



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### **AUGUST 12, 2016**

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, AUGUST 12, 2016.

Believe it or not, Hearthstone is 25 years old. The Open Full Moons are even older; we were able to take on an already established tradition.

Please join us as we celebrate our 25 years of service to and participation in the community. If you have memories to share of the church, there will be an opportunity to do so. Blessed Be!

—*Alia*

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### **GREETINGS**

Wow! Twenty-five years! I remember attending my first Open Full Moon ritual when it was still being held in Washington Park. Then the rituals moved to the First Unitarian Society of Denver where the parking was a challenge, but it was much more pleasant to be in if it was snowing. Hearthstone has been a presence through my life's ups and downs.

I have newsletters on my computer from 2004 on. Those I worked on before that are probably on a desktop computer that ran Windows 97. One of these days I'll get around to pulling that hard drive and the one from my last laptop and get them onto external drives.

On the Hearthstone website, we have newsletters dating back to 1997. Before that the newsletter was distributed by U.S. Mail only. Although I haven't been editing the newsletter since that time (I think — Alia, do you remember?), I vividly remember rushing around the weekend before the OFM, trying to get the newsletter to Alia to print and have copied at a local office store and then folding, stapling and labeling each newsletter. Eventually, we went to electronic only, which makes it a little easier, if a little less social.

I look forward to seeing everyone as we celebrate 25 years of Hearthstone.

—*Catherine*

<http://hearthstone.fnorky.com>

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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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## THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

A big Tip of our Hearthstone Hat to Paulie Rainbow and Kellene for the enjoyable and unique ritual they shared with us at our July Open Full Moon celebration.

Paulie told of her travels to Celtic lands and her explorations of ways to blend authentic Celtic study with the living, sacred land here in Colorado where we live and practice. To help everyone honor Colorado she "squared" the circle into the rectangular shape of Colorado, and facilitated us all to participate in telling the significance/history of various towns around the state. In a fun twist, Paulie shared how various items of her camping gear correspond to the sacred Elements.

Kellene gave beautiful recitations of traditional invocations of the Morrigan and the Dagda. Then each person around the circle was invited to share aloud their own connection to Colorado, what meaning Colorado has for them, what is special about this sacred land we call home, with each person closing with a personal toast. Everyone's sharing was moving and beautiful in its own right.

Thank you, Paulie and Kellene, for warmly offering your selves, your knowledge, and your perspectives to our Hearthstone community. Blessed Be!

—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.

—Alia

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## HISTORY, COMMUNITY, CULTURE

Trying to write a column for this month about Hearthstone, in a way that honors its history and legacy has me reaching back into memory and scratching around for details.

Some of the details are the same, the gray stones of the Unitarian church are the same, the wide and welcoming span of those stairs are the same, but the first time that I stood on them was a world away.

It was a different time and I was younger than I can accurately remember being. I didn't realize then that I was standing just yards away from what was then the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Denver, or that in the years to come I would devote hours of volunteer time there.

It was summer and I was standing there with my brother who was being, as usual, extremely supportive.

It was popular, the Hearthstone Open Full Moon, and so there were a lot of people there to talk to. I was excited, probably a little nervous, eager to be a part of the ceremony and wondering what it would be like. The woman talking to us was friendly, but when we corrected her about our relationship, she looked at us, one to the other, and said, "Of course, you look so alike," which made us grin. I was lucky enough to be taken into such a wonderful family, we're not related by blood. We just smiled and then, just as quickly, people were filing in and the conversation ended.

I, or we, went a few times, and each time was different, each time was a little the same. It was thrilling to see magic and ritual lifted out of the books I had been reading and given form in real life. I could see how much these people were my community and I could see, here and there, that I would find my own path, my own way in the world, that would match what I needed and what I believed. I saw that not every path was my own, but that each path was a part of my community. I felt the kind of affection you feel for family and tribe.

It affected me so much that I wrote its spirit into parts of my book, "The Goddess of Denver," and tried to capture our sense of community, our alliances and our differences, our cynicism and our ever reawakening sense of magic in each other.

*"Somebody got happy with the glue gun today," muttered Jan. The wide-eyed lispng girl at her elbow looked up and a said, "They look like princesses!" in awe.*

*Jan felt her heart melt in her chest and rubbed the girl's shoulder affectionately. "Yes, they do," she agreed. Indeed, she suddenly remembered, these are the things that set our minds alight, that stay with us through all our lives. Adult cynicism should never bar the young from their sense of awe and beauty, Jan thought to herself and looked out on the circle with new eyes.*

But now I am older and on the other side of this tradition that we have all held together with our magic and our presence and our human agreement to show up for and honor each other. Now I am someone who has written magic into a book, someone who spends hours putting together the words and the objects to bring magic and faith into form. Now I am the one who can look back through time and understand the precious gift we have given ourselves with Hearthstone Community Church.

You can come there, as I did, when you are young, or new, or searching. You can see your own community around you. They have expenses, but no entrance fees. Remember to bring a couple of dollars to ensure that this is there for the next seeker. They do not demand perfection, no Perfect Love and Perfect Trust, but only an open heart and willing mind. Remember to say "Hi" to the newcomer. And if you have a tradition of your own to share, perhaps you will consider bringing it there, to the young, to the new, to the seeking, to those who choose no other circle, or who cannot currently find one.

Happy Birthday Hearthstone! Thank you for being generous enough to give us your birthday gifts: history, community, culture.

Blessed be,

## **SHOULD WE PICK THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS?**

Three months from now, the American people will elect the worst President ever. This will continue a trend that has been going on for the entirety of American history. And it does not matter who you vote for, half of the country will think that you wasted your vote on a meat Popsicle without a brain or ethics. But on a bright note, the longest election cycle ever will finally come to a close.

Our current election cycle started nine years ago when one political party nominated and then elected the worst person for the job. The only proper response to this was for the other political party to do everything that they could to prevent the President from doing anything while in office. And that is the plan for this election too.

(Pardon the lack of proper names in this article; I plan on recycling this article eight years from now because history is going to repeat itself. And I don't want to go to the effort to having to Mad-Lib the names out.)

After all, we have Lex Luthor running against the Joker...though I am little confused about which one is which. Somehow, the two main political parties in this country have managed to find the two biggest villains in America, deciding that the greater evil is somehow the solution, and we are going to be stuck with one of these villains. Both are brain dead; both are crooks; and both are completely wrong for America.

Or so, I have been told numerous times.

Exactly whose fault this is, depends upon who you ask. But it is someone's fault, just not yours. And just remember that we could be living at the dawn of a new golden age, if only people would be sensible, and vote for the right person...except that half the country already believes that the right person is the biggest disaster to happen to the United States in its entire history.

I must admit that it worries me that half the country already believes that whoever gets elected is a bigger menace to the United States than anyone who has served before them. "They are not my President" will be uttered by half the population while encouraging their chosen political party to do everything in their power to stop the President from accomplishing anything.

And so the slow descent into madness will continue in this country. And there is really nothing that we can do about it because enough people have accepted this reality to make it true.

Among the ideas that are always trotted out at this point is the idea of not voting. Sorry, just because you did not vote, it does not make you innocent in the fact that American politics are a complete mess. You want to know how politicians treat those who do not vote? They ignore non-voters—your concerns do not matter. Yes, it gives you the moral high ground, but at the price of not mattering at all.

Another idea is to vote for a third party. I will admit that part of the problem with this country is that we have fallen into a two party system that exists more to serve the needs of politicians and special interests than it does to serve the American people. But having more than two political parties is not a magical bullet—just look at some of the nonsense that happens in countries that have more than two political parties—it looks much the same, except that it is harder to put all the blame on a single political party for screwing everything up. Yes, we need more options, but is this really the time to try creating a viable third option?

Yes, that is right—I don't consider any of the existing third party options to be viable. In fact, I would actually argue that at least one of the existing third parties is a vanity party; it is nice for stroking one's ego while saying that you are not part of the problem—but let's be honest, if the third party candidate is not on the ballot in all fifty states, then that political party is not actually serious about challenging the *status quo*.

The only real solution is a hard ugly one—years and years of people voting in every election, so that we have better politicians in play. That means we have to pay attention to politics in every election, not just every four years. That means voting for people running for dog catcher and whatnot. And that includes those who want to see a viable third party. A viable third party needs to have voters that turn out for it in every election, year in, year out.

And yes, I know that sounds like a lot of hard work. But the alternative is having to pick between the lesser of two evils. Remember that correcting the political system is a marathon, not a sprint. We should not have to choose between Lex Luthor and the Joker....but seriously, it will probably remain that way forever because too few voters want to do the work (a/k/a knowing the issues and voting every election) to fix the system. So please welcome the arrival of the worst President in history—at least until we nominate and elect someone even worse which is sure to happen in the next Presidential election cycle.

### **Morgan Drake Eckstein**

Morgan Drake Eckstein writes about Golden Dawn, Wicca and other mystery traditions on his blog at: [Musings from the pen: The writer blog of Morgan Drake Eckstein](#); [Gleanings from the Dawn: Thoughts about Golden Dawn from one of its members](#) and [Book Reviews by Morgan: My archive for the book reviews that I have done](#)

*Editor's note: As usual, the foregoing column reflects only the views of Morgan and are not necessarily those of Hearthstone or any of its other Board members. Please direct all comments to Morgan.*

[Morgan's wife, Khari, sells mundane pottery on Etsy at: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/celticsouljewelry> and witchy pottery at: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/Khariswiccantreasure>

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## **TURTLE MONKEY CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

Hi all, this is Jo. We recently revamped the children's books and several are scheduled to come out in print later this year! Stop by our website and sign up for our newsletter. Thanks for your support!

[www.turtlemonkeybooks.com](http://www.turtlemonkeybooks.com)

-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)

Ritual dates 2016  
September 3  
October 1  
Oct 22  
November 26  
December 17

---Chris, Dara, and Michelle  
the Earth Temple steering committee

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## WHOM TO CONTACT

Alia's phone number is 303-521-6620. 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 [fionnula.harp@gmail.com](mailto:fionnula.harp@gmail.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 [fionnula.harp@gmail.com](mailto:fionnula.harp@gmail.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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### 2016 Open Full Moon Dates

August 12  
September 16  
October 14  
November 11