff bunny,” too “new age,” with the result that some members of the religion have started to abandon the terms “Wicca” and “Wiccan” – calling themselves witches again to emphasize that they are not complete doormats. And that hiccup and the historical record makes me wonder how long it will be before those who recently renounced the name Golden Dawn decide to turn around and reclaim it again. I am betting not long – just long enough for people to forget the flame wars, the court battles, and the nasty Greek political party. Historically, it will be an eye blink.

[For the record, I have always used the terms Wicca and witchcraft, as well as Wiccan and witch, interchangeably – for me, there is not much difference between the terms...one set of terms is merely better to use if one is stressing the peaceful, loving aspects of the religion. I am a witch and a Wiccan; I practice witchcraft and Wicca. Dark and light dance in my soul.]

Morgan Drake Eckstein

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

PATHS AND TRADITIONS FAIR

Date: 18 January 2014

Time: 10 am – 4 pm

Come and speak with representatives of multiple different Pagan and Polytheistic traditions. Get information on different traditions and upcoming opportunities for involvement. A great way to broaden your spiritual exploration. Throughout the day, groups will be giving short presentations on their traditions.

A special, hour-long workshop will be given at 1 pm on "Finding Your Path" by Chris and Kelley of Cró Dreoilín.

WICCA BASICS TAUGHT BY CHRYSALIS CIRCLE

Chrysalis Circle is starting an 8 week Wicca Basics course on January 26, 2014, 10 AM – Noon.
Go to <http://www.chrysaliscircle.com/> for additional details and contact information.

Please join us!

~HavenWood and Sage

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!

Feb 1

Mar 1

Mar 29

Apr 26

May 24

June 28

July 19

Aug 23

Sep 20

Oct 25

Nov 22

Dec 20

---Chris, Dara, and Michelle

the Earth Temple steering committee

WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-680-1741. Catherine's is 303-886-7067. 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 real.cuttlefish@gmail.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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2014 Open Full Moon Dates

January 10
February 14
March 14
April 11
May 9
June 13
July 11
August 8
September 5
October 3
October 31
December 5