



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"

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### APRIL 15 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, APRIL 15, 2011.

At the April 15<sup>th</sup> OFM, we will be having a Rite of Passage celebration for Mars, Amy's son, who is now thirteen. Please bring one piece of advice that has had the most impact on your life. Amy will be asking for volunteers to represent each quarter to speak to, and welcome, Mars into the next phase of his life.

—Catherine

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### GREETINGS

April showers are certainly happening – off and on. During the last two weeks, it seems like we've had all four seasons. Come to think of it, that *is* April in Colorado. I haven't had much time to enjoy it because my homework load has been heavy this term. However, I got a new "toy" a few weeks ago – a Washburn travel guitar. I've been using it as an excuse to sit out in the yard and play every few days, even for 15 minutes at a time. I love those stolen minutes.

Perhaps I need to find more ways to steal minutes from my busy-ness.

—Catherine

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### THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

A big Hearthstone Thank-You to Catherine who led our Eostar/Full Moon ritual. We cast and invoked the Elements with "We are a Circle, within a Circle," with all of us chanting while Catherine sang in the Elements overtop our voices. Continuing to hold hands around the Circle, we all invoked the Goddess and God with the beautiful chants "Maiden, Mother, Crone, I am She; Come my Love and dance with me." The God verse began "Warrior, Father, Sage, I am He". When we finished invoking we were positively tingling with Divine energy! Delicious!

Catherine invited the children to pass around flower seeds for each participant to take, then guided us into a few minutes of silent contemplation while we considered what we each want to grow in our hearts, minds, and spirits. We charged the seeds of our intentions with the chant "Seed of what I wish to be, Grow and bud and bloom in me!"

The children assisted with serving cookies and juice, then Circle was opened, and the friendly group mingled in conversation until we all faded away into the soft Spring night.

Thank you, Catherine, for offering our community this lovely taste of Spring's energy and potential!

—Aryne

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### 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.

## 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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## STORYTELLING, MYTHOLOGY AND RITUAL

Human beings are storytellers. Growing up my father used to tell stories. To me, to his friends, to the neighbors, to everyone. Often the stories that he told were the same stories---over and over, again and again. They were mainly jokes; most of which I can't repeat today because they would be classified politically incorrect. My father was not a racist or bigot---it was just the types of jokes that he grew up with. As he told and retold the stories, he changed some details, experimented with how he told them, and generally tried to improve them.

Having grown up, I find myself telling stories. Not necessarily good stories. In fact, give me half a chance and I will bore you to tears. And I find myself telling the same stories over and over again. In my case, it is mainly bits and pieces of esoteric lore and occult history. I claim that I am trying to improve the stories I tell; not everyone believes that claim.

Due to this background and habit, I find myself looking at much of mythology, especially when it disagrees with itself, as an example of storytelling. Today, we live in a world of television, movies and YouTube; we do not need to make up stories to entertain ourselves. This was not true for our ancestors. Even a hundred years ago, storytelling was not something done mainly by someone else. It was something that all people did.

Storytelling was a universal skill; some people were better at it than others, but everyone practiced the art on occasion. Sitting around a fire, stories and tales would be swapped back and forth. And the further back in time one goes, the more fantastic the stories become. Go far back enough, and the stories being told become mythology. The disagreements between the various versions of the tales are just different storytellers emphasizing different aspects.

One aspect of mythology and storytelling that is still with us today, or at least those of us who are involved in Wicca and the esoteric traditions, are the rituals that go along with the stories. Our stories tend to go hand in hand with our rituals. The symbolism that we choose, and the stories that we tell, tend to be chosen based on the type of ritual that we are doing. Rituals are a form of storytelling.

I was once told that myths are stories that never happened, but are always true. Often these myths are about aspects of the human mind and the human experience. And the rituals are a way to directly experience those parts of humanity that we are struggling to come to terms with. This is especially true for those who are initiates in the various esoteric traditions. But even an open ritual, such as the Open Full Moon rituals, can be a window into those aspects of the universe and ourselves that we currently need help with.

How much of a dip one takes into this sea of experience depends upon the skill of the storyteller(s) and the willingness of the listener to hear what is being said. Every ritual and story has merit; some just have more meaning to us than other stories and ritual---it all depends upon what you are ready to hear.

### **Morgan Drake Eckstein**

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

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## **EARTH TEMPLE**

We're still at the Firehouse Community Center in Wheat Ridge for all rituals except Beltaine and Samhain. We start announcements at 7:30, and then start ritual when announcements end. Our dates are all Saturdays with one exception: Ostara will be held on SUNDAY, March 20.

Hope you can join us!

*The ET steering committee, Chris, Dara, Michelle, and Vella Rose*

### **2011 ET Ritual Dates**

<b>Event</b>	<b>ET Date</b>
Beltaine	Apr 30**
New Moon	Jun 4
Midsummer	Jun 18
Lammas/ New Moon	July 30
New Moon	Aug 27
Mabon	Sept 24
New Moon	Oct 22
Samhain	Nov 5**
New Moon	Nov 19
Yule	Dec 17

\*\*Location TBA

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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.

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This newsletter is for Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. of Denver, Colorado. Editor: Catherine Mock. Publisher: M. Alia Denny

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### **2011 Open Full Moon Dates**

**April 15, 2011**  
**May 13, 2011**  
**June 10, 2011**  
**July 15, 2011**  
**August 12, 2011**  
**September 9, 2011**  
**October 7, 2011**  
**November 4, 2011**  
**December 9, 2011**

**Newsletter subscribers:** As of January 2011, we have ceased delivering the newsletter by U.S. Mail.