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Words from the Alsherjargothi

I am proud to say, the AFA had an amazing 2020 and we finished the year strong! 2020 brought us 2 glorious hofs to Þórr and Baldur, respectively. 2020 brought us 37 beautiful AFA babies, my amazing daughter Aubrey included. December saw the addition of Andrew Johnston, Mason Johnson, Timothy Dumas, James Secola, Heather Young, and Kelsie Stafford an apprentice Folkbuilders! December also saw the recognition of Paca Mactire as the AFA's first Irish kindred! And we ended the year with a victory for Baldur and his hof in Minnesota with the granting of our conditional use permit!



do. This is an amazing time to be in the AFA and I am proud to share this moment in history with each of you. Moreover, I am excited to see what great things we can accomplish together this year!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Matthew D. Flavel

Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly

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Adam Wayne Hart

Adam Wayne Hart was born on April 12, 1991, he left Midgard on November 29, 2020. Adam has traveled to the afterlife to join the ancestors. Remembering and honoring him will be our honor. It will be our honor to preserve your memories, Adam Hart. The memories will live on with all of us, that he left behind.

Adam was a great father that was striving to be the best dad and man he could be to his 9-year-old son Gunner. He was enjoying teaching him to be a man and riding his dirt bike, although Gunner was scarred of it, he was just starting to enjoy a simple trip to the park and riding in circles, and that small accomplishment was a start, and Adam was so proud of that.

Adam was a spiritual warrior, in the truest sense and took it very seriously with high importance. His knowledge of the different European Gods and ancient architecture was very impressive. He had a deep interest in esoteric beliefs. He was very intrigued with the Parthenon, he just recently got it tattooed on his forearm. A book he suggested was a good read “Fingerprints of the Gods” written by Graham Hancock.

Adam's hobbies included bodybuilding, motorcycles, music, and nature.

"I will miss you, little brother! Keep a seat warm for me in the great halls. We've lost a great warrior!" – **Marc**

"We will be there soon with you. I will miss asking the question of what you have been up to if you have been being good with a stink eye because your nice smile and blushing cheeks always made me smile." – **Deedy**



"More than anyone you were an open ear, with a different concept on life.

Adam was the true meaning of perspective, was a guide through the rough because he knew at the end, it would be even better." – **Vincent**

"From the day I met you I could tell you marched to a different beat than most. It was a true honor to have you be part of my family." – **Chris**

"Adam was the most loving, kind, considerate, honest, handsome man I've ever had the honor of loving." – **Milena Lee**

"The ever-questioning spiritual warrior, always marching forward despite all diversity. Like the wanderer, sacrificing himself to himself for greater knowledge. Until we cross paths again brother!" – **Carl**

"Adam loved life, working out, and his motorcycle. He was faithful to his Gods and friends. He was going after the best life he could." – **Jason-Stretch**

*Man is but a handful of dust and life is a violent storm.
As in life, so in death, A man is no better and no worse
for where he is, but for what he is.*

*May this departed spirit continue its journey
Knowing that he will be greatly missed here in Midgard.*

*As the chapter closes on your life, in your honor,
Sending you our most heartfelt blessings.
May the longships guide your soul to Valhalla.*

Antonio Amadeus Salerno

AFA member Tony Salerno, age 34, died tragically on Tuesday, December 29, in San Jose, California.

Born Antonio Amadeus Salerno on July 11, 1986, in Torrance, California, Tony lived his entire life in the central part of the state. He worked as a Bail Recovery Agent – a “bounty hunter” – and took pride in the challenges and dangers of that profession.

AFA members remember him as the muscular, intense man who was always a top contender in the “Viking Games” at Odinshof. He was an inspiration to all of us who valued strength and that virtue Hemingway called “grace under pressure.” But Tony was more than that; sitting in conversation with him at Hof events revealed an intelligent and informed man who loved his Gods, his Folk, and his family.

Tony was a health and strength enthusiast long before he came to the AFA; his family ran the Prunedale Gym and Health Club when he was young and his hobbies included archery, hockey and participating in the Highland Games strongman competitions.

Tony’s striving for improvement did not stop with athletics: A note found in his wallet after his death was a list of what appear to be reminders to himself, shown here as he wrote them:

– *Constant Correct Conduct*

– *Remember what you have*

– *Grateful for the joys in my life*

– *Don’t fret*

– *This too shall pass*

He is survived by his mother and father Desiree and Guy Salerno, and his 10-year old son Jaxon Odysseus Salerno.

Friends of Tony may call Jennifer Riddle at (831) 595-2314 to make contributions in his memory, to fund a Celebration of Life at a later date. Condolences may be sent to his son at 13008 Jade Circle, Salinas CA 93906.



Óðinshof - First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

An Odinhof Yule – 2020





YULE 2020 was a glorious day, full of spiritual might as we celebrated with many rituals for our Gods and Ancestors. Winter had finally arrived after a blistering-hot summer and fall, making it all the more delightful to plan the traditionally frosty holiday for our new members and long-time friends alike. Our spacious hall was decked with fresh greenery, candles, and ornaments. The Yule tree was cut from our own land and was decorated completely by the children. Children's crafts, storytelling, genealogy, and Viking games all played a part in the day. The feasting was magnificent with turkey, ham, and every dish imaginable - and tons of dessert, of course.

Our rituals included the "Welcome to the Gods," where we made our personal introductions and invited the Holy Powers to be with us. Much later, there was a Sumbel around the bonfire. In the early evening, with darkness settling, Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel led us into the sacred circle for Blot. Matt called on the Gods of Asgard with great vigor. Then, holding a horn of mead, he made his circuit around the folk, asking each to put their own gifts to the Gods - their might, their main, their troth - into the horn, in our AFA traditional way.

Once gifts had been exchanged with the sprinkling of mead, our ritual sun wheel was

set ablaze, representing the reborn Solstice Sun. “Hail Sunna!” “Hail Odin!” “Hail Tyr!” “Hail Baldur!” Many Gods were called, and then a resounding, “Hail the AFA!” The evening also included a raffle to raise money for our hof. Ryan donated an exquisite hand-forged knife, its handle from 3500-year-old bog-oak, encased in a handmade black leather sheath. No surprise that this item was highly coveted. An auction followed, with over two dozen unique items that brought in additional funds for the maintenance of our “God-home” – Odinshof. Thank you, everyone, who contributed - we couldn't do without your generosity!

It was now time to eat, with a feast was worthy of kings of old. Turkeys, hams, side dishes, homebaked bread, and desserts galore. There was hardly room for all that our folk brought to share. Now that our bellies were full, Gythia McNallen gathered the children at the Yule tree. The crowning moment happened when bearded Papa Yule (Gothi Thorgrun Odden) stepped into the room, shaking jingle bells as part of his special magic. He wore a brown and green velvet tunic, a huge fur hat, and carried a walking stick topped with deer antlers. The northern shaman had arrived! Soon, every child had the delight of receiving a wrapped gift. From babies to elder-folk, all had felt the comfort and bliss that comes with being with family. We ARE a family. Lives would never be the same after this Yule!

A 2nd Yuletide Celebration for the Brownsville Community





Last year we began a new tradition in the Asatru Folk Assembly, after witnessing the poverty and critical needs of the families who come to our food bank each month. Remember, this is a remote corner of unincorporated Yuba County, replete with twisting mountain roads and threats of wildfires and power shut-offs. Many of the people who live here bear the burden of hardship, isolation, and despair.

In December 2019, Gythia McNallen enlisted help from AFA members and friends to gather toys for Brownsville families, knowing that winter can be a harsh time for many. We announced our Yuletide goals to the community. When the special day came, about a dozen families arrived to join our celebration. By the time they left with armloads of gifts, they'd had been offered Yuletide cheer with yummy treats, songs and stories, and a visit from Papa Yule. Such great memories, Asatru-style, had been created for those families!

In November 2020, our Alsherjargothi said it was essential for Odinhof to try to reach out as grandly as we had the previous year. Shutdowns, shelter-in-place orders, layoffs, and fear had taken a great toll on the community. Gythia McNallen took on the challenge to reach out to various agencies that typically serve the poor and the result was a resounding success.

We did it! On December 12th, we transformed our spacious hall into a toy store, with

color-coded tables for various ages. Thirty minutes early, the first car pulled in...then more and more! Due to Covid-19 mandates, families waited in their vehicles until their turn was announced to come inside and choose gifts. On the way out with their armfuls of toys, they stopped by our refreshment table to enjoy cookies and cocoa.

However, we weren't done! More toys arrived the next week. December 20th was Odinhof's crowning hurrah as we again hosted a toy giveaway to the residents of Brownsville. This time we also opened our new "Odinhof Food Pantry," offering staple goods to those who came by.

As this year comes to a close, we reflect on our accomplishments to help the community. Each month, come rain, heat, or smoke from the forest fires that plagued the area, we hosted the Yuba-Sutter USDA Food Bank. We also collected donated toys, which we distributed on December 12th and again on the 20th. It was our pleasure to help with the holiday needs of 25 families, totaling about 60 children this year. Our love and respect go out to Brownsville residents Jim and Dominique Smith, the Loma Rica LDS Church, and the United Way "Toys for Tots" program, for supporting our endeavors. We hope to do even more in 2021!

Hail the AFA!

December's Food Bank Distribution



The December 11th Yuba-Sutter/USDA food distribution went very smoothly, thanks to

some new helpers on board. Steve, Sheila, and brawny Adam (with his dog, of course) were there; plus the newest members in our region, Zack and Elisa from the Oroville area. We were all kept very busy, but thankfully, the rain held off and everything went like clockwork. Our number of people served went way up this month - double what it had been a few months ago! We served about 73 families – translating to 160 individuals. For the first time, we ran out of food!

It always brings great joy to work as a team on this. Our volunteers who typically take photos weren't with us this month, but we'll have some to show when we repeat the process on January 8th. Check the Odinshof Facebook page for that update with pictures!

The Big Picture - Reaping the Reward of our Generosity



The folks of the Brownville area are overwhelmingly good-hearted men and women. But strangers in town - which we were - often trigger rumors, misunderstanding, half-truth...and worse. It was only a matter of time before ugly rumors began to circulate, fueled by less-than-truthful troublemakers with political agendas and...to put it mildly...misinformation.

When recent falsehoods started to circulate on Brownville media, the timing was perfect to share with everyone exactly how much we had done for the community this

year. At first, a trickle, then a stream, of “likes” and comments were posted. Locals, to include people of other races and creeds – shared how we treated them not only

Tr

respectfully, but generously, with smiles and friendliness, with open hands and open hearts. Gythia McNallen has reached out to each of these fifty-or-so people. Some are interested in learning more about Asatru, but most are just ordinary Brownsville citizens, who liked us because we had contributed to the community and had treated them well.

Sounds like a win-win situation to us!

UPCOMING DATES at Odinhof

- January 8th, 10 am to noon, Yuba-Sutter Food Bank You are invited to volunteer!
- January 23rd THORRABLOT CELEBRATION Come fight the winter blues! 11 am to 9 pm



Gythia Sheila McNallen
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**Þórshof - Second Hof of the Asatru Folk
Assembly**



Early in December, Þórshof had a workday and it was a good time to get a lot done to the exterior of the buildings. Thank you to all of the gentlemen who were able to help in this endeavor. We will be having more Hof Work Days to come so if you are able to help, please get in contact with a Folkbuilder to let them know.

On December 20, 2020, started the Yule season at Þórshof. A wonder lecture by Witan Svan Herul on how to set up an Ironmark calendar, as well go through the 12 days of Yule of our tradition. On the 20th we celebrated Mother's Night with a beautiful and majestic ritual to the Goddess Frigga and the Maidens of Fensalir. After the ritual, we had a wonderful meal of different foods and drinks. We were truly blessed by those all in attendance, and honored by the words and deeds of everyone there.



Cody Raynard
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Baldurshof - Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly



December was an exciting month for our developing Hof. I am very happy to say that we were granted our conditional use permit. We are now recognized as a house of worship. This permit has put our church in the spotlight and has given us the opportunity to show our very best.

The work has continued in our HoF this month, with visible progress each work day. We

wrapped up our last workday with a thorough cleaning of the basement. It's amazing what taking out a few bags of garbage can do!

As always, there is plenty of work that still needs to be done! No experience necessary, so don't be shy. Please contact any member of the Northern Plains leadership team if you are interested in helping out!

Hail Baldur!



Gythia Anna Szczepanski
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Raud the Strong

So well-known was the hero, Raud the Strong, that his story comes to us from several Icelandic Saga's, the most common of which is the Heimskringla (The Chronicle of the Kings of Norway) by Snorri Sturluson. The story tells of a great seafaring warrior who had Thor and Seiðr on his side.

Around the year 1000 BCE, the zealous Norwegian King, Olaf Tryggvason, began an expedition to North-Norway to continue his Christianization of the pagan people. Olaf found much success in his efforts, owing largely to his brutal methods of both torturing and killing those who refused, but not all were swayed.

In Godøy, near present-day Bodø, lived the man Raud the Strong. Raud was known to have a strong connection with the Sami people, and to own a remarkable longship that was larger than any that Olaf himself owned. With a gold-plated dragon head, it is what many suppose the popular Viking longship designs are based on.

he could and lead a great assault at sea. Despite everything, however, Raud found himself overwhelmed and had to retreat from the battle. Stories say that Raud was able to Seiðr to call on the winds to speed him home safely while also blocking Olaf Tryggvason's chase.



It was all for naught, however.

Though he made it home, Raud was eventually caught by Olaf Tryggvasson. Despite the King's efforts, however, Raud refused to turn his back on his gods despite torture. In the end, he was killed when a live snake was forced down his throat. Many of Raud's men, following his example, were also killed after refusing to convert.

So, what can we learn from this story?

Some might make the argument that it is better to live another day, to fight another day. In some cases, this might be true. For every one of us sitting here reading this, however, one of our ancestors made a different choice. The choice to convert saved our lives.

For many of our ancestors, death was the best option. Which of us ever chooses to be killed in a horrible, painful way? Was death the better option? We must believe that for some, it was. For Raud the Strong, friend of Thor, it was. To convert was to turn his back on his Heritage, on his Honor, and on his Courage and a warrior and leader.

Our ancestors lived in a very different time. They lived in a world in which men and women could be killed for choosing to remain loyal to their Gods. We are exceptionally lucky that we live in a society that allows us the freedom to worship our Gods.

That very same society that allows us to worship our Gods, however, does not do so without stipulations. That society, so unlike the sort of tribal society our ancestors lived in, would tell us how to worship our Gods. They would tell us who is allowed to worship our Gods. And that society would try to harm us for choosing to do it differently than they tell us we are allowed to do it.

We don't face the same torture and death as Raud the Strong for choosing to worship our Gods our way, but we do face the possibility of ostracization from society. People, even our families, can turn their backs on us for disagreeing with the "rules" they have given us. We are not free from the effects of the multi-cultural paradigm, but we do not have to bow to it.

our backs on what we know to be Tru. We can live with Honesty, with Courage, and with Honor.

Hail Raud the Strong!



Gythia Catie Erickson
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Kindred Spotlight

Lansdale Tru Folk



was traveling hours north, east, south, and west to meet with any other Asatruar, and some of those I met with were not exactly like-minded or healthy to be around. My friend and local Folkbuilder Pat Hall was kind enough to refer to me some nearby folk, both AFA members and not. While there was no guarantee that anyone would attend, I was pleasantly surprised to find that AFA members and some "walk-ins" attended.

By August of 2014, after monthly pub moots and hike moots, a solid-enough core of Folkish Asatruar had formed so I hosted a Freyfaxi Blot and Sumbel at my home. From that point forward, AFA members and Folkish friends have gathered every month in Lansdale to honor our Holy Tides. But this still wasn't a kindred, and the tru folk in Lansdale purposefully took things slowly to make sure we knew each other well and formed organic friendships based on more than simply "also being Asatru".

At the end of 2016, the AFA started its current Kindred Program which recognizes existing and new kindreds with fully-AFA membership. The tru folk in Lansdale didn't yet meet this requirement and we were still not quite ready to swear oaths of kinship. In several years of worshipping together, some had come and some had gone. The roots were getting stronger but we weren't quite ready to blossom yet.

On Freyfaxi of 2017, the third anniversary of that first Blot together, four men swore oaths of kinship and formally adopted bylaws for the Landale Tru Folk kindred. A very important detail in these bylaws is that we are not democratic. We vote only on the admission of new members, which must be unanimous. Innangard always comes first. Prospective members must have been AFA members and regular attendees at our events for no less than one year. We do not have written rules for ancestry other than that one is of our Folk, but DNA ancestry results must be provided to be considered.

At this Freyfaxi we also adopted our flag and our banner. It is based on the Dannebrog but with the rune Nauthiz in the place of the cross.

It symbolizes the necessity of our coming together and a break from the Christian



At the end of 2018, we learned that one of our trusted kinsmen was not honest with us when he took his oath. While we were hurt and betrayed by this, because he was forthright when we confronted him and because he was our friend, we made the unanimous decision to release him of his oath. Our friendship with him ended that day, with our honor intact, and we have never seen him again. Having an established framework to deal with this awful setback made it much easier.

We are very fortunate to have a stable and growing kindred. Our three founding members -Cliff, Dan, & Kevin- have been joined in oaths of kinship by Cliff's wife and AFA Gythia Catie, by Kevin's wife Jane, and by Folkbuilder Adam. We also have many AFA friends and families who join us regularly to honor our Holy Tides.

I am so blessed to have my kinfolk in Lansdale Tru Folk. If anyone wants to check us out, please visit our Facebook page (there are pictures!) or contact Cliff, Catie, or Adam.

[Lansdale Tru Folk | Facebook](#)



Witan Clifford J. Erickson
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Charming of the Plow 2021

Hails from the Great Pacific Northwest! It is time to reserve your spot for the premier Pacific Northwest gathering – first time as an official national event of the Asatru Folk Assembly,

We will come together for three magnificent days at the base of Washington's dramatic Cascade Range – February 5-7, 2021 – to celebrate the pre-Spring festival called

Founder Steve McNallen and Alsherjarthoth Matt Flavel will lead us in ritual at this family-friendly event. Gythia Sheila McNallen will host a Ladies' Moot to honor our women, with topics related to community-building, family relationships, and the nature of our goddesses. This private lodge has a game room, two fireplaces, a gourmet kitchen and a hot tub just to name a few of the amenities! There will be powerful blóts, engaging talks, games, and a trip into Leavenworth, a Bavarian-style village, to visit the Bierstube! Beneath snowy crags and twinkling stars, we'll take part in the hustle and bustle of this popular destination. For those who love German culture - and who doesn't? - you will find traditional German fare, costumes, and music. (Did I mention the Bierstube?) Your Eventbrite ticket includes four luscious meals plus beverages, and two nights of lodging. Back at our lodge, you can cozy up around the fire, enjoy some mulled wine or tasty spirits, tell stories, and build the bonds of kinship and troth that bind us. Towels and linens are provided. Be sure to make your reservation early! Notify Joe Rozanek if you are thinking of bringing a dog. Children attend free, but we will hold an auction to help cover our expenses and to help make this first-ever national AFA event in the Pacific Northwest something we can repeat annually! Buy your tickets and reserve your spot here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/charming-of-the-plow-2021-the-premier-pacific-northwest-gathering-tickets-130573702459>

The month of January brings forth more opportunities for us to gather in Frith and Troth in the Pacific NW with a scheduled hike on the 9th both in Seattle and Mt. Hood so contact me for details. 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!

Hail the AFA!



Folkbuilder Joe Rozanek

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There is so much going on around the country right now in spite of various obstacles. Please contact your favorite Folkbuilder or Gothar if you are interested in attending the events below. The way to get the most out of your membership in the Asatru Folk Assembly is in person with your Folk!

January 22 - 24

Thorfest 2021

Colorado

<https://thorfest2021.eventbrite.com>



February 5 - 7

Charming of the Plow 2021

Washington

<https://charmingoftheplow.eventbrite.com>



March 12 - 14

Ostara at Þórshof 2021

North Carolina

<https://ostara2021.eventbrite.com>



Witan Clifford J. Erickson

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With the end of the runic year upon us; before the sun is reborn we gathered to honor

nobility and friend of Men, Viðrir- Óðinn's heir was very powerful.

We were blessed with a good turnout and made new friends while renewing frith with our kindred and old friends alike. The children enjoyed playing in the yard and took part in an ax-throwing game. There were raffles for adults and children with wonderful prizes. Nick roasted our hog again this year and with the help of his wife Pam, we had a magnificent feast. Everyone enjoyed my Great Grandmother Schehl's cinnamon rolls for dessert before we held Sumbel. After Sumbel we listened to P. D. Brown's "Ten Tales of the North" around the fire until the wood ran out.

The morning was spectacular as we held a morning prayer to the sounds of nature waking up all around us! It was an honor to oath-in the newest member of the American Crow Kindred; Nathan Cross. Taking in the flags of our kindred and the AFA we discussed the importance of this being the last event for the 25th Anniversary of the Asatru Folk Assembly and all the things that we have accomplished and what the future holds. Before we left Þórr gave us a sign he was pleased with a shower for the fruitfulness of the land and the naturally resultant prosperity of our folk from his union with Sif!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



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Europe

Sweden



Jul 2020 was a odd one but both Gautr and Hroptatyr celebrated the arrival of the new born sun with ritual and feast what we in Sweden call Julbord full of delicious dishes.

Tr



Folkbuilder Anders Nilsson

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Midwest

Ohio



Sunday, December 27th we gathered at The Old Bag of Nails in Mansfield Ohio for food and frith. We started the evening out with a discussion of our current group book, The Poetic Edda. We then went on the discuss ideas for 2021 Of gatherings and projects. We set goals and created a plan for the folk of Ohio. We had two members challenging each other to games of Chess. The food came and we delighted with good eats and conversation. We are very happy to announce the formation of The Fallen Timbers Kindred in northeast Ohio. We concluded the evening with a plan for the next two meetups and hugs goodbye. It always warms my heart to spend time with my folk and I'm always very appreciative of those who come out to spend time with us. We have a wonderful family of folk here in Ohio. We do hope more and more of our AFA family continue to come out to events and help us build an amazing community here in Ohio. Any questions about The Fallen Timbers Kindred can contact Joe Drotos or Jessica Lambert for more information.



Jessica Lambert
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Wisconsin



Greetings. As we renew our focus on building families, we have seen an amazing time of growth among the Folk of Wisconsin. Our monthly meet and greet are always held on the last Sunday of the month. We move these around the state each month to allow for more people to be able to meet each other. November's meet-and-greet was held in Green Bay at Saint Brendan's Inn. We had a wonderful turn out as we enjoyed the atmosphere of this historic Irish Pub.

For December we moved down to the southern part of the state, having lunch at Sprecher's Restaurant & Pub.

Thank you to all who came out to both events. Wisconsin will be finishing up this year and heading into the new one with our family who make this all possible.

Beyond the monthly meet and greet on the last Sunday of the month, Wisconsin has many other opportunities to get together and meet the Folk. We participate in Odin's World Prayer Day on the 9th of the month, Wotan on the Peak, crafting days, and various other opportunities to build frith among our Wisconsin Folk. This month we also saw the placing of our "Adopt a Highway" sign for the Asatru Folk Assembly and as spring rolls around, we will be having a day of cleaning for the community. So many

Reflecting on the abundance of growth among the Wisconsin AFA Folk this year has me in awe. Our focus is on the family. Coming together for spiritual growth through knowledge and bonding. Going into the new year we will keep the same focus and expand on it. We will be moving the Moots away from bars and restaurants, choosing instead family-friendly outings, learning experiences, and team bonding type activities. Everything from bowling, ice skating, and zip-lining, to escape rooms, murder mysteries, and museums. We encourage members to bring spouses, significant others, and especially your children.



I want to personally thank every member that made this year what it was for the Wisconsin AFA Folk!

We are future ancestors.

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



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Heimdall's Midgard Kindred

Greetings from Indiana,

Michigan and Illinois are coming right along as well. We'll see what they have to say in their posts. Lookout 2021, the Midwest is coming at you full speed!

This month Heimdall's Midgard celebrated Yule at one of our member's houses. We covered Stav exercises, made some traditional food taken from a member's ancestor's recipe (that was delicious), handed out gifts, and discussed the Yule Season and plans for the coming year. Since we meet face to face once a month we have added discussions for the month's respective Day of Remembrance to our meetings followed by AFAs blot for the month. This month, Egil Skallagrimsson discussion and a Mother Night Blót. Also, we started covering the Study Havamal in our weekly Study Group.



We have plans for renting a cabin in South-Eastern Indiana on Jan 30th if anyone is interested in attending please let me know so we can plan for it. There will be a potluck, discussion on Raud the Strong, a Thorrablót, and Sumbal. These moots are held every month regardless of covid related situations. We don't need the restaurants to get together or any other place that wants to shut down or limit guests. Just some food for thought: Make it happen!

Our Monthly Midwest Conference Call will be on January 9th at 7 pm CST / 8 pm EST. If you don't have the number and the access code please contact me and I'll

on in your neck of the woods. These calls are always held on the 2nd Sunday of the month at the same time. We would like more people to participate in this as 2021 is filled with activities and events.

On behalf of Heimdall's Midgard Kindred, we wish all of our Asa-Folk and wonderful and Happy New Year. Until next time...

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Folkbuilder Zach Cato
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Northeast

Stoneship Hearth





The Stoneship Hearth held our Mother Night, Winter Solstice celebratory feast at the home of Northeast apprentice Folkbuilder George Schindler.

The day began very early for Mr. Schindler. He rose at 4:30 AM and began tidying up the house for the anticipated day of Frith and fellowship. It wasn't long before the sweet smell of the Slow cooking Spiral Ham filled the air. As he checked the myriad bullet points off his list of things to complete, George pondered the deep meaning of what this Yuletide meant to him and his family; what it means to his Kindred.

The Chieftain of our AFA Kindred arrived earlier than most, despite the snow and 100-mile drive, and contributed by setting up our indoor ritual area. After the area was adorned in spiritual regalia the feast began. The entire meal was a potluck dinner and our friends and guests didn't disappoint. Wild Boar mixed in delicious shallot potatoes were made by our honorable chieftain Derrick. The main dish, after cooking for three and a half hours, was described simply as Ham candy. Mission accomplished!

Our guests brought a variety of delectable side dishes as well as a myriad of taste shattering Meads.

We sat down and feasted together while watching the movie "Valhalla Rising". Maybe not the most appetizing of epics to enjoy while dining, but our folk handled it quite well. Everyone had a different viewing experience and perspective of the saga of Ol' One Eye. We discussed how we should approach the next 12 days and exactly how much each passing month effected and affected each other's lives.

After enjoying each other's company we prepared for our Blot. The rite was conducted by George Schindler and the high holy ones were evoked and their gifts invoked by all celebrants. Gifts were exchanged and memories shared. After Blot we rejoined in the living room and participated in a group Rune Pull. This was a very interesting and enlightening spiritual moment which was greatly enjoyed by all. As usual, time flies by when folk gathers as one. We made future plans to continue our collective. Plans to strengthen our local region. After all, is said and done, it is incumbent upon all of us Tru Folk to advance our Declaration of Purpose; the advancement of our Ásatrú Folk Assembly. Always remember that WE made an oath when we said yes to the AFA. An oath to promote the awakening and preservation of our people! Our culture our way! Nothing is more important.



THE STONESHIP HEARTH
OF
THE ÁSATRÚ FOLK ASSEMBLY

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



Lansdale Tru Folk





I hope everyone had a great Yule. I'm sure everyone also enjoyed taking a step back from some responsibilities and just enjoy family and friends as they should this special time of year. For me, it was also a time for reflection. Looking at what I did well during the year and also what I didn't. There is always room for improvement and sometimes we learn when we fail more so than when we win. So it's kind of still a win correct? It's just the perspective that counts. Always remaining positive in whatever challenges we face and continuously learning from them. With this kind of knowledge about ourselves, my hopes are everyone took the time to think ahead and chart a course for success for their families, themselves, and the AFA moving forward into 2021.

This month I had the honor of attending two special events. The first up was a Wotan on the Peaks hike in the Catskill Mountains. A fellow member and I awoke very early that day to make the 4-hour trip and be there for a 9:00 am start-time. We arrived on

snow in our boots and gloves. It was not easy. We learned quickly the importance of continuing to keep moving. When we stopped everything froze. In the end, the challenge was all worth it once to the top. The sun finally was upon us and we did what we set out to do to hold Blot to Allfather. All went well as we said what we needed to. Enjoying the views for a brief time it was now time to head down. I must admit the trip down was much easier. We made it back before dark and went our separate ways till the next time. Also, I will add there certainly will be the next time at this location. A truly beautiful place.

The second was Yule in Lansdale and many attended. We just keep growing! Many of us were really looking forward to this. A time to be with our AFA family. We spent some time catching up on things in our lives. Laughing and taking in every moment of the night. A beautiful Blot was held by Gythia Erickson. We took some time to write on a piece of paper the things we would Will to do going forward and galdered Othala as we made our way to set the Yule log in the fireplace. I hope we all attain those messages wrote! Soon after we ate and were all grateful for the hard work the women put into that meal. As it was now late into the night it was time for Sumbel. Words of reverence, honor, and love were said over the horn as another great year ended with the Lansdale Tru Folk. I will also add so many are thankful for the work the Erickson's do in our area. I often wonder how things would be without them and all they do. Where would we be? Who would help guide us? Not easy shoes to fill and we would not be where we are. We are all so very lucky and they have touched the lives of so many. We do not forget it and we thank you! Hail the Ericksons!

Coming up: Wotan on the Peaks, January 10th the Pinnacle, Hamburg PA. One year anniversary for myself doing these hikes and no place better than to go back to where it all started. Look forward to seeing you there!



Folkbuilder Adam Hudak
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Northern Blood Kindred





This month was a little quiet. We continued our workdays at Baldurshof. Much was accomplished and we are getting closer to the home stretch. On Mothers' Night, Northern Blood Kindred gathered for a small Blót to welcome in the Yuletide season.

More workdays are scheduled for the new year and won't be long before we have the dedication. If you are interested in coming out and helping please contact me or Folkbuilder Brandy Callahan or Gythia Anna Mae.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!



Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher

jgallagher@runestone.org

South Central



The South Central group gathered for one event on the 19th of December in honor of growing friendships and community faith. We gathered at a German Bierhaus in New Braunfels, Texas, where we enjoyed some fantastic German food and beer. We met some new folk, who are considering joining the AFA. Texas is still growing and I think

Unfortunately, our formal Yule celebration had to be canceled due to some environmental concerns but we will gather again on the 9th of January for a Post-Yule celebration and on the 30th of January for Thorrablot! On the 27th of December, we teamed up with Folkbuilder Melisa Mills and hosted an event on Zoom in order to build greater frith amongst our regions since we are all so far apart from one another.

Hopefully, we can continue with that project in the future. The South Central Region is waxing stronger than ever and building some lifelong friendships in the process.

Hail the AFA South Central Folk!

Hail the Texas Doers!

Hail the Gods and Goddesses!



Lori Wadsworth
Apprentice Folkbuilder
lwadsworth@runestone.org

Pen Pal Group

In December 2020, the AFA started a Pen Pal group!

If you would like to participate in this amazing endeavor and connect with different people from all across the world, please send an email to Apprentice Folkbuilder Cody Raynard with your name and address, and we will get you set up with a pen pal to converse with.



Cody Raynard



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**.

The AFA Youth Program is now halfway through a very successful year! We had high hopes when this program started in January and the kids have surpassed all of our expectations and goals. Our youth have been working on monthly assignments and fun projects centered around Lore, Days of Remembrance, Holidays, AFA Culture, and monthly themes based on the Nine Noble Virtues.



Registration for the Youth Program is open year-round and open youth ages 6 to 18. Our program is currently e-mail based. Parents receive their assignments through e-mail on the first of each month. The Youth Program is free and open to all of our AFA families!

If you are interested in registering your child for the AFA Youth Program, send an e-mail to youth@runestone.org to get started.

Folk Services

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

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



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

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

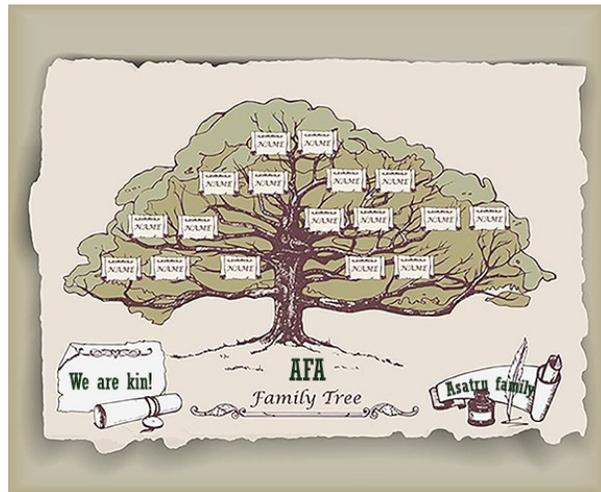
Thanks in advance!

Genealogy Group

This is a place for AFA Members to discuss genealogy, family history research, and share tips and information related to genealogy. Rules here are simple: Keep your posts to the subject matter of this group, keep it friendly, have fun.

Every month, Steven Ingle publishes a spreadsheet listing all participants with their cousin matches. Yes, we all have cousin matches in the AFA, some closer than others. This is open to our greater family tree and is not just for members in the U.S.

What if you're brand new to all of this? First, you will need to have your DNA tested through one of the companies like Ancestry DNA or 23andme. We will give you instructions on what to do when you get your results. What if you're not on Facebook but still want to participate? When your DNA is tested, and you get results, you can create a Gedmatch kit number, Send that kit number to Sheila and we'll run it in the next batch. She will send you the results of your analysis. You too will say, "Oh, my Gods! Wow! Incredible! and "Hey, there Cousin!"



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. There is no commercial activity or soliciting in the group.

Eir's Blessings

Everybody needs a little extra help sometimes. Women, being the frithy creatures that we are, are uniquely suited to the task of manipulating energy for the purpose of healing. Magic, you could say.

Do you have a health concern and need a little extra energy? Are you battling with a mental illness like depression or PTSD? Is your baby having a hard time with teething? If you've answered yes at all, reach out to us. Once a month women of the AFA will get together to perform healing rituals all across the globe. If you would like to be included, please send a message to let us know!



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

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

Photo Donations

we have a real need for hi-res photographs of our members' gathering, being active in their kindreds, and showing what it means to live Asatru. If you are willing to donate some hi-res photos for use in promotions such as the AFA Calendar, the AFA website, our publications, and more please email them to photos@runestone.org. The larger the resolution the better, so please email them from the device where the photo was taken.



Remembrance & Holy Days

2021

Date	Observance
January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 23	Porrablót
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 20	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olvir of Egg
March 20	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 17	Hexennacht
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
May 22	May Day
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric of the Goths
June 20	Midsummer
July 1	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills
July 17	Sigrblót
August 9	Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia
August 21	Freyfaxi
September 9	Day of Remembrance for Prince Hermann of the Cherusci
September 22	Winter Finding
October 9	Day of Remembrance for Meister Guido von List
October 15	Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen

Date	Observance	Tradition
October 16	Winter Nights	
November 9	Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigríð of Sweden	
November 11	Feast of the Einherjar	
December 9	Day of Remembrance for Egill Skallagrímsson	
December 20	Mother's Night	
December 21-31	Yuletide	

Volunteer for the AFA

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



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