

The Runestone, April 2019

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The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly

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Words from the Alsherjargothi

March was absolutely amazing. AFA Ostara in the South was a smashing success. Mandy and I were very glad to get the opportunity to see our Southern members and get to meet some of the best people we have in our AFA family. Thank you so much to Folkbuilder Paul Hester and his lovely wife Kelly for hosting this event. If you were unable to attend, please plan early and we would love to see you there next year.

I am very excited for all the great things we are doing and will do in 2019. Spring is a time of renewal and awakening of our energy and spirit, I hope you are all feeling charged up as well. What are your plans for this year? What do you want to achieve for your self? For your family? For our Church? Lets go out and make it happen.

As you all may have noticed, we live in very interesting times. The more we succeed and achieve, the more attention we attract, which is great and gains us more wonderful members and brings our folk home exponentially. This same growth causes increased negativity from the decaying souls around us. Through the good news and the bad, we would all do well to remember that we are Aryans, NOBLE people and we should hold our heads up and carry ourselves as such. Havamal 15 tells us:

The son of a king | shall be silent and wise,
And bold in battle as well;
Bravely and gladly | a man shall go,
Till the day of his death is come.

As the year unfolds I would remind you all of the last part, be brave but also, be glad. Let us all remember to be GLAD because we get to live in the age of Asatru's rebirth. We get to live in a time where our folk are coming home and Hof's are being established. We get to be apart of this amazing church and family that is the Asatru Folk Assembly, that makes me glad to my very bones. Life is good and we are building the golden age right now. In our hearts. In our homes. In our church.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Matthew D. Flavel

Alsherjargothi

Asatru Folk Assembly

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Kindred Spotlight

In this month's Kindred spotlight, we honour
Kvasirs Scholars Kindred of Ohio.

Cole and Tiffany Distel run The Wotan's Wolves youth program.

The Wotan's Wolves Youth Program is the first and only program of its kind! Created by Cole Distel the programs focus is to help children of Asatru learn the ways and traditions of our faith. Through worksheets and hands-on activities, the kids learn about the Gods, Runes and the Lore. There is also overnight campouts and hikes offered in different areas for the children wishing to participate in outdoor activities as well.

The program is led by Tiffany Distel who sends out assignments and awards to all the children who participate. She has been the backbone of the growth of this great program. Organizing and keeping track of over fifty children she continues to set an example of Asatru motherhood.

Our program is running off a point system. Each assignment is sent out via email (so kids anywhere in the world can participate) and after the completion of those assignments, each child receives points based on their work. As the points build the kids earn different awards for their dedication and hard work. A great example of this is once a child reaches fifty points they are sent their own personal Mjolnir and after 100 they receive a personalized t-shirt and so on. The greatest thing about this program is it is 100% FREE to the kids and their parents. All we ask in return is for their hard work and dedication. The Wotan's Wolves Youth Program does accept donations that go toward the awards the children receive. You can donate via PayPal to wotanswolves02@gmail.com.

If you are interested in enrolling your child today contact Cole or Tiffany Distel via Facebook or the Facebook page of the Wotan's Wolves.

Kvasirs Scholars, the AFA is proud to have you as one of our own! Thank you for

everything you do and for building a future for our Children!

Jason Gallagher
Kindred Coordinator
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Óðinshof

Ostara was held at Odinshof on March 23rd. Many familiar faces and a few new ones came together to celebrate Ostara, the Goddess which embodies the return on the Sun,

and the revitalization that it brings. The hills around Brownsville have turned verdent, and lush with new grasses. Deciduous trees have begun to put on new buds, and the wildlife has begun to stir. Hof opened, and tables arranged in the shape of Jera, with flowers, eggs, and a wooden Hare as decoration. Sheila McNallen started the event off with a discussion and crafting session for our Ladies, followed by lunch and an opening ritual. A discussion on the Goddess Ostara and her somewhat obscure nature were held in Hall. How much do you know about her? Where can one find where she is attested to within the greater historical body concerning our Folk and the old customs? Was she a product of Bede's invention, or, does the evidence on the landscape prove otherwise? Outside, an Egg hunt for the kids commenced. Hidden among the grounds at Odinshof, multicolored Eggs filled with treats, and metallic ones filled with our modern form of Fehu, were there to be found. Sounds of laughter, gleeful screams and chuckles were heard around the property, as we looked on at our future generations in action. Closer to dusk we enjoyed a dinner of Pork Ribs, Scotch Eggs, various Salads, home baked Bread, Bacon wrapped Poppers, and even some fresh made Pudding Pies! Our Folk talked, and mingled, and the night wore on until we quickly lost track of time. Blot was held as the last remnants of Sunna's warmth and light vanished. A small group stood around a low fire, and Sheila once again led us in ritual. The horn filled with our gifts and blessing to our Saxon Goddess of the East, and refilled with her blessings and gifts in return. We accepted her gifts gladly, and gave her ours with joy. Blot finished, we said our goodbyes, and parted until next time. Hail the Gods and Goddesses! Hail the Ancestors! Hail the AFA! Hail Eostre!

Upcoming events at Odinshof:

Our Monthly Food Distribution for the Community of Brownsville on April 6th.
Volunteers are always welcome! For more information, contact Folkbuilders Ryan Harlan, or Jessica Rose.

Summer Finding, April 20th-21st.

May and June work weekends are currently in planning phases, and dates will be announced as soon as possible.

Midsummer at Odinshof, June 21st-23rd. Registration is currently open, and can be found at: <https://midsummeratodinshof2019.eventzilla.net/web/event?eventid=2138722161>

For more information on Midsummer, contact Folkbuilders Ryan Harlan or Jessica Rose.

A July event is currently being determined. Stay tuned for updates.

Freyfaxi, August 24th-25th.

Winter Finding, September 21st-22nd.

Winter Nights at Odinshof, October 26th-27th.

Feast of The Einherjar, November 16th-17th.

Yule at Odinshof, December 21st-22nd.







Day of Remembrance of Haakon Sigurdarson

On April 9th we honor Haakon Sigurdarson, popularly known as Jarl Haakon. Haakon became the ruler of Norway in 975 and held rulership there until about 995. He was always a friend to the Gods and a staunch defender of the ancestral traditions. In 975 he was forcefully converted to Christianity by Harold Bluetooth in "repayment" for his loyalty and help in fighting Emperor Otto of the holy roman empire. Haakon did not take this treatment very well and when the time came to leave Denmark with the priests Bluetooth had forced on him, Haakon sailed out away from the shore and promptly ordered every priest overboard. He bade them swim or drown as they saw fit while he sailed on to his homeland of Norway. This rebuttal of the new faith made an enemy of Bluetooth but allowed Norway to remain free of foreign taint and devoted to the elder ways for a number of years to come.

Haakon's actions led to his people remaining true to their own Gods for a number of years.....often times we are faced with impossible decisions ourselves. Decisions that will definitely change the course of our future for the foreseeable future. In those times we would do well to remember Haakon and his actions and then weigh our own choices against what is ultimately good for the Folk and the future of the Folk. Each of us can greatly affect the future of Asatru with our choices.....Each of us can build Asatru with our choices. Let us always strive for the decision that will gain the most advantage for ourselves and our Folk. Let us always have the courage to make those hard choices, let us always have the courage of Jarl Haakon.

Hail Jarl Haakon!!!

Blaine Qualls

Gothar Coordinator

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Baby Announcements

The Tru-Folk Kindred would like to welcome Victoria May to Midgard.
Congratulations to Angelique and Randy!





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Alaska and Far North Regional Updates

On Saturday the the 23rd, AFA Kindred Der Volkstamm auf dem Nordliche Bar and other AFA members met at the home of Gothi Steven Morrell for our annual Ostara celebration.

This time of year has always been special to us, as Ostara also marks the anniversary of the formation of our Folk-Tribe.

There was a tangible and joyous aura and love of life that was in the air and spread

amongst the Folk all weekend long as we socialized, ate, talked and laughed with one another.

This weekend-long event began with an Eostre egg hunt for the children, which they all enjoyed and loved. But as the time for ritual drew near, the Folk and Tribe gathered around the Blot Fire, the air a warm breeze carrying the scents of spring and the return of the land to life amongst those gathered.

Amidst the flame and the fire, Blot was shared and the blood of the sacrificial rabbit was offered to Ostara and the celebration for the beginning of Spring had begun.

In traditional fashion at the end of our Ostara Blot, the oathed members of Der Volkstamm auf dem Nordliche Bar came together and re-affirmed their oath to each other and to our Folk-Tribe.

Later that night, after our feast, we gathered once more for sumbel, and as the horn made its rounds a powerful connection was made stronger amongst those present.

The following day started with a bountiful breakfast, more socializing time for the Folk and then a Wayfarer's Blot before the gathered Folk returned to their homes.

Eric Whisman

Folkbuilder

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Northwest Regional Updates

Hails! Ostara has been honored and the blessings of spring have been ushered in! There were celebrations for the Lady of dawn, in Vancouver BC, Snohomish Washington and Couer' d Alene Idaho. There are two kindreds forming in the NW, one in Vancouver and the other in Portland. These are exciting times with new members and activity all over the NW. Vancouver BC had an extremely active month with a Rune Study, meet and greet for potential members, and an Ostara celebration. Thanks to Lilly, Shawn, September, Stephanie and the other members for making this happen! Johnny and his wife Karen have taken the lead in the Portland area, with a moot in Canby and the ongoing development of our Kindred. There was also a remembrance for Oliver the Martyr at the Mt. Angel Volksfest which is always a good time and place to enjoy our ethnic German music, food, and beer! Katee and her husband Chris hosted the Ostara celebration in CDL and we gathered and honored the Queen of Light! Let me know if you would like to create an event in your area and I will assist you in the best way I can, also don't forget to take pictures!!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Joe Rozanek

Apprentice Folkbuilder

Jrozanek@runestone.org

The month of April brings us a day of remembrance for Jarl Haakon, and a Sigrblot.

Harald Bluetooth the king of Denmark forced Jarl Haakon to be baptized as a Christian and take clergymen with him to Norway to begin the forced conversion process there. However Jarl was having none of that. Staying true to the Gods, when the winds were favorable for sailing he commanded the clergymen to get off his boats and return ashore and left for Norway. We'll be gathering and hoisting a glass of mead in his honor. He stood up for what was right, to stay loyal to our holy ancestors no matter what the cost and serves as an example to us all!

The Sigrblot/Sumarsdag is the first day of Summer in the old Icelandic calendar on April 15th. This blot had strong agricultural undertones but elsewhere in the Nordic world it was a time to sacrifice to Odin for Victory in the upcoming summer voyages!





West Regional Updates

Ostara is here! Spring is here! The Goddess has awoken and the Tru-Folk gathered to chase winter away with pussy willow sticks! There is a little story about the willows that was told by one of the mothers.

According to an old Norse legend, many springtimes ago Mother Frigga was walking and watching the spring come alive when she heard a mother cat crying at the bank of the river in which her kittens were drowning. Frigga asked willows at the river's edge to help her, so they swept their long graceful branches into the waters to rescue the tiny kittens who had fallen into the river while chasing butterflies. The kittens gripped on tightly to their branches and were safely brought to shore. Each springtime since goes the legend, Mother Frigga gave the willow branches tiny fur-like buds at their tips where the tiny kittens once clung. To show all the kindness of the willow for generations to come.

With the smell of springtime in the air, green grass, flowers blooming, new loves and pregnant mummies it was very clear that Spring is here, that the Goddesses were with us and we could feel them. We each took home a little extra of their magic within us that day.

Heather Clinkenbeard
Folkbuilder
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Speaking of spring, this weekend on March 30th AFA members Randy and Angelique brought their baby girl Victoria May into Midgard while the Tru-Folk kindred attended the baby shower of fellow AFA members, Brad and Bri Kuh. Getting ready to bring baby Roxie to the world. The shower was a beautiful show of family, friends, and folk coming together to support a young family.





Northern Plains Regional Updates

Seems like the winter blew by and Spring is in the air. We hosted our third annual Folkish Family Ostara with Gythia student Anna Funk leading the Ostara Blót. A few of us from Minnesota drove to North Dakota to celebrate Ostara with the Ulfhednar Clan. I'm very honored to have such a great family. April is going to be another productive month and getting closer to our May event. Join us in Northern Iowa for a weekend of teambuilding and presentations, workshops, team games, auction, and more. Registration is half full and filling up fast. This will be a weekend on private land in a big house. Hosted by the Mid-hearth Kindred, Black Sun Tribe, and Northern Blood Kindred. If you are interested in attending any of our events please email or message me on Facebook.

icallagher@runestone.org

jgallagher@tulestone.org

4/2 Monthly Study group 5:30-7:30 Bloomington, MN

4/6 Day of remembrance Jarl Haakon Gastofs nord east Minneapolis 5:30-7:30

4/13 Monthly meet and greet Pizza Ranch Albert Lea, MN 4-6

5/3-5/5 Weekend event in Northern Iowa

5/18 Tree planting day

6/1 Grill and greet Fort Snelling state park 2-5

6/15 Third Annual Midsummer Green Isle, MN 2-7

6/30 Grill and greet Moose Lake state park 3-5

9/6-9/8 Fallfest MN Northwoods





Midwest Regional Updates

Greetings from Indiana,

Hello, Asa-folk. Indiana has been busy this months, as always. Heimdalls Midgard will have a private Kindred Ostara at the end of this March. It is an important time for my Kindred, as we are re-forging our kindred with the return of Spring. Nearly all of the last year has been working up to this moment. I am extremely grateful to have those I now have in my Kindred. I am sure that, my kindred's co-founder, Anne Hager is as well. And I'm grateful that it has survived from it's first conception, over two years ago to now, and has a future! A new beginning is upon us and we are eager to see where it will take us.

I will be hosting, along with Cole Distel and Josh Wilson, Ostara in the Midwest in April. We have quite a few people that have registered already. If you have not registered and plan on attending Ostara, get in contact with me as soon as you are able

registered and plan on attending Ostara, get in contact with me as soon as you are able. You may contact me through the email address below. The information for Ostara will be posted below. But, before that I'd like to mention what this Ostara means for the Midwest.

Cole, Josh and I, along with many other AFA members, have been working to bring the Midwest alive with the presence of the Asatru Folk Assembly. After three or so years we have made much growth and progress, collectively and individually. With Ostara in the Midwest we want to join as many of our folk in the region together as possible and share with those members the history and goals of the Midwest. This marks a major turning point for our region. A lot of hard work has gone into building this region and it is definitely starting to pay off. The goals and dreams that Cole and I originally had for the Midwest are beginning to bloom. I would like to extend a thanks to all of the Midwest Region AFA members for making the work that goes into this well worth the effort. And we hope to meet many of you at our Ostara.

Ostara in the Midwest

Date:

Begins on April 12 @ Noon

Ends on April 14 @ Noon

Location:

Tippecanoe River State Park

4200 N US Highway 35

Winamac, IN 46996

Facebook Page Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/256204268385390/?ti=icl>

We will be having Blot and Sumbl, Hiking, Feasts and Frith. I will be leading a few

discussions on Runology and Ancestral Veneration. I am sure that Cole, Tiffany, Josh and others have their share of themes to bring to the agenda as well. Please be sure to register with me if you are planning on attending so we may forward with getting things prepared. I'll end this with a blessed Ostara for all Asa-Folk of the AFA. All of us in the Midwest wish everyone a productive and profitable year.

Hail the Gods! Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the AFA Kindreds!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Zach Cato,

Heimdalls Midgard Kindred

HeimdallsMidgardKindred@gmail.com

Upper South Regional Updates

Our 6th Annual Ostara in the South was truly a phenomenal event. We had over 70 people that came together as family and established friendships that will last a life time. From stories and music around the bon fire to powerful lectures, no one left without a feeling of communion with that which lies dormant in all of our Souls.

Thanks to all those who made this a tremendous success and a true game changer. Hail the Folk 





One of our members Samantha took this random photo of the bon fire at Ostara. Another member, Jamie, recognized Thor in the flames of the photo. Two other members, Ryan & Terry, realized the similarity with this epic painting. For Thor, wielding Mjolnir, to ride his chariot, pulled by Tanngrisnir & Tanngrjóstr through your event, is the ultimate validation that you must be doing something right. Hail Thor 🍀



Northern Plains Updates

April saw members of the Ulfhednar Clan, Northern Blood Kindred, and other AFA members and friends gather together to celebrate Ostara with a weekend-long retreat. Friday afternoon saw members and folk from across the region begin to arrive. Cabins were filled and old acquaintances renewed. A welcoming ritual was performed to get our weekend off to a good start. As darkness set in we all gathered around the fire to honor Odin. A rousing blot was performed under Mani's glorious rays.

Saturday began with a hearty breakfast to see us through the morning's activities. Later I led a brief presentation on the purpose and significance of Blotar and on the way the Gothar of the AFA perform blot. This was followed by an amazing blot led by Gvthia student Anna Funk from Minnesota. We gathered in the name of the Goddess

Ostara around a nice fire under a beautiful North Dakota sky. Anna led us in grand fashion and Ostara was honored in proper fashion.

Following this, we gathered for a feast of epic proportions. Delicious pork roast with all the trimmings..... our cooks outdid themselves once again. Afterward we split off into groups of just men and just women to focus on each of our own unique roles within Asatru. Among the men, we discussed a husband/father/head of household's role in strengthening Asatru in our respective homes. A great discussion was had by us men. Among the women, the concept of hospitality was discussed and several loaves of hearty bread were made. Afterwards, the ends of the loaves were given back to the Gods while we all enjoyed the best bread I have had in quite some time.

Later we held an auction to fund our Yule celebration. There was much laughter and a great time that saw us raise enough money for Yule and probably a good sized donation to Hof II. The night's official activities ended with a sumbel held for all of the Folk. Emotions ran high, there were many laughs, a few tears, and plenty of good memories. Our folk enjoyed themselves and bonds of frith were forged that night.

Sunday saw us again come together around the fire as Ulfhednar Clan member, Les Lauer, led us in a Wayfarer blot to see everyone safely home and to end our great weekend on a high note. Afterwards, goodbyes were said and the folk began their journeys home.

Ostara in the Dakotas was a great success. The folk came together in frith, built up old friendships, forged some new friendships and spent several days away from the mundane world united in honor of the Gods, the Ancestors, and the holy wights of the land. There is nothing better than that in my humble opinion.

Blaine Qualls
Folkbuilder and Gothar Coordinator
bqualls@runestone.org





Deep South Regional Updates

Deep South , South Carolina

The Southern Shire Kindred was established in South Carolina this month. The founding members consist of the Young family, the Towery family, Jamie Chipowsky, Jeff Van Slyke, Kevin Gelesh, and James Dover. It is exciting to be paving a new road in the Deep South, building a community that this area has long needed. We look forward to the future and establishing ourselves as a thriving folk here in the Palmetto state.

James Dover

Apprentice Folkbuilder

jdover@runestone.org

Ostara celebration was a success. As AFA folk gathered to celebrate the spring.

We will have May Day celebration May 4&5

For information email Ralph at

rviola@runestone.org

Ralph Voila

Apprentice Folkbuilder

rviola@runestone.org



Northeast Regional Updates

Here are the Holy Days celebrated by Lansdale Tru Folk in 2019:

Thorrablot, Saturday Feb 23 (Thor)

Ostara, Sunday March 31 (Ostara)

Sumarsdag, Saturday May 4 (Odin)

Midsummer (private), Friday June 21 (Sunna)

Freyfaxi, Sunday August 11 (Frey)

Harvest, Saturday Sept 21 (Sif)

Winter Nights in the Poconos (AFA), Fri Oct 18 - Sun Oct 20 (Disir)

Feast of the Einherjar, Sunday Nov 10 (Einherjar)

Yule, Saturday Dec 28 (Ancestors)

Clifford Erickson
Folkbuilder
cerickson@runestone.org

Scandinavia Regional Updates

Europe is about to awaken we can all see the upcoming dawn the old man is stirring deep down in the souls of his people. We can definitely expect an increase in membership levels and more important an increase in devotional and ritual practices this will on itself level up the awareness and strength of our gods and goddesses.

As a part of an international organization, our rituals not only affect our self and the closest community which we are associated with it also affects the larger family\organization, time and space isn't relevant in this practice if we as individuals are strong the whole family benefits from this.

For the first time at least of my knowledge, AFA have its first kindred in Italy it's a kindred that's been around a long time they have done their devotional practice on their one and been successful in that. But to really make a difference in the larger family one needs to take a step out and that's what they now have now done. I would like to welcome the Asa-Odhinn kindred of north Italy into this greater family and I wish them all the best for the future to come.

Anders Nilsson
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Norway

The 16 of March me and some of our Norwegian members welcomed spring by giving offerings and devotional time to Frey and our ancestors.

Half an hour north of Oslo lays the largest grave mound in Scandinavia it was constructed between the year 533-551ad it's massive and close up to 18 meters it is constructed from 75thousand timber logs that were shaped into three pyramids in three layers its said that the king Rakne was buried with two white horses in the grave but during the excavations no grave or artifacts were found there were only some remains from fire pits possible the funeral pyre.

This was the first official AFA blot held in Norway and I'm confident that we will see more from that region months to come.

Sweden

Tanumshede Hroptatyr Kindred

On the spring equinox 20-3, we honored the fertility god himself Frej we gave him mead and Oats from a local farmer that we kept from the last harvest but most important we gave ourselves our devotion and commitment. In this modern age people's time is among the most valuable thing we have our time is limited and traded for money when we give off our time to plan and organize, travel, to commit we must remember that this is a valuable gift to give.

Sweden

Gautr Kindred

On the day the spring equinox was, Gautr kindred did hold a Freyr blot. And as usual, we had a wonderful time together.

During the blot, the song of the crane's birds was heard as a sign that the spring is here.

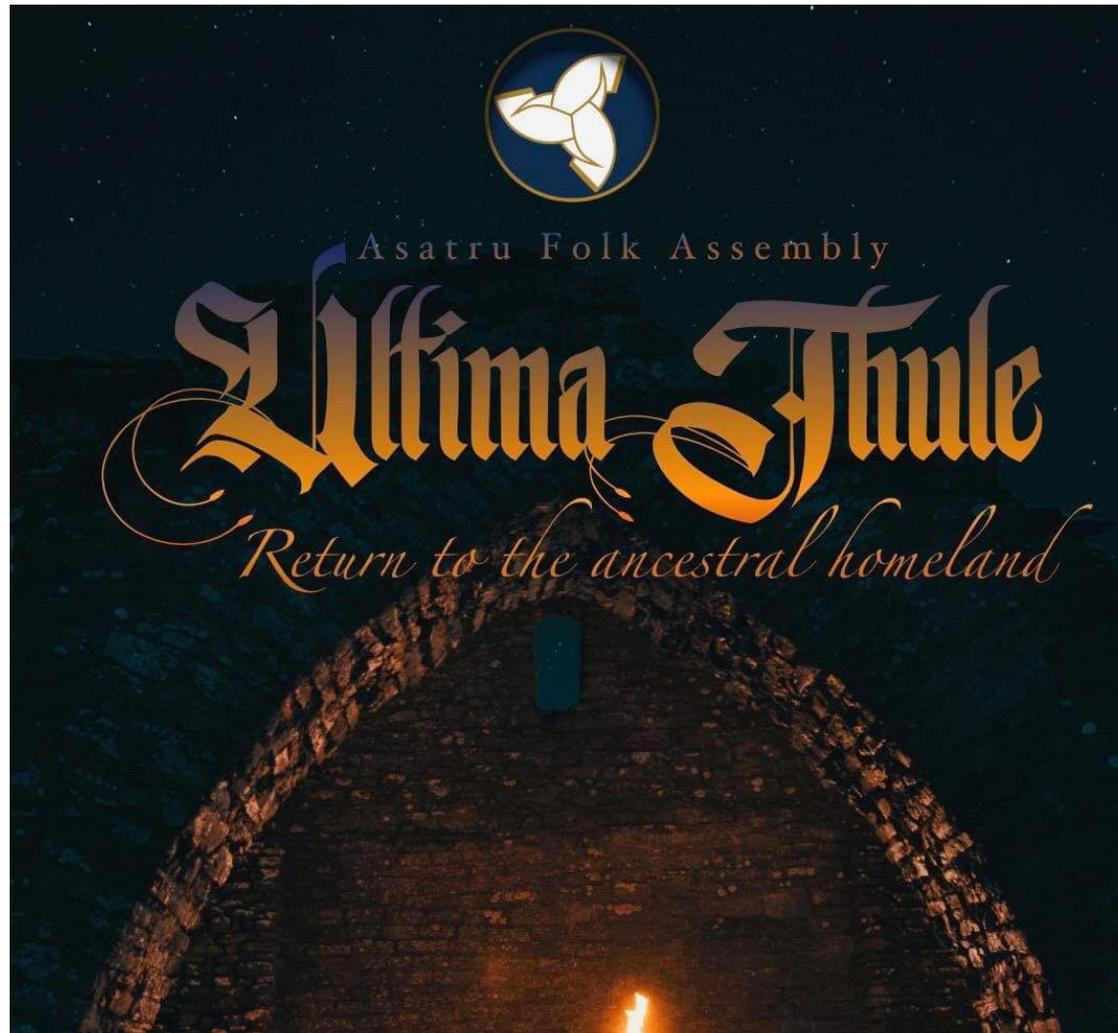




Some of us went to the grand opening of "Svenskarnas Hus (House of the Swedes)", we met some great people and had great hosts. We sold a great many things, information, clothing, statues etc. and we peaked the interest of a lot of guests. It was a great evening

If you plan to come in May for the Thule event you need to book cabins now send me a message and I will give you the information you need, anilsson@runestone.org

This weekend will definitely be something you don't want to miss the main feast will be held in a Viking long hall with walking distance from the cabins and the ritual will take place at ancient thing stead close by. The location is on the west coast about one and a half hours from either Oslo airport or Gothenburg airport.





Welcome to Sweden!
May 24th - 26th 2019

Gather together to celebrate the arrival of spring
with Blot, Lectures and Workshops
in the ancestral homeland of Sweden

Gothi Bryan Wilton





Hello Everyone,

Let's talk about a pet peeve of mine. One which automatically puts into perspective, for me at least who is serious about their Asatru and who has just started believing whatever he reads on the internet. The difference between Tyr and Forseti. It starts, like every other reference we have about our faith in the Eddas. We will start with Tyr.

"Yet remains that one of the Æsir who is called Týr: he is most daring and best in stoutness of heart, and he has much authority over victory in battle; it is good for men of valor to invoke him. It is a proverb, that he is Týr-valiant, who surpasses other men and does not waver. He is wise so that it is also said, that he that is wisest is Týr-prudent. This is one token of his daring: when the Æsir enticed Fenris-Wolf to take upon him the fetter Gleipnir, the wolf did not believe them, that they would loose him, until they laid Týr's hand into his mouth as a pledge. But when the Æsir would not loose him, then he bit off the hand at the place now called 'the wolf's joint;' and Týr is one-handed, and is not called a reconciler of men."

Anytime I hear someone say "I'm going to call on Tyr to help me in my legal matters." I wonder if they've read anything past the latest meme from a safe space for all heathenry. Wikipedia has a fine description of what and where his name means. Týr (Old Norse), Tíw (Old English), and Ziu (Old High German) is a god. Stemming from the Proto-Germanic deity *Tīwaz and ultimately from the Proto-Indo-European deity *Dveus. It becomes over time a representation of the North Star as referenced in the

Old English Rune Poem "Tiw is a guiding star; well does it keep faith with princes; it is ever on its course over the mists of night and never fails" Loyalty, sacrifice for the greater good of the tribe, the ancient and formerly one of the chief deities of PIE religions. That nautical standard which produces and august thought process. In short, he knows what it means to sacrifice, how to lead from the front. Almost like a great grandfatherly image. This is Tyr. That powerful individual who will make the final stand for everyone to escape. And his counterpart was Zisa. The etymological evidence of the names for which Zisa is a feminine variant of. She is purported to be the Lady in Red in a painting in the Augsburg city Hall. A city to which she once granted victory over the Romans. Great games of skill and strength were supposedly held in her honor on September 28. Perhaps someday I can figure out how to revive that ancient tradition. Seems to be enough lifters, fighters, runners, archers in Asatru today to do it. Imagine a great matchup between Team Darkhorse and the Jungle gym, an archery competition with Alan Odinson, a powerlifting meet between Chris Jacheo and Master Chim. I think we've got this, don't you? But I digress. Tyr is the one who protects his family at all costs. Even sacrificing something he loves or values for the greater good. If you are wrapped up in the images of self, or strung out on some kind of drug or even trying to hustle to make an extra buck illegally, you are not taking your family into consideration. This doesn't put you in a very good place to be calling on Tyr. Maybe I've already alluded to it before, but these are the kinds of things which bear repeating until people understand it. Otherwise, we are focusing our energies in the wrong direction, getting bad results, and not creating a faith and way of life worth preserving. Here is how Tyr developed into what he supposed become. It starts with Aegirs Feast.

5. "There dwells to the east | of Elivagar
Hymir the wise | at the end of heaven;
A kettle my father | fierce doth own,
A mighty vessel | a mile in depth."
Thor spake:

6. "May we win, dost thou think, | this whirler of water?"

Tyr spake:

"Aye, friend, we can, | if cunning we are."

Courage, Strength and Wisdom set forth to face the great unknown and secure for the future generation and the seated assembly a vessel so vast that there is no limit to the dreams and successes it might bring forth. It is the same thing with us. We must use courage, strength and wisdom to face those limitations we have been given. We should set about to clearing away the conditioning we have been given in order to fully accept those divine gifts we have been holding on too for so long. Holding on too, fully aware of and completely unable to put them to use in our life. The union of our heart and mind, when focused upon a goal, gives us almost unlimited access to the divine. These gods and goddesses represent our own inner powers and faculties which enable us to realize our own desires. Some of us will need it when the scope of the limitations we must remove becomes evident.

7. Forward that day | with speed they fared,
From Asgarth came they | to Egil's home;
The goats with horns | bedecked he guarded;
Then they sped to the hall | where Hymir dwelt.

8. The youth found his grandam, | that greatly he loathed,
And full nine hundred | heads she had;
But the other fair | with gold came forth,
And the bright-browed one | brought beer to her son.

Notice that it is a feminine figure which offers the cup. This is a repeated theme in the feasting tradition of the North.

This is the environment not much different from the one we all came from. I go into in depth in the book Aegirs Feast, but you get the point. He's not the one you call on for legal disputes and his mother is not Frigga.

Bryan D. Wilton

Gothi

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Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa

New Zealand

Christchurch Shootings

For those of us in Christchurch, March 15th will forever be etched into our memory. 50 people were killed at two mosques in the centre of the city. The CBD (central business district) and all of the schools in and around Christchurch were locked down for hours as the police were trying to secure the city and come to grips with the shooting. It was a real shock for a city in which gun violence is for all intents and purposes non-existent. In the wake of the shooting, Fensalir Kindred offered emotional and spiritual support to our community. Members of Fensalir Kindred's High Council also attended a memorial for the victims of the shooting held on Sunday, 24 March.

Blowback

Because of the far-left's feeling towards the AFA, Fensalir Kindred was "dobbed in" to the police. Within two days of the shooting, members of the kindred were interviewed by police. The first visit was primarily to find out what Fensalir Kindred was. The second visit was to ensure the safety of our members. The New Zealand Police were very professional. Though stressful, it was an honour to work with them.

Fensalir Kindred

Fensalir Kindred celebrated Harvest on March 4th. We had friends and family attend from across New Zealand. The blot was held in the newly formed stone circle in our shrine at Pines Beach, just outside of Kaiapoi, New Zealand. The stones used for the stone circle were gathered from across New Zealand's South Island.



Cameron Mottus, Folkbuilder

South Africa

Spinn Radio

By Karen Pretorious, South Africa

Spin Radio is a South African streaming radio station. It is primarily a heathen station but also covers a number of different paths. Spin Radio is 5 years old this year. Every DJ at Spinn Radio is unique in their views what they bring their shows.

My show is 9pm (UTC +2), Wednesday nights, South Africa time.

To find out more and all of the shows, check out Spinn Radio on

Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/spinnradio/>

How to Listen

<http://play.spinnerak.org/>

Direct Link for VLC or other players on computer:

<http://spinnerak.org:9948/listen.pls>

BlackBerry:

<http://spinnerak.org:9948;/listen.mp3>

TuneIn: (iPhone)

<http://tunein.spinnerak.org/>

Streema:

http://streema.com/radios/Spinnerak_Radio

Google Play:

Simple Radio then search for Spinnerack Radio

Chat to us on WhatsApp: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/6pRiTo8ujPV5J2fJkIy1L9>

There are not enough platforms for our Way but Spinn Radio brings it to you all thanks to your support. Thanks AFA and thanks Cameron for the support.





South Africa Fund

South Africa Fundraising Campaign

The AFA is just about to make its first donation for 2019 to the folk in need in South Africa. Thanks for all of your support.

What I am asking is that everyone donates a little bit of money every month.

Here is an example of the power of many small donations. The AFA has ~700 members. If each member set up a recurring \$5 donation, this is what would happen:

$\$5/\text{month} * 700 \text{ members} = \$3500 / \text{month}$

$\$3500 / \text{month} * 12 \text{ months} = \$42,000 / \text{year}$

Our South African Folk are are facing legitimate institutional racism. Their children are going hungry. There are few career prospects. We have a duty to help them through this rough time.

Donate here: <http://www.runestone.org/donate/>



Cameron Mottus

Folkbuilder (ANZ SA)

Asatru Folk Assembly

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w:www.runestone.org e: cmottus@runestone.org



How do you help? Simply go to www.runestone.org and click on the Donate button. In the description, type "South Africa", fill in your particulars, and then click 'Donate Now'.

\$20.00
USD

Make this a monthly donation [?](#)

South Africa

Donate Now

Personally, I am committing to \$20 for the next 12 months. If we all do that the Folk in need will get an ongoing, predictable stream of funds.

Where does the money go? Initially, the money will be held by AFA Folk Services. Every month the AFA will make a donation to one or more charities in South Africa. Currently, there are two that we are considering.

1. [The South African Family Relief Project](#) - The SAFRP works on a daily basis to assist people in need.
2. [Suidlanders](#) - The Suidlanders are preparing for the potential of a future emergency (genocide/civil war)

If you know of any other South African charities or you want to help please contact me

at cmottus@runestone.org.

AFA Military Program Update by Kevin Long



ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY MILITARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

If you are currently a member of the military regardless if you are in the states or any other country, please send us an email with your current status i.e. Deployed, in-garrison, or stationed abroad.

We are trying to compile a list of each military member and their locations so we can send out care packages through the holiday seasons, quarterly, ensure your religious needs are being met etc. That being said, if you know of any of our members and their status. being they don't have service and whatnot. send us their mailing address and we

will get some items to send out.

Also if you or any one of our members who are veterans, active, retired, or about to transition from the service and are having a hard time finding a new career path or just need other vets to talk too, let us know as well and we can try networking and/or lend an ear for you or the individual.

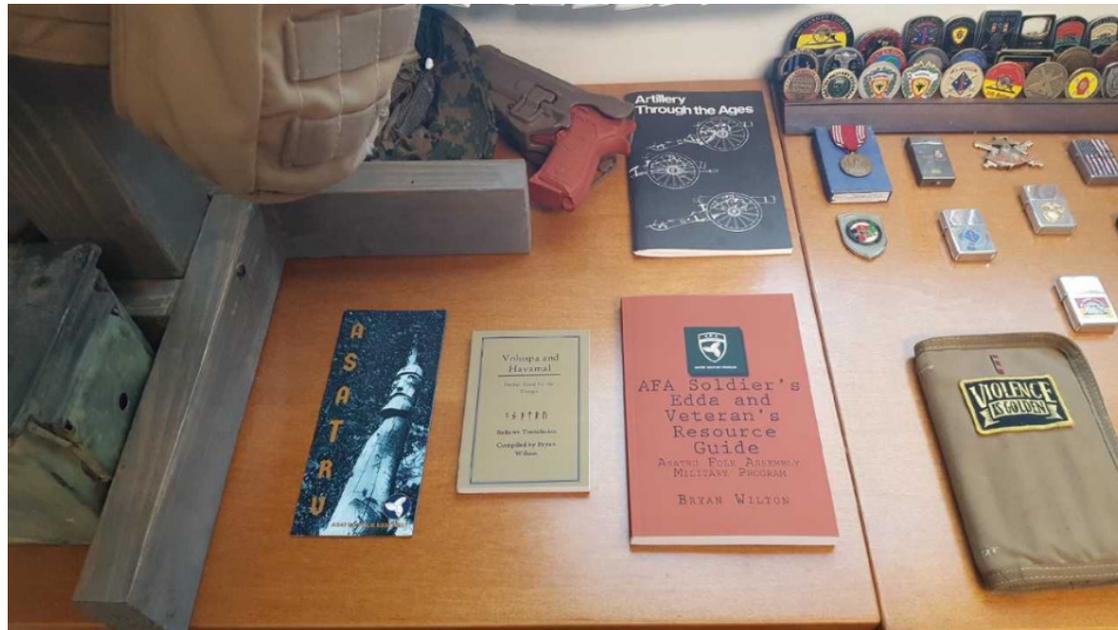
Thank you,

Kevin Long

AFA Military Program Coordinator

klong@runestone.org

Or military@runestone.org







AFA Store

RUNESTONE GIFTS: AFA Member Discount

AFA members save 5% on any order at checkout. Use promo code PXLKVV8 at <http://www.runestonegifts.com/>.

Item of the Month

8-ounce, 50/50 cotton/poly Double-needle stitching at waistband and cuffs Unlined hood with dyed-to-match drawcord Metal zipper 1x1 rib knit cuffs and waistband with spandex Front pouch pockets.



That's when our folks Services Program comes in. We give one-time monetary grants to those members in need. These folks are so grateful and we know that once they get back on track they will contribute to this fund. For those that are able, we are in need of funds so we can be prepared for when these situations arise in our community. If you're able please place a donation today. Even a small donation adds up in the grand scheme of things and even \$5 or \$10 can help if enough people pitch in. If even a fraction of the folks who like the page did that each month, imagine the possibilities!

[AFA Folk Services](#) is intended to provide modest, one-time monetary grants to Asatru Folk Assembly (AFA) members in dire need of basic services. It is also to be a source for referrals and information to help members get help beyond what the AFA can directly provide. For more information, send a private message to the [Folk Services page on Facebook](#).

Your contributions are earnestly solicited and of course are tax-deductible!

Thanks in advance!

Jamie Souigny

Wotan's Wolves Youth Program

by Cole Distel

The Wotan's Wolves Youth Program is a one of a kind program where Asatru youth can learn of the Gods and their culture in a fun and interactive environment. Each Wolf has the ability to earn different rewards based on a point system. Points are awarded per assignments (which may range from a reading assignment to crafts)

assignments (which may range from a reading assignment to extra).

This program is headed by Cole and Tiffany Distel. Ever changing and evolving the Wotan's Wolves is growing into the dream that the Distel's envisioned for the youth. The Wotan's Wolves look forward to the 2019 year and all the new adventures and new youth we will meet. So if you have not enrolled your child yet stop by the Facebook page or contact Tiffany Distel to join this completely FREE program.

We also provide our Wolves with an award system based on point earnings. After achieving so many points they will receive the corresponding prize. Your child will join the ranks of youth getting a jump-start on learning our ways and beliefs while having a blast at the same time. The best part about this program is that it is 100% FREE all we ask is for your time and dedication. Thanks for all the support and we hope to enroll your children soon.

If you are interested in enrolling your child please contact us on Facebook or personally.

Instructor

Tiffany Distel- wotanswolves02@gmail.com

Director

Cole Distel- distec11@gmail.com





AFA Mead Makers Group

Thanks to the generosity of many of our home brewers, mead is abundant at our events. Mead is a fairly easy brew to make, and can be as simple or as complex as you want it to be. In the past, it was mostly women who were in charge of making mead, but these days people from both sexes enjoy the craft.

Are you interested in learning how to make your own mead? We invite you to join our AFA Mead Maker's group on Facebook. We have folk from rank beginners to people

AFA Mead Makers group on Facebook. We have folk from folk beginners to people who have been making mead for decades, so there's lots of people to learn from. To join please notify your Folkbuilder and we'll get you added to the group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AFAMeadMakers>

Folkish Business Directory



New for the AFA, Carrie Overton is putting together a Business Directory for our Folk! Send us your contact info (website, business type, etc..) and we will add you to our AFA Business and Crafter's newsletter that will be coming soon! This is our chance to promote and support Folkish businesses so we can help each other flourish and grow. Community starts with working together and working in each other's interests. Lets make it happen!

Please send your info to: coverton@runestone.org with the subject "AFA Business Directory".

Baby Blanket Project

The Women of the AFA are proud to be continuing this fine and noble work we call the Baby Blanket Project! We're committed to ensuring all new babies born within the AFA are gifted a hand made - knit, crocheted, or woven - baby blanket! It's just our little way of celebrating our new folk!

If you would like a blanket for your newborn, or would like to donate to help with yarn cost (yarn is expensive!) please notify Mandy (mandy@runestone.org) with the subject line: BABY BLANKET.

The Runepebble next issue is in March. We would love to have your children and the children of your kindred draw pictures, write articles or stories for our publication. Please help us make the Runepebble just as awesome as the voice. The children need it !! Please send anything to heathor@runestone.org Thank you!

Photography & Art for 2020 Calendar

We are compiling art and photography for a 2020 calendar. The 2019 AFA Calendar will have the Holy Days for 2020 and other events, and feature art and photography from different members. We'd like to have each month feature photography from AFA events that occurred in 2018 and will occur in 2019.



If anyone has an eye for the camera and enjoys taking pictures at these events please submit your



taking pictures at these events please submit your work. The work may be useful for more than just the calendar. An example may be as follows:

A photo from a Midsummer event, such as a pic from Blót, Sumbel, or nice picture of the sun, nature and folk may be a perfect picture for the month of June.

There is a lot of room to work with here.

Have fun and please send submissions to photos@runestone.org

Asatru Folk Assembly Calendar of Holy and Remembrance Days

January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 20	Thorrablot
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 17	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olivir of Egg
March 20	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 30	Hexennacht
May 1	May Day
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric
June 21	Midsummer
July 9	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rudd Mills
August 9	Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia

August 18 Freyfaxi
September 9 Day of Remembrance for Herman of the Cherusci
September 23 Winter Finding
October 9 Day of Remembrance for Guido von List
October 20 Winter Nights
November 9 Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigrith of Sweden
November 11 Feast of the Einherjar
December 9 Day of Remembrance for Egil Skallagrimson
December 20-31 Yuletide

Volunteer for the AFA

Want to volunteer for the AFA? Join us on facebook
at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/171200910199593/> or contact your Folkbuilder.





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The Runestone, Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly*

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