



# Hearthstone Community Church, Inc.

## "The Full Moon Folk"



### **JULY 15, 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, JULY 15, 2016.

The July 15 ritual will be presented by the Denver Celtic Women's Circle.

Our Open Full Moon ceremony is a Storyteller's Moon, and the story is about Colorado, the land where we stand and make magic. We'll invoke the land magic together.

In Irish lore the Dagda, the Good God, the Ollathair or All-Father, shapes the land and works for what is right. His stories are complex but of Himself He says: "That which is wrong cannot be done by Me." It is fitting to invoke this Celtic God of the Land for this moon.

The Mórrígan, the Great Queen, is as much a sacred poet as a Goddess. She speaks the truth and Her pronouncements outline that which has happened, that which will happen, and that which will happen again. She is referred to by the Dagda and repeatedly in the lore as "Woman," specifically His Woman, but also in the sense of an absolute quality or a progenitor. She is a fitting Goddess for this moon.

Our ancestors spun their stories tied tightly to the land on which they lived so that for every mile traveled, cultural memory was evoked. Here, the battle was fought, there is the shadow of the cave from which the sacred bull emerged, on this high place the Goddess was invoked, the weather was changed, the enemy was defeated.

To live more fully in the magic of the land we need to speak of the land, walk the land, make memories tied to this sacred space.

Join us in honoring the old Gods, in honoring this place where we walk, and in enjoying the stories of walking in this magical land.

The Denver Celtic Women's Circle has been in continuous practice since 2008. Following an authentic, contemporary, Celtic practice brings us in touch with the natural spirit of this land, its trees, mountains, wildlife and seasons. We honor and respect contemporary life and the lives of the time periods before this.

—*Catherine*

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### **GREETINGS**

It's hot. Of course, the older I get, the hotter each summer gets. Or maybe each season just seems more extreme.

My yard has continued to grow apace. My neighbor offered to clear my yard for me – and got most of it done. I am grateful for her help. I doubt I could have gotten it done. I still need to pull out the chainsaw and take down the brush in the side yard. Fun, fun, fun.

Last week, we celebrated our country's Declaration of Independence. As it happens, I was reading a book with lesser known stories of that time. Not a terribly deep book. I do like finding new stories from our history.

Maybe that's part of getting older too.

—*Catherine*

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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

Hearthstone thanks one of our own board members, Morgan Eckstein for the June ritual. Combining bits from Ceremonial Magic and Wicca, as well as Fairy Lore, Morgan led us through the quarters, represented by their elemental creatures. We explored the East with the help of the sylphs, the South with the salamanders, the West with the undines, and the North with gnomes. We were each offered a Fairy Fortune, which there was some time to discuss. We appreciate Morgan taking on the majority of the chaos from invoking fairies this past month; the ritual was less frantic than the preparation, and we learned about what the Fey can do if they choose to.

Thank you, Morgan, for a magical ritual.

—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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## FAILING TO BE INSPIRATIONAL

As anyone who has watched the news lately, or has browsed the internet, can tell you, there has been a lot of violence and tragedy lately. It seems like not a day goes by without some storm destroying homes, or people running amok with guns, or someone suffering unbearable economic misfortune. And one is given a choice between sharing the misery or trying to remain positive. The correct answer I have been told is to remain positive.

Being part of the clergy, well sort of, and being an esoteric teacher, well sort of, I feel that not only do I have to remain positive, I have to say inspirational, enlightening, and quite possibly instructional things about the tragedies that are happening. It is my duty to point out how we can use tragic events to evolve the human species, and ourselves, into a better and gentler race. Or at least, this is what social programming tells me that I should be doing, given those pieces of paper that I keep buried deep in a drawer.

Honestly, I fail miserably when it comes to saying inspirational stuff. There is a part of me, the same part that understands those chaotic gods of evil that color most of the world's mythology, that screams "Poppycock!" and other less printable obscenities whenever I watch someone saying how tragedy makes us stronger, and how humanity will grow out of our barbarism and weakness, evolving into a more angelic species, fit to be the crown jewel of creation.

To say that I have a low opinion of human potential and an inherent distrust of the universe would be a slight understatement. I naturally assume that humans are generally selfish evil wild animals who have learned to use tools, and that the universe could end our species in a heartbeat if the dice fall wrong on any given day. Let's be honest; my world view is not the most pleasant one around; in fact, a serial ax murderer would probably have a more positive outlook than I do.

Still I try to keep in good spirits, seeing the humorous side of life. After all, just because the universe is a dangerous place, fraught with peril, and that one belongs to a species that make the need to populate the universe with demons rather redundant, there is no reason to walk around constantly depressed. I may be a cynic, but I am a happy cynic.

And while I may not have anything particularly positive or inspirational to say, I can keep my corner of the internet reasonably nice to wander into. For on those really depressing days, I can promise myself that I will share two cute cat memes for every bad piece of news that I share. Three or four cat memes to every piece of bad news if I find that even I cannot bear the darkness and gloominess of the news. After all, it is the least I can do to amuse myself. I may not be able to inspire others; but at least, I can amuse myself.

### **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](#); [Gleamings 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](#)

[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

August 6

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.

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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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### **2016 Open Full Moon Dates**

July 15

August 12

September 16

October 14

November 11