



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.



## “The Full Moon Folk”

### GREETINGS

The heat of summer is upon us. And as is normal for Colorado, we get promises of rain every afternoon that are hardly every fulfilled. I tell people at work that Mother Nature is a tease. My lawn is scorched – and I feel that way too, even though I don’t go outside without sunscreen. I saw in the news today that this may be one of the driest summers in Colorado for a long time.

Midsummer has passed. I noticed today that the sun seems to be setting a little earlier. I will welcome the monsoon pattern when it comes, for its coolness, as well as for as for its moisture. Lammas comes about the time that the monsoon pattern comes – the first harvest with the moisture. It seems appropriate.

—*Catherine*

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### THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Our thanks, and a most respectful tip of Hearthstone's hat, to Martin Anthony and Cerridwen Brennan for sharing their prison ministry and powerful examples of their work with us at our June Open Full Moon ritual. The detailed information about their ministry to Wiccan and pagan inmates was quite interesting. They then shared with us an example of the type of ritual/service they offer to inmates.

First, Martin led us in a long, gentle, deeply grounding relaxation meditation. Cerridwen followed with a beautiful and powerful meditation in which each individual was invited to open the flower at the top of their head, connect with the divine light/energy we call Goddess, and invite Her in to meet with us in the vast Star Chamber within our mind. We were given time and encouragement first to tell Her anything we wanted or needed to tell Her (individually and silently, in the complete safety and privacy of our own mind) then we were encouraged to listen to what She wanted to tell us. Cerridwen affirmed to us that the Goddess would meet us in our Star Chamber anytime we call to Her.

These meditations were smooth, powerful and deeply peaceful. We could only imagine how rare and amazing such experiences must be to inmates living in a stressful prison environment. Thank you, Martin and Cerridwen, for providing hand-outs of the meditations, and thank you for generously sharing your time, insight and talent with our Hearthstone community.

—*Arynn*

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### JULY OPEN FULL MOON

Hearthstone meets the Friday before or the Friday of the Full Moon 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. (We are NOT big proponents of Pagan Standard Time, but if there is weather related driving trouble or a problem on the freeway, we've been known to

wait a bit longer.) This month's ritual is FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2008.

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

For the July 18th OFM, Morgan Drake Eckstein is going to share a mystery that he wants you to think about the next time that you eat dinner. Besides being an eclectic Wiccan, Morgan is a member of Bast Temple (a Golden Dawn based lodge), so there might be some ceremonial magic elements in the ritual. Morgan will be asking for volunteers to help call the quarters.

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## 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. **Unfortunately, donations have diminished over the years, to the point where Hearthstone is once again losing money. Since Alia can no longer**

**support the church on her own, we ask you to 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. While we will keep Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. running as long as possible, we do feel we should let you know that we still 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.

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## Secrecy: Revealing and Concealing

One of the things that disturb many seekers is the insistence of some groups to have their members swear to keep the mysteries secret. The seeker will ask "Shouldn't the mysteries be revealed to all mankind?" This question is usually followed by stock answers, most of which would not satisfy the laziest of thinkers; one is left with the feeling that something is not quite right. It is moments like this that led people to believe that any group that is keeping secrets is up to no good.

Personally, I suspect any modern teacher of the mysteries that coughs up a stock answer to the question (such as "It is tradition"). Either they are using the mysteries for their own purposes or they have not a clue about the reason for secrecy in the first place.

Secrecy has its uses in modern occultism. It is a tool. There are good reasons for seekers of the mysteries to swear to keep things secret just like there are bad reasons.

One of the keys to the proper use of secrecy lies in the saying "Secrecy reveals what it conceals, and conceals what it reveals."

Secrets draw your attention to them and the blank hole they create. You wonder what that puzzle piece is. We have all wondered what the government and big business is not telling us. Secrets are beacons that draw your attention.

Conversely, things that are common knowledge tend to be ignored. There are truths that you have completely ignored because they are rooted in facts that everyone knows, and because of that a whole portion of the world and the way it really works is invisible to you; processes that you do not think about remain mysteries.

I am guilty of this. I tend to ignore facts that are common knowledge. Everyone is guilty of this. For instance, we tend to be more concerned about what the government is not telling us while completely ignoring what they have actually said. For instance, the government has told us that the social security system is broken, but did you notice what they didn't say about it?

Stop and think about it. Why did they tell us that social security is in trouble? Was it because economy students crunched the numbers and came up with whooping big red number? Or the press got interested? Or is it something else like perhaps, they have no intention of fixing the problem? This is a bad use of revealing and concealing secrets.

So what would a good use of secrecy look like? Can secrecy be used as a tool of mental and spiritual growth? Yes, it can. The key to using secrecy as a tool for spiritual growth lies in the fact that to keep a secret you have to keep constant watch over what you do and say. This constant watch makes you aware of what you do and say. Secrecy can help one become more self-aware; you end up watching the things that come out of your mouth, the actions that you do, and if you do it long enough, you start to see why you are saying and doing these things. Secrecy can lead to a form of self-enlightenment.

The secrets kept for this purpose do not have to be anything world-shattering. Nor do they have to be like the skeletons that are hung in the family closet which tend to be an example of the dangerous kind of secret that affects your entire life whether you are aware of it or not. The secrets kept to fuel self-awareness can be small.

We are used to thinking that only important facts are kept secret, such as nuclear bomb making formulas and the secret spices that go into chicken. But a quick look at the esoteric Orders reveal that some pretty minor things are being kept secret, such as handshakes and recognition codes, hardly world-shattering stuff; this has led to vast conspiracy theories where the Freemasons control the boy scouts who in turn control the NRA.

What we fail to think about is that you can make something important by making it secret, hence the power of the skeletons in my family closet and some of the incense recipes that covens hoard. I can take a common fact, word, gesture, and make it a powerful magical and spiritual tool by making it secret.

Don't believe me; ponder on one of the emblems of an old mystery school, for example, an ear of corn (actually, they used wheat), and ask yourself what is they were concealing and revealing with it.

--Morgan Drake Eckstein

<http://gleamingsfromthedawn.blogspot.com/>

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## EARTH TEMPLE

Earth Temple rituals have moved to a new location: Ye Old Firehouse, 3232 Depew Street, Wheat Ridge. With a few exceptions, all of our rituals will be held at this location. With one exception, all dates are Fridays, with community announcements starting at 7:30 pm, and ritual starting when announcements conclude. Here are the remaining dates of ET's 2008 schedule with the exceptions and locations listed.

### Earth Temple 2008 dates

Aug 1 -- NM/Lammas – Ye Old Firehouse

Aug 29 – NM – Ye Old Firehouse

Sep 19 – Mabon – Ye Old Firehouse  
Oct 3 – NM – Ye Old Firehouse  
Oct 24 – NM – Ye Old Firehouse  
Samhain – November 1 (Saturday) from 5:30 - 9:30 pm at the Wheat Ridge Senior Center.  
Nov 28 – NM – Ye Old Firehouse  
Dec 19 – Yule – Ye Old Firehouse

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## NEW MOON CIRCLES AT WITCHES BREW

Mary Reeves and Robin Vinehall, from Tree in the Circle, will be holding New Moon Esbat rituals at Witches Brew on the Sunday closest to the New Moon. If the New Moon falls on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday the ritual will be the Sunday before. If the New Moon falls on Thursday, Friday or Saturday the ritual will be held on the Sunday after. Mary and Robin will be invoking gods and goddesses from a variety of pantheons, whose energy is consistent with the astrological energies of the particular New Moon. This energy will also be consistent with each sephira of the Qabalistic Tree of Life, taken in the order of the "Downward Striking Lightning Flash". (Don't worry! They'll explain things before each ritual. No previous knowledge of Qabalah or even astrology is necessary.) The rituals will be in traditional Wiccan form, incorporating both Qabalah and astrology into powerful and empowering Wiccan rituals.

Witches Brew Coffee House is at 4900 West 46th Avenue; Call: (303) 997-9571 or go online at:

<http://www.myspace.com/witchesbrewdenver>

Tree in the Circle will present a New Moon in Leo-Lughnasadh ritual Sunday, August 3, at Witches Brew, 4900 W. 46th Ave. What do solar gods and sacrificial gods have in common? Come find out -- and receive inspiration from them. Assemble at 7:00 PM, ritual begins at 7:30 PM.

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## WHO TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-680-1741. Southwynde's is 303-698-1066. 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> It's kept current, so anything you miss here should be there.

Alia's e-mail address is [alia@fnorky.com](mailto:alia@fnorky.com); Southwynde's is [Southwynde@yahoo.com](mailto:Southwynde@yahoo.com); (it is not frequently checked). Catherine's e-mail address is [catherine@fnorky.com](mailto:catherine@fnorky.com)

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## 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](mailto: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. Edited by: Catherine Mock. Published by: M. Alia Denny

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### 2008 Open Full Moon Dates

July 18, 2008  
August 22, 2008  
September 12, 2008  
October 10, 2008

November 7, 2008  
December 12, 2008

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