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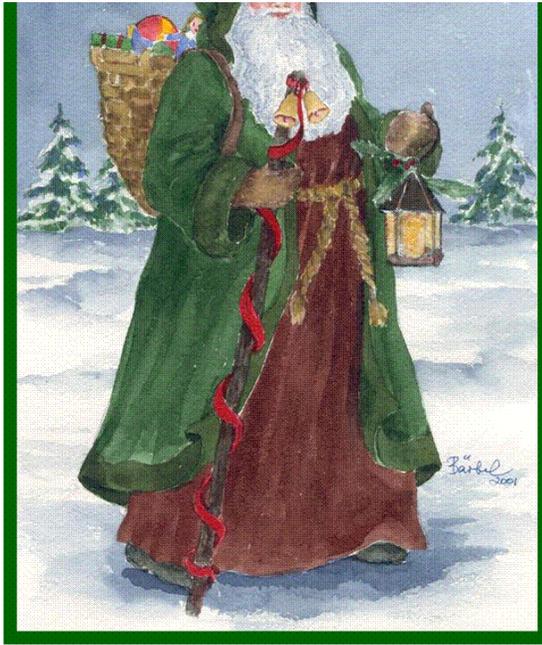
**West**

**The AFA Needs...TOYS!...For Kids Who Won't Get Any Without You...**

I know, there are a hundred other toy drives in December. I get that. But the AFA is trying to do something for forgotten, rural, impoverished kids - overwhelmingly of our Folk - who otherwise won't get anything this year. Social services? Nope. Not out here in the sticks. Please give us...give them...a hand.



Brownsville is forgotten. It's way outside the city. These are poor folk, many homeless or near so, with kids. We see them every month when the



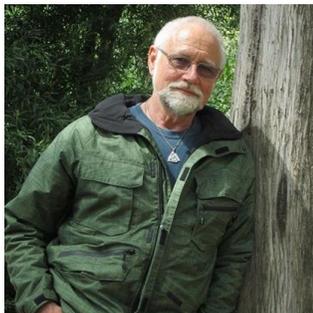
AFA does the food distribution. Odinshof is in a building that — in more prosperous times — hosted an annual Yuletide event where families with children could come and get a cup of cocoa, a candy cane, and a gift. For some, it would be the only one they'd get that Yule.

On December 14th, we want to bring back that custom, and make it even better.

These folks know who we are, and have accepted us as part of this community. They won't forget who helped them.

Please contribute to this short-term fund (click or tap link and scroll down to the General Fund) so we can buy toys for the December 14th celebration. You can earmark your donation for this cause by including \$.95 - as in \$10.95 or \$15.95. (Brownsville's zip code is 95919)

*"The generous have the best lives, and seldom have sorrow.."*



Stephen McNallen  
 Founder, AFA  
[steve@runestone.org](mailto:steve@runestone.org)

## THE SAGA OF HÖDR & LOKI

*"Hödr stood outside the ring of men, because he was blind. Then spake Loki to him: 'Why dost thou not shoot at Baldr?' He answered: 'Because I see not where Baldr is; and for this also, that I am weaponless.'"*

Hodr is reported to be strong enough in other locations in the lore, but he is not included in

the games which the other gods have determined show Baldur honor. Hodr is in reality that example of every man or woman who is standing at the edge of the crowd. They could be standing there for any number of reasons. The list is a long one and all the reasons on that list cultivate a victim mentality, whether the reason they are outcast is their own fault or not. The rise of Christianity counted on these outcast, downtrodden, poor hapless souls with all kinds of vague promises. The various social and political movements amongst men have all used the same tactic. Give that person on the edge of the crowd someone to blame and they will hurl just about anything into the center of the crowd. They will kill their own neighbors, brothers, countrymen with full justification.

But nothing changes. All that has taken place is the ability of one individual to unleash his particular brand of mental illness onto the world via the hapless soul who could not see the game, nor the rules of life. They may have often wondered why they could not get ahead. They may have fumed greatly as various politicians rammed ideas down the collective throat of the opposing parties. When these types of individuals begin to pay attention to the deceit being whispered into their ears, the only thing which changes is the idea that they won't have to feel so alone anymore. It doesn't matter what it costs anyone else. When you begin to approach this idea in today's world, full of isolated individuals in their homes, with ready access to the internet and all its nonsense, it is not someone else whispering into their ear. It is their ego.

***Then said Loki: 'Do thou also after the manner of other men, and show Baldr honor as the other men do. I will direct thee where he stands; shoot at him with this wand.'***

These isolated individuals find a ready-made list of people and concepts to hate on the internet. They will see ten or ten thousand feeling the same way. I would like to point out that even hundred thousand does not amount to a hill of beans in a world of 7 billion. But these poor hapless people think it does. So now they may begin in earnest. Spewing whatever vile nonsense they think is right in their eyes. They've never once made the decision to address any of the issues which ensured that they stood around by themselves. Nope. Just like a river winds its way across the surface of the earth, finding the path of least resistance, so we get crooked rivers and crooked men. Now, with all the input from the internet they have a guide where they might unleash their discontent in the most effective way.

***"Hödr took Mistletoe and shot at Baldr, being guided by Loki: the shaft flew through Baldr, and he fell dead to the earth; and that was the greatest mischance that has ever befallen among gods and men."***

Hodr was simply a tool for Loki. In the exact same way that Regin convinced the fatherless Sigurth that Fafnir, a being who had absolutely nothing to do with him, was also his enemy. The fact that this pattern is repeated in the lore should be recognized for what it is. A warning. If you find yourself alone in the world be aware that there are many who will use the purposeless person for their own ends. They will seemingly offer a purpose of some kind which more than likely has nothing to do with the gifts that have been handed down for generations. Each generation blended with another family line of gifts making sure that yours is unique. But I digress. The pattern we should recognize is that the ego of one has had an effect on all. Someone else bought into the shiny words of someone everyone knows is always causing a problem. This is the kind of thing which happens all the time. Just stop for a second and take a look at those who have garnered the most power for themselves in the shortest amount of time. They will have given the poor someone to blame for being poor. They will have given the national interest someone to blame for the shabby state of affairs in their nation. On and on it goes. For every possible state of being, there is someone to blame for what amounts to your inability to deal with the problems you have in your life. Hodr was blind. Would you set a blind man down in an area where all manner of weapons was likely to ricochet in any direction? No. But it kind of hurts to be left out no matter the reason. In an age where we have far too many people we might blame for our predicaments and an ego ready made to feed off these situations where we might be slighted, which do you think it is easier to do, figure that reason out and be comfortable in your own skin, or feed that ego with anger and righteous indignation because someone forgot how important you were in your own mind? Make no mistake, people will take the lives of other people to prove how right they think they are. 100's of millions of them perished in the 20th century alone over this very thing. Someone, or group, was named as the source of the problem and no one batted an eye when it came time to take their lives. It mattered not if they were the sun in the eyes of their family.

Do you know what else the story of Loki and Hodr, Regin and Sigurth represents? It represents the damage a negative thought will do to your thinking process. Before you even get started on a project all of the conditioned thought pattern's we have been taught by those closest to us will remind us that, whatever it is you are dreaming of, it will fail. Before we have even started, we have learned to talk ourselves out of success. When these thoughts originate from someone outside of that circle we should be doubly cautious of what they want. I assure you that those who speak most loudly about being a victim, or who are reminding us of who we ought to properly hate and despise, are not interested in our success. They are interested in you providing that constant feedback of how right they are. The moment you decide to change, grow, or simply walk away from such nonsense, you will see what kind of person they really are.

SEE WHAT KIND OF PERSON THEY REALLY ARE.

***"Then, when Baldr was fallen, words failed all the, Æsir, and their hands likewise to lay hold of him; each looked at the other, and all were of one mind as to him who had wrought the work, but none might take vengeance, so great a sanctuary was in that place."***

I wonder if we will ever be able to create a location which we all consider to such a holy place. A place where even the Gods might allow themselves to be vulnerable enough to display emotion at such a great loss. Where violence, the leftover and very necessary remnant of our savage past, might never take a toehold in our consciousness spurring us on to irrational action. Are we focusing our mind and heart into such a state of being that we will willingly deny the violent expression of our ego? Justifiable or not. Our ancestors had such places. They had Groves in the forest which men held in the highest of esteem and reverence. Perhaps even some wooden structures. Not to mention the great monolithic stone works with their amazingly accurate celestial alignments. Perhaps it is time for us to consider setting our egos to the side and building just such a place. No one is stopping us. Nothing but our own unwillingness to celebrate the divine instead of using them as a crutch to justify our radical departure from the norms of society.

***"But when the Æsir tried to speak, then it befell first that weeping broke out, so that none might speak to the others with words concerning his grief. But Odin bore that misfortune by so much the worst, as he had most perception of how great harm and loss for the Æsir were in the death of Baldr."***

And it is a sad thing. When the God who has shown us so many times how and what to sacrifice realizes that only so many will ever understand, or have the courage to make that sacrifice, it must be a sad thing to see indeed. It is no wonder that the goddess Hel is so feared. She is feared for the same reason her realm is so important. We all understand that each ancestor bears a torch for us. That aspect of Kenaz which represents the wisdom of all our ancestors. But it also represents all of those unfilled dreams and potential they each possess yet never took the opportunity to cultivate. To watch our son's fall by the way in life without ever taking the action necessary to develop the potential of who they are is the fear of each and every father. All those gifts squandered in life to be sequestered away in that great repository of knowledge we know as the halls of our ancestors. Who wants to be standing in front of that sun facing goddess knowing that we never lived up to our potential? We will always fail to live up to that potential while we are waiting on the approval of others. We must live our life for ourselves to ensure a future for our sons and daughters. Not for some cause we are told is important. Not for some political idea some of our friends believe gives them purpose. For ourselves and our dreams. Never forget that

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governments were created by men to avoid dealing with the divine in as much as men sought to take the power of the gods without making the sacrifice our gods have lived through. These stories of our gods are the stories we ought to be listening too. Not the words of egotistical men who have lost at life.

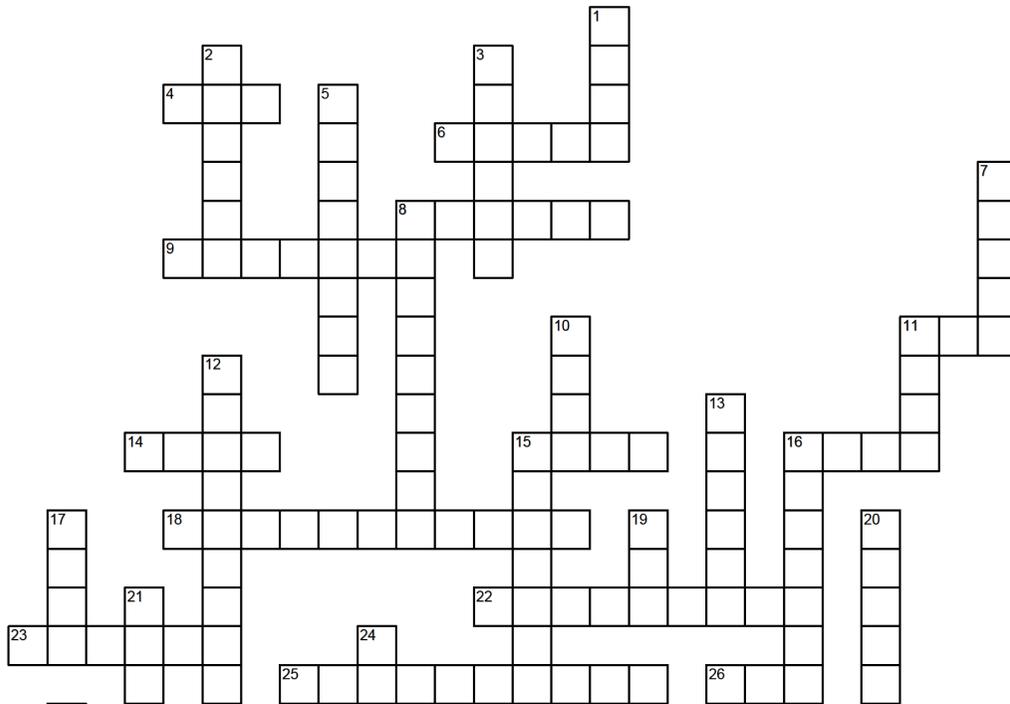
-- Excerpt from the forthcoming book *The Truarbok*.

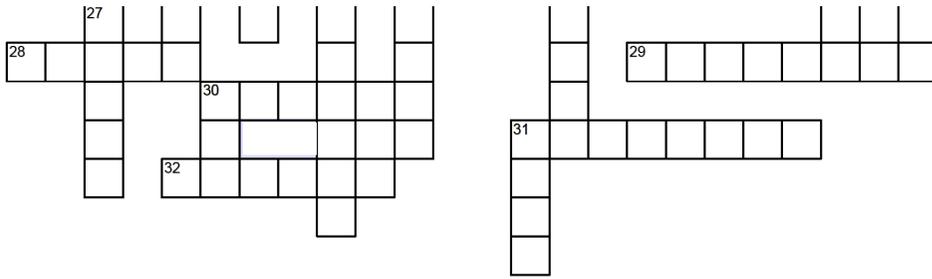


Gothi Bryan D. Wilton  
Asatru Folk Assembly

## ASATRU FUN

Crossword puzzle based entirely on Asatru. Answers next month!



**Across:**

- 4: Keeper of the Ancestors
- 6: Seeress
- 8: Baldr's brother
- 9: Nail ship
- 11: Leavings of the wolf
- 15: Gift/sacrifice
- 16: First jotun
- 18: Yawning void
- 22: Wolf warriors
- 23: Home rune
- 25: Underworld bridge
- 26: Eastern vikings
- 28: Second tribe of Gods
- 29: Dead warriors' retirement home
- 30: Apple Goddess
- 31: Handbiter's mother
- 32: Opera man

**Down:**

- 1: Tyr's wife
- 2: Vili's mom
- 3: Heimskringla author
- 5: Norwegian fish dish
- 7: Ran's husband
- 8: Wind maker
- 10: Odinist Fellowship Founder
- 11: Ull's step dad
- 12: Mani's dad
- 13: Har's thought

- 14: Rig's horn
- 16: World tree
- 17: Night
- 19: Price for a drink
- 20: Sitting out
- 21: Quiet God
- 24: Leek rune
- 25: Beowulf's enemy
- 27: Daughter of the Vanadis
- 30: Chill rune
- 31: Ash man

Submitted by Blaine Qualls, Jr.

## AFA MILITARY PROGRAM



**ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY  
MILITARY OUTREACH PROGRAM**

Our military program is looking for volunteers, those who wish to help out whether it be for online posts of content, helping your Folkbuilders in your local area better reach out to our military members on base, help out with fundraising, etc.

Before next Yule, we would like to have holiday care packages for our currently deployed members. If this interests you, please send us an email.

Also, I have a few books/pamphlets left from our successful book drive, if you know anyone in your area needing any material; Soldiers Edda and/or the Pocket Voluspa, send me an email as well!



If you are a current business owner and/or in a position of hiring folks and are looking for any transitioning AFA Military members from service to civilian, also send us an email. I am hoping to build a good network for our military members to ensure they are successful and get whatever help needed after their service to their folk and nation.

Thank you all!



Gothi Kevin Long  
AFA Military Program Coordinator  
[klong@runestone.org](mailto:klong@runestone.org)

## EIR'S BLESSINGS





## Eir's Blessings!

Everybody needs a little extra help sometimes. Every body does, too.

Women, being the frith-y 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 preform 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 helping to create a frithful, healing magic, let us know! It's easy, but it makes a huge difference to those of our community that need our help!

You can reach us at [EirsBlessings@runestone.org](mailto:EirsBlessings@runestone.org)

Our next healing ritual will be on Thursday, December 19, 2019.

In Frith!

Catie

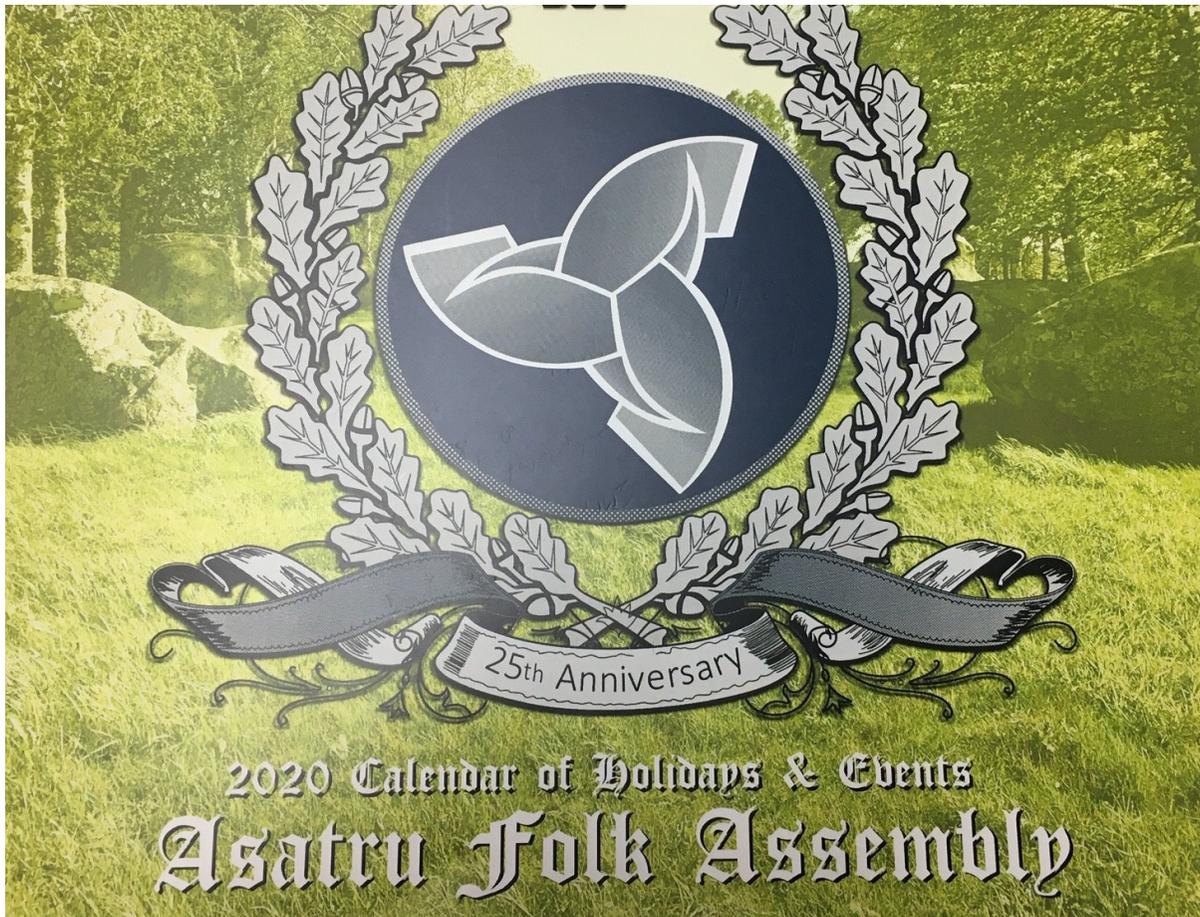


Gythia Catherine Erickson  
Asatru Folk Assembly  
[cm.erickson@runestone.org](mailto:cm.erickson@runestone.org)

## AFA 2020 CALENDAR

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

Celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the Asatru Folk Assembly  
with photos spanning twenty-years of spiritual growth and activism



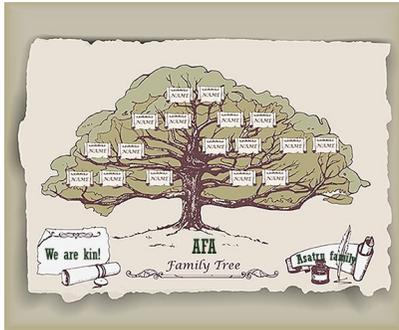
**\$15**

Available soon in the AFA store

<http://www.runestonegifts.com/>

## AFA Genealogy Group

I created the AFA Genealogy Group on Facebook to help our Folk with genealogy and family history research. This is a good place to learn, share tips, and information on genealogy.



Discover if you are related to other AFA members! We use GEDmatch kit numbers to batch process each person to every other person in the database and then post a chart in the group so that you can see if you are connected to other members. Many of us have discovered that other AFA members are also blood family.

Come and join us!

Contact Steve Ingle, Sheila McNallen, or Terry Rumph for an invitation to the group. As a side note, this group is for AFA members only.

Hail the Ancestors!

Steve Ingle  
Genealogist/Family History Researcher

FRITHWEAVERS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Frithweavers is a new monthly newsletter written by the women and for the women of the AFA. It includes number of articles about health and wellness, homeschooling and child-rearing, homesteading, spirituality, recipes, and more! If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter please email us at [frithweavers@runestone.org](mailto:frithweavers@runestone.org)





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 so on, please email them to [photos@runestone.org](mailto:photos@runestone.org). The larger the resolution the better, so please email them from the device where the photo was taken.

## 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 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/>.

Thank you in advance!

Thanks in advance!

## 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](mailto:mandy@runestone.org)) with the subject line: **BABY BLANKET**.

## Asatru Folk Assembly Calendar of Holy and Remembrance Days

Date	Observance
January 9	Day of remembrance for Raud the Strong

January 20	Thorrablót
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.



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The Runestone, Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly*

**Our mailing address is:**  
Asatru Folk Assembly