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Words from the Alsherjargothi

What an amazing time to be Asatru...what an amazing time to be in the AFA. June was a spectacular month for us. Midsummer was celebrated at all 3 of our beautiful hofs as well as in more mundane places around the country and throughout the world. At Óðinshof we saw the biggest attendance yet for an AFA event- 153! What is truly remarkable is the abundance of children this year. Our future is shining as bright as the midsummer sun. We have seen our efforts pay off; we have seen the enthusiasm of our members surpass all bounds. Midsummer is a time of action and a time of energy, that energy has been felt this month!



June brought Hrafngud Kindred of Illinois to us as an official AFA Kindred. In June, Sierra Chapman of California, Thomas Gleason, and Brandon Pitzer, both of Texas, became Apprentice Folkbuilders for our AFA. At Midsummer, Nathan Erlandson took his oath and became a full Folkbuilder. At Midsummer, Joe Rozanek joined the august ranks of the AFA Gothar. We are growing, we are improving, we are DOING.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Matthew D. Flavel

Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly

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Update from the Editors

New Editorial Team



Many thanks to Jessica Lambert, Timmy Dumas, and Jason Plourde for their contributions to this issue of The Runestone. They are helping Clifford with the monthly compilation, formatting, editing, and other work that makes this publication possible.

Clifford will be staying on as Editor-in-Chief to assist them as needed, but every month

more and more of this publication will be from their efforts.

Hail the Doers!



Witan Clifford Erickson
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Day of Remembrance

Alexander Rud Mills

Alexander Rud Mills was born in Forth, Tasmania, and lived from 1885-1964. He was the guiding light for the foundations of Asatru in Australia.

In 1933 Rud Mills began writing books about our faith and in 1936 he founded the Anglecyn Church of Odin. Mills was able to build a solid Asatru community, but during the turbulent times of the Second World war, Rud Mills was bitterly persecuted by his government, and the community that he built was suppressed. With no evidence against him of illegal activity, Alexander Rud Mills was imprisoned. It was nearly a decade before Mills was released and despite all of his efforts, he was unable to revive his church to its former glory.

All was not lost, however. Alexander Rud Mills's many publications and his passion lived on and inspired a new generation. In the 1970s a group of Odinist Students at the University of Melbourne campaigned to have Odinism recognized as a formal religion in Australia, hoping to be able to protect the faith from the same persecution that Mills suffered. It took almost two decades, but by the early '90s, Odinism was granted religious status in Australia. Alexander Rud Mills's vision also, notably, inspired Else Christensen, who was a leading voice of Asatru in North America.



So, what can we learn from this story?

Alexander Rud Mills didn't live to see the culmination of all of his hard work. When he died Odinism and Asatru were still a repressed faith in his homeland. Even without reward and recognition, he worked until his death, to try and revive the ancient folkway. And he did succeed. Could he have ever imagined how far-reaching his influence would be while he lived? Despite being imprisoned and persecuted for his beliefs, Alexander continued. Even without knowing that his hard work would bear fruit, he continued. He didn't give up in the face of a thankless, and dauntless task. He

didn't let his ego or his own self-importance stop him from doing what he believed he needed to do. There were no rewards. There were no praises. There was nothing in it for him except the knowledge and the belief that he was doing the right thing for his folk.

Take from this story the need to remember that the bigger picture, even when we can't see it, is so much more important than just ourselves. We do what we are doing for our children and for their children so that when we are gone they have a foundation strong enough to hold them up and help them build better and stronger.



Gythia Catie Erickson
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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

Date	Observance
July 17	Sigrblót
August 9	Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia
August 21	Freyfaxi
September 9	Day of Remembrance for Prince Hermann of the Cherusci
September 22	Winter Finding
October 9	Day of Remembrance for Meister Guido von List
October 15	Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen
October 16	Winter Nights
November 9	Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigríð of Sweden
November 11	Feast of the Einherjar
December 9	Day of Remembrance for Egill Skallagrímsson
December 20	Mother's Night
December 21-31	Yuletide

Upcoming National Events

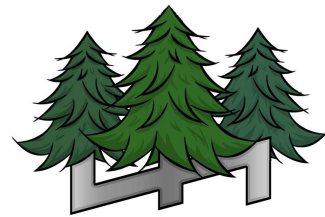
Please contact your favorite Folkbuilder or Gothar if you are interested in attending the events below. The way to get the most out of your membership in the Asatru Folk Assembly is in person with your Folk!

Fallfest at Baldrshof

September 3 - 4

Minnesota

[FallFest VI – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)



Winter Nights in the Poconos

October 15 - 17

Pennsylvania

[Winter Nights X – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)



Feast of the Einherjar at Baldrshof

November 11 - 14

Minnesota

[Baldrshof Feast of the Einherjar – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)





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Be a Doer



We need you to volunteer for the AFA!

Yes, you. We have work to do and need folk who are artists, editors, writers, accountants, lawyers, publicists, reputation managers, professionals of all manner, technical support, web developers, system admins, tradesmen, craftswomen, and more. See the list of amazing projects we have below. We will find a way for you to help our Folk.

Please email volunteer@runestone.org to help us make a difference in our world.

Baby Blanket Project

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

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

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

Would you like a blanket for your newborn, or to donate and help with yarn costs (yarn is expensive!)? Please email babyblanket@runestone.org today!



Youth Program



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

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

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

Pen Pal Group

Did you know the AFA has a Pen Pal group?

This group is for folks who still love the fading art of writing a letter.

If you would like to participate in this amazing endeavor and connect with different people from all across the world, please send an email to penpal@runestone.org with your name and address, and we will get you set up with a pen pal for correspondence.



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...

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

AFA Folk Services is intended to provide modest, one-time monetary grants to AFA members in dire need of basic services. It is also to be a source for referrals and information to help members get help beyond what the AFA can directly provide. For more information, please email folkservices@runestone.org.

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

Thanks in advance!

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 the AFA at photos@runestone.org. The larger the resolution the better, so please email them from the device where the photo was taken.

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

Last Will and Testament

Recently, several members of our AFA family have passed beyond the veil. One was an old man in ill health, two were young men in the prime of life... all died with no legal will on record. Sadly, in two of these cases, our dead AFA members did not have their wishes respected regarding their funerals nor the final resting places of their remains.



We never know when tragedy will strike. We have a responsibility to our loved ones, we have a responsibility to our own legacies, to plan for our passing, and to make our wishes known. Planning for and contemplating our death is uncomfortable. Hopefully, we all have plenty of time for that down the road, but we can't count on that. Maybe we worry about expenses or hiring a lawyer. We all have excuses to put things off until later, unfortunately, sometimes the clock runs out before "later" happens.

We have found an amazing resource for our U.S. members to make legally binding wills in minutes online for **free**. This site also has resources to make Advanced Medical Directives and Powers of Attorney. It takes only **minutes** at <https://www.doyourownwill.com/>.

Please make your will **today**.

The AFA would like to collect signed original copies of wills for all our members and store them. We want to ensure that when members of our AFA family die, their wishes are honored. Please send these to:

Allen Turnage
PO Box 16027
Tallahassee FL, 32317

Óðinshof
First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Alaska

Sigtyr Blot and Camping Weekend



A busy summer for the Folk was pleasantly interrupted on the 26th of June for Der Volkstamm Auf dem Nordliche Bar's annual midsummer celebration.

As is tradition for the Tribe, we held a weekend-long event with members from all over the state at the home and land of AFA Gothi Steven Morrell.

The first day was the arrival of our members from all over our vast state, the setting up of camp, and some games and conversation followed that evening by a powerful Sigtyr blot and weapons blessing.

We held Sumbel late into the night, and many powerful words were spoken into the well of wyrd.

The following day we held our midsummer blot to the noble and beautiful god Baldr, whose shining radiance graced us throughout the day.



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Gothi Steven Morrell
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Arizona



Samuel Ramsey
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California

Midsummer At Odinhof



Ceremonies began on Friday afternoon with our *Greeting to the Gods*. As darkness fell, Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel gave us a masterful *Blot to Odin*. Our calls to the High One and the other Gods rang out through our valley. After the blot, Folkbulder & Gothar student Joseph Rosanek was called forth to stand with Matt to be ordained. Strong words echoed from both men as Joe made his declaration of loyalty and duty to our Holy Gods, our Folk, and our Alsherjargothi. Soon after, swirling, twirling balls of flame appeared out of nowhere, as Krystal showed us her grace and skill with a fire dance that left us gasping. We were off to a great start!

Mid-day Saturday, our three Gythias (McNallen, Callahan, and Szczepanski) offered *Blot to Baldur*, as the folk wound around in a spiral until all could enter our sacred circle. We made our offerings of personal Might and Troth to the Shining One, not forgetting his loyal partner, Nanna. One of our pregnant ladies did the honor of carrying a large bouquet of sunflowers, representing our duty to our future Folk.



Among the main presentations was the “*Kennewick Man Saga*” in a slideshow format

by Stephen and Sheila McNallen. July 2021 marks twenty-five years since this 9,300-year-old “Caucasian” man was discovered on Washington's Columbia River banks. The AFA marked his startling and timely appearance as we entered into a lawsuit to discover who he really was. To us, he's still “the Far-Traveling One.”

Gothi Jason Plourde spoke on “*Growth and Prosperity: Building Might as an Asatruar*” with a focus on financial victory in the 21st century. Newly ordained Gothi Joe Rozanek shared his exploration of runic systems with his talk on “*Guido von List and the Armanen Runes.*”

AFA leaders present included Odinshof District Folkbuilders: Mason Johnson, Lucas Huston, and Joe Rozanek from the Northwest. Krystal Bailey Podbreger and the new Apprentice, Sierra Chapman, represented California and Nevada. Sam Ramsey traveled out from Arizona. Gythia Sheila McNallen and Founder Stephen McNallen were also present. Baldurshof District leaders included Witan (and also Gythia) Brandy Callahan, Gothi Jason Plourde, Gythia Anna Szczepanski, and Folkbuilder Nathan Erlandson.

Alsherjargothi Flavel and Witan Brandy Callahan administered the Folkbuilder Oath to Nathan Erlandson, one of the dedicated leaders at Baldurshof. Both Joe and Nathan were honored in the form of “good words over the horn” by all the oathed AFA leaders present.



Midsummer attendees had several new experiences this year. Local artisans offered several outdoor workshops. Zak did iron working at a forge. Clint showed his expertise at glass-blowing where he created a goblet for our auction. Seamstress Nichol showed off her handmade, vintage-style clothing for children and adults. Ray has set up a mead-tasting event as a fundraiser for Odinshof, both Friday and Saturday, and is sure to be a regular event at Midsummer.

Feats of physical fitness included a boulder race, a tug-a-war, wrestling, and boxing.

The women gathered with our three Gythias to learn tips on presenting “feminine Might” through galdr. This was followed by our traditional making of hair wreaths.

Bidding was lively at our auction this year. In the end, we raised over \$8,000 for Odinshof. Hail the Folk!

As the event came to a close, it was clear that the weeks of preparation, land clearing, cleaning, and planning by dedicated Odinshof volunteers had paid off. Huge credit goes to Krystal, who worked tirelessly for weeks, organizing workdays for the volunteers - all while planning the extensive menu for up to 150 people. Our thanks go out to all who made this another sterling event!

The last ceremony of the weekend was the *Wayfarer's Blot*, offered by our Baldurshof couple, Gothi Jason Plourde, and his betrothed, Gythia Anna Szczepanski. Thor's Might was summoned to protect all on their journeys home. Indeed, everyone reached their destination hail and whole, with tales to tell.



Until next Midsummer...

Odinshof Food Pantry News

Right after Midsummer, an intense heatwave hit Northern California, but it didn't keep our dedicated volunteers at home the day of our Food Pantry. Before 10 am, they had staged boxes on tables along the shady side of the hof. We were steadily filling paper

bags as the first car pulled in. Due to better promotion this month, we were ready for a big turnout. In the end, our numbers were similar to last month – but this time, more people expressed curiosity about us and Odinshof. As they pulled away with hefty bags of groceries, they were reminded to come back next month -- same time, the same place.

New Apprentice Folkbuilder, Sierra Chapman

Sierra's positive energy and vigor are just what we've needed in a Folkbuilder to help cover the area of California and Nevada. From the moment Sierra stepped up, she was contributing 100%. She was at nearly every work weekend prior to Midsummer and took over the job of handling registrations at this well-attended event. It was quite a job, but Sierra had it under control from the beginning. We know that Odinshof can only benefit from the addition of Sierra to our Odsinhof District leadership team. Hail, Sierra Chapman!

Ordination of Gothi, Joseph Rozanek

One of the most powerful ceremonies ever conducted within the AFA is the Ordination of our Gothar. Joe applied for the Gothar Program and was mentored by Gythia McNallen after serving over two years as an oathed-Folkbuilder in the Northwest.

During that time, he's hosted moots of many types in the Portland area plus weekly discussions about our lore via Zoom. In addition to all that, his major achievement has been planning and hosting *Charming of the Plow* in February 2020 and 2021 on the Eastern slope of the Washington Cascades. Due to his success, this is now on the calendar as an AFA national event. The final ritual at CotP 2021 was his extraordinary Ullr blot.

At this year's Midsummer, Joe made his Gothar Oath before the Gods and our Folk following the Odin Blot. Perfect timing for this Odin's man. Hail to you, Gothi Joseph Rozanek IV!

UPCOMING EVENTS at Odinshof:

July 17, SIGRBLOT/SOMMARFEST & Odinshof Food Pantry

August 21, FREYFAXI & Odinshof Food Pantry

September 18, WINTER FINDING & Odinshof Food Pantry

October 16, WINTER NIGHTS & Odinshof Food Pantry

November 20, FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR & Odinshof Food Pantry

December 18, YULE & Odinshof Food Pantry



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Oceania



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Oregon

Hails from the Great Pacific Northwest! This year's Midsummer festival was fantastic as always and I am honored to have been ordained as a Gothi in the Asatru Folk Assembly. I have heard the call of Wotan and have pledged my life to learn and grow in our native spirituality.

Sometimes in our lives during times of great upheaval and change, we may feel that everything is lost and hopeless and that our lives are out of control. When you feel like this you must work to change the things you can control for the better. Work to improve yourself every day just a little bit. Make your bed in the morning, eat a little better, exercise a bit more, make an effort to stop smoking, drink a bit less, meditate, you must focus on yourself!

When we begin to improve the things we can control for the better, the impossible things begin to change as well. By meditating and connecting with our higher selves

your path in this world becomes clearer and your desires begin to manifest. Listen to the voice in your mind with the good advice, follow that feeling in the pit of your stomach alerting you to something that needs your attention, when you are hit with sudden inspiration grasp it, write it down and develop it! These things are messages from your Fetch, your soul, the immortal part of you that has been present in all of your incarnations in Midgard. Follow them and “Use your fate do not strive against it” as Guido von List said, and begin to discover your purpose here in Midgard and life will become manageable and fulfilling! So, choose to “Generate your luck, and you will have it”, turn the TV off and begin to “focus on the self”, and see what happens!

There are no holy days in July, but there is a remembrance to Alexander Rudd Mills. In the Northern Oregon/Southern Washington region the NW Odinsfolk kindred will be hosting a moot for Alexander Rudd Mills in the Portland/Vancouver area on the 23rd.

In addition, I am hosting the “Wodenstag” zoom call-in program to discuss the exoteric and esoteric aspects of Asatru. This takes place every Wednesday evening at 8:00 PST so check your email, or send me one and I will add you to the list.

It is up to us to create an active community if one does not exist, if there is nothing going on in your area make it happen! It is amazing how much gathering together reinvigorates one's spirit, I could feel the presence of the Gods at the midsummer blots and the positive energy of being around like-minded folk. If you want to create something in your area, send me a message and I will help you set it up!

July 23: Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rudd Mills, Odinsfolk moot.
Portland/Vancouver area.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Gothi Joe Rozanek

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Washington

Midsummer Sparks up June Events

This month was quite eventful for us Washington State Folks! A large handful of us was fortunate enough to pack up and head to Óðinshof for Midsummer this year. What a beautiful event it was! We were able to meet plenty of new friends and see some old ones along the way. We were met with warm welcomes by all and spent our weekend and holy day amongst our greater AFA family. While we were there, we were honored to witness our good friend Joe Rozanek take his Oath as our newest Gothi here in the Pacific Northwest. After such a powerful weekend full of ritual and Frith, I highly recommend anyone who can make a trip out to one of our Hofs to do so!





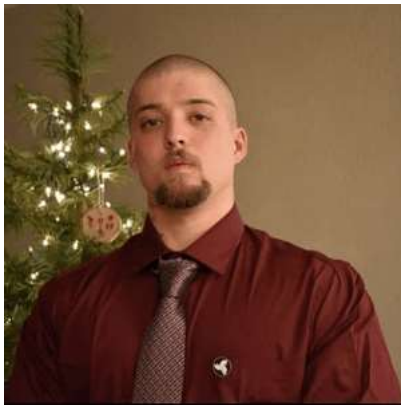
This powerful weekend kicked off our month and it didn't slow up one bit. The following Friday we performed a wedding rite for a local member and his now-wife helping them along with their first steps towards their journey together as Husband and Wife. The following weekend we attended a meet and greet with interested folks and are anticipating growth in the northern regions of WA in the months to come. Several of our members are constantly building connections in their local communities paving the path to a bright future. Despite the drastic weather fluctuations, we have maintained our Iron Club exchanging gifts with Thor and strengthening ourselves mentally and

physically. Throughout the month we also attended two other events hosted by Fellow Asatru Churches in our region both in which we were met with great hospitality and are excited to see what the future will bring. Last but not least we said "See ya later" to one of our members as he has set off to embrace the path of a wildland firefighter. We are proud of him and look forward to our paths crossing once again! We are now reaching the end of June and are looking forward as always to what the coming month has to offer. If anyone is planning a visit to Washington, please reach out we are always happy to meet new folks and if you have family or friends in Washington send them our way. We are constantly involving ourselves in family-friendly fun and would love to further welcome our folk home.

HAIL THE GODS!

HAIL THE ANCESTORS!

HAIL THE AFA!



Mason Johnson
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Connor Norris
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Dórshof
Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Alabama



Folkbuilder Trent East
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Florida

Midsummer in the Sunshine State



Midsummer in Florida welcomed our newest member for the celebration of Baldr; so handsome, gracious, and cheerful he's known as the Shining Day. Festivities began with an overcast sky and threats of rain but during blot, the sun broke through and we were blessed by beautiful weather the rest of the day. Nearly as bright as the sun was the proud father who absolutely beamed at his daughter wanting to participate in the ritual for her first time.

After blot, we shared a potluck lunch and strengthened our bonds of Frith. Our turtle friend who attends every event at this venue made an appearance and brought a friend.



There were even cartwheels!

We held a collection that raised \$760 for the Njörðshof fundraiser. During sumbel, I

was honored to announce being accepted into the Gothar Program for the Asatru Folk Assembly and we were all blessed by the news our AFA families will continue to grow with plans of more children to come.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Florida Event Calendar

Sigrblót Meet-Up

July 17th

TBD

Freyfaxi

August 21st

Crystal River

Regional Winter Finding

September 18 & 19th

Panhandle

Winter Nights

October 16th

TBD

Feast of the Einherjar

November 14th

Crystal River

Yuletide

December 18th & 19th

Ocala

Folkbuilder Lane Ashby

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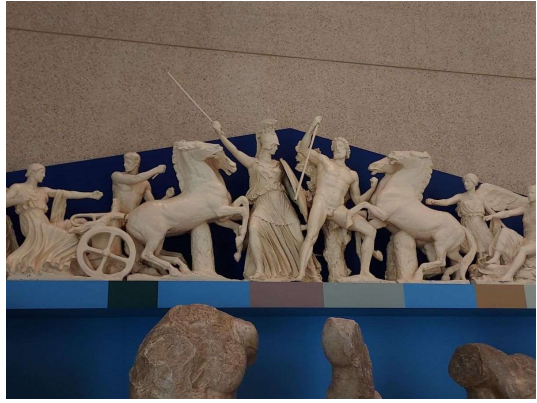
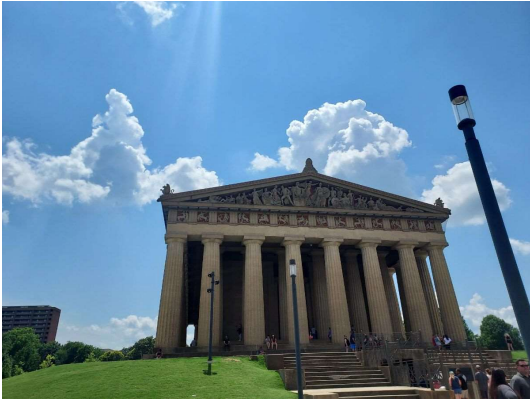
Lawspeaker Allen Turnage
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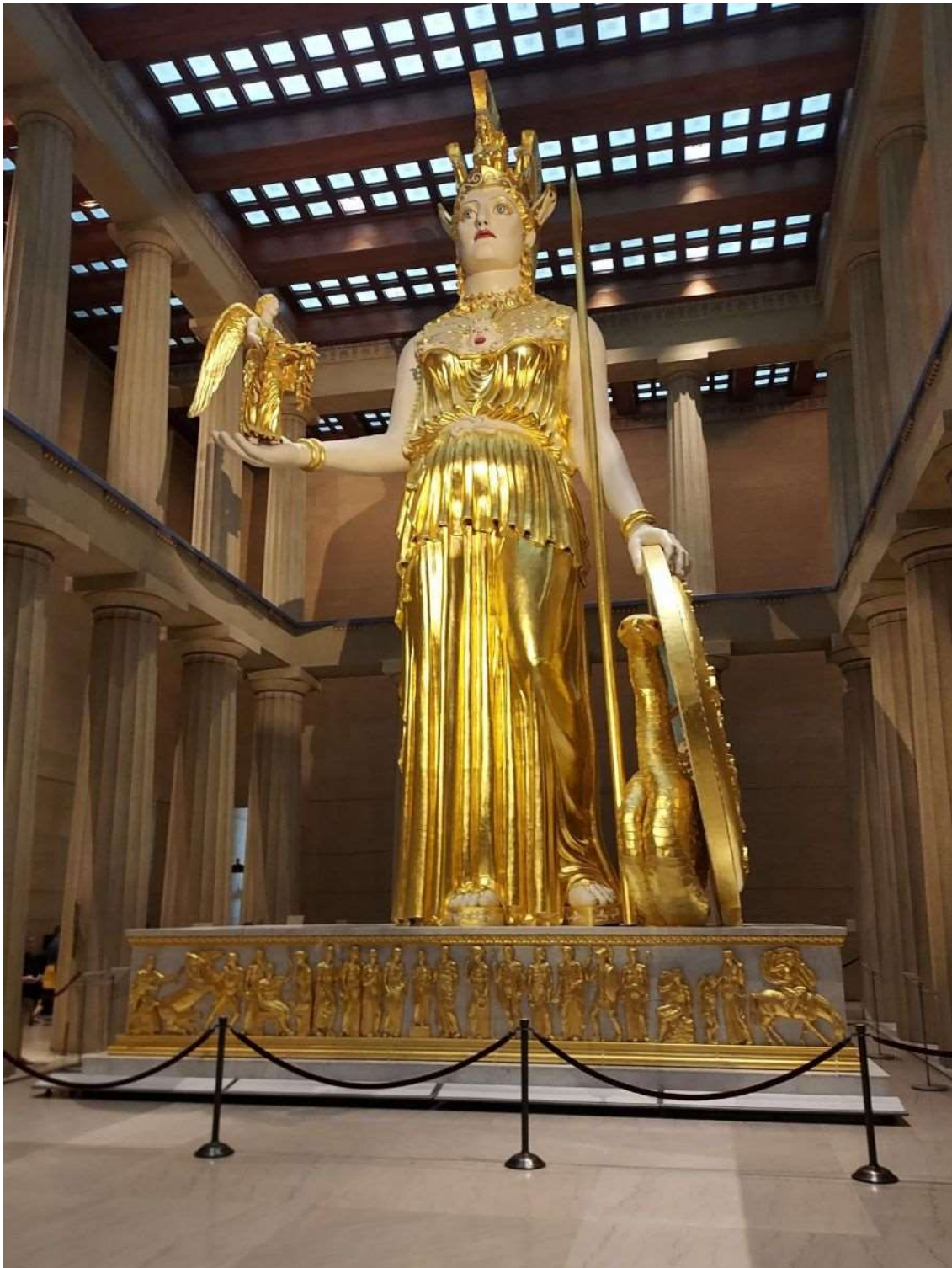
Indiana

Traveling, Camping and Oaths

Greetings from Indiana,

It has been a busy month. Earlier in the month, I went south to Alabama and Tennessee to do two moots with new Apprentice Folkbuilder Jesse Parton. In Alabama, we went for a hike and had dinner. The following day we went to Tennessee to the Parthenon followed by dinner. It was awesome seeing the Greek reconstructions of the coliseum, statues, and art.





On the last Sunday of the month, Heimdall's Midgard had our monthly camping trip where we celebrated Midsummer and honored our Gods and Ancestors. We had a new member oathed into our Kindred. We shared Frith and great food. We also had a good visit with our brother from Tennessee.



Next month we will have our monthly camp out, the weekend of the last Sunday of July, for Sigrlot. This is always in Southeastern Indiana. If you are interested in attending our camp out Fri-Sun and/or blot and sunbel on Sunday feel free to contact me for more details. All AFA members are welcome. Until next time...

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the AFA!



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Italy



Francesco Morese
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Ohio

Ohio Summer Solstice

Saturday, June 19th your Folk gathered together at my home to celebrate Midsummer and the Solstice.



We started the event by wrapping a raised Sun cross with leaves and evergreens. As more Folk showed up the women made flower crowns led by my wife Christine and

kindred sister Elisabeth. While that was going on the men were getting the fire ready for Blot. The women emerged with their beautiful creations leading us in Galdr around the circle. A moving Blot was conducted by my wife hailing Baldur, Sunna, our Folk, and the AFA. At the conclusion of Blot, we all went inside to feast on all the marvelous home-cooked dishes brought by our Folk.



After dinner, there was a Runecasting workshop led by our sister Haust, followed by Under Ash + Oak accepting Dan into our kindred. After many fruitful discussions about the future, we held Sumbel and packed it up for the evening. Members came all the way from Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Kentucky. Several people interested in what we are doing also came and want to participate and hopefully join in the future.





Thank you to everyone that came, we could not have done this without all of you.

Hail the doers!

Hail the AFA!



Timothy Dumas
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Hike and Brews in the Burgh



In early June Ohio leadership reached out to a new member in our neighbor state Pennsylvania. It was a small gathering but wonderful nonetheless. We went for a beautiful nature walk full of delightful conversations and even an encounter with a deer close up. After braving very warm weather we wet our whistles in a nearby brewery in Pittsburgh. The atmosphere was old-fashioned and very German. New friendships were forged and folk ties were strengthened that day. What we are doing is more than just fun gatherings, we are galvanizing the strength of our people for generations to come. Hail to all of our kinsmen, Gods, and ancestors, and I wish you all a beautiful Midsummer.



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Midsummer Baby Naming Ceremony



On June 20th I had the great honor of introducing our newest baby boy, Klaus, to our folk during our Midsummer celebration. The proud parents Jared and Jessica stood with Jessica Lambert as she officiated the ceremony. The runes pulled the previous night for Klaus foretold of a strong-willed boy that will grow to love and be a great need to his folk. We all welcome him and his family with open arms into our community and look forward to nurturing him and watching him grow into a great man!





A Viking We Will Go!

On June 30th we gathered at the Ohio Viking Festival at the Trumbull County Fairgrounds. It was a fun time had by all despite the heat. We had a chance to see some local artists selling their wares. There was a recreation of a Viking encampment which was super neat to see how they could have lived while exploring or raiding. There was a very funny water balloon battle between the Vikings and the attending children (I think the children won)!! There was an amazing fire dancer who performed. There were a few historical lectures, a falconry class, and a mead-making class. The local mead maker had their mead available for purchase, which we gladly supported. The little one of our group enjoyed the festivities and got his face painted and a pony ride. Aside from all the fun, being with folk is always the highlight for me!







Upcoming Ohio area Events

July 17th
Great Lakes Medieval Faire
Rock Creek, Ohio

July 17th
Belated St Patrick's Day - Irish Heritage Centre

Cincinnati, Ohio

July 24th

Folkish Tubing Event (Bring your own tube and lunch)

Madison, Ohio

August 7th

Dublin Irish Days

Dublin, Ohio

August 15th

Hartsville, Ohio

Freyfaxi Blot

August 28th

Oktoberfest at Germania Society

Cincinnati, Ohio

August 29th

Beach cleanup at Headlands Dunes State Park

Please contact Jessica Lambert for the registration link!

Mentor, Ohio



Jessica Lambert
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Pennsylvania

Midsummer in Lansdale



This month was Midsummer in Lansdale. For many of us, this is our favorite Holy Day of the year. A time to celebrate the victory of light over darkness. Inside we must realize in some way we also in our daily lives are taking part in this, within the AFA and without. Many things attempt to pull us down into the depths but somehow all of us continue to reach towards the light. Even when darkness slowly sets in, as it is now we walk through unaffected with the luck we have built and as always the Gods by our sides.





The celebration itself was a very special time. There was plenty of laughter, watching the children have fun, and great food prepared by our hosts. One thing that stuck out to me the most though was during our Blot led by Witan Erickson. Right before we began dark clouds set in above. He lifted the hammer to do the hammer rite and it began to rain also. We gave our offering to our most Perfect God, Baldur. We received his gifts and right at the conclusion of it all in the distance the Sun broke through the darkness in one small area and shone upon us. As always there is no coincidence in ritual space. I would also argue there is none either where we find ourselves in our lives now. We have been all led to this point. We are exactly where we're supposed to be. We know our purpose and that is to bring light. Honored to be doing it with all of you.



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Witan Clifford Erickson
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South Carolina

Midsummer at Þórshof



We celebrated our first Midsummer at Þórshof on June 19, 2021. We had a great turnout of 35 folks from as far away as Arkansas, West Virginia, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia. We would like to thank those folks that put so much time into sharing this event with us.

We had, as we usually do, a potluck meal that included several cakes and desserts, along with some really nice entrees. So many folks put time and effort into preparing and serving us such delicious meals, and they deserve our thanks. Hail the cooks!

Witan Svan Herul gave a wonderful talk on the reasons we celebrate Midsummer and give offerings to the Shining One, Baldur. After the class, we offered gifts to Thor in his hof and invoked the gods and ancestors. We then processed outside for the lighting of the sun wheel. A momentous blot, indeed as it was our first to Baldur.



Another highlight of the event was the baby naming ceremony of Edward Alan Brock, son of AFA member and close friend, Eddie Brock and Kathryn Brock. Witan Herul officiated this first rite of passage, and it was an emotional ceremony. Young Edward was presented to his tribe and was reminded that no matter where he goes, his folk are always nearby. Welcome to the family Little Eddie!

Hail Edward Alan Brock!

We look forward to seeing even more of you next month for Sigrblot!



Folkbuilder Daniel Young
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The First Food Distribution at Þórshof



On July 3, we gathered at Þórshof for our first charitable food distribution. We had no shortage of volunteers, with folks from the Carolinas and Virginia helping out. The Þórshof Team thanks them all for their spirit of hospitality, which will help increase our fame here in Midgard. We also owe thanks to the businesses that donated to our efforts. There was even a gentleman that stopped by a couple times to pick up and deliver food to some elderly folks in Linden that otherwise couldn't have gotten around. Our efforts inspired him to help out his community. And we're glad to have been a part of it.

Next food pantry will be July 31 before Sigrblot and we look forward to doing this on a monthly basis during our holidays and blots.

Hail the Gods

Hail the Ancestors

Hail the AFA

Hail the Doers

Heather Young



Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Sweden

Hroptatyr Odin blot



The 9th of July was an odd day on the Swedish upper west coast. The air held pressure as before a thunderstorm and in the afternoon the sky opened up and drenched the landscape in rain. But it proved to be a remarkable evening after the rain cleared. It turned into a calm and beautiful Swedish summer evening when we gathered in Tanumshede. Åbrott stone circle is 2 000 years old and is one of the places most frequently used by our kindred. It's a place where power is almost tangible in the air.

We greeted and invited our forefathers, greeted the four cardinal directions, closed the circle, lit the fire and so began. Pouring mead over our Odin statues and chanting his 108 names in unison is a meditative practice that binds us together and multiplies the power in our worship; each person's devotion being strengthened by the others. As we give, so do our gods receive, and as they give, so do we receive. But also: as each member of the kindred gives of his devotion in blot, so do the others receive of it and then give in turn, building on each other and creating something together that is greater than the sum of the parts. In the silence and stillness afterward, the land spoke to us through birdsong and the soft breeze carrying all the smells of summer with it.



Toasts were made with our holy mead, truths were spoken and inner thoughts and hopes shared within our kindred.

To the beat of an animal hide drum, we walked around the circle nine times, connecting with each of its 22 stones chanting a silent Hail Wodanaz to ourselves in praise of the Allfather with each stone that we touched. The walking, the drumming, and the repetition are also highly meditative and soon had us lose all track of time, having to use the beads of a necklace to keep count.





It was with an altered state of mind that we opened the circle and the real world seeped back in, almost hesitantly as if shy in the presence of what we had created. It was an evening of worship, awe, and friendship.

One can not ask for much more in a blot. It would have been good in its own right but knowing it was part of the worldwide Odin World Prayer Day with worship being made all over Midgård by fellow Asatruar made it even more beautiful.

Hail Odin, hail our folk, and hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Hroptatyr kindred

Tennessee

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Virginia



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Folkbuilder Rob Stamm
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Witan Svan Herul
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West Virginia

Here are the next couple of events we have coming up or are supporting in our area. All Stonewall events are open to AFA members who wish to attend. Please contact me for more information.

Thursday, July 22 - Folkish Jiu-Jitsu class in Martinsburg, WV. Donations are welcome and they go to benefit the family of a fallen service member. The event is being hosted by the gym I go to with a guest instructor.

July 31 - "Wotan on the Peaks" climb and Odin Blot, Central Maryland.

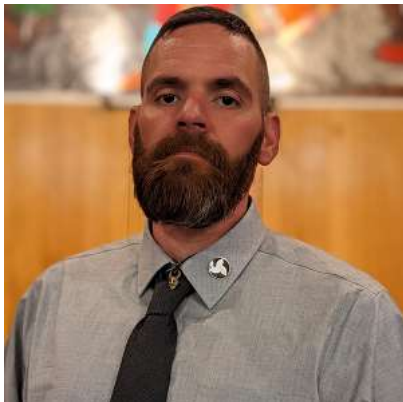
August 14 - Freyfaxi, Eastern Virginia.



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Baldrshof Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Arkansas



Michael Sessumes
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Illinois

Oaths and Celebrations



In June, Hrafnagud Kindred was officially recognized by the Asatru Folk Assembly. To follow this up, the official Oathtaking ceremony was held for founding members of the Kindred. We gathered for a barbecue, followed by the Oathtaking and a Midsommar Blot. An excellent and meaningful time was had by all.

Next month, on Saturday, July 10, we have scheduled a hike in Mathiessen Park, located in Oglesby, Illinois. All AFA members and friends are invited to join us. Contact Jim Cummings if interested.



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Louisiana



Michael Foley
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Minnesota

Happy Midsummer from Baldrshof District!

Following a morning of helping our neighbors in Murdock with our Food Giveaway, we spent the rest of the day celebrating Baldr. We came together to listen to the wise words of Mr. Bryan Wilton, and to play a few early rounds of Kubb and darts. Gothi Jason Plourde led the folk in a Blot that fully brought the glory of Baldr home to the Hof.





While grillmaster Jason Gallegher put the final touches on supper, Witan Callahan led a discussion of the principles of True North. This concept has been a guiding light for this region as we work together to build a legacy here.

Many thanks to those who came out to celebrate with us! Stay tuned for more exciting events

Hail Baldr!



Gythia Anna Szczepanski
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Northern Blood Kindred

Northern Blood Kindred is excited to host our first Folkish Family Hike event of the Summer, July 10th at Sibley state park near Baldrshof. Afterward, we will travel to Baldrshof and finish the day with a Sigrblot. Baldrshof had our second monthly food distribution on June 26th. We helped several more families in the town of Murdock. Everyone was so grateful and thanked us for helping feed the town. After working on

the Hof over the last year it is pretty amazing to have events there and be part of the local community.

Following that, we celebrated Midsummer with the Folk. There was a talk on Baldrs Draumar by AFA member and well know author Bryan Wilton. This was another great talk by him and mind-blowing as usual. Gothi Plourde led us in powerful Midsummer Blòt followed by dinner. And we ended the day with Sumbel led by Gythia Szczepanski. This was our first Midsummer here. I am so grateful to be part of this team, the AFA has the best people!



We are starting the book study up again and that will be on July 24th following the food

distribution. AFA Fallfest 6 is Labor Day weekend September 3-5th at Baldrshof during the day and lodging at the state park nearby. That will be included with registration and we have a private group camp for sleeping at night. If you plan on attending or have any questions about Fallfest please contact me or Witan Brandy Callahan. Also if you are flying in and need a ride from the airport and back, we would be more than happy to help with transportation. Please let me know and I will set you up with one. I cannot wait until then! Hail those who do!

Upcoming events

7/10 Folkish Family Hike with Northern Blood Kindred and Sigrblót at Baldrshof.

7/24 Baldrshof food distribution and book study with Northern Blood Kindred.

8/8 Folkish Family monthly hike at Baker park reserve in Maple Plain, MN

9/3-9/5 Sixth Annual AFA Fallfest at Baldrshof

Stay tuned for more events.



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North Dakota



Witan Brandy Callahan
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Texas

Updates from the Heart of Texas

This has been a busy month for Texas! We welcomed several new members to the group and introduced two new apprentice Folkbuilders to the state of Texas. Thomas Gleason and Brandon Pitzer have jumped right in and are doing a great job at motivating and engaging the group. Our Dallas/Fort Worth crowd has been gathering for small moots throughout the month and we intend to keep that momentum going in an area that is highly concentrated with AFA members. We had our Midsummer gathering on the 26th and 27th in Concan, TX. We spent the weekend in a beautiful property rental on the Frio River. The event was a great success, filled with laughter, friendship, and comradery.



Texas is also proud to announce that three new oath-sworn members joined the Fridr Folk Kindred during our Midsummer gathering. Well technically four, as member Rebecca Stanford just announced that she is pregnant with a baby boy! Rebecca Stanford and Jasmine Henry (both Texas AFA members) are carrying out the most important mission that we have in building the folk. We wish them a healthy journey on the road to motherhood. We look forward to a moot in the DFW area in the middle of July and a small camping adventure for Sigblot at the end of July in central Texas.

Hail the Texas AFA!
Hail the Fridr Folk Kindred!
Hail the Gods and Goddesses



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Wisconsin

Upcoming Events

Greetings AFA members!

Get out and join your Folk for a great lunch and a Blot to Frey in the park.

August 29th Sunday at:
Water Street Brewery
140 West Town Square Way

Oak Creek, WI 53154

11:00 am-1:00 pm

Then we will proceed to the Blot at:

Seven Bridges Trail in Grant Park

S Lake Dr & Park Ave

South Milwaukee, WI 53172



Joel Eastman

Apprentice Folkbuilder

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The Other Side of the Anvil





This month's Moot saw Wisconsin AFA members gather at the Manitowoc Historical Society for "The Other Side of the Anvil." Members got to learn forging taught by experienced Blacksmiths. They also had an opportunity to explore the village and learn of the rich history of Manitowoc County. We also had lunch at a local Irish Pub. It was a good Sunday of frith among Wisconsin members.



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