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Words from the Alsherjargothi

July 2020 was a very special month for the Asatru Folk Assembly. On July 18th we dedicated a hof to Thor, as far as I know, for the first time in a thousand years, as far as I know, for the first time ever in the Western Hemisphere. I would like to thank all of our AFA family in the Upper South region who took, and continue to take, loving care of this Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly. Special thanks are due Ironguard and Donar's Oak for their hours of effort making this glorious temple shine. This hof is special. It was a tremendous honor to share this occasion with all those who made it out. One of the most amazing things about this holy place is the magnificent mural honoring Asa-Thor. This piece is truly awe-inspiring and the credit goes to Gothi Svan Herul who poured his devotion into this beautiful painting.

This summer, this 25th anniversary year, has been one of triumph for the AFA. While the world outside has been locked down, the AFA has been alive and buzzing. While the world outside has torn down, the AFA has built up. While alienation and distance have defined this year for the world outside, 2020 has been a year of closeness and togetherness for the AFA.

by the year, thank you all for being a part of it.

As the year rolls on and the celebrations continue, I would urge you all to make it up to Minnesota for Fallfest in September and out to Pennsylvania come October for Winter Nights in the Poconos. Life is good.



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



Matthew D. Flavel
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly
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Terry J. Rumph

13 April 1949 - 26 July 2020

Terry J. Rumph, or Mr. Terry as most of us called him, was a soft-spoken man of much

wisdom and generosity.

Most of us only had the

Tra

honor of knowing him during his brief time in the AFA, but he touched the lives of our entire church in those short six years.

Before he joined the AFA, Mr. Terry lived a full and eventful life of virtue, adventure, and service to both his nation and his community.

He enlisted in the United States Army in May of 1967, serving three tours in

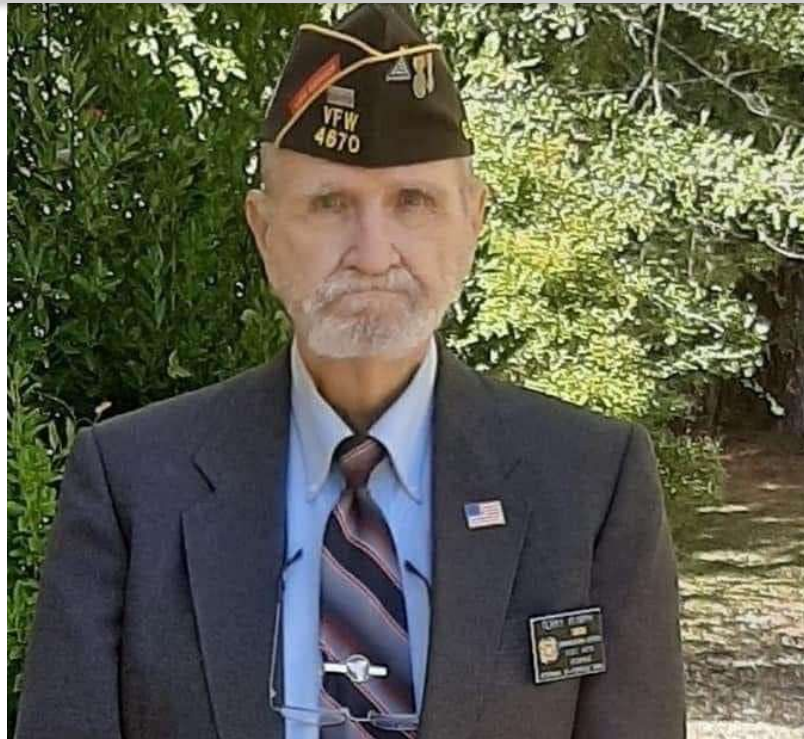
South Vietnam. During these three deployments, he earned many decorations: Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal with two knots, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with one Silver Star and four Bronze Star Campaign devices, RVN Honor Medal 2nd Class, RVN Gallantry Cross Medal with Palm device, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60s device.

After returning home from one of the worst military conflicts in American history, Sergeant Rumph decided that he was not finished serving his people, and joined his local police department. Fewer details are known of his time in law enforcement, but it is known that he served honorably and had a positive, profound impact on many lives in his community.

Once he concluded his time in law enforcement, Mr. Terry once again decided that he was still not done fighting for his people, and so he became one of the most devoted members of his local VFW(Veterans of Foreign Wars) branch. Warriors from all over the country knew who Sergeant Rumph was, just through his diligent work for the VFW.

In March of 2014, Mr. Terry found his way to the Asatru Folk Assembly and was so impressed by the sense of frith and community that he joined our church immediately and with high enthusiasm. This enthusiasm never waned even for a minute, no matter what health issues came his way.

In March of 2020, at the AFA's Ostara in the South, Ravensblood Kindred had the



Ravensblood Kindred, and he will continue to do so even now that he has left Midgard.

Mr. Terry often said that he hoped to live a life in the example of Tyr, and he absolutely accomplished that. There was not a single time in his adult life where he was not serving our Folk, and he never once let anything get in his way of that.

Hail Sergeant Terry J. Rumph, may the road to his proud Ancestors be brief!

Hail Sergeant Terry J. Rumph, may Tyr himself recognize this great warrior's life lived honorably!

Hail Sergeant Terry J. Rumph, may his name live on forever in our hearts and in our praises!

“Death is not final until you are forgotten.”

We shall never forget you, sir.



Folkbuilder Trent East
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Óðinshof - First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly
Brownsville, California

SommarFest



SommarFest was a continuation of our jubilant Midsummer, a time to further the bonds of friendship and enjoyment of our magnificent hof. Though we knew it would be much smaller, old friends returned and several members came for the very first time.

The first feature of the day was a presentation by genealogist Steve Ingle. Always ready to answer questions, Steve offered tips for successful research and DNA analysis, and also shared his stories of helping adoptees find their birth families. The Facebook group AFA Genealogy is a great resource for anyone interested in these topics to meet like-minded people.



Following lunch, we moved into our traditional “Greeting the Gods” opening ritual, preceded with introductions led by Alherjagothi Matt Flavel. Next came a talk by Founder Stephen McNallen, which was a dramatic update to his classic essay, “Soul Loss.”

Sheila McNallen followed, with a short talk about the nature of our Goddess Sif and the theme of familial relationships. Though very little is written about Sif, we can infer her attributes by her connections, by blood and marriage, to Thor, Ullr, Odin, and Frigga. Examining the nature of those relationships can offer us humans guidance, as well.



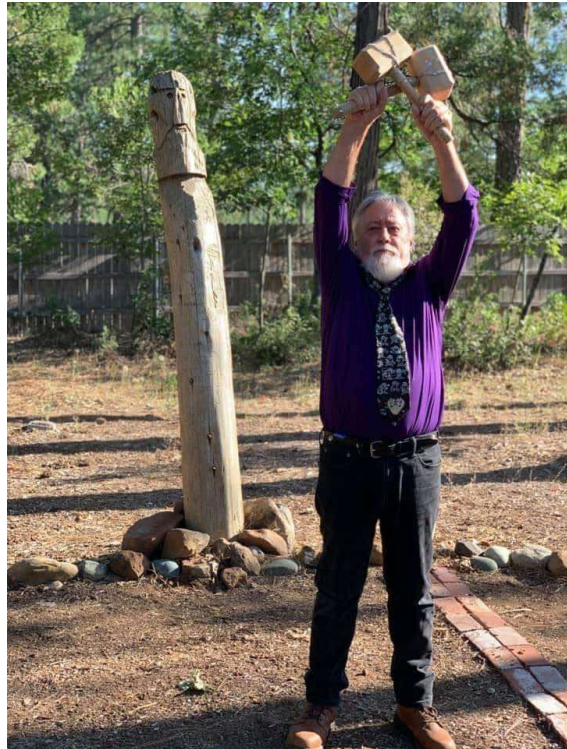
The men departed, leaving the women to gather around a large table where they

focused on the rune Sowilo. Each lady gave a brief introduction and ended with a personal victory; some with tears, some with laughter. It was simple, yet had a powerful impact on us all.

The SommarFest blot, led by Gythia McNallen and Gothi Thorgrun Odden honored Thor and his wife Sif in their many aspects. As the folk filed into the circle, Thorgrun stood before the god pole of

Thor, holding aloft two wooden hammers in a formidable Thor-like pose. Every lady held a radiant sunflower to offer to our Goddess Sif. Sheila and Thorgrun then called on our High Ones to be with us and initiated the exchange of gifts. The powerful balance of masculine and feminine, God and Goddess, destroyer, and life-bringer was seen and felt by all.

Each month we plan to hold a raffle or auction to support Óðinshof and its recurring costs. For July, the raffle featured a huge woodcarving of an owl by local artist Adam Robertson. The Ingle family had the lucky ticket and took this massive carving home.



One last highlight was a slideshow of the recent Thorshof Dedication in Linden, North Carolina. Matt Flavel gave the narration as we witnessed the transformation of a church into a hof. Dozens of people turned out for the day of celebration, admiring the remarkable Thor-mural painted by Gothi Svan at the front of the hof, and the very moving first ritual within those walls.

Before the night was over, many of us gathered around the campfire for a sumbel led by the McNallens. For several sitting there, this was the culmination of their first day ever meeting another Asatruar, let alone participating in a ritual. Any shyness was soon replaced by comfortable familiarity as we greeted the newcomers, congratulated them on their journeys “home” to the AFA, and shared with them a profound experience of communion with Folk,



Upcoming Events

Information will be posted on Facebook and sent out via email

- August 22, 11 am - 10 pm
- September 21 Winter Finding
- October 24 Winter Nights
- November 14 Feast of the Einherjar December 19 Yule – Mother's Night

Óðinshof Cemetery Added to Find a-Grave

Our Óðinshof Cemetery is now on the popular free website, Findagrave. We will be adding a memorial for Rebekah as soon as possible.

Find a Grave is an American website that allows the public to search and add to an online database of cemetery records. It receives and uploads digital photographs of headstones from burial sites, taken by unpaid volunteers at cemeteries. Find a Grave then posts the photo on its website, findagrave.com.



Óðinshof Cemetery is located at 8408 La Porte Rd, Brownsville, CA

Gythia Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org



Monthly Food Distribution, July 11th

July's volunteers gathered for another busy and successful food distribution at Óðinshof. The Yuba Sutter County Food Bank was there to help us streamline our procedures to meet the community's expanding needs. A big “Thank you!” to our many dedicated volunteers and friends, who show up rain or shine to ensure this project goes on without a hitch!



After the food distribution, the Folk came together for a barbecue, in celebration of Gythia Sheila McNallen's birthday. Following our delicious meal, we headed to the lake for an afternoon of swimming and enjoying nature. It was a pleasure to see everyone and have so many new faces. Until next time!



August Food Bank: August 8, 10 am - 11:30 am (volunteers arrive at 9:00)



Krystal Bailey
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Þórshof - Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly Linden, North Carolina





The Upper South has been busy indeed! Of you have been living under a rock and don't know, we got a hof in North Carolina! Our folks have been busy as bees working on the hof in preparation for our grand dedication that took place on July 18th. Speaking of dedication, we had a fantastic dedication with many from our region and beyond coming to dedicate Þórshof and hail the thunderer. We had 2 baby namings, and Folkbuilder Rob Stamm took his oath to be a full Folkbuilder. Fun times, good friends, and the worship of our gods & ancestors were enjoyed by everyone in attendance! Our next event at Þórshof will be Freyfaxi in late August. Keep an eye on the Upper South Facebook group and Þórshof page for more details. We will also be starting to do charitable works, any ideas can be sent to the Þórshof page or to Folkbuilder Rob Stamm or Gothi Svan Herul.

Don't forget Winter Nights in the Poconos is just around the corner, let's get a good contingent from old dixie to head into Pennsylvania!





Folkbuilder Rob Stamm

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Thor's Hof: Going Our Own Cultural Way

Submitted by Gray Wilson

*We have gathered together and gone our own cultural Way.
They told us this is impossible and impracticable, especially on this Day.
We have not listened, no matter how much they Bray.
A beautiful building, once filled with Folkish Fellowship had fallen into Decay.
Until our Folk came forward and through immense generosity for it we did Pay.
With sweat and sacrifice of toil and through great stress and all sorts of things that did Delay.
We have the second Hof in Vineland and achieved a great victory Today!!
With ritual, we cleansed and consecrated the land and buildings as our place to Pray.
A fulfillment of a dream and words which promised for this come whatever May.
Now we have yet another home for our Folk and Traditions which will never go Away.
For those who worked and toiled for it, there is no amount of praise that we can sufficiently
Say!
It is a testament to our Folk in this a time most dark and Gray.
It stands now for us a Hof to the God who would never Sway.*



Mighty is the Volk When Awakened are the Folk: A Poem to Thor

Submitted by Gray Wilson

Mighty Is The Volk.

When Awakened Are The Folk.

Heavy and taxing the system weighs against us like a controlling Yolk.

With it they seek to manipulate and isolate us, making us weakened and Broke.

Yet Mighty Is The Volk!

*The darkness of our enemies' shadow is a blight upon the land like a poisonous Smoke.
Their lies and deceptions fill near all forms of media and information, upon them they would
have us Choke.*

Yet Mighty Are The Folk!

*Our deeds are again shaping the Realm of Men, our Gods and Goddesses have heard us and
them we have Awoke!*

*Let us now stand together bonded in blood and kinship stronger and more alive than the
greatest Oak!*

FOR MIGHTY IS THE VOLK WHEN AWAKENED ARE THE FOLK!!

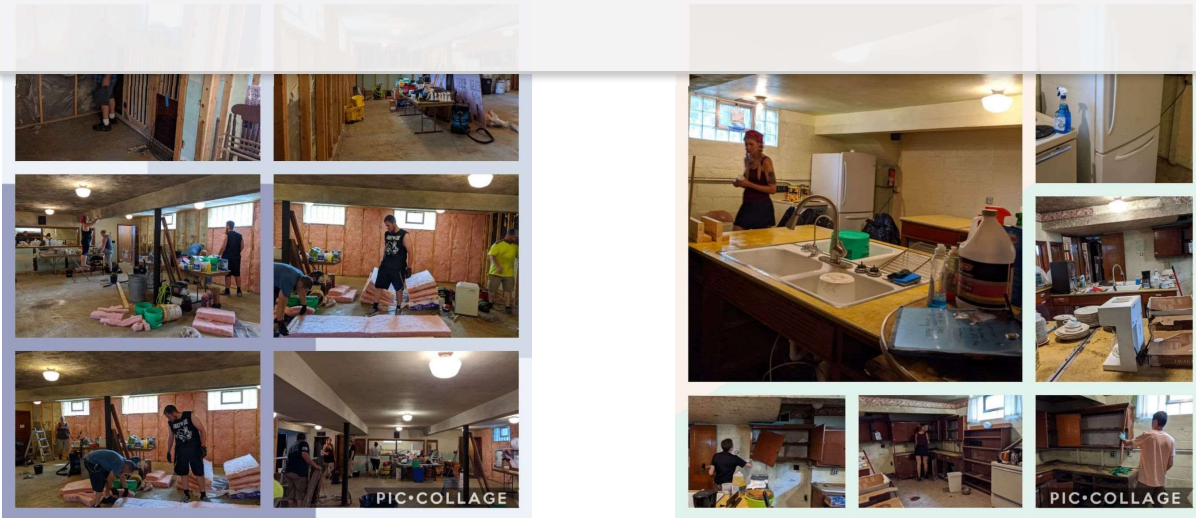
**Baldurshof - Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly
Murdock, Minnesota**

Baldurshof hasn't even officially opened its doors and already it is unifying the region. Saturday, July 25th members from nearly every state in the region came together to work on turning Baldurshof from an abandoned church into a real hof fit for our Gods.

There is still much work to be done before our dedication

in November, but our energy is very high here in the Northern Plains and we have more work weekends planned.





Hail Baldur!



Witan Blaine Qualls

bqualls@runestone.org

Day of Remembrance

King Radbod of Frisia

This month we celebrate glorious King Radbod of Frisia. King of Frisia from about 680 CE onwards he was responsible for keeping his lands free of Frankish domination and is often described as Frisia's last independent ruler. Radbod spent the bulk of his reign battling against the neighboring Franks, first fighting against Pippin II until he died in 714 and then against Pippin's son, Charles Martel. Radbod also did all he could to push Christianity out of his lands, in it he saw an extension of Frankish influence and control.....he saw it as a destroyer of his own native Frisian culture. The battles between Radbod and the Franks went back and forth until finally in 714, with the death of Pippin, Radbod was able to send all the priests and monks out of his lands and pushed the Frankish armies completely out as well until his death in 719.

Radbod is perhaps best known to us for his refusal to be baptized in the Christian faith.

something about if he would see his ancestors in heaven. The priest, being honest, said no, anyone not of the Christian faith was sent to suffer in their horrid fiery realm of punishment which they called Hell. Radbod replied, " Then I would rather be suffering there with them than go to heaven with a pack of beggars." He then promptly pushed the priests out of his country and remained true to his ancestral ways until his death.



Radbod has much to teach us today. We aren't forced at sword point to accept alien religions, but we do find ourselves in a similar position. For many today the forward march of political correctness has led to our very doorsteps. We become pariahs in the eyes of society if we refuse to accept its decadent ways and yet here we are. Here we are remaining steadfast in our loyalty and devotion to our Gods. We have shunned the foreign influences of our age and sent them scurrying from our homes. Rather than slide into the negative mindset of a beaten opponent we hold our heads high and boldly build positivity in ourselves, in our families, and in all those we can around us. We are assured of the rightness of our deeds by the echoes from the past of men like Radbod.

Hail noble King Radbod of Frisia!



Witan Blaine Qualls
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Luck

What is it and how did our Ancestors Understand it?

pertains to our soul and its use in everyday life. Like many words and phrases, as time passes their meanings change; and in some instances, the true strength of a word or phrase loses its life. Luck is one of those words that's meaning has changed and without understanding it the way our ancestors did, the magic of our lore does not reach its fullness.

First and foremost, Luck is not random happenstance; "random" events are the place of Wyrd and Orlog. This is the case of how its understanding has changed. For example, the person who lives near the woods and hunts successfully would be known to have hunting-luck or hearing-luck. The fisherman on the coast would have fishing-luck or wind-luck. The warrior battle-luck or healing-luck. The poor person unluck of wealth and so on. One who lives inland and has no access to the sea would most likely have little fishing-luck. Luck allows one to both give good rede (wisdom) and more importantly to give good rede to oneself. The ability to plan and the flexibility and discipline to carry out that plan, are a result of one's Luck. Gronbech puts it best; "Luck, then, is the power that inspires a man and emanates from his person, filling his words and his deeds; it comprises all the requirements of the family, its powers and possibilities, its accomplishments and its hope, its genius and character. Luck contains the very existence of the clan."

Luck is not random; it is directed force and will. It is both what allows for the kinfence to impose its will according to its Luck; and that which pulls from the tribal Orlog and Hamingja to affect Wyrd to make it so. In kinship and frith does the power of Luck truly shine. The individual can never hope to amount as much Luck as that of the tribe and will always fall short of the might of a frithful folk; the kinfence with many staves stands the test of time. As in the military, when one of your leaders or peers is recognized and receives a well-earned award it strengthens the whole and elevates the Luck of that person and the unit. The kinfence of the AFA is no different in this regard. The Luck of each of us adds to the folk and improves us all. Each time the AFA gains a new member our kin-luck improves. Every time a new Hof is founded for our folk the land-luck and ancestral-luck improves. Anytime one of us makes a leap ahead for our family and puts ourselves into a better place in life, the wealth-luck and frith-luck affect us all.

If each of us starts with the Luck of our families; how do we improve or gain new luck? The answer is simple, the task is not. The answer can be summed up into two thoughts: Discipline and Challenge. One must embrace the Luck of their family and have the discipline to improve upon it. They must also take that Luck and utilize it and challenge themselves and life; an untested weapon is useless. To gain better Luck at farming, although the family spent little time with it; requires one to apply themselves and learn the skill. To challenge oneself to grow a certain amount or harvest a certain animal. The ancestors that discovered new places of life such as America so long ago brought with them their families' Luck. They

ancestors improved and gained new luck. The learning of a skill, the gaining of Luck from good rede from the Gods and Goddesses as well as mentors. The discipline to master oneself and be flexible with plans, but see them to success are all ways we can improve our Luck and that of our kin.



Gothi Steven Morrell
smorrell@runestone.org

Kindred Spotlight

Acsafolc Kindred



In this month's Kindred Spotlight the AFA would like to honor The Acsafolc Kindred of Oregon. These folks are pretty active and they host a slew of events. From meet and greets to hosting Holydays and field trip events. We want to thank you for everything you do and for your hope to bring our folk home.

Acsafolk you are a shining example of our

church and as the local congregation for your area, you are doing a great job of representing. Thank you for putting in hard work for our folk!

Hail the Acsafolk!

Hail the Kindreds of the AFA!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!



Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher

AFA Kindred Coordinator

jgallagher@runestone.org

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!

September 4 - 6

AFA Fallfest V

Minnesota

October 16 - 18

AFA Winter Nights in the Poconos IX

Pennsylvania

November 21

Baldurshof Dedication

February 5 - 7

Northwest Charming of the Plow 2021

Washington

Ves Heill!



Witan Clifford J. Erickson

cerickson@runestone.org

Deep South

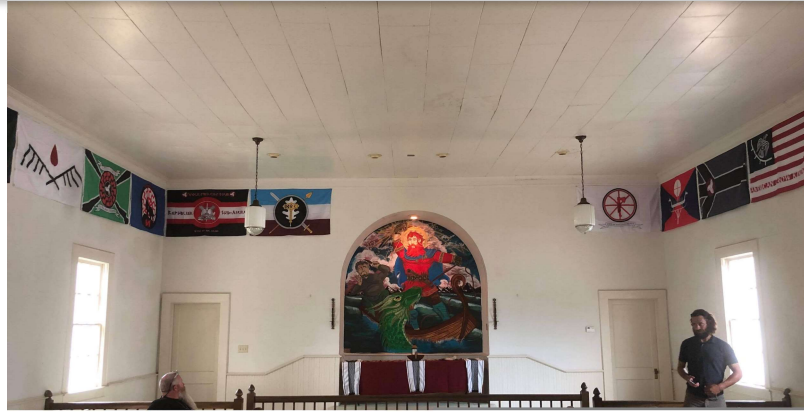


"To every man upon this earth Death cometh soon or late. And how can man die better than facing fearful odds, For the ashes of his fathers, And the temples of his gods."

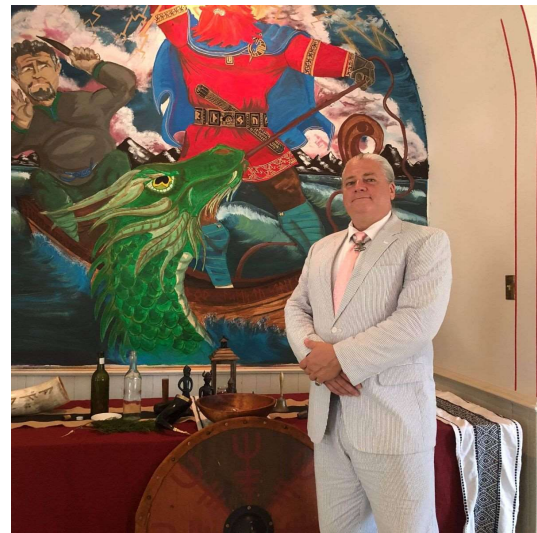
Congratulations to Þórshof: Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly for making this tremendous achievement for the folk happen. Hail the Ása, hail the AFA, hail the doers, and of course hail Ása-Þórr in his new home.

The dedication ceremony was as beautiful as the incredible mural painted by Gothi Svan Herul. Using a lantern holding a flame kindled with wood from prior blots we claimed the land around the edges of the property in the name of our Gods and the AFA. We showed the appropriate respect to the burial site we have the honor of sharing this space with and promised to restore the marking of that site to beauty. We blessed the thresholds with mead before entering the sanctum itself, bringing the flame and our folk from the outdoors into a

It filled our hearts with joy seeing that building packed full of our growing families. That included two tiny new members of the folk who were able to have their name-giving ceremonies held in Þórshof on this historic day, as well as the well earned oathing in of Folkbuilder Rob Stamm.

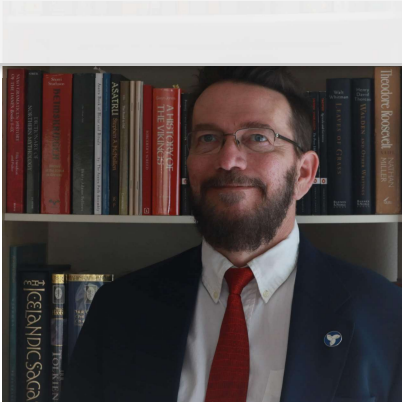


We were proud to see the kindred flags of the AFA hanging in another Hof, our Deep South Corvid-Kindreds, Raven's Blood Kindred, and the American Crow Kindred, facing one another on either side of the great hall. To share this with momentous occasion with other members of our kindred, the Deep South, our Gothi Allen Turnage, and Folkbuilder Trent East as well as the rest of our AFA family is a memory we will cherish for all time.



The Deep South welcomed two new members and one returning member home in July.

Lane Ashby
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Europe

This past weekend some members of Hroptatyr kindred of Sweden were out camping together nearby a lake in the wilderness. It was a weekend with lots of laughs but also some serious talk around the campfire. We were out paddling canoes and also spent some time to see some monuments from the bronze age. Let the pictures speak for themselves.



Hail Hroptatyr, Hail AFA!

Submitted by AFA Member Andreas Svensson



Folkbuilder Anders Nilsson

anilsson@runestone.org

Four Corners

The Four Corners has thrown open the doors! This month in Utah we have the birth of a new baby girl Freya Mae Birdzell, conceived the night of a Wotan Bløt, born 07/21/2020 healthy and strong to proud parents Josh and Trista Birdzell. In Arizona, Chad Scalero hosting the first official meet up of the year had the following to share:

"Both members of the AFA and those interested in our native spirituality met in Phoenix on the 26th of July. This is the first post-COVID-19 meet up. Discussions of faith, plans for future meetups, and how to navigate the Kali Yuga were had. Last Sunday of every month. I look forward to seeing this grow and the potential for Arizona to have a community to both enlighten and better our folk. Hail the Gods, Hail the Folk, Hail the AFA."

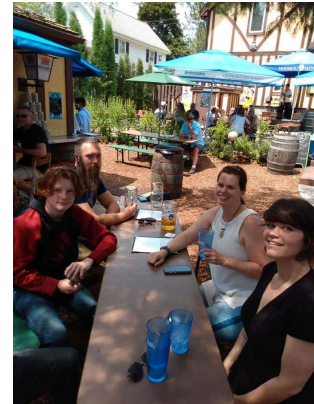
Lastly in Colorado, the Asafolk kindred assembled to honor Tyr with Frith & Bløt lead by Folkbuilder Jason Plourde. Jason has also been hosting video conference calls to bring the region together, during the lockdowns & riots, with a focus on basic principles of Asatru and spirituality. Keep an eye out for Wotan on the Peaks and future events in telegram and our four corners page for updates and future events!





Midwest

Greetings from Wisconsin. This is an amazing time of growth among the Folk of Wisconsin. Over the last month, we held a meet and greet at a German beer garden in Milwaukee, traveled to Washington Island to spend the day with another AFA member, held a Wotan on the Peaks in Belgium, and enjoyed the ongoing book study that one of our younger couples is hosting monthly. The last weekend of July will see several of our members heading up to Minnesota for the Baldurshof workday.



Each month there will be a meet and greet on the last Sunday of the month. We will be moving the location around the state each time to include members who may not have access to travel that far from their homes. We have a young couple who host a monthly book study in their home. We participate in both Odin World Prayer Day on the 9th of every month and Wotan on the Peak. We also will be setting up various field trips around the State to learn about the rich history our Ancestors brought to this area. Come and be a part of Wisconsin's growth.

As events are set up they will be shared on social media or through email, text, and phone calls. Anyone interested in getting involved with the AFA in Wisconsin, please feel free to contact me.





James Ault
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Heimdall's Midgard Kindred

Greetings from the Midwest,

What a month we've had in the Midwest and the AFA as a whole! We are constantly making history that we can be proud of. One such instance of this is the dedication of Thor's Hof. The second Hof created by the AFA. Who does this? The AFA and no one else! Better yet, while still excited about a second Hof, a third one, Baldurshof, was announced! What an amazing church we belong to!



Five of us from the Midwest made a trip to Thor's Hof. Three of those were of Heimdall's Midgard and the other two dear friends of mine from other areas of our region. It was great to see familiar faces as well as new faces. The dedication ceremony was powerful and uplifting. The Sumbal was equally spiritual with many of us

bearing our hearts and soul to our folk. There was no other place we would have rather been that day.

There was also the witnessing of two Baby Naming ceremonies and the Folkbuilder Oath Taking of Rob Stamm. We are proud of his works and all of the works of the people that made this occasion a possibility. We truly are a mighty and noble folk!

of the world at the moment. More now than ever before do we need to bond with our folk and exercise our minds and spirit.

Our Kindred Moot was on Sunday. We had new members arrive for the first time and some with newborns born within the AFA. It touches my heart to see a new life born within the AFA. We covered genealogy and what it means to be in Heimdall's Midgard Kindred and the AFA as a whole. We had a potluck, blot, sumbal, and great discussions.



Furthermore, a few of us were not present due to another baby on the way. Babies everywhere! It's so exciting! Although the world around us is writhing in chaos, new life in our fold is being born, kinship and community are growing, and our passion is soaring for the mission of our beloved AFA church!

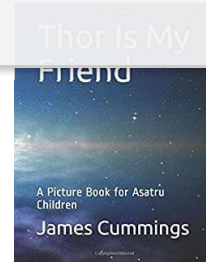
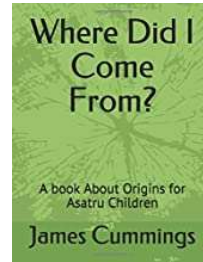
The next Heimdalls Midgard Camp will be Aug 22-24. If you'll be near Southern Indiana please let me know and I'll be happy to give you the information so we may share these moments. We will be having both a Handfasting and Naming Ceremony plus many lively discussions.

Coming up for the Midwest, in general, is our Monthly Conference Call. It will be on the First Sunday of August at 7 pm Central Time. I will be sending reminders along with the call info closer to that date to our telegram and Facebook platforms. We hope to have many of you there. These calls are important for making the Midwest as connected and informed on the present and future of the Midwest as possible. Our calls are always lively and enjoyable. So be sure to join us!

We have a message from Illinois. I am proud to announce the amazing accomplishments of one of our Midwest member and a dear friend of mine. Hail Mr. James Cumming! He writes:

"In Illinois, we have just launched our own 'Asatru Illinois' blog at <https://asatruillinois.wordpress.com/>. This website is intended to serve as a forum for Asatru practitioners and those curious about our faith. We will be covering different aspects of our native European beliefs and how they can be applied to improve our spiritual lives. Asatru Illinois is updated and maintained by members of the Asatru Folk Assembly, however,

In addition, Jim Cummings has recently created some Asatru children's picture books. These are intended to explain Asatru theological concepts in a way kids can understand and enjoy. Notes to parents are included to assist in answering questions kids may have. Both books, "Where Did I Come From?" (Asatru cosmogony) and "Thor Is My Friend" are available on Amazon.



Ohio had a conference call to discuss the events for August. Anyone can contact me Jezlambert@yahoo.com or Ben Tiemier, btiemier@runestone.org, for further info or inquiry. The dates and places are:

Friday, August 21st Pub Moot

Saturday, August 22nd Potluck Cookout

Wisconsin has been very active. It a pleasure working with James Ault and Ben Tiemier in Ohio. I will not mention much on Ault's activity as he has written his own article for the Runestone. So I will just mention that I'm glad to have him on board and look forward to seeing him and others at the AFA Fallfest. With that said, if you haven't registered, you should. All of our AFA events are fantastic and you will definitely be missing out if you do not come.

A message from Nick in Michigan:

"A potentially large project has begun in earnest in the Midwest region to catalog, tag, and review primarily books, but occasionally other media, which support the development of a healthy religious understanding and outlook for the children of our folk. We are looking for contributors and suggestions of materials to review. Submissions are graded and reviewed with an emphasis on overall quality and accuracy. If you wish to aid in this project, please contact Zach Cato.

An example of our work, highlighting both the style of review as well as a book I recommend:

D'Aulaire's Book of Norse Myths

NYR Children's Collection; Main Edition (July 10, 2005)

(4 Stars / 5) (#Lore) (Age 4+)

This book has been around for a while and makes most lists like this. There are good reasons for that: the art is really good, the stories are fairly intact, and the quantity of tales contained

is good. I did not feel short-changed spending the \$19 on the book new. As of this writing, used editions are priced higher than new. With no difference in editions, buy new. The book is written for a Christian audience and parses the tales through that lens. For that reason and issues of accuracy, I only give it four stars.

While not a perfect telling of the lore for children, this book provides probably the best telling for children on the market. Reading aloud gives the opportunity to quickly correct the inaccuracies and Christian influence in most of the chapters, with the exception of the first and last. The morality presented is good enough, with the authors not shying away from the important deaths in the lore.

Overall, this is a must for any Asatru home. Until an illustrated "Children's Edda" is published, this will be a good place holder."

With that, all in all, we have a lot of wonderful things happening in the Midwest as you can see. We soldier on working towards the good work of our AFA Declaration of Purpose! New members are popping up all of the time. We hope this encourages the members that have been inactive to notice what they are missing out on and become active with us. Join us as we make the Midwest great! Until next time...

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the AFA!



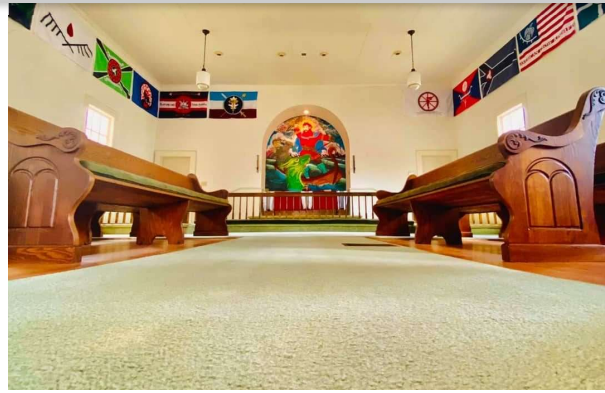
Zach Cato

Apprentice Folkbuilder

zcato@runestone.org

Northeast

participate in an event that will go down in history, the dedication and official opening of Thorshof in Linden, North Carolina. I can only speak for myself but, I'm sure others can attest the Strong One was present that day. That experience will never leave us as we go about our years here. Big thank you once again to The Ironguard and



Donar's Oak Kindred for your hard work to make this all manifest. Congratulations to Rob Stamm on being officially oathed into the ranks of our Church. And of course also to Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel for always leading your folk in the right direction. But, the building continues. Never let off the gas so to speak Folk we have much work still ahead of us. More challenges and triumphs await.

Upcoming this month, August 22nd will be Freyfaxi in Lansdale. Also the following day August 23rd I will be hosting a Wotan On the Peaks hike in Hamburg, PA. Any questions on these events please see the AFA NE page. Beyond that start preparing for our next big national event Winter Nights and look for a hike in October in New Hampshire. More details to come.



Adam Hudak
Apprentice Folkbuilder
ahudak@runestone.org

Torin Scott Stimson

On July 21st at 3:46 am, Torin Scott was welcomed into this world! He weighed 8lb 6oz at 21 inches long (the same length of his 2 older brothers)!

Torin is an Irish-Gaelic name, derived from the God of Thunder Thor and also means "chief". Scott is a family name passed down several generations.

He is a happy & healthy little man and brings much joy to our home!

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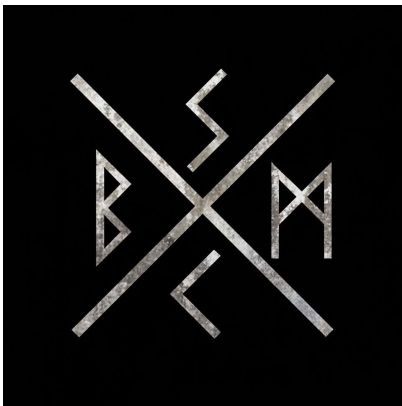
Submitted by Kali Stimson



Gythia Catie Erickson

cm.erickson@runestone.org

Black Market Strength and Conditioning



AFA Member Michael "Doc" Brown, NRP

Owner, *Black Market Strength & Conditioning LLC*

Cell: 267.269.9536

Email: doc.blackmarketse@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.blackmarketstrength.com>

"Dictum Factum"

Blackmarketstrength.com

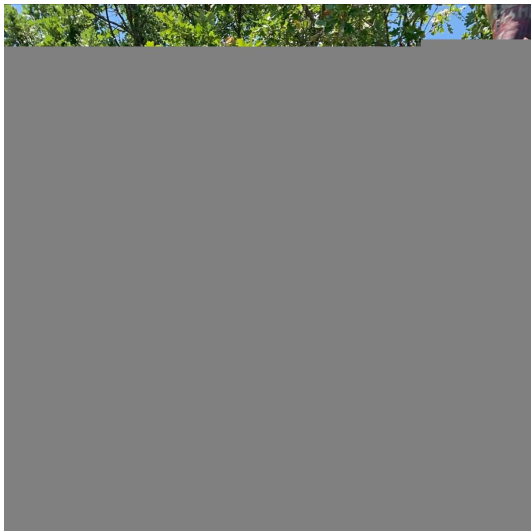
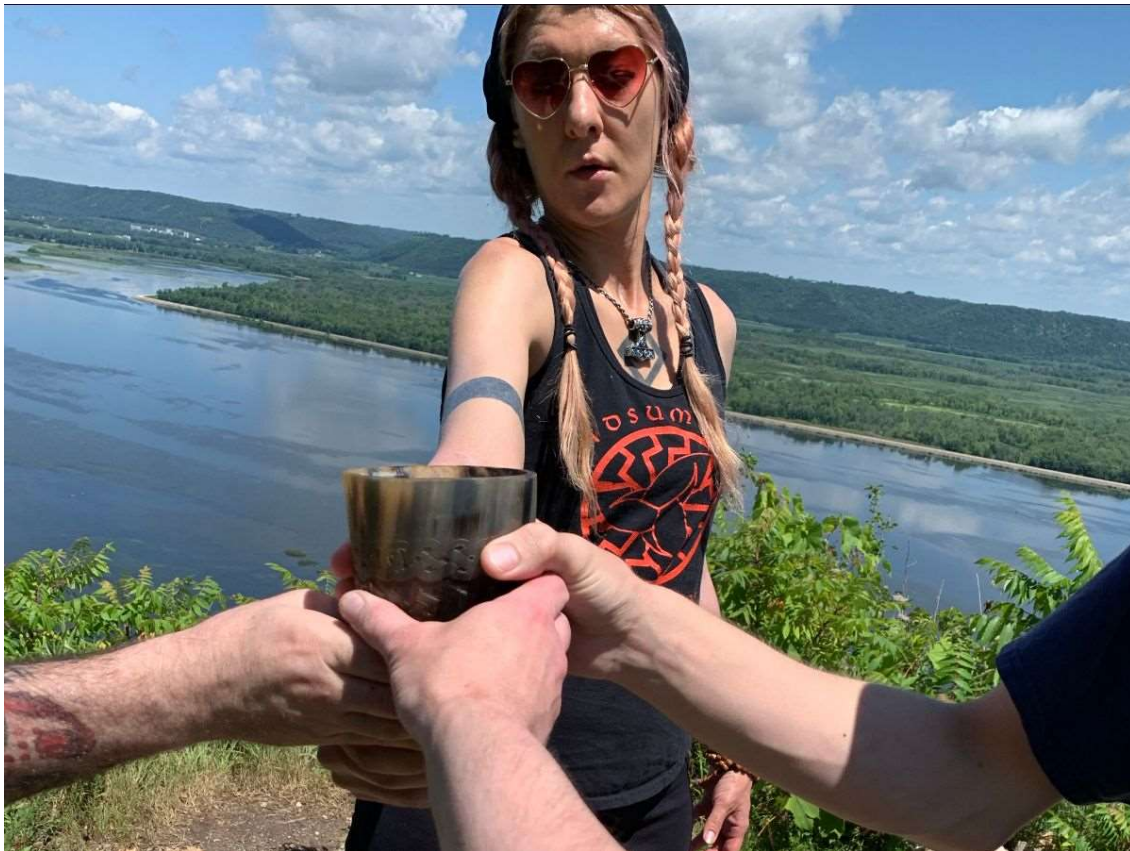
Strength and conditioning as well as combative self-defense and custom blades.

Custom blades and tactical equipment sales.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfzkbr-u6D7HQckU0_COjJg?view_as=subscriber

Northern Plains

Northern Blood Kindred



July wasn't quite as busy event wise. We just had our Wotan on the bluff's event above the Mississippi River. What an amazing event it was. Hiked to the top of the bluff and poured a libation and raised a horn to Wotan. It was such a beautiful sunny day and the stormy weather held off until we were done.

With Baldurshof, folks in our region are coming together to help clean up and transform it into a temple fit for the "Shining One" Baldur. It amazes me every time how generous our folk is and all the time they give. Many of these people drove several hours to be here and help out.

Upcoming events

Folkish Family Meet and Greet at Jay Cooke State Park
8/15 2-5 pm, near Duluth, MN

4th Annual Folkish Family Freyfaxi with Northern Blood
8/22 2 pm - 5 pm, Bloomington, MN



Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher
jgallagher@runestone.org

Northwest

Acsafolc Kindred

This is a busy month for me with my day job. I work with and around agriculture so my ability to visit everyone in the northwest can be limited during this time. I still got to meet some new folk interested in the AFA and had some very great conversations sometimes lasting till midnight. I can feel the excitement of the Northwest. There is a momentum that won't be

August 21-23 Acsafolc kindred is hosting Freyfaxi in Salem Oregon. There will be games, camping and some special rituals to celebrate. There are nearby hotels for those who would prefer other accommodations. Plenty of ways to contact me if you are interested. All AFA are invited. Any guest you might bring please let us know if ahead of time.

Sometimes change comes our way and we have to make the best of it. I intend to do so every time!

Equality is a myth.
We the folk must always push for excellence.

Johnny Larson
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jlaron@runestone.org

Hails from the Pacific Northwest! July was a great month; we had a hike and Odin's blot in Washington and our kindreds have gathered all over the region. There are several events happening around the NW this month so check with the kindred local to you contact me for what's happening closest to you.

The Acsafolc kindred in the Salem Oregon area is hosting a Freyfaxi on August 21-23. If you are interested in attending send me an email and I will get you in touch with the Acsafolc!

Aug 21- 23 Freyfaxi, Salem Oregon- Acsafolc Kindred

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

Folkbuilder Joe Rozanek

jrozanek@runestone.org

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.

Youth Program

The AFA Youth Program is still accepting registrations for children ages 6 and over. Our program focuses on educating our youth on Lore, Days of Remembrance, and AFA Culture and Values. Our curriculum is currently e-mail based, with parents receiving an e-mail on the first of the month with projects and curriculum for each month. In July, our children focused on the theme of "Truth". Together with their families, they explored the value and importance of this noble virtue. Our children also held their own feasts in honor of our Folk Hero, Alexander Rud Mills. To celebrate the announcement of Baldurshof, our children also researched our god Baldur in various stories from Lore.

If you are interested in your child participating in the AFA Youth Program, please contact youth@runestone.org for more information!

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 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

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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!

Genealogy 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.

What if you're brand new to all of this? First, you will need to have your DNA tested through one of the companies like Ancestry DNA or 23andme. We will give you instructions on what to do when 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!"

Fifty & Over 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.

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

2020 Calendar

Celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the Asatru Folk Assembly with photos spanning twenty-five years of spiritual growth and activism. Get it at the AFA store

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.

Asatru Folk Assembly Calendar of Holy and Remembrance Days

Date	Observance	Tra
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](#) or contact your Folkbuilder.