

THE OBDURATE EYE #5



May 2019

Masthead

Welcome to *The Obdurate Eye* #5 for May 2019, a personalzine distributed by Garth Spencer at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com. (I can also be reached at 4240 Perry Street, Vancouver, BC, CANADA V5N 3X5.) This zine is available for contributions in the form of articles, letters, illustrations, or other zines in trade.

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Big Thinks

I have got to stop over-elaborating my fanzine plans. Or avoiding some tasks by creating a lot of others. That is why this issue is nearly six months later than planned.

I have also got to stop trying to review fanzines; that interests neither you nor me. Maybe I can get around this, and still acknowledge fanzines received, by reviewing the *ideas* presented in them, and see if they add up to a collective whole? I'll try that next issue.

#

Does anyone here understand tattoos? (Jan. 29, Facebook)

#

Some time ago I set up a Facebook group which I titled Alien Abductees Anonymous, which I clearly described as a support group for *abducted aliens*. Naturally, a lot of people joined who remember abduction experiences. I haven't quibbled about it, there has to be a place for people who have such experiences, but their numbers raise a question - what induces people to have abduction experiences, and if that constitutes a public mental health issue, what can be done for them? On the other hand, if and when there is anything like solid evidence enough to convince skeptical sciences, or policemen, or judges that citizens are being interfered with, how do we put a halt to alien abuse? (Jan. 29, Facebook)

#

The Sasquatch Vote: Asset or Liability? (Jan. 26, Facebook)

#

... perceives the world as a threatening jungle and most human beings as dangerous and selfish; feels a rejected and isolated person, anxious and hostile; is generally pessimistic and unhappy; shows signs of tension and conflict, tends to turn inward; is troubled by guilt-feelings, has one or another disturbance of self-esteem; tends to be neurotic; and is generally selfish and egocentric (M. Lobdell, Jan. 25, Facebook)

My comment: "And then on other days, I write stand-up comedy jokes and post them on Facebook." (Jan. 26, Facebook)

#

I once came across SF/fantasy illustrations showing domesticated bears as guard beasts or beasts of burden – just a detail in landscapes that looked rather like post-Great-War eastern Europe, only with derelict giant robots generally looming over the horizon. Garth want!

#

Is whiskey made from pine tar, and what medical or household cleaning uses does it have? (Jan. 26, Facebook)

#

If the United States is about to go into receivership, should Canada offer interim administrative services while they reorganize? Do we even have enough trained manpower and goodwill? (Jan. 24, Facebook)

#

Is Elon Musk or Richard Branson or George Soros investing in the cleanup of the garbage patches in the Atlantic and Pacific? If not, why not? (Jan. 24, Facebook)

#

What are the reasons for armed resistance or revolution, versus the reasons for mockery, satire, irony, litotes, sarcasm and polite deprecation? (Jan. 24, Facebook)

#

Is the purpose of civilization to create a world that produces musical comedy? (Jan. 24, Facebook)

#

Is the function of religion simply to restore emotional well-being to stressed and not very insightful people? Especially when they can't do anything about the reasons they are stressed? Is the rival to religion, for the beliefs and devotion of people, *not* rationalism or materialism or "scientism" - but organized professional sports? (Jan. 24, Facebook)

#

Do governments compete for validity, in a market of ideas, or for market share, like TV shows? Are there Nielsen ratings for governments, or at least administrations? (Jan. 24, Facebook)

#

Is conversation the basis of stand-up comedy? Should we have a social expectation that everyone comes up with new and original material every year? What routines are you sick and tired of hearing/seeing? (Are there jokes and monologues I should abandon?) (Jan. 24, Facebook)

#

What obligations do we have to complete strangers? To neighbours? To co-workers? To friends? To family? It appears that these "common sense" things need to be written down and published somewhere, given the number of people who obviously don't know them. (Jan. 21, Facebook)

#

Sometimes people use “respect” to mean “treating someone like a person” and sometimes they use “respect” to mean “treating someone like an authority”

and sometimes people who are used to being treated like an authority say “if you won’t respect me I won’t respect you” and they mean “if you won’t treat me like an authority I won’t treat you like a person”

and they think they’re being fair but they aren’t, and it’s not okay.



do-as-youre-told

This is so well put I am stunned

My comment: “So that's what was wrong with my folks. And here I thought they were just being old, or British.” (Jan. 24, Facebook)



Canadian High-Latitudes Growth

(Michael McKenny, April 27, 2019)

The settlement of the moon, other celestial bodies and space habitats may be preceded by focused enhancement of some Terrestrial localities now thought inhospitable, including in the Canadian interior. A Canadian national viewpoint can embrace using higher technology to improve interior residents' living conditions. Climate change also prompts responses. Warming may increase more northerly farming, augmenting hydroponics, etc., facilitating Canadian expansion further from the border.

First come databases of settlements, wildlife distribution, soil quality, mineral resources, existing and potential mining sites, etc. Next are decisions on preparing for late 21st Century technology. Vested interests restraining Canada's growth prompt deliberation and action. Optimum would be transforming opponents into promoters of advances. Key is location and activation, as harmoniously as possible, of supporters of insightful interior growth.

Many such existing communities are First Nations, likely a significant factor in generations-long, systemic impediments to their adequate wellbeing. Future federal security suggests respecting, getting along with and appreciating First

Nations' growth. They themselves, perhaps drawing on innovative investors (including from space, film, tourism, academic, naturalist, etc. sectors) can direct their revitalization.

A comprehensive awareness of the locations and extent of interior territory owned, controlled and managed by corporations (including in mining and forestry) seems an essential aspect of beneficial expansion beyond the southern strip. A priority would appear to be first retaining and directing Canadian resources internally, as well as developing continuing (e.g. solar) energy sources, closely connected communications and effective transportation of people and goods. Ideally, each community itself would produce much, especially food, it requires, serving incidentally as models for space habitat communities.

Security suggests an array of air bases throughout the dominion. Relatively small drones will likely replace fighter pilots. Hovercraft balloons and advanced aerial/space vehicles may provide peaceful transportation.

Among obstructions to strengthening the Canadian interior is publicity and behaviour within a scarcity paradigm, accented by environmental concerns. Reasoned, dispassionate analysis outside the box can illuminate potential, notwithstanding reluctance by the currently advantaged and, perhaps, governments they support, to change.

Uplifting the physical and mental well being of those dwelling in remote communities and among the deprived in the southern strip may well be a result of focused interior growth. *The Ottawa Citizen* (April 20, 2019 p. D1) states eleven Canadians die daily from suicide. Rebooting attitudes of denigration to cutting edge participation in national and human growth may well significantly reduce that number, benefiting individuals and current and future generations: local, federal and global.

This very rough, barely specified outline awaits more fully detailed examination, data acquisition and innovative, collaborative action.



The End of Our Exploring

You may have noticed I tend to rerun art pieces I have formerly used, as if I forgot which pieces had previously appeared. My apologies. This only happened because I forgot which pieces had previously appeared.

I need to start indexing my fanzines. I don't look forward to it.

#

Somehow I was inspired once again to try to produce an up-to-date guide to fandom. Talk about reinventing the wheel.

Of course I find out that I am clueless about much of contemporary fandom. Specifically, I lack a *lot* of information about

Blogs/Vlogs

Comics

Costuming/Cosplay

Filksong and Filksinging

Gaming / Game Design

Fanhistory I can go on about at length, of course, but like APAs and fanzines, there's a rather large question as to how much I can go on before losing my audience. Who is my audience, anyway?

#

After decades of communication issues, I broke down and finally *asked* people about what is happening. For a while, the consensus seemed to be that I probably had auditory processing disorder.

What actually happens is that some people and utterances easily disorient me. I am confused by verbal generalities, by unclear transitions from one subject to another, or by apparent contradictions within a sentence. Perhaps more than is normal, I mean. I am still trying to identify a clinic that offers screening tests for autism-range disorders, just to find out the *cost*, much less to pin down what problem I am having.

Spending years and years to pin down a nagging problem is a familiar story to those of you who have spent years, or decades, struggling even to get a successful medical diagnosis.

If it *isn't* a disorder on my part, but a problem with other people's Palinesque speech, then what do I do? Normal people normally speak in generalities, use a different word in place of the one you mean, switch from subject to subject without clearly indicating transitions; and above all, overestimate how much a listener knows or understands about the subject at hand. This is understandable, but it tends to bugger up my work and relationships. Both of which tend to be temporary.

My ideas for coping run like this:

- If we used consistent terminology all the time, distinguishing different things by their proper names, that will be a REAL good idea.
- If you name specific things, and specific tasks to carry out on them, that will keep me oriented.
- When a job is somewhat involved, taking a number of steps and/or involving a number of objects, it is worth your time spend to describe it clearly in enough words.
- When someone give me oral instructions, and I repeat them back, that appears to be a good practice. It's even better if I can take written notes from oral instructions, in point-paragraph form. This is why I love 4" by 6" lined Post-Its.
- When someone *asks* first what I'm working on at the moment, that is a good opening.
- When someone gives me work to do while I am in the middle of something else, please indicate that I don't have to do it right away. After a certain time of day, I tend to feel bullied and put upon, you want me to do everything right now, everything interrupts everything else, and the most urgent things keep getting delayed ...
- When someone makes clear transitions from one subject to another, that is REALLY effective.
- Stating the specific approaching due times for urgent tasks will help a LOT.

Karl Johanson pointed out that these may be great ideas, but no one is going to follow them. Yeah, I *know*.

I could go on, but you can tell I have been doing office work a little too long.



Letters

Lyn McConchie farside1946@yahoo.com, January 1, 2019

re **Lloyd Penney's** comments. Balkanization of Fandom applied, I daresay, in the USA or other large countries. However here in NZ where the total fan-base was – and still pretty much is – around 300 in total, it's common to belong to a spread of interests. I'm busy writing nowadays and haven't so much time for fanac, but before I began writing so much, I belonged to 3 apas, Blake's 7, Star Trek, NASF (National Assoc. of [NZ] SF), and NASF's local branch, for which I edited the newsletter while also contributing to the National magazine. And that was common, as to a fair extent it still is here.

Meanwhile we still have a Natcon here every year and *run by fandom*. However, I'm not at all sure you were entirely wrong when you said, "The active participants of fandom today may be the last generation of such." I've noticed that quietly, unobtrusively, the numbers at Natcons are dropping. I think fandom here may outlast me, but I also think that there could be a fandom resurgence thereafter, it may be in a different form, it may be with varied agendas, but so long as there are genre writers, I think we'll have some sort of fandom.

And from my own musings – New Year came and went. I picked 20 kg of raspberries, got twice the book royalties I was expecting and spent the extra on

new books. Thunder came in with what had to be the dumbest baby rabbit in feline captivity (To get to him, it had to have climbed through the trellis into Thunder's cat park – and waiting paws.) He offered it to me – Happy New year – I accepted, took it out to the paddock from where I thought it had come and released it. I was right, mum came running. VERY Happy New year.

In a few weeks I start the first of three books – all genre – planned for 2019. I'll do more Holmes in 2020, however my subconscious came to the party yesterday and presented me with a time travel plot. Maybe if I do only 2 Holmes next year... however as this one would be a one-off, unconnected to anything else I've done or will do, I hope to squeeze it in somewhere. But I must go and feed the livestock, look forward to OE 5.

YESTERDAY A COP STOPPED ME FOR SPEEDING... ONLY GAVE ME A VERBAL WARNING. A CLERK AT THE COUNTY COMPLEX WALKED ME TO THE PROPER OFFICE IN ANOTHER BUILDING. HAD A FRIENDLY, CHEERFUL WAITRESS AT LUNCH. A SALES ASSOCIATE AT STAPLES WAS VERY HELPFUL AND PATIENT.



I HATE HAVING MY FAITH IN HUMANITY RESTORED.

(originally intended as a loc on Obdurate Eye #2, lost until recently)

Taral Wayne, 4 Oct 2018

The one thing that I find most striking about life is that you are only just becoming competent at it, just about when you are ready to retire. This cannot be a coincidence.

Lloyd's comments on the local fandom tend to reflect my own ... but I have to concede that my point of view is that of someone who belongs a rapidly vanishing era, and that my views are probably not a reflection of the fandom of much younger fans. We see a fandom whose institutions are dysfunctional or irrelevant. The fans we knew are retiring in more ways than one. We have medical problems that restrict our travel, or limitations on our budgets that keep us close to home. We seem to dawdle more often over a beer or plate of fries than fill our days with vibrant activity. We see nameless crowds of 20 or 25-year-olds whose entire existence seems summed up by things whose importance is lost on us. A new phone? Meh. Another video game release? Meh. A band that hasn't performed for at least 20 years? Are there newer ones, then – I hadn't heard. When did covering your face with tattoos and metal studs become anything but a painful source of possible infections? Why do people young people seem to be afraid of being alone with their thoughts, and have to

be in constant contact by e-mail or cell phone every two minutes, 18 hours a day?

But that is *their* world, and ours is the one that is a hollow echo of what used to be.

Speaking for myself, I have been growing comfortable with that. I've shot my wad and all I've got for my pains is all I'm ever going to get. So I can relax. I can forget my expectations, and no longer strive to leave my mark. I could have been a contender, but the match was fixed for a different outcome. In the end, we take neither glory nor defeats with us.

So I try to keep myself as busy, and squeeze as much satisfaction as I can from what remains.

As for the fandom that I used to enjoy, there isn't much left. There are a handful of fanzines that I continue to enjoy, but the majority I see on eFanzines don't seem to offer much. Book reviews? Are you joking? I haven't read any new science fiction for ages. I have no idea what's current or who the hot new writers are. My interest is limited to re-reading an old favourite now and then. My current reading is mainly historical, science, or political.

I have no interest in the 147 awards that seem to have sprung up from nowhere. All the news seems to be about convention politics, book launches, tours, movies, comics, toys and personalities that I have nothing to do with. How *can* I take an interest when it all soars by quicker than I can take notice? And certainly none of it takes notice of me.

So even I see that there is a strong circular current in my arguments. They go around and around, but go nowhere. Which is why it is better not to make arguments anymore. I make better use of my time in watching movies that may not win anyone's approval or writing things that I cannot sell, but better than worrying about CUFF or the Auroras. They'll do fine without me, and I'll probably do fine without them too.

*(“We shall not acknowledge that old stars fade or alien planets rise,
That the sere bush buds or the desert blooms or the ancient wellhead dries,
Or any new compass wherewith new men adventure ‘neat new skies”*

Rudyard Kipling, “The Old Men”)



Michaelann Dahlman <michaelanndahlman@gmail.com>, **January 15, 2019**

I finally got around to reading this & I must say it's quite wonderful. I am curious about *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Life Skills for Dummies (1st ed.)* I would be curious & interested to read this, if you still have it. I think I would have some useful & constructive ideas for a sequel or 2nd edition.

((I am working on it.))

Lloyd Penney, penneys@bell.net, **January 24, 2019**

Dear Garth:

Thanks so much for *The Obdurate Eye* #4, and I am certain there's lots to say within. Good to see Teddy Harvia on the cover again.

It is possible that you don't get the spirit of statutory holidays because we've gone through them so many times, we are obligated to spend money we often don't have, and we do things we're tired of doing. We are already planning something completely different for next Christmas, and other so-called holidays can take a flying leap. We will celebrate the way we want, or not at all, if we so wish.

((There are things that touch me emotionally, and things that don't. I once had an experience I can't explain, looking on a wilderness landscape ... feeling a presence, utterly unconscious of, and indifferent to humanity. I once became distraught, viewing a massive quilt composed of family farewells to victims of AIDS, apparently because one of the quilt pieces was written in a foreign language but I could work it out ... apparently my emotional defenses mainly work in English.))

I am sure your conspiracy theory is fine, especially when it is concerning those Great Belgians. How many Great Belgians do you know, and have you ever been to Great Belgium?

((There's a "Great" Belgium??))

((I think the only time I've been in Europe was a trip arranged by my school in the mid-70s to see Moscow and Leningrad. If Russia is considered part of Europe. Opinions differ.))

We always work on our priorities, especially when we are in our 60s, of which I am almost there. Life gets in the way, as well as sudden changes in health and money. Don't be afraid of the future, but you must prepare to change, and possibly change drastically.

My letter... "Fandom Classic" is where I like to be, but I have made some inquiries into some more modern fandoms, especially Dr. Who, gaming and some cartoon programmes. Now, I might be a little old (and broke) to take on some of these new fandoms, but I do see the exuberance that many of us might have had in a long-ago era. We are enjoying a relatively new network of steampunk events in Ontario, and we may be travelling as far east as Ottawa, and as far west as Amherstburg, which is south of Windsor. We may be tired, and some of our interests may be fading, but I do have the knowledge that Fandom As A Whole is still pretty vital, for it attacks new people as newer interests become apparent, and that fandom may come from anywhere in the world, if it isn't worldwide.

Martin Hunger is in Toronto right now, and Christina Carr is back in Vancouver. At some point, they will both be here again, as soon as Martin can find some decent employment and living facilities. I can tell him that neither is likely. We are trying to find some more affordable accommodations, and we all know what my working situation is.

((Tell me about it; on January 31, 2019, a new apartment building in Vancouver advertised \$1,600+/month suites as "affordable". Of course the Georgia Straight pointed out that many Vancouverites can't even get paid \$1,600 a month. Subsequent Facebook comments pointed out that rents are at least a quarter to a third higher than a reasonable average for this area of Vancouver. And so on, and so forth.))

((I guess every city sooner or later reaches a climax state, where available accommodations are overpriced for available salaries.))

I have indeed worked on issues 2 and 3 of the new *Amazing Stories*, and I have volunteered my services to Ira yet again for issue 4.

I wish the Fanac Awards had continued, but I am pleased with my showing of three wins for Best Letters. I will take what egoboo I can get these days, as it looks like my days with the Auroras are at an end.

The only addition I can make to your list of apas is APAPlexy in Ottawa. It is still going after all these years, and may be one of the last bits of fanac left in the capital. I can't remember who the OE or CM is.

((Have you noticed how rarely people actually tell me who and where the OE is, what the copy count is, what minac and maxac is, what the postal dues if any amount to, etc., etc.??))

Just made the page!, so off it goes, and off I go, too. Lots to do tonight. Thanks for this, and see you with the next one.

We Also Heard From

Paula Johanson, Eileen Kernaghan, Steve Green (“Did I mention my colleague Chrissie and I have a YouTube channel? Please subscribe!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIHOB7QVqNIOi53KH1gnqA>”)



The Last Ride

By Denny E. Marshall

Let us ride the universe forever
Long before arriving at heavens gate
Let the lords of good and evil play with fate
While the grand gatekeeper holds the lever

Worldly ties will completely sever
With keys of time, no voids to hesitate
Journey across space a believer
Long before arriving at heavens gate

When the final day comes to deliver
Pointed upon the calendars last date
Let the mighty lords know we will be late
The last breath a message to receiver
Let us ride the universe forever



The Stone Pillow

After Trump was elected president of the United States, some people had fits of paranoia. Some people recalled dystopian fictions such as *1984* and *Brave New World*, of course. As I write this, PBS is broadcasting a series on dictators who effectively wrote the book on dictatorship, starting with Mussolini and including figures such as Noriega.

Me, I recalled Heinlein's novel about a revolution against a future American theocracy. Not everyone knows this, but there was a story he couldn't make himself write. He even had a title picked out, *The Stone Pillow*, meaning that those who resisted the slide into American theocratic dictatorship had only stones for their pillows.

Heinlein described how he thought this situation might come about in the United States, starting with a devout but not very bright multimillionaire widow bestowing her fortune on an evangelist, who goes on to build a media empire that eventually sells most American citizens on a new gospel, including much of southern fundamentalism plus a resurgence of national isolationism. (Just as if the United States was ever truly isolated, or self-reliant on its own resources. Sometimes I wonder how far Heinlein's education actually went, although it did go very far.)

People who actually pay critical attention to things like TV evangelism may give surprising observations about how much impact it actually has; I have heard

opinions that the day of immense megachurches, revivals, and evangelist media stars seems to have waned. I invite comment.

People who pay critical attention to the Trump administration, or to Fox News, or to the people and groups who give them political and financial support, can tell us how seriously to take these agents, as a threat to us all. I can't tell if the Trump administration is sort of the last hurrah for numbnut conservatism in the U.S. Since I am a Canadian who lived under the Harper administration here, I am painfully aware that the fashion for ignorant, self-serving conservatism is international.

What is your take on this mess? What probably comes after Trump? Do you have facts and reasoned analysis leading to an inevitable conclusion, or can we only guess the odds of a hopeful future, versus a disastrous future?

Maybe we should worry instead about epidemic virulent plagues spread swiftly by modern airlines.

Fannish News

APAs:

AAPA, Cuneiform, NAPA – “I read in the NAPA newsletter that you might be updating a listing of existing APAs. I initiated a paper only APA in 2011 called Cuneiform which is still going strong. I am also the immediate past president of the AAPA and a member of NAPA. If you could share your research with me I would like to share it with folks in Cuneiform. Thank you.”

(Frederick Moe singinggrove@mcttelecom.com, March 24, 2019)

eAPA, the Amateur Publication Association I edit, has its next submission deadline scheduled for May 1, 2019, midnight Pacific Zone time. Subject matter is COMPLETELY OPEN. Contact me for eAPA guidelines at garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.

Fan Funds:

“The complete TAFF free ebooks library in all available formats [includes] 34 titles now at <<https://taff.org.uk/ebooks.php?all>>.”

(Dave Langford, FanFundAdmin@groups.io, April 17, 2019)

(A poem:)

TAFF is so handsome, so smart, so amusing.

Everyone wants to be around TAFF.

What is wrong with me? DUFF wonders.

I too am a trans-oceanic fan fund.

Why don't Americans like me?

Australians have accents too. And kangaroos. And oceans in which you can

swim without suffering hypothermia.

Why do multiple fans compete to cross the Atlantic but not the Pacific?
Now a fan with fanzines to sell to give to "fan charities" is going to give money to richer by the year TAFF. The same fan who twice ran for DUFF.

I apologize for this but my therapist encourages me to share my feelings. I
am handsome and smart and amusing!

(Murray Moore, who also twice stood for DUFF,
FanFundAdmin@groups.io, April 9, 2019)

Ghuism: Remember fannish ghods and mock religions? Remember Ghuism?
Wolf von Witting is now pope of Ghuism, or whatever he wants to call his
position. He wrote on Facebook:

Let it be known to all Fankind that on this day by divine decree on
"Mons, Libro a Facies" the big Ghob has been anointed Albalupus I. It
will follow a selection of nine Ghuardinals. I would like to bestow on
them each a purple scarab-fitted ring of power as a symbol of their office,
but we're unfortunately all out of wampum (if appointed, say you mislaid
it, until we can afford such trinkets). ... Expect "the Gholy Ghible II - the
Sequel" to be published soon.

(Wolf von Witting, Facebook, April 14, s2019)

In other news, von Witting has invited Garth Spencer to submit his candidacy
as Ghuardinal of Ghuism for Canada. "If appointed you'd be expected to do
some Ghuardening (plant a tree - watch it grow)", von Witting writes.

FRED Arbitrarily Renamed BARNEY Shock Horror: Recently Garth Spencer
rediscovered that he is an administrator of the old Facebook page for FRED.
Because he is feeling rather odd he renamed the page BARNEY. You are free to
invent whatever string of words that BARNEY (or BARNY) stands for. Meeting
times, places, and venues are negotiable. (also submitted to *BCSFazine*)

Insidious Conspiracy Against All Fandom Revealed: Garth is Official Editor
of eAPA, an electronic APA he inherited from Chuck Connor in the U.K., and he
is soliciting members. Ahrvid Engholm of Sweden cooked up a membership
application form (attached). (also submitted to *BCSFazine*)

Pride Goeth Before a Fall: Garth has Vast Ambitions for renovating his
website (well, cobwebsite) at the Vancouver CommunityNet. New and better-
formatted articles, a new FANDOM GUIDE section (made with real Fandom
Guides!), and sample fanthologies and stories ... (also submitted to *BCSFazine*)

Forthcoming Events

May 2019

May 1: May Day, sacred to Freyja & Freyr: about Sex, love, and fertility. Enjoy the flowers of spring

May 3-5 2019 Crypticon Seattle - Seattle, WA (from Northwest Convention League list)

May 3-5 2019 WagonCon - The Dalles, OR (from Northwest Convention League list)

May 4-5 2019 BrickCan - Richmond BC (from Northwest Convention League list)

May 9 - Remembrance for Gudrod of Gudbrandsdal

May 17-19 2019 Everfree Northwest - Seattle, WA (from Northwest Convention League list)

May 24-26 2019 Furlandia - Portland, OR (from Northwest Convention League list)

May 31-Jun 2 2019 NW Pinball and Arcade Show - Tacoma, WA (from Northwest Convention League list)

May (into June) – Liða-manuð (Liða Month). Scholars believe “Liða” means “calm.” Sea travel was done during the two or three Liða months in Heathen times. (Saxon calendar)

June 2019

June 1-2 2019 Lilac City Comicon - Spokane, WA (from Northwest Convention League list)

June 9 - Remembrance for Sigurd the Dragonslayer

June 14-16, 2019: ConComCon 26 in Portland, OR. See <https://concomcon.com>

June 15-16 2019 Seattle Retro Gaming - Seattle, WA (from Northwest Convention League list)

June 21: summer solstice; Midsumarblot, sacred to Sunna & all the gods. The Highest point of the sun. Vital forces at peak. Major festival. An all gods blót.

June (into July) – Liða-manuð (Liða Month). Liða is the opposite of Mothers' Night and is celebrated on the Summer Solstice. (Saxon calendar)

July 2019

July 4-7, 2019: Westercon 72 in Layton, UT. See www.westercon.org

Jul 27-28 2019 Radiant Northwest, Bellevue, WA (from Northwest Convention League list)

July 31: Freysblot

August 2019

August 1 (?): Freysfest

August 9 - Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia

August 9-11, 2019: When Words Collide in Calgary, AB. See www.whenwordscollide.org

August 15-19, 2019: Worldcon in Dublin, Ireland. See <https://dublin2019.com>

Aug 30 - Sep 2 2019 PAX West - Seattle, WA (from Northwest Convention League list)

September 2019

September (early): [FALLFEAST \(Haustblot\)](#) or **Harvest-Home** Sacred to Freyr. The second harvest. Offer golden apples, other fruits & hazelnuts. Recommended lore: [Ynglinga saga](#), On the death of Freyr

September 6-8, 2019: Rustycon in SeaTac, WA. See www.rustycon.org/2019/

Sept. 21: autumn equinox (Lughnasad?)

September (into October) – Uuintar-manuð (Winter Month). The great sacrificial feast was at full moon and lasted three days. It is traced to a victory over the Thuringians in 531. This celebrates an Irminsul set up by the Saxons on the Unstrut River in 531 per Widukind of Corvey's 10th century work, 'Deeds of the Saxons' book 1. There was also a celebration on the full moon of Uuintar-manuð, seen as the beginning of winter, one of the two Heathen seasons of the year. (Saxon calendar)

October 2019

October 9 - Leif Eriksson Day; Lisette Bolduc's birthday

October 11-13, 2019: VCON 43 in Richmond, BC. See www.vcon.ca

October 15: Winter's Night, sacred to Disir, Ancestors, and Alfar. Honor the dead, ancestors, and elves. Toast with milk. Offer honey & cookies (grains). The beginning of the thinning of the veil between the living and dead which reaches its peak at Twelfth Night of Yule.

October 28 - Remembrance for Erik the Red.

October (into November) – Blod-manuð (Blood Month). The slaughtering of the animals for winter meat and skins for clothing, celebrated at full moon. (Saxon calendar)

October 31: Hallowe'en / All Hallow's Eve / Winter Nights / **Feast of the Runes**. Sacred to Odin, and Loki as Odin's blood brother. A blót to honor Odin's ordeal on the world tree, Yggdrasil, to discover the runes. Recommended lore: Poetic Edda, [Hávamál](#) (Sayings of the High One). Summer's End!

November 2019

November 1: All Soul's Day

November 9 - Remembrance for Queen Sigrid of Sweden

(ca 11th) Orycon

November 11: Remembrance Day, or Feast of the Einherjar: Celebrate the fallen warriors in Asgard. Recommended lore: Poetic Edda, Grimnismál (Lay of Grimnir)

November 27 - Feast of Ullr and Skadi, Weyland Smith's Day

Last Thursday – Feast of Ullr - Recommended lore: Poetic Edda, [Atlakviða](#)

November (into December) – Iul-manuð (Yule month).(Saxon calendar)

December 2019

[Central City Comic Con: The Bizarre Bazaar](#) in **Selah, WA**

[Victoria Comic Book Expo](#) in **Victoria, BC Canada**

[Weekend of Wizardry](#) in Tacoma, WA

December 9 - Remembrance for Egill Skallagrimsson

[YULE \(JOL\) 20th December - January 1st](#): December (into January) – Iul-manuð (Yule Month). Modarnaht (Mothers' Night), the longest night of the year, the Winter Solstice. Mothers' Night is the first day of Iul. There are 3 Days of Iul. The year begins with Mothers' Night, which is the Saxon New Year on which ceremonies are performed through the night. The word "Iul" means "wheel" (Wheel of the Year). (Saxon calendar)

Dec 20-31 Yule Tide Sacred to Odin, Vili, & Ve. Each night do short divination ritual for each month of the year and write down for yourself.

December 21: Major festival. Winter Solstice – sacred to Odin, Thor, Freyr & all the gods. Trim the tree before blót. Ask for protection from the wild hunt during it's 12 nights. Exchange gifts after blót.

December 31: New Year's Eve/Twelfth Night of Yule, Sacred to Odin, Thor, Freyr & all the gods. Make vows on your troth ring, hammer, or Freyr's boar, for the coming year. Celebrate the new year!

January 2020

[Unity Days](#) in Vancouver, BC Canada

Walker Stalker/Heroes and Villains/FanFest - Portland, OR (from Northwest Convention League list)

Fandom PDX - Portland, OR (from Northwest Convention League list)

Vanhooover Pony Expo (a My Little Pony convention) – Vancouver, BC (from a handbill at VCON) – see Vanhooover.ca

OrcaCon - Bellevue, WA (from Northwest Convention League list)

Conflikt - Seattle, WA (from Northwest Convention League list)

January 1: New Year's Day/end of Yule

January 9 - Remembrance for Raud the Strong

Full Moon/ Thorrablót, sacred to Thor and Frost Giants.

January (into February) – Sol-manuð (Cake Month). Cakes were baked for the Gods at the full moon of Sol-manuð. (Saxon calendar)

Jan. 31 (Feb 2? First full moon?): [DISTING \(Disablot\) 31st January /](#) (Charming of the Plow) / Thorrablot

February 2020

[Foolscap](#) in Hilton Seattle Airport, Seattle WA. GoH: Nancy Kress.

Radcon in Pasco, WA: see www.radcon.org

Wizard World - Portland, OR (from Northwest Convention League list)

Bricks Cascade/AFOL - Portland, OR (from Northwest Convention League list)

Feb 2: Disthing / Feast of the Mother, sacred to Disir, Frigg & Nerthus. Honor motherly energies. Honor the Asynjur (female Aesir) as providers and protectors. Time to count your wealth and make plans for the next financial cycle. Charming of the plow (blessing of your work tools). Toast with milk. Offer honey and biscuits (grains).

February (into March) – Hred-manuð (Hreða's Month). Hreða is a Goddess and her name means "Glory." Sacrifices are performed to Hreða during this month. (Saxon calendar)

February 9 - Remembrance for Eyvind kinnrifi

February 14 – Valentine's Day. Folk etymology has led to this day being called 'Feast of Vali' in modern Asatru, or **Feast of Love a** Blót to Freyja as goddess of love and sexual desire. Exchange cards (or stones) inscribed with runes to loved ones. Time to renew vows, and a good time for marriages/handfastings. Recommended lore: Poetic Edda, [Svipdagsmál](#) (lay of Svipdag)

eAPA Membership Application Form

(by Ahrvid Engholm, March 2019)

Instructions:

- a) Before you begin read through everything.
- b) Follow the instructions and fill in your answers truthfully, so help you Roscoe!
- c) And cross your fingers that you'll be accepted into this exclusive group of elite BNFs!
 1. What's your name?
 2. Come on! Your REAL name!
 4. Zip code:
 5. Zap code:
 6. Your E-mail address:
 7. Your preferred age:

8. Your age when you have flown to Alpha Centauri at 0.99c?
9. Do you have a Facebook account?
10. Why, for heaven's sake!
11. Titles of some fanzines you have read?
12. Did you understand anything in them?
13. Are you or have you been a member of a columnist organization?
14. Do you know the way to San Jose?
15. But if you don't like crotted greeps, what did you order them for?
16. Are you still there?
17. Hello?
18. Fine! Let's finish this!
19. Considering that we are all made of tiny atoms, which combine into molecular structures, which in even more complex combinations make up our fragile bodies, that give us only a fraction of time on this Earth, which swirls around the Sun, in its turn making an orbit around the Galactic Centre every 230 million years, everything under the contradictory natural laws which we may never fully grasp, all of it seemingly gobsmackingly incomprehensible, what is the meaning of life?
20. *Ignore all points 1 to 19!* You were told to read everything first, right! Just write something interesting, click on "Save as PDF" in your word processor and E-mail it to EAPA OE garth.van.spencer@gmail.com and you're in.

-Ahrvid Engholm



Why You Got This

- You have stuff printed in here
- We trade zines
- You contributed stuff I still haven't fanpublished, now where was it ...
- I still believe
- We'll meet again
- The truth is out there
- There are strange things done in the midnight sun
- Remind me did I promise you something I haven't delivered yet? I have this nagging feeling ...
- I am still searching for the parts of civilization that the Ancient Masters forgot to mention