



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### NOVEMBER 23 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, NOVEMBER 23, 2012.

On November 23, Alia will be presenting a Wing-It ritual in honor of this Thanksgiving season.

—Catherine

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### GREETINGS

Samhain is past; Yule is not yet here. We've entered the dark season of the year. The sun has set by 5:00, in part due to the Daylight Savings Time annual "Fall Back," but mainly because it's just that time of the year. And, of course, Colorado weather is being unpredictable, as usual. To add to the fun, Mercury is retrograde. I've already had one personal computer problem and one at work.

We've come to depend upon our computers so much. We text or e-mail each other rather than calling or going to visit. I spend so many hours on the computer, both at home and at work, that I am finally having repetitive motion problems. I can't even read my handwriting anymore; and I understand that some elementary schools no longer teach formal cursive writing. We even send out this newsletter as an email.

During this season where communication can be such a problem, perhaps we should make an extra effort to speak with each other in person – even if it's over the phone. We could tell how the other person is feeling: emotions are not always apparent in an email. In this way, perhaps, we could understand each other more fully – especially in this dark season.

—Catherine

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### THANKS AND A TIP OF THE HAT

For our Samhain OFM ritual, Hearthstone thanks Ketiëvia and Kym for the lovely, traditional rite they offered to the Hearthstone community. In their tradition, the Circle is cast widdershins this one night of the year. Ketiëvia magickally opened the sacred gate so that all present could call to our deceased loved ones in the Summerlands, have an opportunity to speak to them, and possibly receive a message in return. Many present chose to accept the invitation to stand, one by one, say aloud the name of their loved one, and speak heartfelt words to those whom we dearly miss. The experience was solemn and moving. When all were finished, we closed with pomegranate juice as our "wine of memory," toasting the memories of those we have loved who have passed through the gate to the other side.

Ketiëvia and Kym, thank you for leading this important ritual. The rite was clearly meaningful to many on a personal level. Blessings to you, and to all.

—Arynn

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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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### COMPETITION AND THE MODERN PAGAN

Over the last few weeks, I have stumbled into several situations where pagans were competing with other pagans. In a couple of these situations, some of the pagans have decided that -- or at least, acted like -- I was a fellow competitor. This surprised me; I am not the most ambitious of fellows at the best of times. And no matter what they thought, I wasn't interested in actually competing with them.

Given our national culture, I suppose that I should not be surprised to see pagans competing with other pagans. After all, we live in a cannibalistic world. Despite the occasional win-win scenario that one hears about (which tends to benefit only those at the top of the pyramid), our



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modern economic and social structure tends to be based on cannibalism. For one person or company to win, someone else has to lose. This is known as a “zero sum game.”

The classic example, for those of you had better things to do than take economics, is the soda pop market. There are only so many customers who drink soda. Therefore, for one soft drink company to gain more customers, another has to lose customers.

But does this type of thinking actually apply when it comes to pagan issues?

In some cases, it shouldn't. For instance, in the case of Wiccan business practices, such thinking actually goes against the only tenet of the religion that all Wiccans believe in – the three-fold law. Because a Wiccan promises not to harm anyone, a zero sum game is the last thing that they want to get caught in – for the simple reason that the Rede, if followed strictly, means that you automatically have to accept a stalemate (at best) or the losing position (at worst).

Not all pagans are Wiccans, but most of the modern pagan faiths are much more nature-based than the dominant religions, therefore the cannibalistic economic model is not the best model to use when you are a pagan. Yes, I am a cynic – I believe that global warming, in part, can be blamed on the cannibalistic economic model. A whole bunch of problems in my opinion have their roots buried deep in the idea that in order for one person to benefit, someone else has to lose.

And in the situations that I found myself in, starting as a surprise competitor, did not have to be zero sum games. To my eyes, they looked like win-win scenarios. More importantly, the situations would benefit from multiple people being involved, and could result in benefits to all parties who decided to cooperate with one another. They were situations where a group would do better than a limited number of winners.

The primary reason that I believed that the situations were actually win-win, instead of win-lose, is the simple fact that I do not believe that modern paganism has reached its upper growth limit. Now, I realize that some would argue that paganism is stealing members from the dominant religions; but can you really steal someone whose heart never belonged to the dominant religions? The same thing goes for the new greener consumer, the more spiritually aware customer, and anyone who wants to get out of the dog-eat-dog world that they find themselves trapped in – it is not theft if they are leaving things behind that are no longer serving their spiritual needs. Are we really harming the people who are joining paganism? I think not. But we could – bringing in the idea that the world is a zero sum game is one of the worst things that I think that we can do to modern paganism.

As a practical example of the current state of paganism, provided that I am right about it being in a growth stage, and the type of start-up that works in a growth stage, I like to use Hearthstone Community Church. Hearthstone is an entry point for a pagan, particularly one who leans toward Wicca. The Church does not care if people move on to other groups; its purpose is to introduce people to various systems that exist inside the greater community. Hearthstone serves much like the Sorting Hat of Harry Potter, or maybe a lunch buffet. Its purpose is to help people figure out what they like in paganism, expose them to various groups and rituals, and help them network. Hearthstone does not need the whole pie of local pagan membership to exist; it just needs enough people and resources to continue its function as an introductory body. And the other parts of the pagan community benefit from its presence as an entry point to the community. Hearthstone is not



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competing with the other pagan bodies in the community because its job is to grow the community. Everyone wins.

Now, I will admit that I have no easy answers on how to replace the current dominant cannibalistic economic and social model. But given the fact that it does not serve our best interests, I do believe that we need to start looking at other ways of doing things. It is not like we can do worse than the current system, can we?

### **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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## **WELCOME**

Please welcome Amy Harper and Morgan Drake Eckstein to the Hearthstone Board of Directors. Morgan will be serving as our Public Relations officer. Amy is a Board Member at Large. We look forward to their contributions.

–Alia

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## **EARTH TEMPLE**

Earth Temple celebrates New Moons and Sabbats. With the exceptions noted below, our rituals are held at our NEW location: Full Moon Books and Event Center, 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood.

We start announcements at 7:30, and then start ritual when announcements end. Our dates are all Saturdays. Hope you can join us!

<b>Event</b>	<b>ET date</b>
New Moon/Yule	Dec 15

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## **WHOM TO CONTACT**

Alia's phone number is 303-680-1741. 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); 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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#### **2012 Open Full Moon Dates**

November 23  
December 28

#### **2013 Open Full Moon Dates**

January 25  
February 22  
March 22  
April 19  
May 24  
June 21  
July 19  
August 16  
September 13  
October 18  
November 15  
December 13