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Words from the Alsherjargothi



The AFA has hit the ground running in 2021!

Thanks are in order for Folkbuilder Jason Plourde for putting together the 3rd annual

Thorfest in Colorado. I had a great time building bonds with folks in the Four Corners region. As always this was a very welcoming and cozy event that I look forward to attending next year.

January also saw the official recognition of the Friðr Folk Kindred in Texas. We have big things happening in Texas with some committed leaders and a surge in momentum.

Continuing our wave of new Apprentice Folkbuilders, we added 4 more to our ranks in January; Pat Cook of West Virginia, Jacob Wells of Virginia, Tij Rudd of Australia, and James Cummings of Illinois. These new additions really position us well for growth this year. This is also the first time the AFA will have an active Folkbuilding presence in Australia, and we are very excited about that.

February is here and with it comes Charming of the Plow. In the AFA we like to think in terms relevant to all of us. Most of us, being removed from tilling the earth, focus this time of year on preparing to do work. That work is certainly the kind to feed and provide for our families, but now is also the time of year to prepare for the work we want to do within the AFA and as Asatruar this year. As we charm the plow, we are literally preparing the tools with which to implement our will upon the world around us. Think about how you want to change and shape your world, prepare to take those steps, and then put your shoulder to making your dreams manifest.

That said, I am preparing to go to the first AFA National event in the Northwest for several years, Charming of the Plow in Washington. I am hoping to see many of you there. May February see us all break ground on our goals for this year...

I can't wait to watch the magnificence take root.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



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

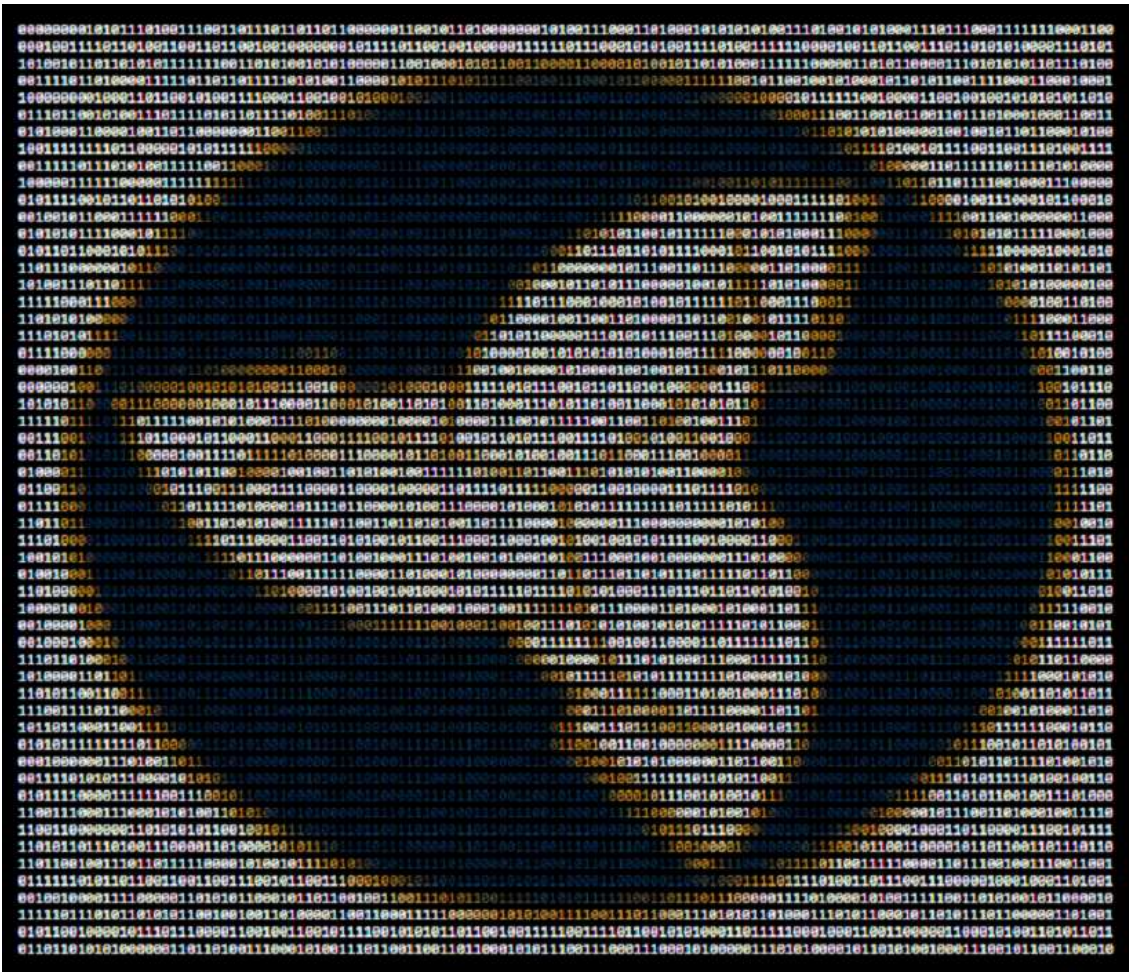
We Will Not Be Erased

So, at long last, it has finally happened. The Asatru Folk Assembly, all of our leaders, all of our public pages, most of our private groups, most of our congregation, and many other decent and quite average people have been permanently removed from Facebook en masse. While the timing and scale were a surprise, the action was not. Amazon removed us from their "Smile" program years ago. PayPal also decided that they would rather not do business with us a few years ago. Each of these was inconvenient and removed a useful tool from our kit.

This Facebook thing, though, feels a bit different. It wasn't just the AFA. It wasn't due to anything we knowingly did that might have been viewed as provocative in certain circles. No, this was a mass removal of anyone guilty of wrong-think, or even those simply associated with groups or individuals determined to be such.

For the most part, my wife and I don't miss Facebook. It has always been a huge time waste. Every time I would sit down at my PC to get AFA work done, I had to log in to stupid Facebook to check on the groups, Messenger, etc. I inevitably got distracted by some hilarious meme, video, article, or such. We do miss the ease with which we could share photos of our children with our parents and with other relatives. One of my distant cousins had recently started a group for our family members who are all descended from the same Norwegian immigrant; I am disappointed I will no longer be able to participate in that.

The AFA lost some very active private groups as well. While this computer nerd might not have been active there, I know many of you miss the Physical Excellence group. The Genealogy, Regional, Moots & Meetups, and other groups are also missed. This is partly because we had grown so used to them. Facebook made things easy. That isn't necessarily healthy.



When Facebook shut us down, our Folkbuilders made a great effort to text, call, and email all of you. If you didn't hear from us, please know that it is not because we don't care, it is because it has been a very busy month or because the contact information we have is no longer valid. Please reach out to us, we are not hard to find!

[Asatru Folk Assembly - Contact \(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)

The AFA already had a small presence on alternative tech platforms, and now we are making sure that we have a public presence on as many of them as we can practically maintain. Right now, you can find us at:

- [Asatru Folk Assembly - Twitter](#)
- [Asatru Folk Assembly - YouTube](#)
- [Asatru Folk Assembly - VK](#)
- [Asatru Folk Assembly - Telegram](#)
- [Asatru Folk Assembly - BitChute](#)
- [Asatru Folk Assembly - MeWe](#)
- [Asatru Folk Assembly - Gab](#)
- [Asatru Folk Assembly - Minds](#)

We are waiting with anticipation for the return of Parler. It was not perfect, but it did have the largest western user base which makes it ideal for us to get our message out. If Parler comes back online as expected this is where we would prefer to recreate our private groups. Because of the big-name support it has, this is the most likely place where we'll find the largest number of like-minded folk. The other platforms are each nice and flawed in their own ways but tend to be an echo chamber or have very few users. Also, with the recent experiences Parler has had, there are ideological reasons to support them.

I understand that some of you will have differing views and preferences on platforms. I ask for your patience and trust while the dust settles. It is very important to remember that the AFA existed and was successful long before Facebook and we don't need social media at all to fulfill our Declaration of Purpose. Social media is a tool that we use and no more.

If you are interested in helping us maintain these, or our website, or to volunteer in any other capacity please do by emailing volunteer@runestone.org. We really do need your help with a great many things. Now is the time for us to be more active than ever!

We will not be erased.



Witan Clifford J. Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Óðinshof - First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Thorrablót 2021

This mid-Winter event at Odinshof was spectacular! Our hall was decorated to honor Thor with great fanfare – red metallic tinsel and strings of beads running down the

white tablecloths. It felt festive and that's what we were after. Some of the high points of the day included an inspiring talk by our Founder, Stephen McNallen, who offered many positive solutions to the present state of frustration that most of us feel.

Our AFA-kids had a special treat of creating a Mitten Tree, a perfect activity for January! Based on the book, *The Mitten Tree*, each child made a set of mittens out of paper which was hung on a cedar tree. Our Blot was to both Thor and his wife, Sif, as reminders about the need to maintain balance in our lives. Gothi Odden was assisted by Gythia McNallen in the ritual. Upon entering the ritual space many people placed their own Thor's Hammer amulets on the horg for a special blessing which was done with the mead made holy by the Gods. In the darkness, we returned to the hall for a fine feast. Krystal Bailey had done her magic for both meals, a guarantee that foods were both plentiful and delicious.

Food Bank at the Hof



Planning for the January 8th Food Bank at Odinhof had us worried. We were faced with drizzly weather, lack of staffing and volunteers, and a new procedure where they drop off pallets of food and then leave. In the end, we were blessed with enough volunteers to make it work.



Our new “regulars” Zac and Alyce, plus Adam, made up our core group. We were joined by a lady in Brownsville and her teenage daughter who appreciate our local efforts and plan to help us every month. Yes, it was drizzly, and on this day the truck lumbered in ninety-minutes late – so there was no time to waste. We tackled the issue of frustrated drivers by serving two lines of cars simultaneously.

When done, we had a mountain of empty cardboard boxes and lots of undistributed food. Food-bank officials had over-judged our needs by about thirty-five families. That amount of wastage was horrible to consider. After spending an hour packing our two hof fridges to the brim with perishables, there were still unpacked boxes needing refrigeration. Lucky for us, a few of our members arrived at the hof Friday evening and were willing to continue passing out food.

We got the word out and by 8 pm, all extra food was heading out to far reaches of the county, to homes with hungry families. Huge thanks go to our day-staff who pulled together Friday morning and to our valiant evening staff who continued to serve the local community while prepping for an important weekend at Odinhof. We proved again: “We are our deeds.”



Upcoming Dates at Odinhof

Our events are not exclusive to members in the West region. If you are interested in coming to any of our gatherings, write to one of our Folkbuilders for more information so we can help coordinate your trip.

Odinhof Food Distribution

February 12th, volunteers needed 9 am to noon

Charming of the Plow

February 20th

Ostara

March 20th

West Leadership

Gothar

Alsherjargothi Matthew Flavel: mattflavel@runestone.org

Gythia Sheila McNallen: sheila@runestone.org

Gothi Thorgrun Odden: todden@runestone.org

Folkbuilders

Krystal Bailey: kbailey@runestone.org

Ryan Harlan: rharland@runestone.org

Jim Secola: jsecola@runestone.org (Apprentice)

Hof Manager

Marc MacLeod: mmacleod@runestone.org



Gythia Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org

Þórshof - Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

On January 16 we held a Work Day to help get ready for Ostara at Thorshof. It was an amazing day to get out there and start clearing up the back of the Hof. The Work Day started first with a Blot to Asa-Thor by Folkbuilder Daniel Young, to bless the hands that were to work on that day in his name and at his Hof.



After the Blot, we got to work on the back part of Thorshof with chainsaws and muscles to get the back half of the Hof cleared out. There was a lot of joyous talking and a lot of good cheer could be heard over the whines of the chainsaws. Everyone who pitched in was in good spirits despite the winter chill in the air. Good frith and camaraderie were abounding and everyone got their hands dirty to get Thorshof ready for Ostara. We thank you all for coming out and helping to make the Hof look a lot better and hope to see everyone soon at the next Work Day!



Cody Raynard
Apprentice Folkbuilder
craynard@runestone.org

Eyvind Kinnrifi

Near to what could be considered the beginning of the Christian conversion of Norway, under King Olaf Tryggvason, there was a farmer of Noble stock who stood against the king and his attempts at conversion.

Eyvind (Pronounced Ivin) Kinnrifi was called to make plans against the upcoming

invasion by his friend Harek of Thjotta, who had very recently returned home after himself refusing conversion to Christianity. Eyvind answered the call, and for the sake of haste, he traveled with only a small retinue of men. He was well welcomed by Harek, but shortly after his arrival Eyvind was ambushed.

Unbeknownst to Harek, he had been followed by some of Olaf Tryggvason's men. They forced Eyvind to Thronhjelm, where Olaf attempted to convert Eyvind, first with offers of land and gold, and then with threats of torture and death. Unwilling to turn him back on his faith, Eyvind was eventually killed.

So what can we learn from this story?

On the 9th of February, as we stop to remember Eyvind Kinnrifi and his unwavering faith despite the consequences, take a moment to consider what in your own life is important to you. Have there ever been times in which you had to choose between keeping your faith and losing something else? A Job? A friend? Family?



Even in these times, when we are living with unparalleled freedom of choice, it can be difficult to choose faith over all else. It is sometimes easier to hide behind the idea of a pseudonym or to keep your faith hidden from those in our lives that should matter. Remember, when you think of Eyvind, what truly matters. Stand strong with and take pride in your Folk.

Hail, Eyvind Kinnrifi!



Gythia Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org

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!

March 12 - 14

Ostara at Þórshof 2021

North Carolina

<https://ostara2021.eventbrite.com>



May 7 - 9

Midwest Remembrance of Else Christiansen

Wisconsin

<https://rememberelse.eventbrite.com/>

Password: hailelse

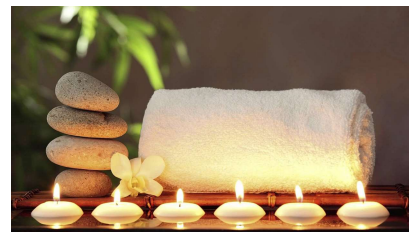


May 13 - 16

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 J. Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Remembrance & Holy Days

2021

Date	Observance
January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 23	Þorrablót
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

Alaska

On a rather warm Sunday in the mid-30s (the warmest it's ever been for this event in years past) members of AFA kindred Der Volkstamm auf dem Nordliche Bar met in the pass between Anchorage and Seward; as is tradition with our Tribe.





The children (and the adults once properly coaxed) enjoyed fully the great snowdrifts and spent hours sledding and racing down the hillsides. A Blot to Thor was held at dusk by AFA Gothi Steven Morrell and was a fitting end to a joyous day.



Folkbuilder Eric Whisman

cwhisman@runestone.org

Midwest

Ohio & West Virginia



On Sunday, January 17th I hosted a moot in Huntington, West Virginia at a German-themed gastropub. We had several laughs and stories as well as delicious food, drink, and dessert. The few that made it are not current AFA members, but expressed interest and were happy to see us bring some Frith to the area. I will be hosting gatherings in the Northern Appalachian region to encourage not only current members but future members to participate face to face. In these strange times, nothing compares to the company of your Folk.

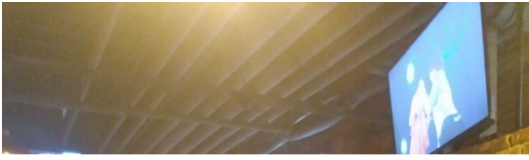


Please join me and several other of your Apprentice Folkbuilders Sunday, February 21st at Hofbräuhaus Pittsburgh 2705 S Water St Pittsburgh, PA.



Timothy Dumas
Apprentice Folkbuilder
tdumas@runestone.org

On Sunday, January 17th members gathered at Maumee Brewery in Toledo, Ohio. We enjoyed a lovely meal and ale. Paired with great conversation and planning of our area's events. After dinner, we visited the monument dedicated to The Battle of the Fallen Timbers.



Please join us on February 28th for a Charming of the Plow celebration. We will bless a member's land as well as enjoyed a wonderful meal together. Contact Jessica Lambert for further details.

Hail Ohio AFA!!!



Jessica Lambert
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jlambert@runestone.org

January 1st, 2021 was a wonderful day for folk and frith. Two new members and I met at a castle in Ohio on a rainy morning to find that the spirit of our Folk permeates every bit of land we touch. We toured a handmade castle having wonderful conversations and sating our exploratory nature.



The importance of social gathering and remembering what we are all capable of are two things I think were instilled in that endeavor and I hope that may be found by all of us.

In the afternoon more folk met at a German Bier Haus named Kreimer's boasting an impeccable atmosphere.

It was complete with everything from art to war relics.

Many were new members and some inquiring but I feel we were all at home. Connections were made and our folks enjoyed each other's company deeply. I feel confident our ancestors would be proud and happy for the time we were all able to share.

Joe Drotos

Apprentice Folkbuilder

jdrotos@runestone.org

Michigan

Hail the Folk! We are very happy to announce our kickoff moot for Michigan! This will be a day-long event held in beautiful Frankenmuth, Michigan, or as we say here in the mitten: Michigan's Little Bavaria. A charming feast of culture for the whole family to experience. We will start our day at Prost Wine Bar & Charcuterie at 12:30 p.m. I am also very happy to say that Michigan's covid restrictions have been lifted and we will be able to aptly enjoy our time indoors! Detail planning and organization of the Michigan folk will be one of the many highlights of the day's plans. I am excited to begin the work that is much needed here & look forward to meeting all the folk who attend! Please send any inquiries to Shannon Gilbert: honorandambition@yahoo.com
Hail the doers! Hail the AFA!

Wisconsin

Greetings. As we renew our focus on building families, we have seen an amazing time of growth among the Folk of Wisconsin. Our monthly meet and greet are always held on the last Sunday of the month. We move these around the state each month to allow for more people to be able to meet each other. Unfortunately due to the crazy Wisconsin weather, we had to cancel January's Meet and greet. It has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 21. Please contact me at jault@runestone.org for more information. All members will be emailed a reminder before the event. There will also be our regular monthly meet and greet on February 28. We are in the process of finding a snow tubing place in a centralized area of the State; more details to come!

In January, the ladies took a weekend trip up North for bonding. It was a time of mind-clearing, learning, and growing together. Filled with deep conversation and lots of

laughter. They learned how to loop knit and arm knit. As you can see from the photos, it did get intense at times. There are more plans in the works for future ladies crafting and learning type days. The bonding of our women is not only necessary for their personal growth but also for the enrichment of our Families.



Several Wisconsin members journeyed to Illinois to share frith at the Thorrablot held there. A good time was had by all and we thank them for their hospitality. Hail Thor!

Beyond the monthly meet and greet on the last Sunday of the month, Wisconsin has many other opportunities to get together and meet the Folk. We participate in Odin's World Prayer Day on the 9th of the month, Wotan on the Peak, crafting days, and various other opportunities to build frith among our Wisconsin Folk. So many exciting things are going on within our State. I encourage you to come and be part of that growth.

In keeping with our focus on family, we have moved the Moots away from bars and restaurants, choosing instead family-friendly outings, learning experiences, and team bonding type activities. Everything from bowling, ice skating, and zip-lining, to escape rooms, murder mysteries, and museums. We encourage members to bring spouses, significant others, and especially their children.

We would like to congratulate one of our families on the birth of their beautiful firstborn child. We are the future ancestors!

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
jault@runestone.org

Heimdall's Midgard Kindred

Greetings from Indiana,

It has been a busy month for us and the Midwest, in general. It seems everywhere we have a cluster of members there is activity. I couldn't be more proud seeing all of the action around. The members that have been involved in these events have had an excellent time attending.

Members from Indiana and Wisconsin traveled to Northern Illinois to support a newly forming kindred. We had a great host, great food, and shared fellowship and frith with our Folk. We had a contest in which we saw who could carry two 60lb dumbbells the farthest. The winner received a trophy in honor of Thorrablót. The winner made 10 laps!



We held a Thorrablót in Northern Illinois with James Cumming. A snowstorm was supposed to be brewing but was held off long enough for us to get home safely. I believe Thor was definitely there pushing the Jotuns back. We had a great turn out and for those who were present, I'm sure they'll remember this event for a long time coming.



The following weekend Heimdalls Midgard got together to celebrate Thorrablót as well. We have had solid turnouts for a long time and they keep growing. My Kindred gets together once a month, so we combined honoring Raud the Strong and having the Thorrablót. We had a delicious dinner and much discussion. These are always cherished moments for us.



Most, if not all, of the States in the Midwest have events planned for February. If you're in the Midwest and haven't been to an AFA event, please contact me at zcato@runestone.org. I will get you hooked up with the appropriate people. In the other sections for the Midwest, events and contact info are also provided. As for Indiana, we have a cabin trip planned for the last weekend of the month. Anyone interested in attending may contact me for details.

Also, it is time to announce that the Midwest will be having a regional event scheduled for May 7-9th in Wisconsin. Details for this will be provided very soon. So mark your calendars and prepare for an event you'll never forget. Until next time...

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

Folkbuilder Zach Cato
zcato@runestone.org



Northeast

Stoneship Hearth

THE STONESHIP HEARTH
OF
THE ÁSATRÚ FOLK ASSEMBLY

DISTING
Charming of the Plow
2/13/21
Weekend Tree Planting
gschindler@runestone.org

The month of January went by very quickly and was quiet for the most part. We celebrated Thorrablot with family, feasting, and frivolity as always!

February will be busy for us up here. We are experiencing a huge influx of inquiries regarding our Asatru Folk Assembly and it's no surprise really; certain psychological and social pressures are beginning to wear away at the walls of their mental quiet rooms.

For Charming of Plow, we will be getting together for a tree planting and a resplendent honoring of our Gods and Goddesses. I believe that our New England area will bloom into a strong and welcoming region for our AFA. I am confident that we can make our mark and pursue the imperatives of our Declaration of Purpose with sheer Will and truth.

I have ambitious goals. I need ambitious folks to come together and fight for our advancement. I understand that our "individual" spirituality is important to us. Nevertheless, we of the AFA have a responsibility as warders of our beleaguered Folk...

To welcome one home one **must** meet the weary traveler at our door. It simply cannot be any other way. We are representatives of a great movement. We are moving towards greater aspirations with fervor and Frith. We **must** work together without the looming specter of semantic fear and liberal loathing.

They speak of us without permission because they have no idea about **who we are**.

We are not here to placate nor pacify the mob. No, we have our own trajectory. We ignore the reactionary nature of people. We simply allow Nature to do her works.

I encourage **all** New England AFA family to reach out to me as I will certainly be creating more events to participate in.



George J. Schindler III
Apprentice Folkbuilder
gschindler@runestone.org



Lansdale Tru Folk

Month one in the northeast this year has been great as expected. I had the honor of getting together with my AFA family not once but twice.



First up was the one year anniversary for myself doing Wotan on the Peaks hikes. Held at the first place I ever visited to join in on that endeavor. Leading up to the day I was

quite nostalgic thinking about who I once was and where I am now. All the selfless individuals who helped me along the way guiding me to this point. Some of you may not even know how much even a single clue or word left along the way has helped. I am truly thankful and it's not forgotten. Getting back to the hike it turned out to be a perfect winter day with one of the bigger attendances. We made our way up the 9.3-mile loop towards our destination at a place called the pinnacle. We took a few moments to take in the beauty of the views before us and then we started our rite to our High God. We thanked Him for always leading his sons and daughters and for us being the lucky few who have heard His call. More importantly and our main purpose, we asked that our Holy Race may awaken to who they truly are. Towards health once more! Afterward, we made our way down enjoying more discussion and building stronger bonds with each other. It was a special day for me and I hope it was for all that attended. Thank you once again to all who came.





The second was Thorrablot in Lansdale with the Lansdale Tru Folk. For me every time I enter the kindred there it's like a second home. A feeling of ease or relief comes over me. A feeling of family and that's exactly what it is! We talked for some time. Even with all the noise from the outside world going on our discussions are always positive and we all know we are exactly where we are supposed to be. We enjoyed some very nordic appetizers like my favorite fish in vinegar or at least that's what I think it is and others enjoyed a host of other meats. It was soon time to start Blot to the Thunderer. Witan Erickson leads the way on this. A powerful rite it was. The horn was passed and we said words to the Strong One! May we find in ourselves our tru strength, the ability to laugh in tough times, and that we may walk through any challenge destroying fear along the way as He would! We closed with sumbel. Our Gods and Goddesses, our Heros, and the Ones more easily seen were given words of praise, of honor, and love as the night closed. Thank you, Witan Erickson and Gythia Erickson for having us, and thank you to all who made the trip to make it the special day it was.



Folkbuilder Adam Hudak

ahudak@runestone.org

Gythia Catie and I had the great pleasure to visit with our folk in Syracuse, New York at Wolff's Biergarten! This was the first time for several AFA members meeting and Witan Clifford and Gythia Catie visited from Pennsylvania.

Thank you to Dan for organizing and hosting this meetup, which is planned to be a monthly event.

Monthly Hike & Pub Moots

Let's get together for a fun afternoon of hiking with a pub moot to follow! These monthly relaxed hike/pub moots are open to AFA members and friends as well as folks interested in our group.

Wear good hiking boots and bring water! This hike is moderately difficult and about 3 miles long. Nockamixon State Park is a beautiful 5,286-acre park in scenic Bucks County. This park features miles and miles of hiking, camping, and a 1,450-acre lake perfect for reflection. Let's disconnect from the hustle and bustle for a while and enjoy the natural splendor of nature and togetherness.

Can't make the hike but want a pint of beer? let us know when you RSVP, we'll save a spot for you at the pub. The exact locations will be shared once your RSVP'd.

The next dates are February 27 and March 27

[February Hike & Pub Moot](#)

[March Hike & Pub Moot](#)

Pennsylvania Monthly Blot & Sumbel

[Charming of the Plow](#)

February 20, 3 pm

Lansdale, Pennsylvania

[Ostara](#)

March 20, 3 pm

Lansdale, Pennsylvania



Witan Clifford J. Erickson

cerickson@runestone.org

Northwest

Nordvestri Kindred

Hails! It has been a busy month here in the Seattle area for the Nordvestri kindred, with our two main events being an open hike and blot to Allfather Odin at mount Sai, and attending a wonderful ThorraBlot Locally. We are currently also meeting 3 times a week to Honor Thor in the Temple of iron, as well as with various folks interested in Asatru, 3 of which we are welcoming as new members this upcoming weekend.

To generate a revenue stream for our kindred we are producing Mjolnir and Jewelry working with Silver and brass. The Etsy shop will be up soon for those who wish to support this endeavor. Our entire kindred is looking forward to the Glorious Charming of the plow next weekend we hope to see you there!

Mason Johnson

Apprentice Folkbuilder

mjohnson@runestone.org

Wotan on the Peaks

Closely following AFA Northwest's Charming of the Plow from February 5th-7th, we have Wotan on the Peaks on February 9th on Tumala Mountain!

We'll be hiking up the East Trail for 4.1 miles, 1,384 ft. elevation out & back. We will meet at Twin Springs Trailhead, (NF-4610, Estacada, OR) at 10 AM. Hope to see you there!

Connor Norris
Apprentice Folkbuilder
cnorris@runestone.org

South Central

Our South Central group waxed strong in January as we gathered on three separate occasions as a united, ever-present, and growing folk. On January 9th, we gathered for a Post-Yule celebration at Folkbuilder Lori's homestead in Schertz, TX. Our folk built upon our synergistic energy and friendship by producing a re-enactment of Baldr's dreams and death.

On January 16th, our folk gathered in frith and friendship for an informal meeting in New Braunfels, TX for some fantastic German beer and food. Our greatest celebration was for Thorrablót, where Gothi Kevin led an invigorating blót to Thor. Kevin created a hand-made wooden sacrifice of Mjólnir in special honor of Thor. It was a beautiful tribute. We are looking forward to building a brighter future for the newly incited “Fridr Folk Kindred.”

Hail the South Central AFA!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the Gods and Goddesses!

Lori Wadsworth

Apprentice Folkbuilder

lwadsworth@runestone.org

Upper South

I hope everyone had a wonderful Yule! If you missed yule at Thorshof, you really missed out, but fear not! Thorshof has events every month. Right now we are gearing up for our big national event, Ostara in the south- the first one at Thorshof!

I'd like to welcome our two newest apprentice Folkbuilders for our region, Pat Cook and Jacob Wells. Both are enthusiastic and we look forward to seeing what they have planned for their neck of the woods.

Many of you know that big tech purged not only the AFA but many other people as well. Please look for us on VK, MeWe, telegram, and Minds. We have an Upper South telegram chat that is very active. Reach out to a Folkbuilder if you would like to be added to the telegram chat.

I hope to see everyone come out to Thorshof, and I think we all look forward to the

coming spring when Ostara arrives to renew the land. Warm weather will bring many outdoor AFA meetups and events!

Also, look for Alsherjargothi Matt's live streams on YouTube now.

Folkbuilder Rob Stamm

rstamm@runestone.org

Volunteer for the AFA

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. 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.

A Poem by Gray Wilson

*So they have come to silence us All, our noble Folk whom they would make lower than
the least Thrall.*

*For they fear, fear indeed when we stand united and Tall and for their globalists lies we
do not Fall.*

Thus they exercise their supposed Might and think we shall meekly take Flight.

*Do they not know of our history? It is obvious their heads aren't Right!
Do they think we will surrender without a Fight?*

We, whose empires conquered and the world our ancestors explored!
We, who advance science and medicine!
We, whose inventions rewrote the drawing board!
*We, who have traveled into the deepest of Oceans and even left our mark on the Moon
and Mars.*
We, who have sent our machines beyond the spaces between the stars.

*You see, they fear, fear what we can Become and their corrupt oligarchy becoming
Undone!*

Never shall they silence us All; together stand Tall and be not a Thrall!

*So arise my Folk, do IN REAL LIFE actions and achievements that shall empower our
Volk!*

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

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.

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.

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.

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, 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!

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

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