

ACRIMONY

January 2004

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Harmless Historical Nuts



Hus Langskipp Guards marching into battle along side their allies, Wulfs Rudel. (Estrella War XVII, February, A.S. XXXV-2001)

Also in this Issue:

2004 Interfaith Calendar

Seeing your Aura

And much more!

Reporting on the Alternative, Gothic, and Paranormal Scenes

<http://www.Acrimony.org>

Acrimony

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To the Editor...

You need more paranormal stuff

Anonymous

Acrimony attempts to be a blend of the occult, paranormal, alternative, and gothic. Each issue is quite different and the balance of individual issues varies quite a bit. As I am sure you are aware, Acrimony accepts reader submissions, so feel free to send in work you think would be more fitting ;)

I was at the Arizona Witches Ball. It sucked. You were too easy on the event.

Brandon Fisher

Send your email and comments to editor@acrimony.org

How to submit your work to Acrimony

Acrimony encourages and thrives on reader contribution. Acrimony will pay you \$10 for each article, \$5 for poetry, and \$5 for comic strips, satirical cartoons, or other artwork which is published. Space in Acrimony is severely limited and Acrimony cannot guarantee publication of all content submitted.

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1. E-mail your content to editor@acrimony.org or mail it to Acrimony, P.O. Box 215, Ontonagon, MI 49953.
2. Include an email or written letter stating that you own all of the rights to the content and grant Acrimony the right to publish the work.
3. Payment for work published is handled through PayPal.com. Include in your correspondence your PayPal account name. If you do not have a PayPal account, you can sign up for free at <http://ad2.acrimony.org>

Harmless Historical Nuts



by **Dan Shaurette**
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***"Be careful of what paradise you deal
What hope you make other dreamers feel
For if too many hear it,
They will struggle to draw near it
And in the search they just might make it real!"***

Leslie Fish, "Valhalla"

Have you ever felt as if you were "born too late", as if you didn't fit into this modern world? Have you ever practiced genealogy in order to trace your roots, to find out the history of your family? Have you ever picked up a history book, or one on architecture and the arts and felt like you belonged there and not here? Do you instantly connect with movies about Camelot, knights in shining armor, or Robin Hood? Perhaps you are fascinated by the Renaissance period, or the tales of Vikings, or great epics such as Tolkien's tales of Middle Earth.

Then perhaps you would be interested in knowing there is a sub-culture of people who share their mundane lives with time in what they call The Current Middle Ages. These people are members of a worldwide

organization known as the Society for Creative Anachronism. Do not mistake that last word - it is not Anarchism, for the SCA is definitely not full of anarchy. Quite the opposite, it modeled after the feudal societies that ruled medieval Europe. The "Knowne World" of the SCA consists of seventeen Kingdoms, each further containing Baronies, Shires, Colleges, Clans, Households, and so on.

Anachronism is a word that means "outdated" or "relic". Essentially they are a historical re-enactment and research group, similar to the "American Civil War Re-enactors". However the SCA concentrates on the recreation of the European Middle Ages, before 1600 A.D. The SCA was incorporated as a non-profit organization in May of

www.Acrimony.org

1966, by a group of science fiction and fantasy fans in Berkeley, CA. Dates of events within the SCA have the designation of "A.S.", referring to "Anno Societatis", or Year of the Society, counting after that.

Virtually all facets of medieval society are studied and recreated, including dance, music and the arts, cooking and brewing, metalwork and jewelry, martial arts and weaponry, archery, and costuming. The latter is possibly the most important. For unless you are dressed in period costume, known as garb, you are said to be "naked". There are folks however who are known as Hospitaliers (or "Gold Keys"), who maintain a trunk of garb for those new to events.

Not only is historical research a key to becoming good at whatever arts and sciences that you favor, but it is a requirement for creating a persona, which is your alter-ego within the SCA. When you register to become a member of the SCA, you must choose a name for yourself, design a personal coat of arms (or "device"), and give a historical background for your persona. There are many requirements involved for all of this, and it is no simple task, as it must be unique. However there are groups who will help the process along when you join. It is important to point out that you do not have to become a member of the SCA to enjoy its chivalry. It is estimated that for every registered member of the SCA in



Hus Langskipp Guards and Wulfs Rudel at the center of a counter charge, which helped win this battle. (Estrella War XVII, February, A.S. XXXV-2001)

attendance at an event, there is an average of four others who are not.

The best way to discover what the SCA is really all about is to attend an event. Thanks to the Internet this has become quite simple. By visiting www.sca.org and clicking the link to Kingdoms and Groups, you will be able to find a group in your hometown or one nearby. Before that, and truly even today, most people discovered the SCA when they attended a sci-fi convention or similar event.

Here in Arizona, the SCA has it's own history. In 1969, a group of folks from Phoenix went to a convention in Berkeley and discovered the SCA. When they returned to Phoenix, they started their own chapter. They chose the name Atenveldt, which comes from the name of the Egyptian Sun God "Aton" and the German word for valley or land, "veldt". The Kingdom of The West already was considered to extend to

Arizona, so instead of becoming a new kingdom, the SCA created the very first barony - the Barony of Atenveldt.

It wasn't long however before Atenveldt grew to encompass members from Mexico to Montana. In 1970, the SCA designated them as the very first Principality and allowed for different baronies within it. Finally, in 1971, the Principality was so large that the SCA granted them the sovereignty to become the fourth Kingdom. There are now 17 distinct Kingdoms all over the world.

Today, the Kingdom of Atenveldt is limited to the borders of Arizona, and the Barony of Atenveldt is still the area of Central Metro Phoenix, but in the West Valley you will find the Barony of Sun Dragon and in the East Valley you will find the Barony of Twin Moons. There are also baronies in Tucson (Tir Ysgithr), Flagstaff (Ered Sul), and Sierra Vista (Mons Tonitrus). Each

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Members of Domba entertaining the crowd at the 2nd Annual Langskipp Cloven Fruit Revel. (Estrella War XVII, February, A.S. XXXV-2001)

of our three major universities are the home to smaller groups called Colleges, and there are eight Shires as well within the Kingdom, including the Shire of Londinium ad Rubrum Flumen in Lake Havasu City where the London Bridge makes its home.


Each barony has its own events, on a yearly, monthly, and even weekly basis. The most common weekly events are the Fighter Practices at which many fighters get together, don their armor, and test out their weapons and skills. Often at Fighter Practice, like the Barony of Atenveldt's at Encanto Park, which is held every Wednesday night at 7PM, you will find jugglers, belly dancers, fighters, archers, and merchants selling their period costumes and wares. The last Wednesday of the month is reserved for Court Night, at which the Baron and Baroness

hold court, announce business, and dispense awards.

The largest event in Atenveldt is The Estrella War, so named after the Estrella Mountain Park at which it is held, out in Goodyear. The event celebrates its 20th year in 2004 and begins Wednesday February 11th and runs to Monday the 16th (President's Day, when the war site is torn down.) Estrella War has grown to become one of the largest events in the Knowne World, drawing visitors to camp there from virtually every Kingdom.

Estrella War is a huge tournament and camping grounds where people from different realms come together to meet, show off their skills, and enjoy the festivities. Everything that folks have learned and

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taste immortality?*



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the blood is eternity,
but at what cost?*

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created throughout the year culminates with this event. It is full of competition, classes, dancing, feasting, singing with Bards, and shopping. There have even been Handfastings (marriages) held during Estrella War. To find out exactly where Estrella War is, how much admittance and parking are, etc., visit <http://www.estrellawar.com>

and <http://www.atenveldt.com>.

The SCA is an ever-evolving organization, but it has always stood for revelry, festivity, honor, and chivalry. In a day and age when the modern world seems to have forgotten these ancient ideals, it is good to know that there are those that keep the Dream alive.

***"We're just harmless historical nuts
Who wear boilerplate on our butts.
Who dress up in clothes from the 12th century
To bash on each other with sticks and debris,
And make up the world's largest private army.
Harmless historical nuts."***



Leslie Fish, "True Story"

Photos provided by Lord Karl Teransson of Hus Langskipp, the current Baronial Sheriff of Atenveldt.

There are currently 17 Kingdoms in the Knowne World. This list is compiled from the SCA's Geography site. It lists the names of the Kingdoms in the order that they were founded, and the area they now possess. To find out more about each group and learn more about their individual baronies and groups, check out www.sca.org/geography

The West Kingdom (1966)

Northern California and Nevada, Alaska, Japan, Korea and Pacific Rim

The Kingdom of the East (1968)

US: Eastern Pennsylvania, eastern New York, Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine.

Canada: Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

The Middle Kingdom (1969)

US: Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, a nip of Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota.

Canada: Manitoba, and a bit of Ontario.

The Kingdom of Atenveldt (1971)

Arizona

The Kingdom of Meridies (1978)

Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, most of Arkansas, Tennessee, almost all of Georgia, a bit of the panhandle of Florida, and small portions of both Kentucky and Virginia.

The Kingdom of Caid (1978)

Southern California, Greater Las Vegas Area, and Hawaii

The Kingdom of Ansteorra (1979)

Oklahoma, most of Texas.

The Kingdom of Atlantia (1981)

Maryland, most of Virginia, North and South Carolina, a bit of Georgia.

The Kingdom of An Tir (1982)

*US: Oregon, Washington, the northern tip of Idaho
Canada: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories.*

The Kingdom of Calontir (1984)

Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Northern Arkansas.

The Kingdom of Trimaris (1985)

Majority of Florida, Panama, and Antarctica.

The Kingdom of the Outlands (1986)

New Mexico, most of Colorado, parts of Wyoming and Nebraska, and El Paso and Hudspeth counties of Texas.

The Kingdom of Drachenwald (1993)

Europe, Africa, Middle East

The Kingdom of Artemisia (1997)

Montana, southern Idaho, most of Utah, and western Colorado and Wyoming

The Kingdom of Aethelmarc (1997)

Western Pennsylvania, western New York, and West Virginia.

The Kingdom of Ealdormere (1998)

Canada: Ontario

The Kingdom of Lochac (2002)

Australia and New Zealand

Meditation

Seeing your Aura



by **CT Thompson**
ctthompson@acrimony.org

Now separate your hands slowly until your fingertips are about a quarter of an inch apart. You should not be looking at your fingers but past them and at the wall.

Between your fingers you should see a smoky haze of light. This is your aura.



This is a simple exercise that will allow you to see your aura.

Step one: darken the room. It should not be totally dark. You should be able to see objects in the room such as furniture, but little else.

Step two: sit down in a chair and take a few deep breaths. Next, extend your arms straight so they are perpendicular to your body. Open your fingers and turn your hands toward each other. Bring your hands together. Your left fingers and thumb should be interlocked with the fingers and thumb of your right hand.

Step three: look between your fingers to the wall. A dark colored wall gives the best visual effect.

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2004 Interfaith Calendar

by Dan Shaurette

January

1 Mary, Mother of God - Catholic Christian Feast Day of St. Basil - Orthodox Christian Gantan-sai / Ganjitsu / Oshogatsu (New Year's Day) - Shinto	2 Cassé Gâteau - Voudon	5 Twelfth Night - Christian Guru Gobindh Singh Sahib Birthday - Sikh	6 Epiphany - Christian Tirer Gâteau (Les rois) - Voudon Christmas Eve - Rastafarian
7 Nativity of Christ - Orthodox Christian Mahayana New Year ** - Buddhist C h r i s t m a s - Rastafarian	11 Baptism of Jesus - Christian	14 Maghi - Sikh	18 World Religion Day - Baha'i
22 Tibetan Male Wood Monkey New Year ** - Buddhist Chinese Green Wood Monkey New Year ** - Chinese Lunar	26 Vasant Panchami ** - Hindu	30 Hajj - Islam	31 Waqf al Arafa - Islam

February

1 Four Chaplains Sunday - Interfaith Imbolic (or Oimelec) * - Celticism / Pagan	2 Presentation of the Infant Jesus (Candlemas) - Christian Saint Brigid of Kildare Day - Celtic Christian Id al Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice) - Islam	3 Setsubun (Bean Scattering) Begins - Shinto	4 Setsubun (Bean Scattering) Ends - Shinto Chinese Green Monkey New Year - Chinese Fortune-Telling
6 Full Wolf Moon at 8:47 GMT	7 Tu B'Shevat / New Year of Trees * - Jewish	14 Saint Valentine's Day - Christian	15 Meat Fare - Orthodox Christian Nirvana Day ** - Buddhist
18 Maha Shivaratri ** - Hindu	22 Hijra - New Year - Islam	23 Lent Begins (Clean Monday) - Orthodox Christian	24 Shrove Tuesday - Christian Mardi Gras (French for "Fat Tuesday") - New Orleans, LA Carnival (Latin for "Farewell to the flesh") - Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

<p>25 Ash Wednesday - Christian</p> <p>Lent Begins - Christian</p> <p>Norriture Rituelle des sources têt d' l'eau - Voudon</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Maundy Thursday - Christian</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Gregorian Leap Day - Interfaith</p> <p>Orthodox Sunday - Orthodox Christian</p>
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March

<p>1</p> <p>Saint David's Day - Celtic Christian</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Ashura - Islam</p> <p>The Fast of Nineteen Days - Baha'i</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Ramanavami** - Hindu</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Women's World Day of Prayer - Christian</p>
<p>6 Full Lenten Moon at 23:14 GMT</p> <p>Holi** - Hindu</p> <p>Avalokitesvara's (Kuan Yin) Birthday - Buddhist</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Purim / Feast of Lots* - Jewish</p> <p>Hola Mohalla - Sikh</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Loco Davi (manger du bois rituel) - Voudon</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Saint Patrick's Day - Christian</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Spring/Vernal Equinox at 06:49 GMT</p> <p>Legba Zaou - Voudon</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Norooz / Nawroz (The New Day) - Zoroastrian</p> <p>Feast of Naw-Ruz (New Year)* - Baha'i</p> <p>Ostara / Eostara - Wicca / Pagan</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Annunciation to Mary - Christian</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Khordad Sai (Birth of Prophet Zaranhushtra) - Zoroastrian</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Rama Navami** - Hindu</p>	<p>Alban Eiler (Light of the Earth)* - Celticism</p> <p>Shunbun no Hi - Shinto</p> <p>Ramayana (New Year)** - Hindu</p>		

April

<p>3</p> <p>Lazarus Saturday - Orthodox Christian</p> <p>Conclusion of Lent - Christian</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Palm Sunday - Christian</p> <p>Passion Sunday - Orthodox Christian</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Full Easter (or Paschal) Moon at 11:03 GMT</p> <p>Theravadin Buddhist New Year - Buddhist</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pesach (Passover) Begins* - Jewish</p> <p>Mahavir Jayanti - Jain</p>
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April

<p>8</p> <p>Maundy Thursday - Christian</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Good Friday - Christian</p> <p>Holy Friday - Orthodox Christian</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Easter Sunday - Christian</p> <p>Easter/Pascha - Orthodox Christian</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Pesach (Passover) Ends - Jewish</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Baisakhi - Sikh</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Lord's Evening Meal - Jehovah's Witness</p> <p>Christian</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Yom HaSho'ah * - Jewish</p>	<p>21</p> <p>First day of Ridvan (Declaration of Baha'u'llah) * - Baha'i</p>
<p>23</p> <p>Saint George's Day - Christian</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Dan Wè Zo, alias St. Louis Cleimeille - Voudon</p>	<p>29 Ninth Day of Ridvan - Baha'i</p> <p>Buddha Purnima ** - Hindu</p> <p>Cassé Canari ou Wèt mô nan d'lo - Voudon</p>	<p>30</p> <p>St. James the Great Day - Orthodox Christian</p> <p>Mangé les Morts - Voudon</p>

May

<p>1</p> <p>Beltane * - Pagan / Wicca</p> <p>Bealtunn (Scots Gaelic for "May Day") * - Celticism</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Mawlid an Nabi - Islam</p> <p>Ridvan ends * - Baha'i</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Full Milk Moon at 20:33 GMT</p> <p>Vesak or Visakah Puja ("Buddha Day") ** - Buddhist</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Lag B'Omer * - Jewish</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Mangers pour divers loas - Voudon</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Manger pour Gran'n Aloumandia - Voudon</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Ascension of Christ - Christian/Orthodox Christian</p> <p>Simbi Blanc - Voudon</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Birth of Abdul-Baha * - Baha'i</p> <p>Declaration of the B'ab * - Baha'i</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Shavu'ot (Pentecost) * - Jewish</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Ascension of Baha'u'llah * - Baha'i</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Pentecost - Christian/Orthodox Christian</p>	

June

3 Full Flower Moon at 4:20 GMT	6 Trinity - Christian All Saints - Orthodox Christian	9 Saint Columba of Iona Day - Celtic Christian	10 Corpus Christi - Catholic Christian
16 Guru Arjan Dev martyrdom - Sikh	18 Blessed Heart of Jesus - Catholic Christian	19 New Church Day - Swedenborgian Christian	21 Summer Solstice at 00:57 GMT First Nations Day - Canadian Native People Litha - Wicca / Pagan
24 Saint Jean's Day - Voudon	29 Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul - Christian		Alban Heruin (Light of the Shore) aka Midsummer's Day * - Celticism

July

2 Full Hay Moon at 11:09 GMT Guru Purnima ** - Hindu Asala Puja Day ** - Buddhist	3 Festival of Cerridwen* - Celticism	9 Martyrdom of the Bab* - Baha'i	11 Saint Benedict's Day - Catholic Christian
13-16 Ulambana/Obon ("Ancestor Day")** - Buddhist / Shinto	23 Birthday of Haile Selassie - Rastafarian	24 Pioneer Day - Mormon Christian	25 Saint James the Great Day - Christian Papa Ogou (St Jacques le Majeur) - Voudon
26 Gran'Délai et Gran'Aloumandia (Sainte Anne) - Voudon	27 Tisha B'av* - Jewish	29 Maitresse Silverine - Voudon	31 Full Grain Moon (also Blue Moon ***) at 18:05 GMT Asalha Puja Day ("Dhamma Day") - Buddhist

August

<p>1 Lammas - Christian</p> <p>L u g h n a s s a d (Lammas) * - Wicca/ Neo Pagan</p> <p>Fast in honor of Holy Mother of Lord Jesus - Orthodox Christian</p>	<p>3 Raksha Bandhan ** - Hindu</p>	<p>6 The Transfiguration of Christ - Christian</p> <p>Hiroshima Peace Ceremony - Shinto</p>	<p>15 Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary - Catholic Christian</p> <p>Dormition of the Theotokos - Orthodox Christian</p>
<p>20 Farsi New Year - Zoroastrian</p>	<p>25 Table Communion pour Dan Wezo, Roi de France - Voudon</p>	<p>29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist - Christian</p>	<p>30 Full Fruit Moon at 2:22 GMT</p> <p>Festival of the Tooth - Buddhist</p> <p>Agou - Voudon</p>

September

<p>1 Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year - Orthodox Christian</p>	<p>5 Janamashtami / Krishna Jayanti (Birthday of Krishna) ** - Hindu</p>	<p>6 Krishan Jayanti ** - Hindu</p>	<p>8 Nativity of Mary - Christian</p>
<p>11 First Selichot Service (at midnight) - Jewish</p> <p>New Year's Day - Rastafarian</p>	<p>12 Lailat al Miraj - Islam</p>	<p>14 Elevation of the Life Giving Cross - Orthodox Christian</p> <p>Holy Cross Day - Christian</p>	<p>16-17 Rosh Hashanah * - Jewish</p>
<p>18 Ganesh Chaturthi ** - Hindu</p>	<p>21 Alban Elued (Light of the Water) * - Celticism</p> <p>Mabon - Wicca / Pagan</p> <p>Navaratri / Durga Puja / Dusserah ** - Hindu</p>	<p>22 Fall / Autumnal Equinox at 16:30 GMT</p>	<p>23 Shubun no Hi - Shinto</p>
<p>25 Yom Kippur * - Jewish</p> <p>Roi Wangol, Mousindi - Voudon</p>	<p>28 Full Harvest Moon at 13:09 GMT</p>	<p>29 Michael and All Angels - Christian</p> <p>Manman Aloumandia - Voudon</p>	<p>30 Lailat al Bara'ah - Islam</p> <p>Sukkot begins * - Jewish</p> <p>Maitresse Délai - Voudon</p>

October

9/30 - 10/5 4 Sukkot* - Jewish	St Francis Day - Catholic Christian	7 Shemini Atzeret (Assembly of the Eighth Day)* - Jewish	8 Simkhat Torah (Rejoicing the Law)* - Jewish
14 Navaratra Dashara** - Hindu	15 Ramadan begins (to Nov 14) - Islam	18 St. Luke, Apostle & Evangelist - Anglican Christian	20 Birth of the B'ab - Baha'i Installation of Scriptures as Guru Granth Sahib - Sikh
22 Dasera** - Hindu	25 Nirvana Celebration - Jain	28 Full Hunter's Moon at 3:07 GMT Milvian Bridge Day - Christian Abhidhamma Day - Buddhist	31 Samhain - Wicca Chanté-messes - Voudon All Hallows Eve - Christian Reformation Day - Protestant Christian

November

1 All Saints' Day - Christian / Voudon Samhain* - Celticism / Pagan	2 All Souls' Day - Christian / Voudon Anniversary of the Crowning of Haile Selassie - Rastafarian	10 Laylat el qadr - Islam	11 Martinmas* - Celticism
12 Quds Day - Islam Diwali - Sikh Birth of Baha'u'llah* - Baha'i Deepavali (Hindu Festival of Light) - Hindu	14 Eid al Fitr (End of Ramadan) - Islam	15 Shichi-Go-San (Seven-Five-Three) - Shinto	20 Elephant Festival - Buddhist
21 Christ the King - Christian	24 Guru Tegh Bahadur martyrdom - Sikh	25 Thanksgiving - Interfaith Mangé Yam (Harvest Festival) - Voudon	26 Full Moon before Yule at 20:07 GMT Day of the Covenant - Baha'i Loy Krathong ("Festival of Floating Bows") - Buddhist
28 Ascension of Abdul'l-Baha* - Baha'i First Advent Sunday - Christian	30 Saint Andrew's Day - Christian		

December

5 Second Advent Sunday - Christian	8 Chanukkah Begins * - Jewish Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) ** - Buddhism Immaculate Conception of Virgin Mary - Catholic Christian	10 Ganga-Bois - Voudon	12 Agoué-Arroyo (Mangé la mer) - Voudon Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe - Catholic Christian Third Advent Sunday - Christian
15 Chanukkah Ends * - Jewish	19 Fourth Advent Sunday - Christian	21 Winter Solstice at 12:42 GMT Yule - Pagan / Christian Alban Arthuan (Light of Arthur) * - Celticism St Thomas the Apostle - Christian	24 Christmas Eve - Christian
25 Christmas Day* - Christian Feast Day of the Nativity - Orthodox Christian Bain de Noël (Frotté feuilles) or Fête des Membres - Voudon	26 Full Moon after Yule at 15:06 GMT Zarathosht Diso (Death of Prophet Zarathustra) - Zoroastrian Saint Stephen's Day - Christian	27 St. John the Apostle & Evangelist - Christian	28 Holy Innocents - Anglican Christian Holy Family - Catholic Christian
31 Omisoka - Shinto			

* Events listed on this date usually begins at sundown the day before this date. These traditions believe the day ends when the sun sets, not at midnight.

** Local customs may vary this date and may even recognize many different dates.

*** See December 2003 Acrimony's article "Once in a Blue Moon" for the convuted reasons why the second calendrical full moon in a month is "blue".

The times of day given in the calendar for full moon and starts of seasons are in "Greenwich Mean Time" (GMT), also known as "Universal Coordinated Time" (UTC), or "Zulu Hours"; so don't forget to adjust for your time zone and Daylight Saving rules. In the U.S. this is the following:

Eastern (EST) = GMT-5	Pacific (PST) = GMT-8
Central (CST) = GMT-6	Arizona is always GMT-7
Mountain (MST) = GMT-7	Hawaii is always GMT-10

Daylight Saving Time adds one hour and starts on the first Sunday of April and ends on the last Sunday of October. In practice, we "spring forward and fall back" at 1:59 A.M. local time.

World Religious Calendars

GREGORIAN 2004 - Pope Gregory XIII updated the Christian calendar in 1582 A.D. for Anno Domine, which is Latin for "The Year of Our Lord". Secularists have adopted the abbreviation C.E. for Common Era.

COPTIC 1720 - Coptic Christians follow the calendar of the Martyrs. It begins in the Gregorian year of 284, the year Diocletian, a persecuter of Christians became emperor of Rome.

HEBREW 5764 to 5765 - The start of the Hebrew Calendar is the Gregorian year of 3761 B.C. It is a lunar calendar of 19 year cycles, which count months from full moon to full moon. There is a 'leap month' added every few years to close the gap between lunar and solar cycles. Leap years run about 384 days, normal years with 354. Rosh Hashanah, the start of the Jewish new year is Sept. 16, 2004, and will mark year 5765.

MUSLIM 1424 to 1425 - Muhammad's trek to Hegira in A.D. 622 marks the beginning of this calendar. This is a lunar calendar of alternating months of 29 and 30 days. The Islamic calendar is based on the lunar year of 354 days. The number of days each month is adjusted according to the lunar cycle, beginning about two days after the new moon. The months drift backward over the seasons, beginning again on the same day every 32.5 years.

CHINESE 4701 - China's calendar was invented in the Gregorian year of 2637 B.C. It has been revised many times. It runs in 60 year cycles, each year named for one of 12 animals connected to the Chinese Zodiac. The new lunar year begins on the Gregorian day of Jan. 22, 2004, but it begins on Feb. 4, 2004 in the Fortune-telling Chinese calendar. It will be the Year of the Green Wood Monkey.

BUDDHIST 2548 - The start of this calendar marks the death of Buddha which was around 543 B.C. However, not all Buddhists follow this calendar. The Tibetan monks follow a calendar that comes full cycle every 60 years. It is related to the Chinese calendar, with each year named after an animal and an element. The new year begins on the Gregorian day of Jan. 22, 2004. It will be the Year of the Male Wood Monkey.

HINDU 1925 to 1926 - The Hindu calendar which was mentioned in the Rig-Veda was originally a lunar calendar. The year is counted from the first year of the Saka era, in A.D. 78. It was updated in 1957 to operate on the Gregorian leap-year system. Religious holidays are calculated according to the positions of the sun and moon. The start of the Indian National Calendar year coincides with March 22, except in a leap year like 2004, when it coincides with March 21.

MAYAN 5123 - The Mayans had three different and unique calendars. The one which details the passage of years is a 5,130 year Great Cycle, which ends on Dec. 22, 2012 A.D. This has given apocalyptic mavens one of many dates for the End of the World. The Mayans based their calendar on the true seasonal year having 365.2425 days, the most accurate ever devised.



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There's a Ghost in my House!



by **Atreyana Star**
star@acrimony.org

Recently Scarlett from **Ask Scarlett!** received a question pertaining to haunted houses. She referred the question to me with the hope I would be able to deliver a more clear answer.

Dear Scarlett,

I am in dire need of advice. I believe my house to be haunted. Not the silly kind of haunted like you see in the movies, but truly haunted. I have seen apparitions and I walk thru cold spots all the time. Now, I don't mind any of this; however, I want to be able to communicate with my house spirit. Do you know of any good ways to do this? I have considered using an Ouija board, but that seems so *Hollywood*. I just want to find out why my spirit is in my house

and if it is looking for anything in particular, or if it is just trapped here.

Friend of Casper

Dear Friend of Casper,

A haunting can happen in many different ways. Some are very subtle like cold spots, such as you mentioned. Others can be a bit unnerving. Seeing an apparition falls under that category for me. Thus far it seems that you have been lucky not to encounter a violent haunting. I myself have witnessed cases in which people were attacked or knives or glass were strewn about on the floor. Many times a house can have both a friendly and unfriendly spirit haunting it. This is usually the case when something traumatic has happened to one of the individuals. The victim spirit is generally the nicer one. They want justice and they want you to help them get it. The more aggressive spirit is less friendly. They are trying to protect themselves or the truth about an event that has happened. Violence in the house may increase the more you help the victim spirit.

A house can be haunted for many different reasons. The most common is *unfinished business*. A

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spirit will have a tendency to be *trapped* here on earth if there is something left for them to do. The easiest way to explain this would be to refer you to the movie *The Crow*. Eric Draven, the lead character in the movie, was sent back to earth to avenge his death and to ensure the culprits got their just deserts.

I grew up in a haunted house. Unlike most victims of haunting, my family had a personal relationship with our ghosts. They were my aunt, my grandfather, and my cousin. All of these people had a strong relationship with us during life and those relationships continued in death. I never attempted to contact them but from my frequent experiences, and the lack of experiences of others in the house, I believe that my long dead relatives were always there to protect me.

This brings me to the topic of communication. First you need to know a few things about communicating. Communicating with a spirit often helps that spirit to continue on its journey. Many people use Ouija boards when dabbling in necromancy. There are other and more effective ways to communicate with a spirit. You can conduct a séance. This is no easy task but if it is the path you choose simply pick up a book such as Tom Cowan's *The Book of Séance: How to Reach Out to the Next World*. Another option is a bit more expensive but may be the most productive. There are many people out there called psychic-mediums. These people talk with the

dead. *They are professionals*. The nice thing about this is that if your spirit gets violent a medium is trained to deal with the situation. In almost any area of the United States you can locate a medium. Keep in mind, do not go find *Madam Helga* who has a big neon sign on her front window and charges ten dollars to read your palm. Although some of these people have talents, many of them are frauds and will do nothing but take your money for telling you a very nice fairy tale.

All in all remember that this spirit is earthbound for a reason. Any help you give to assist in them achieving their goal will be appreciated. Think of how frustrated you get when you can't seem to finish something. Always take your haunting seriously. To your ghost this is no joking matter and it shouldn't be for you either. When in doubt think of how you would feel if it were you.



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Calendar

January 1st Kalends of January, New Year's Day, Fortuna, Jupiter, Juno, Janus

New Year's Day is sacred to the Greek Zeus and Hera and the Roman Jupiter and Juno. The Romans considered this day to be sacred to the god Janus, after whom this month is named.

Janus has two faces, on perpetually looking backward into the old year and one looking forward into the new. He is also the god of gates and doorways.

This day is a day of offering to the Roman goddess Fortuna, of women, fortune, and fertility.

January 2nd Advent of Isis, Birth of Our Lady Inanna, Terrestrial Perihelion

Our Lady Inanna is a Sumerian goddess, the princess of earth and queen of heaven.

Isis, the Egyptian goddess of love, is identified with Aphrodite, Astarte, Ishtar, and Cybele.

The earth's orbit takes it as close as it gets to the sun on this day.

January 3rd Customary Kalends of January, Lenaia, Charming of the Plow

This day was the celebration of the Lenaia in ancient Greece, to honour Dionysus, the god of wine and fertility.

In Norse tradition, this day marks the rite of Charming of the Plow, to petition Odin and Frigga to make the land fertile.

January 5th Nones of January, Befana

On this day in some parts of Italy, the spirit of an old woman named Befana is said to distribute sweets to good children and lumps of coal to bad ones.

January 6th Twelfth Night, Wassail Eve, Epiphany of Persephone

Twelfth Night and Wassail Eve is the day by which the debris of the Yule feast must be cleared away.

The rite in honour of Kore was held overnight between January fifth and sixth to prepare for Persephone's rise into the world after six months in Hades.

January 7th Sekhmet

The Egyptian goddess Sekhmet is honoured on this day. Sekhmet sustained the spirits of the dead.

January 8th Justita, Disting Moon, Freya, Old Druidic New Year

Today is sacred to Justita, the Roman goddess of justice.

The Norse goddess Freya is honoured on this day. Freya is the goddess of love and physical beauty.

In ancient Greece, this was a day honouring midwives.

January 10th Geraint's Day

This day is sacred to the ninth-century Welsh bard Garaint, the blue bard of Wales.

January 11th Carmentalia, Juturna, Plough Monday

This day is the Roman festival of Carmentalia, celebrating the Camenae, nymphs of prophesy.

This is the day of Juturna, the divinity of fountains and prophetic waters.

Plough Monday is traditionally the day to return to work after the yule.

January 12th Compitalia, The Lares, Distaff's Day

The Roman festival of Compitalia celebrates the household gods,

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the Lares. Lares were the spirits of departed ancestors, who remained at the hearth after death to bring blessings upon their descendants.

On this day women traditionally resume their spinning after the yule.

This day is sacred to Frigg, the wife of Odina and the goddess of the sky, who is said to know the future of human-kind.

January 13th Ides of January, Tiugunde Day, Midvintersblot, Runic Half-Month of Peorth Begins, Feast of Brewing

On this day, new year's observances such as wassailing are performed.

This is the day of the Norse rite of Midvintersblot, the mid-winter's offering, called Tiegunde Day in old England.

In Druidic traditions, today is the Feast of Brewing.

January 15th Second Festival of Carmentalia

This is the second Roman festival of Carmentalia, celebrating the Camenae, the nymphs of prophesy.

January 16th Concordia

This day is the festival of the Roman goddess Concordia, for harmonious relationships.

January 17th Felicitas, Wassailing

This day is sacred to Felicitas, the Roman goddess of good fortune."

In Celtic traditions, on this day the rite of Wassailing apple trees is performed. Cider is poured over the roots of the trees, and a chant is offered to drive off evil influences and make the trees fertile.

The word 'wassail' is from the middle English for 'be of good health'.

January 18th Theogamia of Hera

The Theogamia is a woman's festival celebrated in ancient Greece. It honoured the goddess Hera. Hera is the daughter of Cronus and Rhea. She is said to protect all women who have not slept with her husband Zeus.

January 19th Husband's Day

Thorablot, in Icelandic tradition, is popularly regarded as Husband's Day. It has been celebrated in honour of the god Thor.

January 20th Agnes' Eve, Celtic Tree Month of Beth Ends

Agnes' Day is a time for divination by fire.

January 21st Agnes' Day, Celtic Tree Month of Luis Begins

Agnes' Day is a time for divination by fire.

January 22nd St. Vincent's Day, Goddess Month of Hesta Ends, Festival of the Muses

Saint Vincent is a christianization of Apollo, the sun god.

The goddesses of inspiration, the Muses, are honoured on this day. The Muses are usually regarded as the nine daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne: Calliope, the muse of epic song. Clio, the muse of history. Euterpe, the muse of lyric song. Thalia, the muse of comedy. Melpomene, the muse of tragedy. Terpsichore, the muse of dancing. Erato, the muse of erotic poetry. Polymnia, the muse of serious songs. Urania, the muse of astronomy.

January 23rd Goddess Month of Bridhe Begins, Hathor

Hathor is the Egyptian goddess of love and happiness. She is also the goddess of the sky and the holder of the eye of Ra.

January 24th Cornish Tinner's and Seafarer's Day

This is an ancient labour day, celebrating a new season of sailing and mining in Cornwall.

January 25th Old Disting

Disting is the feast of the Disir in old runic calendars, for the Norse guardian goddess.

January 27th Paganalia, Day of Ishtar

In Roman communities, the festival of Paganalia was held on this day in honour of Tellus Mater, the earth mother goddess. She is a goddess of fertility, childbirth, and marriage - not always in that order.

The Paganalia was a rural observance, and derives its name from the Latin 'pagus' for 'village'. This is also the origin of the word 'pagan', a name once given to rural people who followed the old fertility gods.

January 28th Runic Half-Month of Elhaz Begins, Upelly

The rune Elhaz signifies power and sanctuary.

Upelly is a Norse festival of fire and completion after the end of the Yule.

January 29th Sementivae Faria

This day is the festival of Sementivae Faria, in honour of Ceres, the goddess of agriculture.

January 30th February Eve, Norns, Disir and Valkyries

Eve of the festival of Imbolc, or Brigantia.

This day is sacred to the Valkyries and the Norns Urd, Verdandi and Skuld, who sit by the Well of Urd under the tree Yggdrasil and determine the fates of men and gods.

Ask Scarlett!



by **Scarlett Crawford**
scarlett@acrimony.org

Dear Scarlett,

Hey, I read you're a mother of three. How old were you when you started child bearing? How old should a woman be before having children? I am 19 and my husband is 21. We have a lower middle class income.

Dear D.I.N.K. (dual income no kids)

Yes, I have three children whom I adore, well most of the time. I had my first child when I was almost 21, second at almost 25, and my third at 27. I started out way too young. I was not financially nor emotionally prepared to be a mother. Mother nature has a way of making us ready for motherhood however. Maybe this is why we carry for nine months. Before you even consider bringing a child into this world of ours, you need to ask yourself some really thought questions and be totally

honest with your evaluations of both your self and your husband.

First of all, why do you want a child? Why not just get a cat or a dog? What are you looking to add to your life by having a child?

Secondly, how will you provide for this child? What if you and your husband divorce? Will you be able to provide for a child adequately? That of course is a subjective query as we all have different ideas as to what is sufficient. Do you have the extra money a month to not only feed and clothe a child, but to also pay for child care expenses?

Third, how stable is your relationship? Do you both understand that a child, no matter how loved, is a burden? No longer would you be able to be spontaneous and just run out to see a movie. How will you both handle having an intruder in the middle your relationship?

You need to also consider the possibilities of having a less than perfect child. One out of every 28 babies born in the US has a birth defect. Are both you and your husband ready to accept and love a less than perfect baby? Are you prepared to emotionally and financially take that risk? Have you ever had a pet? How responsible were the two of you

with Fido? How long was his water bowl empty? Did you have to fight with the hubby to get him to pick up the poop? You and your partner both need to look at each other and make sure that the other is the kind of co-parent that they want to have.

I know that these questions seem really tough, but so is being a parent. I truly believe that if we spent more time considering becoming parents, less of us would reproduce. Having a child should not be an accidental event or spur of the moment decision, but rather a well thought out and anticipated life event. My advice to you is to wait. If in a few years, you still want a child you can have one then. But if you have one now, and in a few years wish you didn't it will be too late to take back your life.

Dear Scarlett,

I am 24 years old. I graduated high school 6 yrs ago. I am now ready to go to college. What steps do I take? I have no idea where to even begin.

Dear Stumped Student,

I applaud you on your desire to continue your education. I believe that an education is one of the most important gifts we can give to ourselves.

I suggest that you look into your local community colleges. They offer an equivalent education at a substantial savings over a university.

You can contact the guidance office and make an appointment to see a counselor. They can advise you on the specific requirement for the school of your choice. I also suggest that you look into grants and scholarships. There are millions of dollars out there for education, you just need to find the program that you qualify for and apply.

You don't need to worry about you major at the present time. The basis of any degree is your associates' degree. Those are your general education classes; English, history, math, and the such. Once you have all of those out of the way and have your two year degree, then you can worry about what your major is and if it has any specific prerequisites.

Dear Scarlett,

My friend of many years came to visit me for the holidays. This trip was planned for months ahead of time, and when the plans were made all was fairly normal in my life. About a month before his arrival, my marriage arrived at the point of no return. My husband and I were in the process of separating and my moving out during his trip. I am fully aware that this must have made for an uncomfortable vacation, but I had to do these things. He has been very distant from me and seems to "take" my soon to be ex's side. The last night that he was here, I practically begged him to go out and do something, anything, with me. After all, he did fly across the country to see me! When spoke to him, he was at

dinner and said that he would call me after dinner to make plans. Several hours with no word from him, I called him back. He told me that he had forgotten to call me back. I am so very hurt. I feel as if our friendship is over. As if by my not "sucking it up" and waiting to leave my husband until after he was here and gone, I have lost my friend. Was I wrong Scarlett? Should I have placed my life on hold due to his visit?

Stressed out in Splitsville,

No, I do not think that you were wrong. He knew what was going on, I assume, before he got on the plane to fly out to see you. If he was that disturbed by all of it, then he should not have come. If he is your friend, then he should stay your

friend. Even if through your marriage, he has become friends with your husband, he still was your friend first. At this point I would say that it is a loyalty issue. If he is truly your friend, he will support you in any of the choices that you make. He should tell you if he thinks you are making a mistake, but support you through it. That is being a true friend. Perhaps he is just very uncomfortable and does not know how to respond to all of the stress this time in your life has to offer. I suggest you give it some time. Do not end a friendship based on one bad visit, see what happens after he gets home and is back in his comfort zone.



Scarlett's column is run exclusively in Acrimony. Email your question to her at scarlett@acrimony.org



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Horoscopes

by Michael Ramses



ARIES (March 21 - April 19): You've been plotting for some time and are starting to see a few sprouts from your endeavors. Keep on with what you've been doing - you're on the right path. Your emotional and love lives are in check this month, no worries there. Just remember at some point you're going to have to pause and live in the now. You can't always be looking to the future.



TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): When you are tempted to shout and yell this month try and back off for a moment and relax. Ordinary stresses will have more impact in January. If you let them get the best of you it will be your undoing. Count to ten, walk away, or do whatever it is you need to do to keep control of your runaway emotions. Decisions made in haste you will quickly come to regret in the coming months.



GEMINI (May 21 - June 20): Left or right? Which way do you go? This is always the question confronting the Gemini. There will be more confusion that usual this month. Maybe you should just sit in the passenger seat and let someone else do the driving. Most likely this won't jive with your personality. You like to be in control. Don't worry. You've got a 50-50 chance of making the right decision.



CANCER (June 21 - July 22): Cancer got through the troublesome holiday season and is now looking forward to a great new year. You are planning and scheming, laying out what you will do in the coming months. Stick to your goals and you'll do fine. Keep an eye on money but don't be too frugal. There will be enough to go around.



LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22): You had a wonderful, although slightly disappointing, holiday season. Now it's time to pick up the pieces and move on. January can be good for you if you don't lose sight of the brass ring. Don't let little everyday things bring you down. Disagreements that may arise with loved ones are not that important. (Next month you'll understand just how trivial they really were!) If you feel too stressed, fall back on your favorite hobby. It will put your mind at ease.



VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): You feel like you're floating on a cloud. Things couldn't be much better right now. It's okay to roll along in bliss in times like this. Having your head in the clouds is okay so long as you remember to eventually come back down. Don't forget your responsibilities. You have duties lying ahead. Procrastination is your enemy.



LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): January is going to be your best month in a long time. Libra has had a rough patch lately - things just weren't clicking. Now they are. Life changes you've made are beginning to take effect. Forget the nagging doubts in the back of your mind. You'll be okay in the end. Only one word of caution: don't forget family. You may be tempted to overlook them in the upcoming month. Lean on them when you need to. They'll let you.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): December was a bit confusing for the Scorpion. But it's now a new year and things are starting to shape up. Go with the flow. Don't fight things. You'll manage alright. New situations seem a little daunting right now but as is always the case, these things will improve. Your area of caution is investment. Be careful of any new investments at the moment. February will be better concerning money.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): If you're looking, you just might find someone new this month. If you're not, they may fall into your lap anyway. If you're married or seriously involved with someone else, you'd better run when this mystical person

appears! You're overly friendly this month and that is always attractive to the opposite sex. Your overall appeal is up and they'll sense it. Channeling this energy into your job may be your best option.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): You always want to take action. This month isn't your month however. You run the risk of undoing past gains in one single swoop. Be careful and don't run forward to hastily. Love live is pretty balanced. You should do okay in that arena. It is matters of money and life choices that should be handled with caution.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Given time you will blossom into a beautiful butterfly. This is the hidden truth of all Aquarius's. Sometimes it doesn't feel that way. Things seem to quite often get in your way. As you've gotten older you've learned to deal with such inconveniences, but every once in a while you need a refresher course. There is a path for you through the maze of life.



PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): You're very happy and it's about time. Your emotions don't usually rule you but it feels as if you've been wearing your heart on you sleeve as of late. Relax for a moment, and then begin focusing on the work that needs to be done. Past disruptions in your emotional life have been affecting everything about you. As a result, other areas of your life started to suffer. You can now fix all of that. You have the extra energy you need. Put it to good use!



Michael Ramses has been a horoscope writer for over 12 years. His speciality is personal natal charts. Look for his column right here in Acrimony each month.

<http://www.MichaelRamses.com>

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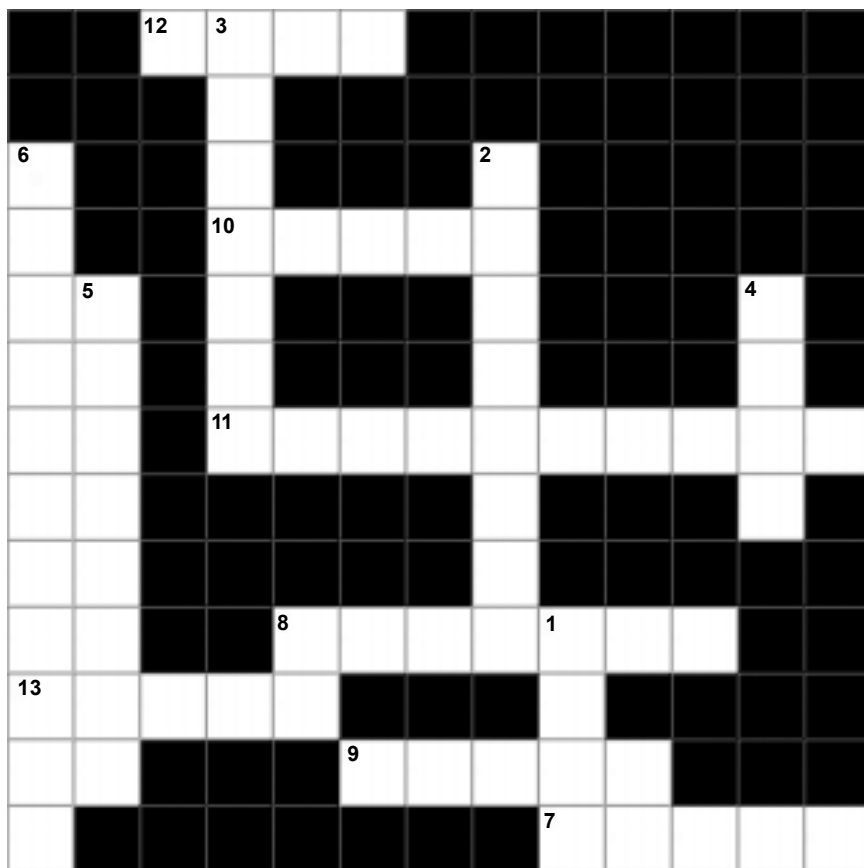
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Gothic Crossword



Down

1. Source of inspiration
2. Jewish mysticism
3. The fire festival of lights
4. Personal etheric energy
5. The language of angels
6. French prophet

Across

7. Rune that signifies power and sanctuary
8. Egyptian goddess who sustained the spirits of the dead
9. Earthbound spirit
10. Tool used for communication with the dead
11. Goat sucking nocturnal alien
12. Water, Air, Earth, _____
13. Pre-Incan civilization

The Devil's Panties



by **Jennie Breeden**
 jennie@acrimony.org

<http://thedevilsanties.keenspace.com>

December Crossword

Brain Teaser

I have legs but walk not, a strong back but work not, two good arms but reach not, a seat but sit and tarry not. What am I?

December Brain Teaser

Your eyes



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