



Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

"The Full Moon Folk"



AUGUST 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, AUGUST 28, 2015.

Carri & Martin will be facilitating the Hearthstone Community Church Open Full Moon on Friday, August 28th, at the First Unitarian Church at 14th & Lafayette in Denver. Doors open at 7 PM, with announcements beginning at 7:30.

The Sun in Virgo and Moon in Pisces speaks to a healthy ego structure balanced by healthy emotional boundaries. We will be celebrating with a Wiccan ritual and a meditation based on this astrological pairing. There will be a Drawing Down of the Mother. There will be time for Q & A, and spiritual fellowship. Time for juice and cookies, (gluten-free).

Please join us as we celebrate the Moon, we honor the ancient ways, and we worship the Goddess, whom we adore. Blessed Be.

—Catherine

<http://hearthstone.fnorky.com>

GREETINGS

Lughnasadh has passed and we're creeping up toward Mabon. We have less daylight; even on stormy days, I can see the sun setting sooner. We've even had a couple of nights where I had to find a light blanket—it was almost too cold to sleep.

It has been a quiet August for me. I took a class at Swallow Hill and met up with someone I worked with almost 25 years ago. What a figure—25 years! I haven't changed much, really.

This last week, I was informed that I had been on the Board of Hearthstone for 18 years. Where did they go?

I'm starting to fall into the trap of "Do you remember when...?" For example, I remember when the only personal computers were either made by Apple or used an obscure, and now mostly forgotten, operating called CP/M and we got "online" by dialing into a 1200 baud modem.

I also remember when books about paganism were not plentiful and were all in hard copy. There was no such thing as an electronic book. Now most of my library is in the form of e-books. However, we can still find many of those hard-to-find books, along with other goodies at the [Internet Sacred Text Archive](#). I did a little walking down memory lane there this month.

It is important to know where we come from as well as where we're going to. It was nice to review my history this month. I wonder where I'll go next month?

—Catherine

THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone Tips our pointy Hat this month to Hawk Shadow, assisted by Sarajane, for leading our Hearthstone community in celebration of the Blue Moon and Lughnasadh. From the four (six) directions, Sarajane welcomed Brother Eagle, Brother Lion, Sister Serpent of Old, Sister

Badger, Those who watch from the Light above, and Those who watch from the Dark below. We invoked the Lady of the Vine and Lord of the Harvest.

Hawk Shadow shared the history and meaning of Lughnasadh. She told the story of Lugh and his many skills, and she outlined the stages of an apprenticeship: literacy, fluency, then mastery. This built to a very interesting challenge and meditation: there are so many, many books and classes now, one might feel that everyone should learn everything, that we all should become masters of many skills, like Lugh. However, we are not Lugh, and true mastery takes much time and practice; a narrower focus is appropriate for most of us.

Hawk Shadow led us in meditation to meet face to face with Lugh, and ask him "What is my true magickal talent?" After time for meditation, she invited us to consider what Lugh's answer means in our life, our study, our practice. People who wished shared their thoughts with the group.

After sharing Cakes and Wine, we sang and circle-danced the lovely song "Under the full moon light we dance, spirits; Dance, we dance! Joining hands, we dance! Joining souls, rejoice!" What a lovely moonlit Sabbat we shared!

Our deep gratitude to Hawk Shadow and Sarajane for presenting this beautiful ritual, contemplative meditation, and joyful celebration! Thank you! 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*

ABOUT OUR ANIMAL COMPANIONS

Our Hearthstone community includes many pet-lovers, and we strongly encourage spaying and neutering to reduce the tragedy of excess, uncared-for animals. Many beautiful, sweet animals are euthanized due to excess births, and many others sadly try to fend for themselves without needed food and veterinary care.

People with lower incomes can get spay/neuter services for their cats and dogs at reduced fees, subsidized by Dumb Friends League donors, when one of their mobile spay/neuter clinics visits their neighborhood. DDFL also partners with local animal welfare organizations in a trap-neuter-return (TNR) program for community (un-owned) cats to help reduce the number of unwanted litters born and the number of kittens and cats brought to shelters. Please call DDFL's mobile spay/neuter help line at (720) 241-7098 for questions and information, or find details, schedules, and locations at: <http://www.ddfl.org/content/mobile-spay-neuter-clinics>

WHERE IS THE “TIME TO WARN” LINE?

As an angry blogger/vlogger, I spend a lot of time on Facebook, or as I like to call it, “The Machine of Rage.” There is always something to be angry about; from the happy memes with no actual information content to notices that Wiccans are killing people with hammers, one cannot go wrong using Facebook to fuel the latest rant. I will never run out of material as long as Facebook is around.

(As for the wisdom of my decision that being an angry blogger being a good idea or not, that is a whole 'nother discussion...one that I will probably avoid.)

A couple of weeks ago, in one of the pagans for spiritual responsibility groups, someone sent out a shout to come and watch a group going horribly wrong. And considering that I love watching train wrecks, I went to go look. I soon discovered that the problem with the group was the group owner himself.

(The group owner initials are a V and a D...and I am sure that by the end of this little rant filled essay, you will also agree that it is completely appropriate to the individual in question, who from this point on, I will refer to as VD.)

First there was the masterful way which VD went about running his group. Any criticism of him, or any of the fluffy white bunnies that he loved to share his wisdom with, was frowned upon. In fact, lack of sugar-coating was grounds for expulsion. Fortunately for me, I had the best training possible in sarcasm, thanks to my ever loving family—sometimes even I can't tell if I am being serious or not.

To add to the fun, VD insisted that only his brother and one of his friends were qualified to be moderators of the group. And by qualified, I mean that they would never dream of trying to wrest the control of the group away from VD. For some reason, VD seems to believe that if an outside moderator is ever appointed, their first act would be to kick him out of his own group. He is wrong about that: one, Facebook has fixed that problem; two, the first act would actually be to re-invite all the critics that he has banned.

At first, VD was claiming to be a shaman. He likes to post pictures of himself just before going into a trance. In one, he is wearing a fur rug that no self-respecting pimp would wear. In another, he is wearing what looks like war-paint. And the bare chest and facial expressions (apparently, you must roll your eyes and have a goofy smile while you trance) were just icing on the cake. His claim of being a shaman was met with hordes of disbelievers, who quickly pointed out that he had no training, never met an actual shaman, and probably could not point out Siberia on a map.

At this point, VD switched to claiming to be a Wiccan. The horde asked for his lineage, being one of those hordes that believe that a proper Wiccan has undergone initiation. VD's response was that he could not remember his lineage, and that it was so long ago that he could not even remember who initiated him into Wicca. 'Take a moment and let that sink in...how is even possible to forget who initiated you? I understand not being able to recite your lineage; I never bothered to memorize my rather dubious lineage; but by the gods, I can tell exactly who was in the room when I was brought into the tradition.

Then, VD switched to claiming to be an herbalist. Claimed that he went to college for this (dropping out before finishing his degree), a claim that was rapidly called into question by someone who knew how to use Google—pointing out that attending and failing at a college that says that they are unaccredited (and who does not seem to have a Herbalism degree) is nothing to brag about. (Later, someone actually contacted the college, and discovered that VD merely audited classes.) Even more appalling was his claim that he was helping someone with HIV, with the knowledge and consent of the person's doctor. Someone screamed "Science!" at this point. And even I, someone who completed a whole whopping eight hours of herbalism in the back room of a seedy shop, could see that he did not know the first thing about herbs. VD's best story was that he once used a bunch of herbs, went into a trance, and then spent three weeks in the care of the local hospital. The collective opinion of the horde was that being a student who never finished his course work and did mental damage to oneself was not grounds for calling oneself an herbalist.

On top of all this, VD set up a website, completely free as a community service (but it does have a store where you can buy some rather expensive herbs, including a wormwood smudge stick, and a nice big donation button). The horde took an interest, pointing out all the half-baked information. The horde also pointed out that VD was plagiarizing a lot of work from other occultists. VD first responded that he was paraphrasing (despite exact quote hits from the ever magical Google), then he actually did paraphrase—without citation; then he cited his sources, and some wise ass asked him if VD had permission to use any of the stuff that he was using. VD promised to take stuff down...two weeks later, the horde is still waiting to see this. And let's not forget the cherry picking of information from other groups, the asking of questions and then posting the answers as if they were his thoughts, and the massive sharing of memes.

Now at some point, there is a line where a responsible train wreck watcher has to start warning the greater community. I must admit that I do not know where that exact line is, or what offenses and stupidities catapults a person over the line and into the "Danger! Seeker! Danger!" category.

But in this case, I know exactly when I went from amused train watcher to "Sound the alarm! Red alert! Arm the proton torpedoes!" And it was the sharing of a meme of a selenite crystal the size of a small camper-trailer with the comment, "Ingesting crystals is apparently a more powerful way to gain a crystal's properties, according to Healing Crystals and Stones." Now, for the record I am a failed alchemist, didn't exactly pay much attention during those lectures, and even I knew that this was a really bad idea: between the possible chemical poisoning and the fact that crystals are sharp pieces of ouchie-ness, it looks like VD is trying to kill someone. When the horde went "WTF?!", he posted a page from a book that stated that it was an ancient practice. OK, I have to give him points

for actually reading something, but have to take away several million points for not thinking about safety first.

So given the antics, why would I even remotely care about where the warning line is? Well, it is simple—it is easy to destroy someone’s reputation in today’s online world. Rumors and gossip fly quickly. And it is nearly impossible to clean up after a shit storm of gossip.

Let's face it: the occult community is not that big. All occultists are well within nine links of one another. Nuking his reputation now could do permanent damage to it, and bar him from ever being someone that is trusted.

And what if he is not the menace I think that he is? What if he is innocent, but just really stupid? What if he later cleans up his act? Is it fair to nuke his reputation?

I am not the only one that struggles with this type of dilemma. The entire occult community struggles with this. Look at the number of times recently that someone in the occult community made the papers because of a misdeed, and how often the community knew about the person’s tendency to go bad.

Now, part of it is fear of getting sued for libel and slander. Without solid proof, it is just gossip. And we can all cite a case where someone started a false rumor to take out the competition. But that is not the whole of why the occult community occasionally fails to pull the trigger and out someone’s misdeeds.

The occult community believes that it is judged by the worst people in it, and therefore outing someone’s misdeeds will reflect badly on the entire community. And the community is right. But there is actually something worse—and that is when it is discovered that the community knew all along about someone’s misdeeds for years and years, and the person ends up making the papers. In those cases, the question always arises, “Why were people not warned?” And if there were whispered warnings, “Why no full page ‘everyone can find it with Google’ warnings?”

In the case of VD, I expect him to eventually poison someone. I am betting on the stupid—sooner or later, some fluff bunny is not going to know better and will actually drink, or eat, or burn something that he suggested; and the fluff bunny is going to end up in the hospital or worse, the morgue. And that will reflect badly on the entire community.

Fortunately for the occult community, VD is being watched by several people who are taking screenshots of the idiotic things that he is saying—people with less ethic indecision than I have. VD is now the proud target of at least one web page noting how dangerous the information he is doling out is. Maybe this time, the responsible occultists can cut out the cancer before it makes a dreaded headline. I hope so; I do not want to see any more headlines about bad occultists, pagans or Wiccans.

Morgan Drake Eckstein

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

(I feel compelled to point out that the “Wiccan ritual killing” in Pensacola was not actually on the blue moon as claimed by the Sheriff with an agenda. It was the Tuesday before, far from the actual full moon. The fact they did not find the bodies till the date of the Full Moon is absolutely no indicator of any occult meaning. The guy was talking through his hat. There is absolutely no evidence that anyone Wiccan or Witch had a darn thing to do with it. –Alia)

RITE OF THE MAGICAL IMAGES OF THE WICCAN WHEEL OF THE YEAR

Hi, it is me (Morgan Drake Eckstein) again. Recently I self-published the ritual I did for the June 2013 OFM (the Rite of the Magical Images of the Wiccan Wheel of the Year). It is currently available on Amazon for \$2.99. Call it part of my “fund me to write more Golden Dawn inspired Wiccan rituals” campaign. <http://www.amazon.com/Rite-Magical-Images-Wiccan-Wheel-ebook/dp/B011W83COE/>

–Morgan

Note from Catherine: Morgan has other books on Amazon as well.

TURTLE MONKEY CHILDREN’S EBOOKS

Hi all, this is Jo. I recently completed the 15th book of my new Turtle Monkey series! This is a pagan friendly children’s eBook series. All of the series is transitioning thanks to Crystal Publishing.

Here is the link for Crystal Publishing: <http://www.crystalpublishingllc.com/>

Turtle Monkey is getting a new look coming soon...most likely around the holidays so stay tuned!

Coming soon: My new Young Adult Novel: **The Egg Quest!** More information should be available soon.

Thank you for all your support!

–Jo

EARTH TEMPLE

Earth Temple meets at Full Moon Books and Event Center, at 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood, for New/Dark Moon ritual work. All of our dates are Saturday evenings, and we normally begin our rituals right on the dot at 7:30 PM. Join our Meetup Group for reminders and information about specific rituals: www.meetup.com/EarthTemple. And, check out our Witchvox page for more info about us:

http://www.witchvox.com/vn/vn_detail/dt_gr.html?a=usco&id=35084

Our 2015 dates:

Sep 12

Oct 10

Nov 7

Dec 12

*---Chris, Dara, and Michelle
the Earth Temple steering committee*

WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-521-6620 (*NOTE: This number has changed. We are having issues with the house phone; please call this number instead. It has been changed on the web page as well*). 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 teal.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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2015 Open Full Moon Dates

August 28
September 25
October 23
November 20

December 25—we will not meet, as it would be the 13th OFM