

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly



Your input is needed to make *The Runestone* a publication filled with events, photos and news. Please feel free to submit any events, news or photos (plain text with attachments) to therunestone@runestone.org.

Donate to the AFA



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Website](#)



[Email](#)

Words from the Alsherjargothi



It is with immense joy and pride that I announce that the AFA has established a Hof in honor of Asa-Thor in North Carolina. This is the Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly, coming four and a half years after the establishment of Óðinshof in California. This hof comes after more than a year of effort, of trial and error, of excitement and heartache. We have the very best people in the AFA, and many devoted sons of the Aesir put their all into making this a reality.

I promised you all that once we paid off Óðinshof, we would immediately begin making the second hof, Þórshof, a reality. It took longer than I had anticipated but I swear to you that we did our best from January 1, 2019 to make good on that promise.

Sincere thanks are due to Gothar Coordinator Blaine Qualls, Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher, and Ryan Hanson for their efforts over and over to push the rock up the hill.

Special thanks go to Law Speaker Allen Turnage for his steady wisdom.

The greatest of all thanks and appreciation go to Gothi Svan Herul, Champion of Thor, this hof exists because of him and his family's dedication to this holy purpose.

Family.

Most of all, the AFA proudly offers this hof as a testament to our worship and loyalty to the divine thunderer, Asa-Thor.

HAIL THOR!!!



Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Matthew D. Flavel
 Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly
mattflavel@runestone.org

Gothar Updates

Gothi Svan Herul's Ordination

Just a few weeks ago at Ostara in the South I was able to do something that brings great joy to my heart. At Ostara in the South Svan Herul took his oath to join the ranks of our Gothar. After over a year's academic studies, and then months proving that he had learned the necessary things to become a Gothi of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Svan brings to our Gothar cadre a spirituality that is very sincere and a connection to the Gods beyond compare. Performing Svan's oathing ceremony was a highlight of my weekend and I am truly honored to stand shoulder to shoulder with Gothi Svan Herul as we strive to move the Asatru Folk Assembly in an ever more positive, spiritual direction.



Gothi Blaine Qualls Jr.
AFA Gothar Coordinator
bqualls@runestone.org

Folkbuilder Updates

Folkbuilder Oaths



At Ostara in the South, Svan Herul and Melisa Mills took their oaths before the Gods and the assembled Folk to become AFA Folkbuilder.

Svan has been instrumental in our victory in establishing Þórshof and also took his Gothi oath at Ostara in the South. Hail Gothi Svan!

Melisa has been the driving force in most of the activities in the Central Corridor over the last few years. Melisa lives in Missouri, so if your in that part of the country and want to get connected, reach out to her and let her know where you're at. Hail Melisa!

New Apprentice Folkbuilder

We are also pleased to announce Adam Hudak of Pennsylvania as the Asatru Folk Assembly's newest Apprentice Folkbuilder. Adam will be working with Gythia Catie Erickson and Witan Clifford J Erickson to build our AFA family in the Northeast North America region.



Adam is a valued member of the [Lansdale Tru Folk](#) kindred and we are thrilled to have him join our AFA leadership team. Adam has already hosted several Wotan on the Peaks hikes with AFA members and we look forward to seeing Adam's continued efforts to bring all of our Folk back home. Hail Adam!

Ves Heill!



Witan Clifford J. Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Ostara in the South



When our Alsherjargothi asked me to take the lead and host the national event, Ostara in the South, I was a bit apprehensive to say the least. I was thousands of miles away from the event site and had never personally met most of the membership there. Still, I knew what needed to be done and threw myself into making this event as successful as I could and, not to sound like I'm bragging, it came off as one of the better events I have attended. By all accounts, Ostara in the South was a great success.

Our weekend began with Gythia Catie Erickson leading everyone in a wonderful Greeting of the Gods/Opening ceremony. Our camp, each of us, and our weekend were blessed and turned into part of a larger "meta-ritual" that would encompass the entire weekend.



Gothi Svan Herul followed this up with a very intriguing discussion on Galdr and runic chanting. His grasp of the inner workings of Galdr is very thorough and his presentation left even the most learned runester with some new ideas.

Supper followed and then the Witan took the stage to discuss the state of things within the AFA and to answer questions for our membership. Discussions and questions flowed back and forth until finally it was time for our Wotan blot.

Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel led us all in a rousing blot to Wotan. After dark, fire roaring, just off the shore of a big lake with trees towering overhead... it was a very moving and powerful ritual, one that most will not soon forget.



above us. Breakfast was served and our day began very quickly with Gythia Erickson taking the ladies with her and leading a ladies group discussion. Introductions were made and many new friends came out of that discussion.

Gythia Funk gathered the folk together for an Ostara blot that, for me at least, was very moving. There, under the Carolina trees, a Goddess from over 1,000 years ago was called out to and hailed. Her power and gifts were shared among the assembled folk, Her spirit filled the air. Following right on the heels of Anna's ritual was an oathing ceremony for Melissa Mills and Svan Herul. Both have been apprentice Folkbuilders and put in their time in the trenches so to speak. Both were sworn their oaths to serve the AFA as Folkbuilders. Next, Svan, a student of the Gothar program, was sworn into the ranks of our noble Gothar, those men and women who are the priests and priestesses of our holy church. Welcome to the family Svan.



Next we had a quick lunch and then settled in to watch a truly amazing discussion of the history of the Asatru Folk Assembly put on by Steve and Sheila McNallen. So much history, so many stories, anecdotes, and heretofore unknowns. This was an unprecedented presentation, never before, to my knowledge, had so much information been told to the assembled membership. Truly this was the highlight of the weekend for many.

As many stayed on to watch a presentation by our Lawspeaker, Allen Turnage, Apprentice Folkbuilder Brandy Callahan and several volunteers led the children off to enjoy their own time. Easter Egg hunts, games and just a generally fun time were the rules of the day for the kids. Thank you Brandy. Allen gave a powerful presentation on our role in the future and in creating our future.

Supper was served, a delicious meal of lasagna and salad. That was quickly followed by an auction for the ages. I have been to many auctions at our events, this was by far one of the better ones I have ever participated in. Mead was served round by member Les Lauer while Lawspeaker Turnage led our auction with his usual aplomb and joviality.



hails were offered to the Gods and Ancestors. Emotions ran high and many new bonds were forged around that circle.

Sunday saw us begin packing even before breakfast was served. Finally, after breakfast, newly ordained Gothi Herul led us in a Wayfarer blot to see us all home safely. One last beautiful ritual there in the

Carolina woods before each of us departed on our separate ways.

I cannot begin to thank everyone here who lent their help and support to make this event an amazing success. A few who were standouts though, my thanks to Les and Angela Lauer, Gythia Funk, Brandy Callahan, Trent East, Gothi Herul, Gythia Erickson, Gythia McNallen, Gothi Turnage, American Crow Kindred/Lane Ashby, and all the other unnamed folk who pitched in wherever needed without argument to create a very memorable event.



Thank you all.



Gothi Blaine Qualls Jr.
AFA Gothar Coordinator

bqualls@runestone.org

Midsummer at Óðinshof



Midsummer 2020 celebrates the first 25 years of the Asatru Folk Assembly! All AFA events are special, but Silver Anniversaries only happen once, and you don't want to miss it! As Sunna's journey reaches its height for the year, we will reflect on the past - both recent and long ago - and celebrate the great things we have accomplished. Come meet the leadership of the AFA, including the Witan, our Gothar, and Folkbuilders.

Our agenda will include special presentations, plus special memories from AFA history, as told by Stephen and Sheila McNallen. There will be loads of activities for children, Viking Games, and several rituals. The latter include Welcoming the Gods and a Wayfarer's Blot, a formal Sumbel, a Midsummer Blot, and Matt Flavel's Odin Blot by torchlight and bonfire. We always encourage Rites of Passage for our Folk, and this year will include a poignant baby-blessing for Alice Shelton, as we formally welcome her into our AFA family. After a dynamic day, settle down to an evening bonfire with favorite folksongs and smores, live music, and even dancing under the stars. Anything is possible at Midsummer!

Vendors are encouraged to share and show off their wares. We'll also have an auction featuring AFA collectibles plus wonderful artwork and hand-crafted creations. The funds raised will go to maintaining this historic hof and keep it in good repair. The auction is often hilarious, silly, and quirky – always a delightful part of the weekend! We're pleased to offer camping on-site and will have two private showers and additional restrooms. Talk to us if you need camping gear. Our hearty meals are prepared by our members. We take all of our meals together and always begin with a food blessing.

Event registration includes all meals and we have special pricing for families. The Brownsville Motel offers the nearest lodgings, and we will help people find other options including travel-trailer space. We can also give advice on travel arrangements. This event is for AFA members and trusted friends only. It is not open to the public. Contact us if you

Register today at <https://afamidsummer.eventbrite.com/>

Contact Sheila McNallen or Marc MacLeod (mmacleod@runestone.org) with any questions.



Gythia Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

Day of Remembrance for Jarl Hakon

Jarl Hakon is one of those rare men who, by the sheer force of will changed history. Hakon was a strong practitioner of the old ways and likely an Odinn's man. After Hakon's father was burned alive by the grandsons of Harald Fairhair he vowed revenge and set about seeing that those responsible would pay dearly. Hakon was able to kill the grandson responsible and also, with the aid of the king of Denmark, to gain the jarldom of western Norway. Immediately upon his gaining power in Norway, Hakon began rebuilding the old temples and holy sites and encouraged the worship of the Gods again undoing much of what Fairhair and his family had done for Christianity.



Eventually Hakon was called upon to come to the aid of his Danish ally against Emperor Otto II of Germany. The ensuing war did not go well for the Scandinavians and it happened that Hakon was

priest off his ship. From there he sailed to islands off the coast of Sweden and gave blot to Odinn as ravens flew overhead.

After this great omen Hakon returned to Norway and repelled the incoming invasion. Now he was able to rule in peace for some time and continue his revival of the ancestral ways unhindered by outside influences.

Men like Hakon are rare, but each of us has the ability to change our immediate surroundings or, at the very least, change our perception of those surroundings. Hakon took misfortune and turned it into fuel to drive him to achieve great things. We too have that ability, we can decide how we react to things and how we deal with things. We can rise to the occasion or we can slink off and hide in the shadows. As Asatruar I dare say the only real option for us is to rise up. Asatruar -real sons and daughters of the Gods- do not hide in the shadows or slink off anywhere! We, like Hakon, must always stand tall and proud.

Hail Jarl Hakon Sigurdsson!!!



Gothi Blaine Qualls, Jr.
AFA Gothar Coordinator
bqualls@runestone.org

Folk History

Germanic/Anglo-Saxon/Norse Law

*Translated from Old Norwegian by Laurence M. Larson Professor of History, University, Illinois
Being the Gulathing and Frostathing Law, regional laws of pre-Christian Norway*

One of the reasons I am telling about this history is because there have been at best obfuscation and at worst intentional lies about our pagan culture. That is, the old lie that we who come from our traditional culture and religion were -in the words of the victors of this long culture war- lawless and

was originally written down from the oral tradition into Latin and later transcribed to Old Norwegian. It was for the first time translated into a modern language, English, in 1935 by Professor Larsen.

Today, even with mass communication, the same old confusion as to our history finds its way into the modern dialogue. Take, for example, the common saying “the United States is a nation of laws from our Christian heritage”. One of the Founders of the US Constitution, Thomas Jefferson, wrote about this subject from the 1760s through the 1820s. Jefferson in his letters wrote “the common law existed while the Anglo-Saxons were still Pagan, at a time that they never heard of Him or the word Christ pronounced”. In a letter to Major John Cartwright, Jefferson argued that Christianity was not part of the common law but had been foisted into law by an act of Judicial legislation (what we call today judicial activism). Incidentally, this letter gave rise to the famous quote by Jefferson referring to a "wall of separation between Church and State".

Definitions in Germanic Law:

Ax = payment

Baug = 'ring', 'armlet', 'money'

Mark = approximately one pound sterling

Thing = legal assembly

Outlaw = a person outside the protection of the law

A Baug decreed at the Thing for the killing of a man was paid by the whole family of the killer to the family of the slain man. A "Head Baug" was paid by the father and amounts to ten marks or thirty-two cows. A "Brother Baug" is paid to the slain family and amounts to five marks or sixteen cows. A "Cousin Baug" amounted to four marks or the value of thirteen cows.

So it seems the family was held by the Thing to pay for the acts of its family members. Outlawry was also sometimes imposed by the Thing. Without family life it would be hard indeed for an outlaw.

There were many rights to fishing, grazing, and timber harvesting. Bondi or freemen had the Odal right to hold lands through the right of inheritance. The Almaning was the land held in common.



Kindred Spotlight

Iron Guard Kindred



In this month's Kindred Spotlight the AFA would like to honor and show our thanks to the Ironguard Kindred of Virginia. The Ironguard was founded following Winter Nights in the Poconos in 2016. Originally just meant to be a mannerbund called the Guardsmen, they morphed into a kindred community that opened up to women and children. Since then they have grown exponentially.

Ironguard Kindred's structure is different than the traditional concepts of a kindred. It actually consists of small groups under one banner the Flag of the kindred- the Wheel Axe. Each local group is called an outpost and has an identity unto its own. They practice Asatru through a set calendar of Holy tides and perform ceremonies in a unilateral tradition that every outpost is familiar with. These Holy tides are based on their unique solar/Lunar calendar called the Ironmark. The

Winternights of our ancestors. A 12-night celebration with special functions is observed throughout the Yuletide for each night coming to a culmination that ends on the secular New Year of the Julian calendar.

Thank you Ironguard Kindred for all your hard work and being a Noble representative of our church.

Hail the Ironguard Kindred!

Hail 25 years of the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!



Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher
AFA Kindred Coordinator
jgallagher@runestone.org

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

If there was ever a time to have a body of like-minded, spiritually-focused men and women at your side, this is it! We, the Folkbuilders and Gothar of the AFA, are attempting to check in with everyone, to see how you're doing during these uncertain times - but many of us, too, are overwhelmed by work and family duties. So, if you're still seeking help or need information, reach out to Matt Flavel (mattflavel@runestone.org) or Sheila McNallen (sheila@runestone.org) and we'll do our best to help you out. Remember, too, that we have our Folk Services Program available for those in immediate need. We also have many men and women, motivated by all the AFA has given them over the years, who are stepping up with financial support. But what if all you need is someone to talk with, to guide you, to give counsel? Reach out to one of our Gothar! Some other options for YOU to stay connected:

and take part by posting or commenting. (Write to Sheila for a list.) Monitor your AFA region's Facebook page. Reach out to your Folkbuilder or the Folkbuilder-at-Large. Plan to attend AFA gatherings, and arrange to carpool so that others can join you. Work with your Folkbuilder to plan single-day events near you. Stay in touch with your Folkbuilder, and suggest ideas for future communication. Go through the AFA website's LIBRARY and read about our history, with its challenges, victories, and lessons learned. Volunteer to help out with AFA projects and tasks. Get your children enrolled in the free AFA Youth Program! Be more spiritual! Give blot to the Gods, honor the Landwights, remember the Ancestors. Greet the Day, bless your meals, participate in group rituals like Odin World Prayer Day. Wear your hammer and be ready to explain it if you get questions.

<https://www.runestone.org/folkbuilders/>

<https://www.runestone.org/gothar/>

<https://www.runestone.org/kindreds/>

<https://www.runestone.org/donate/>

<https://www.runestone.org/library/>



Gythia Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org

Eir's Blessings

Everybody needs a little extra help sometimes. Women, being the frithy creatures that we are, are uniquely suited to the task of manipulating energy for the purpose of healing. Magic, you could say.

Do you have a health concern and need a little extra energy? Are you battling with a mental illness like depression or PTSD? Is your baby having a hard time with teething? If you've answered yes at all, reach out to us. Once a month women of the AFA will get together to perform healing rituals all across the globe. If you would like to be included, please send a message to let us know!

interested in helping to create a frithful, healing magic, let us know! It's easy, but it makes a huge difference to those in our community who need our help!

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org



In Frith,



Gythia Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org

Australia & New Zealand

I would like to share with my AFA folk how I and my group are doing what we can to help grow our movement in Australia and New Zealand.

We have monthly catch-ups on the 9th of each month we discuss everything. For example, at our last meeting we discussed how our Gods are a personification of the forces on Midgard. Milanka, Cameron, Peter, Gavin and I ultimately focus on growth in the movement. We have discussed going old school and doing flyers to cater to our local areas. A long term goal is to have our own Facebook pages for our own areas.



do an information desk for a medieval day in June hope you all enjoy the photo of some of the stuff I'll have on display. We are all on a long hard journey but every journey begins with that first step.

Peter Walker
AFA Member

Deep South

American Crow Kindred, Florida



Ostara in the South was a magnificent gathering of Folk, the frith and fellowship were palpable the entire weekend. Seeing old friends again and making new ones is always something I to which I look forward all year. The Florida Folk had a strong showing this year with six members in attendance and two guests. Five of us carpooled together and the ride up was awash with anticipation and discussion of the weekend ahead; the ride back full of recounting memories and the contact everyone felt with the divine. We were proud to see our American Crow Kindred banner flying with the Tri-Horn at a National Event alongside the rest of the kindreds in attendance; our fellow corvid kindred the Raven's Blood Kindred from the Deep South, the Iron Guard Kindred from the Upper South, the Lansdale Tru Folk Kindred from the North East, the Northern Blood Kindred and Ulfhednar Clan from the Northern Plains. It warmed our hearts to see the look on the face of Nathan's son when he received his first Mjollnir and heard the story of its travels. Hearing Stephen McNallen recount the history of the AFA on its 25th Anniversary was a treat I will not soon forget. We were reminded of the responsibility we have to carry on the work to which he and Sheila have dedicated their lives.

The auction I hear was the best yet at an event. The generosity of the donations was only exceeded by that of the people who bid on each item. To see our folk outbid one another only to gift the item to the very person they were bidding against is a testament to our spirit. It was non stop all weekend and while we were not able to fit in the mead competition a winner will still be awarded once we are able to gather again. The isolation we are experiencing now makes the community we experienced at Ostara all the more compelling in contrast.

get any better", yet every year it does. The venue was beautiful, the ritual was powerful, the oathing in of a new Gothi and Folkbuilders inspiring, the Folk in attendance were warm and welcoming like family. The AFA motto is about coming home, but it's more than just a slogan. It has always felt this way to me, and the genealogy members have been doing is proving what we have known all along. The AFA is family; separated by geography and generations we are coming together again... we are Coming Home.



The Deep South welcomed home two new members this month.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Lane Ashby
Apprentice Folkbuilder
lashby@runestone.org

Ravensblood Kindred, Alabama & Georgia

While we did not have a regional meetup this month, we did have a phenomenal Ostara up in South Carolina!

We had a great venue, some great activities, great food, and great Folk! I'm confident that many other Folkbuilders will be writing about Ostara in the South, so I'll keep my comments short.

It was a tremendous honor being among such amazing people, and to make even more memories with my fantastic AFA family! Some of these memories include: meeting Melisa Mills and being part of her Folkbuilder Oath, seeing my friend Svan take both his Folkbuilder AND Gothi Oaths,

As for local happenings, Ravensblood Kindred has an OFFICIAL fourth member! We welcome Mr. Terry Rumph as the newest brother of our small kindred!

Hail the Folk, and hail Ostara!



Folkbuilder Trent East
teast@runestone.org

Europe

Sweden

This Saturday, on the 21st of March 2020, Gautr and Hroptatyr kindreds arranged a great day for those who still managed to venture out in spite of current viral calamities. The day started with a tour of burial mounds ranging from the Stone Age, through the Bronze Age and the Viking age, ultimately leading to a beautiful lake on the border of three ancient counties, where astounding treasures of gold, silver, bronze, and iron have been found. On our trip we had a very knowledgeable guide, Morgan, who told us many stories of the archeological finds that had been made in the area. Sacrificed weapons and armor tell us that this is a site where a Cult of Odin has been practiced, sacrificing the weapons of slain enemies in the name of Odin.



Hroptatyr kindred led the Odin blot on the shore of the lake where the artifacts have been found, once again awakening the spirit of the all-father at this liminal and holy place.



coming of spring, we headed to the home of Martin and Malena of Gautr kindred, for dinner, socializing and a blot to Frey. We dined in their newly renovated and very own dining hall, which very much reminded me of a modern-day long-house.

As is custom, there were children everywhere playing, lots of old and new friends sharing stories and creating new ones. When the sun was setting, we started our march through the woods to the stone circle to commence our ritual to Frey. We raised a horn in honor of prosperity, fertility and the core of our community; the family.

Hail Frey!



Linus Borgström
AFA Member

Hroptatyr Kindred, Sweden

Members in Hroptatyr kindred of Sweden were out on a mission this weekend. The mission was to connect even deeper to our roots and to give blot to allfather Odin. The ritual took place in Odensberg outside of Falköping, on top of a hill named after Odin himself, Odenskulle (Odinshill). Our forefathers gave offerings to Odin on this hill and so did we.

We also visited other great sites like "Ekornavallen", "Olsbrostenen", and "amundtorps skeppsättning".

Hail our folk and hail our gods and goddesses.



Folkbuilder Anders Nilsson

anilsson@runestone.org

Midwest

There have been very few times I've had little to say but we weren't able to accomplish much this month. Many things had to be postponed.

But we're pushing forward and we'll have much more next month. Due to our Ostara cancellation I'll be making sure the presentations are still there and to make the most out of the situation at hand.

If you're in the Midwest and have any issues or concerns let me know. I am nearly always available and am always trying to make the Midwest the best it can!

Until next time...

Hail the AFA!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the Ancestors!



Zach Cato
Apprentice Folkbuilder
zcato@runestone.org

Northeast

Lansdale Tru Folk



This past March Clifford Erickson and our small family had the extreme pleasure of attending this year's national Ostara in the South. Amid the cold rains of the end of winter, and the beginning of the virus scare that is currently enthralling our country, the warm days spent in the woods with folk were very much needed. With great joy we got to see our dear friend, Svan Herul, not only take his official Folkbuilder Oath, but also his Gothar Oath!

We celebrated the beginning of Spring in a beautiful blot to Ostara led by Gythia Anna Mae Funk, and most importantly, particularly in the face of current events, we were able to spend a weekend surrounded by our great folk. Never underestimate the power a gathering of this kind can have, particularly in regard to spiritual renewal.

Unfortunately, here in the Northeast most of us are on lockdown. Until further notice, all events are on hold. In an attempt to make sure that we can all still communicate and keep in touch with our folk we will be hosting bi-monthly conference calls. We really hope to hear from many of you as it is more important now than ever before to find ways to connect.

Additionally, when the lock-downs are over I hope everyone can look forward to moots and gatherings everywhere in the Northeast!

In Frith,



Gythia Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org

A Wotan on the Peaks Project

On this day March 9th, a day of life returning, the cold winter months coming to an end, and witnessing the everlasting cycle of life, death, to rebirth we honor AldinGautr. My fellow Kinsman Pat Cook and I decided to do simultaneous hikes in our states, and more importantly some of our children accompanied us. In part this is what this is all about, passing onto the next generation what is important in life and how to defeat all obstacles that stand in their way, external and internal. Not just defeat but thrive in all adversity.

Sure we live in interesting times, much goes on that can divert us. We can allow all the noise to get into our minds. We can be drawn down to the abyss just as those against us want. We can fight amongst ourselves and dig ourselves a deeper hole or we can remember our Right, our Nobility, we can stand together, and listen to the whisper of the Hidden One guiding us as he always has and he will guide our descendants as well.

Days like this bring me much joy, honored to have found this calling and be lucky enough to pass this awakening on. Passing the torch of wisdom and the eternal virtues our blood exemplifies. But as is life, tough times lie ahead. We will be tested and much can go wrong. When it all seems lost



Heil Gautatyr
Heil Siggautr
Heil Atriðr

#wotannetwork



Adam Hudak
Apprentice Folkbuilder
ahudak@runestone.org

Bi-monthly Conference Calls

AFA Northeast Call (weekday)

First of two reoccurring monthly calls, for at least as long as Stay at Home orders are in effect. This is a great way to keep up on AFA goings-on and to keep in touch with our Folk during these stressful times. This meeting recurs every month on the 1st Monday of the month from 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time starting on 4/6/2020 and ending on 12/31/2020

Dial-in: 716-273-1030 PIN: 978 3145#

AFA Northeast Call (weekend)

Second of two reoccurring monthly calls, for at least as long as Stay at Home orders are in effect. This is a great way to keep up on AFA goings-on and to keep in touch with our Folk during these stressful times. This meeting recurs every month on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time starting on 4/18/2020 and ending on 12/31/2020

Dial-in: 716-273-1030 PIN: 978 3145#

Ves Heill!



Witan Clifford J. Erickson

cerickson@runestone.org

Northern Plains

Like most areas it's been pretty quiet here and we are laying low. We had to cancel all our future events because of the current situation. With the near future uncertain we are just playing it by ear. Once things get back to normal we will resume things.



Now is the time to do things with your families and work on projects around home! This is just a small roadblock and we will rise up and continue on for we are a strong resilient Noble Folk. Our Ancestors overcame many hardships and so shall we!

There is good news because Fallfest 5 registration is now open and it falls on Labor Day weekend this year September 4-6. If you would like more info please email me or message me on Facebook.

Hail those who Do!

Hail 25 years of the AFA!!!

Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher

AFA Kindred Coordinator

jgallagher@runestone.org



Northwest

Hails my fellow Asatruar, these are truly trying times upon us with the plague quarantining us at home and interrupting our day to day lives. It's unclear what the future holds but honoring our gods and ancestors and remembering the struggles and tribulations that they went through will give us the strength and fortitude to strive forward. I want to thank all of our folk who are on the front lines in dealing with this menace and keeping the infrastructure running, and to the Mothers that raise our children in this difficult situation.

For those of us who are forced to stay at home we should use this opportunity for deep introspection, spiritual development, and creating quality time with our children. I am a true believer in the power of fasting for health and spiritual well-being. Fasting sharpens our minds and heals our bodies from the toxicities that our modern society poisons us with. Instead of binge-watching some mindless program, follow the example of Odin and push the boundaries of what is comfortable and safe. The All-Father hung on a windy tree for nine days without bread or mead and was shown the secrets of the Runes. Amazing things happen when you fast; you will require less sleep, creativity will reach unbelievable levels, meditations become focused, and you develop an Iron will that allows you to impose changes upon this world.

By order of the government both in the US and Canada all gatherings have been forbidden to slow the spread of the plague, so in the month of April we will be having weekly call-ins on Wednesday and Saturday at 7:00 Pacific standard time. This will allow us to keep in touch and discuss Asatru' and its esoteric side. I will send out emails with the details. If you're not part of the NW and want to participate message me and I will get an invite to you.

There is a remembrance in the month of April for Jarl Haakon and we'll lift a horn to him during our call-in on the 8th. Jarl Haakon was forced by the King of Denmark to convert to Christianity and take clergymen to Norway to begin the forced conversion there. Staying true to the Gods and when the winds were favorable for sailing he commanded the clergymen off of his boats and left for

April 15 is the first day of summer according to the old Icelandic calendar and a Sigrblot was held. 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. We may not be able to gather for a blot, but it does not mean that you cannot perform it by yourself or with your family and ask the Allfather for victory in this difficult age!

Stay safe and may the Gods be with you!



Folkbuilder Joe Rozanek
jrozanek@runestone.org

South Africa

Volkswachstum Kindred

Here in Durbanville, Western Cape, South Africa we are slowly but surely building the folk. Due to unstable politics and hatred towards our people it is very difficult. No matter what may come our way we still honour our Gods. A big thank you to Chris Roux for all your support.

One day all our folk will be reunited. My 6-year-old son has adopted Odinn as his God out of his own free will. I wish you all a blessed day.

Skôl!





West

On February 29th, we celebrated Charming of the Plow and the approach of spring. Matt Flavel greeted dozens of us in our ritual circle where we gave welcome to the Gods. He then explained the importance of this holy day, how it mirrors the time our agrarian ancestors began preparing the land to receive seeds which would lead to sustenance for all. In the Charming of the Plow rite, we figuratively “planted our seeds” – our own personal intentions for the year.



While the men were outdoors, the women came together to throw a baby shower for our own Mrs. Mandy Flavel, a beautiful celebration where our mothers gave advice, shared wisdom and our collective joy in another baby joining the Folk.

The men stayed outside and played Viking games and feats of strength including an epic tug of war, wrestling and stone-throwing led by Will Migala. As day became evening, a beautiful blot was held by Sheila McNallen and Thorgrun Odden honoring Frey and Freya and the fertility and prosperity they bring. Thank you for all who came, and the many volunteers who helped make it happen.

Every month, rain or shine, members of the Asatru Folk Assembly have come together to distribute food to members of our community who otherwise may go without. These fine Folk set a great example for all, even beyond the walls of our hall. Thank you for another successful food distribution.

We're building flexibility into our calendar. Check the AFA-west members' Facebook group or write to Sheila McNallen on Facebook or sheila@runestone.org for up-to-date scheduling of events.

The following Odinshof gatherings are still scheduled:
Hexennacht, May 2nd

Hail the Gods!
Hail the Folk!
Hail the AFA!



Gythia Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

Frith Weavers Newsletter



Frithweavers is a monthly newsletter written by the women and for the women of the AFA. It includes a number of articles about health and wellness, homeschooling and child-rearing, homesteading, spirituality, recipes, and more!

wellness, homeschooling and child-rearing, homesteading, spirituality, recipes, and anything else you think our women would be interested in. Do you have a skill or knowledge that you think could help our women grow? Share it!

If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter or submit an article, please email frithweavers@runestone.org. Thank you very much!

In Frith,



Gythia Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org

Call for Photo Donations

We have a real need for hi-res photographs of our members' gathering, being active in their kindreds, and showing what it means to live Asatru. If you are willing to donate some hi-res photos for use in promotions such as the AFA Calendar, the AFA website, our publications, and more please email them to photos@runestone.org.



The larger the resolution the better, so please email them from the device where the photo was taken.

Folk Services

situation, and although we try and to work and do our best to pull ourselves out, sometimes we may need the help of our Folk community to give us a hand up...



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 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](#).

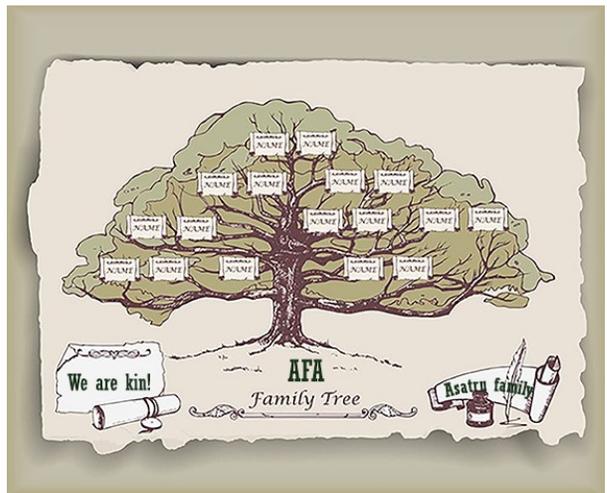
Your contributions are earnestly solicited and of course are tax-deductible! Please donate to Folk Services or one of our other AFA Fundraisers at <http://www.runestone.org/donate/>.

Thanks in advance!

AFA Genealogy Facebook Group

This is a place for AFA Members to discuss genealogy, family history research, and share tips and information related to genealogy. Rules here are simple: Keep your posts to the subject matter of this group, keep it friendly, have fun.

Every month, Steven Ingle publishes a spreadsheet listing all participants with their cousin matches. Yes, we all have cousin matches in the AFA, some closer than others. This is open to our greater family tree and is not just for members in the U.S.



you get your results. What if you're not on Facebook but still want to participate? When your DNA is tested, and you get results, you can create a Gedmatch kit number, Send that kit number to Sheila and we'll run it in the next batch. She will send you the results of your analysis. You too will say, "Oh, my Gods! Wow! Incredible! and "Hey, there Cousin!"



Gythia Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

AFA 50 and Over Facebook Group

This group is a place where AFA members 50 and over can come to support one another in facing the challenges of aging, caring for family and loved ones and exploring how over shared beliefs can help with it all.

To join the group you must be a member of the AFA in good standing. You must be 50 or older, exceptions are the AFA Witan, AFA Folkbuilders and AFA Gothar/Gythia. There is no commercial activity or soliciting in the group.

Hail the AFA!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the Gods & Goddesses!

Terry J. Rumph

AFA Member

tjrumph@yahoo.com

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 each new addition to our folk!

This project has been going strong for nearly a year now, and has been a rousing success! The Ladies of the AFA have knitted, crocheted, and sewn beautiful baby blankets for over 20 of our littlest folk, with more on the way. They've been delivered everywhere from Alaska to Florida, California to Sweden!

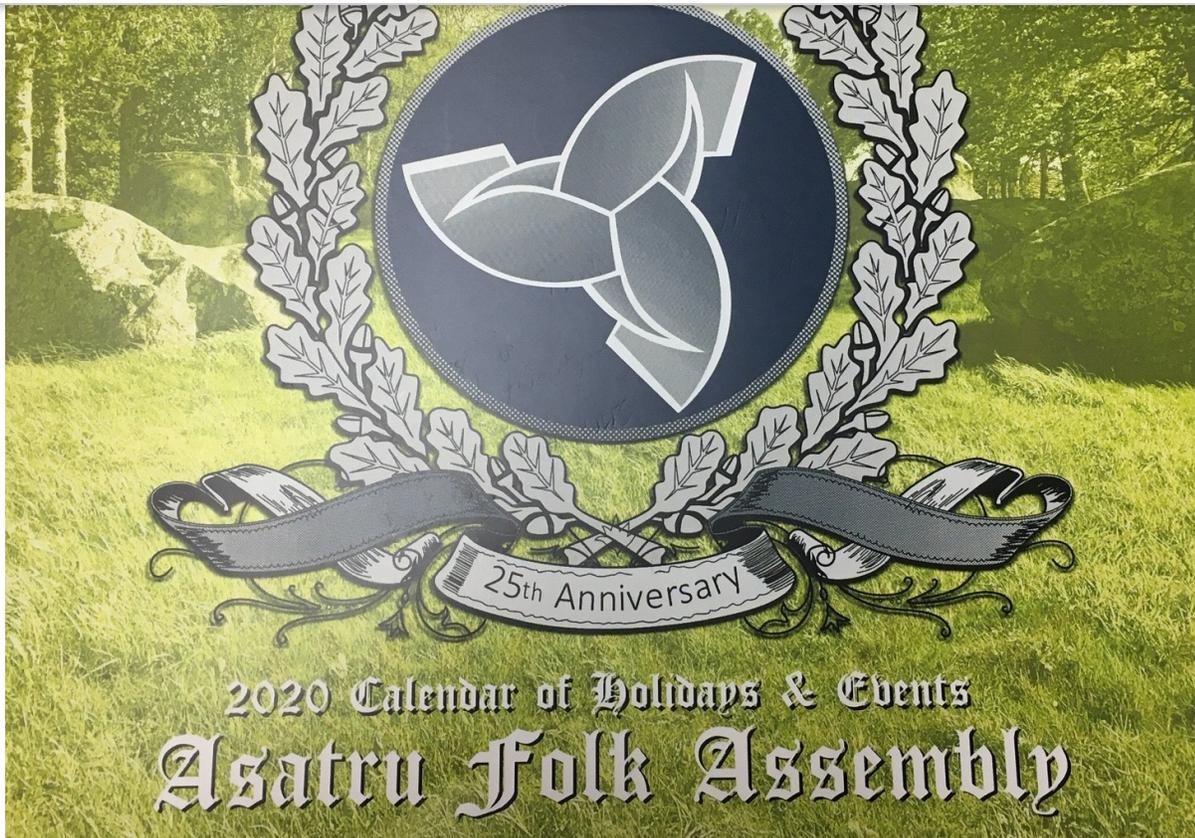
If you are a member of the AFA who is expecting a baby, please let your Folkbuilder know so we can get a blanket to you. If you would like to contribute, either financially or by volunteering as a baby blanket crafter, let your Folkbuilder know about that as well, so he can get you in touch with the right people. It's so rewarding to see your handicraft being loved by our little heathens!

Would you like a blanket for your newborn, or to donate and help with yarn costs (yarn is expensive!)? Please notify Mandy (mandy@runestone.org) with the subject line: BABY BLANKET.

AFA 2020 Calendar

The AFA is proud to present our new **2020 Calendar!**

Celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the Asatru Folk Assembly with photos spanning twenty-years of spiritual growth and activism. Get it at the AFA store at <http://www.runestonegifts.com/>.



Asatru Folk Assembly Calendar of Holy and Remembrance Days

Date	Observance
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 Herman of the Cherusci
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](#) or contact your Folkbuilder.



Copyright © *2019* Asatru Folk Assembly, All rights reserved.
[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

