



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### **JANUARY 2 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, JANUARY 2, 2015.

On January 2<sup>nd</sup>, we gather to celebrate the first Open Full Moon ritual of 2015. This ritual will be facilitated by Vella Rose, who will lead us in connecting with the four elements (Air, Fire, Water, and Earth) with simple elemental chants and experiential opportunities. We will sing about each element and will use our breath to connect to Air, experience the energy of Fire, cleanse and heal with Water, and will finish with connecting to the heartbeat of the Earth and of ourselves.

Vella Rose is an eclectic witch, who practices an indigenous European, pre-Christian, Earth based path which includes flavors from Celtic, Wicca, Reclaiming, and other traditions she has been involved with.

—Catherine

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### **GREETINGS**

Happy Sun Return! This season of the year always seems so busy. Of course, between religious, semi-religious and secular events celebrating the Solstice season, it is busy. Over the last month or so, I've been to more celebrations than in much of the rest of the year. I'm exhausted.

Did you know that the word "holiday" comes from "holy day?" While every day is sacred, it seems to me that we should pay more attention to making holidays into special days – apart from the ordinary. We rush about trying to get everywhere to see everyone and forget about actually celebrating the day.

This is short this month – I think I've been rushing about too much. Perhaps I should take my own advice and make the holidays special. Good Yule, God Jul, and a Joyous Solstice!

—Catherine

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### **THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT**

Carrie and Martin of Alexandria Temple of Universal Metaphysics led Hearthstone's December Open Full Moon. They explained the prison ministry they lead, and that they are the only Wiccan chaplains in any Dept. of Corrections in any state! Although they can't get to all prisons in CO, many people have benefited from their generous and knowledgeable service. Hearthstone thanks them sincerely for their years of service, and also for the rituals they lead for our Hearthstone community.

Carrie and Martin cast circle in the names of Cerridwen and Cernunnos. Circle was cleansed, and Quarters called, by assistants Ron and Morgan Magdalene. Martin led us in his amazing style of guided meditation for deep relaxation, peace, and serenity.

Carrie spoke about how each individual's path to the Divine is unique and right, and about the importance of discovering our own Truth, our own Path. She emphasized speaking our truth to ourselves...and when appropriate, to others. She and Martin commenced a Drawing Down, and invited any seekers to speak with the Goddess. After cakes and juice, circle was opened.

We Tip our Hat with gratitude to you, Martin and Carrie, for your generous gift of your time and skills. We can't help but be inspired by your example of service to the Divine. Blessed Be!

—Arynn

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## APOLOGIES

I'm afraid I won't be joining you all this Friday, as I had rather extensive abdominal surgery on December 23. I discovered how quiet a hospital is on December 25! (very!) A couple of people like me chose surgery at the end of the year to spend flex accounts or simply get it done, but most people don't want to spend the holidays in a hospital. Traveling to and fro was more of an adventure than the time in the hospital, frankly.

Anyway, in 2009, I had a hysterectomy that did not go well. Most of the time, a hysterectomy is a simple procedure where the uterus comes out through (or with) the cervix, via the vagina, and the only stitches are where the cervix was. In my case, my uterus was kind of like Godzilla—much larger and stranger than expected, so the surgeon then had to remove the uterus and ovaries abdominally, which was not his strong suit. The incision split back open after 10 days, and the doctor sewed me back up, supposedly with more permanent materials. That worked better, for a while. He also left a part of a drain inside, but that is a story for another time.

Gradually, the internal stitches apparently gave way, until I had a larger than 4" by 4" hernia over the length of the incision. It was getting bigger and giving me internal problems (not to mention made me look like I was about to have an alien baby or very low chest-burster, for you Alien fans), so I finally saw an abdominal surgeon about it. (The fact that Jo was worried about the alien baby and kept telling me to see a surgeon was a factor in this decision.) This doctor spends many of his working days opening, fixing, and closing bellies, so I was hopeful he could help me feel better, make my system work better, and get rid of the false alien pregnancy. He was not happy with the way my belly looked before surgery, and was rather surprised I had waited so long to get it taken care of. Put that down to my love of surgery and hospitals.

He told the spice after he had finished working on me that the entire length of the incision had split inside me, and that I now have mesh across the entire front of my belly. It looks very strange now, I can see straight down! Between having a higher weight before the original surgery, then the hernia, this is the first time in some time I have seen all of my feet! Doug says the incision looks great, and the change in my profile is marked—my guts were sticking out a long way! I was very lucky that nothing got strangulated, and I have to say, don't wait as long as I did. I probably started having issues about 3 years ago, and the situation got worse (and more expensive, glad I have insurance) the longer I dithered about doing something about it. One lucky thing, as far as emergencies go, is that the hernia was never small enough to trap a part of my intestine, because that would have meant emergency surgery and a longer hospital stay.

And I paid attention to Jo's column a while ago, and made sure to clean my belly button well, so there was no stinky bits and no mushrooms or other alien life forms (though the inside of a belly button is its own microbiome, so that is not a correct statement. There were no foreign objects in there.) And I won't have to worry about that again—the hernia started at the belly button, which is kind of a weak point, so he took that as well. So I have a remarkably flat stomach now, with lots of staples in it in a row. And one less orifice to clean, but I'm glad I knew to clean it first!

—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.

–Alia

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## 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>

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## HOW MUCH GUIDANCE YOU CAN EXPECT FROM WICCA

One of my hobbies (aka time wasters) is reading the posts on various Facebook groups. I do this despite the fact that I occasionally encounter a Numpty trying to sound all wise and intelligent—something that generally just makes my blood boil if they make a particularly ignorant comment.

An example of the type of ignorant comment that gets my Irish up was a comment I saw last month. The conversation was about how to banish demonic forces. And in strolls the Numpty that says, “Golden Dawn is not your parents, they are not going to hold your hand and walk you through the spheres, they will not get rid of the demonic forces under your bed. They will give you the means to do it yourself, if you are smart enough, and already equipped [mentally] and spiritually to handle the situation.” Apart from the horrific lack of proper punctuation (semi-colons were invented for a reason), I was in agreement...

...clear up to the point that they said, “[If] you want an Occult babysitter to answer a bunch of questions, walk you through things, and do it all for you, join a Wiccan coven.”

When someone called them out for their lack of respect for Wicca, the Numpty responded, “Personally, I have yet to witness, nor read about, any Wiccan covens who do not ‘hold the hands’ of their initiates, and walk them through everything, nor have I heard of one that doesn’t solve each others’ problems and take care of their members as family. If any Occult group could be labeled ‘babysitters,’ there [were] none before Wicca. Unless of course you know a private daycare for occultist children run by occultist adults? Lol.”

Exactly how the Wiccan defender would have responded is unknown because at this point, one of the moderators of the Facebook group stepped in and told everyone to play nice. Yes, Wicca was allowed to be insulted without anyone being allowed to defend it. And people wonder why I suffer blind rages.

At this point in time, I would like to get up on my soapbox and say a couple of things.

First off, I have always admired the fact that Wiccan covens take care of their own, treating each other as family. I would not go so far to say that Wiccan covens solve their members’ problems—the covens that I have experienced tended to give you advice, help you raise energy, but you were responsible for your own spiritual and magical growth; in other words, the only person who had the right to solve your problems was yourself.

Furthermore, I find that answers from Wiccans (coven members or not) tend to be fuzzy things. For instance, take the simple question of “What do Wiccans believe?” Wiccans believe in magic, a god and goddess, the cycle of nature in the form of the four seasons, the five elements of Air, Fire, Water, Earth and Spirit, and reincarnation. Well, some of them do...ok, maybe one of them does—one cannot even say or speculate what all Wiccans believe in. As for asking Wiccans to give you an answer to dealing with a problem, even in a coven, you are going to get a range of answers...if you are lucky, maybe, just maybe, two coven members might agree with one another—but it is doubtful. The areas of agreement among Wiccans tend to be thin on the ground.

And does saying these things help cool my blood? Maybe, maybe not. But let’s be honest, the temperature of my blood is my own problem, not my coven’s.

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## COOKING AND COMPROMISE

My husband says of my cooking that I am something fierce that happens to the kitchen, like a storm. He is much more orderly than I am and enjoys cooking, not just for the feasts, but for everyday. He enjoys the challenge and the creativity of cooking and he likes the kitchen to be neat and ready for the next meal.

I get caught up in the passion and the ritual of cooking and I’m always a little surprised at the aftermath. I like cooking for feasts, for rituals, for magic, maybe a different magic. Left to my own

devices, as I was for many years before he came, I rarely have the energy for everyday cooking. If I could peel a lid off and stick a spoon in it, I'd call it dinner. I always had plenty of empty yogurt cups for storing things.

Before he came I held life together in an open space with strict rules, so necessary to balance my creative chaos. He came and built me a perfect sanctuary, within which I have had to learn to let go.

Together we have created a space that is warm and nurturing and evolving.

It's our changes that have allowed us to share this space and our differences that make us a complement.

In the passion of my youth I tackled many things, made few compromises, raised my voice. I carried signs, made speeches, spent hours volunteering. I cut away at the things that were wrong and I sought out something that was clear and pure. It is, I think, important for the energy of youth to be available for those activities. I'm satisfied that I poured myself out on those causes.

But I have lived long enough to have watched arcs of change and relationship, to see value in things in a way that takes time to see. I have lost things I never thought I couldn't get back and I have let go of things that I thought I would never live without.

And I have changed. Now, I not only make many compromises, I have learned to wield compromise like a weapon, like a lever, like an engine, like the power of a river. Where my words used to fly like arrows, I have learned how to feel the weight of silence in my own body the way that an athlete feels the weight and balance of a physical object, without hurling it at all.

Looking at our community over these decades under the many pressures and changes in the world I come to believe that it's important to "lose some," to let things evolve, allow people to succeed and to fail, to believe in one's own unique value so comfortably that it is not necessary to compete, but it is necessary to unite.

There are some things more important to preserve than the moment. There are accomplishments more important than winning. It turns out that my many sprints were a part of a marathon that I couldn't see. Our many paths are a part of a great migration.

And now I see in our community the opportunity for stability, for a sanctuary within which we grow and evolve.

For this new year I hope for us, growth and challenge, friendship and accomplishment, individual journeys and coming together.

To each their own kitchen and to us all the great feast together.

Blessed be.

*Paulie Rainbow*

*Denver Celtic Women's Circle*

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## **TURTLE MONKEY CHILDREN'S EBOOKS**

Hi all, this is Jo. I recently completed the 14th book of my new Turtle Monkey series! This is a pagan friendly children's eBook series. The only difference with this next book is that it will soon be available in print through Crystal Publishing.

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

The first 13 books are still available online at Apple, Amazon, and Barnes & Noble.

Here is the link to our books at Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/artist/jo-fontana/id677705293?mt=11&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

This is the link for our books on Amazon:

[http://www.amazon.com/gp/search/ref=sr\\_nr\\_seeall\\_1?rh=k%3AJo+Fontana%2Ci%3Astripbbooks&keywords=Jo+Fontana&ie=UTF8&qid=1397343482](http://www.amazon.com/gp/search/ref=sr_nr_seeall_1?rh=k%3AJo+Fontana%2Ci%3Astripbbooks&keywords=Jo+Fontana&ie=UTF8&qid=1397343482)

This is the link to our books at Barnes & Noble:

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/s/Jo-Fontana?store=allproducts&keyword=Jo+Fontana>

Also, please check out our new and improved website @ <http://www.turtlemonkeybooks.com>

Thank you for all your support!

—Jo

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

Our 2015 dates:

Jan 24

Feb 21

Mar 21

Apr 18

May 16

Jun 20

Jul 11

Aug 15

Sep 12

Oct 10

Nov 7

Dec 12

---Chris, Dara, and Michelle

*the Earth Temple steering committee*

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## WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-680-1741. 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](mailto:teal.cuttlefish@gmail.com); 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 is simply a fanatic) 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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### **2015 Open Full Moon Dates**

**January 2**

**January 30**

**February 27**

**April 3**

**May 1**

**May 29**

**June 26**

**July 31**

**August 28**

**September 25**

**October 23**

**November 20**

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