



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### GREETINGS

I've been watching the plants in my yard green up slowly the last month. Over the winter, the woolly thyme I planted last year as a grass replacement seems to have spread all over the front lawn. There's still a lot of clover and there are still clumps of grass, but the yard certainly looks different.

Spring has come creeping up on me this year. I don't think I totally realized its arrival until this morning. As I was walking into work, there was a robin sitting on a sign outside my office. He waited patiently until I saw him; then he took flight. What a great way to begin a day.

—Catherine

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### THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Thanks and a Tip of our Hat to Arynne and Cynthia Lefevre for a lovely ritual on positive thoughts and action. Arynne and Cynthia recruited many volunteers and made sure everyone could participate in this exercise on positive thinking and affirmations. We wrote an affirmation and tied a bead around our wrists to remind us of that affirmation. I have been repeating my affirmation every time I look at the bead, which is still tied to my wrist. And thank you to the many volunteers that night; it was great watching the numerous volunteers working on the ritual, especially the younger participants, who were clearly having a great time!

Thank you, Arynne and Cynthia, for a lovely ritual and food for thought.

Alia

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### APRIL 23 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. (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, April 23, 2010.

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

Amy Harper will officiate at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Full Moon. Usually, she does a Wiccaning, but this year there were no interested families. So this year, we will focus on the advancement of Spring. What did we plant at Ostara? Do we wish to weed our plantings before the fertilization that goes with Beltane? Join us for a celebration of Spring and of our plans.

—Catherine

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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. **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.

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## **SECRECY AND LISTENING TO YOURSELF**

One of the mysteries that few people understand today is the experience of initiation. In the 1960's, in order to be a Wiccan, one almost was obligated to be an initiate of a coven. The same held true for ceremonial magicians. Those who were not initiates were working at a disadvantage. Only a few books were available, and those danced around the edges of the system.

Today, the situation is much different. There are hundreds of websites, books and articles that dive into the mysteries of Wicca, witchcraft, and ceremonial magic. Based on all this surface activity, it is easy to forget that both Wicca and Golden Dawn started out as initiatory traditions. We tend to forget that at one time, one needed to be invited into these traditions.

In fact, today one can find works that claim to allow oneself to initiate oneself into these traditions. No longer does one need a High Priestess; no longer does one need a Hierophant. You can open the door yourself; no one can deny you entry into the mysteries.

That may be so. But this brave new world we live in, where everyone is their own spiritual authority and their own teacher, robs us of certain experiences. The self-initiate loses certain benefits that a Temple initiate has. In exchange for the absolute freedom to define what magic and religion looks like, one has given up the battery that allows an initiate to draw upon the wisdom and strength of a unified group.

Even something as simple as the use of positive affirmations in ritual is affected by this paradigm shift. Statements proclaimed during one's initiation tend to have a greater impact than statements said by oneself. Even if one uses the exact same language in a self-initiation, it just does not have the same impact. In turn, these statements when used in one's personal magical work lose some of their effectiveness as a result.

You can say the statement "The Goddess provides" to yourself a thousand times, and it will not have the same impact as it did for a Temple initiate who heard it during their initiation. The initiate has been confronted by fears and doubts; they have been thrust into darkness, and twirled into the light; they are stressed and their senses heightened. Suddenly the drama breaks and a woman steps forward in the garb of a goddess, and proclaims, "The Goddess provides." The initiate feels such a relief when the goddess intervenes in their trials and tribulations that from that day forward, they have an automatic reaction to that phrase. They believe the statement to be true.

If you have the eyes to see and eyes to hear, you understood what I said. If you have not undergone initiation, you will read these words and think you understand, but you have not. The process of initiation and the impact it has on one's life can only be understood by experiencing it. Anything short of that and you are just fooling yourself.

### **Morgan Drake Eckstein**

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery

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traditions on his blog at:  
<http://gleamingsfromthedawn.blogspot.com/>

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## EARTH TEMPLE

Earth Temple rituals are generally held at Ye Old Firehouse, 3232 Depew Street, Wheat Ridge. With a few exceptions, all of our rituals will be held at this location. Also with a few exceptions, all dates are Saturdays, with community announcements starting at 7:30 pm, and ritual starting when announcements conclude.

Note: The Beltaine ritual will be held on May 1, 2010, at the Wheat Ridge Senior Center 6363 W. 35th Avenue. Start time 7:30 pm.

### Earth Temple 2010 dates

Event	ET Date SATURDAY
Beltaine	May 1
New Moon	May 15
New Moon	Jun 12
Midsummer	Jun 19
Lammas/NM	July 31
New Moon	Sep 11
Mabon	Sep 25
New Moon	Oct 9
Samhain/NM	Nov 6
Yule	Dec 18

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## WHOM 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>.

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. Editor: Catherine Mock. Publisher: M. Alia Denny

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**2010 Open Full Moon Dates**

**April 23, 2010**

**May 21, 2010**

**June 25, 2010**

**July 23, 2010**

**August 20, 2010**

**September 17, 2010**

**October 22, 2010**

**November 19, 2010**

**December 17, 2010**

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