

The Runestone, January 2020

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The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly

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WORDS FROM THE ALSHERJARGOTHI





The Asatru Folk Assembly has officially turned 25!

During the entire year of 2020 the AFA will be celebrating our first 25 years and all of the amazing blessings those 25 years have brought us.

We would, first and foremost, like to thank the Aesir for their blessings over the last quarter of a century. It is our sincere hope that they are proud of all that we do and we renew our commitment to do all in our power to honor these, our holy Gods.

We would also like to thank all of our AFA members and leadership throughout the years for making this possible. To all those that have put in work to build this, those who are still with us, those that have passed, and those that have parted company, thank you so much for helping to build what we all so much enjoy.

Last but far from least, we give our deepest appreciation for our Founder Stephen McNallen and his wife Gythia Sheila McNallen. The McNallens built our church with 25 years of blood, sweat, and tears. The McNallens have given us all more than we could ever hope to repay and this year of celebrating the AFA is a year of celebrating their glory as well.

Let us celebrate our 25th anniversary this year with joy and victory!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!





Matthew D. Flavel
Alsherjargothi
mattflavel@runestone.org

GYTHIA ORDINATION

Over this past Yuletide Sheila McNallen was ordained as the newest Gythia of the Asatru Folk Assembly. For those who don't know Sheila, she is the wife of AFA founder Steve McNallen; for 25 years she has worked tirelessly to keep the AFA moving positively forward. To have Sheila complete the Gothar program is a great honour for both her and for the AFA. Being fortunate enough to have mentored her through a significant portion of her program studies I can proudly say she earned the title Gythia and the AFA is a better church with her as one of our priestesses. She is an amazing lady who I am confident will bring great honour to the AFA in her new role. Congratulations Sheila!





Gothi Blaine Qualls Jr.
 AFA Gothar Coordinator
bqualls@runestone.org

YULE 2019

YULE AT ODINSHOF ~ 2019

This fifth year of Yuletide at Odinshof had families from far and wide joining us, many for the first time with a strong sense of good cheer and conviviality. The enormous Yule tree was hoisted through the door right after lunch. It measured almost as wide as it was high, with deep green foliage and branches spaced perfectly for lights and handmade ornaments.

Over the next few hours, families with wide-eyed children would continue coming through the door, with warm greetings, handshakes and hugs. The kitchen area was set-aside for messy projects like graham-cracker cottages smeared with frosting and well-placed candies by the stickiest hands, ever!

At a mid-afternoon ceremony, wee baby, Zoey was formally named before the Folk. Gothi Matt Flavel, spoke of the Norns who who weave the patterns of life. Then he marked her brow with mead, of three runes that would guide her on life's journey.

Back indoors, presents for the children had been in various stages of wrapping all afternoon. It was finally time for Papa Yule to stride into the room, his staff held high, and take a seat by the tree. It seemed like an endless supply of both children and gifts but Papa Yule made sure that all received presents that were “just right.”

Dinner featured ham, turkey, braised brisket, various potatoe dishes, green beans, breads, mulled wine and desserts. Throughout it all, voices were boistrous and bright.

The day had transformed to darkness when we all returned to the our sacred circle for the main ritual of the day. To a heavy drumbeat, Alsherjargothi Flavel, led us slowly into the space. Placing our hands of the full horn of mead, we had the opportunity to give our own gifts to our Gods of this season. Gifts offered and then gifts received from the Holy Powers. Matt carried the horn with its precious blessings to each person in the circle. Horn high, words were spoken to many deities, followed by a sip of mead.

And then, in a hushed tone, Matt announced that a ceremony of Ordination for Sheila McNallen was about to commence. Matt called Gothi Thorgrun Odden and Steve McNallen to come forward, along with Sheila. Each of the four held a tall, red candle as Sheila recited the Gothar Oath. Toasts were made, and powerful, loving words were spoken in support of Sheila's completion of the Gothar Program. At the conclusion, Sheila "Hailed the AFA" with the pouring of mead into the bonfire. A brilliant, golden ball of energy lit up the darkness.

Back inside Odinshof, the auction commenced with swiftness and exuberance, and the winner of the 50/50 raffle was announced. The Secret Santa gift exchange was the last activity of the evening. Clever and creative gifts were bartered among a dozen or so people. The gathering was coming to a close. For many, it was time to get back on the road. Farewells and thankyou's were said, with everyone agreeing that the day had felt like a family reunion, full of bliss and a sense of tradition. Gods' bless us, everyone!







Sheila McNallen
Folkbuilder "At Large"
sheila@runestone.org

KINDRED SPOTLIGHT

For this first Kindred Spotlight of 2020 the AFA would like to recognize and honor the Asafolk Kindred of Colorado.

Led by Folkbuilder Jason Plourde, the Asafolk have been hosting events in Colorado for the last couple years, including study groups and several Blót for the Holy days, just to name a few. They are also going into their second year of hosting a regional event, Thorfest at a camp in the Rocky Mountains.

Thank you Asafolk for all that you do and for being a shining example of our church. The AFA Kindreds are the local congregations and representatives of the Asatru Folk Assembly. Our church is very fortunate to have these hard working folks representing us. Thanks again for everything you do!

Hail the Asafolk Kindred!
Hail the Kindreds of the AFA!
Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!



Jason Gallagher
AFA Kindred Coordinator
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kindrea@runestone.org

Óðinshof

ODINSHOF - A PLACE FOR THE GODS, AND FOR US

A TOY GIVEAWAY - families touched by AFA generosity

Sheila McNallen

The old Grange Hall, now known as Odinshof, has an interesting history in the Brownsville community. We recently discovered that in past decades, Christmas gifts were distributed to needy families from the Grange Hall. Since we already participate in the monthly food distribution, reviving this tradition sounded perfect for us.

We quickly spread the word to begin gathering gifts and donations for this worthy cause. AFA members, friends, local citizens – and even the Salvation Army - came through with money and toys, guaranteeing that we would have plenty for the December 14th Yule Party and Toy Giveaway. Just like busy elves, several of us spent Friday evening sorting and wrapping gifts.

The next morning, Odinshof was adorned with wreaths and other festive cheer as we welcomed the families to the monthly USDA Food Bank. Everyone was reminded to come back at 1:00 for the children's Yule party and presents. Time passed quickly as we set up a table with hot beverages, cookies and candy canes. Papa Yule, dressed for snow in a fur cap and Nordic clothing came in with a hearty “ho-ho-ho” and settled in the chair next to me. Between the stories which I read aloud, Papa Yule described his trip down from the Far North with his magical reindeer. The children were delighted. In the background, our AFA ladies bustled around, filling bags full of toys for each family, as all assembled sang the traditional children's tunes of *Rudolph* and *Jingle Bells*.

By the time we all headed for home, we knew that over fifty children would have toys under their trees. So many thanks are due – to you all, and the generosity of our donors and volunteers who gave so much of themselves. Thank you for supporting this project and helping us show, one more time, “*We are our deeds.*”

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 11th - Monthly Yuba-Sutter/USDA Food Bank at Odinhof. Volunteers should arrive by 10 a.m.

January 25th - Thorrablot at Odinhof – A time to drive away the blues of winter with the jovial goodwill of Thor! Visit our event page on Facebook, and come join us!

This is a year to reflect on how far we've come...

It will soon be five years since we (literally!) made history by purchasing this Hof, which has become the pride of the AFA. Your donations to help us carry it forward in the coming year are deeply and sincerely appreciated! **You can donate here** -- click the link and scroll down to Odinhof to make a one-time contribution.





Sheila McNallen
Folkbuilder "At Large"



sheila@runestone.org

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR RAUD THE STRONG

On January 9th we pay homage to a true martyr of historical Asatru, Raud the Strong.

Raud was a chieftain of his people and a priest of the ancestral ways during the reign of Olaf Tryggvason. Olaf had taken it upon himself to convert all of Norway to the foreign religion of xtianity either by coercion or by force. Raud, being an influential chieftain, was eventually captured and "asked" if he wanted to convert to the new religion. He chose to remain tru to his Ancestors full well knowing his fate was now sealed. Olaf flew into a rage and commanded a snake to be forced down Raud's throat. Eventually, with a hot poker coercing the snake, Olaf succeeded in his evil deed and Raud died as a result.

Today few of us can fathom such tyranny as Raud and many of our ancient ancestors were faced with. We may bemoan society or our lot in life, but truly we are not even close to the amount of insanity that crept over our homelands during the medieval times. Yet we can take heart from their examples, use their steadfastness to inspire us during our trials. We can use their unwillingness to yield to tyrannical madmen to inspire us to be more and to do more in this time.

We are a noble people, descended from noble ancestors; let us go out into the world and strive with our might and main to forge a new future for our Folk. Let us be the examples for the next generation, let us inspire them just as men like Raud have inspired us. Hail Raud!!!



Gothi Blaine Qualls Jr.
AFA Gothar Coordinator
bqualls@runestone.org

Alaska and Far North



The month of December was a busy one for the AFA members and Kindred Der Volkstamm auf dem Nordliche Bar.





First, Gothi Steven Morrell and his wife Erin celebrated the birth of their first daughter and second child.



On the night of the solstice, the AFA households held watch over the sacred flame all night long, a 19 hour vigil from sunset to sunrise.



Eric Whisman
AFA Folkbuilder
ewhisman@runestone.org

CENTRAL CORRIDOR

It's been a busy year for all of our members in the growing Central Corridor Region!

If you would like more information on upcoming events in the Central Corridor Region, please reach out to Melisa Mills at mmills@runestone.org. If you would like to get access to Bryan's live Foundations of Faith series every Sunday at 7:30pm CST, please reach out to

Bryan Wilton!



Melisa Mills
Apprentice Folkbuilder
mmills@runestone.org

Deep South

Thanks and a Glad Yule to everyone who made it to our First Annual Yule in Florida Celebration! The venue was as amazing as we remembered it and we were blessed that the weather held off until the celebrating had finished.

We held our Thor's Blot, that focused on cultivating for future generations and not just our own. Afterward we enjoyed some delicious food that included a whole hog infused with Apple Mead, before gathering around the fire for sumble. We passed the horn many times, raising it to our Gods, our ancestors, and for boast of our accomplishments.

By the end of the day our hearts were as full as our stomachs. It was great to meet our newest member Nathan Cross. As well as Chris Williams, Scott Roberts and Kari A. Roberts for the first time. Not to mention Justin and Nick, who seem like old friends at this point. We were also blessed by the presence of Nick's wife Pam, their daughter Sarah and lovely granddaughter.

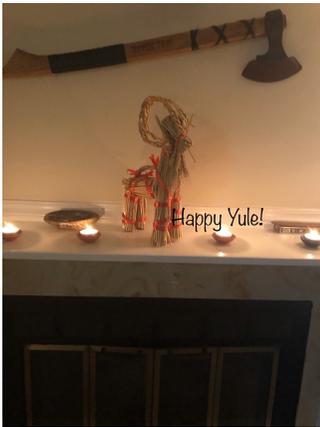
The American Crow Kindred welcomed it's newest member and we're excited about what the new runic year has in store for us. In the morning we greeted Suna with a prayer where we asked for Eir's blessing to those in need before the inevitable, yet reluctant, parting. Merry Yule to the rest of our AFA family wherever you may be this sacred time of year!

The Deep South added one new member this month in Florida, and welcomed back two members in South Carolina. We also welcomed a new AFA baby, Emma, here in Florida.

Ves Heil!



Lane Ashby
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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This month has mostly been spent with our families, but we did manage to make time for a small Yule gathering on the ninth day! We shared frith, an Odin blöt led by yours truly, and a wonderful feast by an amazing cook!

Keep an eye out for upcoming events in 2020!

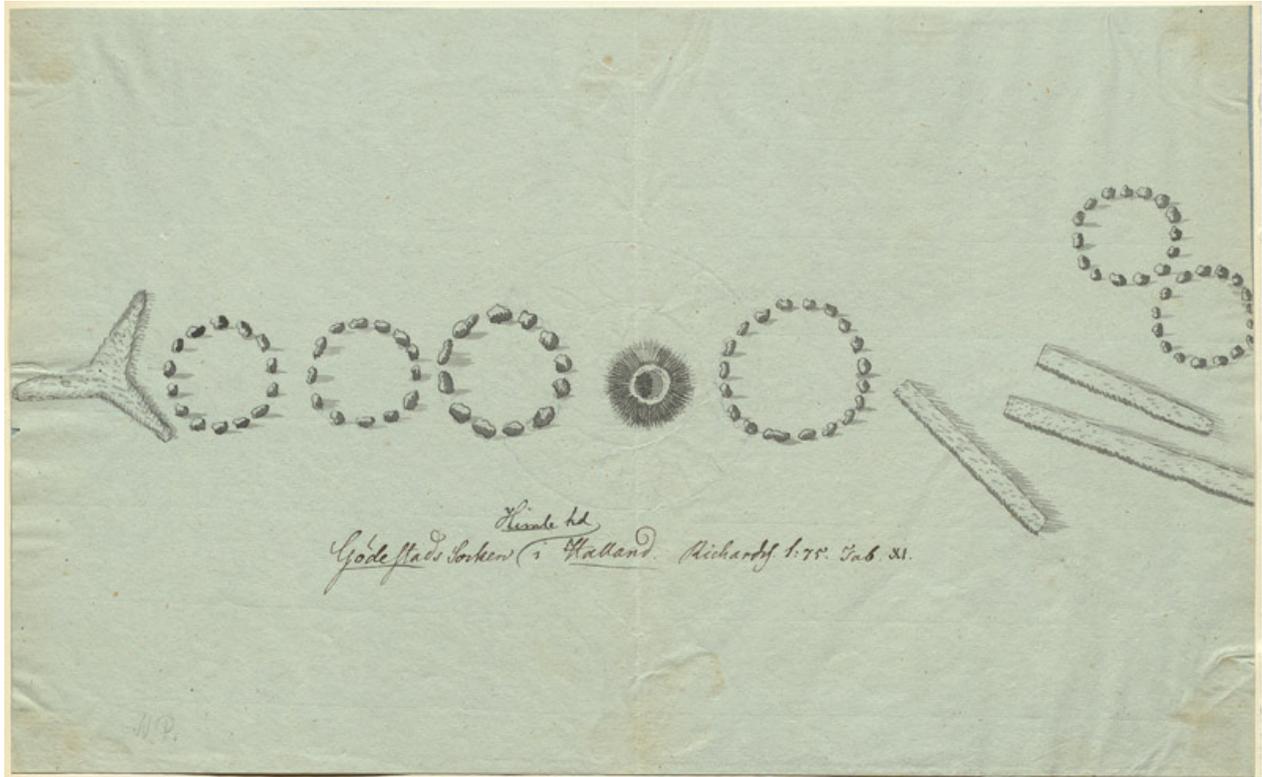
I hope you're all having a wonderful holiday season, and preparing for a prosperous and bountiful new year!





Trent East
AFA Folkbuilder
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Europe / Sweden



Hroptatyr kindred welcomed Sunna back to Midgard on the 21st of December.

Seventeen of us gathered at a gravesite on the west coast of Sweden. The place is called Broåsens Gravfält and was used



from 400 BC through 500 AD. The grave site holds around 60 stone and mound formations and is located close to a village with a intriguing name: Grimeton -- Grim being one of Odin's names.

After the ritual we went home to a member's residence, where we were served a delicious Smörgåstårta. A very big thanks to the host!



Hail Sunna!
Hail Hroptatyr!
Hail the AFA!





Anders Nilsson
AFA Folkbuilder
anilsson@runestone.org

Yule at Gautr

We live in a country where the sun seems to have abandoned us. The sky is hidden behind thick clouds all day. And on top of that you need to find a really old man that tell about another time when it rained as much as now. And in this time of darkness, cold and rain, you value your friends even more. And with friends get the opportunity to celebrate the mid-winter solstice, it warms and should not be underestimated.

Also this year we had a grand Yule table under the gillet. And as usual, the children ran around and had a lot of fun. And the adults and those beginning to approach adulthood sat around the tables and told stories of life. It has become a very familiar atmosphere in all our blot that we hold, and a mood one wants to preserve and keep in fond memory.

I, Martin, would like to take the opportunity to thank all that attended.

—Martin Klassen

Four Corners

Four Corners has been busy behind the scenes! With Thor Fest only a couple months away, the region is getting ready to come together Jan 24th-26th to celebrate our 2nd annual meta-porrabløt! We will be hosting a pigroast, workshops, auction featuring some of the best craftsmen in the AFA, games, and bløts. Join us in shaking off the winter fever, creating memories and building frith with our folk. Hurry and register before lodging runs out: thorfest2020.eventbrite.com



Jason Plourde
AFA Folkbuilder
jplourde@runestone.org

Midwest

Greetings from Indiana,

My what a busy year this has been! And a busy Yule. I believe that the Midwest and the AFA has had a tremendous year! There have been some ups and downs but all around it has been mighty productive.

Members from Heimdalls Midgard were able to spend Yule with many other Ásatrúar and had a wonderful time. It's a blessing to have spent Yule with many people whether it was with friends or family.

Heimdalls Midgard had their own separate Yule where we feasted and honored our Gods and Ancestors. I regret to say that I don't have any pictures this time. There was so much going on that it slipped my mind.

On behalf of my Kindred and the Midwest we wish and hope everyone had an amazing Yule! And that none of our folk had to spend it alone!

Moving on to the New Year of 2020, the Midwest has lots of plans. There will be more on that in our next installment. As mentioned above this has been an extremely awesome year for us and will be keeping that momentum moving forward! Until next time....

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the AFA!



Zach Cato
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Northeast

UPCOMING MEET-UPS

New Jersey Pubmoots

January 6, 6:30 PM

Harp & Bard

363 Lakeview Ave, Clifton, NJ

<https://www.facebook.com/events/663736537459140/>

UPDATES FROM LANSDALE 'TRU FOLK

Lansdale Tru Folk celebrated Yule with our kindred and friends, and we hope that you all were able to enjoy this holy tide with loved ones. Our next event is Þorrablót in Lansdale, Pennsylvania on February 1, 2020. Please contact Clifford or Catie if you would like to attend.



Ves Heill!





Clifford J. Erickson
AFA Folkbuilder, Witan
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Northern Plains



Looking back over this last year and reflecting on the things that we have accomplished, I am also thinking of all the great things that we have planned for this new year and new decade.



This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Asatru Folk Assembly. We are looking forward



to all the great celebrations this year. Northern Blood Kindred has more events and fundraisers in the works as well as field trips to local museums. If you are interested in attending a event you can message me on Facebook or jgallagher@runestone.org.

Northern Blood Kindred group schedule:

1/12 2-5pm, Folkish Family book study, Bloomington, MN

1/18 Folkish Family Fieldtrip to the museum of Russian art, 12-4pm, Minneapolis, MN

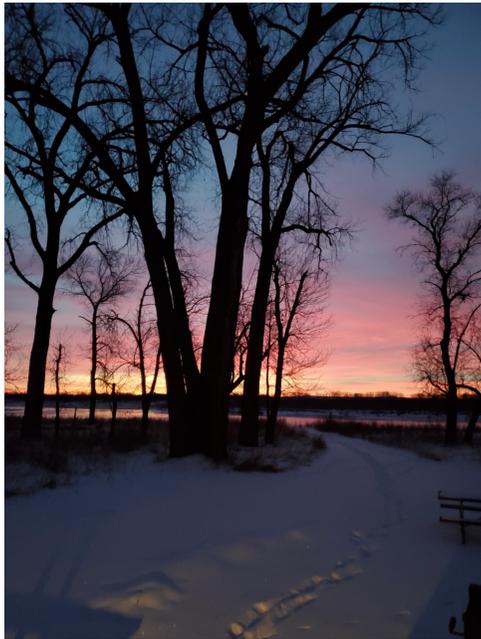
2/08 Fourth Annual Folkish Family Charming of the Plow, 4-7pm, Bloomington, MN



Jason Gallagher
 AFA Kindred Coordinator
kindred@runestone.org

December here in the Dakotas brings our annual Yule celebration, 3 days and 2 nights of members from across the region coming together to celebrate the Yuletide. This year was no exception.





Friday the 20th saw members beginning to arrive and get settled in. The ritual site was shoveled clean of snow and prepared for the weekends festivities. An opening ritual led by Vronna Qualls saw that our weekend was off to a great start and that our days long meta-ritual had begun. Soon supper was served and the people began to prepare for the night's festivities. The people were asked to return back to their cabins and yurts for a julebukking processional wherein people went from cabin to cabin gathering the folk, singing heathen Yule songs and getting treats all culminating in the procession leading up to a nice roaring fire and the nights Wotan blot. As the people gathered in our sacred circle Wotan's name was called,

the Wild Hunt was hailed and the Jolfather was honoured and given a tasty drink from the horn. After the ritual was finished people gathered back in the main hall to enjoy each others company and share a horn or three.

Saturday dawned beautifully and our day began with a hearty egg casserole for breakfast to get us prepared for the coming day. After breakfast the children, and some adults as well, gathered to craft their own personal Tomte dolls. This activity was a great success by all accounts, we were even blessed with a Tomte to watch over the main hall for our weekend. Many



thanks to Brandy Callahan and Angela Winchell for leading that.

Afterwards we gathered around our fire again to celebrate Yule with a proper blot led by Les Lauer. He always does a great job and it has become something of a tradition for him to lead this ritual over the last few years. Following his inspiring ritual the women were led in a ritual led by Gythia Anna Funk. A ritual designed to strengthen the bonds between the women of the region and honour the Goddesses(if I understood right) at this holy tide.



Afterwards we all gathered together to enjoy a feast of epic proportions, a traditional ham with all the sides, chili, kraut and knoephla, Angie's delicious rice soup, homemade kuchen, pecan pie, and the list goes on. It was a feast for the ages. The afternoon saw us enjoy a few hours playing a Norse trivia game created by our own local member Mark Cook. Even some of the children were able to answer on occasion, was nice to see everyone come together and enjoy a very traditional style game of knowledge sharing.

The evening brought our auction led by member Whitney Schlafman, as always. She does a great job of showcasing the amazing things people bring to our auction table. Massive portraits of Woden, hand carved rune talismans, homemade mead, and on and on. These auctions allow us to be able to host our events free of charge so we are always very appreciative of the participation and bidding by our local folk.

Later we gathered together for a sumbel that is maybe a bit different than others. We do our traditional 3 rounds of course, but we do it indoors, in a rustic cabin seated nearly on top of one another. It is very comfortable and very close knit and another tradition we have created up here that people enjoy very much. As always we were blessed with many great songs by our skald Mark Cook who performs some very rousing traditional style songs.....this year even saw our very own Casey Liebold step up and sing an emotional, heart felt song that had the whole room enthralled.





Sunday we again gathered around the fire as member Brandy Callahan led us in a Wayfarer blot to see us all home safely. She did a great job and I look forward to standing around a fire as she leads blot again in the future. Afterwards it was time to pack up and say our goodbyes. If you have never been up to one of our bigger celebrations you have no idea what you are missing.



Gothi Blaine Qualls Jr.
 AFA Gothar Coordinator
bqualls@runestone.org

Northwest

Greetings from the Pacific NW. The month of December brought Yule celebrations in CDL,
 Y... ..

vancouver BC, Salem OR, and Battleground WA.

Jarret who lives in Seattle Washington took the time to pen this poem as he reflected on the evening of the 25th.

WOTAN'S REVIVAL

Looking towards an unknown, daunting future and feeling the sting of melancholic nostalgia of a past wrought with the relics of a fading glory.

Suppressing the swell of tears, swallowing the bitter fury that dwells within. Weakness does not become us, nor shall it have its cancerous oblivion submit our unrelenting spirit.

Burn! Engulf us oh triumph of our daring ancestors! You are the sustenance of our folk, great heroes of our forefathers. Cleanse us of this viral decay, this putrid scorn of filth, apathy and perverse lust.

Forge our bodies like the steel of your sword tips, the blood of our enemies splattered across our sullen faces. Prepared for chaos, yet born to uphold order, dignity, honor and truth!

We rediscovered your holy grail, lifting our heads high to behold the grandeur of the spinning sun!

Life! Purpose! Victory!

Our hearts will not crumble in defeat!

Mark your calendars for our NW national AFA event "The Charming of the Plow" (Feb 7-9 2020) to be held in Leavenworth Washington! Leavenworth being central to the Pacific Northwest is a picturesque town located in the Cascade mountain range. The cost of the event will be \$110 to include food and lodging, and it will be snowy so be prepared.

The month of January brings forth more opportunities for us to gather in Frith and Troth in the Pacific NW see the schedule below. 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.





The “Charming of the Plow” Pacific NW annual event site is now up and running. This event will be held in Leavenworth, Washington on the weekend of Feb 7-9th. Email or call me directly for details. This event is also on the “Moots and Meets” Facebook page. Don’t delay —reserve your spot today!

If you would like to organize an event in your area, contact me and I will help you set it up.

1/12 Remembrance Day for Raud the strong/Hike, Coeur d’ Alene ID

1/18 Remembrance for Raud the strong, Portland OR

1/19 Thor Blot Coer d’ Alene ID

Weekly phone in forum- held on alternating Wed and Saturdays. First call-in Saturday Jan 4

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



Joe Rozanek
AFA Folkbuilder
jrozanek@runestone.org

Upper South



In early December, two upper south members (one from Virginia, one from Tennessee) met and climbed Virginia's highest mountain, Mount Rogers, flew the trihorns on top and performed a Wotan on the Peaks blot.

Virginia members of the Irongard Kindred met and celebrated a beautiful Yule, with a traditional Icelandic lamb meal prepared by our Sven Heruli. We look forward to a busy and happy new year, especially our upcoming national event, Ostara in the South!





Rob Stamm
Apprentice Folkbuilder
rstamm@runestone.org



The Sandhills Kindred's Annual Yule Gathering was a resounding success. We broke bread, enjoyed frith, and toasted Sunna's return. We all left with a deeper awareness of our divine origins, knowing that even in the darkest of times hope lies dormant in all of us just waiting to be born. Hail Sunna 🌿



The Sandhills Kindred has had a phenomenal year of growth with some of the best folk in Midgard. We greatly look forward to what the Norns have decreed for 2020...





Our Sixth Annual “Ostara in the South” will be in South Carolina March 13th - 15th. This will be the first of many epic events throughout 2020 celebrating the “25th Anniversary of the Asatru Folk Assembly.” Come and join in Frith with others who are making a difference in our thriving community. Hail Ostara 🌿



Paul Hester
 AFA Folkbuilder
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West

Nevada Toy Run



On Saturday December 14th, as everyone else worked to prepare Odinshof for our monthly food drive and Yule Toy Give Away, Gothi Hunter, Kevin Reid and I loaded the motorcycles with Toys and headed out to Nevada County Food and Toy Run.

The organizer of the event has always been



sympathetic to us and allowed us to have a fundraising booth every year serving sandwiches and hot coffee to warm all the riders up when they get to the fairgrounds. The Viking

Brotherhood and friends ran the booth this year, and like clockwork, made it run without a hitch.

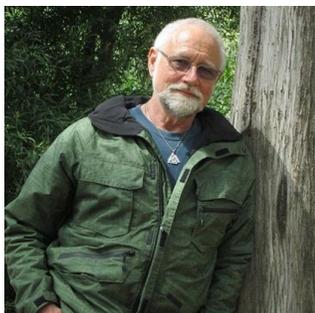


This is a local tradition for us and not only is a great cause to support, it gets us out in the community in a very real way. Thanks to everyone that came out this year!





Marc MacLeod
Folkbuilder Coordinator & Witan
mmacleod@runestone.org



Stephen McNallen
Founder, AFA
steve@runestone.org

GERMANIC/ NORSE LAW

1000ce.

For a thousand years our ancient code of law lay in manuscripts written on velum in Latin and later translated into Old Norwegian, of course, the laws were first in oral form spoken

by a Law Speaker at times of Assembly, ie., a parliamentary form of government. Old Norwegian was still spoken in the remote parts of Norway,(as did my emigrant family), and in 1935, a professor of history at the University of Illinois, Laurence M. Larson translated the two regional laws of Norway, the Gulating and the Frostating into modern English. The name of the book is, "The Earliest Norwegian Laws, Columbia University Press.

I am writing this in order to dispel the propaganda by the winner of this culture war that our people were lawless, backward and ignorant. The Germanic/Norse law code was as advanced toward human rights and in the case of women, superior, as this book shows. Our ancient culture as stated was an oral culture where trust of one's word and being a "high trust" culture, worked until writing was required in dealing with an highly organized urban culture. My belief is that in a low trust culture every agreement must be written, as in a highly collectivized culture people are seen as a commodity not as an individual.

When around 343ce., the Roman Empire merged with the State and later became the Holy Roman Empire 800c., and the Dark Age began in earnest and Feudalism was the only choice for 99% of the European people. In 1555ce., the Christian Church encountered a revolt led by a cleric and the printing press, that spat out small books that people could read and it was the change agent. It is interesting that the area where this happened is just where the old Germanic/Norse laws were in effect centuries earlier, coincidence, I think not.

Again, we are at another time of change and today it is the Internet and now the same tyranny that burned Luther's small books wants to do quell this new revolt against liberty and again, this change agent the Net, comes from the same people that lived in our Homeland, Europe a thousand years ago.

Here are chapters from this scarce book;

1. The Church Law, (added by St.Olaf) and should be at the last as it really was the newest.
2. The Merchant Law
3. The Law of Tenancy
4. The Inheritance Law
5. Miscellaneous Provisions
6. The Law of Personal Rights
7. The Weregeld System
8. The Law of Theft
9. The Redemption of Odal Land
10. The Law of Coast Defence
11. A Later System of Weregeld

I will expand at another time on the Weregeld and Personal Rights

Thorgrun Odden, Gothi, Asatru Folk Assembly



Thorgrun Odden, Gothi
todden@runestone.org

THE EINHERJAR: WHO WERE AND ARE THEY?

So who were they exactly?

The lore tells us they were the warriors who fell in battle, but it doesn't say ALL the slain become Einherjar and I think this shows that it was how that warrior LIVED that made him an Einherjar just as much as how he died.

Let's backtrack a little shall we?

Perhaps the best way to explain what the Einherjar and their Feast IS would be by explaining what this and they are NOT!

It is not a Romanization of death because we see that a lot today don't we, "Die in battle and go to Valhalla" "Victory or Valhalla" it's even a damn meme, catchy I'll admit but it makes traumatic death into some romantic notion.

Allow me to level with you all. Death, traumatic death is NOT romantic.

It Is Horrific.

Upon the setting in of irreversible hemorrhagic shock and due to damage to the internal organs many times a person will involuntarily defecate and urinate themselves in what I can tell you is the beginning of organ failure and many times all the while they are screaming in excruciating pain, begging you to save their life and keep them from that great beyond.

In the olden times the conflict was physically harder but more direct, together side by side upon the field of battle and we can still see this today in the desert, the street, and upon the Yard.

Because while the battlefield has changed and is different what's at stake hasn't and it could be said it is even greater than in that day because more of it stands to be lost.

What the Modern World has in store for us and all peoples is the death of Our Folk Soul.

Those whom died in the service of our Folk

were once like you and me and we can be like them and it doesn't require us dying.

It requires us getting back up and keeping on so that when or if our Orlog leads us to a challenge that takes our life we were able to have and able to work our Wydr so that it is a death that cements us as Einherjar.

So my parting thought today is LIVE like an Einherjar and LIVE for our Folk.

G. Wilson

TAKING CONTROL OF OUR LIVES

We will all go through many trials in life. Tough times may seem like they will never end in the midst of them. Our thoughts govern so much more of our ability to navigate even the darkest of depressions or the tightest moments of anxiety. Yet we have made it through them time and again. We have all approached this faith with the idea and hope of something better. Our gods and ancestors have shown us by their actions that we do indeed have what it takes to take control of our lives. There is so much potential with that idea in action in our lives we might hardly comprehend it. So what does it look like when we quit finding other things to become upset about in our new faith? Well, we have an image of that as well.

LIII. Then spake Gangleri: "Shall any of the gods live then, or shall there be then any earth or heaven?"

Because that is the real question of the day. What will I look like if I let go of all the things I am supposed to be outraged about? What if I let go of all the pain I think makes me important or worthy of attention in someone else's eyes? What will I feel if I am no longer anxious about every waking moment and what people think? Will I still be important? Is there some kind of divine in my life if I let go of the self-imposed sense of struggle so common in social issues?

Hárr answered: "In that time the earth shall emerge out of the sea and shall then be green and fair; then shall the fruits of it be brought forth unsown. Vídarr and Váli shall be living, inasmuch as neither sea nor the fire of Surtr shall have harmed them; and they shall dwell at Ida-Plain, where Ásgard was before. And then the sons of Thor, Módi and Magni, shall come there, and they shall have Mjöllnir there. After that Baldr shall come thither, and Hödr, from Hel; then all shall sit down together and hold speech. with one another, and call to mind their secret wisdom, and speak of those happenings which have been before: of the Midgard Serpent and of Fenris-Wolf. Then they shall find in the grass those golden chess-pieces which the Æsir had had; thus is it said:

*In the deities' shrines | shall dwell Vídarr and Váli,
When the Fire of Surtr is slackened;
Módi and Magni | shall have Mjöllnir
At the ceasing of Thor's strife.*

In the place called Hoddmímir's Holt there shall lie hidden during the Fire of Surtr two of mankind, who are called thus: Líf and Lífthrasir, and for food they shall have the morning-dews. From these folk shall come so numerous an offspring that all the world shall be peopled, even as is said here:

*Líf and Lífthrasir, | these shall lurk hidden
In the Holt of Hoddmímir;
The morning dewes | their meat shall be;
Thence are gendered the generations.*

And it may seem wonderful to thee, that the sun shall have borne a daughter not less fair than herself; and the daughter shall then tread in the steps of her mother, as is said here:

*The Elfin-beam | shall bear a daughter,
Ere Fenris drags her forth;
That maid shall go, | when the great gods die,
To ride her mother's road.*

But now, if thou art able to ask yet further, then indeed I know not whence answer shall come to thee, for I never heard any man tell forth at greater length the course of the world; and now avail thyself of that which thou hast heard."

Once we begin to let go of certain self-sabotaging ideas, given to us by others, our

perception of the Gods themselves change. The sons of Gods and Goddesses lead the way into a new, far green horizon. Where we might reminisce about our pasts and chuckle about the mistakes of our life as we have seen our grandparents do. Laughing at their failures and smiling towards the sunset. Sunsets they know they will see fewer and fewer of as their life nears an end. Our children will lead the way into this bright future. But right now, the battle is ours. To relinquish patterns and old behaviors we have given a fresh coat of paint. Our children will be the ones who recognize the best of the changes within us. They will see it as the sun shining brightly on the promise of their future.

LIV. Thereupon Gangleri heard great noises on every side of him; and then, when he had looked about him more, lo, he stood out of doors on a level plain, and saw no hall there and no castle. Then he went his way forth and came home into his kingdom, and told those tidings which he had seen and heard; and after him each man told these tales to the other.

Our children will see this and they will tell others of the power of these old gods and how in made their moms and dads so much better people. That is how we ensure a future for the descendants of the ancient tribes of Northern Europe. With love, right here in our own homes.

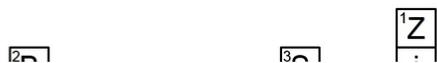
—Excerpt from *The Truarbok*; the #1 hot new seller on Amazon.

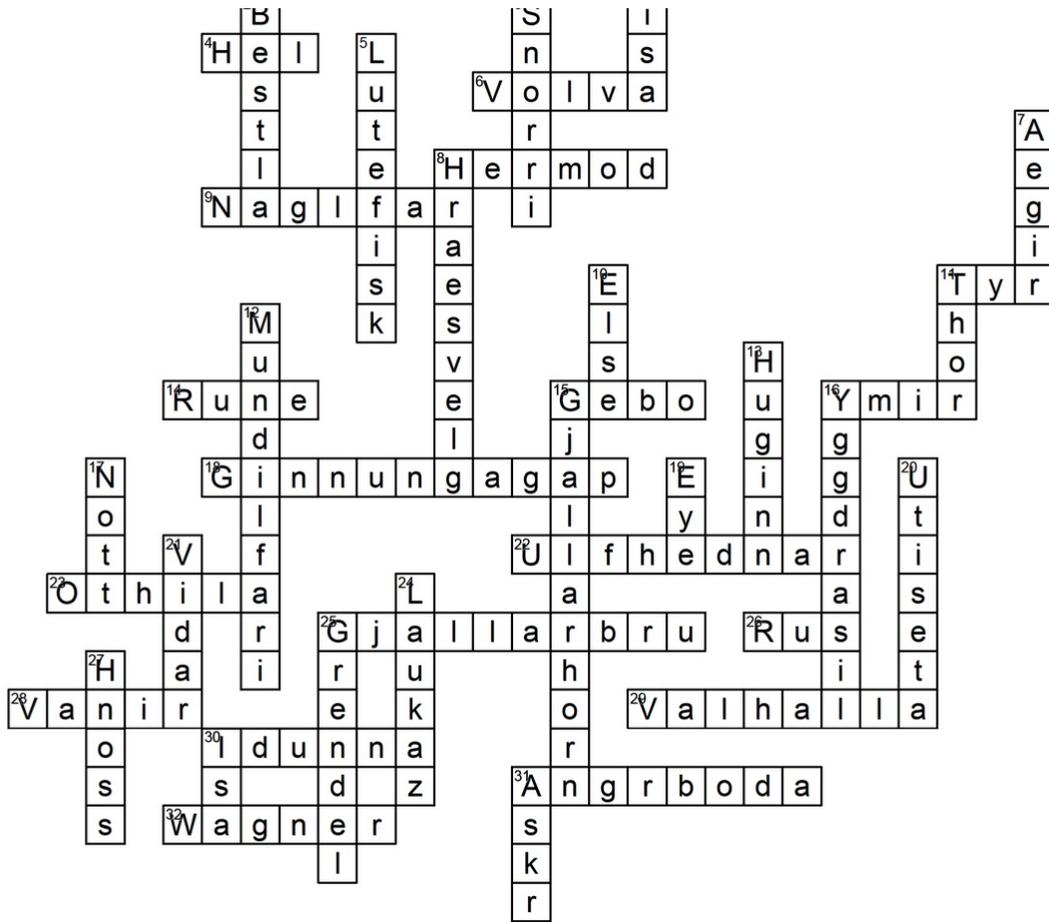


Gothi Bryan D. Wilton
Asatru Folk Assembly

ASATRU FUN

Answers to last month's Asatru crossword puzzle. Hope you enjoyed it!





Submitted by Blaine Qualls, Jr.

AFA MILITARY PROGRAM



**ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY
MILITARY OUTREACH PROGRAM**

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

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

Also, I have a few books/pamphlets left from our successful book drive, if you know anyone in your area needing any



material; Soldiers Edda and/or the Pocket Voluspa, send me an email as well!



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

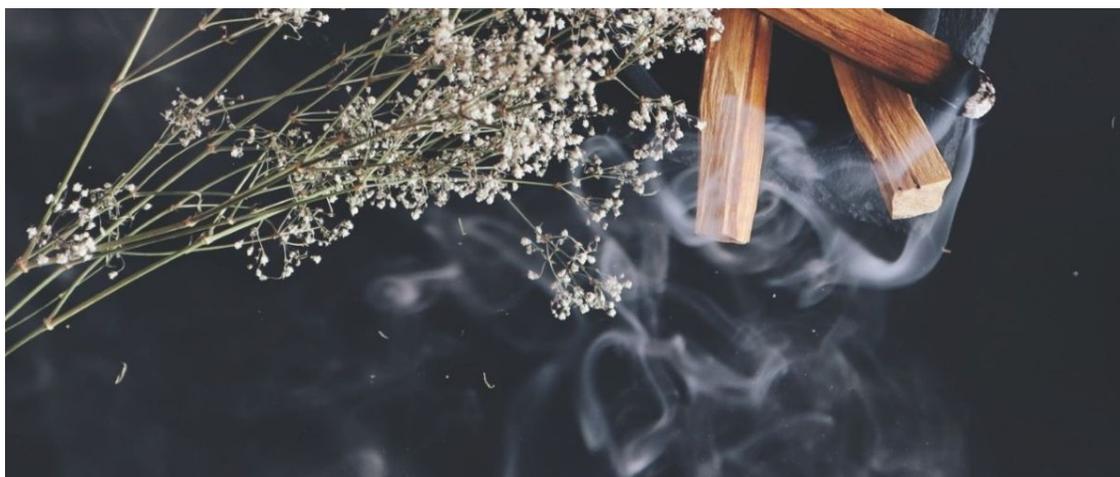
Thank you all!



Gothi Kevin Long
AFA Military Program Coordinator
klong@runestone.org

EIR'S BLESSINGS





Eir's Blessings!

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

Women, being the frith-y creatures that we are, are uniquely suited to the task of manipulating energy for the purpose of healing. Magic, you could say.

Do you have a health concern and need a little extra energy? Are you battling with a mental illness like depression or PTSD? Is your baby having a hard time with teething?

If you've answered yes at all, reach out to us!

Once a month women of the AFA will get together to preform healing rituals all across the globe. If you would like to be included, please send a message to let us know!

At the same time, Women of the AFA! If you are interested helping to create a frithful, healing magic, let us know! It's easy, but it makes a huge difference to those of our community that need our help!

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

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

In Frith!

Catie

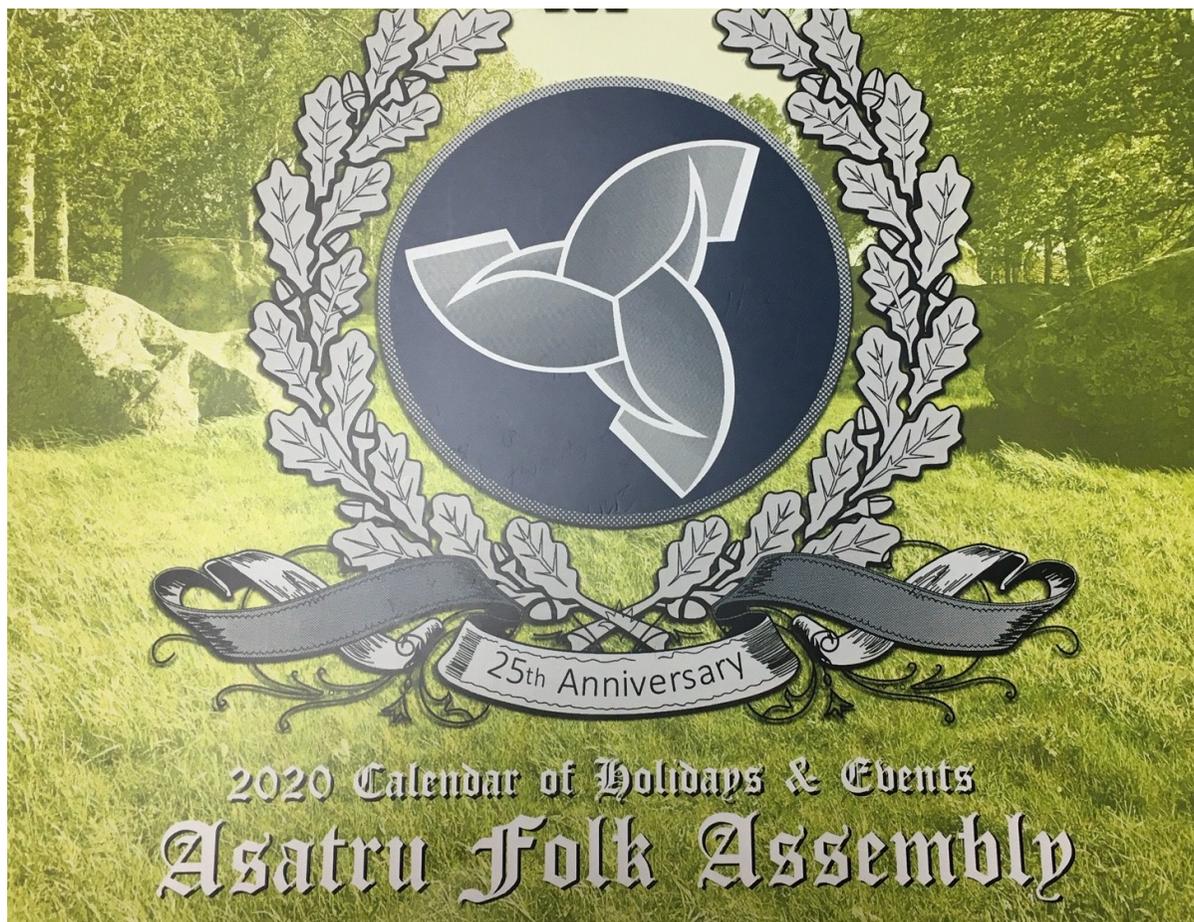


Gythia Catherine Erickson
Asatru Folk Assembly
cm.erickson@runestone.org

AFA 2020 CALENDAR

The AFA is proud to present our new
2020 Calendar

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



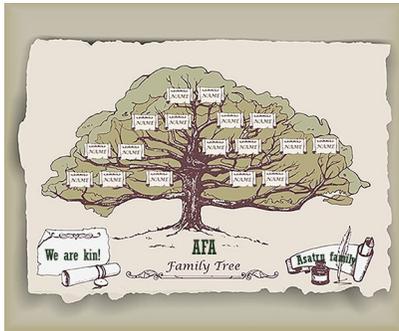
\$15

Available in the AFA store

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

AFA Genealogy Group

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



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

Come and join us!

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

Hail the Ancestors!

Steve Ingle

Genealogist/Family History Researcher

FRITHWEAVERS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER





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

(Men are welcome to subscribe, too — but don't forget to let your wives know!)

SEEKING SUBMISSIONS

Frith Weavers Monthly Newsletter is looking for submissions! We are ALWAYS looking for new submissions. We are looking for articles about health and wellness, homeschooling and child-rearing, homesteading, spirituality, recipes, and anything else you think our women would be interested. Do you have a skill or knowledge that you think could help our women grow? Share it! Please email your articles to frithweavers@runestone.org, and thank you very much!

AFA 50 AND OVER GROUP

This group is a place where AFA members 50 and over can come to support one another in facing the challenges of aging, caring for family and loved ones and exploring how over shared beliefs can help with it all.

To join the group you must be a member of the AFA in good standing. You must be 50 or older, exceptions are the AFA Witan, AFA Folkbuilders and AFA Gothar/Gythia. There is no commerical activity or soliciting in the group.

Hail the AFA!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the Gods & Goddesses!

Terry J. Rumph
AFA and over 50 Group Admin Team
tjrumph@yahoo.com

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, our publications, 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.

Folk Services

For some it may be a natural disaster. For others an unexpected change in health, and for some just an unforeseen chain of events. Whatever the case may be sometimes we find ourselves in a sticky situation, and although we try and to work and do our best to pull ourselves out, sometimes we may need the help of our Folk community to give us a hand up...



That's when our folks Services Program comes in. We give one-time monetary grants to those members in need. These folks are so grateful and we know that once they get back on track they will contribute to this fund. For those that are able, we are in need of funds so we can be prepared for when these situations arise in our community. If you're able please place a donation today. Even a small donation adds up in the grand scheme of things and even \$5 or \$10 can help if enough people pitch in. If even a fraction of the folks who

like the page did that each month, imagine the possibilities!

AFA Folk Services is intended to provide modest, one-time monetary grants to AFA members in dire need of basic services. It is also to be a source for referrals and information to help members get help beyond what the AFA can directly provide. For more information, send a private message to the [Folk Services page on Facebook](#).

Your contributions are earnestly solicited and of course are tax-deductible! Please donate to Folk Services or one of our other AFA Fundraisers at <http://www.runestone.org/donate/>.

Thanks in advance!

Baby Blanket Project



The **Women of the AFA** are proud to be continuing this fine and noble work we call the Baby Blanket Project! We're committed to ensuring all new babies born within the AFA are gifted a hand made — knit, crocheted, or woven — baby blanket! It's just our little way of celebrating each new addition to our folk!

This project has been going strong for nearly a year now, and has been a rousing success! The Ladies of the AFA have knitted, crocheted, and sewn beautiful baby blankets for over 20 of our littlest folk, with more on the way. They've been delivered everywhere from Alaska to Florida, California to Sweden!

If you are a member of the AFA who is expecting a baby, please let your Folkbuilder know so we can get a blanket to you. If you would like to contribute, either financially or by volunteering as a baby blanket crafter, let your Folkbuilder know about that as well, so he can get you in touch with the right people. It's so rewarding to see your handicraft being loved by our little heathens!

Would you like a blanket for your newborn, or to donate and help with yarn costs (yarn is expensive!)? Please notify Mandy (mandy@runestone.org) with the subject line: BABY BLANKET.

Asatru Folk Assembly Calendar of Holy and Remembrance Days

Date	Observance
January 9	Day of remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 20	Thorrablót
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 17	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olivir of Egg
March 20	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 30	Hexennacht
May 1	May Day
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric
June 21	Midsummer
July 9	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rudd Mills
August 9	Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia
August 18	Freyfaxi
September 9	Day of Remembrance for Herman of the Cherusci
September 23	Winter Finding
October 9	Day of Remembrance for Guido von List
October 20	Winter Nights
November 9	Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigrith of Sweden
November 11	Feast of the Einherjar

December 9 Day of Remembrance for Egil Skallagrimson

December 20-31 Yuletide

Volunteer for the AFA

Want to volunteer for the AFA? [Join us on facebook](#) or contact your Folkbuilder.



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Voice of the AFA*

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