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Words from the Alsherjargothi

In the month of March, I had the honor and privilege of celebrating Ostara with three hofs in three weeks. I spent a lot of time thinking about that and it is truly amazing to be living at this time and such a special thing to be a part of the AFA. These are the first three hofs to our Gods in a thousand years as well as the first three ever in Vinland. I have tried to imagine how Óðinn, Þórr, and Baldr must feel receiving hofs dedicated to them after so long, watching our folk gather and honor them once again in our very own holy grounds. I must believe they are very proud and very happy, and it is amazing that each of us is a part of making them feel that way.

Congratulations to the fine folks at Þórshof for an amazing Ostara event, the first annual Ostara at Þórshof. It felt great to show the hof off to the McNallens for the first time.

The highlight of March, however, was the dedication of Baldrshof. This hof has taken so much hard work and dedication. This hof has been a magnet for attention, both positive and negative, and our amazing Folk has shown our very best to all the onlookers. A huge thank you is due to the amazing men and women who stood strong

and built that hof with their blood, sweat, tears, and deep devotion.

The Baldrshof was an auspicious occasion and at that moment, James Ault was oathed in as a Folkbuilder.

That very special occasion also saw Gothi Jason Plourde and Gythia Brandy Callahan ordained. All under the light of bright Baldr, in his shining hof.

Spring is off to an amazing start and I am prouder than ever to be a part of this amazing AFA family!



Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Matthew D. Flavel

Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly

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Jarl Haakon Sigurdsson

Jarl Haakon, or Haakon Sigurdsson, son of the Norwegian earl of Lade, was exiled to Denmark after the murder of his father by Harald II Graycloak. He soon allied with Harald Bluetooth and they overthrew his father's murderer. While Haakon became the sovereign in the west, Harald Bluetooth annexed southeastern Norway. The two would again join forces when Bluetooth needed aid in fighting against the Holy Roman Emperor Otto II in 974.

Though forced into baptism Haakon's faith in his gods was so strong that he was not only able to revolt against Bluetooths efforts to Christianize Norway for a time, but also to spread and expand his faith in his lands. In the end, powers that he could not control began to sway the attitudes of his men and he was killed by one of his own retainers.

Jarl Haakon was the last Asatru King of Norway, his death in 995 CE leading directly to the take over by Olaf Tryggvason.

So what can we learn from this story?

There will always be people in our lives who do not understand our faith or our dedication to our faith. Even our friends might choose to try and change our minds. When the people we have trusted do this we can sometimes find ourselves doubting our choices, even if for just a moment. ‘What if?’ Take that breath and reaffirm your faith. It isn’t always going to be easy, but nothing that is worth anything ever is.



With dedication can come reward. We might not be able to make everyone understand our values and our beliefs, but for every person who turns away, there is a person somewhere whose mind can be opened by our words. There is that person whose soul longs to "come home". They just don’t know it yet. Perhaps your words, your dedication, your belief will be the thing that helps someone else find their way, and what better reward could there be for standing strong?

We must also take a moment to remember to curb our arrogance. When we become too sure of ourselves and our ability to stand tall against everything that would fight us we can become blinded by the reality of the situation around us. Always remember to take time to take the measure of the situation. Take the time to know if it is a good time to talk or to hold your tongue.

*Wise in measure let each man be, but let him not wax too wise;
for never the happiest of men is he who knows much of many things
-Hávamál 54*

Gythia Catie Erickson

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Remembrance & Holy Days

2021

Date	Observance
January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 23	Porrablót
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 20	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olvir of Egg
March 20	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 17	Hexennacht
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
May 22	May Day
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric of the Goths
June 20	Midsummer
July 1	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills
July 17	Sigrblót
August 9	Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia
August 21	Freyfaxi
September 9	Day of Remembrance for Prince Hermann of the Cherusci
September 22	Winter Finding
October 9	Day of Remembrance for Meister Guido von List
October 15	Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen
October 16	Winter Nights
November 9	Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigríð of Sweden

Date	Observance
November 11	Feast of the Einherjar
December 9	Day of Remembrance for Egill Skallagrímsson
December 20	Mother's Night
December 21-31	Yuletide

Upcoming National Events

There is so much going on around the country right now in spite of various obstacles. Please contact your favorite Folkbuilder or Gothar if you are interested in attending the events below. The way to get the most out of your membership in the Asatru Folk Assembly is in person with your Folk!

May 7 - 9
Midwest Remembrance of Else Christiansen
Wisconsin

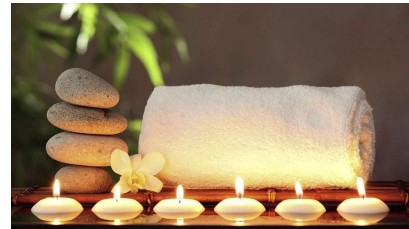
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May 13 - 16
Ladies Hot Springs Getaway
Arkansas

<https://afahotsprings.eventbrite.com>



June 11 - 13
Midsummer at Óðinshof
California



October 15 - 17
Winter Nights in the Poconos
Pennsylvania





Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Be a Doer



We need you to volunteer for the AFA!

Yes, you. We have work to do and need folk who are artists, editors, writers, accountants, lawyers, publicists, reputation managers, professionals of all manner, technical support, web developers, system admins, tradesmen, craftswomen, and more. See the list of amazing projects we have below. We will find a way for you to help our Folk.

Please email volunteer@runestone.org to help us make a difference in our world.

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 handmade — 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 email babyblanket@runestone.org today!



Youth Program



The AFA Youth Program is now halfway through a very successful year! We had high hopes when this program started in January and the kids have surpassed all of our expectations and goals. Our youth have been working on monthly assignments and fun projects centered around Lore, Days of Remembrance, Holidays, AFA Culture, and monthly themes based on the Nine Noble Virtues.

Registration for the Youth Program is open year-round and open to youth ages 6 to 18. Our program is currently e-mail based. Parents receive their assignments through e-mail on the first of each month. The Youth Program is free and open to all of our AFA families!

If you are interested in registering your child for the AFA Youth Program, send an e-mail to youth@runestone.org to get started.

Pen Pal Group

Did you know the AFA has a Pen Pal group?

This group is for folks who still love the fading art of writing a letter.

If you would like to participate in this amazing endeavor and connect with different people from all across the world, please send an email to penpal@runestone.org with your name and address, and we will get you set up with a pen pal for correspondence.



Folk Services



For some, it may be a natural disaster. For others an unexpected change in health, and for some just an unforeseen chain of events. Whatever the case may be sometimes we find ourselves in a sticky 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...

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, please email folkservices@runestone.org.

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!

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 the AFA at photos@runestone.org. The larger the resolution the better, so please email them from the device where the photo was taken.

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!

At the same time, Women of the AFA! If you are 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

Last Will and Testament

Recently, several members of our AFA family have passed beyond the veil. One was an old man in ill health, two were young men in the prime of life... all died with no legal will on record. Sadly, in two of these cases, our dead AFA members did not have their wishes respected regarding their funerals nor the final resting places of their remains.



We never know when tragedy will strike. We have a responsibility to our loved ones, we have a responsibility to our own legacies, to plan for our passing, and to make our wishes known. Planning for and contemplating our death is uncomfortable. Hopefully, we all have plenty of time for that down the road, but we can't count on that. Maybe we worry about expenses or hiring a lawyer. We all have excuses to put things off until later, unfortunately, sometimes the clock runs out before "later" happens.

We have found an amazing resource for our U.S. members to make legally binding wills in minutes online for **free**. This site also has resources to make Advanced Medical Directives and Powers of Attorney. It takes only **minutes** at <https://www.doyourownwill.com/>.

Please make your will **today**.

The AFA would like to collect signed original copies of wills for all our members and store them. We want to ensure that when members of our AFA family die, their wishes are honored. Please send these to:

Allen Turnage
PO Box 16027
Tallahassee FL, 32317

Poem for Ostara by Gray

*Coming to us like the dawn oh you who were gone too long.
You oh beautiful and sprouting like spring more eternal in youth than any earthly thing.
They, they could not obtain your fame so sought they did to co-opt your name.
Yet despite their oppressions, your spirit like our Folk wasn't something they could*

tame.

So seek they did to make an ill-mannered gain and to, to corrupt your blessed name.

Aren't they all so lame?

*For holy and strong you do reign!
Even in this time in a world so dark and driven insane.*

Ostara, with us you remain.

Óðinshof First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Alaska



Folkbuilder Eric Whisman
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Gothi Steven Morrell
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California

Ostara at Odinshof - "The Folk Doth Abide!"

The agenda got off to a roaring start as our Alsherjargothi led us in our traditional "Greeting to the Gods." Everyone was warmly welcomed, familiar faces and newcomers alike. We were especially delighted to see Marc MacLeod and Deedy, who had been unable to be with us since Yule, standing with us in the ritual circle! After greetings, we were busy with a series of activities: Firewood was split and stacked for our bonfire, Steven Ingle gave a short presentation about genealogy - and then on with our games of strength and skill: spear tossing, tug-of-war, and stone-carrying. The chilly weather didn't lessen the passion and enthusiasm.

Next, more than a dozen of our little folks gathered at the picnic tables to dye Ostara eggs, followed by the egg hunt - with hundreds of plastic eggs which had been filled with candies and treats by two of our helpful teens.

Later in the day, Founder Steve McNallen gathered people indoors for his talk "Doxxed, Damned, and Defiant," reminding us how lucky we are to be here in Midgard at this crucial and critical time in history! He described the courage of our Norwegian martyr, Olvir of Egg, who - 1000 years ago almost to the day - was murdered by the Christian tyrant Olaf Trygvasson for refusing to give up the Gods of our Folk. Despite all attempts to suppress and eradicate us for the intervening ten centuries, we are back, and we're not going away! As Steve put it, "You can dox a person. But you can't dox an idea whose time has come."

Gythia Sheila McNallen followed up by reading her favorite poem "The Easter Fire," by the German poet Hermann Löns, written well over 100 years ago. In it, he reminds us of the nature of our Folk, and how our customs - especially out on the heath - endure despite the passing centuries. Everyone was touched by those poignant words that still ring true.

Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel then talked about the recent history of Odinshof and the success of our USDA Food Bank and the benefits of community service projects at all of our hofs. Workdays and events prior to Midsummer were discussed

As darkness descended, a bonfire blazed in our sacred circle as Gythia McNallen led us in, sun-wise. We called on the Saxon Goddess Ostara to renew and revitalize us with her might, and with the potential that comes with Spring. We added one more offering to Ostara - a loaf of bread, lovingly created by Milena, twisted into the shape of Berkano to remind us of the life force that we sense so strongly this time of year.

As the blot ended, we all stepped forward for a Healing Ritual while Galdring runes of healing and strength to bring well-being and victory to those who are afflicted with illness.

As a hardy dozen of us gathered for Sumbel, tired but happy, new life was apparent in the symphony from the frogs in the neighbors' pond. True words were said over the horn by AFA-kin, knowing that it is our destiny to be here, to fight this fight with smiles on our faces, to share the bonds that bind us, and to bring forth the revival of our holy Faith and Folk in a world which needs us so very much.





UPCOMING EVENTS at Odinhof

Open to all AFA members! Write for more information: sheila@runestone.org.
Flyers & Eventbrite link will be sent in advance.

April 17, HEXENNACHT

May 15, MAYDAY

June 11-13, MIDSUMMER 2021!



Hail, the returning Sun!
Hail, Ostara!
Hail, the Spirit of our Folk!
Hail, the new Dawn!



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Gothi Thorgrun Odden

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Gythia Sheila McNallen

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Colorado



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Folkbuilder Jason Plourde
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Nevada



Matthew D. Flavel
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly
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Oceania



Tj Rudd
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Oregon

Ostara has been honored and the blessings of spring have been ushered in! I attended the Ostara celebration in Washington near Couer 'd Alene Idaho on an amazing piece of property hosted by Nathan. The blot performed by Lucas to the Goddess Ostara was fantastic and moving, we had a great feast and there was an Ostara egg hunt for the children. I am looking forward to visiting the area and visiting with our kinsmen more in the future!

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! We will be meeting in the Portland/Vancouver area to celebrate and so will the members in Couer 'd Alene, Seattle, and Vancouver BC.

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!



Folkbuilder Joe Rozanek

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Washington

March was a productive and powerful month for us here in Washington state. The bulk of our kindred met 3 times a week for weight training and feasting and remained disciplined in our efforts to embody Thor. Along with building strength and discipline in the temple of iron, we also met weekly for our local Kindred meeting to enjoy frith, food, lore study and to submit and receive assignments for each other pertaining to myths, runes, and general Lore. On Saturday the 20th we held a Blot in Honor of Ostara and the coming spring followed by a feast and a late night of cards and fellowship. On the 28th we hosted a small workshop on blot structure for new members in the area and followed up with a beautiful blot to Thor lead by Jarrett Cordell. Earlier in the month, we as a kindred attended a "Warriors club" hosted by another local group the Pacific Northwest Wolf pack, and were also in attendance for a beautiful Ostara Gathering hosted by Hvítúlfheim Kindred another local congregation. This month we have received many emails from interested folks and one new applicant.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the AFA!

Mason Johnson

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Connor Norris
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Þórshof Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Alabama



Folkbuilder Trent East
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Florida



Lane Ashby
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Lawspeaker Allen Turnage
turnage@runestone.org

Indiana

We had a big month this March. Many of us from my neck of the woods made the journey to Thorshof for Ostara. What an amazing time we had. Great food, great Folk, great experience.

Heimdall's Midgard had our first tent camping for the year. We'll be camping at the end of each month from now until October. So if anyone is around Southern Indiana and wants to visit with the Folk here please let me know. You can contact me at zcato@runestone.org.



In April, I plan to make a trip to Tennessee to have a meet and greet. I have not picked a place yet but will be looking for somewhere where fun to go and contact all of the members in the area. There is much to come this year! Until next time...

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



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Italy



Francesco Morese

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New England



George J. Schindler III

Apprentice Folkbuilder

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Norway



Werner Holm
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Ohio

Covington Kentucky Moot

On Sunday, March 28th I joined some familiar faces and new ones interested in joining the AFA at the Cock and Bull Public House in Covington, Kentucky. We had a few drinks, laughs, and snacks then took a walk around the Mainstrasse Neighborhood, a German-Themed area with a Glockenspiel tower and beautiful Die Gänsemagd (Goose maiden) fountain from Grimm's Fairy Tales. Like I have said in the past I will never post anyone's photo that does not want to be in the picture and everyone took the opportunity to indulge that request this day, BUT I was more than willing to ham it up myself!



Anyone in Eastern Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, or Western Pennsylvania who wants to have a moot please e-mail me I would love to set that up.

Join us Sunday, April 11th at the Ohio Bird Sanctuary in Mansfield, Ohio



Timothy Dumas
Apprentice Folkbuilder
tdumas@runestone.org

Moot at Das Schnitzel Haus

March 28th, an overcast and dreary day was made bright by frith among our folk. We met at a wonderful little German restaurant in Parma, Ohio- Das Schnitzel Haus. Some I've seen many times before we're in attendance and some I had the honor of meeting in person for the first time that day. All of the company was delightful and the food delicious. We had wonderful conversations and spoke of an eventful spring and summer to come.



I have high hopes for Ohio in the coming months and know we'll continue to grow exponentially here. I'm truly honored to know such great folks and look forward to everything we will accomplish in growing our community and faith in our traditions and Gods in this great state.



Joe Drotos
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Fallen Timbers Update

Ostara made her presence known and the Fallen Timbers Kindred welcomed her with open arms on March 21st at a member's home in northeast Ohio. We had a wonderful turnout to welcome the renewal of the earth as well as our spirits moving forward this spring.





Upcoming Events

April 11th
Mansfield Ohio
Bird Sanctuary

April 18th
Hartville Ohio
Hexennacht Bonfire

April 24th
Cincinnati Ohio
Volksmarch

May 1st
Hartville Ohio
May Day Celebration

Hail Ostara!
Hail the Fallen Timbers Kindred!
Hail the AFA!



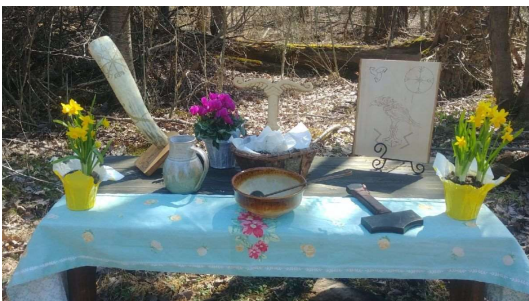
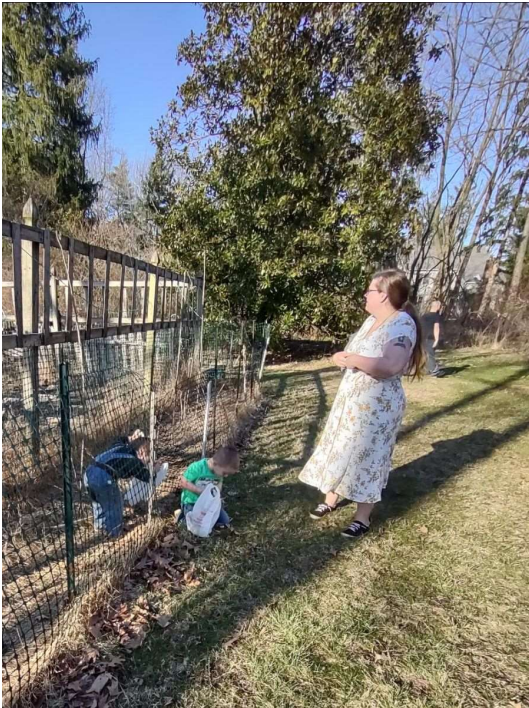
Jessica Lambert
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jlambert@runestone.org



Pennsylvania

What a month it has been! Truly a great time to be a part of the AFA. Some of us in the Northeast made the trip to Ostara in the South. It was wonderful to be in the Strong Ones home once more and to be amongst so many great Folk. Much happened there. It was a very special experience for all involved, but I will let the ones who made it all happen to tell the story of that special weekend.

Locally, on the 20th we had Ostara in Lansdale. With the weather warming up it was very nice to be outdoors among everyone once again. We sat and caught up with each other and watched the children play. The women had egg coloring set up for them and soon after they had an egg hunt. Of course the highlight of the day for the little ones! Not long after Gythia Erickson led us in a beautiful Blot to our Goddess of the Dawn. We left that sacred area feeling quite renewed. Dinner that night was ham and potatoes and a host of other things. Thank you ladies for your hard work on such a good meal!





The night was getting late and it was time for Sumbel. Witan Erickson and Gythia Erickson gave me the honor of leading it. An unexpected but good surprise. I have much to learn to lead like they do but like with all things if we don't try we will never know where we may need improvement or what we really could have done if only we just took that chance. Words of praise were said to the Mighty Aesir, to the ones who are no longer with us but, yet very much are, and to the ones here in Midgard right now making a difference. Thank you for all that attended that night. We will see each other all soon enough.

Coming Up: Sometime in May, expect an overnight camping trip at World's End State Park in Forksville, PA. More Details to come and I hope to see you there.



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Gythia Catie Erickson

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Witan Clifford Erickson
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Sweden



Sweden is welcoming the spring.

Spring is coming to Sweden snow is melting and temperatures are slowly rising but I think most of us notice and welcome the most is the increasing light Sunna is back.

Gautr and Hroptatyr kindreds each held their spring equinox rituals dedicated to the oncoming spring.

Hail Sunna

Hail Frey

Hail AFA



Anders Nilsson

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South Africa



Etienne Louw

Apprentice Folkbuilder

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South Carolina

March at Thorshof was all about Ostara In The South. We had no shortage of volunteers in getting the grounds ready. From Witan Svan Herul to Apprentice Folkbuilder Heather Young, Apprentice Folkbuilder Cody Raynard, and local and regional members putting their sweat equity in. All deserve our thanks.

Ostara on Friday began with Folkbuilder Rob Stamm welcoming the gods, and a great Galder class lead by Witan Svan Herul. The evening finished with Alsherjargothi Flavel leading us in an absolutely powerful blot to Asa Thor. All in attendance were rocked by the mighty Thunderer's presence.

Saturday saw a class on the Aryan migration by Folkbuilder Stamm, a Q & A with the AFA Witan, and a beautiful blot to Ostara lead by Witan Herul. The evening began with a wonderful talk by Founder Stephen McNallen. Next up we saw tremendous generosity from our folk when we held our auction. Folkbuilder James Ault did an

amazing job as our auctioneer.

Earlier in the afternoon, the kids had some fun in the egg race and an egg hunt. The smiles on their faces were priceless.

Sunday wrapped up with Folkbuilder and Gothi Student Trent East leading the Wayfarer's blot. It was time to say goodbye, but all were looking forward to the next Ostara. If you missed it, please come next year. We'd love to see you there! Hail Ostara!

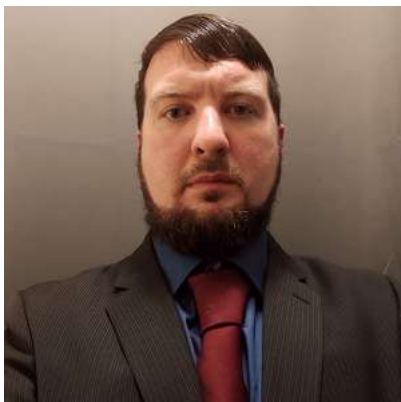


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Baldrshof

Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Arkansas



Michael Sessumes
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Illinois



We had an active month of March in Illinois.

The Hrafnagud Kindred held our first Blot, an early Ostara Blot, on the 6th. Several new people interested in our ancestral faith attended this event, and we hope they will choose to become more involved in the future.

We continue our bi-weekly study/discussion group on the Lore and philosophy of Asatru. This month we carried on working through the Nine Noble Values, with an emphasis on “Joy Is Better Than Guilt” and “Honor Is Better Than Dishonor”.



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Michael Foley



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Missouri



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North Dakota



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Texas



On the 13th of March, our AFA folk from the great state of Texas celebrated Ostara on a beautiful piece of ranch land near Fort Worth, Texas. We gathered in genuine Frith, welcomed some new members to their first gathering, and built a bonfire that could be seen for miles. We walked the land, frolicked with some rescue horses, and made Ostara proud as we called out to her for blessings. We know this coming year will be fruitful and prosperous for Texas and her surrounding states, as we plan to join forces for even more robust gatherings in the future.



Hail the Texas Heimat!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the Gods and Goddesses!

Hail the AFA!



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