

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly



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Words from the Alsherjargothi

WE DID IT!

I want to officially start off 2019 by announcing that we have paid off Óðinshof! Thank you to all of you who contributed to make this happen. From those who donated 3 years ago to those who got up over the top in the last few months and everyone who donated along the way, from the bottom of my heart.....THANK YOU!

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There are a few other exciting developments to start the new year. First, as you may have noticed, we have renamed this publication "THE RUNESTONE". The Runestone was the premier Asatru publication from the early days of the Asatru Free Assembly until the end of the last century. We are currently digitizing and archiving old editions of The Runestone to make available on the website. It is our hope to carry on the proud legacy of this seminal publication in our monthly news letter. To this end we will be adding more articles and publication to our issues, already bursting at the seams with activity reports.

Next, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work Clifford Erickson has been up to for us. Please take a few minutes to checkout our new and improved website at www.runestone.org. This site is a work in progress and there are many things we would like to do with it in the coming year. This newly remodeled site is beautiful AND useful! Thank you Cliff for all your hard work.

Finally, starting this year, we have a new and exciting way for members to financially contribute to the AFA instead of the membership dues. Introducing the Hoftollar. The Hoftollar was a tax in pagan Iceland that supported the religious infrastructure. The AFA Hoftollar is percentage based giving. If all the members of the AFA paid 10% of their income to support our church, we would be able to purchase 5 Hofs, equivalent to Óðinshof, every single year. If every member paid just 1%, we would be able to purchase 1 Hof every other year. This will be a game changer in the coming year and we bring more and more of our folk home. If you are interested in supporting us in this way, please contact your Folkbuilder and they will be happy to get you taken care of.

The Gods have blessed immensely in 2018, let's apply ourselves diligently to earn their blessings in 2019. We are starting the year with tremendous momentum, there are big things in store. I am so excited to see what all we can achieve together in 2019. Thank you all for your support, your enthusiasm, and your hard work. Our AFA family is the very best there is.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Matthew D. Flavel

Alsherjargothi



Kindred Spotlight

In this first edition of the 2019 Kindred spotlight.

The AFA would like to recognize Fensalir Kindred of New Zealand.

These folks came together from the hard work of Apprentice Folkbuilder Cameron Mottus. He started from the ground up and the Island grew from there and continues to do so.

Fensalir Kindred hosts a variety of events and activities. From Wotan on the Peaks Blóts, Fire arms training in the Bush, Kindred Folk music jams, and Tafl night. I could go on and on, the ideas and enthusiasm of this group are impressive! Keep your eye on on these Folks because they are building things and going places!

The Asatru Folk Assembly is proud to have you representing us half way across the world and Thank you for everything you do!

Kindred Coordinator



Gothar Update
by Gothar Coordinator Blaine Qualls

Our Gothar are always here for any member who is in need, please feel free to contact any of us and we will be happy to help you if we are able. Our Gothar are:

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Allen Turnage, Lawspeaker, Florida

Thorgrun Odden, Witan, California

Bryan Wilton, Gothi, Oklahoma

Bodi Mayo, Gothi, Georgia

Steve Morrell, Gothi, Alaska

Michael Hunter, Gothi, California

Contact information for each of them is available on the website, runestone.org . And the next time you see one of them, give them a pat on the back for all they do for our church and our Folk.

Folkbuilder Updates

by Folkbuilder Coordinator Marc MacLeod

First off I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful Yule Season. We are really ending this year with a bang. There has been so many awesome pictures to look at of everyone's Yule celebrations and it fills my heart with pride. Smiling faces, folk looking their best, happy children and our traditions being kept alive all over Midgard. 2018 has been a milestone year for the AFA and I have no reason to think that 2019 isn't going to be even better.

At our Yule here at Óðinshof , I had the pleasure and the honor to give Jessica Roesner her Folkbuilder Oath. Jessica has been a driving force in the region and especially at Óðinshof . All the events you see at the hof Jessica has put blood, sweat and tears into. There is so much work that goes in to these events that most will never see and she has been diligent in making sure all that attend are well taken care of! It's been my pleasure to watch her grow into this role. People like Jessica are what keeps us striving forward and when we all do our part and find our niche, our future is unlimited and our future is bright!

Marc MacLeod

Folkbuilder Coordinator



Óðinshof

All across the country and around the globe, our folk came together to celebrate Yule. At Odinshof, our official celebration took place on the weekend of December 22-23. As has become the custom around the Hof, those who could show up early on Friday to

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This time around, our Friday crew wasn't just our regular local folks, but included some of San Diego's finest, and one lovely young Lass from Minnesota! Opening up the Hof, taking care of some cleaning needs, decorations, and food preparation, they did as much as possible to ensure that this event went off smoothly. By the time I arrived that evening, there was little more to be done until the next morning.

After breakfast, decorating and preparations continued. An advance scouting party of both Northern and Southern California Folk, headed of into the National Forest to secure us tree. Within the main hall, we set our dining tables and chairs into the shape of Eihwaz, and arranged the Ancestors table. An extremely large smoker was brought up by Marc MacLeod in order to cook the massive amount of meat. Firing it up and keeping it fed with wood throughout the day remained the biggest task. Six Pork shoulders, a few Hams, and even a Turkey spent the day soaking up the delicious flavors of hardwood smoke.

As lunch approached, more and more of our Folk began to arrive, helping out where they could. By the time we blessed the food for lunch, and sat down to eat, we realized that we might need to set even more seats at the table! So, after everyone ate, the dining tables were expanded down the length of the hall as far as we could without impeding access to our entrances and exits. Two more were added to the middle, and our Rune became a Wolf's Angle. Hopefully, we had now set enough seats for our dinner feast.

As the guests continued to arrive, we made our way to our Sumble Fire, where a large Oak log had been placed, carved with Runes, and prepared as our Yule log. As we stood together in the circle, hands upon the shoulder of the person to our Left, we listened to our Alshjargothi speak, and we looked at the people we stood with, recounting the many blessings we had all received this past year. We poured forth our own blessings into the Horn, and our Yule log was set alight.

Back inside, tables full of new items from the AFA store, as well as Folk crafted goods, auction items, and gifts could be found. Our tree having arrived, was brought inside and decorated. There were Gingerbread Houses for the children who seemed to be having more fun running about outside, scents of Mulled Wine, and the sounds of frith and laughter carried us closer to Blot.

Just as the Sun had hid herself beyond the horizon, we again circled the ritual fire. Sunwise into the circle, and around again, and again. Those who were fortunate enough to join us for Midsummer, were witness to our need for a bigger ritual area. Well, we did it again for Yule. Our numbers were far beyond what we anticipated for this event! We made a very large circle, and squeezed in as

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deeply from the horn, and placed a Jolbock upon the fire.

Time to feast. The massive smoker did it's job very well. Everything came out cooked to perfection. Meat, sides, desserts. Everything. Along with dinner, we were able to Oath in Jessica Rosener as an official Folkbuilder of the AFA. Jessica has done an amazing job turning the Hof into a home for many of us, and I am proud to have been a part of her oathing. Hail Jessica!

We received the news for our Alsherjargothi that Odinshof would be paid off by the new year, and that another Hof would soon be a reality. What a gift that is for the Folk! Then, the Yule Father joined us within the Hall, and handed out gifts to the children. Our auction and gift exchange rounded out the indoor activities for the night, with many fine donated items going home with the high bidders, including more than a few hand knitted items. Thank you to Mary Minshall for her hard work and donating so much of it. It really is appreciated!

Finally, those who were hardy enough to stay until the end, made our way back outside for Sumble. Around the still burning Yule log, we honored our Gods, Heroes and Ancestors. This event, as I stated before, surpassed all of our expectations as far as it's size and the number of attendees. At our high point, we had over 72 people within the hall. Again, that isn't far off Midsummer. Our numbers have grown, and continue to do so.

Thanks to all who attended, helped out, and supported it. Special thanks to the San Diego Tru Folk members for driving all the way up, and helping out wherever they could. Another special thanks to Kristina Olson for allowing Hailey to fly out, and to Hailey for all of her help. Glad Yule, and Hail the AFA!

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Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong

This month, we focus on a hero of the folk by the name of Raud the Strong. To start out to tell his story and why he is important to the folk, we need look no further than the first virtue: Courage. These days are trying times with many outside pressures- men and women of courage such as Raud the Strong are needed now more than ever. Whether this be by our fighting men on the fore front of danger, or our fellow folk making everything work in our communities and families.

His deeds come to us in the reading of the Heimskringla (The Chronicle of the Kings of Norway) by Snorri Sturlason. He is described to us as a man astute in his dedication to Odin and Thor, whom was also a well-known practitioner of the art of Seiðr. Hailing from Godey in the Salten Fjord of Norway, he quickly became a target of King Olaf Trygvason during his reign as King Olaf had recently acquired control of Norway from Jarl Haakon. With his new-found power in Norway, King Olaf set out to convert and baptize by the sword whomever he could to consolidate control over the region.

Hearing of King Olaf's plans, Raud quickly assembled a force of men on ship and foot to confront King Olaf whom was coming from the south in Halogaland, which he had previously proselytized. A good friend Thorer Hjort joined Raud's host adding another ship and many more men. When the two forces met, a fierce sea battle ensued. Raud's ship was renowned as a large ship, with a gilded head formed like a dragon. He sailed the ship with extreme skill which was attributed to his use of Seiðr and being a powerful Wizard. He and Thorer were forced to retreat however, with Thorer being killed. Raud was able to escape that day, but he stood up to King Olaf and confronted him on his own terms.

King Olaf continued onward to continue to search for Raud. Sailing into the Salten Fjyord where Raud was said to be, he encountered a terrible storm which delayed him for a week, of Thor's doing no doubt. He then encountered a Bishop by the name of Sigurd, which gave him counsel and advised him to continue baptizing and of Raud's whereabouts.

Coming to Godey where Raud's home was, King Olaf and his men disembarked their ships and made for the home. Immediately upon entering Raud's property and home everyone staying there, including Raud were bound and arrested. Some men and servants were killed by Olaf's men, and some were not. Raud was spared and brought before King Olaf. King Olaf demanded that Raud renounce the Gods and be baptized- Raud would have none of this. Standing true to his faith and the Gods, Raud exclaimed against the Christ and made a mockery of the false God by saying he would never believe in Christ. Naturally, King Olaf did not take a

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King Olaf ordered that Raud was to die by the most terrible means. He was bound on a beam of wood, and a pin of wood affixed in his mouth to keep it open. There are different versions of how Raud was put to death for his bravery resisting conversion, but the most popular was that an adder was fashioned to be put down his throat. It is said that the adder would not go into his mouth- and that a drinking horn was placed, and the adder forced down the horn with a hot piece of iron. Raud died from the adder chewing through his side after being forced down his throat. King Olaf took Raud's property, baptized his men whom were willing, and killed the rest. For this martyrdom we know Raud the Strong as a hero to our folk.

This is a very important story telling the importance of standing true and strong to your convictions, values, beliefs and ultimately our faith in the eye of adversity. You will encounter many challenges throughout life where your values are tested- will we stand the ground as Raud did in direct opposition of the Tyrants in life such as Olaf? Life presents us with these challenges day by day. Live up to the example set forth by Raud the Strong and see what richness the power of conviction can add to your life. Let us all give remembrance to the courage in this example! The Gods expect no less of us, and the character of our folk deserves no less either!

Hail Raud the Strong!

Rocco Urman, Three Rivers Kindred



Alaska and Far North Regional Updates

On the evening of the solstice, Thursday the 20th of December, AFA members from around Alaska gathered at Morrellheim and Hansenheim, the tribe split because of a very heavy snowfall closing the pass between the two regions of Alaska, bearing candles to the Horgs that were lit at the moment of solstice.

After an hour or so of working parties to tame the snowfall and clear out the ritual area, the Folk gathered for the first Blot of the night; led by Gothi Steven Morrell.

We had a late dinner, and those who had to leave did, while the rest of the Folk settled in for the long night standing vigil all night from sunset to sunrise awaiting the return of the sun.

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The following weekend, we held a dessert potluck at AFA member Channcie Alfred's House, which was a wonderful time of mirth and sugar and festive celebration of friends, family and the season.

Folkbuilder Eric Whisman



Plans were plotted for 1st night at Morrellheim, yet all too common in the far north the weather handed down a change of plans. Due to a quite toothy storm which barricaded a section of our journey, we decided to fall back to Hansenheim. We set our determination to make the best of the situation and come together in tandem ritual with our folk in Palmer. As Sunna went behind the mountain we lit our lamp and kept a watch over the flame. Blot was held at 9 pm to bestow our gifts, focusing on her return to us from the underworld, on beginning the cycle anew, and looking forward to her growing presence in the coming season.

The evening taking shape as it did brought me to deep reflection on the might and dedication of our goði. Never have I taken him for granted, yet opened were my eyes at trying to stand in his role to our folk. Brought me to understand my own complacency and the need to continue growing and developing.

Hail to those that DO! Happy Yuletide from Seward, Alaska!!!





Northwest Regional Updates



What a great start to the new year with Yule celebrations around the Pacific Northwest! We celebrated in the Portland area with the Noreana society and members of the Odinic rite, gave our sacred Yule oaths for the upcoming year in Bellingham, and gathered in Vancouver BC and Kalamath Oregon with the Svartalfar tribe!

In January there is a remembrance for Raud the Strong, runic meetings, and a Alvis and Thor's blot in Kalamath, but mostly we will be preparing for the Charming of the Plow event in February.

Our first regional event is now fast approaching! Make sure to reserve your spot or contact me directly about housing options. The Charming of the Plow event will be pivotal in blazing the way forward for Ásatrú in the Pacific NW! I will be forwarding a schedule of events to PAC NW members in the coming days. I will also be renting a van and picking up people in Portland, Seattle and at the airport. So there is that option for people flying in or who wish to ride along.

Let me know if you would like to create an event in your area and I will assist you in the best way I can.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

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JrozaneK@runestone.org

Apprentice Folkbuilder NW

1/5 Rune study meeting -Skype available- Vancouver BC (message jrozaneK@runestone.org for details)

1/11 Remembrance Day for Raud the Strong Oregon city.

1/19 Alvis and Thor's blot -Kalamath Or

11/10 Runic Study group 6:30pm-7:30pm Moscow, ID



Svartalfar tribe

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I grew up, like many in the USA, in a Christian household. My journey ran across a lake of deceit and manipulation like no other I have witnessed in the time since. My father, a Chief Petty Officer in the navy, and a Nuclear technician, died of brain cancer when he was 33 years old. I was 5.

I was told when he died that it was because of his failure to be a Christian. From that point on, I struggled to understand how MY father, a good man was taken and so many evil people were left here on earth. I also started on my path to Heathenry. I have honored my ancestors (more than anyone in my family) to a degree that some called unhealthy. When I chose to do this, even when it was just a silent call to my father, I was an Asatruar. When I found my tribe, my brothers, and my family, I was made whole. The roots of ancestors fed my spirit until I was ready to understand. Othar teaches us in secret ways, about our vast heritage.

Hail the Gods

Hail the Folk

Michael Thorp -Tribe Builder

West Regional Updates

As I sit here and edit the voice I am taken back by the pictures coming in from all the Yule gatherings around the world. 2018 comes to an end with us at record numbers again in membership. Kindreds are forming and growing all over the world. It is a gift and a blessing to witness such growth in the AFA and in our Folk that are waking up all over and coming home. Tru-Folk is no exception, we are growing and even making our own now lol with 2 baby girls on their way. We celebrated our Yule early so some of us could travel to Odinshof for the AFA Yule, making it an extremely special time. Our kindred is now a family and continues to work together to keep events happening and to reach out to those who have yet to find their way home. We have the light on and it is shining bright. A huge Tru-Folk Happy twelfth night and a very awesome New Year to all our folk-family.

Folkbuilder Heather Clinkenbeard

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Manna full the time is right in the dark of Winter Solstice Night.

The Longest Night of the year so holds close to you all who are dear.

The clouds move above darkened trees for spirits move on this night's breeze.

Wolves howl and Owls call, be not out alone less you fall.

Listen now and you will hear through the mist the Wild Hunt draws near.

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by Gray Will





Yuletide by Gray Will`

Yuletide now has begun, to the Hof we trek for fellowship and fun!

Winter Solstice and Manni was full on the longest night when Sunna has the least pull.

To begin the Yule Log lighting bright for it to burn an entire night!

The children even got to play with snow, not easily gathered but so worth it though!

Then Yggdrasil we did dress and decorate, the many ornaments were very great.

The ritual circle was crowded by the many here, coming from both far and near.

Then the mighty meal to eat, over which the many cooks and preparers had

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Oathed in was one of the Hof's own, a worker who maintains it like her own home!

Papa Yule visited the children young and even the elders found this festivity fun!

Gifts were exchanged, jokes and stories told, keeping alive our traditions of old.

Into the night the Yule Log burned, gathered at Sumbal and about one another we did learned.

So to all the Folk from far and near we wish you each HAPPY YULE and New Year Cheer!!

Tru-Folk ended the year with a park moot on Sunday and a twelfth night celebration on twelfth night. Bringing in good wishes for all our folk. We wish you a very healthy happy and prosperous New Year!



Four Corners Regional Updates

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There has been a lot of preparation in four corners region to make the coming year great! Everything from a brand new event Thor Fest 2019, new kindreds across the region in planning, and four corner's folkbuilder planning trips fireside chats with figures like Bryan Wilton in the works! Naduiz, Thurisaz, and Othala are definitely in play in the four corners region at this time and future looks bright! Lastly from Jason Plourde and the Asafolk we hope and wish everyone had a merry Yule, and happy new year!

Jason James Plourde





Northern Plains Regional Updates

The month of December has been one of growth and joy. On December 21st members from across Minnesota, South Dakota, and

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everyone to come together as the big extended family we are. A bit later in the evening we all gathered around a nice fire and hailed Odin and the Wild Hunt. Our voices cast loudly to the sky, "Hail Odin.....Odin Hail" The fire roared as our offering to Odin was poured into the fire; our bodies blazed as Odin's gifts of inspiration and wisdom were drank down. It was a ritual not soon to be forgotten and just at the height of our ritual the clouds broke and the full glory of Mani shined down. Just after we were finished the winds came up and the Wild Hunt howled in full force for several hours.....it is those types of natural phenomena that seem to frequently happen around our blotar that tell me they are enjoyed by the Gods, that we are doing something right.

Saturday brought a busy day filled with laughter and frith.....as the food was being prepared by the cooks, others were engaged in several rounds of a Norse trivia game that our local member, Mark Cook, has created to entertain and educate all at once. By noon we were gathering again around a fire to celebrate a nice Blot to Thor led by Les Lauer of the Ulfhednar Clan. As the wind howled around us we celebrated Thor's strength and steadfastness, honoring him with a draught of mead and receiving one back in return. Inside we trekked to enjoy a meal like no other, ham, potatoes, chili, pies, stuffing, cookies, strudel, and the list goes on.....enough food to feed a small army. All had their fill and probably a bit more as even the children grew quiet and all that could be heard were the sounds of people enjoying their food.

Later in the afternoon the men and women split off to each have discussions on their respective differences and how to grow as Asatruar. Both talks seemed to be very well received with much discussion being generated, ideas shared and new bonds being built. In the future these will become regular parts of our events, our Folk as a whole can only be bettered if each respective part is built stronger. As the evening wore on we joined together for a very lively auction that generated enough funds to pay for our annual Ostara on the Plains celebration(look for more on that in the very near future). Then we sat down around a nice fire inside our hall to a sumble that saw tears, laughter and many great Gods and ancestors honored. Our sumbles have become something very unique to me. We keep them just slightly informal to allow peoples feelings and emotions to flow freely. Just enough structure to keep it focused on the task at hand, but not so formal that we choke people's participation. With just the right balance we seem to grow closer each sumble, our bonds grow stronger with each toast of the horn and our family is strengthened with each round. It is something hard to explain, for me the best term would be we are "family building" in our sumbles.

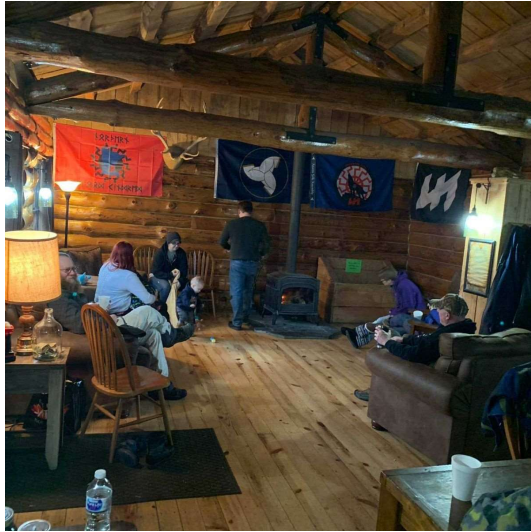
Sunday brought a beautifully calm day that saw us again around the fire for a Wayfarer blot led by Ulfhednar Clan member Shannon Liebold. For being his first blot he did a truly great job. Our Gods were hailed and the safe travel and well being of our departing folk were seen to. Yule on the Plains was a resounding success, new friends were made, new bonds built, and our folk enjoyed a few days of frith with kin.

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December was another great month for us in Minnesota. Started the month out with our third annual Folkish Family Yule which turned out to be my favorite Yule thus far! We hosted our second year of Mother's Night Blot with the monthly Edda study led by Gythia student Anna Mae Funk. Finished the month off with the monthly meet and greet. Looking forward to the new year and the future!

If you are interested in the AFA Kindred program or looking for a Kindred.

kindred@runestone.org

jgallagher@runestone.org

Hail our Noble Folk!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!

Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher

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- 1/6 Monthly fundraiser crafting day 12-3(Extra one this month)
- 1/19 Folkish Family monthly meet and greet Davannis Plymouth,MN 4-7
- 1/20 Monthly fundraiser crafting day Bloomington,MN 12-3
- 2/9 Third annual Folkish Family Charming of the Plow Bloomington,MN 4-7
- 2/23 Folkish Family Meet And Greet Pizza Ranch Albert Lea.MN 4-6
- 2/24 Monthly fundraiser crafting day 12-3
- 3/9 Folkish Family Monthly Meet And Greet Crooked Pint Alehouse Duluth,MN 4-6



South Central Regional Updates

As we sit back and reminisce over this past weekend's Yuletide in the South, we are filled with a sense of warmth, hope and renewed dedication to this, our Holy Cause. We are left with renewed hope for the future of our Folk, and warmth for the old friends we had the pleasure to see again and spend time with. Same for the new faces we had the privilege of spending our weekend with.

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financial decisions. The pictures and videos of this past weekend give testament to the hard work and dedication that we as a tribe put into this, and it was wonderful to see everyone pulling their weight on making this gathering a reality.

By Friday evening most of us had arrived and saw to the preparing of feasting and our initial Tyr Blot. It was a moving and powerful experience, attended by Stephen and Shiela McNallen, members of the Odinic Rite, and all of our tribe. Saturday morning the ladies of our tribe, led by the lovely Shiela McNallen, performed a beautiful Frigga blot, in which the guys among us were later incorporated into. We are amazed and grateful everytime we are privileged to be in the presence of the McNallens. They continue to be legends and heroes in the making. They, alongside Bryan Wilton, gifted us as a whole with their time and words, inspiring in us new ideas for the future, new trains of thought, and left us with a sense of completion.

As the afternoon carried on we spent the day in Frith and feasting among all the good folk who came. Huge shout out to Ashley Pender and her lovely Mom for the professional and classy decorations for the Ravens Lodge on Saturday. Our auction and raffle helped us meet our pledge of \$500 towards the Hof, and we were very proud of that. A big thanks go out to Rebecca she won the raffle and donated all of it to the Hof!

As the sun fell and we prepared for our Odin blot..you could feel the anticipation building as all of us got ready. Clyde master of the ceremony and Steven Mcnallen conducted a very amazing blot. To say we received a sign from the gods would be an understatement..as we progressed into the blot and started the hammer lighting..wolves and coyotes hailed us in their own ways with yips and howls..we as a tribe and folk returned their hail with a howl of our own.

For those who were able to attend and who were not worn put by the weekend's events...we held a sumbl back at the shelter site. Sunday morning dawned with a renewed sense of purpose and a love for my folk and tribe that I am still unable to put into words.

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Central Corridor Regional Updates

As it does every year at this time, it feels as if someone, or something, has grabbed a hold of the wheel of the year and given it an extra hard spin! Speeding these last couple months of the year along perhaps faster than we would like.

The month of November saw Mid-Hearth Kindred members of Missouri hosting the second annual Feast of the Einherjar, a weekend-long event in the south of Missouri. Folk gathered to share feast, mead, ritual and connecting with our warrior ancestors, our Gods and each other. We also enjoyed and learned much through presentations by some of our esteemed AFA men, Bryan Wilton, and Sean Black. Mr. Wilton unveiled his new Pathfinder project, and Mr. Black did a galder workshop and lead a discussion of the parts of the soul self. Both were very excited to be a part of many discussions that were had. Anytime we can come together to learn and grow as a Folk is a time well spent! We all appreciated them coming out to share in the weekend and further our knowledge and appreciation for who we and what we are aspiring and working to become.

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And now with that barely having passed we begin to celebrate our Yule Season. Setting the alter to reflect the time of year, and to invite our ancestors to come and walk beside us as the veil thins, listening for their presence and watching for the signs of their guidance and love.

Here in the heart of the country, we are readying for a 4-day celebration to culminate on 12th night. Folk from Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri will be gathering. Blotting to our Gods. Making mead. Taking a Rune class. Doing some Rune walking with the kids in the woods. Teaching our children to run a Blot for themselves so that they may build that connection like we have when we stand together in that ritual circle, bathed in the light of the fire, speaking over the well and feeling the magnitude of who we are and where we have come from. We will pass this down to our children so that they too may know and never forget. What better way to end the year than with your Folk close, what better way to start a new year than together.

Want to join your Folk in the Central corridor for gatherings, find our pages on Facebook, AFA central Corridor Region and Central Corridor Asatru Events and News.

Also some important shout outs and tidbits!

Happy December Birthday Zeke Zelch of Mid-Hearth Kindred!

Happy 15th Wedding Anniversary to Zeke and Michelle Zelch also of Mid-Hearth Kindred!

Congratulations to Kevin Scarborough of Mid-Hearth Kindred!

From all of us in the heart of the country, stay warm, stay merry and may your new year be one of prosperity!

Congratulations to Kevin Scarborough of Mid-Hearth Kindred on the New Job!

Apprentice Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

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Midwest Regional Updates

Greetings from Indiana,

Those of us in Heimdalls Midgard Kindred hope that everyone in the AFA had a blessed Yule season. Ours was great! It was the first Yule that we had all celebrated together as a kindred. With it, we will be keep the tradition going year after year.

We discussed the traditions of the Yule season as recognized and practiced by our ancestors in detail. Going through the wild hunt, Yule-tree, Yule-log, ghosts, trolls and all, how it was eventually Christianized into what we outwardly see of the tradition in modern times then it's reawakening within Ásatrú.

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in the AFA and 3) blank paper to first, reserve a side of a page for each month of the year to map out the Holy Days of the AFA and the rites of passage dates of their forefathers and foremothers as charted in the first section for their own personalized calendar of Gods, heroes and ancestors, and secondly, for notes on their family history such as the meanings of surnames, expansion of their pedigrees to include other siblings, etc. Thus giving them a means to make the next twelve months, symbolized by the Yule season, personal and holy, individually and as a kindred of the AFA.

We feasted and held a Yule blot where we greeted Sunna at her lowest steads and beckoned her return, honored the Gods, Goddesses and Ancestors of our Folk and made Yule-oaths for the coming year. My daughter, Ravynne, lit the sun-wheel and participated in her first blot with us. It was a very memorable time indeed.

We will be having a Thorrablot and Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong in January thus continuing to meet each month. We will be involved in the Ostara in the Midwest with the other kindreds in our area in April. The children in Heimdalls Midgard Kindred will continue involvement with Wotans Wolves. Many great things to come this year!

Once again we wish our AFA Family the best this winter season and look forward to the work to come in 2019...

HAIL the GODS!

HAIL the FOLK!

HAIL the AFA!

Zach Cato,



Deep South Regional Updates

December has been an amazing month for our Deep South Folk! I had a small meetup with a Ryan Burchfield, who just moved down to Georgia from Virginia! We shared lunch & dinner, discussed Wyrd, and had some firearms practice!

Meanwhile, Alabama and Georgia Folk had a wonderful Yule blöt and feast at Jeff and Laura Morris's home! Jeff and Laura were great hosts, and are leading the way to starting a flourishing community in Dixie!

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2018 was a blockbuster year for our church, and we all expect 2019 to be even better!

Myself and the rest of the AFA Staff hope you had a merry Yule, and a fantastic new year!

Hail our Gods & Goddesses!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Apprentice Folkbuilder Trent East



Florida Folk held it's first Yuletide gathering. Some members of the AFA we're present as well as some non members. Food and festivities were great. We held a blot, asking the Gods for the rebirth of the suns light to shine on our deeds. Making what we do prosperous. As 2018 winds down, 2019 looks great for the rekindled Asatru folk assembly in Florida

Apprentice Folkbuilder Ralph Voila

We had our Annual Sandhills Kindred 2018 Yule gathering tonight. We had 27 of the greatest Folk around Join us for some Frith, Food, Fire Water, & Fellowship. The Gods & Ancestors were truly smiling on us tonight and many prayers were answered. Thanks to everyone who sacrificed their time tonight to make this happen. Hail the High Ones. Hail the Folk. 🌿

Folkbuilder Paul Hester



In South Carolina we held a Mother Night on the evening of December 21st. Our community in North Central South Carolina is growing and the bonds are becoming ever stronger. That's what happens when folk gather to embrace who they are.

We also traveled into eastern North Carolina to support Sandhills kindred for their Yule celebration on December 29th. Together we are building an active region that represents the AFA with pride

Apprentice Folkbuilder James Dover

Yuletide in the Northeast was blessed with two weddings of AFA members in ceremonies officiated by our own Catie Reid. Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Malseed and to Mr. & Mrs. Casey Stimson!

Lansdale Tru Folk also celebrated on 10th night with Yule Blot and feast with friends. We traditionally take January as a time for being at home, quietly working and waiting out the winter after the bustle of the holidays. Look for the Lansdale Tru Folk calendar of events to be published sometime in January with events for 2020.

Yuletide Blessings and a Happy New Year to all of our AFA folk,
Folkbuilder Clifford Erickson



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Europe Regional Updates

Midwinter has passed and as such our Yuletide celebrations have begun! Some of us hold blot with our kindreds while some spend it with their close family. Some celebrate in solitude, whether it's through choice or otherwise but however we celebrate Yule we celebrate the return of the divine light! We give offerings to Jolnir, to Odin and sing hails to the Yulegod in promise of a great new year in 2019. This past year has been very special for me personally. Both at midwinter and midsummer we held blot at the ancient temple site at Uppåkra to reawaken the spirits that dwell there. I was honored to become an apprentice folkbuilder which has been a very humbling experience. But foremost I got to know more of our membership more personally and have many deep and fruitful exchanges concerning spirituality, tradition, ritual and creativity. The combination of these ingredients make up the core of why the A F A is so powerful; the ability to build something new from something old and to let its roots grow deep once more. As I prepared for midwinter blot here at home, I lit the fires and exclaimed as always; "The fire is lit. All that is evil has been banished and all that is good is welcome". May this be true for 2019, for all of you!

Sincerely,

Apprentice Folkbuilder Linus Borgström

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Scandinavia Regional Updates

Jul time has a special place amongst our folk Asatruar or not all is affected and touched by the Jul spirit and by the generosity of gift giving.

Hroptatyr kindred started the Jul season by having a classic Scandinavia Jul dinner at my house all off us contributed to the table a lot of really nice dishes were served.

To end the old and start the new year we performed an Odin ritual the holy fire was lit and his names were sung and mead offered all accompanied by forefathers And the presence of the guardian spirits of old.

For Scandinavia 2018 have been a really productive and fruitful year we have grown in numbers but most important we have built stronger and closer bonds to each other we have fulfilled our duties and obligations to the folk and to our gods.

We have also been busy with the shop and participate in a number of podcasts and events. If 2019 will be as productive and fruitful we will definitely see great things happen.

Apprentice Folkbuilder Anders Nilsson



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with a warm heart. It has become a natural thing to celebrate Yule with the blotlag on the 21st of December when the midwinter solstice is. This year, we held the ceremony at a new blot place that we set up. Under an oaks mighty branches we have a place that we call ours. This place is not something that has happened by chance. We have the pleasure of having one who is versed in the shaman world. In a drum journey that was made earlier this year, it came to us that a place should be built where the energy flows. And this is something we have been working on during our free time. A path through the forest was laid out and a stone wall was restored to old pride.

In the procession we went with the drum's rhythm to the blot place and raised the horn to the glory of Jolnir and Sunna. This is a time when the darkness and the cold are like the heaviest and to have family and friends close to you is most evident. So afterwards was the feast in a warm house much appreciated. Food was consumed and many laughs were heard far into the night. The children never want to fall asleep but ran around and played far into the early hours.

Life is good.

Hell Jolnir

Hell AFA

Hell Folk

Martin Klasson



Australian, New Zealand, & South Africa Regional Updates

New Zealand – Australia – South Africa

It has been a busy time in our region.

Australia

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New Zealand

In New Zealand, on December 15 some kindred mates and I, with a friend who flew over from Sydney, climbed to the top of Mount Oxford for a Wotan on the Peaks blot. We also met up with a young man named Andrew who had found out about the Meetup on Facebook. Unfortunately, he missed us and summited. He was on his way back down when he ran into us. He was such a beast that he summited again and took part in the blot. Amazing.

Richard Tait, from Fensalir Kindred, performed the blot.

During the climb we ran into a couple who asked what we were doing. I realized the importance of using these events for public relations. Passing on information about Asatru, our kindred and the AFA.

Midsummer Celebration

On December 16th I hosted the Midsummer celebration at my home in Kaiapoi, New Zealand. We had 10 folk on attend. We spent an hour working on music. Isaac Bennet, the Fensalir Kindred gothi, spent an hour discussing meditation and how it can be used to increase wode. A pot luck dinner what had followed by a blot at Pines Beach.

Isaac Bennet, with the assistance of Richard Tait, lead the blot. The location of the blot is very special. You can feel the energy in the air. We finished with a rousing rendition of Song for Allfather. We finished the night off with a sumbel back at my home. What has amazed me, over the past three celebrations, is the personal and spiritual growth of our folk. The more they get involved the more they grow. It is awesome.

Apprentice Folkbuilder Cameron Mottus

Gothi Bryan Wilton

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The Hyndlujoth is an interesting lay given the time in which it was put down on paper. The standard interpretations has always been that Ottar has made a wager of his entire inheritance with Angantyr regarding the relative loftiness of their ancestry, and by rich offerings (Hyndla hints at less commendable methods) has induced Freyja to assist him in establishing his genealogy. Freyja, having turned Ottar for purposes of disguise into a boar, calls on the giantess Hyndla ("She-Dog") to aid her." People have readily accepted this for literally hundreds of years. It reinforces the idea of Freya as a witch. Simple enough. But this isn't how I see it.

If you read it like it is and accept the explanation offered, what good does this do for the community? What benefit is there to be gleaned from a story which has been around for 100's of years in written form suggesting Freya is going to help Ottar win a simple wager? This story has lasted hundreds of years to show how much our ancestors were enthralled with gambling? While they did have a powerful affinity for gambling (I've long suspected that the premise for the crucifixion was lifted from Germanic ideas. The whole pierced in the side with a spear, while soldiers gamble for his clothes is something bible authors of that time took right out of Germanic lore) this was more than just an attempt to continue vilifying their heathen mentality.

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intermediary of the church does not approve, not only will your current circumstances be denigrated and vilified, your hereafter will also be one of unimaginable torture. To lend weight and authority to these decisions, they are seemingly backed by what everyone has been taught as the word of God.

Yet this old tale, quite rebellious for its time, tells every man that it is his legacy to achieve greatness and that the tools he needs to do so reside within his own heart. It is of no small importance that it is a woman telling him this.

Freyja spake:

*1. "Maiden, awake! | wake thee, my friend,
My sister Hyndla, | in thy hollow cave!
Already comes darkness, | and ride must we,
To Valhall to seek | the sacred hall.*

This first stanza is of paramount importance. While many people perceive it as simple greeting, there is much, much more here. In these four lines we see Freya, the goddess of love, abundance and ruler of Folkvangr (the other great hall of the wartime dead) greet what we have come to know as a simple savage as a friend. While she may be sweet talking her, to some extent, she is calling upon the idea that they are sisters. Opposite sides of the coin to be sure so far as women are concerned, but sisters nonetheless. What she is doing here is asking this base, simple, uncouth individual, who literally lives under a rock to join her. Something dramatic must be afoot!

*2. "The favor of Heerfather | seek we to find,
To his followers gold | he gladly gives;
To Hermoth gave he | helm and mail-coat,
And to Sigmund he gave | a sword as gift.*

This is something of an over-simplification of these gifts. Odin is not simply handing out fantastic things to every Tom, Dick, and Harry who happens along. There is always a plan. Usually a lesson for those who have ears to hear. Sigmund, in particular, is a fine example of what that gift might look like. If you are not paying close attention, Freya is doing the same thing with Ottar. Sigmund was given the opportunity to claim the sword if he could pull it from the tree. Which he did. His son Sigurd, on the other hand, was

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things, it is Sigmund and Sigurd who possess the skills necessary to make it into something worthwhile. What the father hands the son, in many cases, are the pieces of a heritage. I'll discuss this more in the chapter on the Reginsmol.

*3. "Triumph to some, | and treasure to others,
To many wisdom | and skill in words,
Fair winds to the sailor, | to the singer his art,
And a manly heart | to many a hero.*

Each of these gifts every man has in measure, but he must educate, train and practice to make the most of them. Our efforts along such lines are to help us make the transition from being possessed by such ideas to being in possession of them. This is a very important distinction and one which most self-described academics fail to perceive.

*4. "Thor shall I honor; | and this shall I ask,
That his favor true | mayst thou ever find;
Though little the brides | of the giants he loves.*

This is simply Freya trying to reassure Hyndla that her effort won't result in her death.

*5. "From the stall now | one of thy wolves lead forth,
And along with my boar | shalt thou let him run;
For slow my boar goes | on the road of the gods,
And I would not weary | my worthy steed."*

This one right here, all marked in bold and italicized, is the one which makes all the difference in the world if you have eyes to see. These beings are on a quest of sorts. One to define the power of Ottars ancestry. Along the road to Valhalla, the pathway of the dead, which is another term for the road of life, Freya mentions that her boar is dragging his feet and that she will not tire her worthy steed to prod him along. It means she is not riding Ottar, who is disguised as a boar, furthermore, she asks Hyndla to release a wolf which might encourage him to pick up his pace. Think about that. Ottar asks Freya to help him and she cuts a wolf loose on his butt.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)*Hyndla spake:*

6. "Falsely thou askest me, | Freyja, to go,
 For so in the glance | of thine eyes I see;
 On the way of the slain | thy lover goes with thee.
 Ottar the young, | the son of Instein."

Freyja spake:

7. "Wild dreams, methinks, | are thine when thou sayest
 My lover is with me | on the way of the slain;
 There shines the boar | with bristles of gold,
 Hildisvini, | he who was made

By Dain and Nabbi, | the cunning dwarfs.

8. "Now let us down | from our saddles leap,
 And talk of the race | of the heroes twain;
 The men who were born | of the gods above,

9. "A wager have made | in the foreign metal

*Ottar the young | and Angantyr;
 We must guard, for the hero | young to have,
 His father's wealth, | the fruits of his race.*

The foreign metal is gold. The fruits of his race are obvious. He is the culmination of generation after generation of physically and spiritually similar people. The fruits of his race are everything they have accomplished.

10. "For me a shrine | of stones he made,--
 And now to glass | the rock has grown;--

This is not a once and done kind of deal. The age-old summation of the tale would have you believe that this entire affair was something like summoning the devil with some magic spell. I'm sure the parallels to that idea would quickly be pointed out to churchgoers of the day. But no. This is a description of dedication or regular and persistent worship of Freya as a goddess. Unlike many of the people in modern heathenry who want to call upon the divine as a holy backup against the problems, we create for ourselves. She has not come through because of an emergency. This praise of a goddess and one would presume, the rest of them as well, has been a part of Ottar's life. Much as it should be in ours. Ottar's efforts are something more in-depth than the posting of a meme.

So Freya begins to answer his faithful request by calling upon a crude imagery of the feminine and releasing a wolf to chase him? She is not done with him yet. Now Hyndla begins to remind him of who he is by reciting a list of his ancestors.

*11. "Tell to me now | the ancient names,
And the races of all | that were born of old:
Who are of the Skjoldungs, | who of the Skilfings,
Who of the Othlings, | who of the Ylfings,
Who are the free-born, | who are the high-born,
The noblest of men | that in Mithgarth dwell?"*

Hyndla spake:

*12. "Thou art, Ottar, | the son of Instein,
And Instein the son | of Alf the Old,
Alf of Ulf, | Ulf of Sæfari,
And Sæfari's father | was Svan the Red.*

*13. "Thy mother, bright | with bracelets fair,
Hight, methinks, | the priestess Hledis;
Frothi her father, | and Friaute her mother;--*

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14. *"Of old the noblest | of all was Ali,
Before him Halfdan, | foremost of Skjoldungs;
Famed were the battles | the hero fought,
To the corners of heaven | his deeds were carried.*

15. *"Strengthened by Eymund, | the strongest of men,
Sigtrygg he slew | with the ice-cold sword;
His bride was Almveig, | the best of women,
And eighteen boys | did Almveig bear him.*

16. *"Hence come the Skjoldungs, | hence the Skilfings,
Hence the Othlings, | hence the Ynglings,
Hence come the free-born, | hence the high-born,
The noblest of men | that in Mithgarth dwell:
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!*

17. *"Hildigun then | her mother hight,
The daughter of Svava | and Sækonung;
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!
It is much to know,-- | wilt thou hear yet more?*

18. *"The mate of Dag | was a mother of heroes,
Thora, who bore him | the bravest of fighters,
Frathmar and Gyrrh | and the Frekis twain,
Am and Jofurmar, | Alf the Old;
It is much to know,-- | wilt thou hear yet more?*

19. *"Her husband was Ketil, | the heir of Klypp,*

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And horn of Hild | was Hoalf then.

*20. "Next was Nanna, | daughter of Nokkvi,
Thy father's kinsman | her son became;
Old is the line, | and longer still,
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!*

*21. "Isolf and Osof, | the sons of Olmoth,
Whose wife was Skurhild, | the daughter of Skekkil,
Count them among | the heroes mighty,
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!*

*22. "Gunnar the Bulwark, | Grim the Hardy,
Thorir the Iron-shield, | Ulf the Gaper,
Brodd and Hörvir | both did I know;
In the household they were | of Hrolf the Old.*

*23. "Hervarth, Hjorvarth, | Hrani, Angantyr,
Bui and Brami, | Barri and Reifnir,
Tind and Tyrfing, | the Haddings twain,--
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!*

*24. "Eastward in Bolm | were born of old
The sons of Arngrim | and Eyfura;
With berserk-tumult | and baleful deed
Like fire o'er land | and sea they fared,
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!
He was kinsman of Sigurth,-- | hear well what I say,--*

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26., *"From Volsung's seed | was the hero sprung,
And Hjordis was born | of Hrauthung's race,
And Eylimi | from the Othlings came,--
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!*

27. *"Gunnar and Hogni, | the heirs of Gjuki,
And Guthrun as well, | who their sister was;
But Gotthorm was not | of Gjuki's race,
Although the brother | of both he was:
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!*

28. *"Of Hvethna's sons | was Haki the best,
And Hjorvarth the father | of Hvethna was;*

29. *"Harald Battle-tooth | of Auth was born,
Hrörek the Ring-giver | her husband was;
Auth the Deep-minded | was Ivar's daughter,
But Rathbarth the father | of Randver was:
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!"*

If you look closely, you will see that this is an almost impossible heritage. Ottar appears to be a mix of every great hero, king, wise woman, and warrior in the history of the north. Isn't that interesting. I would take this idea of ancestry even further and point out that many of the folks in heathenry today also have a powerful list of great names in their family tree. Ottar may well be compared to us. The example we might relate too. And Hyndla calls him a fool for not understanding his ancestry. Each one of those people made themselves into something by their own hand, with the gifts they possess. And here is Ottar, expecting a gift for a gift when he already has a portion of each champion inside him. Not to mention the blessings of Rig upon mankind as well as the original gifts from Odin, Vili, and Ve. Seems to me he is already in possession of some fantastic gifts from the get-go.

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work or the building of relationships? Much of what is required to be deciphered remains hidden. Yet here is a tale that reminds us we are in possession of what it takes to survive the radical changes which are far more commonplace on Earth than we would like to admit.

Imagine what a true understanding of these ideas might mean for your thought process. One which might change from seeking confrontation, expecting the worst, boosting our egos on social media and making it up as we go along happily proclaiming all of this like children whistling in the dark to keep the boogeyman away.

Have you considered what you might become if you were capable of shedding the mindsets that dominated the lives of your mother and father, the worries which consumed them or separated yourself from the overwhelming concerns portrayed on the nightly news? What happens when you set aside the conspiracy theories and absolute certainty that you must have divine help to take that next step towards becoming something more? What happens when we change our mindset to one which embraces the idea that we have what it takes to survive and thrive in any situation we might find ourselves in? In the Rigsthula, this change in mindset is about the time Kon-Rig loses the Kon part of his name and becomes Rig himself. The self-actualization represented by the rune Mannaz comes to mind. Where man becomes a savior of himself. The only difference between a wise man and a fool is the nature of his thoughts.

In all of that, we have been given a form of instruction on how to mentally understand what is happening with the holy ceremony of Sumbel. From the Gods, to the ancestors, to ourselves. We cannot simply hold blot after blot expecting some god or goddess to come down and give us a gift for a gift. Why ask for gifts we are already in possession of? Our task is to capitalize upon those gifts. That requires we tap into a positive mindset and make it conducive to creating a world we would wish to live in. Free of the encumberments foisted upon us by monotheism, big governments, and radical political ideologies. It is up to us to make it worthwhile that we might remember the value of our race. Our heritage, our ancestry. Else the wolves will be cut loose upon us.

I am sure that within each of our lives we have found ourselves with the wolf literally at the door. Almost always because of our own thought process. Our best thinking breaking down the barriers of our heritage to allow others the advantage over us. Which brings us to the puzzling inclusion of the Short Voluspa in the Hyndlujoth.

Most people think it is a mistake. But I don't. I have written extensively about this man making ceremony involving Baldur and the

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positive thought as other cancers are to the body) and the opposing mindset dedicated to the development of self by mastery of his environment, the healthy choices he makes and his return to rule Asgard as a fully developed divine being. Asgard by this time, like the youth of man, has been burned away by negative concepts of utopian ideals, the over-inflated ego of Loki and the concepts first introduced by the three all-powerful female jotuns who entered Asgard long ago. The shortcuts everyone's ego will take, A love of gold, the shortcut to power demonstrated by the witch and the horse thief, that which ruins the teamwork of man and beast by stealing what was hard-earned from others for themselves.

Fragment of "The Short Voluspo"

30. Eleven in number | the gods were known,
When Baldr o'er the hill | of death was bowed;
And this to avenge | was Vali swift,
When his brother's slayer | soon he slew.
31. The father of Baldr | was the heir of Bur,

32. Freyr's wife was Gerth, | the daughter of Gymir,
Of the giants' brood, | and Aurbotha bore her;
To these as well | was Thjazi kin,
The dark-loving giant; | his daughter was Skathi.

33. Much have I told thee, | and further will tell;
There is much that I know; | wilt thou hear yet more?

34. Heith and Hrossthjof, | the children of Hrimnir.

35. The sybils arose | from Vitholf's race,
From Vilmeith all | the seers are,
And the workers of charms | are Svarthofthi's children,
And from Ymir sprang | the giants all.

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There is much that I know;-- | wilt thou hear yet more?

*37. One there was born | in the bygone days,
Of the race of the gods, | and great was his might;
Nine giant women, | at the world's edge,
Once bore the man | so mighty in arms.*

*38. Gjolp there bore him, | Greip there bore him,
Eistla bore him, | and Eyrgjafa,
Ulfrun bore him, | and Angeyja,
Imth and Atla, | and Jarnsaxa.*

*39. Strong was he made | with the strength of earth,
With the ice-cold sea, | and the blood of swine.*

Heimdall is the combination of the Sea and the Sky. A benefactor to mankind. The visits of Rig to the great-grandmother/father, the grandmother, and father and the mother/father are generational visits. Each generation doing better than the last one. Each one has invited the divine into their marriage and their children have moved forward in the world to great success. It is no wonder that it is Heimdall who kills Loki at Ragnarok. Loki represents the uninspired human intellect throughout the lore. His jealousy, his outrageous ego, his inability to understand how the divine interact with each other, even though he is afforded a seat at the table, and his creation of the monsters which put the lives (humans) the gods have put so much effort into would be reason enough for anyone.

*40. One there was born, | the best of all,
And strong was he made | with the strength of earth;
The proudest is called | the kinsman of men
Of the rulers all | throughout the world.
This is Thor, the warder of men. The result of the union between the Sky and the Earth.*

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*42. The wolf did Loki | with Angrbotha win,
And Sleipnir bore he | to Svathilfari;
The worst of marvels | seemed the one
That sprang from the brother | of Byleist then.*

*43. A heart ate Loki,-- | in the embers it lay,
And half-cooked found he | the woman's heart;--
With child from the woman | Lopt soon was,
And thence among men | came the monsters all.*

This is Loki breaking off from developing in the same aspect of the other gods and trying to do it all alone. But it also brings to mind Sigurth. When Sigurth tastes the blood and grease of the cooking heart, he is inspired in a fashion. He becomes something more as espoused by the example of learning the language of the birds. But Loki tastes the passions of a woman's heart and for the masculine who has no confidence in his masculinity, it pushes him over the edge. Loki's mind is impregnated with the over-powering concepts we see visualized by the monsters which plague mankind. Greed, jealousy, petty arguments, low self-esteem, corruptions of all sorts are born of this act everyday. When young men make the realization that the taste of a woman's passions are not what make him a man it can be a crippling wound from which some men never recover. In the lore they are represented by great monsters such as the wolf who devours Odin and the serpent whose poison brings down Thor.

Thor and Heimdall utilize their unique heritage to become valuable and powerful aspects of what we consider Holy. One is a defender of men, the warder of mankind, One bestows the gifts to men which allows one to drop the moniker Kon-rig and become Rig himself. This gift resides within us all. Latent and powerful. He bestows a path upon married couples who invite the divine within the homes and their relationship. Loki wishes not to share, to keep it all for himself, to show that he is just as great as the rest of them simply by thinking about it. Much like the arrogance of academia and self-ascribed scholars we find in heathenry today. His failure is the destruction of all that we know. And those forces are very much at work in the world today. People who do not understand the interaction of the divine, who believe they can go off and figure it out all by themselves. These folk will always pick the easier, softer, more comfortable path, full of excuses and few worldly successes. But the dreams of a golden future will sow the

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*44. The sea, storm-driven, | seeks heaven itself,
O'er the earth it flows, | the air grows sterile;
Then follow the snows | and the furious winds,
For the gods are doomed, | and the end is death.*

*45. Then comes another, | a greater than all,
Though never I dare | his name to speak;
Few are they now | that farther can see
Than the moment when Othin | shall meet the wolf.*

This is Baldur. The fully developed. In as much as Kon-rig, learned the language of the birds and the use of the runes to drop the Kon and become Rig himself, a simple man with a powerful heritage and blessing. Kon becomes something we almost cannot imagine. And the examples we have in Asatru are few and far between. Now consider if this process were to involve the development of a god. Such as Baldur. Who considers his heritage, and the divine nature of it and makes the right choices again and again completely removed from where he began. That is to say; minus the goings on of rampant egos coupled with the destructive thought processes which are eating away at the foundations of Asgard. Much like the men and women of today. In an endless loop of acting and reacting to the various stimuli occurring in the world around them. Completely oblivious to the fact that all they must do is stop playing the game. Baldur is in possession of a whisper of encouragement from his father. Something so many men are lacking. With a powerful relationship and partner standing right next to him. His journey in time through Helheim is reminiscent of the time one spends in the womb. Life is spoken into the ears of the hearer. All the while the mother and father are busy preparing for the arrival of their child and shedding the vestiges of their own childhood. Yet another form of Ragnarok. It is as alien a thought as any simple mortal being might imagine and yet it is. And Baldur, with his proper mindset, assumes control of it all.

Freyja spake:

*46. "To my boar now bring | the memory-beer,
So that all thy words, | that well thou hast spoken,*

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slapping the baby on the butt for that first breath of air and the look at a new life.

*The third morn hence | he may hold in mind,
When their races Ottar | and Angantyr tell."*

Hyndla spake:

*47. "Hence shalt thou fare, | for fain would I sleep,
From me thou gettest | few favors good;
My noble one, out | in the night thou leapest
As. Heithrun goes | the goats among.*

*48. "To Oth didst thou run, | who loved thee ever,
And many under | thy apron have crawled;
My noble one, out | in the night thou leapest,
As Heithrun goes | the goats among."*

Freyja spake:

*49. "Around the giantess | flames shall I raise,
So that forth unburned | thou mayst not fare."*

Hyndla spake:

*50. "Flames I see burning, | the earth is on fire,
And each for his life | the price must lose;
Bring then to Ottar | the draught of beer,
Of venom full | for an evil fate."*

Freyja spake:

51. "Thine evil words | shall work no ill,

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If of all the gods | the favor I get."

This is the promise of effort on our behalf by the Gods. That no ill will befall us despite the best efforts of lesser men and monstrous beings. Ansuz, ancestral wisdom offers us a cup from which we might drink with understanding so long as we know from whence we have come.

Thoughts and Prayers to Eira Needed

Thank you to all in the Asatru Folk Assembly

As you may recall, in 2017, I celebrated the 20th year as a member of the Asatru Folk Assembly. While I do not travel, I do participate in spirit with the Folk in my heart at each one of the events at Odin's Hof and other places where we gather. I want you all to know how much I deeply appreciate the many photographs you take and post of these events as I can feel as though I am taking part through seeing the images of all of you, especially the children for they are our future. Through them, the AFA will grow and prosper after I have left Midgard.

Thoughts and Prayers to Eira needed

On December 28, 2018, I learned a Facebook friend was diagnosed with metastatic cancer of the spine and thigh. Initially thought to be a recurrence of sciatica, a MRI revealed cancerous tumors of the spine and upper right femur (thigh bone). While she is a Christian, she and I have corresponded over the past few years in agreement on various issues. She is a good person who loves her family.

Therefore, I want to ask for thoughts and prayers to Eira for my friend, Rosemary that she may heal and be well again.

South African Relief

by Apprentice Folkbuilder Camerron Mottus

The plight of the South African Whites continues. In my opinion, the situation in South Africa is the thin edge of the knife for European people around the world. Marxism and anti-European hate are an existential threat to our Folk. What we do now will define our future.



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Joseph Malema, South African Politician

What started out as a challenge put out to the members of my region (Australia, New Zealand and South Africa) has now turned into a fully fledged fundraising campaign supported by the Asatru Folk Assembly.



Over the last few months the AFA has raised a tremendous amount of funds for the South African Family Relief Project (SAFRP). Originally at the beginning of our campaign I had passed on our initial results to their founder, and this was her response:

"Thank you so much for your kindness and the fact that you are willing to share our plight in your country. We truly need all the help we can get. We live without electricity and try to be self-sufficient but it is not easy. Winter is upon us and we are not coping to feed the masses. We are positive and pray every day. Hard work and giving to families in need is our passion and we will continue to do so."

Granted, most of the folks we are helping are not Asatruar, but they are still our Folk and I am taking a personal interest in ensuring that we do what we can to assist them. What I find most inspiring is that the South African Folk, despite the hardships they are facing, keep moving forward and making the best of the situation they are in.



How do you help? Simply go to www.runestone.org and click on the Donate button. In the description, type "South Africa", fill in your particulars, and then click 'Donate Now'.

\$20.00
USD

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South Africa

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Personally, I am committing to \$20 for the next 12 months. If we all do that the Folk in need will get an ongoing, predictable stream of funds.

Where does the money go? Initially, the money will be held by AFA Folk Services. Every month the AFA will make a donation to one or more charities in South Africa. Currently, there are two that we are considering.

1. [The South African Family Relief Project](#) - The SAFRP works on a daily basis to assist people in need.
2. [Suidlanders](#) - The Suidlanders are preparing for the potential of a future emergency (genocide/civil war)

If you know of any other South African charities or you want to help please contact me at cmottus@runestone.org.

AFA Military Program Update

by Kevin Long

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ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY MILITARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Hails! If you are currently a member of the military regardless if you are in the states or any other country, please send us an email with your current status i.e. Deployed, in-garrison, or stationed abroad.

We are trying to compile a list of each military member and their locations so we can send out care packages through the holiday seasons, quarterly, ensure your religious needs are being met etc. That being said, if you know of any of our members and their status, being they don't have service and what not, send us their mailing address and we will get some items send out.

Also if you or anyone of our members who are veterans, active, retired, or about to transition from the service and are having a hard time finding a new career path or just need other vets to talk too, let us know as well and we can try networking and/or lend an ear for you or the individual.

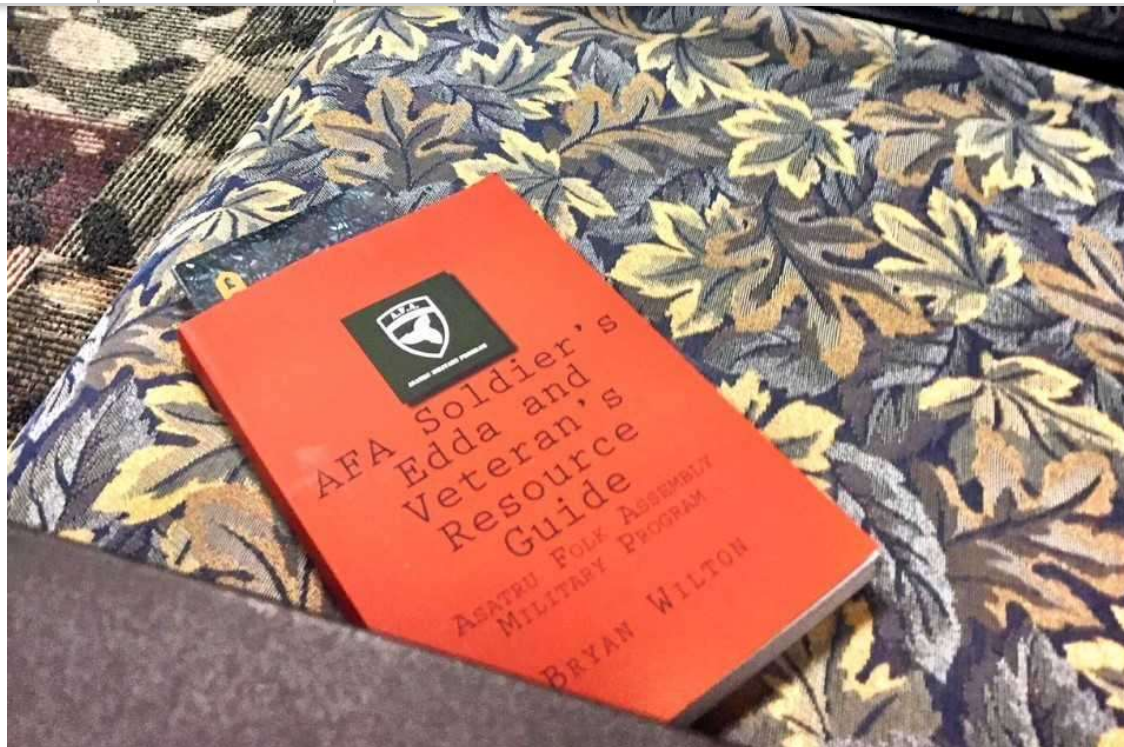
Thank you and have a great holiday season!

Kevin Long,

AFA Military Program Coordinator

klong@runestone.org



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AFA Store

RUNESTONE GIFTS: AFA Member Discount

AFA members save 5% on any order at checkout. Use promo code PXLKVV8 at <http://www.runestonegifts.com/>.

SHOP AMAZON and SUPPORT THE AFA

Support the AFA by shopping Amazon through our Amazon affiliate link! The AFA gets a small percentage of every Amazon sale made by starting your search from [this link](#). Bookmark the link for future shopping!

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CARDINAL RED 8-ounce, 50/50 cotton/poly Double-needle stitching at waistband and cuffs Unlined hood with dyed-to-match drawcord Metal zipper 1x1 rib knit cuffs and waistband with spandex Front pouch pockets.



Call for Photo Donations

We have a real need for hi-res photographs of our members gathering, being active in their kindreds, and showing what it means to live Asatru. If you are willing to donate some hi-res photos for use in promotions such as the AFA Calendar, the AFA website, and so on 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. Thank you in advance!

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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 Asatru Folk Assembly (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!

Thanks in advance!

Jamie Souligny

Wotan's Wolves Youth Program
by Cole Distel

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team of the Gods and their culture in a fun and interactive environment. Each Wolf has the ability to earn different rewards based on a point system. Points are awarded per assignments(which may range from a reading assignment to crafts).

This program is headed by Cole and Tiffany Distel. Ever changing and evolving the Wotan's Wolves is growing into the dream that the Distel's envisioned for the youth. The Wotan's Wolves look forward to the 2019 year and all the new adventures and new youth we will meet. So if you have not enrolled your child yet stop by the Facebook page or contact Tiffany Distel to join this completely FREE program.

We also provide our Wolves with an award system based on point earnings. After achieving so many points they will receive the corresponding prize. Your child will join the ranks of youth getting a jump-start on learning our ways and beliefs while having a blast at the same time. The best part about this program is that it is 100% FREE all we ask is for your time and dedication. Thanks for all the support and we hope to enroll your children soon.

If you are interested in enrolling your child please contact us on Facebook or personally.

Instructor

Tiffany Distel- wotanswolves02@gmail.com

Director

Cole Distel- distec11@gmail.com



AFA Mead Makers Group

Thanks to the generosity of many of our home brewers, mead is abundant at our events. Mead is a fairly easy brew to make, and can be as simple or as complex as you want it to be. In the past, it was mostly women who were in charge of making mead, but these

Are you interested in learning how to make your own mead? We invite you to join our AFA Mead Maker's group on Facebook. We have folk from rank beginners to people who have been making mead for decades, so there's lots of people to learn from. To join please notify your Folkbuilder and we'll get you added to the group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AFAMeadMakers>

Folkish Business Directory



New for the AFA, Carrie Overton is putting together a Business Directory for our Folk! Send us your contact info (website, business type, etc..) and we will add you to our AFA Business and Crafter's newsletter that will be coming soon! This is our chance to promote and support Folkish businesses so we can help each other flourish and grow. Community starts with working together and working in each other's interests. Lets make it happen!

Please send your info to: coverton@runestone.org with the subject "AFA Business Directory".

The Baby Blanket project is rapidly approaching its first year mark, and it 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 and are expecting a baby, please let your Folk Builder know so we can get a blanket to you. If you would like to contribute, either financially or volunteer as a baby blanket crafter, let your folk builder know about that as well, too, and he'll get you in touch with the right people. It's so rewarding to see your handicraft being loved by our little heathens!



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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 our new folk!

If you would like a blanket for your newborn, or would like to donate to help with yarn cost (yarn is expensive!) please notify Mandy (mandy@runestone.org) with the subject line: BABY BLANKET.

Photography & Art for 2020 Calendar

We are compiling art and photography for a 2020 calendar. The 2019 AFA Calendar will have the Holy Days for 2020 and other events, and feature art and photography from different members. We'd like to have each month feature photography from AFA events that occurred in 2018 and will occur in 2019.

If anyone has an eye for the camera and enjoys taking pictures at these events please submit your work. The work may be useful for more than just the calendar. An example may be as follows:

A photo from a Midsummer event, such as a pic from Blót, Sumbel, or nice picture of the sun, nature and folk may be a perfect picture for the month of June.

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Have fun and please send submissions to photos@runestone.org

Asatru Folk Assembly Calendar of Holy and Remembrance Days

- 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

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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 at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/171200910199593/> or contact your Folkbuilder.



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