



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



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### **JANUARY 14 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, JANUARY 14, 2010.

Reclaiming Spirit Colorado will officiate at the January 14<sup>th</sup> ritual. Their intention for this ritual is: Finding and Kindling Our Hearts Desire. We will sing, dance and raise energy in the presence of the Goddess Brigid. We will meditate on what it is we want and raise energy to bring it into our lives. Reclaiming will show how our desire can be like a fire in that it can consume us or we can use the energy to move us forward.

— *Catherine*

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### **GREETINGS**

It's been a rough start to the new year between the super cold and car trouble. A lot of it I brought on myself – delaying work in order to get a little more ahead. This got me to thinking: how often do we delay work on ourselves so we can “get ahead”? We rush, rush, rush, to get to work, to get home, to get to this, that and the other thing without taking the time to breathe. Then when we break down (or just get home and don't want to do anything but sit in front of the television), we wonder where our energy went. We put off the reading we wanted to do or the exercise. “I just need to get this done – I'll make up for it tomorrow.” Then when tomorrow comes, it doesn't happen.

Maybe my resolution for this year is to let tomorrow come – actually get some of those things done that I have been putting off for “tomorrow.” At least my car will be fixed.

— *Catherine*

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

Thanks and a Tip of the Hat to Sapphire Circle for welcoming the Hearthstone Community to come together in a lovely celebration of Yule at our Dec. OFM. The central altar held a small lighted Yule tree, and participants each brought ornaments to hang on it, a nice approach to weaving our feeling of community. Circle was cast, and in the nearly dark room we contemplated the longest night and simultaneous eclipse of the full moon, dramatized by the masked snow queen coming around silently to touch each of us with her cold hand. She then approached the altar and extinguished all the remaining light! After a few moments for contemplation, the darkness was relieved by the children of Sapphire Circle who processed in carrying lit candles, then read to us bits of the history surrounding Winter Solstice and traditional practices. Each participant received a white candle, which was lit by the children, and as the room brightened we celebrated the return of the Sun. The Priest and Priestess led us in charging the ornaments on the tree, then each person selected one to take home.

My apologies if I summarized the order of events a bit wrong. I was entranced by the darkness and the snow queen and the children and the candlelight, and I totally forgot to take notes!

On behalf of the Hearthstone Community, I offer our warm gratitude to Les, Michelle, Teri, Sherrie, Bonnie, Clyde, Cynthia, Lisa, Jil, and the children of Sapphire Circle!  
Blessings of the Returning Sun to all!

—*Arynn*

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## CHANGES IN THE NEWSLETTER

This newsletter has remained virtually unchanged for the past 19 years. The board has decided to make the newsletter more interesting to read and easier to manage.

One step we will be taking is eliminating the paper newsletter and going to e-mail only. If you do not have an email address or computer, computers are available at your local library to set up an online e-mail account

We will also be redesigning the newsletter for HTML email delivery. This means that if you have a text-only email reader, you will need to upgrade to an account that can handle HTML. If you don't wish to change your primary e-mail address, you can get an online e-mail address and receive the newsletter there.

We believe these changes will make the newsletter more interesting and will make it easier for you to get the information you need from it.

As always, if you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Catherine or me.

—*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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## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF ASTROLOGY**

Recently when asked if he thought there were any continuously surviving pagan customs and beliefs, an acquaintance of mine replied, "Sure, astrology." And while I would argue that many of the beliefs and methods of astrology have changed down through the centuries, I understand exactly what he means. If any pagan beliefs can be claimed to be handed down intact throughout the ages, astrology must be given a seat of honor.

Astrology was born in the early days of civilization. For instance, the concept of the zodiac, a way of tracking the sun's journey along the ecliptic, was invented in Babylon, Egypt and China (all independently of one another). The division of the ecliptic and the zodiac into twelve equal parts occurred around the sixth century BCE.

The earliest known horoscope we have evidence from dates to 409 BCE. It was written in Babylon, and the text is damaged. It reads in part:

"Month Nisan night of the 14<sup>th</sup>...son of Shuma-usar, son of Shuma-iddina, descendent of Deke, was born. At that time the Moon was below the Horn of Scorpion, Jupiter in the Fish, Venus in the Bull, Saturn in the Crab, Mars in the Twins, Mercury, which had set was [still] invisible...the 27<sup>th</sup> was the day when the Moon appeared for the last time. Things will be good for you."

Astrological symbolism occurs in the Egyptian Book of the Dead, both the Old and New Testaments, the Nag Hammadi texts, the medieval guild plays, alchemical and magical literature of the Renaissance, and in Freemasonry. Perhaps the most famous mention of astrology in literature occurs in the play Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare, "The stars do not compel."

None of the preceding is proof that astrology has not changed over the centuries. For instance, one of the innovations of modern astrology is the "look-up charts" and computer generated horoscopes. The "look-up charts" were the invention of Alan and Bessie Leo, who besides starting The Astrologer's Magazine, also created a postal consultation business. They invented a system of rapidly putting together horoscopes for subscribers, having sheets detailing the symbolism and attributes of the various aspects of a horoscopes which they put together to create a full report. This method, invented in the 1890's is still in use (though computers do the compiling today).

Another development was the invention of sun-sign astrology. In 1930, R. H. Naylor was commissioned by the Sunday Express to create a horoscope for the newly born Princess Margaret. The interest that the horoscope received was so high that Naylor was commissioned to write a series of astrology articles. Naylor realized that he needed to involve all the readers of the column, and started to publish a paragraph for each one of the zodiac signs. This development has led to almost everyone knowing their sun sign, even if they have no clue about anything else astrologically.

### **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

Event	ET Date
Imbolc	Jan 29
New Moon	Mar 5
Ostara	Mar 20 SUNDAY
New Moon	Apr 2
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.

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

January 14, 2011  
February 18, 2011  
March 18, 2011  
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

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**Newsletter subscribers:** As of January 2011, we have ceased delivering the newsletter by U.S. Mail. Please read the column titled "Changes in the Newsletter."