



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### **MAY 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, May 9, 2014.

On May 9th, Sapphire Circle will lead us in celebrating Beltane as well as the full moon. Beltane, the season of fire.... Fire is a very enigmatic element to work with safely and easily. The folks at Sapphire circle are going to work with a fire circle (Much like the all water one we did last year), and show you a few handy tricks to integrate fire energy into your life and magickal workings.

Come on baby, LIGHT MY FIRE!

—Catherine

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### **GREETINGS**

I walked out of my front door on May 1st and saw that the lilacs had begun blooming. What a wonderful way to start Beltane! Not just that the lilacs were blooming, but that I walked out my front door. I am back at my own house finally. On April 30, I walked out of the house without my cane and didn't realize it until I opened the gate to go to work. I'm not quite ready to go dancing yet, but I'm getting there.

Going back to the lilacs, I think I may have mentioned before that they are my favorite flower. We only get to see them for a few weeks in the spring, but for those few weeks, we get that heavenly fragrance. There are so many things in our lives that only happen for a short period and then are gone. Sometimes they're gone for a year; sometimes for much, much longer. If we blink, we miss them. And sometimes they don't seem to come at all. Last year, my lilacs didn't bloom much at all. Perhaps that's why I was so happy to see them this year.

By the way, I'd like to thank Nathan for helping me with my car tire last month. Without that help, I probably wouldn't have been able to be at home in time to see those wonderful lilacs.

—Catherine

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

Hearthstone tips our hat to Paulie Rainbow, founding priestess of the Denver Celtic Women's Circle, and her assistant Alicia, who provided a beautiful ritual for our April Open Full Moon. The elements were invoked with a call for peace from each direction, and we could feel peace settle into the chapel where we met. For this fourth moon after the Solstice, Paulie offered the Blessing of the Willow, guardian of the river banks, blessing all present with the strength and flexibility of the willow.

Brigid was the goddess invoked, and we all sang this beautiful song from "Circle Round":

Holy Waters, Sacred flame  
Brigid we invoke your name  
Bless my hands, my head, my heart  
Source of healing, song, and art.

Paulie invited everyone to share aloud their needs for themselves or their loved ones, and conveyed the blessing of Brigid to meet each one's needs, seconded by all present.

Paulie and Alicia, we thank you for offering this ritual to the Hearthstone community. You conveyed a beautiful spirit of peace and kindness to all. Thank you and bless you!

–*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.

–*Alia*

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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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## PUTTING OUT FIRES

The other day, one of my internet friends pointed me towards a debate that was going on. The debate was all about the proper way to put out candles. There was the “it is OK to blow them out” school and the ever popular “you should only snuff them out” school.

My first thought was “Is it OK to blow out the candles using a fire extinguisher?”

Odds are you just had the same reaction that those arguing over the issue had towards me. Outrage, howls, torches and pitchforks. I was basically told that it was no joking matter, that I was showing disrespect towards the elements for even joking about using a fire extinguisher to put out the candles.

Except that I was not joking. I was being serious.

Oh, yes, it got worse after I pointed that out. I guess that this is another example of why I am not allowed to associate with other human beings. Not the fact that I was being serious, but rather the fact that I had the guts to point out that I was not joking.

Interestingly enough, the two schools of thought that were so bitterly arguing just moments before, both quickly agreed that no matter what their differences, I was actually the biggest menace. At the least, they could agree on that point, and that disrespect was present in the use of fire extinguishers to put out candles.

But I was not trying to imply that I was disrespectful of the elements. No, I was being practical.

For me, the whole issue of putting out the candles was laid to rest the day I saw a quick-thinking Stolistes (one of the many Golden Dawn ritual officers) put out the altar candle with the cup of water that they bear to purify the meeting space and the members attending a ritual. The altar candle was not their target; rather it was the Hierophant who had just lit their robe on fire. The Stolistes got points for quick action, and did not lose any for disrespecting the elements...to the best of my knowledge.

If there had been a fire extinguisher present, they might have used it instead.

I am reminded of this incident occasionally. One of my fellow board members could quite possibly set herself on fire someday. On more than one occasion, I have entered the center of a circle to move a candle out of her way. Her children also do this. It is not a matter of disrespect; it is more of the matter that no ritual should ever end with someone calling a fire truck and ambulance.

And yes, I wasted my time trying to explain this to the online rabble. They did not believe my stories.

In the end, there are times where respectful action flies out the window in my little universe. I figure that I can make up for it later. So if you are at a ritual with my friends and they set themselves on fire, please put them out, and then apologize to the elements. I will thank you and so will my friends. And perhaps the elements will thank you too.

### **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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## SUNSCREEN?

Spring is in the air – do you have your sunscreen ready?

It's that time of year again when we have to be more conscious about sunscreen use. Especially near the mountains, because areas of higher elevation, such as Denver, get much more UV rays any time of the year than places at sea level. This is because there is less atmosphere (less atoms) at higher elevations and so more UV rays get through to you. I only burned twice while I was living at sea level. I remember being so surprised by getting my first sunburn in years just sitting outside for about a half an hour in Denver on a mild day.

I also noticed that I needed a sunblock with a higher SPF. The Skin Cancer Foundation recommends SPF 15 or higher in the winter and SPF 30 or higher in the summer. I am olive skinned and was able to get away with using SPF 15 all year round at sea level, but while I was in Denver, I had to switch to SPF 30 all year round because SPF 15 did not work well enough for me.

Because a family member had been affected by Melanoma, my risks for the disease has increased. I check my skin regularly and go for a yearly checkup with my dermatologist. If you have suspicious looking areas on your skin or funny looking moles, please get your skin checked by a professional.

The site recommends using about two tablespoons of sunscreen (a bit more if you're fluffy) 30 minutes before heading out into the sun, and reapply every 2 hours (or sooner if you become sweaty or have gone swimming).

I have included the web link to the Skin Cancer Foundation's site. It has current information about skin cancer, prevention, and sunscreen, as well as events, and stories from survivors.

[www.skincancer.org](http://www.skincancer.org)

Stay well,

----Jo Fontana, RN

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## TURTLE MONKEY CHILDREN'S EBOOKS

Hi all, this is Jo again. I recently completed the 13th book of my new Turtle Monkey series!

This is a pagan friendly children's ebook series. They are available at Smashwords:

<http://www.smashwords.com/books/search?query=Jo+Fontana> and Amazon:

[http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=sr\\_nr\\_seeall\\_1?rh=k%3AJo+Fontana%2Ci%3Astripbooks&keywords=Jo+Fontana&ie=UTF8&qid=1384142676](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=sr_nr_seeall_1?rh=k%3AJo+Fontana%2Ci%3Astripbooks&keywords=Jo+Fontana&ie=UTF8&qid=1384142676)

We are also available through Barnes & Noble and the Apple iBookstore.

-Jo

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## BELTANIA 2014

May 8-11 near Florence, CO

A Pagan Beltane Festival and MusicFest

Special Guest: Selena Fox of Circle Sanctuary

*Rev. Selena Fox is senior minister and high priestess of Circle Sanctuary, a Wiccan church, Pagan resource center, and Nature preserve with a worldwide Ecospirituality ministry that includes networking, publishing, education, environmental preservation, counseling, events sponsoring, and other work.*

*In recent years she is most well known for her work at the federal level securing the right for Pagan veterans to have pentacles on tombstones.*

*For more than thirty years, Rev. Fox has served as one of the elders, religious freedom activists, and public media spokespersons for the Wiccan religion and related forms of contemporary Paganism and Nature religion, nationwide and internationally.*

Musical Performances By:

Tuatha,  
Odin's Other Eye,  
Pandora Celtica  
Jeffrey Gray  
Orpheus Pagan Chamber Choir  
NameSinger  
Marcy Stonecipher  
Skean Dubh  
Djembe Cowboys  
DreamWeaver

Fire Performances by Firegate and Spirits of Fire

Tickets and Info at [www.beltania.org](http://www.beltania.org)

*Beltania is an international festival of about 450-750 people. Proceeds of this nonprofit festival benefit Living Earth Center, an open and public Pagan church facility at 2120 S Holly St., Denver CO 80222. We hold 20-35 rituals and other events every month. Info at [meetup.com/livingearth](http://meetup.com/livingearth)*

*---Joy Burton*

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## **EARTH TEMPLE**

Earth Temple meets at Full Moon Books and Event Center, at 9106 W. 6th Ave. in Lakewood. All of our dates are Saturday evenings. Please arrive at the store before 7:30 pm, since the store closes and the doors lock right at 7:30. Please 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). Thank you, Hearthstone, for sharing information about our circle!

May 24  
June 28  
July 19  
Aug 23  
Sep 20  
Nov 1  
Nov 22  
Dec 20

*---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 [real.cuttlefish@gmail.com](mailto:real.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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### 2014 Open Full Moon Dates

May 9  
June 13  
July 11  
August 8  
September 5  
October 3  
October 31  
December 5