



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### DECEMBER 9 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, DECEMBER 9, 2011.

For the December Open Full Moon, we present a dual Drawing Down the Moon. This is a ritual where a High Priestess draws down the Goddess. (We do bring in High Priests to draw down the God when we can, but we were not able to do so this time.) The Priestesses will each be in small rooms adjacent to the main room so conversations can be had in relative privacy. Each Priestess will have a "Walker" to bring petitioners to see her. You may visit either or both Goddesses if you so choose.

The High Priestesses for this month will be Alia and Cerridwen Brennan. Catherine will administer the main circle and provide grounding as needed. Meeting with the Goddess is a powerful experience. Children are welcome, as always, but we ask parents to either accompany them to visit the Goddess or feel comfortable with their ability to deal with the experience alone.

--Alia

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### GREETINGS

December's snows have begun in earnest. I'm sitting in my little house, with two dogs and a cat adding to the warmth of the furnace. In fact, the cat keeps burying himself under the covers. He's an old kitty and he loves cuddling.

The darkest part of the year definitely here – I wake before the sun and it has set before I get off work. Even in our modern times, we regulate ourselves by its path through the sky. The cold comes in and we spend as much time as we can inside. Hopefully we can gather together for some warmth – even if it's a three dog night – or in my case, two small dogs and a cat. Stay warm everyone.

--Catherine

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### THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

Hearthstone offers a Tip of our Hat to Lady Ketievia and Lady Judith for leading our Samhain Open Full Moon ritual. After casting and calling, ritual commenced with Lady Judith reading for us the moving contemplative piece, "Thanking Winter's Gods" written by Thermal. I offer you a brief quote:

"I had not wanted to do the Callings for Them, the Winter Gods.... They have woven through my thoughts and dreams too much this last year as beloved friends and blood-kin have become ancestors. I feared to stand naked before Them, looking into Their naked Faces, awakening memories of sorrow and loss.... But here we stand, in the ancient Circle, Earth embraced by Life...."

Lady Ketievia led us in a pathworking to meet the Winter God and Goddess, ask them questions, and receive answers. After quiet contemplation, cakes and juice were blessed, and shared by all.

Thank you, Judith and Ketievia, and priest Southwynde, for helping us to gracefully welcome the season of Winter into our lives.

Blessed Be!

—Arynne

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### BOARD DOINGS

After 20 years of service to Hearthstone, Southwynde has elected to retire. He has agreed to take the title of Board Member Emeritus, and will no longer be involved in the day to day business of the Church. We greatly appreciate the time and effort he provided to the church over the years.

Catherine has stepped up to serve as the Vice President of Hearthstone Community Church, Inc., and as a result, the church Board could really use a secretary. Duties would include note taking at board meetings, perhaps some correspondence, and mutually agreed upon other duties, possibly including work on this newsletter. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me with a brief description of your experience and qualifications for such a position. Thank you.

---Alia

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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.

—Alia

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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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### TAKING STOCK OF ALL WE ARE



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It is the end of another secular year, and it is time to look both backwards and forwards to see how we might want to change our attitudes and reactions in light of the lessons that we have learned and what we hope to accomplish in the future. It is time to take stock of how we have changed over the past year, of our successes and failures, and our plans for the future.

Recently, I was reminded of how much I have changed over the years. I have been writing articles about the esoteric community since the Summer of 1996. While preparing a promotional ebook, I decided to include the very first article that I wrote for the esoteric community. While re-typing the article from the hard copy, I was shocked to learn how much I have changed over the years.

Some of the changes I expected. For instance, I was appalled by the number of grammar and punctuation mistakes that I made. But that was expected---after all, I was a high school dropout. Today, my grammar and punctuation is much better; or at least, I like to think it is---I know a couple of editors who would disagree with me (I am not sure if they know how rough my writing was when I started writing as a hobby).

It was shocking to see the extent of some changes, even when I expected them. For instance, I am aware of the fact that I was a militant Witch in my younger days. But I tend to forget how militant I was. Or maybe I should say that I used to be more militant than I currently am, and I forget how much I have mellowed out over the years.

The cherry on top was the changes I forgot completely about. For instance, I forgot all about the fact that I used to believe that magicians and witches were more born than made. It was shocking to read opinions that I would now frown at coming out of my own mouth (or typewriter). And even worse, it is obvious that I considered myself an expert in such matters. Yikes! Today, I tend to remind people that I am not an expert, just a loud mouth---obviously, my younger self would have been appalled by such behavior, much like I am appalled by his behavior.

To be honest, after reading that long-ago article, I almost did not put it into the ebook. The reason I decided to do so, despite the changes in my knowledge (oh, the political and historical myths that I believed back then) and attitude, was that I feel that it is best to acknowledge such changes. The past self whose words I was reading is part of the foundation of who I am today. He was an ugly, but necessary step in the process of my personal evolution.

And I imagine that anyone looking back over the past year with a honest heart and a clear eye, will find aspects of themselves and deeds they performed that they cringe looking back upon. It is just a side effect of being a consciously evolving spiritual being. Hopefully, we are moving towards being more aware of our own and others' divine natures...because I really do not want to think about the possibility that my earlier self was the more spiritually evolved person.

May the New Year bring better times for all of us. So mote it be.

### **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.

Hope you can join us!



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

### 2011 ET Ritual Dates

Event	ET Date
Yule	Dec 17

### 2012 ET Ritual Date

Event	ET Date
New Moon/Imbolc	Jan 28
New Moon	Feb 25
New Moon/Ostara	Mar 17
New Moon	Apr 21
Beltaine	May 5**location and time TBA
New Moon	May 19
New Moon/Litha	Jun 16
New Moon	Jul 21
Lughnasagh	Aug 4
New Moon	Aug 18
New Moon	Sep 15
Mabon	Sep 22
New Moon	Oct 13
Samhain	Nov 3**location and time TBA
New Moon	Nov 17
New Moon/Yule	Dec 15

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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.

<p>This newsletter is for Hearthstone Community Church, Inc. of Denver, Colorado. Editor: Catherine Mock. Publisher: M. Alia Denny</p>
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## STANDARD DISCLAIMER and COPYRIGHT INFORMATION



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

**December 9, 2011**

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

**January 6**

**February 3**

**March 2**

**April 6 (Actual Full Moon)**

**May 4**

**June 1**

**June 29**

**July 27**

**August 31**

**September 28**

**October 26**

**November 23 (Friday after Thanksgiving)**

**December 28 (Actual Full Moon)**