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## Words from the Alsherjargothi

I would like to start July off by saying how truly honored I am to be sharing this historic time with all of you. June was a groundbreaking month for the Asatru Folk Assembly.

In case you have not heard the news, I am proud to announce the establishment of Baldurshof: Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly! This is the SECOND hof we have established in 2020. Baldurshof is a magnificent 120-year-old building in Murdock Minnesota. Special thanks go to Lawspeaker Allen Turnage and Gothar Coordinator Blaine Qualls for making this amazing hof a reality.

In addition, June saw the largest attendance yet for any AFA event as 142 members of our AFA family gathered to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Asatru Folk Assembly. This fantastic event saw the dedication and first interment in the Óðinshof cemetery. At Midsummer, we also saw the elevation of Gothi Svan Herul to the AFA Witan.

These are exhilarating times for Asatru and we are all very blessed to be a part of this great

age. I look forward to seeing you all at the  
Dedication of Þórshof, the 18th of this

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month, and for the Dedication of  
Baldurshof in November.



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



Matthew D. Flavel  
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly  
[mattflavel@runestone.org](mailto:mattflavel@runestone.org)

## Burial of Bekah Thompson-Roth



From the “Heimskringla”

*Olaf Geirstad was a son of Harald Fairhair and he was venerated as an Elf after his death. He was buried in a mound. They opened the mound so he could be reborn.*



I am writing this so as to show that the belief of reincarnation, (a modern English word) was a part of our ancestors' beliefs. I also believe that the term Elf refers to the spirit or soul of a departed person to the Otherworld.

I want to thank everyone that witnessed the first burial in the New World at Odinshof in our new sanctified burial Ground. We are reinstating our ancient customs and spiritual Way.

Bekah Thompson-Roth left this world at the young age of 38 years. She suffered from JRA a form of arthritis, debilitating disease since she was 15 months old. She had many operations for joint repair and damage. I have my theory that the MMR shot at around 15

She made a life that was good, she made it that way. She was a strong woman and a loving mother.

From a song by Willy Nelson, words that speak the truth.

*You don't get over it, you get through it.*

Rebekah Thompson-Roth was the daughter of Gothi Thorgrun Thompson-Odden and Katie Thompson.



In loving memory.



Gothi, Daddy, and Grandpa Thorgrun Odden  
[todden@runestone.org](mailto:todden@runestone.org)

## Gothar Student Class

Every year our Gothar training course is opened up for new applicants. This year was a bit different in that we changed the requirements for admission to include that you must now be a Folkbuilder of the AFA before applying. This step was taken to ensure that the dedication and loyalty of each student were beyond question. As always we strive to maintain the highest degree of excellence possible with our student cadre, which affords us the best chance of forging Gothar worthy of the title and worthy of our amazing membership. This year's student class is:

Trent East  
Cliff Erickson  
Brandy Callahan  
Daniel Young  
Joe Rozanek  
Jason Plourde

These men and women are deserving of recognition for stepping forward to give even more back to our Gods and our Folk. Perhaps in a year or two, they will be deserving of our congratulations until then we wish them the best of luck.

Praise the ice once it is crossed!



Gothar Coordinator Blaine Qualls  
[bqualls@runestone.org](mailto:bqualls@runestone.org)

## Óðinshof - First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

### Midsummer at Óðinshof Celebrating the First 25 Years of the Asatru Folk Assembly

It was the AFA's largest gathering to date, and in spite of the strange times we live in, and assorted “what if” scenarios, it was simply amazing.

Actually, that's an understatement. From the time we began on Friday to our close on Sunday, you could sense the spiritual energy. Knowing the importance of this event, people arrived earlier than usual, so the circle for our “Greeting the Gods” ritual was already crowded. After that came “Genealogy – Honor your Ancestors” with Steven Ingle and Mead-making with Mike Wilde and Ryan Harlan.

Then came the dedication of our Odinshof Cemetery by Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel. Imagine

Worlds, never before  
witnessed here in Vinland, or  
anywhere in Midgard for  
that matter, in many  
hundreds of years! Then  
Gothi Thorgun Odden  
stepped forward and spoke  
of his beloved daughter  
Beckah, whose ashes were  
gently placed into the soil of  
our sacred site by Gythias  
Anna and Sheila. Not a single person left until the last shovel-full of soil was back in place.

After our hearty dinner, we stayed in the hall for two evening talks. The first was "Ascending Afterwards" by Anna Funk, followed by "Immortality – Say Yes to Life!" by Stephen McNallen. By nightfall, with torches lit and fire burning right, we circled into the ritual space, and then circled again, and yet a third time, so we could include everyone in the circle! So many faces, hands, and hearts offering troth to Odin! Odin's might was brought forth through the booming call and response led by our Alsherjargothi Matt. A wonderful sense of expectation came as we reentered the Hof, transformed into a ritual hall worthy of Beowulf and the stories of old! In the hall, lit only by candlelight, seventy or more folk were each handed the magnificent drinking horn - to honor a god...remember a loved one... make a toast...give a word of thanks. As we put closure to the first day of our 25th-anniversary celebration, the might of the Holy Powers was resounding in each of us.

Every meal calls for a food blessing, so after this was done, the men went outdoors to hear the words of our Gothi and Lawspeaker, Allen Turnage give a talk he called "Remaining Men Together." The women gathered in the hall where Anna Funk, Katie Allen, and Sheila McNallen, representing our Gothar, spoke to the women about AFA traditions, our connection with the Divine, and how we are all "living history" day by day. Gathering around several tables laden with flowers and ribbons, the women created their wreaths which they wore throughout the day.

By this time, the Viking Games were well underway with lots of hooting and hollering and masculine enthusiasm, as boulder-tossing, (massive) stone carrying for distance, and a mighty tug-a-war brought forth glee from men of might!

Later, back to the theme of the gathering, Matt Flavel gave an after-lunch talk on the

Svan's Midsummer ritual honoring Baldur, the shining son of Odin, beloved by all (except, of course, Loki!). As Svan began the hammer-warding, we knew we were in sacred space!. A giant sun wheel was brought forth, covered with golden ribbons inscribed by each of us, and then offered into the fire. Finally, our smaller sun wheel was set ablaze. The scintillating power of Sunna at Her zenith was felt among us as we filed, filled with numinous might, out of the circle.

Transitioning to lighter activities, our children enjoyed the new swing set, while adults checked out the vendors and the items that would be up for auction later. By mid-afternoon, though, the presentation “Travels Through Time” by the McNallens drew people back into the hall, where Steve and Sheila narrated a slideshow covering the entire twenty-five-year journey of the AFA - heartaches and high points, agony and ecstasy, trials and, eventually, triumph! The presentation ended with the classic “Newgrange Hal” video made for the Indiegogo fundraiser in 2015, showing just how far we had come!

We weren't done, though. Gothi Svan is also the designated leader of our new hof in Linden, North Carolina, now called Thorshof. We were able to present a slideshow of this 1875 historic site, using pictures taken during a recent work weekend. Svan was able to describe the beauty and potential of our new hof, which will be dedicated July 18th. When Svan and others first visited Thorsof in early March, they were intrigued by a lone broken headstone that was barely readable. It was a single grave, though there is a large, well-kept cemetery across the road. What did this mean? Who was buried here, and why? Steve Ingle and Sheila McNallen began research on this presumed man, Philip Bethea. This resulted in two huge binders of information about Philip's ancestors and descendants. These were formally presented, with great applause, to Matt Flavel and Svan Herul for return to Linden, NC.

After dinner, Marc MacLeod and Matt Flavel presented the “Folkbuilder of the Year” medal to Sheila McNallen. The 25th Anniversary commemorative cake, along with ice cream and glasses of champagne, was passed out in celebration of this unique occasion... And now it

Harlan family. The auctioneer was our quick-witted Lawspeaker, Allen Turnage, who was adept at getting people to open their wallets for a good cause. Support was outstanding and brought more money to Odinshof than any previous auction, good news since we'll be making major roof repairs starting this month.

Mid-morning on Sunday, we again filed into the ritual circle for our Wayfaer's Blot – still 60 or so people strong. The parents of little Alice Shelton asked that Gothi Matt perform a baby blessing for Alice, as she had not been able to have the usual Baby-Naming (Ausa Vatni) when she was born. During blot in Midsummer 2019, we had been told of Baby's Alice's health issues and her hospitalization, due to complications from Down's Syndrome. Finally, a year later, we were able to celebrate with this little one-year-old who has come such a long way!

Gythia Ann Funk led us in the Wayfarer blot in an energy-raising rune galdering. Blessings were offered and received. Truly, the Holy Powers had truly been with us! Safe travels ensued, and all returned home happy and healthy.

### **Upcoming Events at Óðinshof**

Information will be posted on Facebook and sent out via email

- July 25 SommarFest
- August 22 Freyfaxi
- September 21 Winter Finding
- October 24 Winter Nights
- November 14 Feast of the Einherjar December 19 Yule – Mother's Night

Gythia Sheila McNallen

[sheila@runestone.org](mailto:sheila@runestone.org)



## Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills

This month we have set aside the 9th of July to honor Alexander Rud Mills. A pioneer of the modern reawakening of our ancestral ways. Alexander was born on July 15th, 1885 in Forth, Tasmania. Rud, as he preferred to be called, was the only boy out of 7 children. As a young man, he moved to Victoria Australia in order to attend law school and subsequently become a barrister, or lawyer. In the 1920's Rud "found" Odinism and began to try to convert others to his new ideas. By the 1930s Rud had created "The Anglecyn Church of Odin" and by some accounts had upwards of 120 attendees to his regular Thursday night celebrations.

The onset of World War II had Rud advocating a non-aggression policy for Australia. His ideas were frowned upon by the government of Australia and Mills found himself incarcerated in a prison camp for roughly 7 months along with some of the other Odinists of the time. Mills was incarcerated without proof of any wrongdoing or participating in any nefarious goings-on.

Upon his release Mills sought to revive the Odinist movement in Australia, but many understood that a part of why he was interred was because of his "exotic" religious beliefs. A great many Christian pacifists and neutrality seekers were never bothered by the Australian government. His church of Odin did continue on, but in a much more secretive role and never quite attained the same stature it had once held.

Mills passed away on the 8th of April, 1964. He left behind him a legacy that would reverberate across time and space. Sometime after his passing Else Christensen would be inspired by his writings to found the Odinist Fellowship in Canada. Rud Mills' writings are not always an easy read, comparing his thoughts to our understandings now is a tricky venture. We would do well to remember that what he was creating then and there was completely new, he couldn't run down to a book store and grab the latest Odinism 101 book, there was no internet, there was only research and personal understanding. What Mills manifested there in Australia was the true beginning of our glorious revival, he gave to us a

Hail Rud Mills!



Gothi Blaine Qualls

[bqualls@runestone.org](mailto:bqualls@runestone.org)

## Kindred Spotlight

### Vinland Volk Kindred of Vancouver

In this month's Kindred spotlight the AFA would like to recognize and honor the Vinland Volk Kindred of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. These folks have been going strong for over a year. The Vinland Volk is just another shining example of our folk putting in the time and energy and hard work.

Emily Fehr, Kindred Leader wrote the following quick summary of the Vinland Volk-

*Hail from the Vinland Volk kindred up here in BC, Canada!*

*We are a fairly new kindred officially, but it feels like we've come a long way together already. We try to schedule a rune study and kindred dinner once a month and celebrate holidays together. Despite our busy schedules we really cherish the time we get to spend with one another, as it strengthens our bonds and our connection to our Gods. Watching our children play and grow together is heartwarming, special, and rewarding beyond words. We are all grateful to have this small community we've carved out for ourselves, and we welcome new faces who wish to be apart of what we've started.*

Thank you Vinland Volk for everything you do and for all the hard work you put in.

Hail the Vinland Volk!

Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher  
AFA Kindred Coordinator  
[jgallagher@runestone.org](mailto:jgallagher@runestone.org)

## Upcoming Events

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

July 18

Dedication Of Þórshof

Þórshof: Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

North Carolina

September 4 - 6

AFA Fallfest V

Minnesota

October 16 - 18

AFA Winter Nights in the Poconos 2020

Pennsylvania

November 21

Baldurshof Dedication

Baldurshof: Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Minnesota

February 5 - 7

Ves Heill!

Witan Clifford J. Erickson  
[cerickson@runestone.org](mailto:cerickson@runestone.org)

## Deep South

### American Crow Kindred, Florida

A wonderful time was had at our Central Florida Midsummer. We made offerings to Baldur, so handsome, gracious, and cheerful he's called the Shining Day. We asked that he continue to bless us and guide us to be our best selves. While blessing the horn a Great White Heron flew before the spot we made sacred and throughout the blot the crows called as if to participate in the ritual held by their namesake's kindred.

We enjoyed fine food and renewed frith with old friends drinking from the cup of brotherhood. We also created bonds with new friends and enjoyed the company of the next generation growing up in the faith of our ancestors.

Kari Roberts won the raffle for Bryan Wilton's book 'The Divine Feminine in Asatru'.

We were finally able to perform the long overdue oathing of our members to the American Crow Kindred.

Our Deep South family continues to prosper with Discipline, Industriousness, and Perseverance; Scott Richards passed his Residential Plumbing, Mechanical, and Building Inspector exams with only Electrical remaining. Nick McCloskey continues to grow his business expanding existing contracts with a large aerospace company and adding fabrication for dental implants to his company's repertoire. Michael Rivers also started a new job this month.

The Deep South welcomed four new members and one returning member home in June.

Lane Ashby  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[lashby@runestone.org](mailto:lashby@runestone.org)

## Europe

### Ireland

AFA members in Ireland gathered for a Midsummer ritual which was performed at the exact moment of the solar eclipse on the summer solstice, June 21st. Fiona & Allister Aedgar and Estella Veland took part in the ritual which we performed at Beaghmore Stone circle in Country Tyrone, Northern Ireland, honouring Baldur. Beaghmore is a bronze age site

Fiona Aedgar  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[faedgar@runestone.org](mailto:faedgar@runestone.org)

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## Sweden

As we all know this was not a summer solstice celebrated as normal well nothing is as normal this year so we decided to do the blots separately.

Gautr kindred and Hroptatyr kindred made offerings and ritual to a sun that is now leaving us it always feels strange to take farewell to the light on the brightest day. In the parts of Sweden where most of us live we don't have the midnight sun but it's almost light all night on this day and nature is in full bloom.

Hail Sunna!  
Hail Balder!  
Hail the AFA!

Folkbuilder Anders Nilsson  
[anilsson@runestone.org](mailto:anilsson@runestone.org)

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In Wisconsin on May 31st, I hosted a picnic in the park for members and future members of the AFA. The purpose was to begin to bring our Folk within this State together to get to know each other and build a future. There was an impressive turnout of 16 people. After some delicious food was shared, I sat down to share the vision I have for the State and encourage everyone to contribute ideas on how to continue growth. It was encouraging to hear everyone on the same page, sharing ideas.

Each month there will be a meet and greet on the last Sunday of the month. We will be moving the location around the state each time to include members who may not have access to travel that far from their homes. There is a couple who are working on setting up a weekly or monthly book study in their home. We are making plans for a hike up a mountain in Wisconsin to join in on Wotan on the Peaks. We also will be setting up various field trips around the State to learn about the rich history our Ancestors brought to this area. Wisconsin is growing!

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

James Ault  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[jault@runestone.org](mailto:jault@runestone.org)

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### Heimdall's Midgard Kindred

We have been as productive as we can be due to this year's circumstances. Indiana and Wisconsin have opened most places up to where we can gather regularly but the other states are still somewhat at odds with opening public places back up. That is not our fault and we

Heimdall's Midgard Kindred planned our usual camping at the end of the month. The weather said that it would be nothing but storms. We camped anyway with a "rain or shine" attitude. Friday we set up the camp and all was fine. Saturday the weather tried to scare us away (as it did some of our camp neighbors). We watched others scatter and we pretty well had the place to ourselves after that. With the rain arriving, I had some rope, another had a tarp and we all worked together to make things the best we could. Sunday all was fair weather. One memorable weekend!

With that, a wise man once told me that sometimes disturbances that interfere with your comfort often bring comradery to those involved that they may not have had happened if they hadn't shared the experience together. Such was our weekend.

From last Midsummer to this year's our numbers have doubled. I couldn't be happier with Heimdall's Midgard. And we've seen that most of the time that we plan things that the weather wants to tell us storms are coming. But, we go anyway and those storms usually wander around us.

We are working as much as possible to get those in the states of the Midwest unopened to be able to connect with their folk. And, if you're in the states of the Midwest that aren't active, we Folkbuilders are reaching out to all of our members to do what we can for you.

We will have a Midwest Conference Call on July 5th. I will send the info to all AFA Midwest members through email and other media. Those in other regions of the AFA are welcome to attend as well. Just contact me and I'll send you the details.

Many of us are making the journey to the dedication of Thor's Hof. If you would like to be involved contact me and we may be able to fix you up with a carpool going in the same direction. This is an amazing time in the history of the AFA and Asatru in general. Hail the AFA!

All of our Regional states are planning for events for July and August, and beyond. You will be contacted by myself and/or Ben, James or your state representatives. Things have been a bit slow but they are picking up. If you want to be involved reach out. We will be reaching out to you as well.

It has been a strange year for us all but just as we know the Sun was at its height during Midsummer and will be it's lowest at Yule, it will return! Things will get better, even if it gets worse first! Let's use this friction to light the need-fire that our Folk truly needs. Baldur was



your heads up, we will prevail! We have most of the best minds, bodies, and souls in the  
AFA! Let us be proud of it and use it successfully. Until next time...

Zach Cato  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[zcato@runestone.org](mailto:zcato@runestone.org)

## Northeast

In this strange year with all of its ups and downs we have experienced I'm sure everyone has a newfound sense of purpose, direction, and desire now. Passion has ignited more than ever. We all know without a doubt what our purpose is. Also why we joined the ranks of the Asatru Folk Assembly, to begin with. No need in ever questioning that again after what we have seen going on around us up to this point. Nonetheless, let's use this current energy inside ourselves moving us forward to ever greater heights.

The first event we held was another Wotan on the Peaks hike. We once again decided to go somewhere different. Unfortunately, our phone service went out and we could not find the exact location where we wanted to go. It didn't deter us and we found a state games land entrance and decided to take a chance. The trail ended quite quickly and soon enough we were trudging thru the Pennsylvania woods as our ancestors would have. It would have been very easy to get lost out there but, fortunately, one of our

and laughs kept us going.

We finally made it to the top and found a good place to do what we set out to, perform our sacred duty our Wisdom Giver. We took some time to clear our thoughts before we began. We also knew this particular occasion meant slightly more than in the past with all that is happening to our lost Folk. May our High Gods spirit awaken in them once more. May they stand up with pride and find the lost memory of who they once were, who they are now, and what they can become. When everything was complete we took more time to discuss our lives and the good gained from walking the path that we have been chosen for. It was now time to head down. We took a different way hoping to not get too lost with only the compass as our guide. With almost military precision we landed within a quarter-mile of our cars. Our wandering in the woods was complete that day and a sense of accomplishment was felt. Thank you to all who attended that day.

The second was our Midsummer celebration. A long-awaited get together for our kindred the Lansdale Tru Folk. It had been since early February since we had seen each other last. With good friends as we know even if the path is long and arduous the journey seems easy in the end. We caught up on all that has gone on in our lives this year, one of our newest members got to meet everyone, and possibly the most important we watched future little AFA members playing in the yard. Our Warrior God, The Thunderer made himself very present that afternoon but, when it came time for our Midsummer ritual honoring Sunna he let off just enough so we could give her thanks for the warmth we feel now and all the beauty around us. Even when the rain returned the sun cross burned bright not only in what we could see but, in our hearts as well. When finished we ate. It was some of the best homemade German food we have had in some time. The night finished with a number. We gave good words and raised the horn high to our Heroic Gods and Goddesses, our Heroic Ancestors, and anyone else we felt needed mentioning. The night ended and with that, we felt rejuvenated once more being together. Thankful for having the ones that came before us and putting in the work so that we can have these moments now. One day we too will be looked





Adam Hudak  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[ahudak@runestone.org](mailto:ahudak@runestone.org)

## Announcing the Birth of Alice Emma Erickson



On June 16th, at 5:25 pm Clifford and Catie Erickson welcomed the birth of their daughter, Alice Emma Erickson. Alice measured in at very healthy 21 inches long and 7 lbs, 14 ounces. Her parents and newly appointed big brother were overjoyed to finally hold their bundle of joy.

Alice Emma was named first for her Maternal Great-grandmother, Mary Alice McBrady, who was the much-loved matriarch of her family. She was named second for her Paternal Great-great-grandmother Emma Erickson, who raised 15 children to adulthood on a Norwegian-speaking farm in South Dakota.

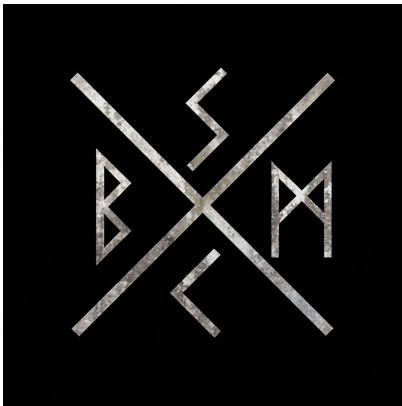


Eoghan is very excited to introduce his new baby sister to all of his AFA friends and family!



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## Black Market Strength and Conditioning



AFA Member Michael "Doc" Brown, NRP  
Owner, *Black Market Strength and Conditioning LLC*  
Cell: 267.269.9536  
Email: [doc.blackmarketsc@gmail.com](mailto:doc.blackmarketsc@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://www.blackmarketstrength.com>

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## The Asatru Gathering Place

Join AFA Member Rosemarie Osborn every Wednesday at 8 pm Eastern for a weekly live broadcast paying homage to our Gods, Goddesses, and Ancestors. Rosemarie hopes to have people participate and help reach the broader masses of our folk with the message that our Gods and Goddesses are alive and well!

Call in live each Wednesday at 8 pm Eastern at (605) 313-5111 access code 312384.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

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Hail the AFA!



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### AFA Northeast Call

Monthly call to keep up on AFA goings-on and to keep in touch with our Folk. This meeting recurs every month on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time. Dial-in: 716-273-1030 PIN: 978 3145#

Ves Heill!

Witan Clifford J. Erickson

[cerickson@runestone.org](mailto:cerickson@runestone.org)

**Northern Plains**

**Northern Blood Kindred**



Summer is here and our Folk is out and about again going to and hosting events. We have been busy between going to Midsummer at Odinshof and hosting our local event 4th Annual Folkish Family Midsummer. This was a great event we had Blaine and the Ulfhednar Clan come from North Dakota. And Apprentice Folkbuilder James Ault and his fiancé Sara drove 5 plus hours from Wisconsin and back to attend this.

We are very grateful for Baldurshof third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly located in Murdock, MN. Now the Northern Plains and our AFA Family have a place for fellowship and place to celebrate the Holy Days. We will be posting a schedule soon for workdays to get the Hof cleaned up and looking like a temple fit for the Shining One, Baldur.

We finished off the month with our monthly meet and greet at a local park with a picnic by the lake. Our next event coming up is our Wotan on the bluffs event at John A Latsch state park near Winona, MN on July 11th. If you are interested in attending our events you can email Jason at [jgallagher@runestone.org](mailto:jgallagher@runestone.org).

Congratulations to Tony and Jessica Jelen on the birth of their first child a son Aldrich Theoden Jelen.



Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher

[jgallagher@runestone.org](mailto:jgallagher@runestone.org)

## Northwest

### Acsafolc Kindred

This was a big month for the Acsafolc kindred and I. We all made to Midsummer with some friends from up in Washington. The turnout from the NW was amazing I am very proud of all you.

The last weekend of the month Acsafolc men got together at the range. That was some great training put on by Mike. Later that day we met up with the rest of the families for pizza. Time with the folk is something we all need to feel complete in my opinion. I am scheduling more for next month once a place is found to hold the events I will be announcing it over social media. Once again thank you to the NW for all you are doing.



Johnny Larson

Apprentice Folkbuilder

[jl Larson@runestone.org](mailto:jl Larson@runestone.org)

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### Coeur d'Alene

We had an amazing turnout at our first meet-and-greet here in Coeur d'Alene! We had members from Seattle and central Oregon come all the way out to join us, along with

hiked Tubbs Hill to make offerings to Baldur and Sunna for their glorious guiding light and wisdom. Tomorrow morning at 6:30am we plan to meet back at Tubbs Hill to take an early morning dip in Lake Coeur d'Alene! Thank you to all who came and joined us!

Katee Allen  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[kallen@runestone.org](mailto:kallen@runestone.org)

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Hails from the Great Pacific Northwest! The Midsummer celebration at the Hof was an amazing experience, to say the least, and it was great to see old friends and meet new ones. I always feel completely reinvigorated after being around so many great people and connecting with our holy ancestors. The Odin's blot on Friday evening stirred the soul with sounds of thunder echoing in the distance and you could feel the power of the Allfather himself as we connected as a Folk to honor him. Gothi Svan performed the Midsummers blot and it was especially moving, the air was energized as we vibrated the runes into the multiverse to cause changes in this world! I am looking forward to traveling to visit Gothi Svan in the future and meeting our folk out there at Thor's hof.

For those of us that could not travel to the Hof, midsummer celebrations were held throughout the NW including up in Idaho with the Cascadia Allthing. The Asafolk in Oregon, Bjornfolk in CDA, and Vinland Folk up in BC are getting together on a regular basis and with the Nordvestri being formed in the Seattle area growth is taking place in leaps and bounds!

The day after Midsummer I went for a meditation walk to the park and began to Galdr Runes as to effect changes in this reality, when I did so I intuited to Galdr into a tree. Asatru' is an animistic spirituality, our ancestors believed that all living things had a soul including Trees. Trees were held in high regard and this experience of Galdring into or "with", the tree opened

This July, individual kindreds will be scheduling events in their respective areas. Some highlights:

July 3: Regional Zoom call

July 9: Day of Remembrance for King Alexander Rudd Mills/Rune study Vancouver Wa.

July 13: Rune Study Vancouver, BC

Folkbuilder Joe Rozanek

[jrozanek@runestone.org](mailto:jrozanek@runestone.org)

## South Central

Activity is beginning to reemerge in Texas! We're getting more inquiries about membership, which is always good. Plans have been in the works for a large AFA gathering, but it's on hold until we get a better sense of travel in and out of Texas. By late July, we have a family returning to San Antonio from a military deployment in Alaska. Lori Littrell, with her sister Christine, is already planning to host events in the San Antonio area.

Other good news is the relocation of Kevin Long, his wife Megan, and baby son to the Austin area due to new job opportunities as a pipe fitter. Kevin is in AFA leadership, having received his AFA Gothi Ordination at Midsummer 2019. We're all very excited to have the Longs become part of our South Central AFA community.

Gythia Sheila McNallen

[sheila@runestone.org](mailto:sheila@runestone.org)

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Here in the South Central region we have had an eventful month, we gained some members, we lost some, but all in all, I think we have gotten a little stronger. I personally like to think that I am learning more and doing a little better as a Folkbuilder for our region and for the AFA as a whole.

We are still doing our Havamal study call every Saturday at 5 PM central time, all AFA members are welcome to join in! If there are any members that want to join in the call that hasn't been receiving my weekly invitation email just shoot me an email and I will send you the invite information. I am trying to plan a get together for members whenever we can safely do so with all the COVID-19 business. Maybe Freyfax in late August. It would be good to have an event in the area that would be more accessible for our members in the South Central and Deep South regions.

Michael Foley  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[mfoley@runestone.org](mailto:mfoley@runestone.org)

**West**

**Midsummer Wedding of Krystal Bailey and Victor Podbreger**

our ritual circle surrounded by folk who remained in order to be a part of this powerful union. This was three years in the making as they first met at Midsummer 2017. The Norns have decreed many things and one was Victor and Krystal's desire to wed before the assembled Folk. Victor and Krystal have been utterly committed to each other from the beginning. They wrote their own ceremony, expressing their deep troth to one another. Their home and lifestyle reflect the interweaving of their passions and skills, felt by all during their wedding.

It was with great honor that I was asked to officiate at their marriage ceremony. Krystal was exquisite, in her ivory gown, with hand embroidery and beading. Victor stood stalwart in a traditional Scottish kilt, as did his brother Vincent who was his Best Man. Milena Lee was the Maid of Honor, and young Dawson Ingle was the Ring-bearer. Dawson was relieved to hear he didn't have to wear a "bear" suit!

Krystal gave Victor the traditional edged-weapon in the form of a sword with which to protect home and family, as he gave her a set of museum-quality "skeleton" keys to represent home and hearth. What could be more perfect?

The mothers of both Krystal and Victor were able to be there to celebrate with their children and it was commented by Gythia, Sheila McNallen, that a wedding is the joining of two families, as well as the couple themselves. A ritual horn of mead was shared, and then the ceremony concluded with a handfasting using a tartan scarf and a kiss to seal their commitment.

[sheila@runestone.org](mailto:sheila@runestone.org)

## Baby Blanket Project

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

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

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

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

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](mailto:youth@runestone.org) to get started.

## Folk Services

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

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

AFA Folk Services is intended to provide modest, one-time monetary grants to AFA

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!"

## Fifty & 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



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](mailto:EirsBlessings@runestone.org)

## 2020 Calendar

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

Celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the Asatru Folk Assembly with photos spanning twenty-five years of spiritual growth and activism. Get it at the AFA store

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

**Asatru Folk Assembly Calendar of Holy and Remembrance Days**

Date	Observance	Tra
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.