

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly



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Words from the Alsherjargothi

March marks the springing of the year and the season for action and growth. March also marks the springing and renewal of the soul and the vitality inside of us all. Let's make this spring one where we fulfill our potential for becoming, let's maximize our selves, our families, and our Folk.

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the weekend together at a beautiful retreat and build bonds and forged friendships that will last throughout the years. We were all treated to one of the Black Sun Tribe's fiery Wotan blots. I want to say thank you and a big congratulations to the AFA's Black Sun Tribe for hosting this great event and to Apprentice Folkbuilder Clyde Brown and his lady Kristina Olson in particular, for all their hard work and dedication to seeing this region and this event succeed.

If you missed AFA Charming of the Plow, don't worry, March presents you with another great opportunity to gather with your larger AFA family! March 22-24, we will be celebrating Ostara in the South in North Carolina. This one is not to be missed and I am looking forward to seeing all my AFA family there. The Upper South is one of our most dynamic areas for AFA activity and I know this event will be an amazing way to kick off Spring.

I want to leave you with this. The plans are rolling ahead with speed and purpose for Hof II.... This will happen... and soon....As always, we need your help and generosity. If you want to be a part of making this victory happen, please donate at www.runestone.org/donate/. Thank you! We are surrounded by the buds of our immortality, let's make them bloom!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Matthew D. Flavel

Alsherjargothi

Asatru Folk Assembly

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Kindred Spotlight

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Kindred of North Carolina.

The Sandhills Kindred is a family oriented group believing in Faith, Identity, and Action. They meet on a monthly basis celebrating all Asatru Holidays, Equinox's, and Days of Remembrance. They regularly host Pub Moots, Hike Moots, and Cookouts. You guys are the foundation for your area and have done an amazing job in building a Folkish Community. Sandhills Kindred, we thank you everything you do! You make us proud with your deeds!

Hail the Sandhills Kindred!

Hail the Kindreds of the AFA!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!

Jason Gallagher

Kindred Coordinator



Óðinshof

Charming of the Plow at Odinshof

stagnant. Immobile. Not only is it time to bless the implements of farming, tilling the land and preparing for the first planting, but coaxing ourselves back into fertility. Blessing and contemplating the inner tools that we will use to grow the spiritual and physical seeds, as we stride forward in our lives, aiming for Victory! (Ryan Harlan)

On February 16, 2019, members of the AFA gathered at Odinshof to celebrate Charming of the Plow. It was a small but hearty group as most were unable to make it due to weather conditions. Those of us that were able to make it spent the morning decorating the hall, preparing a mighty pig roast and chatting amongst ourselves.

Michael Hunter lead a passionate and knowledgeable discussion about Skirnismal, explaining how and why Freyr won Gerd. During this time the folk wrote down the “seeds” we would like to grow in our lives and the lives of our folk. We also wrote down a negative aspect we would like to like to change in our lives. Shortly after this talk, we gathered outside by the garden where a couple folk took great in picking a spot for our new Apricot tree. We then took a moment to prepare the soil with our might.

During blot, a lord and lady were chosen to be the first to plant the “seeds of change” into the fertile soil. One by one the folk followed. We all placed a hand onto the sapling and guided it into the earth. As we placed the tree into the hole, the light of the full moon reflected brightly upon the leaves and branches as we put the final soil in place.

After we reflected on the magnificent Blot and the seeds we planted, we gathered in the hall to feast, make greater connections and prepare for sumble. The night ended peacefully and we woke to a snow-covered Hof, it was truly magical.

Thank you again to those hearty few that braved the weather in order to gather at Odinshof.

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Our next event at Odinhof is Ostara, on Saturday, March 23, 2019. Please join us as we welcome back the light and prepare for Sunna's arrival.

Food Bank at Odinhof

On February 2, 2019 the folk of Odinhof held another successful Food Bank for the people of Brownsville. We served approximately 160 individuals and 100 families. The local Scout troop volunteered their Saturday to help the community and gain community service hours in order to earn their next set of patches. I cant say enough about these Scouts, they showed up with bright faces and an eagerness to help the community. If you would like to join the fun our next Food Bank will be held on March 2, 2019 at Odinhof.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Jessica Roesner, Folkbuilder West

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DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR Ölver of Éggja (OLIVER THE MARTYR)

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR Ölver of Éggja (OLIVER THE MARTYR) It is on this day, March 9th, That we hold vigil in honor of the noble life of Oliver , his fellow

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Christianity that was spreading like a plague through all of Northern Europe. In the Year (1021) in the waxing tide of the coming Ostara celebrations; Oliver and eleven other Gothi , who had been organizing traditional feasts despite the decrees of its criminality, by the self-proclaimed King Olaf II , were beginning to make preparations for the Springtime sacrifices. The Folk of the interior of the Trondheim region were to gather in the great hall at the village of Maerin . Oliver was a bountiful farmer and the trusted head of a great family in the region. He had already managed, with sway and clever countenance, to diffuse two different court inquiries by “King” Olaf the Fat, who was bound and determined to wreak havoc on all his fellow countrymen that held truth to the Elder Gods. Olaf the Fat’s appointed bailiff of the region, a man named Thoralde was summoned and with the promise that his life and his family be spared he revealed to Olaf the happenings within Trondheim and to coming celebrations that were soon to be held. With that wretch’s confession, Olaf the Fat gathered a dastardly force of 300 men to descend upon the small village of Maerin’s great hall under the cover of darkness. Oliver of Eggja Farm was captured there and ordered to be executed on sight. Many fought or fled, and many were slain. Olaf the Fat stole all the provisions that were gathered for the feasts and pilfered all the Folk’s clothing, furniture, valuables and divided among his craven throng of followers. It takes Folk of great devotion to the love and truth of Gods of our people, like Oliver and his fellow congregants to gather in tradition just as their forefathers. Even under the ever-growing shadow of the perfidious King Olaf the II We stand to take deep council in your tale, Oliver the true Martyr of Maerin. For your duty and devotion to tradition and piety and truth to The Holiest Gods and Goddesses of our Folk! May your name forever be spoken with might and reverence. Hail the Gods and Goddesses! Hail the Ancestors! Hail Oliver of Eggja! Hail the Folk! Hail the AFA!!

Submitted by Gothar Program Student Svan Herul





Birth Announcement

Cody Maynard of New York proudly announces that he became a father to his son Æsir Louis Maynard on Saturday, February 23rd!





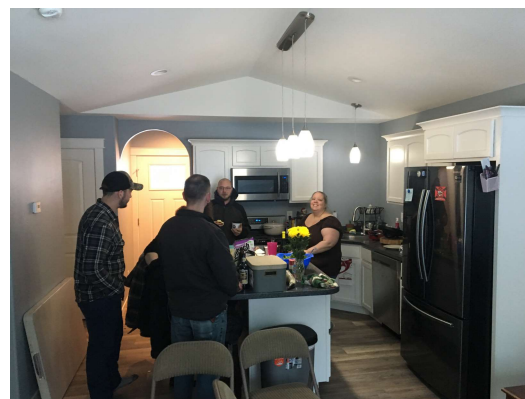
Alaska and Far North Regional Updates

On Sunday the 24th of February, members of AFA Kindred Der Volkstamm auf dem Nordliche Bar and other AFA members met at the house of Channcie Alfred to celebrate the Charming of the Plow. Upon arrival, the women immediately began to prepare dinner while the men went outside to unbury the ritual circle from the snowfall and prepare the ritual fire.

Blot was conducted by Gothi Steven Morrell, during which the tools and implements of our respective trades were blessed for the upcoming year. Immediately following Blot, and done in a ritual mindset, the Folk planted our traditional leeks in indoor pots to begin the growing season (these will be planted outside once all the snow melts and it is warm enough outside).

A delicious and hearty meal was shared afterward, and the Folk enjoyed several hours of good conversation and fellowship.

Eric Whisman
Folkbuilder



Northwest Regional Updates

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Hans: Our first regional event "Charming of the plow" was a big success! Connor Norris performed a moving blot to the gods to assure that we will have an abundant and fruitful year, there was a torchlight blot to Wotan the Allfather, and a wayfarers blot to Thor for protection on our journeys by Lucas. Blake gave an excellent talk titled "The return to origins, the second religiousness" as well as discussion on the Runes. The Ax throwing contest offered plenty of competition, and congratulations to Blake and Samantha for winning their respective divisions. The trip into Leavenworth was worth it with great German food and plenty of interesting places to visit. Strong bonds were made, and we left feeling spiritually recharged and with renewed purpose. Other gatherings in our area included rune studies and meeting in Moscow Idaho, and Vancouver BC. 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!

Joe Rozanek Jrozanek@runestone.org

Apprentice Folkbuilder NW

03/02 Remembrance for Olvir the Martyr, 5:00 pm Mt.Angel Volksfest-Mt.Angel, Or

03/04 Runic Study group 6:30pm-7:30pm Moscow, ID

03/16 Ostara Coeur d'Alene Idaho

03/18 Runic Study group 6:30pm-7:30pm Moscow, ID

03/22 Remembrance for Olvir the Martyr, 7:00 pm Seattle Wa.

03/23 Northwest Rune study group/Ostara celebration, Vancouver BC.

03/23 Ostara Seattle Wa.

03/24 Ostara Boise ID

03/31 Ostara Portland Or.

Joe Rozanek



West Regional Updates

February was a beautiful month for the Tru-Folk kindred. We met for dinner at Tip Top, we had Charming of the Plow at the beginning of the month and Ended with a Feast to Vali. In between some of us met up for dinners and even a bonfire to celebrate Gray Wilsons birthday. It is months like this where I feel we truly made it. We have something so special. Something I have been working towards for 20 years, We have a community, a family. A community of folk that all know the importance of being that beacon of light for those yet to find their way home. Folk who understand the word frith. We know that once you share that horn with us you are a part of our community

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towards each other. We focus on building our kindred and building each other up. We work on ourselves constantly and take the virtues seriously. We know our main gift we can give our Gods and Goddesses is how we bring up the folk and how we are on our own path, how we carry ourselves and how we lead by example. How we bring our folk home. There is nothing more important and I have never been more proud of a group of folk. When you go to events, when you are with your kindred, when you call on the Gods and Goddesses when you post something, remember that you have shared that horn and you represent not only your kindred, your family, the AFA, but all the folk past present and future.

Heather Clinkenbeard

Folkbuilder and Leader of the Tru-Folk kindred



Northern Plains Regional Updates

February may be a shorter month but we still accomplished quite a bit in that short amount of time. We had our third annual Charming of the plow which was a amazing and had a pretty good turnout. Gythia student Anna Funk led a interesting talk on Guido Von List for our monthly study group. Lots of great things are in the works. Im working with Melissa Mills and Mid-Hearth Kindred planning a AFA Kindred weekend event in southern Iowa. Stay tuned for more details and updates on the facebook event page. We are hoping to draw Kindreds and AFA members from the surrounding states and

jgallagher@runestone.org

Upcoming events

3/9 Folkish Family Monthly Meet And Greet Crooked Pint Alehouse Duluth,MN 4-6

3/16 Third Annual Ostara Bloomington,MN 4-7

3/17 Monthly fundraiser crafting day Bloomington,MN 12-3

4/6 Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon Gasthofs Minneapolis 4-6

5/3-5/5 Folkish Family Kindred weekend event in southern Iowa.

6/15 Third Annual Midsummer location TBA

9/6-9/8 Fallfest MN Northwoods

Jason Gallagher

Folkbuilder





South Central Regional Updates

(Read as if sung to the song "Deep in the Heart of Texas".)

"The Black Sun Tribe, in the state of Lone Star and Size.

Gathers the Folk, to strengthen Volk!

Deep in the heart of Texas.

Friday evening the sunset pink and air clear, over a ranch quaint and dear.

We hailed the Gods, for our Folk are awake and here despite the odds....

Deep in the heart of Texas.

To Wotan we gave and asked, hailing loud as in the light of the Sunwheel we basked.

The fire burned bright and thrift was shared late into night...

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Saturday morning awaken did we, training with fierce Southern tenacity.

Then by young and old games were played and winners hoorayed....

Deep in the heart of Texas.

A delicious lasagna meal, hand made and real.

A ritual to Charm the Plow, to Freyr and his sow as planted were trees, beautiful it was to see and with the Folk to be....

Deep in the heart of Texas.

Questions were answered about Kindreds and Folk, and the future of those both unaware or Woke.

Helping hands pitched in, as we all celebrated the coming of Spring....

Deep in the heart of Texas.

The hospitality and friendliness of our Lone Star Folk is matched only by their zeal for our Volk.

A delicious smoked meat meal, the show it did steal....

Deep in the heart of Texas.

Late round the fire we chatted and sang into the dark our voices rang and the song of two womanfolk was beautiful to hear and made us cheer....

Deep in the heart of Texas.

Sunday morning Wayfarers Blot, but that's not all she wrote.

For we will gather again and so until then, we Hail those....

DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS!!!!"

-- Gray Will

The Black Sun Tribe is proud and overjoyed to announce that its recent Charming of the Plow AFA National event in Texas was a huge success! It exceeded our wildest expectations and put Texas on the map with the forward momentum we are experiencing with our Folkish ingathering across the world. The hard work and dedication the tribe members have shown has certainly beared fruit.

The Driftwood Retreat and Ranch in the beautiful Hill Country outside of Austin, Texas was the venue. Folk came from far, wide and near, to experience what can only be described as a momentous first for the Folk in the great state of Texas. AFA leadership joined the BST for a weekend full of Feasting, Blots, games, combative and Fellowship. The children enjoyed themselves immensely, jumping from pool to hot tub, back to pool again, then standing alongside the adults in Blot, feasting, and good conversation, all weekend long. The smokers and grills were blazed up for two days,

The weekend/event was powerful and memorable, and we in the BST are quite certain it left long-lasting impressions. Here's to the future.

HAIL THE FOLK!!

HAIL THE GODS!!

HAIL THE BLACK SUN TRIBE!!

HAIL THE AFA!!

Clyde Brown

Apprentice Folkbuilder





Midwest Regional Updates

Greetings from Indiana,

The kindred has been busy this month preparing for this year's work. We have many plans laid out. Each week this month during our calls we have been centering in on what it means to be a Kindred of the AFA and what we can do in our area to work towards the goals of the AFA's Declaration of Purpose. All of this culminated in the creation of a new set of Bylaws for our Kindred.

The kindred that Anne Hager and I founded a few years ago has grown and improved in many ways. And we couldn't be happy with our progress and core members. Our bonds are growing stronger and our families are growing closer.

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plans for the next month. We also had a new member of the AFA in our area join us for the first time.

We always have a great time when we get together and having some new blood present was much welcomed. We had a total of 9 that gathered at the Overlook. Next month will begin our return to the outdoors, where we feel the most at home when we get together.

Also, I'd like to remind everyone about Ostara in the Midwest @ Tippecanoe River State Park, 4200 N US Highway 35

Winamac, Indiana 46996. Here we wish to begin one of three camping trips for the year; one in spring, summer and fall. Contact myself, Cole Distel or Josh Wilson about more details.

I'll end this months article with: it's going to be a great year, my Folk! We've all got a lot of seeds to sow and tend to. Lots of good works to be planned and seen through to their finish for the betterment of our individual selves and the AFA as a whole. Let's make this the greatest year the AFA has ever seen!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

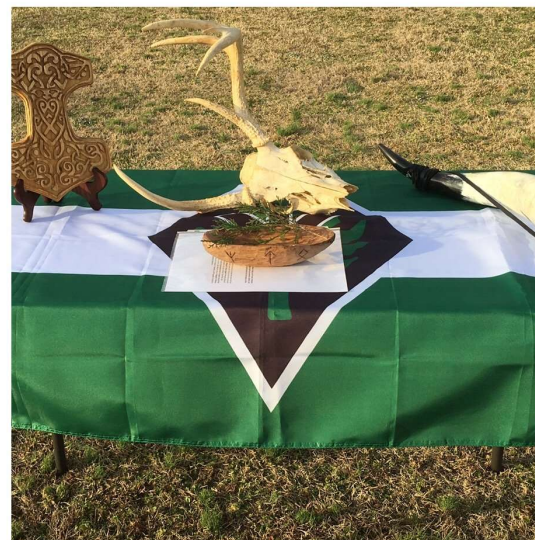
Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Zach Cato, Heimdalls Midgard Godhi

HeimdallsMidgardKindred@gmail.com

Upper South Regional Updates

Our Sandhills Kindred “Charming of the Plow” was a phenomenal gathering. The food, folk, & frith was unparalleled. We had 20 Folk who sacrificed their time and drove great distances to make our event a success. Thanks to Josh & his beautiful wife Terry for opening their home. Hail the Folk 🌿



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Our 3rd Annual “Ostara in the South 2019” March 22nd-24th in beautiful North Carolina is quickly approaching. We’re on par with our enrollment expecting upwards of 100 people. Be sure and buy your admission ticket early or just pay a \$50 deposit to reserve your spot before they run out. You can click on the quick link below. What better way to use a portion of your tax returns than rekindling your spirit and

community. This will change your life. Hail the Folk.

<https://events.eventzilla.net/e/Ostara-in-the-South-2019-2138729576>





Deep South Regional Updates

Charming of the plow 2019 went awesome. Aspen led the blot. We planted new life for the spring. Everyone enjoyed themselves. The foundation has been set for many more

For information email Ralph at
rviola@runestone.org

Ralph Voila
Apprentice Folkbuilder



On Saturday, February 16th, members of Ravensblood, Wild Hunt, and Sandhills Kindreds gathered for Charming of the Plow. As the afternoon slowly faded into evening, many of the Folk with long drives and young children made their departures. Those of us who remained decided to hold a sumbel before parting ways.

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Spirituality, Stephen McNallen tells us that “the greatest power in the sumbel comes from its ability to reach into the past, summon up the might of the great deeds that lie there, and bring them into the present “. One of the most profound and potent results of conjuring this power from the past is building and empowering bonds of friendship and kinship. When explaining the difference between the purpose of blot and sumbel, I always tell people that blot strengthens our connection to the Gods, sumbel strengthens our connection to each other.

Many of us come from backgrounds plagued by isolation and alienation. We come to our ancestral indigenous tradition looking for our roots, to make connections, to finally feel that sense of home and belonging that seemed to have eluded us. Opening up to people can be quite difficult for some of us, especially at first. The longer we spent in an isolated and alienated state, the higher and thicker our defensive walls are. Sumbel is one of the most effective tools at our disposal for breaking those walls down.

I'd like to share the sumbel format that we have found to be very effective for our community here in the Carolinas.

The host of the event, either the event organizer or owner of the home where the gathering is held, should lead the sumbel. They may designate another to lead in their stead if so desired.

In round one we focus on the past, that which was, that which brought us into being. During this round participant may toast a God or Ancestor. The leader should encourage everyone to share a short story as to why the God or Ancestor is significant to them.

Round two is dedicated to that which is happening now. Participants may boast

Round three is dedicated to that which we are working towards. Horns are raised to the prosperity of our organizations, such as the AFA or our Kindreds. Participants may boast a goal they have set for themselves, bearing in mind that this will tie the group's luck together making everyone present responsible for the completion of the goal (boast thoughtfully, and discuss boasts like this beforehand). Horns may also be raised to our descendants.

Utilize the full potential of sumbel, and witness the power that binds us as a community, and breaks down the barriers of isolation.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

James Dover

Apprentice Folkbuilder

On February 16th, many of our Folk from the Deep South and the Upper South regions met up for our local Charming of the Plow! Tyler and Emily Bethea were gracious and hospitable enough to allow us to hold ritual and share kinship in their lovely home! We had members of Sandhills, Wild Hunt, and Ravensblood Kindreds in attendance.

James Dover of Sandhills Kindred led the blöt and Sumbel, both of which were very powerful and solemn. The blöt began with an introduction read by myself, followed by a galdr of the rune Thurs(or Thurisaz). We then each wrote down a goal for 2019 on a piece of paper and burned it over a candle, and mixed the ashes with some fertile soil

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to be there. Finally, we asked the Holy Powers to bless us with might and mane in relation to our perseverance towards our goals, and a libation of delicious honey mead was made to both the Gods and the Land Wights of the Bethea homestead.

During this amazing ritual, the modern world fell silent around us, while nature came alive. The wind blew and birds flew overhead to settle on nearby tree branches. Even the MacDougals' young daughter seemed to be in awe of the ritual. I can only speak for myself, of course, but I certainly felt our Gods' presence that day.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Trent East

Apprentice Folkbuilder

Asatru Folk Assembly

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Northeast Regional Updates







In Pennsylvania, Lansdale Tru Folk and AFA friends hailed Thor to end the Icelandic month of Thorri, celebrating together for the first time since Yule. We had an excellent discussion on right action and laid out plans for our new year. We hope to share the fruits of completed action on these plans throughout the year.

Here are the Holy Days celebrated by Lansdale Tru Folk in 2019:

Thorrablot, Saturday Feb 23 (Thor)

Ostara, Sunday March 31 (Ostara)

Sumarsdag, Saturday May 4 (Odin)

Midsummer (private), Friday June 21 (Sunna)

Freyfaxi, Sunday August 11 (Frey)

Harvest, Saturday Sept 21 (Sif)

Winter Nights in the Poconos (AFA), Fri Oct 18 - Sun Oct 20 (Disir)

Feast of the Einherjar, Sunday Nov 10 (Einherjar)

Yule, Saturday Dec 28 (Ancestors)

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Northeast Rune Study Group, Saturday March 9

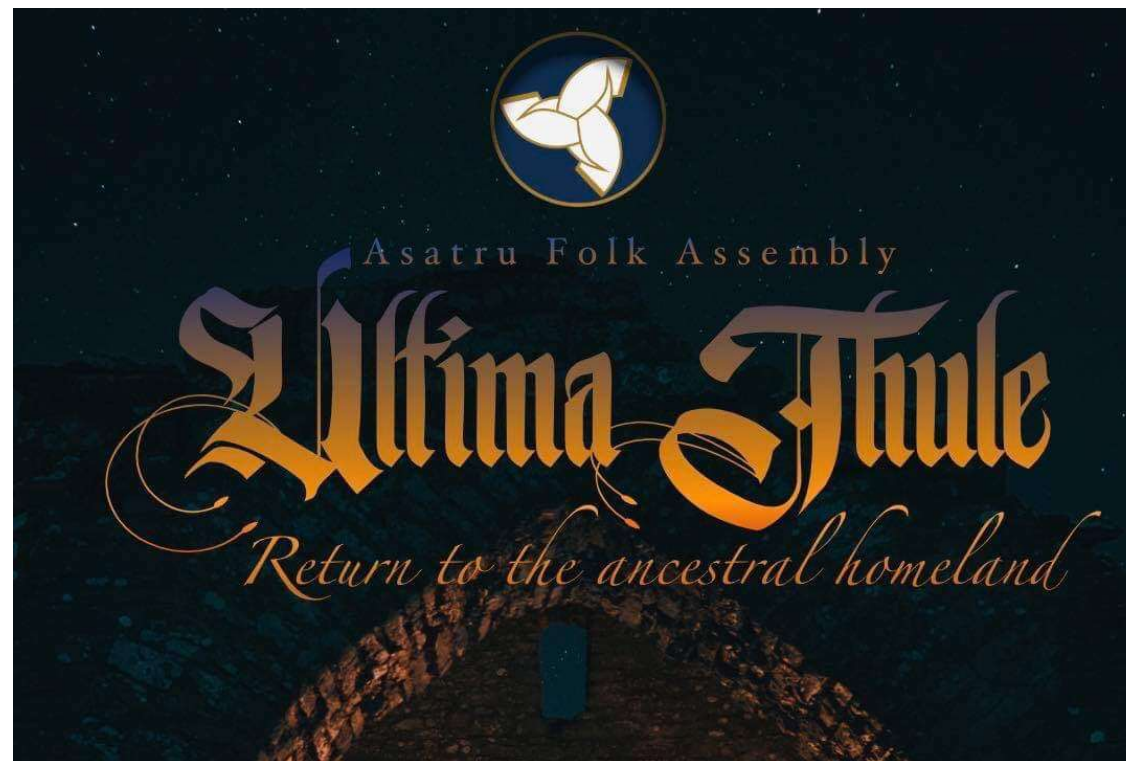
Coming Of The Sun Feast and Blót, Saturday March 16

Contact Erik Wolf on Facebook or ask Clifford to get you in touch.

Clifford Erickson

Folkbuilder

Scandinavia Regional Updates



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Welcome to Sweden!
May 24th - 26th 2019

Gather together to celebrate the arrival of spring
with Blot, Lectures and Workshops
in the ancestral homeland of Sweden

Gothi Bryan Wilton



Throughout the Lay, Odin repeatedly reminds the questioner of who he is. Much I have fared, much I have found, much I have got from the Gods. The giant cannot see it for his own greatness. Or, at least, what he is believing to be his greatness. He does not have ears to hear. This repeated phrase shows a decided respect for the Gods. Much he has gotten from them. But it does not occlude the effort he has put into earning this knowledge. Much he has fared, much he has found. While it may be a somewhat deceiving turn of words when one considers how he “found” the runes or the mead of inspiration, it seems to be very clear he objects to “chieftains” who lay claim to this knowledge without putting forth the effort to earn it.

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organization. A “safe space” for heathens or runesters or justified and folkish people to be proud of their attitude towards this faith and way of life. They fully expect people to honor their self-titled position, not knowing that there are countless heathens out in the world who do not respect at all the knowledge they believe they are in possession of. In possession of, but not understanding a single bit of it. They abuse this knowledge by using it to justify their excesses of personality or worse yet, to justify and embolden their righteous indignation based on their inflated egos. With absolutely no accountability for their words or actions on social media and lots of people more than willing to jump on the bandwagon in order to boost their ego as well, it becomes a morass of personalities. A swamp of characters doing their best to feed that identification with their own thoughts they fully believe to be their being. All the while, telling world that this is Asatru.

Odin in this tale is a fine representation of what Asatru really might be. Taking issue with a giant, a being which has always represented the basest of human emotions and thought processes. Uninspired human intellect and primitive emotional states of being. Unlike the skilled dwarven craftsman Alvis, this great giant has not based his position on the skill of his work. Alvis made the assumption that through his work, the skill of his hands and the identification with his job, that this was the culmination of his being. Instead of working through the other issues of who he is, he figured he could just marry into a higher state of being. Gerdr and Skadi both endured great personal sacrifices to earn their seat at the table. Alvis made no such effort. Vafthruthnir has made no such effort either. He has contented himself with simply gathering around his fire beings of a similar stunted mindset and emotional state of being. It is a standard response for individuals seeking to bolster and feed their ego. There has never been a more efficient manner for individuals who are completely engulfed in their egoic thinking patterns to feed their egos. For all intents and purposes, across thousands of years, he is a reflection of every upstart heathen who has decided to build an Asatru organization.

attempt to reinforce how right they are by means of what they believe to be a superior intellect. They attempt to derive a sense of being and purpose by their association with someone they perceive as being more right than whoever they decide is their opponent. This madness has populated the timeline of history in grotesque fashion. 100's of millions of people have perished from this very train of thought. One can see why Odin would be willing to apparently risk life and limb to defend that which he has put so much effort into creating.

And yet we fail en masse to see the purpose of Odin's wanderings and his sacrifice upon the tree. That sacrifice was of such a magnitude that the universe itself brought forth the Norns to maintain balance in the cosmic hierarchy. A defense against the three all-powerful female Jotuns who had entered Asgard during its golden age hastening its end. But I digress. The awakening of Odin is done through pain and suffering. We all know the tale. For 9 days and nights, pierced in the side he hung on that windswept tree of woe. None came forward to help slack his thirst, none was there to comfort. And when he fell, shrieking, he fell into the essence of his being, having crossed the boundaries of madness and ego, to lift up the runes and hear the songs of his ancestors.

Sound familiar? It should. It is reminiscent of %70 of the stories I hear of people entering Asatru. Their best thinking had led to a life which sucked, some of them imprisoned, others carrying the wounds of the battlefield, still others dealing with the pain of life. Some were near to ending their own lives. And then, something happened, something which allowed us a brief moment of clarity from the madness of this world to hear the songs of our ancestors and to find the runes. While we may not have had the presence of mind to realize what happened, we had been afforded that glimpse of the divine which changes lives. No one shows up at the doors of the church because everything is going hunky dory in their life. We have been blessed because we have been given a glimpse into the depth of our own being. The unimaginable presence of the energies which comprise our being had been hinted at. Furthermore, we had

The unmitigated gall and arrogance that any being might lay claim to this knowledge by simply reading about it smacks of unparalleled egoic thinking. This flies in the face of the sacrifice made by Odin of his ego. His sacrifice gave him what it took to assume the throne of Asgard again. To fall back, stumbled by life and find yourself in the arms of your ancestors, to hear their songs and stand once again. No experience in life might ever mirror the intensity of this awakening to what we are. To experience our being minus the association we have with things. To set aside the constant pursuit, the hunger, to make ourselves seem more than we are by what we possess. And then to remember that there was once a king and a god who blessed our ancestors with divine gifts. What a truly remarkable thing. To think that someone might try to lay claim to this divine awakening to boost their own ego. This is the reason that they never succeed. They, like Vafthruthnir, come face to face with concepts, ideas and powers they cannot comprehend.

Do any of us think for one second that a series of letters, which make a sound in our throat, might ever fully encapsulate this idea into anything more than our limited intellect might understand. I think not. It is only when we begin to look inside and find that dim spark, deprived of oxygen by the shadow of our egos that we make this connection. And unbeknownst to these adversaries we find something more powerful than they might ever imagine.

I have seen numerous small organizations build steam and intensity by fostering a narrative of “us against them”. Never once do they consider that there must be something more once they have these folks associated. The limits of the depth of their faith are clearly defined once someone says “Hey, wait a minute. I’m not sure that’s how this is supposed to work.” This is when the founders worst fear is realized. That being that the association with the form of their thoughts giving them value as a person is not enough to create a spiritual experience for anyone. At this point that person

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seeking to find more answers to this glimpse of the divine they have seen; run face first into the limitations of an unconscious man's ego. Any hope of spiritual development is stunted once the tiring effort of maintaining the righteous indignation required of these associations brings them to the realization that this is how they ended up here to begin with. Indulging in the same self-destructive and egoic thinking patterns and actions albeit with a new name. Having been spoon fed a new form of poisonous hate, they find themselves lost. Sure of the idea that this faith must work, but unsure how to set aside the ideas which have been the manner in which they value their being. The great fear of being less than they were if they change their minds puts the brakes on the growth of this faith. And it is coming from men who seek to take full advantage of the fact that there is such a knee jerk reaction against dogma. Men who are terrified that the appearance of an Asa-pope might once again lead them into a dead letter religion like the one we just escaped from.

For many years, we have seen religious people in possession of a set of thoughts which they regarded as absolute truth. Being in possession of such a belief as their perception of absolute truth; they find more than sufficient reason to justify their actions against people they believe are wrong. Almost every time I see someone engaging in this type of thinking, I immediately recognize an ego desperately attempting to protect its identity. We see it in people who believe that book smarts allow them to be "more" heathen than others. We see the same mentality amongst those folk who vehemently argue against what they think might be racism. They have adopted a mindset based on thought being their reality. It doesn't matter if their thoughts are wrong. Their ego is in full swing and they will do anything to protect it. Ruin lives at the drop of a hat and feel fully justified in doing so. What kind of person doesn't recognize this as madness? One who is completely unconscious with regards to the patterns of their egoic thinking process. They believe they are right.

be in. Absent the hate. To take a look at ourselves and see if we have genuinely emulated or been forced to endure, trials such as Odin has in our own lives. We should sometimes ask ourselves; have I used these trials to build up a different narrative boosting my ego as a victim. Or have I accepted these things as pathways to finding and building a consciousness more in tune with what these Gods had intended with all the gifts we have been given.

The great folly of “I think, therefore I am” escapes these people. We are far more than the incessant background noise of our thoughts. We are the consciousness which knows that we are thinking. The energy which bridges the gap between the consciousness of being and the physical form of it. That association with the forms of our thoughts has created far more misery in our lives than we might imagine. It has placed us in situations which are eerily familiar to those in both of the Lays.

We may have bought into the idea that the form of these thoughts, just like the “things” we own, make us better or more important people. Isn't that what all advertising is designed to do? To instill within our thought process that if we own this or that item our presence in this world will be more than the guy next to us. Alvis and Vafthruthnir bought into that marketing of their own

thoughts and found themselves face to face with the divine and completely unaware of what they were dealing with. The various groups who have started or built their identities around opposition to anything really are in the same boat. The great crime is that they are leading any number of people astray and away from this divine form of growth. They become lost, they lose their heads, their faith fades in the fiery light of the sun, usually when some great tragedy strikes in their life. They have accepted these ideals which stack the deck against us.

For those of us in the Asatru Folk Assembly at this time, you should be aware that our efforts are both personal and international. With every unwavering commitment we

the charlatans will fall away like so much dross. The AFA will still be standing strong. I for one, will never forget the organization which has supported me in my efforts, has helped me to grow, has provided a place where lifelong friendships have flourished. I hope you will also be standing there when our children and grandchildren step up to handle this wonderful physical embodiment of Asatru.

Europe Regional Updates

MY NJORD BLOT

”There’s never been a Njord blot. I’d love to have one”.

Those are the words of our dear apprentice folk builder Linus Borgström, spoken at our yearly Thing this summer. We spoke about Njord’s significance for me personally, and this came up when I asked Linus if we had any blots’ to Njord’s honor planned.

You see, I live on an island and travel on the ocean pretty much every day of the year. Usually I pilot my own boat, but if the weather is too harsh I commute to Gothenburg by ferry.

Njord has always been there. The ocean has spoken to me ever since I was a kid. I’ve heard seagulls singing when out bathing with my parents on small islands in our archipelago. I’ve been reassured by the sounds of waves crossing the ocean with my father’s sailing boat. Now that I have a child and family of my own, I follow in my father’s footsteps and take my loved ones out on the ocean as often as possible.

signed off on. It was late autumn and we decided to perform the blot in the spring. But I couldn't wait. I had the perfect spot and one late autumn afternoon everything was just right. The weather was perfect. The wind was still. The ocean lay calm. The sky was clear. "Now or never", I thought to myself.

I bought a two-pound piece of saithe from my local fisherman, got in the boat and drove off to the island of Vinga. Vinga is a lighthouse island and the last stop westward before the open ocean of Kattegat towards Denmark. There were no boats in the harbor as I arrived and made the hike to the western side of the island. As the sun set I closed the circle and began. It was quite an experience. I was all alone but somehow had the feeling that I was being listened to. Not just by the curious seals and birds nearby, but perhaps something else that listened bemusedly at my words and my singing.

The sunset was magical and I left the saithe for the seagulls, seals and all other beings of the ocean as an offering after my blot.

As I left I felt both elated and excited. Perhaps it was just the high of having performed my first blot alone or perhaps I was indeed blessed by Njord, Aegir and Ran for my offering. However, being blessed was beside the point for me. The point was not to receive but to give. I have been traveling on the ocean my entire life. The ocean has given me so much bliss, joy, beauty and nourishment over the years that I felt that a heartfelt thank you to the higher powers was long overdue. With my newfound faith, I finally had the tools to say "thank you" properly and couldn't wait.

Hail Njord, hail our folk and hail the AFA!

/Johan Källfelt on the island of Brännö in Gothenburg's southern archipelago

Regional Update

For the past few months, the focus has been on growth. I have been inviting all of our folk across the region to host events and get the word out. I think we all know how hard it is to build a community when you are the lone person in your region. That said, all it takes is consistently hosting events, if it is just doing things you were going to do anyway. For instance, if you have a local event such as the Scottish Highland games, attend and invite others to join you. Sometimes you might have to do it by yourself but if you keep doing, good things will happen.

One of my favourite tools is Meetup.com. It is relatively cheap and can help you find quality people. We have the following meetups in our region:

- Christchurch Native European Meetup
- Melbourne Native European Meetup
- Sydney Native European Meetup
- Brisbane Astatru Meetup
- Asatru: A Native European Spirituality (Invercargill)

New Zealand

In New Zealand, Daniel Lastovicka has been meeting with the Folk across the North and South Islands. He is in the military and is using his travel as an opportunity to meet

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“Hey all I'm going to be in Wellington on 21 January for the evening and would love to catch up with some people to talk about Asatru. Who is keen?”

It is that simple. Daniel has been having good success meeting people face to face. The message of the AFA appears to resonate with the Folk across New Zealand.

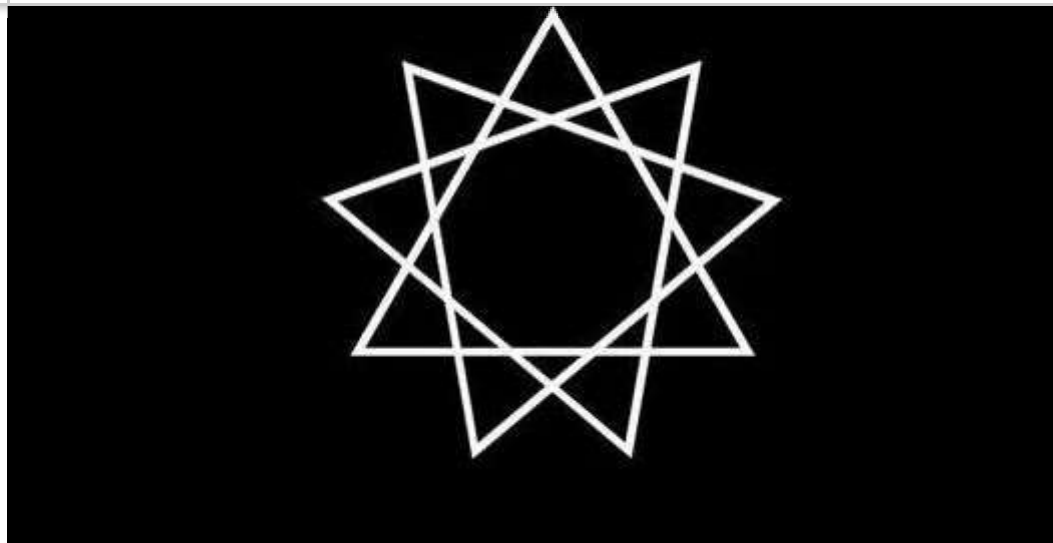
Additionally, you get to spar with the trolls from organization like The Asatru Community. It is good for non-AFA folk see what you have to say when dealing with the trolls.

Australia

A few weeks ago I sent an email to our Australian Folk asking who would be interested in creating a kindred. I had a good response from a few keen members.

I am pleased to announce that Wotan's Southern Kindred has been established in Australia and has been recognised as an AFA affiliated kindred.

Hail the doers!



South Africa

South Africa had been a tough nut to crack. We had no presence and the country is, for the most part, deeply Christian. Thanks to the wonders of wyrd we now have AFA members in South Africa! They are very keen and have already formed a kindred called Volkswachstum and it has been recognized as an AFA affiliated kindred.

Hail the doers!

Moving forward, my plan for South Africa is:

1. Enroll more South African members.
2. Have AFA worldwide work with the South African AFA folk to get resources to the folk who are in need.



Fensalir Kindred

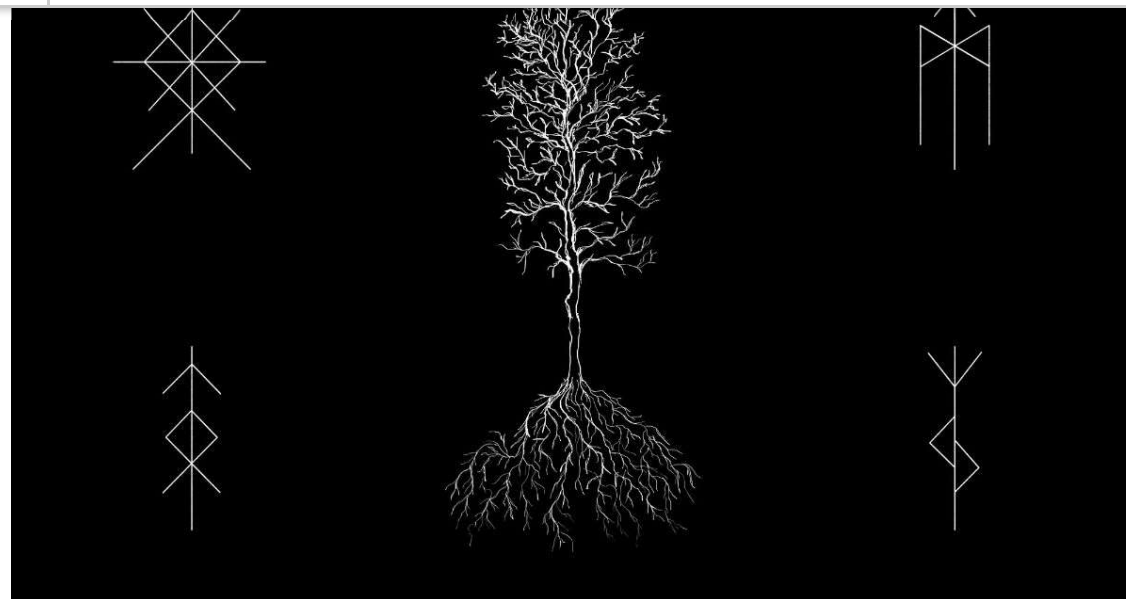
Fensalir kindred is working towards having thirty members by March 2020. To do so, we are focusing on great events, good marketing and charity work. To assist with this growth, Fensalir kindred will be registered as a charity and a non-profit corporation. This is the equivalent of being a “church” in New Zealand. Registration as a charity will allow the people of New Zealand donate money and receive a tax deduction on their donations.

Fensalir kindred has a new website which is <https://www.fensalirkindred.org.nz>.

Events

2 March – Althing (annual general meeting)

3 March – Harvest Celebration and Blot



Cameron Mottus, Folkbuilder

South Africa Fund

The South Africa fundraising campaign is off to a good start, but we can do better! A few people have donated a lot this month. Unfortunately, in the long run, this is not very sustainable. What I am asking is that everyone donate a little bit of money every month.

Here is an example of the power of many small donations. The AFA has ~700 members. If each member set up a recurring \$5 donation, this is what would happen:

$\$5/\text{month} * 700 \text{ members} = \$3500 / \text{month}$

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Our South African Folk are are facing legitimate institutional racism. Their children are going hungry. They have few career prospects. We have a duty to help them through this rough time.

Donate here: <http://www.runestone.org/donate/>

The word is getting around. On 16 January, A Facebook page called “Stop White South African Genocide” reposted Matt Flavel’s post about our South Africa fundraising campaign. You can find out more

here: <https://www.facebook.com/stopwhiteSAGenocide/>

I love this page as it provides timely news about what is happening in South Africa.

Matt wrote:

The plight of our folk in South Africa is heartbreaking. Once proud families have been reduced to staggering poverty and hunger. Murderers terrorize the remaining farms. Countless numbers of our kin live in shanty towns, often these enclaves are, literally, in a garbage dump. As is so often the case, the elderly and the children are hit especially hard. The South African regime shows no pity for our folk and actively works for their humiliation and destruction. The AFA may not be able to "fix" things.....but we can all help make them better.

Last year we raised thousands of dollars to help these suffering sons and daughters of Europe. Together we showed that we care and we made sure children were fed, babies had formula and housing was set up. By each of us pooling our resources, small contributions are able to do big things. Children cannot eat "our feelings go out" and "likes" don't keep them sheltered at night. If you are able, PLEASE give what you can and lets do some good for these poor cousins of ours. To donate, please go to <http://www.runestone.org/donate/> . Thank you for doing something about this.

Alsherjargothi,

Asatru Folk Assembly



Cameron Mottus

Folkbuilder (ANZ SA)

Asatru Folk Assembly

m:+64 204 112 7835

w: www.runestone.org e: cmottus@runestone.org



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

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\$20.00
USD

Make this a monthly donation [?](#)

South Africa

[Donate Now](#)

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

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

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

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

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AFA Military Program Update by Kevin Long



ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY MILITARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

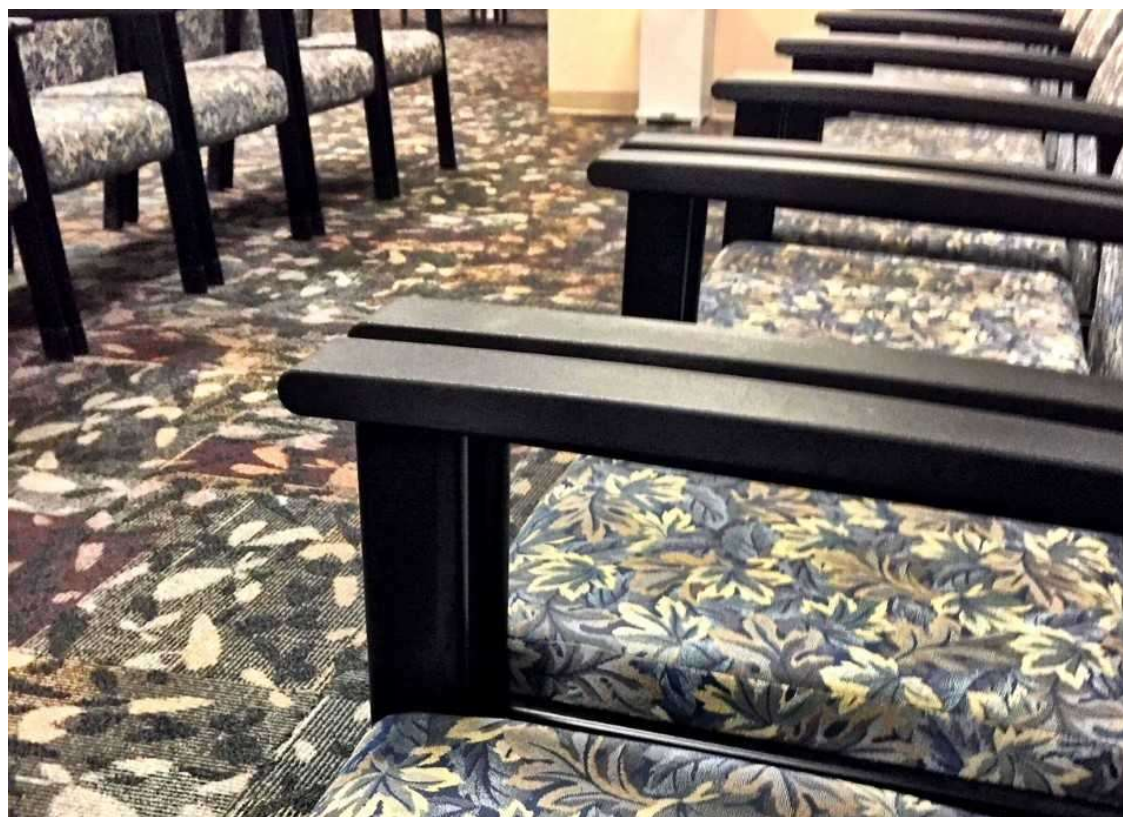
We will be making a private group on Facebook for our military members. If you would like to be added, please send us an email or a message on Facebook and you will be added. This forum will be the place for our military members; active, veteran, or reserved can start networking. We want to see more growth as a program, and this will only happen with a combined effort from our members. For Folkbuilders, if you could pass this information on to your regional folk that might not read the Voice, that would be greatly appreciated, and thank you in advance!!

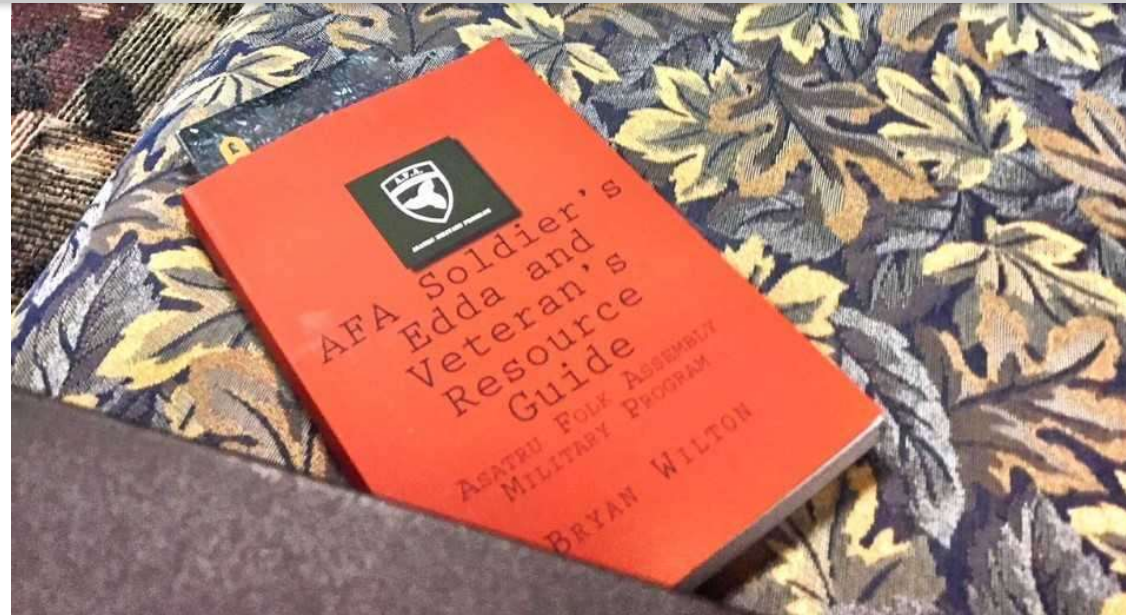
If you are currently a member of the military regardless if you are in the states or any other country, please send us an email with your current status i.e. Deployed, in-

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

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

Thank you,
Kevin Long
AFA Military Program Coordinator
klong@runestone.org
Or military@runestone.org



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AFA Store

RUNESTONE GIFTS: AFA Member Discount

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

Item of the Month

spandex Front pouch pockets.



Call for Photo Donations

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

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FOLK SERVICES

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

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

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

Your contributions are earnestly solicited and of course are tax-deductible!

Thanks in advance!

Jamie Souligny

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Wotan's Wolves Youth Program
by Cole Distel

The Wotan's Wolves Youth Program is a one of a kind program where Asatru youth can learn of the Gods and their culture in a fun and interactive environment. Each Wolf has the ability to earn different rewards based on a point system. Points are awarded per assignments(which may range from a reading assignment to crafts).

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

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

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

Instructor

Tiffany Distel- wotanswolves02@gmail.com

Director

Cole Distel- distec11@gmail.com



AFA Mead Makers Group

to be. In the past, it was mostly women who were in charge of making mead, but these days people from both sexes enjoy the craft.

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

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

Folkish Business Directory



New for the AFA, Carrie Overton is putting together a Business Directory for our Folk! Send us your contact info (website, business type, etc..) and we will add you to our AFA Business and Crafter's newsletter that will be coming soon! This is our chance to

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make it happen!

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

Baby Blanket Project

In 2018, the women started the AFA baby blanket project around July. Baby blankets handmade by our own women were sent to nearly 30 newborns to the AFA family. Already for 2019, we know of 13 babies, either just born or on the way! Our amazing AFA family is growing all over the world and we are so very proud. If you or anyone you know has a baby on the way, please let your Folkbuilder know so we can make sure they get their blanket.

I want to thank all of the ladies that contributed to this project, whether they diligently knit, crocheted, or sewed a blanket, sent in money for materials or just offered support. I want to give a very special thank you to Angie Winchell in North Dakota. Angie made nearly a dozen blankets last year and early this year. I have many still at my house ready to be shipped out for this year!

Hail Frigga!

Hail the Disir!

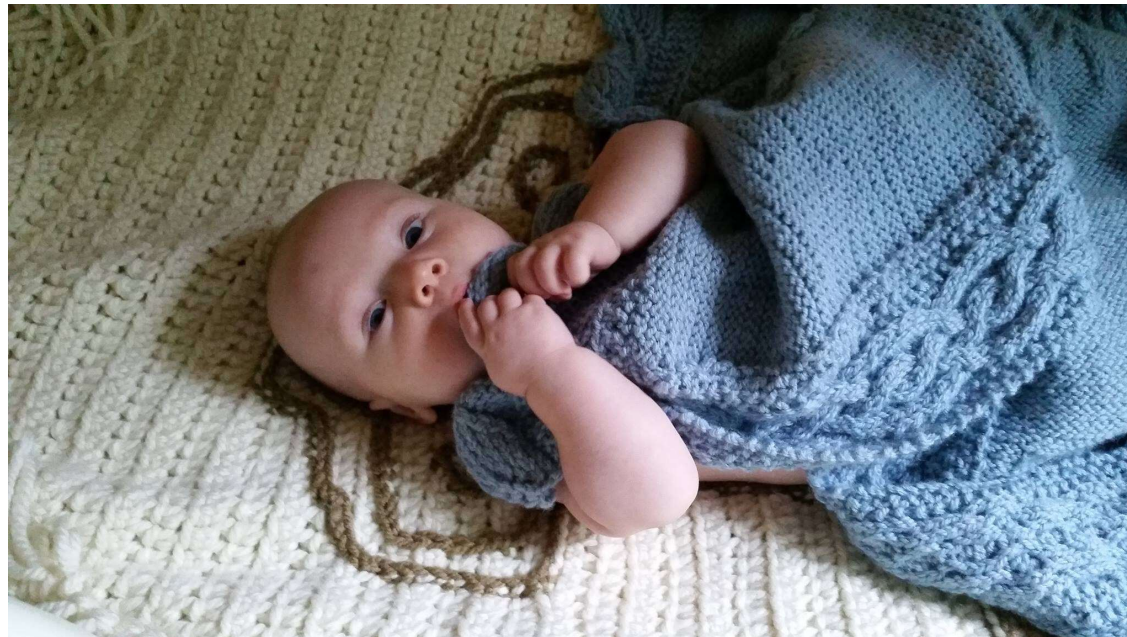
Hail the AFA!



Mandy Flavel and The Baby Blanket project is rapidly approaching it's first year mark,

They've been delivered everywhere from Alaska to Florida, California to Sweden!

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



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

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

The RUnepebble next issue is in March. We would love to have your children and the children of your kindred draw pictures, write articles or stories for our publication.

Photography & Art for 2020 Calendar

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



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

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

There is a lot of room to work with here.

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

Asatru Folk Assembly Calendar of Holy and Remembrance Days

January 9 Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong

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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

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

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