

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING ASATRU



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What is Asatru?

Asatru is the modern rebirth of the pre-Christian indigenous faith of the Norse peoples -- the ancestors of the Norwegians, Danes, Swedes, and Icelanders. This faith honored many Gods and Goddesses, some of whose names are still familiar to us today, such as Thor, Odin and Freyja. The indigenous faith of Scandinavia, upon which Asatru is based, fell into shadow after the year 1100, with the advent of Christianity in Northern Europe. The modern Asatru faith practiced by Gladsheim is part of a revival which began in 1973, when the Asatru Free Assembly was founded in the United States. The same year, Asatru was granted official recognition in Iceland, becoming the second recognized faith in that country, along side the Lutheran Church.

Asatru is one branch of the Teutonic family of beliefs, which includes the pre-Christian faiths not only of the Scandinavian peoples, but also the Anglo-Saxons who founded England, and the ancient German tribes such as the Goths, Franks, and Alemanni. Before they were converted to the Roman Church between the years 450 and 1100, all of these nations worshipped the same two families of Gods and Goddesses, known to the Norse as the Æsir and Vanir.

Asatru is an independent faith. Its tenets are belief in the Æsir and Vanir; the exchange of gifts with the Gods and one's kinfolk, and living one's life in accordance with Nine Virtues of Asatru. The Havamal, also referred to as "The Words of Odin", has several translations, and are words of wisdom, to help guide one in their daily life. Asatru has no ties to any Judeo-Christian religion, nor is it a part of any New Age or "neo-Pagan" belief system, including Wicca.

Though Asatruar welcome those who wish to enter the Asatru community, Asatru makes no claim to be a universal religion for mankind. Asatru's adherents, however, are found in all parts of the United States and all walks of life. In many cases, a strong interest in the customs and culture of their ancestors led them to Asatru. The American Asatru community is small but steadily growing, as

men and women, inspired by the Æsir and Vanir, take up the old ways once again in the world of the 21st century.

We believe that in the beginning, the world was a bipolar one, with ice in the North and fire in the South separated by a deep chasm. At the beginning of that which can be known, fire and ice came crashing together in a primal collision of indescribable violence; this cataclysm, however, produced at its heart a warm, mild region, touched with moisture and sweet air and fit for life to emerge. The Æsir and Vanir themselves arose within this primal womb. The race of Men was created by the God Odin and his brothers, who breathed life into dead wood and made the first man and woman. The world of Men, Midgard, and the world of the Gods, Asgard, are two of nine Worlds created by Odin and his brothers. All these lie within the sheltering branches of Yggdrasil, the World Tree, uncreated and eternal, the pillar and axis of all that is.

We believe that the Æsir and Vanir are living, independent entities. They are our eldest kin-folk, and that we are descended from them. In order to be worthy of these Ancestors, we strive in our deeds and lives to follow Virtues that are the basis for a strong and decent community. There are Nine Virtues: Honor, Truth, Courage, Fidelity, Self-discipline, Hospitality, Independence, Industry, and Perseverance. We worship the Æsir and Vanir not in submission, but standing upright; we give gifts to the Gods and Goddesses, in return for the gifts that they give to us. We honor the spirits of our departed ancestors, who watch over us and, we believe, are sometimes reborn among us.

Asatru is practiced first and foremost by living one's life in accordance with the Nine Virtues. We also hold rituals and ceremonies in which Asatru folk interact with the Gods and Goddesses. The foremost spiritual practice is the exchange of gifts between Gods and men. In ancient Teutonic societies, peace and trust were secured between individuals and tribes through the exchange of things of value. This was reflected in religious practice; therefore, the main rite of modern Asatru is the blot (pronounced bloat), or offering. In Gladsheim, when we gather for a blot, we use a drinking-horn filled with mead, beer or wine, and, raising it,

address one or more of the Gods. We may speak a toast to Them, or to a personal hero or ancestor; or make a vow, or report the fulfillment of a vow. Words thus spoken are made holy by the presence of the God or Goddess, to whom the drink is offered. When the offerer has spoken, he also drinks from the horn before passing it on; usually a blot consists of an opening invocation followed by three rounds of toasts. At the end, that part of the drink that is not consumed is poured out upon the Earth.

There are other rites -- most important among them Profession, where a man or woman wishing to embrace Asatru makes a vow of faith to the Æsir and Vanir and puts aside all other Gods. Asatru Kindreds also conduct birth-rites, funerals, naming of children, coming-of-age rites for youngsters, and weddings. Offerings to the Gods, however, whether of drink, food or material things, are a part of almost all of these.

The primary group of believers in Asatru is the Kindred. A Kindred is a group of folk who profess belief in the Æsir and Vanir and who gather regularly to worship Them. Kindreds can range in size from three to twenty members, who normally live in the same area and are able to gather without long-distance travel. The Kindred conducts the most important Asatru rituals and honors the Holy Days of the year. Many Kindreds, including Gladsheim, welcome newcomers with a sincere and positive interest in Asatru to take part in their blots.

Joining a Kindred is the usual way one enters the Asatru faith. Kindreds vary widely in their admission practices. Some (including Gladsheim) require that prospective members make a formal pledge of faith in the Æsir and Vanir, and the putting aside of all other faiths. Others (not including Gladsheim) do this, but also go one step further, requiring an additional oath of loyalty to the Kindred itself. Others, more loosely organized, do not require formal oaths. Local Kindreds, holding blots, sumbels and study groups and extending hospitality to other Asatruar, are the basis of the faith.

NINE NOBLE VIRTUES of ASATRU

- 1) Courage
- 2) Truth
- 3) Honour
- 4) Loyalty
- 5) Discipline
- 6) Hospitality
- 7) Industriousness
- 8) Self Reliance
- 9) Perseverance

COURAGE

Courage is the bravery to do what is right at all times. This can be likened to being brave enough to live by the Nine Noble Virtues. But as always, what one person believes is right, may not be what another sees as right. Courage is more than just martial courage, especially in our modern times. True courage can mean the willingness to be a whistle-blower when your company violates the law, or even just the courage to stand up and be counted among the true folk in what is sometimes a hostile world. We, as true folk must be courageous in our endeavors. We must have the inner strength and conviction that allows us to face the enormity of the task at hand - we must have the courage to stand by our kin and to keep to our principles. These are the foundations for the furtherance of our Faith and Folk, and we must be unflinching in our courage and unfailing in furtherance and our evolution: the very sustenance of our Being. Boldness is the native English word for bravery or courage. Our ancestors went to battle, even death, without fear. And Tacitus noted that Germans who abandoned their shields were thought to have committed the basest of crimes. Our ancestors did not hide their heads in the sand at the first sign of danger, nor did they accuse others of doing so unless the accusation was well founded. At the same time, they did not criticize those braver than they, nor did they throw themselves

foolishly into the thick of the fray for no reason. Perhaps modern day Heathen should learn to do the same concerning boldness. Steadfastness- Endurance and tenacity, the enduring of one's wyrd, was highly valued by the elder Heathens. They endured whatever Wyrd gave them, no matter how hard it was. Steadfastness is closely tied to courage, but it was also a part of everyday life. Whether on the field of battle, or in a field of grain, the elders did not give up, but eagerly worked their wyrd. For us, this means not giving up the fight to make Heathenry an accepted religion, nor giving in to those who demand that we cease to exist.

TRUTH

Truth is the willingness to be honest and to say what one knows to be true and right. It is often better to not say anything at all if one cannot be honest. But likewise, when one does say something, it is best to be truthful and speak what one sees, not what others would like to hear. But we also have a warning on the concept of Truth, and that is that whilst we should endeavor to speak the truth at all times, do not be fooled into speaking the truth when others lie to you. The Havamal councils us to respond to lies with lies. Tell the truth, even when there could be painful consequences. The consequences for lying are often more harmful than the quick pain of telling the truth and getting the situation over with. Courage fosters truth, and truth furthers courage- we must be incessant in striving for that which is right, what we know to be right, and what we know to be true. Truth is the underlying principle of holy realization, and ultimately that which steels us in our courage! Without truth, we have no fundamental realization on any significant level, nor the courage or will to achieve and evolve, relegating our very Being to nothing more than a farcical play. Our ancient ancestors valued truthful speech and honest deeds. This was shown by their strong avoidance of lies (unless lied to) and of oath breaking. In a society where a man's word was better than a contract, honesty was a necessity. Directly tied to truth is modesty, or rather a

tendency not to exaggerate one's own feats. This may seem in opposition to the Elder Heathens' heroic boasting, but one must understand that the boasting such as in Beowulf was more a proclamation of feats done by one's self and one's forbears, and not the idle bragging of unaccomplished men. As "It isn't bragging if you can do it." Ritual boasting followed a set pattern of naming the feats of one's gods, one's forbears, and one's self before making an oath to do a great deed. This was done at the ritual sumbel and before combat. In a society where one might have to prove one's word by risking his life, there was no room for the idle boasts.

HONOUR

Honour is the feeling of inner value and worth from which one knows that one is noble of being, and the desire to show respect for this quality when it is found in the world. Of all the Virtues, this one is often the hardest to define, as each person's interpretation of this is different. It could translate as "self-image", or "self-esteem", and is important to recognize that this will be different from person to person. honour: The Eddic poem "Sayings of the High One" contains the stanza: "Cattle die, kinsmen die, one day you yourself shall die, but the reputation of the dead never dies." Think of your honour as your worth in the community. Are you known as a fine, upstanding member of the folk? Do people come to you for advice, and trust your word when it is given? Or do they avoid you, and always look for confirmation of something you tell them? The answer may be a good indication of how your honour is viewed by others. honour: Our honour is our worth, without worth, we are nothing. Without honour, we are doomed to the darkest expanses of Hellheim; without worth, we do not further our folk, kin, or ourselves, but instead hold back that evolution for which we strive. Our deeds attest to our honour, and our works prove our worth- we must strive to maintain and further our honour and worth as individuals and as a folk overall. We must strive to be, and ultimately prove to be worthy of our place beside the Irminsul! Our deeds, both

foul and fair outlive us, and carry the burden or glory of our Beings- we cannot allow ourselves to accrue the baggage of shame or disgrace that our children and their children would subsequently bear!

LOYALTY

The will to be loyal to one's Gods and Goddesses, to one's Folk, to one's self, and loyalty to one's friends was as valued as highly as loyalty to one's family. How one interprets the concept of loyalty is largely up to the individual as there are many different levels of loyalty, and hence Fidelity. Each person knows within themselves just what this means to them, and it is important that others understand this, to be able to form the bonds of loyalty that exist on all levels. Fidelity includes your commitment to Asatru, your commitment to your Kindred, your commitment to your Family responsibilities, and your commitment to making the world a better place. In this 'modern era' courage is the first to falter- courage is what holds our loyalties to us, what holds them true and keeps those bonds strong. Our bonds serve as the conduit upon which the might of our collective folk-essence travels, the very web that weaves together the tapestry of our Folk. We must be unfailing in our loyalties- to our Gods, Ancestors, tribe, faith and folk. Any breach of loyalty is a tear upon the fabric of the weave, and so threatens the destruction of all we have worked to achieve. We as a folk cannot suffer to permit a faltering of fidelity on any level.

Troth is the native Germanic word for faith, fealty, or loyalty to one's family, friends, kindred, lord, or Gods is considered amongst the highest of virtues. A warrior that survived his lord in battle, or failed to lay down his life defending kinfolk was shunned in society.

Troth was what ensured that "hold oaths" (oaths of fealty) and wedding vows were kept. Oaths were seen as sacred contracts, and oath breakers seen as the worst of offenders. Unlike the other virtues, to be lacking in this one would have meant death in the Elder Period.

Generosity, was seen as perhaps the highest of virtues and is intimately related to Loyalty on several levels. Many passages in the *Hávamál* deal with giving and its importance, and if one looks closely at those passages, one sees that giving was not seen as a one-sided affair, but as an equal exchange. The Ancient Heathens saw giving as not only the exchange of physical gifts, but also as an exchange of mystical power as well. Every gift given called for a gift in return. Should one fail to give the original giver a gift, he would lose main equal to the main contained in the gift to the giver. Mægen exchanged through gifts over a long period of time between two or more people created a bond similar to kinship, due to personal main's intimate link to one's soul. Thus kings gave gifts to their thanes, friends exchanged gifts at Yule, gifts were exchanged between bride and groom, and sacrifices were seen as gifts to the gods (obligating the gods to give something in return). However, one could give too much or too often and thereby negate any obligation of a gift in return; nor were gifts amongst kinsmen common, for they shared the same main on a certain level anyway (through the *kinfylgja*). In this way, the pre-conversion Germans saw giving not only as a physical act, but as a metaphysical one as well.

Vengeance for the murder or harming of one's kinsmen was not just a virtue, but an obligation. Amongst our ancient ancestors, when a kinsmen was murdered, it was the duty of the kindred to take revenge or demand wergild, which was a heavy fine for murder to prevent blood feud.

Equality of the sexes was one of the ancient Germanic virtues, though no doubt to them it was just a way of life. Men and women were treated the same under Germanic law until late in the Elder Period when Christian ideas intruded and took over. Early in the Heathen Period, the ancient Heathens even placed Women above Men in certain respects. According to Tacitus, "They think that there is something sacred and provident about women. They neither fail to consult them nor do they scoff at their counsel. In Germanic wills, sons and daughters were treated evenly.

DISCIPLINE

Self discipline is the willingness to be hard on oneself first and then if needed help with the development with others, so that greater purposes may be achieved. We must always be hardest on ourselves, to set the example. It is very easy to work at the level of do as I say, not as I do. But in this we dishonour ourselves and we dishonour others. Leading by example is what this is all about. A member of the true folk should be just that - True. This implies a certain amount of discipline to keep oneself from straying from the path of Asatru into other, perhaps easier paths. Discipline and fidelity often work very closely together, with discipline providing the will power needed to retain one's fidelity. Thus we grasp and shape our own destiny and worth. This carries forth from our own personal sphere to that of the tribe and folk overall. We must have the discipline that keeps us true to our principles and virtues, and also allows us to master our resolve and focus. We must remain free of dependencies and those indulgences that are the nemesis of evolution and Natural Law: that which sows the seeds of our own or our folk's demise.

HOSPITALITY

Hospitality is the willingness to share what one has with one's fellows, especially when they are far from home. This is not the same as giving out all your worldly possessions to anyone who comes by a begging. It is the concept of sharing, which is reciprocated by all True folk when they have you as a guest in their homes. It is important to establish and reaffirm the bonds of friendship, and kinship that Hospitality is observed. Hospitality is a virtue that all true Asa-folk take very seriously. When a guest comes into your home, offer him or her a drink and something to eat. Work hard to make your guests feel comfortable. The virtue of hospitality was very important in almost every ancient society,

and as the Gods of Asatru are known to go wandering about Midgard in human guise, you will never know who that guest really is...

We rely on the strengths and love that are forged by blood and oath...what good are such things when we can't otherwise? We must be ready and willing to lend help and assistance where we can, when it is needed- what good are we to those that we are bound if we cannot depend on one another?

hospitality for our ancient ancestors was not just a virtue, but a necessity. Traveling long distances was often dangerous, and to ensure free trade and communications, the Elder Heathens opened their homes not only to friends, but also to strangers. Certain common courtesies bound both guest and host. The host provided a warm place to stay and something to eat, and even loaned dry clothes. The guest was expected not to eat too much, to provide entertainment (in the form of songs, tales, or news), and sometimes he gave small trinkets as gifts. Gestening was needful especially during the holy tides (when neighbors would gather to fain the gods and forbears) to prevent having to travel at night. For us, it is not much different at national gatherings when crash space is provided for those who have traveled a long way.

INDUSTRIOUSNESS

Industriousness is the willingness to work hard, always striving for efficiency, as a joyous activity in itself. It is vital that we work hard at what we seek to achieve, for without consistent and well-directed effort, our goals will not be reached. But it does not mean that we should work all the time, indeed one should be industrious in ones leisure pursuits as well, and avoid the concept of making work for the sake of having work to do.

The virtue of industriousness means working hard, and taking pride in one's work, but it also goes beyond that. Are you

employed, disabled, or a full-time student? If not, get a job. Are you part of a Kindred? If not, join one, or find some like-minded people and start one, be the person that "gets things done. This attitude will carry over to your spiritual life, as well. Do your work carefully, pridefully, and well.

Truly we are worthless if we cannot work to advance our children, to provide better for them in providing the best we can for ourselves...in reaching for high goals, in striving for perfection in all areas of life, we lay that example for our children, as they will for their own...laziness in that endeavor is a true 'sin' and failure to lay rightful layers within the Well, failure to take action, to work towards that greater evolution in self and spirit in all areas of our Being is certainly and evil indeed! We must provide for our Sippen and must work to further our standing in society, which also strengthens it! We must actively contribute to the sustenance of our household and Sippe, just as we must actively contribute to the sustenance of our Irminen-Gesellschaft, Irminic folk overall, and society-at-large in which we live! We cannot simply 'settle' for the mediocre, nor be satisfied in simply surviving- this does nothing to foster growth and commitment to growth, and does nothing to inspire our children to work harder or to achieve or evolve!

Industriousness went hand in hand with stead-fastness, and was necessary for survival. In ancient times there was always something to do: fields to till, cows to milk, swine to feed, wood to gather. In the mechanized world of today we often forget how hard life was for ancient ancestors. They didn't just go to the fridge and grab a beer. They had to collect the honey (risking being stung by bees), and brew the mead before they could drink it. In ancient times laziness would leave one starving or freezing to death, so naturally individuals with this trait of industriousness were very highly regarded.

SELF RELIANCE

Self Reliance is the spirit of independence, which is achieved not only for the individual, but also for the family, clan, tribe and nation. It is not a concept of denying ones interconnectedness with others, but of ensuring that one can take care of oneself first, then ones family and loved ones, then the extended family (clan), the tribe (ones local grouping) and the nation (all true folk no matter where they reside). By being self-reliant we can then share what we have with others and fulfil the duty of Hospitality, the entire better.

Self-Reliance fits in very well with Industriousness. Don't wait for someone else to do your job for you. Don't wait for the world to be handed to you on a platter. Our ancient Gods and Goddesses favor those who do it themselves. This certainly doesn't mean that you have to do something completely alone if you have no idea how, or if you really just can't do it. What it does mean is that you should learn things from life, learn how to solve common problems, and maybe learn a craft or two. Pick up a book on brewing, or carving, or even plumbing or something. Have a hobby, perhaps one that can make nifty things for your Kindred to use, or for yourself to use. Who knows, you might even be able to sell things and make some extra money. Self-reliance is the key to freedom and freedom is the essence of all joyous life! To need reliance on others, or to be bound in thralldom and servitude is worst than death itself! We cannot be satisfied to let others think for us, nor can we be satisfied to let others do what is rightfully our own work to do! Only freedom can strengthen our love for life, and we cannot allow ourselves to be enthralled by need or want, which in turn enthralls our children and folk. Only freedom furthers freedom!

A great part of Self reliance is utilizing ones own intellect and Wisdom, Odin is the God of wisdom, and knowledge of every kind was valued. Good kings were often given the appellation "the Wise," and contests of knowledge occur in several of the Edda's

stories. Learning was a part of this, as it was the starting point on the road to knowledge and later wisdom. Today this is reflected in the research of modern Heathen scholars do to uncover the Elder Lore. It may be illuminating to note that Odin's self sacrifice on the World tree Yggdrasil was to gain knowledge, not power. Odin's quest to obtain a drink from Mimer's Well was also to gain wisdom, the ability to use knowledge, foresight and common sense.

PERSEVERANCE

Perseverance is the ability to stand up and return from defeat and failure. Each time we have a setback, we recognize this, and if the purpose is a true one we continue until success is won. Times were very hard in ancient times. Only those who were strong, smart, and crafty survived. Times are still hard. We can't give up at the first sign of adversity. Work, strive, carry on, don't give up. Those words embody the essence of perseverance. Who do we admire? Those who have worked hard, pulled themselves up by their bootstraps, and made something of themselves through their grit and determination. Perseverance is inherently dynamic in nature, and is essential to Natural Order. We must actively persevere and preserve our religion and folk. We must persevere to achieve, and must remain stalwart in our works and commitments, for only through our achievement can we truly foster the developments and evolution of our true destiny.

How to practice Asatru

Haila! Welcome to your new religion. As new member of the Asatru religion, you probably have many questions and concerns.

Where should you start?

How should you act?

Are you alone?

If you've already decided to join the true way, read on for some things you may want to consider doing.

Learn about the Gods

Asatru is a polytheistic religion. That means we have more than one god. In fact, we have a large number of Gods and Goddesses, as well as a multitude of other entities who work with or against the Gods. You'll probably want to familiarize yourself with at least the more notable ones to get started. As you grow spiritually, you will learn about the others.

A good way to learn about the Gods, as well as some of the others, is by reading the Eddas and the Sagas. Eddas are tales about the Gods; you can think of it as sort of being our bible. The Sagas are stories about this world, for the most part, and the heroes and notable personages. There are good examples of behavior in the Sagas, but you must keep in mind that the exact behaviors often belong to older times and may not be the way we do things today.

Join a Kindred

In Asatru, Kindreds are like our churches, that is the group of people and not the buildings. (The building, when there is one, is called a Hoff.) It is not necessary to join a Kindred, and many of us do not, but joining can provide camaraderie and companionship. Knowing that you are not alone can help give you an anchor in life's turbulent seas.

Your Kindred may or may not belong to a larger organization. Two such organizations are the Troth and the Asatru Alliance. You will want to understand both the local Kindred and any affiliations they have before you join. If you're not going to get along you are better off politely declining membership. On the other hand, associating with people who share your beliefs can bring many benefits.

There is always the option to remain a Solitary Practitioner. This simply means that you are not officially a member of any particular group. It doesn't mean that you cannot associate with a group; you should feel free. It is just a choice to find your own path.

Patron Deity

Some Asatruar feel the need to attach to on particular God or Goddess. There is nothing wrong with this, but it is not required. You do not have to choose a Patron Deity. In most cases, those who have a special relationship with a particular God did not choose the relationship, but felt that they were pulled to the God.

If you find yourself drawn to a God or Goddess, feel free to devote more time to Him or Her. You will still want to show proper respect to the others as well. In the case of a slight pull, you may just want to learn more about that God. If you get a strong pull, you may want to build a shrine and devote your life to Him or Her.

Again, it is important to keep in mind that this is not required. You may remain unattached. Then, you might get a call later.

Learn Runes

The Runes are an important part of Asatru religion and culture. You will want to familiarize yourself with them. At first, you may just want to carry a card with the Runes on it until it becomes more natural. It can take time; you are learning a different alphabet after all.

The Runes have an alphabetic meaning (you can write with them) as well as mystical and magical meanings. Start by learning how to write with them and, when possible, read with them. If you go no further than this, you'll be fine.

If you decide to go further, be prepared to find an unlimited source of wisdom and power. It is at this point that you will make your own set of Rune staves for divination and meditation. In the God's battle to maintain balance between order and chaos, the Runes are another weapon at your disposal. You may be called upon to use them.

What about Christians?

You may have family and friends who are Christian. You may have to do business with them. (Most of the English-speaking world is Christian.) They may not take kindly to your new path. We've all had to deal with that. There are some things you can do make things better.

First, you may have to make an effort to keep peace in the family. Some of them may make it hard for you, but they are still your family. Keep reminding yourself that they aren't Asatru because they don't know better, but you may not be able to convince them of that. Try to agree to disagree and keep the peace. Christianity has no problem with tearing apart a family if there are non-Christians there.

You will also have to deal with business associates and customers. The same problems can happen there. Our Asatru ancestors were known for their business acumen. Traders and

merchants earned great respect for their dealings. You must follow their example. There's no need to go out of your way to tell them about your religion (but you don't need to lie about it either!) You're doing business to make a profit. Sell to the Christians and get their money to make your Asatru people stronger.

Most importantly, you need to be an example of honor, strength, and nobility in your community. That's your entire community, not just the Asatruar. You do this by being respectable in all your dealings. They may not like your religion all the time, but they will put up with it if you are a notable personage. You may even get a few converts.

What if I'm not White?

The Gods are the Gods. The Wyrð is the Wyrð. The Eddas say that Man and Woman were made from Ash and Elm. It does not say anything about them being white. In the battle to maintain balance between order and chaos, everyone is encouraged to help.

You may find some claiming to be Asatruar who would disagree with that idea. You'll find such disagreements in most religions if you look hard enough. Just set your heart on being Asatru better than they are and the Gods will take care of the rest.

The SACRED CALENDER

YULE (JOL) 20th December - January 1st
DISTING (Disablot) 31st January
OSTARA (Ostara) 21st March
MAY EVE (Valpurgis) 30th April
MIDSUMMER (Midsumarblot) 21st June
FREYFEST (Freysblot) 31st July
FALLFEAST (Haustblot) 23rd September
WINTER NIGHTS (Vetrnaetr) 31st October
LESSER FEASTS: Days of Remembrance

Quick Fact

Asatru has a general calendar of the chief blessings. This is not a re-creation of the feasts held at any given time by any one particular Germanic tribe, but rather a compilation of those which seem to have been most important through most of the Northern world. In the ancient times, some tribes may have keep certain feasts and not others, or hold them at different times or in different ways: what matters is not precise time or ritual, but that our Gods, Goddesses and ancestors are hailed together with the turning of the Earth and the worlds around us.

In Asatru, a religious ceremony is called a Blot (pronounced "bloat"). (It is important to understand that linguistically the Old Norse Germanic word Blot is derived from the ancient Germanic word for "blessing" which literally means "to besprinkle with Blood" as used as a way to consecrate, and is a direct reference to the Germanic concept of the sacredness of blood.) The verb blóta also meant to "strengthen" and the intention was to strengthen the powers of the Gods, Goddesses and Elves. Eight major Blots are celebrated in the Asatru calendar each year. These are listed below with the modern English name of each given first, followed by its Old Norse name in parenthesis, and the

date (although the usual practice is to hold the Blot on the nearest weekend).

YULE / YULETIDE

Sunset of the Winter Solstice (approximately December 20th)

Yuletide is the pre-Christian Germanic Midwinter celebration. The name Yule is derived from the Old Norse *HJOL*, meaning 'wheel,' to identify the moment when the wheel of the year is at its lowest point, ready to rise again. *HJOL* has been inherited by Germanic and Scandinavian languages from a pre-Indo-European language level, and is a direct reference to the return of the Sun represented as a fiery wheel rolling across the heavenly sky. Yule celebrations and traditions at the winter solstice predate Christianity by thousands of years. There are numerous references to Yule in the Icelandic sagas, and in other ancient accounts testifying to how Yule was actually celebrated. It was a time for feasting, giving gifts, feasting and dancing.

The Yule holiday is the holiest and most popular of all the native Germanic spiritual celebrations, as Yule marks the return of the God Baldur from the realm of Hel and the loosening of winters grip on the frozen Earth.

The commencement of the Yuletide celebration has no set date, but is traditionally 12 days long with the start of the festivities beginning at sunset on the winter solstice (In the northern hemisphere, this date usually falls on or around December 20th) This Germanic Heathen holiday was forcibly stolen by early Christian missionaries and became known as the "12 days of Christmas".

The first night of Yule is called The Mothernight, where Frigga and the Disir (female ancestral spirits) are especially honoured on this night. Mothers Night is appropriately named, as it represents the rebirth of the world from the darkness of winter. This is the date with the shortest day and the longest night of the year.

A traditional vigil from dusk to dawn is held on the Mothers night, to make sure that the sun will rise again and welcome her when it does.

Yule is the season at which the gods and goddesses are closest to Midgard: our deities were called 'Yule-Beings' by the Norse, and Odin himself is called Jólnir, the "Yule One" and is where the image of Santa Claus is derived from. Yule is also the season during which the dead return to earth and share the feasts of the living. Elves, trolls, and other magical beings roam freely at this time, and must either be warded off or invited to come in friendship and peace. Yule is the time of the year at which the Wild Hunt - Wodan's host of the restless dead - rides most fiercely; it is dangerous to meet them, but gifts of food and drink are left out for them, for they can also bring blessing and fruitfulness.

Yule is a time for dancing, feasting and family. Sun wheels are sometimes burnt as part of folk festivities at this time. It was the practice in Germanic Heathen times to swear oaths on a hallowed boar (the totem animal of Freyr and Freya). This survived in Swedish folk-custom; a large boar-shaped bread or block of wood covered with pigskin was brought forth at Yule for this purpose through the beginning of this century, and boar-cakes are used for Yule-oaths by most Heathens today. Especially meaningful oaths were also sworn on the horn or cup while drinking at the Yule-feast. The 'New Year's Resolution' is a diminished form of the holy Yule Oath. The fir or pine-tree which is carried into the house and decorated is an ancient Germanic custom, brought to America by German immigrants. The tree on which holy gifts are hung was Heathen in origin representing Yggdrasil, the mighty cosmic tree of life. In Germany, those who kept the old custom hid it inside lest the church authorities notice, but in England and Scandinavia, the trees and various spirits received their gifts outside. In those latter countries, it was a candlelit and ribbon-bedecked wreath, the ring of which may have reflected the holy oath-ring or the Yule sun-wheel, that was traditionally brought in to decorate the home. The Yule-log is also an old Heathen custom. This log was supposed to burn all night during the

longest night of the year to symbolize life lasting even in the time of greatest darkness, its fire rekindling the Sun in the morning. Its ashes or pieces were used as protective amulets during the rest of the year. Those who lack large fireplaces often use 24-hour candles instead.

The 12 days of Yule is largely devoted to baking cakes, cookies, and breads and making the unique decorations which beautify every Heathen home at this holiday season. There are, for example, intricate paper cutouts to make and put on the walls; festoons, stars, wooden toys, and straw animals in the shape of Goats, and Wild Boars to hang on the Yule tree. The straw animals, which are still widely found throughout Sweden, are intimately related to ancient Norse Germanic mythology; originating in legends of the sacred animals of the gods; the Goats of Thor, the thunder God, and the Wild Boar of Freyr, God of Fertility.

The majority of the symbols associated with the modern holiday of Christmas (such as the Yule log, Santa Claus & his Elves, Christmas trees, the Wreath, the eating of ham, holly, mistletoe, the star...) are derived from traditional northern European Heathen Yule celebrations. When the first Christian missionaries began forcibly converting the Germanic peoples to Christianity, they found it easier to simply provide a Christian reinterpretation for popular feasts such as Yule and allow the celebrations themselves to go on largely unchanged, rather than trying to suppress them. Halloween and Easter have been likewise assimilated from northern European Heathen religious festivals.

DISTING / CHARMING of the PLOW

First New Moon in February

Also called 'Charming of the Plough' after the Anglo-Saxon spell and ceremony. Recorded as a regular feast only in Sweden, this

blessing takes place in early or mid-February. The name means 'Thing (assembly) of the Goddesses'. In Sweden, it was the first public moot/fair of the year; in Denmark, this is the time when the first furrows were ploughed in the field (an activity much hedged about with folk custom). This is a feast of new beginnings, at which the work of the year to come is blessed.

OSTARA / SUMMER FINDING

Spring Equinox near MARCH 21

Ostara is celebrated on the spring equinox around March 21. This feast marks the beginning of the summer half of the year. It is named after the goddess Ostara (Anglo-Saxon Eostre), who was such an integral part of heathen Germanic culture that the Christians stole and absorbed it as their own spring feast which was adapted for the Paschal holiday, and was converted to the Christian Easter. Her name is related to the Germanic words for "east" and "glory"; she was the embodiment of the springtime and the renewal of life.

At the equinox, the sun rises directly in the east and sets directly in the west. In the northern hemisphere, before Ostara, the sun rises and sets more and more to the south, and afterwards, it rises and sets more and more to the north.

spring equinox is the beginning of spring in the northern hemisphere. The holiday is a celebration the rejuvenation of the Earth, fertility and growth; traditional decorations include budding boughs, flowers, decorated eggs and the Rabbit motif. Heathen folk customs associated especially with Ostara's feast include the painting and hunting of Easter eggs, which, according to German tradition, were brought or laid by the 'Easter Hare' (the earliest form of the slightly diminished American 'Easter Bunny'). The Hare was the holy beast of Ostara, slain and eaten only at her blessing. In Germany, bakeries sell hare-shaped cakes at this time of year. Fires were also kindled on the hilltops at dawn, especially in Germany. Another common folk-custom which

still survives in rural areas is the performance of plays at which Summer battles with Winter and drives him out, or at which an effigy embodying Winter is beaten, burned, or drowned. Today, Ostara is seen as the feast to awakening the Earth, the gods and goddesses, and the human soul. Life becomes brighter and more joyful after the Ostara feast has been rightly held.

MAY EVE / WALUBURGIS NIGHT

April 31st - May 1st

Waluburgis Night (*Valborgsmassofaften* in Swedish, *Vappu* in Finnish, *Walpurgisnacht* in German) is a holiday celebrated on April 30, in Finland, Sweden and Germany.

It is named after a woman called "Valborg" (alternative spellings are "Walpurgis", "Wealdburg", or "Valderburger") born in 710 somewhere in Dorset / Wessex as a niece of Saint Boniface.

Together with her brothers she later travelled to Württemberg, Germany where she became a nun and lived in the convent of Heidenheim, which was founded by her brother Wunibald.

Valborg died on February 25, 779 and that day still carries her name in the Catholic calendar. However she wasn't made a saint until May 1 in the same year, and that day carries her name in the Swedish calendar.

Viking fertility celebrations took place around April 30 and due to Valborg being declared a saint at that time of year, her name became associated with the celebrations. Valborg was worshipped in the same way that Vikings had celebrated spring and as they spread through out Europe the two dates became mixed together and created the Valborg celebration.

Waluburgis is one of the main holidays during the year in both Sweden and Finland, alongside of Yule and Midsummer. One of the main traditions is to light large bonfires, and for the younger people to collect greens and branches from the woods at twilight,

which were used to adorn the houses of the village. The expected reward for this task to be paid in eggs.

The tradition which is most spread throughout the country is probably singing songs of spring. The strongest and most traditional spring festivities take up most of the day from early morning to late night on April 30.

Historically the Walpurgisnacht is derived from heathen spring customs, where the arrival of spring was celebrated with bonfires at night. With the Christianization of Germany these old customs were condemned as heathen.

No true Germanic Heathen name survives for May Eve; the German Walpurgisnacht is derived from the well-documented Christian St. Walpurga. In order to avoid confusion, and because no better name survives, Many Germanic heathens have replaced 'Walpurga' with the name of the second-century Germanic seeress 'Waluburg'. This festival marks the beginning of summer in Scandinavia. In all the Germanic countries, it is seen as a time when witches are particularly active, a belief memorialized in Goethe's description of the witch-moot on the Brocken (Faust, Act I) and Mussorgsky's "Night on Bald Mountain". It is also the Germanic equivalent of Valentine's Day and a night of love: young men are expected to go out into the woods to gather green branches and wildflowers with which they decorate the windows of their beloveds. For both these reasons, Heathens consider Freya to be the ruler of this festival, as she is mistress of both witchcraft and love. The traditional 'Maypole' or 'May Tree' is also a part of the celebration of this feast; in Scandinavia, the 'May Tree' is carried about in processions, a practice which probably goes back to the Vanic fruitfulness-procession of earliest Heathen times. Fires were kindled on grave mounds or other high places on this night; it is traditional for folk to leap through the flames for luck. A fire kindled by friction (the 'need-fire') might also be used to protect cattle against illness or cure them.

MIDSUMMER

Summer Solstice near JUNE 21

Midsummer is the religious celebration held at the summer solstice. This feast usually falls around June 20-21. Midsummer-related holidays, traditions and celebrations are found in all the Germanic countries of Northern Europe. Midsummer's eve is considered the second greatest festival of the Germanic holy year, comparable only to the 12 days of Yule.

The **Summer Solstice** is an astronomical term regarding the position of the Sun in relation to the celestial equator. The Summer Solstice is the date with the longest day and hence with the shortest night. This date usually falls near June 21. At the time of this solstice, the Earth is in that point of its orbit at which the hemisphere in question is most tilted towards the sun, causing the sun to appear at its farthest above the celestial equator when viewed from earth.

Certain celebrations take place on the evening of the summer solstice. Great roaring Bonfires, speeches, songs and dancing are most traditional. Folk traditions include the making of wreaths, the kindling of fires, the burning of corn dollies (human figure made out of straw), and the adornment of fields, barns, and houses with greenery. Midsummer is particularly a time to make blessings to Baldur. Model Viking ships are also sometimes made out of thin wood, filled with small flammable offerings, and burned at this time. Midsummer is the high point of the year, the time when deeds are brightest and the heart is most daring. This is the time when our Viking forebears, having their crops safely planted, sailed off to do battle in other lands. It is a time for action and risk, for reaching fearlessly outward. Other traditional events include raising and dancing around a huge phallic maypole. Before the maypole is raised, greens and flowers are collected and used to cover, to "may", the entire pole.

Raising and dancing around a maypole to traditional music is primarily a fertility ritual.

The holiday is considered the time of the death of the Fair God of sunshine, Baldur and thus the turning point at which summer reaches its height and the Sun shines longest, but at the same time it is when the days will soon begin to shorten and the Earth is beginning its slow descent into winter again. It is important to note that *midsummer* is not the middle of summer. Indeed, summer may be defined to begin with the *summer solstice*.

FREYFEST / LAMMAS

AUGUST 1st

The name **Lammas** is taken from an Anglo-Saxon heathen festival which was forcibly Christianized. The name (from *hlaf-mass*, "loaves festival") implies, it is a feast of thanksgiving for bread, symbolizing the first fruits of the harvest.

heathens mark the holiday by baking a figure of the God Freyr in bread, and then symbolically sacrificing and eating it.

Again, no purely Heathen name has survived for this festival, which takes place at the beginning of August, as this was the time when the first fruits of harvest were brought to the church as gifts; since this was taken over from Heathen custom. In English and German tradition, the First Sheaf was often bound and blessed as an offering to Heathen deities or the spirits of the field at the beginning of harvest, just as the Last Sheaf was at its end. English folk custom also includes the decoration of wells and springs at this time. In Heathenism today, the feast is especially thought of as holy to Freyr as a fertility God, Thor as a harvest God and his wife Sif, whose long golden hair can be seen in the rippling fields of ripe grain. The warriors who had gone off to fight at the end of planting season came back at this time, loaded with

a summer's worth of plunder and ready to reap the crops that had ripened while they were gone. Loaf-Feast is the end of the summer's vacation, the beginning of a time of hard work which lasts through the next two or three months, while we ready ourselves for the winter.

FALLFEAST

Autumn Equinox near September 21st

Fallfest of is another joyous festival in the Asatru holy calendar, and falls on the Autumn Equinox, and is the beginning of autumn in the northern hemisphere: the moment when the sun appears to cross the celestial equator, heading southward; the equinox occurs around September 22 - 24, varying slightly each year according to the 400-year cycle of leap years in the Gregorian Calendar. Fallfest represents the second harvest of the season.

Bonfires, feasting and dancing played a large part in the festivities. Even into Christian times, villagers cast the bones of the slaughtered cattle upon the flames, cattle having a prominent place in the pre-Christian Germanic world. (Though folk etymology derives the English word "bonfire" from these "bone fires,") With the bonfire ablaze, the villagers extinguished all other fires. Each family then solemnly lit their hearth from the common flame, thus bonding the families of the village together.

Materially speaking it marked the beginning of the gathering of food for the long winter months ahead, bringing people and their livestock in to their winter quarters. To be alone and missing at this dangerous time was to expose yourself and your spirit to the perils of imminent winter. In present times the importance of this part of the festival has diminished for most people. From the point of view of an agricultural people, for whom a bad season meant facing a long winter of famine in which many would not survive to the spring, it was paramount.

At the equinox, the sun rises directly in the east and sets directly in the west. In the northern hemisphere, before the autumnal equinox, the sun rises and sets more and more to the north, and afterwards, it rises and sets more and more to the south.

In ancient times, our European ancestors celebrated their Harvest Feast, where they have found many reasons to be thankful and to celebrate. Our people have done this for as long as we can trace our history. Although what our people have felt thankful for has certainly changed over the many years, remember you sit down this year with your family, you're participating in an ancient tradition. And it's a great time to figure out what you're thankful for.

HARVESTFEST / WINTER NIGHTS

October 31st

Winternights is held the 31st of October. Winternights marked the final end of harvest and the time when the animals that were not expected to make it through the winter were butchered and smoked or made into sausage. The festival is also called "Elf-Blessing", "Dis-Blessing", or "Frey-Blessing", which tells us that it was especially a time of honouring the ancestral spirits, the spirits of the land, the Vanir, and the powers of fruitfulness, wisdom, and death. It marks the turning of the year from summer to winter, the turning of our awareness from outside to inside. Among the Norse, the ritual was often led by the woman of a family - the ruler of the house and all within. One of the commonest harvest customs of the Germanic people was the hallowing and leaving of the "Last Sheaf" in the field, often for Odin and/or his host of the dead, though the specifics of the custom vary considerably over its wide range. The Wild Hunt begins to ride after Winternights, and the roads and fields no longer belong to humans, but to ghosts and trolls. The Winternights feast is also especially seen as a time to celebrate

our kinship and friendship with both the living and our earlier forebears. It marks the beginning of the long dark wintertime at which memory becomes more important than foresight, at which old tales are told and great deeds are toasted as we ready ourselves for the spring to come. It is a time to think of accomplishments achieved and those which have yet to be made. Winternights also marks the beginning of a time of indoor work, thought and craftsmanship.

These festival and feast celebrated the accessibility, veneration, awe, and respect of the dead. This was also a time for contemplation. To the ancient Germanic peoples death was never very far away, and it viewed as a natural and necessary part of life. To die was not as much of a surprise or tragedy it is in modern times and death as not viewed as something "scary" or "evil". Of higher importance to the Germanic people was to live & die with honour and thereby live on in the memory of the tribe and be honoured at this great feast.

Starting on this night, the great divisions between the worlds was somewhat diminished which can allow the forces of chaos to invade the realms of order, the material world conjoining with the world of the dead. At this time began the Wild hunt in which the restless spirits of the dead and those yet to be born walked amongst the living. The dead could return to the places where they had lived and food and entertainment were provided in their honour. In this way the tribes were at one with its past, present and future.

Again, the Christians forcefully subverted the sacred Germanic Heathen calendar to honour Christianity, Winter nights on October 31 became "All Hallows Eve" and November 1st was declared "All Saint's Day".

LESSER FEASTS: Days of Remembrance

There are a number of lesser feasts or holy days that Heathens of modern time keep, as well as holding the traditional ones. Most of these are "Days of Remembrance" for great heroes and heroines of Germanic Heathenry.

January 9 - Remembrance for Raud the Strong (a Norwegian chieftain whom Olaf Tryggvason killed for refusing to convert. The end of a metal horn was put down Raud's throat; a poisonous snake was then put into the horn and the other end heated to drive it along...).

February 9 - Remembrance for Eyvind kinnrifi (whom Olaf Tryggvason tortured to death when he refused to convert, by putting a metal brazier filled with burning coals on his belly).

February 14 - Folk etymology has led to this day being called 'Feast of Vali' in modern Asatru. Actually, St. Valentine has no demonstrable associations with Vali, nor to the thinly disguised heathen Lupercalia rites which take place on this day. Nevertheless, many Heathens make blessing to this god at this time.

March 28 - Ragnar Lodbrok's day, when we celebrate this famous Viking's sack of Paris.

April 9 - Remembrance for Haakon Sigurdsson (Haakon the Great), one of the Jarls of Hladhir, a great defender of Heathenism in Norway during the brutal period of forced conversion to Christianity.

May 9 - Remembrance for Gudrod of Gudbrandsdal, whose tongue was cut out by the Norwegian king 'St. Olaf' (not to be confused with Olaf Tryggvason despite the similarity of names and methods. St. Olaf, otherwise known as 'Olaf the Fat' or 'Olaf the Big-Mouthed', was canonized for his efforts to convert Norway by fear, murder and torture).

This Norwegian martyr spoke out against the tyranny of the Christian fanatic Tryggvason, and urged others to resist him. For this, the king had his tongue cut out.

June 9 - Remembrance for Sigurd the Dragonslayer (known in German versions of the story as Siegfried).

July 9 - Remembrance for Unn the Deep-Minded, a woman who was one of the great chieftains of the Icelandic settlement.

July 29 - death-date of Olaf the Fat.

August 9 - Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia, who, standing at the baptismal font, changed his mind and refused conversion when told that his place in the Christian Heaven would mean his separation from the souls of his ancestors.

September 9 - Remembrance for Hermann the Cheruscan, embodiment of German freedom, who kept Germany from being over run by the Romans and suffering destruction of their culture and language such as was experienced by occupied Celtic Gaul.

October 9 - Leif Eriksson Day - Remembrance for Leif Eriksson and his sister Freydis Eriksdottir, leaders of the earliest known European settlement in America.

October 28 - Remembrance for Erik the Red.

November 9 - Remembrance for Queen Sigrid of Sweden. Wooed by Olaf Tryggvason, the relationship ended sharply when she told him that she had no intention of leaving the gods of her fathers and he slapped her across the face. She was the chief arranger of the alliance that brought him down.

November 11th - Feast of the Einherjar, in which the fallen heroes in Valhalla, and in the halls of the other Gods and Goddesses are remembered.

November 27 - Feast of Ullr and Skadi, Weyland Smith's Day celebrating the greatest of Germanic craftsmen.

December 9 - Remembrance for Egill Skallagrimsson, great Viking Age poet, warrior and rune magician.

Gods & Goddesses

Nature of Divinity

The Germanic Gods and Goddesses are real and true. They are much like us; they have different manifestations in many dimensions. They transcend our physical world and are wise beyond our ability to comprehend. They may be a force or power, and have certain qualities of personality. They may take on humanlike forms that are an expression of aspects of their nature. And like us, the totality of their being is very difficult to describe, or to understand. Our myth cycle, and lore is the starting point for our knowing of the Gods, the rest after that is up to us and to them. They are related to us through the ages, through blood and through the folk-soul. As our elder Kin, the Gods know their people, just as we are learning to know our own Gods. We view them more as wise and strong Elder relatives – benevolent protectors and guides, rather than a group of beings who are out of reach in some high, mystical place. The Gods and Goddesses are as close as our need for their wisdom, guidance and strength.

We don't actually "worship" our Deities as in the same sense as those from the Judao Based religions of Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Rather, we honour with great respect, love and awe. In this we also honour and respect and pay homage to our Ancestors going all the way back to the Gods and Goddesses of our Folk themselves.

We stand before the Gods and Goddesses as our extended family; we never kneel nor prostrate ourselves like slaves or servants but hold ourselves up proud and strong before our divine ancestors.

The Gods are the Divine force of a transcendent nature and higher consciousness of our Folk, and our Folk is the material expression or reflection of that Transcendence and Divinity. The Gods give us gift for gift, honour for honour, truth for truth, respect if we are worthy, council if we ask for it, and insight if we are ready. None worthy in their hall have a bare plate nor empty horn, or are turned away from the gate as night falls.

The Æsir

Aesir:Singular – Ás, Plural – Ases. Old High Germanic – Os
Modern English – Ase,

The Aesir are one of the two principal pantheons of Gods and Goddesses in the native Germanic religion. They include many of the major deities, such as Odin, Frigga, Thor, Balder and Tyr. The Goddesses of the Aesir are known as the Asynjur, and although the term Aesir is used as the general name for all of the gods and goddesses, a second clan of Gods, known as the Vanir are also greatly honoured; Freyr and Freyja are the foremost of the Vanir and they reside amongst the Aesir in Asgard. The Aesir are generally the deities of consciousness and are more associated with fire, air, war, power and the passionate mechanical aspects of being; whereas the Vanir are associated with earth, water, the natural and organic and are mainly connected with fertility, joy and peace, although these are by no means firmly set boundaries.

The Aesir stayed forever young by eating the golden apples kept by Idunna ,the Goddess governing the regenerative powers of eternal youth and spring fertility. Unlike the gods of some other

religions, the Aesir and Vanir are not immortal; many will die at Ragnarok with some very few exceptions who will survive and rebuild the glory of the Asgard.

Our religious teachings tell us that the Æsir and the Vanir once held a war, which, since their battle-might was equal, their great battles ended in a draw. The truce was settled by the creation of the being Kvasir and the trading of hostages: Odin's brother Hoenir and the giant Mimir went to the Vanir, and Njord and Frey were sent among the Æsir (Freyja seems to have come along of her own choice), where, according to Ynglinga saga, they held the role of "priests".

It is interesting to speculate if the interactions described as occurring between Aesir and Vanir reflect the types of interaction common to various Germanic clans at the time. According to another theory, the cult of the Vanir (who are mainly connected with fertility and relatively peaceful) may be of an older date, and that of the more warlike Aesir of later origin, so the mythical war may perhaps mirror a historic religious conflict.

The Vanir

Proto-Germanic: Wanizaz. Anglo-Saxon: Wans or Wanes

The Vanir are one of the two mighty pantheons of Gods and Goddesses in the native Germanic religion: together with Aesir they are collectively known as the Asa. They include Njord, Freyr and Freyja, who live among the Aesir since the end of the conflict between the two clans of gods (traded for Mimir and Honir)

The Vanir live in Vanaheim, also called Vanaland, Vanakvísl, and Tanakvísl. They are Gods and Goddesses of fertility and prosperity, and they are seen as belonging to the earth, while the Aesir ruled the sky. The Vanir have a deep knowledge of magical arts, so that they also know the future. It was Freyja who taught the Shamanic magical arts known as Seidr to the Aesir.

After a war which ended in a truce between equally matched forces, the two tribes were reconciled, and the Vanic Njord and Frey came to live with the Æsir. Since Frey and Njord are often called on for peace and good harvest, the Vanir are often seen as peaceful fertility deities and contrasted to the warlike Æsir in this respect, but since Frey is one of the most stalwart warriors and called "leader of the hosts of the gods," and his twin Freyja is well known as a patron goddess of warriors and stirrer of strife, this can hardly be the wholeness of their being. The Vanir are especially known for their wisdom and ability to see into the future through the shamanic magical technique called seidhr.

The rock carvings of the Bronze Age seem to show a great deal of Vanic symbolism, though Aesic images (the god with the spear, the god with the double-headed axe or Hammer) are also often present.

The holy ones

The Æsir	The Vanir:	Gods & Goddesses:	Other Beings, Spirits & Wights:
Baldur	Freyja	Aegir	Ask and Embla
Bragi	Freyr	Bor	Audhumla
Forseti	Gerda	Bolthorn	Disir
Freyja, a Vanir hostage	Hoenir, an Æsir hostage	Bestla	Alfar
Freyr, a Vanir hostage	Mimir, an Æsir hostage	Buri	Draugr
Frigga	Kvasir	Eir	Dwarves
Fulla	Lytir	Hella	Einherjar
Gefjon	Njord	Hermod	Fenris
Gerda	Nerthus	Holda	Huldrufolk
Heimdall	Odr	Jarnsaxa	Jormungand
Hod	Skadi	Jord	Jotuns
Honir		Lodurr	Landsvættir
Idunna		Lofn	Myrkalfar
Loki		Magni	Nykar
Nanna		Mani	Ratatosk
Njord, a Vanir hostage		Modi	Risir
Odin		Mundilfari	Valkyries
Sif		Norns	Ymir
Sigyn		Ran	
Saga		Sjofn	
Thor		Skirnir	
Tyr		Snotra	
Uller		Sunna	
Vali		Surtur	
Vidar		Syn	
		Thjalfi	
		Thrud	
		Vili	
		Ve	
		Vor	
		Wayland	
		Waluburga	

ODIN

Old Norse: Óðinn, Odínn. Pronunciation: Oh-din

Other names: Othinn. Anglo-Saxon: Woden, Old High German: Wotan, Wothan

Lombardic: Godan Alemannic: Wuodan Proto-Germanic: Woðanaz. "The Furious (or raging) God".

Wednesday is named after him (Woden's day).

Odin is the chief divinity of the Germanic pantheon, the foremost of the Aesir, and unequivocally the most complex of all the Germanic Gods. Odin is a son of the Giants Bor and Bestla. He is called the Alfadir (Allfather), for he is the creator of the Germanic Peoples and the father of many important, powerful Gods and human heroes. With his wife Frigga, he is the father of Balder, Hod, and Hermod. He fathered Thor with the Earth goddess Jord, and with him the giantess Grid became the mother of Vidar.

He is seen as especially a god of wisdom, a patron of poets, thinkers, and artists. Of all the gods, Odin is the one who seems to take the most active part in the affairs of humans, and the one who appears most often in the writings of the Germanic peoples.

Odin is also a God of magic, war and death. He is the founder and an expert in rune magic and the giver of spiritual ecstasy and magical arts to the mystics and Shamans. He hung for nine days, pierced by his own spear, on the world tree. Here he learned nine powerful songs, and the Twenty-four runes that comprise the Elder Futhark. Odin won the runes by ritually sacrificing himself on the world tree for nine days and nights, wounded with his own spear. Odin has only one eye, which blazes like the sun. His other eye he traded for a drink from the Well of Wisdom, and gained immense knowledge.

Odin has only one eye, which blazes like the sun. Always searching for more knowledge and power, Odin sacrificed his

other eye for a drink from the Well of Mímir ("Memory"). He won the mead of divine inspiration and poetry by seducing the giant-maid Gunnlod who had been guarding it. To his chosen ones, Odin gives knowledge, victory, divine inspiration, magic, the fury of the berserk-warrior, and death when he sees fit, in order to bring them to him.

Odin is also skilled in the arts of necromancy and can make the dead speak to gain in wisdom and insight. His hall in Asgard is called Valaskjalf ("shelf of the slain") where his throne Hlidskjalf (Gate tower) is located. From this throne he observes all that happens in the nine worlds. The tidings are brought to him by his two ravens named Huginn (thought) and Muninn (memory). He also resides in Valhalla, where his chosen heroes reside once their earthly life is over.

Odin is master of Wode – that which constitutes the 'greater' or 'higher passions', governing heightened states of personal awareness and self such as agony, ecstasy, and rage. It is the very source of that which feeds and drives 'divine madness' or 'divine inspiration'. The wode can be experienced through altered states, such as in certain trance and 'active' meditation workings or ordeal, and once stimulated, is utilized in shamanic functions and in bringing on the berserker's rage -though doing so requires refined skills of control and a well-disciplined will.

Odin's attributes are the mighty spear Gungnir, which never misses its target, and with which he dooms his chosen ones to die in battle. He also possesses the ring Draupnir, from which every ninth night eight new rings appear, and his eight-footed horse Sleipnir (slippery hoof). He is often accompanied by his two wolves Freki and Geri (both names mean "Greedy") who serve as his watchdogs, and to whom he gives his food, for he himself consumes nothing but wine.

At the dawning of time, Odin and his brothers Villi (Will) and Ve (Sacred Enclosure) shaped the universe and created the Germanic peoples.

In his physical incarnation, Odin usually appears as a gray bearded man, tall and thin, with a dark blue cloak and an eye patch or wide-brimmed hat tilted to hide his missing eye.

Odin is assisted by the Valkyries ("Choosers of the Slain") who work his will, bringing the bravest warriors to the various halls of the Gods where they prepare themselves and ready their strength against the coming of the end of the world: Ragnarok.

Odin is indeed a stern tester of his children, and is sometimes considered a capricious God who would betray his chosen champions and gave them a glorious death defeat instead of the victory and life that they deserved. But to those that are wise in their perception will know that Odin is a god of foresight, careful weaving of plots, and long-term agendas and that his purpose is always clear: "For the great gray Wolf ever gapes at the realm of the gods and man." He calls those he loves the best first to his side and thus swell the number of his valiant legions to strengthen the hosts of the gods for the last battle so that life and knowledge can be preserved and the new world born after the old is destroyed. To await the end of time and stave off the doom of all.

During Ragnarok, on the day of the final battle, Odin is prophesied to be killed by the wolf giant Fenrir, and be succeeded by his son Baldur.

Thor

Old Norse: Thor / Þórr Pronunciation: Thoar

Anglo-Saxon: Thunar Old High German: Donnar / Thonnar, Proto-Germanic: Thuraz

Thursday is named after him (Thor's day).

Thor is a son of Odin and the Earth Goddess Jord, and is one of the most powerful of the gods. He is married to Sif, a fertility goddess, and together they have a daughter named Thrud (Strength). His mistress is the giantess Jarnsaxa ("iron cutlass"), and their sons are Modi (Courage) and Magni (Main-strength). Thor is helped by Thialfi, his servant and the messenger of the gods.

Thor's hall in Asgard is named Bilskirnir ("lightning crackle") Which is located in the region of Thrudheim ("place of might")

Thor is the God of Strength and Storm who governs the weather, sending the life giving rain to the farmers fields

Unrivalled in strength, Thor is the embodiment of pure, raw might and power which can be felt upon the intense air of thunderstorms, and seen with each flash of lightning. He is the supporter of society, and protector of Gods and Men alike.

One of the most beloved god of the Germanic peoples, and often known as "god of the common man", Thor was worshipped most by the free farmers (who were also warriors at need) and by those who "trusted in their own might and main". Today, he is also seen as the warder of his mother Earth against those who would harm her for their own gain. He is able to raise great rages in himself, in which he summons up more strength than any being in the worlds can match.

The ancient Germanic tribes believed that during a thunderstorm, Thor rode through the heavens on his chariot pulled by the goats Tannggrisni ("tooth gnasher") and Tanngnost ("tooth grinder") and that lightning flashed whenever he threw his hammer Mjollnir and the thunder roared when it struck its target.

Thor wears a magical belt Megingjard which doubles his already considerable strength..

Thor's weapon is the mighty hammer Mjöllnir ("the crusher"), small amulets of which are worn by true folk as a sign of troth. Thor not only used his hammer for fighting giants, but also for hallowing both brides and funeral pyres, and several runic inscriptions from the Viking Age in Scandinavia call on him for protection and to hallow the runes.

Thor was usually portrayed as a large, powerful man with fair hair and a red beard who possessed fiery eyes of lightning. But despite his ferocious appearance, he is very popular as the protector of both gods and humans against the forces of evil.

The extraordinary distribution of place-names attributed to Thor attest to his popularity – the frequency is second only to those named for Odin / Wodan.

Although Thor is sometimes shown as being slow-witted in comparison with Odin or Loki, he is a practical god whose solutions to problems are usually swift, effective, and show the common sense the other two sometimes lack. He is also called the "Deep-Thinker," and in one Eddic poem, outwits the clever dwarf Alviss ("All-Wise") by engaging him in a riddle contest until dawn turns the dwarf to stone.

Thor is best-known for his ceaseless battle against the giants. He is not a bloody-minded reaver, however, but a warder who protects the folk of Midgard and Asgard against the menacing beings who seek to destroy our world; unlike Odin, he never involves himself in the battles of men, but the gods often seem to rely on his protection.

When he travels to Jotunheim, Loki often goes with him; as Thor is the only god that Loki really seems to respect.

His greatest enemy is Jormungand, the Midgard Serpent. At the day of Ragnarok, Thor will kill this serpent but will die from its poison. His sons will inherit his hammer after his death.

Other names:

THOR – Thunder

Vingthor – Winged Thor

Vingner – Winged

Vior – Hallower

Hlordi – Heat

Trudgälmer – Song of strength

Thor Karl – Man Thor

Födhr Thor – Father Thor

Akathor – Driver Thor

Hild tundr gudh – Thunder war god

Vagntyr – Chariot god

Asabrag – Aesir Chief

Ennilang – Desired

Eindridi – One-rider

Bjorn – Bear

Hardveur – Door hallower

Sonnung – Child of the sun

Asathor – Thor the Aesir

Vigithuner – Thor the Killer

Tundrtyr – Thunder god

Loki

Old Norse: Loki Pronunciation: Low-key

Other names: Loke, Lopt, Loptr, Logapore Anglo-Saxon: Lôgna
Old High German: Logi Proto-Germanic: Laugaz ("Blazing God")
or Laugatjanaz("Blazing One")

Common Danish, Swedish and Norwegian form: Loke

Loki Laufeyiarson is really not a God at all but rather the full blooded Giant Lord of mischief who resides with the Gods of the Aesir. He is a son of Farbauti and Laufey, and is described as the "contriver of all fraud". Loki is Blood brother to Odin. With his first wife, Glut he was the father of Einmyria ("embers") and Eisa ("spurt")

Loki had three children with the giantess Angerboda: Jormungand the sea-serpent, Fenrir the giant wolf who is preordained to slay Odin at the time of Ragnarok, and Hella the goddess of the realm of the dead. Loki's third wife is Sigyn, one of the Asynjur.

Loki is also an adept shape-shifter, with the ability to change both his sex and form. As such, Loki represents a random factor, an unpredictable element that, combined with all the other (more stable) forces of nature, produce unknown results that no one, save the Norns themselves can quite foresee. Once while in the form of a mare Loki accidentally became impregnated with Odin's eight-legged horse Sleipnir by the giant horse Svadilfari ("unlucky traveler")

Historically, Loki never enjoyed a votive following or cult, nor was he ever offered sacrifice. While he would be given a token drink of recognition (as Odin swore that he would not drink unless Loki was also served) no horn or cup was lifted to him, and there are no place-names which recall centers of his worship or reverence in any region of Europe.

Loki is a complex and cunning Giant- he is said to be quite fair in appearance, but capricious in manner, with a heart full of chaos. In the earlier myths, he is presented as being less-than-malicious in his tomfoolery, and even helpful in some situations. In the instances when he would get the Gods in trouble, he would get them back out of trouble and in many cases he would put them in an even better situation than they were before: If Loki hadn't been up to his mischief then Sleipnir would never have been born, Hella would not exist, Thor wouldn't have his hammer Mjöllnir, the magic belt, or his gauntlets, Sif her golden hair, Odin his spear or ring, Freyr his magical ship Skidbladnir.

More typically though, he remains true to his anarchic nature, and at times can be outright sinister in his motives, dealing grave evil and hardship to the Gods.

The Trickster god is a complex character, a master of guile and deception, who usually has a lesson hiding behind his actions. Sometimes Loki shows a sageliness, even a kind wisdom in the things he does. One of the main lessons that he gives us is that order is defined by chaos, and sometimes we need chaos to bring us the opportunity and the will to change for the better.

He is also perceived as a fire spirit, with all the potential for good and ill associated with Fire. Like most everything else in this universe, Loki isn't all-"good" or all-"bad". This would be a necessary combination in our version of the Trickster figure that is found in so many traditions around the world. All the same, he is Lord of Chaos, Chance and Change, which makes him an interesting but dangerous influence.

Lokasenna is one piece of ancient lore that shows Loki in a darker side, and there are a few references elsewhere in the lore (including Loki leading the Jötunar and others on Naglfar against the gods); however, Lokasenna is well known to contain a huge Christian influence and there may have been attempting to turn Loki into a "Devil" type figure. In this, Loki arranged the murder

of Baldur and when the Gods discovered Loki's involvement, they hunted him down and bound him to three rocks. Then they tied a serpent above him, the venom of which dripped onto his face. His wife Sigyn (a goddess, not the giantess who was the mother of Loki's monster brood) gathered the venom in a bowl, but from time to time she had to turn away to empty it, at which point the poison would drip onto Loki, who writhed in pain, thus causing earthquakes. Eventually he will free himself, and lead the attack on the Gods at the end of the world: Ragnarok.

Other names :

Lopt – Lofty

Byleist – Wildfire

Hvedhrungr – Roarer

Gammeleidh – Leader of Amusement

Slægurtyr – Sly god

Rógur – Slanderer

Baldr

Old Norse: Baldr Pronunciation: Baul-dur

Anglo-Saxon: Bealdor, Old High German: Baldur, Baldar Western

Germanic: Balder, Baldur, Fol, Phol, Palter, Paltar Proto-

Germanic: Balþraz (Brave One)

Baldr is Odin and Frigga's second son. His wife is called Nanna and his son was Brano who is likewise famed for his goodness.

Baldr's hall is named Breidablik ("Broadly Gleaming"), where nothing impure is allowed.

Baldur is the god of light, innocence, beauty, joy, purity and peace. He is the shining young hero who embodies the hope of an age.

Baldur is treasured as the 'best', 'brightest', and most beautiful of all Gods. He is the God of joy and peace and the very epitome of all that is good and hale, of all that which is pure, holy and uncorrupted.

Baldur is the God of the beneficial forces of the rays of the Sun, thus Baldur is greatly honoured in the Sacred rite of the Midsummer festival which corresponds to the Summer Solstice, when it is the longest day of the year and also when the days start to get shorter and the season begins its slow descent into winter. This celebration is marked with much feasting and Bonfires that represent Baldur's funeral pyre.

Baldur, is known primarily for the myth surrounding his death which is seen as the first in the chain of events which will ultimately lead to the destruction of the gods at Ragnarok. However, as foretold in the Voluspa, Baldur will be reborn in the new world and will rule the Gods.

Heimdall

Heimdall ("pole of the world") is the son of Odin and the Nine Waves; the daughters of Aegir and Ran. His hall is called Himinbjörg ("Heavens' Mountain"). He owns the Gjallarhorn ("Horn Resounding") which he shall blow at the beginning of Ragnarok to gather the mighty host of the Gods and their chosen warriors to battle the forces of evil.

Heimdall is the guardian of the Bifrost bridge (which connects the shining realm of the Gods to the world of man) and Asgard. His

senses are so acute that he can hear the grass grow and he can see to the end of the world, he also requires little to no sleep.

Using the name "Rig" ("ruler"), Heimdall walked among our ancient ancestors, and laid the foundations for the various tribal cultures, who gifted mankind with social order, civilization, and runes.

On his journeys, Rig fathered and gave wisdom to the three classes of humankind – slaves, freemen, and the warrior ruling class.

Heimdall is described as very fair, with golden teeth. His horse is called Gulltoppr ("Golden-Mane").

Heimdall is sometimes seen as a rather aloof god and lacking in humor; however, he is a great teacher, and an especially good god to call on for those who work in subjects calling for cool intellect rather than the furious inspiration given by Odin.

He is a great foe of Loki and during Ragnarok, Heimdall is destined to kill and be killed by Loki.

Other names :

Rig – King

Gullintani – Golden toothed

Vindler – Turner, winder

Hallinskidhi – Slippery skis

Hvíturas – White God

Sif

Old Norse: Sif Pronunciation: Sif

Anglo-Saxon: Sibba Old High German: Sippe (tribe) Gothic sibja

Sif ("relative") is a goddess of the Aesir.

Sif is the wife of Thor, and together they are the parents of Thrud ("strength"). With her former husband, she is the mother of Uller, the God of winter and hunting.

Sif's name is translated as "blood relation", "kindred", "tribe" and "clan". Thus while Thor protects and supports society, Sif is responsible for the unity of the families and tribes within that society. She ensures their prosperity and well-being, blessing them and binding them together with the true realization of frith: the peace, comfort and security which lies at the root of each, and that which provides a firm foundation for the joy, strength, and advancement which can only come from a healthy, stable and prosperous Family.

Sif is best known for her long golden hair. She appears only in one surviving tale: where Loki cuts her hair off in the night and, to save himself from Thor's wrath, gets the dwarfs to forge hair of real gold for her, along with several of the other great treasures of the gods. It has often been suggested that she is also a fertility goddess, whose rippling golden hair may be seen in the ripe grain.

In the prologue to the Prose Edda, she is also called a seeress.

Freyja

Old Norse: Freyja Pronunciation: Fray-ya

Anglo-Saxon: Frouwa, Old High German: Frau, Proto-Germanic: Fru Wagnerian: Freia, Alternate: Friia, Froya, Freja, Frøya, Freya, Friia

Freyja is the best-known and best-loved of the goddesses. Her title simply means "Lady," her original name is not known. Freyja is the daughter of Njord and Nerthus, as well as the sister of Freyr. She was once married to Odr, but he disappeared. She is the principle female fertility Goddess of the native Germanic

religion, and a goddess of riches, her tears are gold and whose “daughters,” in the riddle-poetry of the skalds, are precious objects. she is the embodiment of the holy life-force on several levels.

She was the most beautiful and desirable of all goddesses, who possessed the worlds most beautiful piece of jewelry: the Brisingamen (“Bright necklace”) necklace which embodies her power over the material world; the necklace has been the emblem of the earth-goddess since the earliest times.

Along with the necklace, she owned a cloak of feathers which gave her the ability to change her shape into a falcon and fly across the worlds.

Like Odin, Freyja is often a stirrer of strife. As a Goddess of war and death, she rides a golden boar named Hildisvini (“battle swine”). The boar has special associations within Germanic Mythology, both relative to the notion of fertility and also as a protective talisman in war.

Her palace was in Folkvang (“field of the host” and her hall was Sessrúmnir (“Seat room”)

She is also a chooser of half the dead on the battlefield while Odin gets the other half, according to Grimnismál:

The ninth hall is Folkvang, where bright Freyja

Decides where the warriors shall sit:

Half of the fallen belong to her,

And half belong to Odin. Freyja is the “wild woman” among the deities of the North: free with her sexual favors (though furious when an attempt is made to marry her off against her will); mistress of Odin and several men; She is also skilled at the

shamanic form of ecstatic, consciousness altering magic called seidhr, thus it is of no surprise to find her as the matrons of female magicians.

This goddess drives a wagon drawn by two large cats, which are sacred to her as her totem animal – the popular image of a witch accompanied by a (black) cat originates from the association of the felines to Freyja. She is seen today as the matron goddesses of cats and those who keep them.

Other names:

Vanadis – Goddess of the Vanir

Menglad – Jewel glad

Mardöll – Sea-dale

Hörn – Flax

Gefn – Giver

Gullveig – Gold lust

Heidhr – Heath

Sýr – Sow

Throng -

Throngva -

Skialf – Trembler

vanabride – Vanic bride

Grér – Grey

Blidh – Blissful

Ljostara – Fair tears

Njord

Old Norse: Njörðr Pronunciation: N-yoard

Alternative: Njord, Njörd, Njörðh, Njörðr, Njorth, Njërðr Anglo-Saxon: Nirdu

Proto-Germanic: Norþaz

NORWAY is named after him (Njord's + way = Land).

Njord is one of the Vanir and the god of seamanship and sailing. He is the father of Freyr and Freyja by his sister Nerthus.

(apparently the Vanir, unlike the Æsir, were allowed to practice sibling incest). His dwelling is said to be Noatun 'Ship Stead'.

Njord and his children joined the Æsir as Vanir hostages after the Æsir/Vanic war.

The King of the Vanic Gods, Njord was directly responsible for bringing the primeval war between the Gods to an end, and in establishing peace between the two tribes. Down through the ages, Heathens have remembered him for this monumental feat, and to this day, still call upon him for peace. Njord has sway over the fertility of the land, success of crops and wealth of men, though his main attribute remains the dominion over the prosperity and blessings gotten from the seas. Njord was at one time married to the giantess Skadhi, though after each failed to adjust to life at the homestead of the other, the marriage dissolved. Njord can be found in the genealogy of Swedish Kings – according to some sources, he was their first ruler; in others, he is listed subsequent to Ing Fro. Although he is not very active in the Northern tales, he is still seen as god of the sea and of ships, and also thought of as a giver of riches and also a god closely associated with a good harvest and fertility as are the Vanir in general. He was usually blessed together with his son.

Mimir

Pronunciation: Meem-eer

Mimir is a primal god who is renowned for his knowledge and wisdom. Mimir is the giant brother of Odin's Jotun mother Bestla and he is the guardian of the Well of Mimir, in which all wisdom lies. Odin sacrificed one of his eyes in exchange for drinking from Mimir's magical well, to acquire Mimir's omniscient wisdom and knowledge for himself.

Mimir was sent to the Vanir as a hostage with Hoenir, but when Hoenir's slowness of speech was discovered, the Vanir became angry. Unwilling to harm Odin's brother, they lopped off Mimir's head instead and sent it back to the Aesir. Odin preserved it with herbs and spells, and gains much wisdom from consulting with the head. In this manner Mimir is known to have taught Odin great and mystical wisdoms and magical formulae, furthering his own immense store of knowledge by drinking daily from the timeless spring which still remains in his charge.

For full list and details of other gods check:

<http://odinsvolk.ca/new/gods-goddesses/>

List of Pagan Festivals

2018 Festivals

A FEAST OF LIGHTS

February 2-4, 2018

Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center, 366 Main St,
Sturbridge, MA

A Feast of Lights is a festival of community, hope, Earth spirituality, and the arts taking place at the ancient Celtic midwinter festival of Imbolg. It brings together a wide range of teachers, performers and artists who join with all of the gathering's participants to create a celebratory, stimulating and fun weekend to kindle the fire within during the dark of winter.

[BRIGHID'S FIRE](#)

February 9-11, 2018

All World Acres, Tampa Bay area, FL

Please join us for the 14th annual Brighid's Fire festival. The gathering will include a main ritual, nightly drum circles, workshops, sweat lodge, vendors, and fun for the whole family. Come spend the day or camp for the whole festival. The Goddess Brighid, exalted one, is the patroness of healing, poetry, blacksmithing, and arts. She is also associated with fire. All aspects of fire symbolism, including light, candles, heat, warmth and sunrises are also related to this goddess.

[HAWKFEST DRUM & DANCE GATHERING](#)

February 22-25, 2018

Hudson, FL

Hawkfest is a drum and dance festival put on BY drummers and dancers! Started as a small gathering of friends who are dedicated to the joy and fun of dancing and drumming, Hawkfest has become a gathering where dancers and drummers, fire spinners and hoopers gather to share techniques, music, and to expand their knowledge. For the past several years, we have come together creating magickal and unforgettable experiences! In case you haven't

figured it out yet, HAWKFEST IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT! Every night transports you into a place where you can dance, drum, spin, hoop, and celebrate until the sun rises! It is a time outside of time where we set aside egos and drum and dance finding the rhythmic ecstasy of our extraordinary lives. Dancers, fire spinners and hoopers come to Hawkfest to experience not only their own heart and soul but the hearts and souls of everyone in the Circle each other and the drummers. You will walk away from Hawkfest a better player, a better dancer, a better hooper, or a better fire spinner!!!

[PAGANICON MIDWEST CONFERENCE](#)

March 16-18, 2018

Hosted by Twin Cities Pagan Pride

Doubletree Park Place Hotel, 1500 Park Place Blvd,
Minneapolis, MN 55416

The 7th annual Paganicon is a Pagan conference with workshops, panels, discussions, social space, live music, a ball, vendors and more. In its seventh year, Paganicon is organized by Twin Cities Pagan Pride and a host of volunteers to provide an educational and social venue for Pagans, Wiccans, Heathens, Druids, and other folk, craft, indigenous or magickal traditions. Discover programming items that challenge you to think in new ways, make new connections, and renew or inspire your religious and spiritual life. Come and get your mystic on! (We also add in some great food, lots of chances to hang out and talk, an art show, and much more.) Our theme this year is 'Through the Looking-glass: Journey to the Underworld'. New this year! Friday Night Concert featuring Wendy Rule and Kari Tauring. Guests of Honor include Michelle Belanger and Laura Tempest Zakroff. Special Guests are Chief Arvol Looking Horse and Sharon M. Day. Featured Guests include Jason

Mankey and Prudence Priest. Additional musical entertainment provided by world-influenced rock band The Nathaniel Johnstone Band. Featured Ritualists for the event is Judith Olson-Linde and Nels Linde. More information about our Guests and the event can be found at our web site.

[PHOENIX PHYRE - A GATHERING OF PAGANS](#)

March 21-25, 2018

Lakeland, FL

A Pagan gathering in Central Florida. Located on I-4 midway between Tampa & Orlando. The friendliest Pagan gathering in Florida! Phoenix Phyre is located on a working ranch in Lakeland, FL, and is celebrating 20 years of festivals this year. The gathering is in open pasture land that is covered by centuries old live oaks that are full of life energy and give the land a euphoric feeling of happiness. We are very close to shopping, restaurants, and lodging, if you prefer not to camp. Please see our website for directions and a map. The main purpose of Phoenix Festivals is to build community. We try to get to know everyone that attends and make them feel that they are a part of our Phamily. We do this through community rituals, community meals, nightly drumming and dancing around the ritual fire, and other shenanigans promoting a feeling of closeness, unity, spirituality, and just plain fun away from the mundane. As with other festivals, there will be workshops, games, rituals, and drumming and dancing into the night. There will be merchants and an auction of unique items made by our own craftsmen that are unavailable anywhere else. Also, we have nightly fire spinning and are offering fire spinning workshops for those who want to give it a try. Phoenix Festivals, Inc., and the entire Phoenix Phamily would like to bid you "Hail and Welcome." Phoenix Phyre is our spring event. Autumn Meet is our fall event. You will be welcomed into the loving arms

of your fellow pagans, let your hair down and be comfortable with the people who think like you. Our website, phoenixfestivals.com, has our registration and other information. Save some money and register today. Phoenix Festivals is a not for profit corporation owned and operated by the community it serves. WRCF - Wiccan Religious Cooperative of Central Florida sponsors Phoenix Festivals.

[PAGANFAIRE 2017](#)

March 24, 2018

Oaks Park Dance Pavilion, Portland, OR

SisterSpirit is a non-profit, women's spirituality circle, in Portland Oregon. We started in 1985. We are primarily Pagan/Wiccan, etc. This year the theme for SisterSpirit's Spring ritual is, "We and They are One: Dancing with Power Animals!" Come and enjoy the opening season of Oaks Park, bring your family and friends, enjoy the food stands at the park, or bring a picnic to share with your friends. Come to the fair and enjoy our talent stage, and workshops, along with seeing your favorite vendors and contributing to our alternative economy. Raffle for "Michelle's Heart," are emergency fund for women. \$5 donation for adults and children un 12 are free.

[SPRING MYSTERIES FESTIVAL](#)

March 29-April 1, 2018

Fort Flagler State Park, Nordland, WA

The festival is always the Thursday through Sunday over Easter Weekend. Spring Mysteries Festival is the longest running recreation of the Eleusinian Mysteries in the modern world. For millennia before Christ, and for hundreds of years after his worship, the Cult of Demeter facilitated histories

longest running pilgrimage. The Aquarian Tabernacle Church has devoted a lifetime of scholarly work and production into bringing these mysteries into today.

[TREES OF AVALON GATHERING](#)

March 29-April 1, 2018

Hudson, FL

Trees of Avalon is a new and upcoming festival; family friendly and ready to learn and teach. We have classes for almost all levels and we do have children's classes. We have games for all ages. As a festival, we are committed to serving our community of Pagans from all over. We believe that our children have the right to know our history so that they can pass it along to their future generations.

[EQUINOX IN THE OAKS](#)

April 5-8, 2018

Pierson, FL

Equinox in the Oaks is a new Earth-centered, ethically-focused, family-affirming Magical Immersion Weekend in Florida for the Spring Equinox. Are you interested in vending at Equinox in the Oaks? The cost for the 4 days is \$75. Vendors pay an additional \$25. We do have limited slots overall (especially Cabin space) so now is the time to let us know you can join us! There is cabin space for 50, tent camping is also available. There is 1 bath house with 4 showers and 4 toilets, 3 fire rings, and a very peaceful vibe under the magnificent old oak trees. We are also accepting workshop submissions! This event was built by friends on the cornerstones of altar work (tending our spirit), land work (respect for land), and tribal work (building community). Come join in and experience the birth of a new spiritual

festival and make friends with the land and us too! More info: [Facebook group](#).

[DRUMS IN THE SWAMP](#)

April 11-15, 2018

[Gryphon's Nest Campground](#), Springfield, LA

Four nights of Drumming, Dancing and Delights surrounded by live oaks, moonlight and the sounds of the Louisiana Swamps echoing your name We're figuring out the new program and performances but rest assured that we'll have an awesome event for you!

Come experience great drum, fire spinning, spirit and dance classes by amazing drum teachers like New Orleans' own Louis Martinie and Tuatha Dea, regional and national teachers of hooping, poi, fire, yoga and tribal & belly dance; nightly drum circles; and evening performers. Enjoy community while camping, swimming in the heated pool, eating your favorite spicy Cajun foods at the Saturday Feast and so much more.

Location: Private campground & sacred space in Springfield, LA, only 45 minutes from New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

This event is restricted to adults 21 & over due to site restrictions. No pets -service animals allowed of course.

[BELTAINIA](#)

April 13-15, 2018

All World Acres, Tampa, FL

This gathering is always a favorite at AWA with plenty to offer for the entire family. The schedule of activities for this 4 day event will include several intriguing workshops presented by the many knowledgeable teachers of our community. Entertainment includes a Tom Carroll concert

and an amazing Hula dance show. Other activities will include a sweat lodge, bardic circle, trade blanket, and rituals. The Body Goddess, an AWA favorite, returns featuring sacred body painting. Of course each night there will be drumming and dancing around the main fire. There will be several vendors on site for shopping.

[FAIRIES AND ANGELS ON EARTH FESTIVAL](#)

April 14, 2018

Ocala, FL

This one day festival will be jam packed with interactive activities for the gnome or wood nymph within you! There will be themed music, vendors, crafts, performances, a Prayer Spiral, and many hands-on activities from the Fairy, Angel & Earth realms. We are ecstatic to welcome Dances of Universal Peace, Cheek-E-Boom, Faerie Elaine Silver, and Spiderr Thomas as part of our FAE festival entertainment! Be sure to dress up with your Fairy or Angel Wings, your Earth Hat, or just Sparkle UP! Come and Play with Us! Always Be In Joy! Just Follow The Rabbit!

[TRILLIUM SPRING GATHERING](#)

April 19-22, 2018

Organized by Grove of the Seven Hills, ADF

Thor's Hollow Retreat, 2058 Morgan Frederick Grade, Cross Junction, VA

Come out and enjoy Spring together in the beautiful Virginia Highlands with us! Over the past 15 years Trillium has offered outstanding workshops, becoming a favorite way to shake off the Winter blahs and welcome the renewing Earth in Western Virginia. We bring together some of ADF's most dynamic folks for 4 days of games, workshops, ritual,

dancing and the celebration of our abiding fellowship. This year we'll focus on magic in workshop and ritual, test our mettle in the ever-popular Circle Challenge and compete in the festival-wide Cattle Raid of the Outsiders! All paths are welcome at Trillium!

Contact: registration@trilliumgatheringadf.org. [Facebook group](#).

CMA BELTANE

[CMA on Facebook](#)

April 19-22, 2018

Spirit Haven Ranch, 9706 Anchor Ranch Loop, Flatonia, TX

We have a lot of awesome entertainment heading our way this festival. From Drum Circle Workshops to talks about the O.T.O., to the amazingly talented band we have coming out, Beltane will be anything but boring!

CUUPS CONVOCATION

April 20-22, 2018

Fort Myers, FL

CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) will be convening at the UU Congregation of Fort Myers, FL and their CUUPS chapter is our host. It is wonderful to have chapters to work with on this. I have a vision for the organization to create venues to connect in many regions across the country and continent. This way we can get to know one another and create an incredibly vibrant organization! There will be adult, teen and young people programs for all ages. There will be teen led circles as well as youth caucus events. Our theme is: Ignite the Flame: Creating Diverse Earth-Centered Communities.

BELTANE FLORIDA PAGAN GATHERING

April 25-29, 2018

Retreats by the Lake, 2819 Tiger Lake Rd., Lake Wales, FL

Join us at the Florida Pagan Gathering for 5 days of Pagan community spirit. Held twice a year at Beltaine and Samhain, the Florida Pagan Gathering is a place of spirituality, imagination, growth, learning, rambunctious good times, artistic revelry, perfect love and perfect trust where pagans, young and old, new and current, solitaires, covens, eclectic and traditional can enjoy a community free from the mundane worries of modern society.

BELTANE FESTIVAL

April 26-29, 2018

Heavenly Acres Campground, Stanardsville, VA

We invite you to come join us for our Beltane festival and camping in the heart of Virginia. Here in the scenic private campground you can raise your spirits and your voices to honor the seasons and our community as a whole. Founded to give our community somewhere safe to play, commune, and connect we hope you will camp out with us under the stars. The event is rain or shine and all ages. We provide workshops on various topics, rituals, drumming, entertainment, and all kinds of vendors. This is a family friendly event for pagan and non-pagans and has been since its inception. We have children specific workshops as well as a children's ritual and Beltane games planned. The kids can gather and make all kinds of wondrous things like wands and masks or settle down for hosted story times throughout the weekend. For the adults there are plenty of workshops to choose from as well as the God Lodge and Temple of the Goddess: Sacred spaces to connect with Deities. We have community Karaoke and screen a movie outdoors on

Thursday evening! On Friday join us in the evening around the fire for drumming and dancing with Community Night. And of course there will be performances on Saturday so be prepared to put your feet up and enjoy the sights and sounds! All of this as well as three powerful community rituals and the annual Maypole dance. Please pack accordingly and be prepared for all kinds of weather. We hope you will join us and please visit our website for more details. Get your tickets today!

[BELTAINE](#)

April 26-29, 2018

[Our Haven](#), French Lick, IN

Welcome Home! Join us as we celebrate the coming of the rich, fertile earth, the health of earth, animals and everything around. Join us as we reconnect with old friends and build new ones. This is a time that we put the past behind us and start anew!! Join the new breath and spirit at Our Haven! Have you ever been to Our Haven for our Beltaine Spring Gathering? If you answer no, you are missing a great time with friends, family and best of all an outstanding community. If you have you know why you need to be here. Join us for the best event of the year. We look forward to seeing all of you back home at Our Haven. Children 13-17 are HALF the adult rate and as always children 12 and under are FREE with their parent or legal guardian. All Our Haven sponsored events are clothing optional after 10pm unless otherwise posted. Nestled in the beautiful rolling hills of southern Indiana's countryside is Our Haven, an 175 acre nature sanctuary of beautiful deciduous forests and reclaimed fields for all who wish to come enjoy its clear creeks, natural springs, and secluded areas. Our Haven has both private large areas as well as intimate small areas available for you and your group's or event's use.

[FERTILE GROUND GATHERING](#)

April 26-29, 2018

Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, VA

Fertile Ground Gathering is a Beltane festival created to bring together the Pagan community; helping to build and strengthen the bonds among those who walk the Earth Paths in the greater Washington DC area and beyond. Fertile Ground is family-inclusive and offers fantastic workshops and services, empowering rituals, spectacular entertainment, drum circles and dancing around nightly bonfires, cabin camping, fantastic meals, some very special guests and of course, dancing around the maypole!

[BELTAINE AT FOUR QUARTERS](#)

April 27-29, 2018

[Four Quarters Farm](#), Artemas, PA

A weekend celebrating the folk traditions of Spring. Real People, Real Traditions, Real Community. Workshops on singing, crafting, Earth Spirituality, Ecology & Sustainability. Sweat Lodge with Buffalo Heart by the river and Saturday afternoon we help the Lord & Lady of Spring raise and dance the May Pole to bless the land with fertility, life and love. Beltaine is about Spring, It's about family. It's for babies and children, maids and gallants. Our aunts, uncles, mothers and fathers. Elders and Ancestors. Our joyous journey through the Wheel of the Year...and the Web of Life. Join us for our annual homecoming and celebration of the Delights of Spring. It's Beltaine at Four Quarters! A weekend of renewal!

WYLD FIRE BELTANE HUNT

April 27-29, 2018

Gryphon's Nest Campground, Springfield, LA

The Wyld Fire Beltane Hunt is a night-time ritual and party dedicated to celebrating Beltane (the Celtic fire festival of sex, fertility, and new life). A Roving group of predators will be assembled to hunt numerous prey in woods and meadows, until the May Queen is found. The predator who catches her will be crowned May King! Her capture will start our sacred bonfire ritual, and we will celebrate the union of the May King and Queen all night pool-side with drinks and hors-d'oeuvres. Overnight camping is included in admission, and the party ends at 10am the next day. Campsite is clothing-optional.

This event is hosted by New Orleans Lamplight Circle, and is a yearly fundraiser held for the Greater New Orleans Pagan Pride Day. Our group is a social, educational, and activism forum serving the community for over 8 years. We create events that celebrate Earth-centered spirituality and bring Pagans together. Please visit www.meetup.com/lamplight to learn more about us. Visit www.gnoppd.org to learn more and help support the cause!

THE BELTANE

May 2-6, 2018

Turtle Hills Events, Inc.

Ramblewood Retreat Center, Darlington, MD

Renew, Rekindle and Restore your Passion! Beltane invites you to bring your open heart and a spirit for new adventures with you to Ramblewood Retreat Center in Darlington, MD. There, you'll find a community of like-minded people who are excited about sharing passionate endeavors with each other.

Each year pagans, polyamorists, swingers, tantra practitioners, members of the leather community and other people with a passionate attitude towards life gather together in Northern Maryland to celebrate Beltane with a variety of rituals, workshops and experiences. We embrace life and each other in an open environment full of excitement and joy. We invite you to become part of that community.

[MAY DAY FAIRIE FESTIVAL AT SPOUTWOOD FARM](#)

May 4-6, 2018

[Spoutwood Farm](#), 4255 Pierceville Rd., Glen Rock, PA

Once upon a time, two realms existed side by side Join four Faerie tribes, the Light and Dark Fae, and all manner of nature spirits. Featuring a new King & Queen of the May, Sprout Scouts, live music, dancing, bubbles, magicians, fairies, goblins, over 70 faerie craft vendors, and more winged things than you can count! Meet special guests Charles Vess and Twig the Fairy, enjoy the Appalachian steampunk sounds of Tuatha Dea, experience the ancient thundering war drums and skirling dual bagpipes of Cu Dubh, and delight in the vaudeville charm and pixie spirit of Frenchy and the Punk! Activities for the young, and young-at-heart, include Maypole dancing, parades, Fairie and Gnome Village Tours, the Fairie Welcome Center, a Fairie Treasure Hunt, tea parties, puppet shows, storytellers, and more! Humans and fae of all ages are welcome to explore our Fairie Maze, the Dark Faerie Realm, an outreach area with live animals, drum circles, the meditation labyrinth, and the many nature paths filled with wonder, and fairie friends.

[SPIRIT OF THE MARSH - BELTANE CAMP AND GATHERING](#)

May 4-7, 2018

Presented by Spirit of the Marsh

Arklow House Farm, Rotten Row, Theddlethorpe,
Mablethorpe, Lincolnshire, England, LN12 1NX

Celebrating the Beltane 2016. Three days camping in the beautiful countryside of Lincolnshire, a family gathering united in keeping ancient and spiritual traditions alive. This year's event is packed with excellent talks, workshops, music, meditations, Pagan and spiritual ceremonies, lots to keep the children entertained, and, of course, the Beltane fire. The limited ticket price includes camping, access to talks, workshops, meditations, music & various forms of entertainment provided. For more info about the Gathering, and to pay via. paypal, please see our website or join our facebook group:
www.facebook.com/groups/spiritofthemarsh.

[FIRES OF BELTAINE](#)

[Facebook](#)

May 10-13, 2018

Summerland Ranch, Bonita Springs, FL

A Beltaine celebration/festival. Drum circle every night around the fire. Fire and flow arts are welcome and encouraged. Summerland Ranch is private property opened to pagan communities. Located in the lush native flora and fauna of Southwest Florida. Six acres adjacent to protected wetlands and a nature preserve.

[BELTANIA](#)

May 17-20, 2018

La Foret Conference & Retreat Center, between Colorado

Springs & Denver, CO
Sponsored by Living Earth Church

It's an exciting four-day-long camping festival of music, magic, and spiritual connection for all ages. Come celebrate Beltane and the beginning of summer! Musicfest with over 7 different performances by local, national, and internationally-known artists - performances to be announced soon! Huge maypole dance, multiple rituals and ceremonies. Community campfires and drum circles. Workshops, classes, and the NeoPagan NeoHighland Games. Merchants Row, hot showers, fantastic food, and Wi-Fi.

[PAGAN UNITY FESTIVAL \(PUF\)](#)

May 17-20, 2018

Montgomery Bell State Park, Burns, TN

Now in our 15th year! A three day family friendly event in the beautiful Tennessee hills with workshops, rituals, shopping and great food! We offer children and teen activities. There is some cabin space available and plenty of tent camping. Guest Presenters: Oberon Zell, Christopher Penczak, Raven Grimassi & Stephanie Taylor, Dorothy Morrison, M. R. Sellars.

[GATHERING OF ALL PATHS](#)

[Gathering of All Paths on Facebook](#)

May 18-20, 2018

Casa, AR

A family friendly gathering of olde where we cook, eat, talk, teach, learn, drum, sing & dance around the fire with our spiritual kindred and those not yet known. Located in Casa, Arkansas with 4 open acres for primitive tent camping. A child safe environment because our young are our future.

Hosted by Congregation of the Mistletoe and Congregation of the Ash & sponsored by the members of your communities, covens & clans. A true Gathering of All Paths.

[BLUE RIDGE BELTANE](#)

May 18-20, 2018

Stoney Creek Campground, Greenville, VA

With so many tumultuous events churning in the world and in our own lives, we come together for healing and strength this year with the theme "Unity through Community". This is the year that we focus on how we can build our communities, contribute to the greater good, and make this world a better place for every creature. What's kept this festival going for over 20 years now, making it the longest-running pagan festival in Virginia? The people. The community. There truly is magic in this eclectic gathering of spiritual people. We have something for everyone at this family friendly gathering! Included in the price of admission: Children's events (including a children's maypole)! General workshops that range in topics from drumming to spell work to gardening to everyday subjects like pagan parenting and leadership! Music and karaoke! Rituals! And the Inner Sanctum, a private area to explore topics related to sacred sexuality for those who are 18 years and over. (But don't worry--we're family friendly, so the IS is well secluded from prying eyes, so everyone who attends can feel comfortable.) Please visit us at our website and on Facebook at "Blue Ridge Beltane-Virginia" to find out more about this extraordinary event!

[RITES OF SPRING](#)

May 23-28, 2018

Western MA

The EarthSpirit Community and Tamelin Productions invite you to join us for the annual Rites of Spring -- a gathering open to all who celebrate the sacred nature of the Earth. Each May since 1979, around Memorial Day our community re-emerges as 500 participants from all over the United States and abroad come together to live and learn, work and play in a setting apart from our everyday lives.

[ELF-FEST](#)

May 23-28, 2018

Lothlorien Nature Sanctuary, Bedford/Needmore, IN

Community fertile earth folklife festival open to everyone. Includes musical and theatrical performances, primitive camping, fellowship, seasonal rites and ceremonies, semi-annual Grand Council-with VP election results, kids' activities, workshops and discussion circles, all-night drumming and dancing, etc. Visit us on-line for complete and updated details. Proceeds benefit Lothlorien Nature Sanctuary and Elvin HOME, Inc. Also available: vending sites for browsing and shopping, food for a nominal fee from the cafe in the Radiance Hall and other possible dining options, hot showers, a dish washing station, drinkable water, fire wood for use at community fire pits.

[MOONDANCE](#) 2018

May 24-28, 2018 (Memorial Day Weekend, Thursday-Monday)

[Roxanna](#), Auburn, AL

Moondance celebrates the dance of the seasons, and will include classes, workshops, a pot-luck feast, a group ritual, and drum circles.

The festival is at a primitive camping site; i.e., plenty of camping space, hot showers, a pavilion, but no cabins. There are hotels within 30 miles. Pets allowed (\$35 fee), clothing optional.

IMPORTANT: Moondance is LGBTQ-friendly. We do not tolerate implicit, implied, verbal, emotional, or physical violence towards our LGBTQ friends.

[HEARTLAND PAGAN FESTIVAL](#)

May 24-28, 2018

Camp Gaea, McLouth, KS

Sponsored by Heartland Spiritual Alliance

Over 27 years ago, a small group of visionary pagans deliberated, planned and brought forth the first pagan festival to be held in the Kansas City area, and it has grown to become one of the largest pagan festivals in the entire country. Owned and cared for by Earth Rising, Incorporated, Gaea's 368 quiet acres hold some 1,000 to 1,300 pagans each memorial weekend. Beginning with Opening Ritual on Thursday evening and continuing through the Memorial Day Closing Ritual, Heartland Pagan Festival offers well-known pagan authors and performers on an up-close and personal basis to curious and interested seekers of education and entertainment. Heartland Pagan Festival always strives to offer something of interest for everyone. But Heartland is about much more than entertainment and getting your books autographed. Each year, in addition to our featured guests' presentations, our attendees offer an amazing range of workshops and rituals designed to educate, enlighten and encourage understanding and acceptance of other paths and beliefs.

WELLSPRING GATHERING

May 24-28, 2018

StoneCreed Grove, ADF

Tredara, Bennett Rd, Madison, OH

Wellspring Gathering is an international A.D.F. event put on by Stone Creed Grove, A.D.F. for the entire community to come together in frith with friends, family and folk. It is also the site of the Annual ADF Meeting. This will be our Grand Symbol year, so bring your grove/group banners to display proudly as we install the new Archdruid along with other new Mother Grove members. As we have done in the past there will be Bardic, Brewers, Artisans & Warriors competitions, as well as a community shrine, classes and rituals throughout the weekend. Also included will be co-op childcare and children's classes.

FIRES RISING AT FOUR QUARTERS

May 30-June 3, 2018

Four Quarters Farm, Artemas, PA

For three nights, step outside of your usual activities and into a conscious process, immersing yourself in the complex metaphors, archetypes, and images of Alchemy. The gathering is our Laboratory, and the sacred fire is our vessel where we transform our personal Lead into purest Gold. Turn your energies into rhythm, song, dance and symbol; speak your truths, listen to others, and step into sacred space to shine. Experiment with ways of being and relating in a safe and accepting context. Stay up all night and greet the rising sun. Fires Rising celebrates creating a present of our own choosing. We support one another while taking personal responsibility for our own safety, healing, entertainment and engagement in this process. In that spirit, we refrain from alcohol and other mind-altering

substances. Fire, Community, Creativity, and the Night are our active ingredients. All faiths are welcome here, and all ability levels. Bring your whole Self; your strengths and talents as well as your hurts. Bring on the didgeridoos, gongs, singing bowls, frame drums, incenses and oils, the drums, chants, spoken word, dance, painting, fire spinning, theater, decorations - and most of all, your love and kindness.

[WHERE WOMYN GATHER](#)

May 31-June 3, 2018

Northeast Pennsylvania

Join us for a new journey among familiar traditions this year. We will continue to honor the Triple Goddess with many paths toward experiencing a deeper dimension of yourself. The SacredFire, Lakota Inipi SweatLodge and Red Tent await you. You are invited to participate in enthralling rituals, experiential workshops, drumming and singing circles. There is Gyrlspace for the young and a marketplace for all to enjoy the creations of craftswomyn.

[ST. LOUIS PAGAN PICNIC](#)

June 2-3, 2018

Tower Grove Park, Grand & Magnolia, St. Louis, MO

10 am- 5 pm daily

Join us for the 24th Annual Pagan Picnic. This year's theme is "Community Connections" Saturday's events are from 10:00 to 7:00; Sunday's events are from 10:00 to 5:00. As always, we are located in beautiful Tower Grove park. This don't-miss-it event features more than 50 vendors, a dozen performing groups from belly dancers to bands and solo singers, workshops for adults and children, and rituals. This

is the biggest event of its kind in the United States, and it's all free and open to the public! Come join us for a day of music, conversation, and renewal.

THREE GATES GATHERING

June 8-10, 2018

West Plains, MO

Three Gates Gathering ~ A Mystery School. Purpose: To provide information on particular topics through the free exchange of ideas in a discussion format; To provide an atmosphere of love, acceptance, and tolerance; To support the spiritual practices of all groups that follow the mandate to Preserve the Craft and/or Be At One with the Earth. With Special Musical Guests, Mama Gina LaMonte and Rowena of the Glen.

ISHTARFEST'S SUMERFAIRE 2017

June 8-10, 2018

Central New Jersey

A weekend-long Sumerian Renaissance Faire! Throw off the cares of the modern world and immerse yourself in Babylonian culture and worship for the weekend with us! Join Hands of Change Coven in Central NJ for a weekend full of workshops, classes, a full moon ritual, drum circles, kids' activities, vendors and more! This festival is in honor of Ishtar (also known as Inanna and Astarte) which introduces you to the Babylonian pantheon, helps you learn a little about our Pagan roots in the fertile crescent of Mesopotamia and fills you with festivity and delight. Come in costume and get a free crescent roll!

PANGAIA FESTIVAL

June 9-10, 2018

VFW Grounds, Fair Oaks, CA

delightful events of vendors, performers, and presenters distilled down from the best of the best of magical festivals over the past fifteen years, PanGaia Festival invites you to be a part of its maiden voyage as it launches on June 20, 2015 for the Summer Solstice weekend. Key staff members from festivals of the past came together to form the North Western Circles Association, a nonprofit organization dedicated to hosting high quality magical events and raising funds for local charities.

PanGaia Festival is about the fostering of loving and joyful relationship in the magical community and working together to learn create a blessed and fun-filled event for those who wish to celebrate Litha, the Summer Solstice.

This event will include contests, raffles, a children's area, awesome food vendors, live music, authors, fabulous performers imagine a Pagan County Fair atmosphere. After the sun goes down, the energy shifts into more adult-oriented entertainment with PanGaia After Dark.

FREE SPIRIT GATHERING

June 12-17, 2018

Camp Ramblewood, Darlington, MD

A sacred, family-friendly midsummer festival. This year's featured performers: SJ Tucker, Hvbris, David London. Classes and workshops for everybody, for kids, for teens, and for adults, rituals, sweats, concerts and performances, merchants, and drumming and dancing by the lakeside fire circle. There are full kids' and teens' programming tracks, in addition to robust offerings for adults. Learn to spin fire!

Reconnect to your sacred self in ritual! Drum and dance the night away! This festival is put on by the community, for the community. Pricing options range from full week to weekend to day pass, and you have your choice of shared cabin camping or private tenting on the beautiful grounds of Camp Ramblewood. Don't miss it!! Get up-to-date news on the festival via the [FSA Facebook group](#) or the [FSA twitter feed](#).

PAGAN SPIRIT GATHERING

June 17-24, 2018

Sponsored by: Circle Sanctuary

Tall Tree Lake, Vinenna, IL

One of the oldest and largest of the Pagan festivals, held annually since 1981, is a special week long festival that celebrates the Summer Solstice, Pagan culture, and the spiritual dimensions of Nature. PSG brings Pagans from many paths and from places across the country together to share ideas, knowledge, energy, music, rituals, friendship, and celebration with each other. Participants live cooperatively for the week within a totally Pagan community located in a secluded rural valley. PSG has more than 150 scheduled activities each year, including rituals, workshops, concerts, and networking meetings. Rituals will be led by a variety of facilitators in different traditions, including Summer Solstice Rituals, a Magical Gift Circle, a Candlelight Labyrinth of 1000 candles, Drum Circles, Sweatlodge ceremonies, Rites of Passage, plus Women's and Men's Rituals. Evening concerts will be performed by various nationally known Pagan artists, including Coyote Run, The One Hat Band, Spiral Rhythm, Green Grown, and Michelle the violinist extraordinaire. Workshops are given daily on a wide range of Pagan topics. Previous subjects have included Wiccan Ways, Goddess Spirituality, Celtic Studies, Creative Arts, Healing, Shamanism, Chanting, Dancing, Drumming

Techniques, and various Networking meetings. Special programming will include a Leadership Institute for Pagan ministers that will include an intensive on enhancing rites of passage, training for Pagan prison ministry, working with the media, and other topics of interest to Pagan leaders. Other programming will include workshops for Pagan youth, performing arts, late night ecstatic dancing with bonfires and drumming, a Pagan marketplace, and much more. PSG has always been an opportunity for spiritual renewal, networking, education, and cultural enrichment. Join us as together we create a Pagan Town and immerse ourselves in Pagan community for the week.

Contact Circle to receive the PSG Brochure, which has complete details and a registration form, or see our website. Discounts are available for early registration, and final registration closes in late May/early June. Contact: PSG, Circle Sanctuary, PO Box 9, Barneveld, WI 53507 USA; (608) 924-2216; psg@circlesanctuary.org.

CHRYSLIS MOON

June 19-24, 2018

Sponsored by Pagan Educational Network Inc.
Tippicanoe River State Park, Knox, Indiana

This is a new outdoor Pagan festival in N. Indiana, offering an eclectic mix of rituals, workshops, drumming and concerts. Join us as we create a magickal family atmosphere for spiritual growth and relaxation. We welcome all faiths including Asatru, Native American, Druidism, Faeri, Paganism, Wicca, Ceremonialism, and all other natural spiritualities. Site is ALL cabin camping and there is a shower house and indoor plumbing. This is a pre-register event only! Also, we are not allowing pets and/or familiars. Event begins on Wednesday at noon, Register before June

1st for discount rates. Join our Yahoo group [ChrysalisMoon1](#) for information and registration forms, or you can email us at chrysalismoon1@yahoo.com for more info.

MICHIGAN PAGAN FEST

June 21-24, 2018

Wayne County Fairgrounds, Belleville, MI

This year will be a three day outdoor gathering featuring authors, musical entertainment, workshops, vendors, drumming and camping! And . . . for our kids we have plenty of children's activities and teenagers too! Event will be held at the Wayne County Fairgrounds, Belleville, Mi. Rain or Shine we have it covered! NEW HOURS! Gates open at 10:00 a.m. Friday and closes Sunday at 6:00 p.m.

SUNFEST

June 22-24, 2018

Wayne County Fairgrounds, Belleville, MI

SunFest is a 4 day camping festival celebrating the Summer Solstice. The ritual theme for this year is "A Fool's Journey." You are invited to join us for rituals, workshops, Sacred Fire in the Dionysus Grove, children's activities, a raffle:, a Tantric Temple, a potluck dinner on Saturday evening, a potlatch gift exchange, dancing and drumming around the main fire, hiking on the numerous and beautiful trails around the site, and a Sunday brunch.

[Facebook event page.](#)

[CALIFORNIA WITCHCAMP](#)

June 24-July 1, 2018

Mendocino Woodlands, Northern CA

This is an extraordinary event for extraordinary people. Share in a week of Reclaiming style, earth based spirituality and magic. Come and study magic and ritual in a week long Intensive. Witchcamp is offered to all genders at all levels of experience. Newcomers can learn the basic skills of magic and ritual, working with the elements, movement, sound and the mythological and historical framework of the Goddess Tradition. Advanced classes offer the chance to apply the tools of ritual to personal healing and empowerment, or a focus on taking the Craft out into the world, creating public ritual, ongoing groups, and healing issues surrounding leadership and power. This event is a deeply moving, life changing week and also a constant experiment in temporary village life. We will also look at ways of bringing this work and inspiration into our everyday lives. Creating powerful, joyful times. This intensive is not a festival. It will expand your unconscious awareness, push your edges and likely change your life. The intensive is sequestered for the entire 7 days. Please plan to attend the entire week. Also, we don't allow children due to the intensity of the week.

[STARWOOD FESTIVAL](#)

July 10-16, 2018

Wisteria, in Pomeroy, OH

Starwood is a HUGE festival which has been running for over 35 years. Starwood Festival is a celebration of diversity and alternative belief systems. A six-day, five night clothing-optional camping event with over 150 workshops, lectures and performances covering many fields, disciplines and

cultures. A family-friendly event with co-op child care, a Kid Village, concerts, parades, merchants, bonfires, drumming, dancing, jamming and parties.

[MIDSUMMER GATHER](#)

June 17-24, 2018

Eagle Cave Resort, Blue River, WI

MN Earth House Project announces "Bella Luna." Our schedule is still tentative, but we've got BIG PLANS a brewing! We have again arranged for a series of "Seeker Classes" to be presented, and there's some hints of SERIOUS entertainment being whispered. It's appearing to be a very enjoyable week in a magical setting that has hosted Pagan events since 1980: Eagle Cave Resort, where you can spend a week of camping so stress-free that you'll not want to leave.

[WISTERIA SUMMER SOLSTICE GATHERING](#)

June 18-24, 2018

Presented by Wisteria Event Site

Wisteria Event Site, near Athens, OH

Manifesting a week-long magical village celebrating eco-spiritual culture. Community- driven activities blended with performance and ceremony create rich opportunity for personal development and group transformation. Featuring eco-activist and spiritual author Starhawk, Three-night Alchemifire Ceremony with Jeff McBride, Owain Phylfe and more. Two stages for music and performance, bonfire drumming and dancing, workshops, rites of passage, merchanting, fire-spinning, bliss, family-friendly.

GODDESS GATHERING REBORN

June 21-24, 2018

Raven-Wolf Nature Sanctuary, near Cambridge, OH

The idea behind the original Goddess Gathering was to create an event where no one would be made to feel like an outsider; where people would be encouraged to bring their uniqueness and participate; where they would feel safe to be who they are and worship their spiritual path. After years of absence from the Pagan/Wiccan/magickal community, we return this year to offer you those things and more. There will be five days of workshops, rituals, a drumming circle & more. We invite you to come and join like-minded people as we once more gather for the Summer Solstice on Pagan-owned and maintained land.

DRUM & SPLASH

July 4-8, 2018

Four Quarters Farm, Artemas, PA

Swim all day, drum all night! Our celebration of the nation's birthday with family, friends, old & new! Join us for drumming, dancing, master classes, yoga, fire spinning, nature walks, Qi Gong, duckie races, an old-fashioned ice cream social, pig-pickin feast, and of course, fireworks!

SUMMERLAND SPIRIT FESTIVAL - CANCELLED FOR 2018 DUE TO LOSS OF VENUE

July xx, 2018

Turtle Lake, WI

Summerland Spirit Festival is a nine-day experiential spiritual retreat for followers of an Earth-reverent spiritual path. Nestled within several square miles of wild forest, you will have the chance to heal, reconnect with nature, and

make a lot of new friends. You will have the option of attending any of the several interesting workshops scheduled each day, participate in community ritual, enjoy live musical entertainment, drumming and dancing, and a bardic circle to share stories and song. Although there is a lot to do, the most important goal is for you to feel re-energized, refreshed, and renewed as you drive away at the end of the festival.

[SANKOFA FESTIVAL](#)

July 9-15, 2018

[Brushwood](#), Sherman, NY

Brushwood's Sankofa Festival returns to Brushwood's roots and continues to promote an open, accepting and safe environment that allows participants the freedom to have fun and celebrate the creative spirit. The festival takes place the week BEFORE Sirius Rising. The focus has been on community and frivolity, while embracing different learning paths from specialized tutors. Sirius Rising focuses on ritual and elemental aspects whereas this festival has more focus on the following three things: 1. Having fun and being creative 2. Learning different pathways 3. Sharing within our community. So whether you are interested in more focused workshop experience or simply relaxing and having fun, come and enjoy a great time with the Brushwood community. There are over 100 workshops and performances.

[SPIRITFIRE FESTIVAL](#)

July 11-15, 2018

New Lebanon, NY

We celebrate life and spirit through the pathways of music, movement, voice, Seva (or service), and the Mysteries, focused in the medium of the sacred all-night fire circle. During the day, you can explore many types of artistic, expressive, and spiritual practices via workshops, affinity groups, jams, or just hanging out with new friends in the community/merchant circle. When the sun goes down, fire-spinners light up the night to the sounds of amazing drumming, poetry jams flow, chants are shared, and people rest or socialize while preparing for intentional fire-lighting ceremonies that begin an all-night celebration of the sacred in each of us.

SpiritFire provides a nourishing and inspirational environment in which drummers, dancers, chanters, poets, visual artists, and seekers of all types can both honor individual diversity yet share a common and powerful bond at the fire. Each night we acknowledge our connections in the spirit of joyous celebration, deep listening, infectious groove, and ecstatic trance!

[SIRIUS RISING](#)

July 16-22, 2018

[Brushwood](#), Sherman, NY

Come participate in Brushwood's Sirius Rising festival and enjoy the opportunity to participate in creative expression and personal growth. Sirius Rising is an eclectic week-long festival that nurtures creative and spiritual potential by bringing together, involving and teaching the community. The experience encourages participation in the universal creation process, opening participants to the unique relationship between the Land, the community and the festival at Brushwood. If you are interested in participating in workshops, drumming and dancing around the fire, or simply relaxing with friends or family in the great outdoors,

Sirius Rising is the place for you. Show your spirit during Sirius Rising by wearing the colors to honor the elements: Monday Air (yellow), Tuesday Fire (red), Wednesday Water (blue), Thursday Earth (green), and Friday Spirit (white & purple). Sirius Rising features over 100 workshops and hands-on activities, participation encouraged: Mind-body-spirit, arts, dance, Chi Kung, fire dancing/spinning, drumming, sacred fires, kids and teen programs. Performances all week! There's entertainment every evening on the main pavilion stage. Drum and dance all night around the Sirius Rising bonfire.

[SUMMER SPARK IGNITE](#)

July 27-29, 2018

Ben Lomond, CA

This is your invitation to participate in something extraordinary. This is your invitation to a challenge, a rite, and an ordeal. This is your invitation to an event that is unusual, magical, and profound. Too often we get wrapped up in our day-to-day and feel disconnected, stuck, lost, or at a loose end. We've allowed worries to chase us around. We've lost contact with the beauty that we are. We need to escape, to get outside. We need to experience ourselves fresh and unmediated. We need to reclaim what animates us, what brings us joy, what give us a clear sense of ourselves, of our place, and of our purpose. We need a method, an approach, a ritual, to shake us up, to wake us up, to transform our experience. We need an ecstatic fire circle ceremony. Our format is both simple and ancient. We come together under the stars, surrounded by trees, to sing, speak, dance and drum around a fire for three nights until dawn. The cool night air, the mountains, the trees, the sound of the drums, the warmth of the fire, the eyes of our friends, conspire to bring us back into our bodies, fully present, breaking down

our resistances, letting us be ourselves more fully. Together we journey into the night, playing, dancing and singing our hearts' song. Together we hold this space as sacred, allowing it to be the crucible that brings us into contact with the mysterious, that bubbles spontaneously up from within and without. We open ourselves up to the power of the moment to connect us again with places of deep truth. This is not a meditation retreat, it is an ecstatic advance! It is an injection of spirit, of energy, of connection to source. Will you join us for this ritual?

Ignite is a four day and three night fire circle ceremony, in the Santa Cruz mountains, near Ben Lomond, CA, with dancing, drumming, singing, ritual, workshops and community. This is your invitation to join us for fun, laughter, magic, transformation and connection. Should I bring a drum? Yes, please! Bring your hand drum, your didgeridoo, shakers, bells, any instrument to play in support of our ritual. We're not performing songs; music is our magical container. Do I need special skills? This work does not require any particular belief or training. We honor people of all traditions and paths or none. This is magic created spontaneously by us the participants. Each person brings a valued contribution. So bring an offering, whether it is your music, your dance, your story-telling, your poetry, your costumes, or bring none of these things and come exactly as you already are. For this assignment you will need you, yourself and your courage to try. This isn't a performance you witness, it's a rite you participate in. We are co-creators of the magic. There is no right way to do it. We improvise. The form as ancient as people. We know how to do this, because it is in our bones. You are welcome here. Bring your whole self. And find yourself anew.

[CIRCLE'S GREEN SPIRIT FESTIVAL](#)

July 27-29, 2018

[Circle Sanctuary](#) Nature Preserve, near Barneveld, WI

A celebration of the ancient Celtic Fire Festival known as Lammass or Lughnassadh. A three day festival with workshops and events by Selena Fox and more! Featuring live music.

[SACRED HARVEST FESTIVAL](#)

August 6-12, 2018

Atchington in Finlayson, MN

Wholly unique and unlike any other large-scale public pagan event, Sacred Harvest Festival is a overwhelmingly friendly and family-oriented Pagan gathering hosted by Harmony Tribe, a magic tribal community celebration of earth-based nature spirituality. We are THE family-based tribal gathering of pagans in the Midwest!

Our festival held in an amazing, majestic grove of tall oaks overlooking a lake. All who embrace Nature Spirituality, Shamanism, Wicca or Pagan earth-based beliefs are welcomed to come and celebrate. This gathering includes workshops, rituals, drum circles, dancing, merchants, activities for teens and children. We will inspire and take you on a journey to find happiness and magick, and as always, add many surprises along the way!

Join us to honor the Earth, the Harvest and the blessings of the Sky, while enjoying the benefits of a tribal community. We have built Sacred Harvest Festival around that spirit you take home with you, and the bounty will grow this year!

DRAGONFEST

August 8-12, 2018

Colorado

Dragonfest is a large, regional, neopagan spiritual retreat held in the mountains of Colorado each August. People of all religions and spiritual traditions are welcome at Dragonfest, but workshops and rituals focus on various Neopagan, Wiccan, and other Earth-based spiritual practices. Dragonfest of Colorado, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation registered in the state of Colorado whose mission includes bringing the retreat to fruition.

DETROIT CONJURE & FOLK MAGIC FESTIVAL

August 10-11, 2018

Detroit, MI

Detroit Conjure & Folk Magic Festival is the Motor City's event dedicated being a one of a kind gathering of local, and not-so-local, presenters. Learn from authors, practitioners, and spiritualists from across every walk of life, and multiple disciplines and traditions. Experience rituals, rites, and panels that will excite and intrigue you. Jam out to local rhythm and blues, and more. Party at the Fete of the Conjuror, and shake your hips at our Hafla. Enroll in the Conjure College to get technical advice and advanced expertise. Our festival is like nothing else. Part free, part pay as you go, it is completely in your control to customize your experience. Two days, and one evening, of immersive and diverse happenings, phenomena, and networking. Vendors will be in full force to serve your desires for unusual and dazzling items some of whom are exclusive to this festival. Like our page at <https://www.facebook.com/detroitconjure/>

FAERY AND EARTH FESTIVAL

August 18, 2018

Watertown, NY

Adding a little light and magic to Upstate New York, the Faery and Earth Festival is back for its fourth year! This year is bound to be the biggest and best yet, with vendors, entertainment, workshops, and community building! Atop these wondrous offerings, guests may take part in our harvest ritual, led by Syracuse University Pagan Chaplain, Rev Mary Hudson! We look forward to seeing you there, Blessed Be!

CWPN'S HARVEST GATHERING

August 23-26, 2018

Camp Cedarcrest, 886 Mapledale Rd, Orange, CT

Harvest Gathering is a unique and magical festival that balances a strong focus on spiritual education with a fun, unplugged, and relaxed atmosphere. Enjoy a mythical adventure through workshops, classes, rituals, and entertainment. Pack your wings and be transported to the Light and Dark Faery Courts in the evenings and dine with Fae Royalty. Dance and frolic with satyrs, dryads, and goblins! Shop for magically crafted goodies from our many vendors, adorn your skin with mystical henna designs, get an insightful reading, or ease your mind and body after a long day of classes with a massage or reflexology session. Camp Cedarcrest offers a wonderful, close-knit community atmosphere that encourages a village-like setting. There are cabins and plenty of space for tenting. Look around to find some amazing spiritual spots for ritual, meditation, and hidden natural treasures. Activities: Evening fire circles, drumming and dancing, daily rituals, day and evening entertainment, rave in the light of the Faery Seelie Court,

get primal around the fire of the Faery UnSeelie Court, awesome vendors, unique raffle items, henna tattoos and body art, massage and reflexology therapists, classes and workshops from world-renowned authors and community leaders: Ronald Hutton, Stephanie Taylor, Raven Grimassi, Courtney Weber, Stephanie Woodfield, Patricia Lafayllve, Bernadette Montana, Morgan Daimler, Jessica Hunter, Robert Wandell, Lisa Tonner, Cori Burke.

[STONES RISING](#)

August 30-September 4, 2018

[Four Quarters Farm](#), Artemas, PA

A six-day ceremonial intensive that culminates with a tribe of a people, a community, raising two Standing Stones, using ropes, rollers and a lot of hard work. Join us for a Celtic inspired complex of service, ceremony, and celebration. Every hand is needed, every task important, every breath a blessing on the Great Work for our great grandchildren, Seven Generations down the line.

[WOMEN'S GATHERING](#)

September 7-9, 2018

[Our Haven](#), French Lick, IN

The Female Body The Our Haven Women's Gathering was established as a way for the women of the Our Haven Community to come together as women. In current society we are most often separated into small family units. We generally grow up with our mothers and sisters as the only other women in our lives. There are those of us who are lucky enough to also have grandmothers, aunts and sometimes close friends. However, rarely does this amount to community. In reality, our larger culture cultivates rather

toxic relationships between women. Society expects us to be competitive and catty toward one another. At Our Haven we are striving to reject these notions. We wish to come together and rebuild what modern society has torn down. There will be kid's activities for the young ladies in attendance. Also, we will have physical activities for the adult women such as Zumba, Yoga and Belly Dancing. Ladies of all ages who live their daily lives as women are welcome to attend. Our Haven is home to many lifestyles, religions and backgrounds. Come and commune with us! Nestled in the beautiful rolling hills of southern Indiana's countryside is Our Haven, an 175 acre nature sanctuary of beautiful deciduous forests and reclaimed fields for all who wish to come enjoy its clear creeks, natural springs, and secluded areas.

[HAWKFEST DRUM AND DANCE](#)

September 13-16, 2018

Dragon Hills Retreat, Bowdon, GA

Hawkfest is a drum and dance festival put on BY drummers and dancers! Started as a small gathering of friends who are dedicated to the joy and fun of dancing and drumming, Hawkfest has become a gathering where dancers and drummers, fire spinners and hoopers gather to share techniques, music, and to expand their knowledge. For the past several years, we have come together creating magickal and unforgettable experiences! In case you haven't figured it out yet, HAWKFEST IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT! Every night transports you into a place where you can dance, drum, spin, hoop, and celebrate until the sun rises! It is a time outside of time where we set aside egos and drum and dance finding the rhythmic ecstasy of our extraordinary lives. Dancers, fire spinners and hoopers come to Hawkfest to experience not only their own heart and soul but the

hearts and souls of everyone in the Circle each other and the drummers. You will walk away from Hawkfest a better player, a better dancer, a better hooper, or a better fire spinner!!!

[RELEASE THE ANIMAL WITHIN](#)

September 21-23, 2018

Oak Spirit Sanctuary, 26213 Cumberland Church Rd,
Boonville, MO

Your skin, warmed by the heat of the fire, glows with the silver rays of the full moon. Sounds of crackling wood, drums, and rattles mixed with the hoots, howls, and growls of your fellow dancers fill your ears. You turn and see your friend not as how she was, but as she truly is, the wolf prowling along the edge; guarding and protecting the safety of the pack. Again, you spin and see the Eagle. She stares into your eyes. More than from you, she is of you. Dancing, around and around you both move, never losing connection. At last, you jump, joining her as one, taking flight in the moonlight sky. The hidden power and majesty within now released. More than an animal, more than a person. Together you are greater. This is the Animal Spirit Dance We invite you to join us for a weekend of meditation, workshops, ritual, and dance at Oak Spirit Sanctuary, For more information contact Mabon2018@yarrowcoven.org, follow us on Facebook, @YarrowCovenStL or visit us at <https://www.yarrowcoven.org> Release the Animal Within.

[AUBURN PAGAN PRIDE DAY](#)

September 23 (Sunday), 2018

Sponsored by Church of the Spiral Tree (CST)

Davis Arboretum, Auburn University, Auburn, AL

Vendors welcome! Please see our website for information on

signing up as a vendor, or volunteering to lead a class or provide entertainment.

[FALLFLING](#)

October 10-14, 2018 (date TBA)

[Roxanna](#), Auburn, AL

FallFling is a celebration of the fall season, and will include classes, workshops, a pot-luck feast, an open group ritual, bonfires, and dancing.

The festival is at a primitive camping site; the site has running water, electricity, and hot showers, but no cabins and NO HEAT! Please plan accordingly. If you don't want to camp, there are hotels within 30 miles. Pets allowed (\$25 fee), clothing optional.

IMPORTANT: FallFling is LGBTQ-friendly. We do not tolerate implicit, implied, verbal, emotional, or physical violence towards our LGBTQ friends.

[WISTERIA AUTUMN FIRES](#)

October 10-14, 2018

Presented by Wisteria Event Site

Wisteria Event Site, near Athens, OH

Autumn Fires: Harvest, Halloween and Hallows. Hardy campers celebrate seasonal color with concert, feasting, workshops, Ancestor's Shrine and campfires. Seasonal event featuring community-wide pottery workshop take your art home. All night pottery pit-firing with drumming and dancing. A kid's paradise with cooperative play, crafts and other seasonal activities. Family friendly. Day pass available.

[SC Upstate Pagan Pride Day](#)

October 13, 2018, 10 am-6 pm

Maynard Community Center, 1127 Jameson Road, Easley, SC

New location! Weaving the Web and Welcoming the Harvest: Come join your local community and celebrate the Harvest season. We will have workshops, kids activities, vendors, dancing drumming and other entertainment. Bring one non-perishable food item, and one item for animal donation (preferably canned food) for our charities. Plus bring a chair or blanket to sit on during workshops and performances, notebook & pen or pencil for taking notes during workshops or networking information, money to shop with, a bag to carry your goodies with you, a drum or other percussion instrument to partake in the drumming circle. It's going to be great fun and educational to top it off ! See you there!

[AUTUMN MEET](#)

October 17-21, 2018

Lakeland, FL

A Pagan gathering in Central Florida. Located on I-4 midway between Tampa & Orlando. The friendliest Pagan gathering in Florida! Phoenix Phyre is located on a working ranch in Lakeland, FL, and is celebrating 20 years of festivals this year. The gathering is in open pasture land that is covered by centuries old live oaks that are full of life energy and give the land a euphoric feeling of happiness. We are very close to shopping, restaurants, and lodging, if you prefer not to camp. Please see our website for directions and a map. The main purpose of Phoenix Festivals is to build community. We try to get to know everyone that attends and make them feel that they are a part of our Phamily. We do this through community rituals, community meals, nightly drumming and

dancing around the ritual fire, and other shenanigans promoting a feeling of closeness, unity, spirituality, and just plain fun away from the mundane. As with other festivals, there will be workshops, games, rituals, and drumming and dancing into the night. There will be merchants and an auction of unique items made by our own craftsmen that are unavailable anywhere else. Also, we have nightly fire spinning and are offering fire spinning workshops for those who want to give it a try. Phoenix Festivals, Inc., and the entire Phoenix Phamily would like to bid you "Hail and Welcome." Phoenix Phyre is our spring event. Autumn Meet is our fall event. You will be welcomed into the loving arms of your fellow pagans, let your hair down and be comfortable with the people who think like you. Our website, phoenixfestivals.com, has our registration and other information. Save some money and register today. Phoenix Festivals is a not for profit corporation owned and operated by the community it serves. WRCF - Wiccan Religious Cooperative of Central Florida sponsors Phoenix Festivals.

[CMA SAMHAIN](#)

October 18-21, 2018

Spirit Haven Ranch, TX (South-central Texas)

As the summer fires fade to embers, join us as we move beyond the ashes of the past into a new future together. Come "home" with us for four days of spirituality, community, and celebration. Join in the magick of our nightly rituals and participate in a wide variety of workshops presented by our members and featured guest speaker. Restore your spirit in our beautiful Sacred Spaces and browse through the amazing wares offered by the merchants on Vendor's Row.

[A MAD TEA PARTY!](#)

October 20, 2018, 7 pm-2 am

The Thompson House, 24 E. 3rd Street, Newport, KY

The Ohio Valley Witches Ball presents A Mad Tea Party! Grab your hunny on Sweetest Day, and journey down the rabbit hole. This is a charity event for the James Sauls Homeless Shelter in Batavia, OH. Vendors, readers, costume contest (Alice in Wonderland theme), live music, prizes, cash bar, and more. For more information and to purchase tickets visit our website. 18+ only

[MIDWEST WITCHES BAZAAR](#)

AND

[MIDWEST WITCHES BALL](#)

October 20, 2018

Royalty House, 8201 E 13 Mile Rd, Warren, MI

Midwest Witches Bazaar: 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Our 3rd Witches' Bazaar will be FREE and open to the public. At this time we have scheduled 27 vendors and readers to be available to all. Our artists and vendors will fill the Hall of the Met with their Magickal Marketplace, a tempting bazaar of colors, smells, textures and sounds. They offer for sale the beautiful, the exotic and the magickal. Buy your witchy gifts from that unique assortment of wares that you can only find together in one place at the Witches' Ball!.

7:00 pm-1:00 am: Midwest Witches' "Steampunk" Ball: Where Magick Meets Machine. Dress to impress! 21 and over only. Come join us later for our 17th magickal night of music, food, and dancing with Pagans, Witches, Druids, Goths, Vamps, Faerie Folk, Magickal Folk and others who defy description. Tickets are \$40 each.

[DAUGHTERS OF DIANA GATHERING 2018](#)

October 25-28, 2018

San Bernardino, CA

A gathering for Amazons, Dianic Witches, and Goddess women. Gift yourself an opportunity to unplug in nature! Feed your senses, mind, heart and soul by joining open-hearted women in a weekend filled with workshops, rituals, archery, divination, singing, dance, drumming, feminism and community-building. The event is located at a tranquil 17-acre retreat center nestled among the trees, walking trails, labyrinth, Jacuzzi, heated cabins, hot showers and prepared meals.

[HALLOWED HOMECOMING: A SAMHAIN RETREAT](#)

October 26-28, 2018

Prince William Forest Park, Triangle, VA

Join us as we connect with the Ancestors, the Divine, and each other in the woods of Prince William Forest Park! We will be offering in-depth workshops, rituals, drumming, storytelling, revelry, and great food. Come help us say farewell to the end of the harvest as we welcome the dark time of the year. Hallowed Homecoming: A Samhain Retreat is a camping 3-day retreat in the cabins and woods of Prince William Forest Park in Northern Virginia. Here, we will step in to sacred space for the weekend to celebrate the end of the harvest and the new year, to connect with our ancestors, learn, and connect as a community.

2017 Festivals

[IMBOLC MAGICK GATHERING](#)

February 2-5, 2017

Summerland, Bonita Springs, FL

Four day, three night Pagan spiritual gathering, celebrating the Sabbat of Imbolc. After much consideration, we have decided to bring back our own Summerland Competition Games! (formerly Summerland Olympics). Due to safety reasons, no Pets, Animals or Familiars will be permitted. Live entertainment includes Mama Gina.

[BROTHERHOOD BY THE BOG MEN'S RETREAT](#)

March 10-12, 2017

First Landing State Park, Virginia Beach, VA

Presented by Hampton Roads Pagan Men

10 am- 5 pm daily

Brotherhood by the Bog is an annual men's spiritual and bonding experience. The focus is primarily Pagan though all respectful seekers are welcome. We welcome men of all sexual orientations and backgrounds. This year's theme is "The Hero's Adventure" and our keynote presenter is Tom Crockett. This event is open to all respectful seekers regardless of age, race, creed, path, sexual orientation, disability, political or religious affiliation.

[BELTAINE IN THE FOREST](#)

May 6, 2017

Coonskin Park, 2000 Coonskin Drive, Charleston, WV

Witches and Pagans gathering together once again in true Pagan fashion. Sing, chant, drum and dance. Feast and make merry! This annual Event has been reaching out to our Wiccan/Pagan community since 2008. Attendance has more than tripled in this time and we expect to continue this growth year after year. You can expect to enjoy live pagan music and dance performances, a host of vendors and merchants, Maypole Dances for children and adults, Beltaine

Ritual, Chant and Drumming circles and more! We are totally donation-supported so this event can be enjoyed by all who wish to participate. Featuring the hauntingly powerful and high energy music of David Wood! David's dynamic, high-energy music will carry you away and make you want to shake your butt off .pagan style! Get ready to experience a world of magickal and musical ecstasy that will take you where you've never been. Also returning in 2015: Master Psychic and Clairvoyant, Aeson Knight Open Wiccan Beltaine Ritual Maypole Dance for both Children and Adults Dance, Chant and Drum Circle Healing, Massage and Energy work Astrology Charts cast and printed on site! Children Actives and crafts May queen and king (children's) Your Favorite Craft Folks and Artisans returning to Merchants Circle where you can browse and shop for everything from hand cut and wrapped Stone Jewelry, Staves, Staves and Wands, Magickal Oils and Herbs, Candles and Incenses, Books, Music CDs, Original Art, Statuary and Plaques, Tarot decks and locally Witch-crafted Runes, Handcrafted Eco-friendly garments, charms, baubles, soaps, potions and lotions and more, more, more! Be sure to bring a 20-foot length of 2 1/2-3 inch wide ribbon for each Maypole Dance participant (Ribbon will be available for those who need it) This event is absolutely FREE! Alcohol and Drug-Free! Drama- free, Attitude-Free! Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BeltianeInTheForest>

JACKSONVILLE PAGAN PRIDE DAY

September 17, 2017, 11 am - 5 pm

Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Ave.,
Jacksonville, FL

We welcome everyone to our annual, family friendly community event! Jacksonville Pagan Pride Day aims to help those of Pagan and earth-based religions foster pride in their

identity as well as help the greater community better understand and accept their Pagan family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and more! We achieve this through providing accurate information about Pagan religions, aid local charities and nonprofits, support our community, and activism. Our event is rain or shine!

Join us for a fun day of educational workshops, spiritual demonstrations, local artists and vendors, Pagan groups and covens, local nonprofits, children's activities, music, charity drives, and food. The event is free to attend; however, we greatly appreciate donations for our charity drives! We are collecting food donations for Waste Not Want Not Florida and pet food and supplies for First Coast No More Homeless Pets.

Event sponsors this year are Earth Gifts, Witch School International, Olympic House of Venus Hathor, and Mystic Card. For more information, please contact Local Coordinator at admin@jaxpagan.org or visit www.jaxpagan.org.

Jacksonville Pagan Pride Alliance, Inc is coordinated by the open Pagan group, Sanctuary: Realms of Spiritual Growth. We are a local chapter group of the international 501(c)3 Pagan Pride Project. Annually, there are over 120 events held by local chapters in the United States, Canada, Italy, Peru, Mexico, Chile, Columbia, Dominican Republic and Brazil.

[ATLANTA PAGAN PRIDE DAY](#)

September 30, 2017, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Atlanta Friends Meeting House, 701 West Howard Ave,
Decatur, GA

All over the world, local coordinators host Pagan Pride celebrations. Pagan Pride Day fosters dignity in Pagan identity through education, activism, charity, and community. Atlanta's Pagan Pride Day includes a public

gathering where Pagans can network with each other as well as a food drive to share our abundant harvest with others in need. Atlanta Pagan Pride Day benefits the Atlanta Community Food Bank by asking participants to bring a minimal donation of non-perishable food, collected on Pagan Pride Day and delivered to the Food Bank. There are also merchant booths, music and dance performances, and many other activities.

[NORTHERN VIRGINIA PAGAN PRIDE DAY](#)

September 30, 2017

GMU campus, Fairfax, VA

[TWILIGHT COVENING](#)

October 6-9, 2017

Western MA

Twilight Covening is a three-day institute of earth-spirituality held within a continual three-day ritual. It is a time for exploring ways to deepen earth-centered spiritual practice and a time to develop our collective wisdom in a shared sacred space.

[SAMHAIN FLORIDA PAGAN GATHERING](#)

October 25-29, 2017

Retreats by the Lake, 2819 Tiger Lake Rd., Lake Wales, FL 33898

Honoring Our Ancestors: Welcome to the Forest! Set up camp, commune with nature, relax, visit the vendors, attend workshops, and evening events. Headliners: Judika Illes, Byron Ballard, Christina Gaudet, Carrie Leitch, Eddie Presley

Musical Headliners Brian Henke, Hecate's Wheel Drum Circle: Kelso, Becca and Friends.

[TURNING THE TIDE](#)

December 8-10, 2017

North Miami Beach, FL

Turning the Tide celebrates its 11th year of celebrating Yuletide in North Miami Beach. Our weekend event includes rituals, workshops, drumming, merriment, and more. This year's theme is Io Saturnalia, and Everglades Moon is excited to bring Rome to South Florida through themed workshops and rituals. Our \$55 registration includes cabin or tent space, access to all rituals, workshops, and drumming, breakfast, and community pot luck dinner Saturday evening. Interested in presenting a workshop? We're taking submissions now!

Useful Links

<http://www.theasatrucommunity.org>

<https://www.asatru.org>

<http://odinsvolk.ca>

<https://www.asatruuk.org>

<http://www.runestone.org>

Our page <https://www.facebook.com/AsatruOne/>

