

The Runestone, May 2019

[Campaign Preview](#)

[HTML Source](#)

[Plain-Text Email](#)

[Details](#)

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly

[View this email in your browser](#)



Your input is needed to make *The Runestone* a publication filled with events, photos and news. Please feel free to submit any events, news or photos to therunestone@runestone.org.

Donate to the AFA



[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Website](#) [Email](#)

Words from the Alsherjargothi





Life is good! 2019 is turning out to be a very active year for the AFA. Modern Asatru is very dynamic, always growing, always becoming more. It is amazing to watch all the AFA activity around the world.

We have a very special event coming up this month! For the first time, the AFA will have an international event in Sweden! We are extremely excited to see all our Scandinavian and European AFA family at Ultima Thule at the end of May. Anders has built a vibrant AFA community over the last several years in Sweden and we have seen a growth in membership all over Europe. This will be a great chance to meet these fine folk and build connections.

Right around the corner we have AFA Midsummer at Óðinshof. June 21-23, AFA Folk will gather from across the country and around the world to celebrate the AFA's flagship event at our very own Óðinshof. We look forward to seeing you all there.

As the year is at it's height, lets embrace the energy, embrace our AFA family and DO Asatru!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

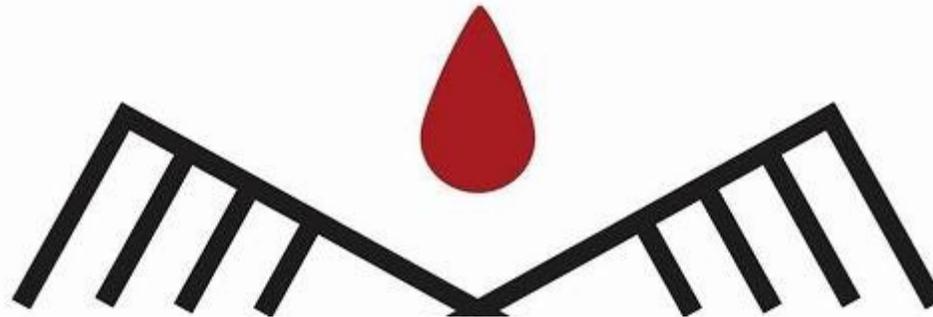
Matthew D. Flavel

Alsherjargothi

Asatru Folk Assembly

mattflavel@runestone.org

Kindred Spotlight





In this month's Kindred spotlight the AFA would like to recognize the Ravensblood

Kindred of Alabama.

Ravensblood Kindred was officially founded by Trent East, Dalton Woodward, and Karen Woodward in September of 2015. They were one of the first Kindreds to join the program, Trent and Dalton were two of the youngest members of the AFA at the time just turning 18. They host several events in their area(Hikes, Moots, Hold Rituals for the Holy Days. Attending two national AFA events a year like Winter Nights and Ostara in the South.

Ravensblood, the AFA thanks you for everything you do and is proud to have as a representative and part of the family.Thank you for helping bring our folk home. Hail the Ravensblood Kindred!

Jason Gallagher
Kindred Coordinator
kindred@runestone.org

Óðinshof

Summer Finding was held at Odinshof on April 13th and 14th. Many of our Folk arrived before I did this time. The Odinshof was opened up, clean, and ready for guests and members, well before I arrived in fact. Showing up as I did, I was greeted by many a smiling face, and beautiful weather. It was so nice in fact, that aside from time spent in the kitchen cooking, nearly every bit of this event was held outdoors. Just as the coming of summer should be. We had a few new faces alongside the familiar ones. Stephen and Sheila McNallen gave a talk on the concept of Sigr, and the Eddas respectively. What is Sigr? Why do we seek it? What does it mean for us? What sources do we have for our lore? Which ones are the best? Is there a best? All question which came about. Gothi Thorgrun Odden provided us with a Blot to Freyr, and in thanks for

came about. Gunn Thorgrun Odden provided us with a Diet to Fly1, and in thanks for the continued fertility, and growth that we as a Folk, and as Church, have experienced. A fine meal of Barbequed Chicken, Pork, Meatloaf, potatoes, and sides, was enjoyed by all. Our Sumble, Led by Sheila, was held well into the night. A huge thanks go out to Josie Willis, Madeline Rose, and Victor Podberger for the tremendous work they did that weekend. We couldn't have done it without you! Hail the Folk!

Upcoming events at Odinshof:

For our local members, a work weekend or two may be in the works to prepare for Midsummer. (Keep eyes and ears open for details.)

Midsummer is just around the corner! June 21st-23rd in fact. The event page is up, registration is open, and early registration gets you an event t-shirt! Our schedule is filling up, and we will once again be holding our Mead competition. We hope to see you there https://midsummeratodinshof2019.eventzilla.net/web/event?eventid=2138722161&fbclid=IwAR3pQNmCdyjIue6-bNI6JdoOGQRHHpVL5iTskBv_nO5HrL28wzir5FgcMSE

July event is still in the works. No details as of yet.

Freyfaxi, August 24th-25th.

Winter Finding, September 21st-22nd.

Winter Nights, October 26th-27th.

Feast of the Einherjar, November 16th-17th.

Yule, December 21st-22nd.



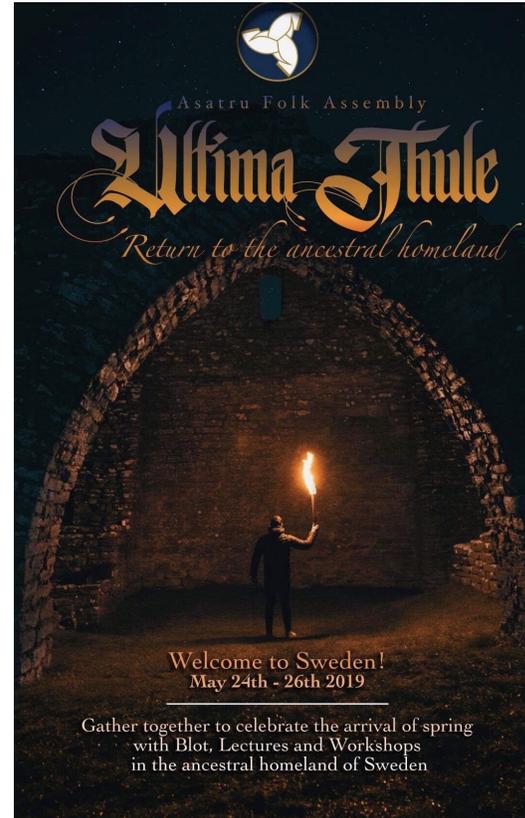
Folkbuilder Coordinator Report

Greetings, May is here and the year is in full swing. We have 2 of our National events behind us, Charming of the Plow in Texas, and Ostara in North Carolina were both a success. This month we are having our first International event, Ultima Thule hosted by our Scandinavian membership, in Sweden. Followed directly by Midsummer at Odinhof. We paid off our first hof this year and already are actively searching for hof number two. We currently have 17 AFA babies due this year and our communities are growing. So to say the least, 2019 has been off to a great start with much more to come!

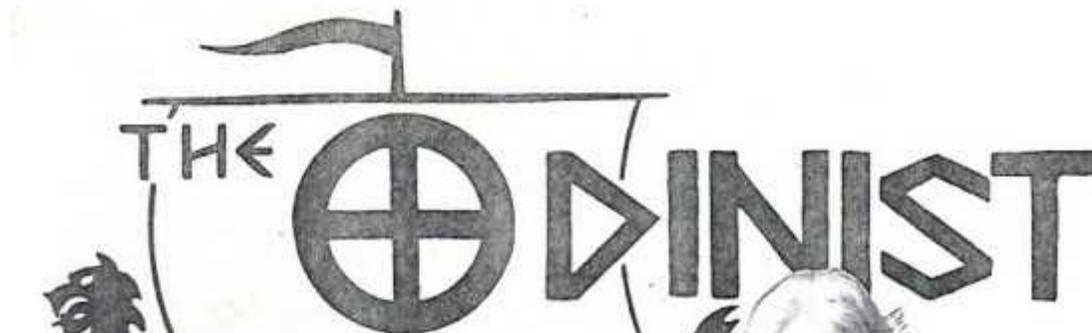
This month I have had the Honor welcome Sheila McNallen back the Folkbuilding team. She will be taking the role of Folkbuilder at Large, which means she will be helping wherever need be. This is very special to me because when I first started Folkbuilding a decade ago, Sheila is the one that showed me the ropes and the experience has been priceless to me. I think it's safe to say that Sheila was the first "Folkbuilder" the AFA had. I'm sure her experience and renewed involvement will be beneficial to the Folkbuilding team and our membership.

One more thing I would like to touch on this month. First I'd like to say, one of my favorite things about social media is seeing all of the AFA pride and Tri horns displayed, all the pictures of AFA events with smiling family's and Kindreds being built all over Midgard. I completely encourage folks to promote what we do, but I would also like to point out there is a responsibility that comes with that. When you choose to display the Tri horn or list the AFA on your profile, you are not only representing yourself but ALL of us. You are representing the teacher, the government worker, the military member, and the mother that is on the PTA at her child's school. I am never for censorship, especially on members personal media, but that being said, if we choose to represent something bigger then ourselves (the AFA specifically) we also have the responsibility to represent it well. Constant negativity does not shine on us well. We want the AFA to represent positivity, we want to stand for solution minded, noble folk and the be a beacon of hope, in a world that is upside down. We want folks to want what we have and for us to be a spiritual home for our Folk (no matter their background) to be attracted to, not repelled from. Whether we are at work, at an event, or on social media, we need to be conscious of the virtues that we hold so dear. Let's represent ourselves in a way that makes our Gods smile upon us in every part of our lives!

Folkbuilder Coordinator,
Marc Macleod



Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen





This month we raise a horn in honour of the Folkmother, Else Christensen. Born in Denmark in 1913, Else never felt at home in the church of her parents. For her there was always a pull from her ancient ancestors and from the forests of her native land. Else and her husband emigrated to Canada after WWII in search of better job opportunities. There they quickly got in to touch with Alexander Rudd Mills' wife in Australia and, using Mills' writings as a starting point, they began a small Odinst study group with some of their friends. This study group eventually morphed into the Odinst Fellowship. Founded in 1969 or '70, it was one of the first Odinst/Asatru groups in North America. In 1971 the first issue of The Odinst was published as the official newsletter of The Odinst Fellowship. The Odinst Fellowship grew quickly with Else at its head, her tireless correspondence with Odinsts across the world helped to build contact between many disparate believers in the Gods of our Folk. There is a story out there attributed to Stubba, one of the founders of the Odinic Rite, about how when he and Hoskuld were first wanting to create an Odinst group in England they wrote to Else and she gave them contact information of 3 more Odinsts near them; from those

humble beginnings the Odinic Rite arose. Over the years Else also recognized the potential of those men and women in prison who would one day return back to the free world. She was among the first Odinists to reach out to prisoners and even went so far as to volunteer inside the prisons of Florida to help teach the ancestral ways behind the wire.

Else never faltered from her dedication and devotion to Odinism, right up until her death in 2005 she continued publishing her newsletter and corresponding with people all across the globe. She lived the value of Perseverance and with her passing Odinism/Asatru lost a great voice that promoted our ways.

Hail the Folkmother, Else Christensen!

Submitted by Blaine Qualls
Gothar Coordinator

Wedding Announcements

April 16 I had the great honour to officiate the wedding/handfasting of Kevin and Megan Long on their 10th wedding anniversary. This was one of the most amazing unions I have ever witnessed. The amount of love for the couple and the endless stories of how they have touched so many peoples lives overwhelmed me. I was blown away by the look in their eyes and the love they share when they said their vows. Even though there were over 80 people in attendance the dance floor was definitely taken over by the folk. Leaving everyone with memories for a lifetime. Congratulations Kevin and Megan!





This month it was my great honour to perform the wedding service for member Les Lauer and his new bride, Angela Winchell. On April 6th members of the Ulfhednar Clan gathered together in Minnesota for this wedding and it was a great reunion. Being scattered across several states we don't get to see each other nearly as often as we would prefer. The day began with overcast skies and a light off and on drizzle.....traditionally light rain on your wedding day is seen as a blessing from Thor. The wedding service itself went well, keys and sword were exchanged and two amazing people were joined together to begin the rest of their lives as husband and wife. Afterwards all of us sat down as one big family to a feast of epic proportions.

wife. Afterwards all of us sat down as one big family to a feast of epic proportions. Revelry and great times were had long in to the night around a nice fire with great people.

Submitted by
Gothi Blaine Qualls



Northwest Regional Updates

Hails from the great NW! On Thursday, April 18th, folks in Northern Idaho gathered to celebrate the naming ceremony of Blake and Sophie's son, Brandt. The ceremony was performed by Katee and hosted at a friend's home in Potlatch, Idaho. We were

surrounded by friends and family, enjoyed Sumble together, and spent quality time with quality folk. Hail Blake and Sophie for bringing such beautiful life into this world! Hail baby Brandt!

In Oregon, we had a Sigrblot in the Portland area followed by a Pub moot, there were also Rune studies in Vancouver BC and Moscow ID, things really are on the move here in the NW! The month of May brings us May day/Beltane and we have an overnight camping trip in the Portland area scheduled. There is also a rune study and a remembrance for Else Christensen on May 9th in Vancouver W, and Vancouver BC and Moscow ID have their rune groups as well. Remember if there are things not happening in your area in the end it is up to you! Industriousness is one of our Nobel virtues, and that means taking charge and being in control of your Orlog. Don't wait for someone to do it for you, this world is what you make of it and you are in control, make it happen!

Those of you in Boise, Montana, and the vast regions of Canada I am thinking of you and waiting for that next member to join in your area so that we can plan a gathering. Also, I know it's a long trek but It's well worth it if you can make the Midsummer event in California. Fly into Reno and go from there, there may even be members that can take you from the airport to the event and back!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA! Joe Rozanek Jrozanek@runestone.org

Apprentice Folkbuilder NW



West Regional Updates

April was so busy and went by so fast. We celebrated Kevin and Megan Long with their amazing 10 year anniversary Handfasting. You can see the pics in the wedding announcements.

We ended the month with a cabin in the woods for hexennacht/Walpurgis/Mayday. We had about 20 of our kindred members meet in A town called Julian in Southern California to spend the weekend strengthening the bonds between our group and our Gods and Gods and Goddesses and our ancestors. It was such a powerful weekend where we could feel the presence of all that was around us. the children were told stories about the Gods, helped us dress the Maypole and shared a horn with us. The did a wonderful job colouring the runes as well. The folk worked together to keep everyone well fed and the whole weekend was non stop group effort to make it as awesome as it was.

Our kindred also took Oaths from new members and new leadership. All who we are truly honoured to call our kinsmen and woman. We strive to focus on where we want to go and to always be our best and by doing so we attract the people that we instantly bond with.

Heather Clinkenbeard
Folkbuilder
hclinkenbeard@runestone.org

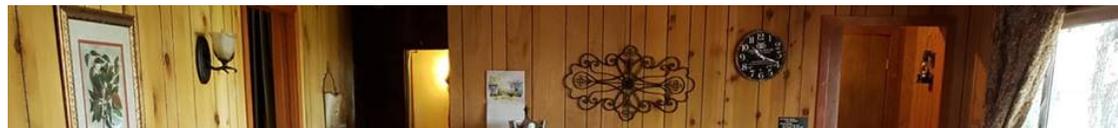




We had a bonfire moot that was amazing and lead by Matthew Waldrum who shook the group with his powerful voice and shared the strength of his connection to our Gods.



Tru-Folk love Bryan Wilton and his new Foundations of Faith videos are so good that we took the time out of our event to make sure we didn't miss his live event. We had about 10-12 folk sitting around the entire live stream. To sit around a little while longer discussing how amazing he is.





Northern Plains Regional Updates

This year is flying by and Summer is almost here. We started the month out with the monthly study group and celebrated the Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon the following weekend. A few of us drove down to the southern part of the state for the monthly meet and greet. Finished the month with our monthly fundraiser crafting day. We will be debuting a new item that will help raise funds for Hof#2. Custom handmade by Northern Blood Kindred. Finally, May is here and the Folkish Family event in Iowa that Melisa Mills and I have planned for months. This event will be even bigger next year when we host it in Mid Missouri. We have a Kindred Allthing Moot planned for next year. A weekend of team building and bonding bringing our Kindreds together. For questions about the Kindred program or if interested in becoming an AFA affiliated Kindred.

kindred@runestone.org

Upcoming events

AFA Meeting - Folkish Family Event - Craft Day - Moot - 11-11-11

AFA MINNESOTA FOLKISH ASATRU Group Monthly Schedule

5/3-5/5 Folkish Family Weekend event in Iowa

5/18 2nd Annual Tree planting day

6/1 Grill and greet Fort Snelling state park 2-5

6/15 Third Annual Midsummer Green Isle, MN

6/23 Monthly Fundraiser Crafting Day 12-3

6/30 Grill and greet Moose Lake state park 3-5

7/14 Monthly Fundraiser Crafting Day 12-3

9/6-9/8 Fallfest MN Northwoods

If you plan to be in the area and want to attend an event you can email me.

jgallagher@runestone.org





Midwest Regional Updates

Greetings from Indiana,

April 2019 marks a very important historical moment for the Midwest. Our Ostara was a complete success. For the first time, AFA members from Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan joined forces to make a Midwest event. What a powerful weekend it proved to be. A bit cold and windy at times but powerful nonetheless. I believe that everyone involved was glad that they decided to come out even with the weather the way it was. One thing is for sure, this is just the beginning of more to come, this year! More information on this in the next month or two.

Josh Wilson and I could not have been more pleased with the turn out. We had 14 people in all show up, some of which were members of my Heimdalls Midgard Kindred and Josh's Kvasir's Scholars. We had quite a few new people, who had just joined the AFA, experience their first blot and sumbl. It was my pleasure to be the first to show them these ceremonies of our ancestors. We also had two members that are in the

process of forming Indiana's second AFA Kindred. Others were working on networking in their areas to perhaps build even more new Kindreds. This was defiantly a time of birth in many ways. New friendships and new alliances.

Besides the Blot and Sumbl, I gave a presentation on Faith-Folk-Family: how to use genealogy to help historically connect you're family to Asatru and ways towards expanding ancestral veneration in our own households. Josh Wilson followed up with a presentation on the Wotan's Wolves children program ran by the Kvasir's Scholars own Cole and Tiffany Distel. I am glad to say that both of the children in my Kindred are participating in Wotan's Wolves and have a blast partaking in the assignments.

Wotan's Wolves will be having a Camp and Hike July 13-14 (Sat/Sun) at

Hocking Hills State Park.
19852 State Route 664 S
Logan, Ohio 43138.

Here is the link to the event page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/408583419896450/?ti=c>

I will be posting more more details on bigger events to come as they are planned and discussed with others. Heimdalls Midgard Kindred meets up the last Sunday of the month at Sycamore Springs in English, Indiana. If you are around Southern Indiana and would like to join us sometime feel free to contact me for further details. Kvasir's Scholars also meet up regularly and Josh Wilson can feel you in on those details as I do not know the specifics at the time of this article. Jwilson@runestone.org

To end this months article I would like to give a big thanks to all who were involved at Ostara in the Midwest. Especially Jessica Lambert and Nick Kroll for getting the menu and cooking together for this. Josh Wilson for reminding me that we needed the cabins instead of tent sites lol it was a bit chilly up at Tippecanoe. And my right-hand man, Fredrick Kilpatrick for supporting me wholeheartedly on this mission and others

A former tripmaker for supporting the authenticity of the mission and other missions beyond Ostara. Everyone there had a hand in making Ostara a cherished experience, a life-long memory and AFA Midwest history. It wouldn't have been the same without the 14 that made it. The memorable discussions, new friendships and folkish environment had that weekend in April will forever be with me. The State Park crew kept asking me if I was having a family reunion. I said, YES, a long-awaited and over-due reunion with my Family!

Hail the Doers!

Hail the Kindreds!

Hail the Gods and Goddesses!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Zach Cato, Heimdalls Midgard Godhi

HeimdallsMidgardKindred@gmail.com





Upper South Regional Updates

April has been a wonderful month in the Upper South. The Sandhills Kindred celebrated Hexennacht with a Sigrblot and enjoyed a surprise visit from some of the members of the Southern Shire Kindred. Brian

Culpepper is doing a phenomenal job rallying together our Tennessee Folk and Billy Geiger is working hard bringing together our Kentucky Folk. Please contact Brian and Billy if you're in their area or let me know and I'll get you in touch with them. Hopefully we'll be adding two new kindreds soon. Our regions is thriving with energy and this is truly a product of our members and their dedication to a higher resolve. Hail the Folk 🍷





Deep South Regional Updates

May 4th and 5th Florida will hold its May Day celebration.

If you go to Wikipedia and look you'll find that are holiday was hijacked by the Communists in the socialist.

but this holiday or day of celebration was indeed started the farmers as the first day of spring. What is the first day of spring mean for a farmers, it means the end of snow and then two grounds that were plantable.

In the tropical climate of Florida, and for many pagan Floridians that's hard to grasp. So we dig deeper into the roots of our ancestors to get a vibe, and a better understanding as to what and why of the season's turnings and in-betweens. With that being said, let this season of new life be a time to tell someone about our Folkish Asatru beliefs.

For information email Ralph at

rviola@runestone.org

Ralph Voila

Apprentice Folkbuilder

rviola@runestone.org

Deep South, South Carolina Updates

On April 27th Southern Shire gathered to celebrate Walpurgisnacht, our first event as a kindred. We welcomed a new member into our Kindred, and sold ourselves so well that a guest decided to apply to join the AFA. I could not be more proud of the members of this kindred and how will they represent our immediate local community as well as the AFA as a whole.

We believe we have a solid foundation to build upon and look forward the cultivating the growth of our faith in this region.

Hail the Gods

Hail the Folk

Hail the AFA

James Dover

Deep South apprentice Folkbuilder

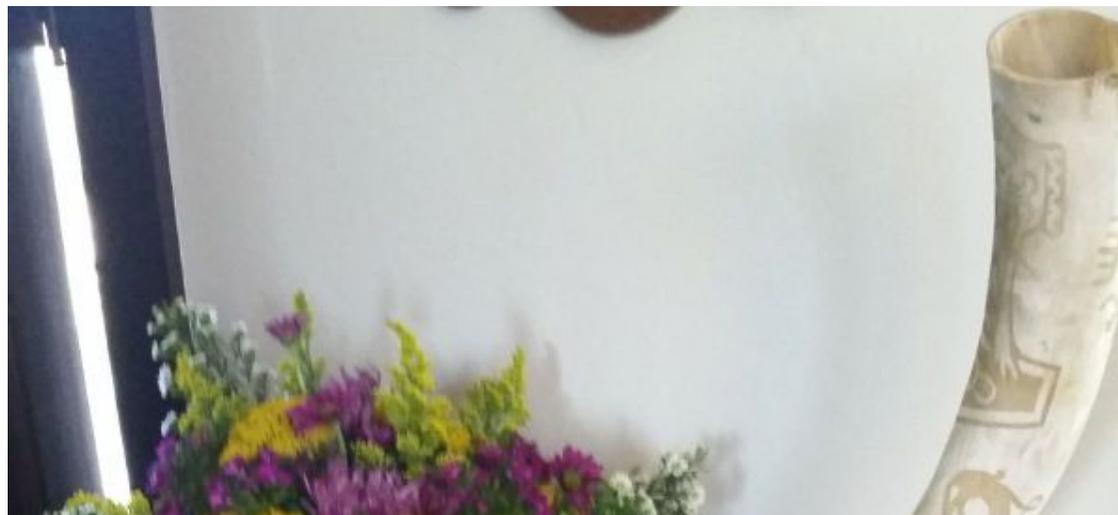
South Carolina





Northeast Regional Updates

On March 31st Lansdale Tru Folk and AFA friends celebrated Ostara, the dawn of spring. We studied the Voluspa and the rune Fehu before Catie Reid led us in a Blot to Ostara. After giving our gifts to Ostara, we feasted on corned beef with cabbage and soda bread. We held a Sumbel with the folk and our new friend Kyler who is in Pennsylvania for we hope a long time!





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)

Lansdale Tru Folk events are open to all AFA members, except where otherwise noted.

Our next Northeast conference call will be at 8:00 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, May 8.

2019. We look forward to hearing you there! Dial-in Number: (641) 715-3580 Access Code: 174-424

Last, but hardly least, planning is already underway for the 8th annual Winter Nights in the Poconos, which will be held in Milford, Pennsylvania from October 18 - 20!



Clifford Erickson
Folkbuilder
cerickson@runestone.org

Scandinavia Regional Updates

Sunday the 21 of April we finally had the chance to meet our newest kindred in Europe

and it's founder Massimo Nobili.

We meet at a the famous Rökstenen which has the longest Rune writing in The world in total 760 individual Runes and multiple bind runes the text is not completely understood and it uses the 16 row futhark it's believed that it's made around early 800.

Anders Nilsson

Apprentice Folkbuilder

anilsson@runestone.org





Ultima Thule Sweden.

If you plan to come in May for the Thule event you need to book cabins now send me a message and I will give you the information you need, anilsson@runestone.org

This weekend will definitely be something you don't want to miss the main feast will be held in a Viking long hall with walking distance from the cabins and the ritual will take place at ancient thing stead close by. The location is on the west coast about one and a half hours from either Oslo airport or Gothenburg airport.





Gothi Bryan Wilton



The Resolute Attitude

Our lore is an amazing collection of wisdom. What I continually find astonishing, is that I find that the actions, attitudes and mental states of our ancestors are no different from ours today. Though the language in which it was written may possess more flare

for the romantic and the dramatic, it is no less relevant. The Voluspa is one of those wonderful Lays which outlines the path of a man's life. There are a couple of concepts in this Lay, the understanding of which is crucial to just about every thing we are doing.

We will start with the gifts.

17. Then from the throng | did three come forth, From the home of the gods, | the mighty and gracious; Two without fate | on the land they found, Ask and Embla, | empty of might.

18. Soul they had not, | sense they had not, Heat nor motion, | nor goodly hue; Soul gave Othin, | sense gave Hönir, Heat gave Lothur | and goodly hue.

That's it. This is what we all started with. Good sense, soul, heat and goodly hue. Those tools brought us to a point in life and the history of men, when the Gods again decided to offer a little push. They have done so by an example and an interaction. One is when Odin sacrificed those aspects of himself necessary to reclaim the throne of the realm he himself created. Many men and women have found themselves in that very same boat. They have built for themselves a seemingly good life and then, the very best thinking they come up with will bring it all down on their heads. But they will not change the thought process which is causing this destruction of the things which they once loved so much. Including their freedom. Divorce, death, sickness, the loss of a job, financial insecurity, a job they hate, all create a thought process which feeds resentment and ego building or a victim mentality. When Odin found himself at such a crossroads, he did not dig in his heels and refuse to budge. He went through the very painful processes necessary to grow into the individual worthy to again rule Asgard. One must ask themselves, have I done shed those ideas which brought me to a crossroads so painful that I decided to change the spiritual foundation of my life? Have we simply put a new coat of paint on an old problem? Finding new enemies to dislike. Some people call it

becoming red-pilled. All it really is, is a different direction to focus the negative thoughts which keep us done. How do we change that? Why should we? What suggestion is there in the lore to support even the requirement to do so. Aside from Odin's sacrifice and his ensuing success, there are a couple more.

One is when Baldur is killed. When a decidedly harmful individual hovers at the edge of the crowd and whispers encouragements the blind, the fringe element of society, the downtrodden and the outcast, the failures, usually fail to understand. And the light of the world is stolen from everyone. A new god is born. One who demonstrates exactly the mindset necessary to rebuild the faith. A faith which has been in the dark for far too long.

33. From the branch which seemed | so slender and fair Came a harmful shaft | that
Hoth should hurl, But the brother of Baldr | was born here long, And one night old |
fought Othin's son. 34. His hands he washed not, | his hair he combed not, Till he bore
to the bale-blaze | Baldr's foe. But in Fensalir | did Frigg weep sore For Valhall's need: |
would you know yet more?

We have two choices. One is the single-minded purpose of killing that offensive idea which has seemingly robbed us of the opportunities which we feel we deserve. As we see here, all that has done is to ensure the pain continues. In Fensalir, Frigga still weeps. Nothing has changed, the sun is still gone and now there is even more blood. But what if we look at it from a new angle. From the angle of people who are striving to find that faith which was robbed of us long ago. Now we will find perceived enemies all around us. Many 19th and 20th century academics and scholars have provided us with a plethora of their biases and shortcomings, which are sadly, today, being considered as legitimate. Such is not the case. We must adopt the same single-minded attitude which flies in the face of the wisdom of the Havamal. The Havamal tells us that we should attend the Thing, freshly washed and clean shaven though our clothes be rags. Yet the great avenger of Baldurs death proceeds without washing or shaving. His single

purpose is to right the wrong. When are we going to approach the building of this faith with the same mindset? Distractions be damned. One simple question must always be asked. What does this have to do with me rebuilding a faith which accords the Gods and man alike success in their endeavors? If it doesn't move our faith forward, leave it where it is. Our single-minded purpose must be the development of a faith which creates an environment where our children will be as successful as they can be. Such is the lesson of the Rigsthula. The time for academic debates is behind us. All it has fostered is an ever-shifting foundation of sand and the splintering of this entire movement into so many factions one would be hard pressed to name them all. What new person cares to sift through a dozen different ideas? 11 of which are irrelevant. Always ask yourself, how does this notion that the strength with which I dislike any other group determines the quality of my Asatru faith? Show me the success of your children and let the Gods decide. When Rig stepped forth and named Kon-jarl as one of his own, it was not he who had the honor of shedding the Kon and becoming Rig himself, it was his son

Italy

Heil.

The first time I went to Sweden was about 39 years ago.

I've always loved Sweden and since then I've been back there several times. The last one was about 27 years ago.

On April 18, I returned to the places I loved most: Gampla Uppsala and Sigtuna. My wife and my second daughter Sveva were with me. For her it was his first time. I believe that for everyone, but above all for a young person, it is important to see the

places where our Faith developed.

We spent 6 days in Sweden and we did more than 1000 kilometers by car, returning to those places where we still breathe the air of our ancestors and our Gods: Gamla Uppsala, Sigtuta, Orkesta-Granby and Rök- Here we had the pleasure and honor to finally meet Anders Nilsson and his wonderful family. It was an important meeting and apart from a small natural initial embarrassment, the energy between us was really good. A bit like it wasn't the first time we met. It will be a real pleasure to meet him again in May.

Sigtuna and Gamla Uppsala are always magical for those who know how to listen. The first time I went there the mounds of the kings were not surrounded by fences like today and I had the opportunity to go up at sunset on the central one and feel all the strength and energy still alive. Also this time I was tempted to climb again on the central mound, but I did not do it out of respect, because the area is now enclosed to safeguard the inheritance. But this was not the case for others who rose disrespectfully on the mounds even with noisy children and dogs, to take pictures and admire the view ... Unfortunately, respect is a precious and rare commodity.

We have recently returned to Italy, tired but happy. I hope in May I can meet some of you and meet you in person. I recently started the journey with AFA and it is our firm intention to introduce the AFA programs in Italy.

May the Gods always be with AFA and its Kindreds for a future that is better and worth living.

Heil Gods.

Heil AFA

Heil Kindreds





South Central Texas

The Black Sun Tribe hosted a small but intimate Walpurgisnacht in Willis, Texas. Though it was a few days early we began midday with a May Pole celebration, and though it was our first time incorporating a May Pole it went over wonderfully. As traditional folk music played in the background the participants danced and weaved in and out with their ribbons, symbolic of the weaving of the male and female essence needed to create life. It was filled with laughter and smiles and everyone finished feeling happy.

As the sun set, we began the Walpurgisnacht Blot, beginning with the Hallowing of our concentrated place, holding the ceremonial hammer high while asking Thor to rid our sacred space of any negative and impure energy. This was followed by myself dipping an evergreen sprig into mead and in a clockwise progression, sprinkling each

participant offering the Blessing of Odin.

We reflected on the mysteries of death and the heroic deeds of our ancestors which are like layers deep within us and are able still able to shape our lives and are eternally within us - a part of the Folk Soul - to forever be passed down from generation to generation. Our ancestors are like seeds within each of us and the fruit they bore in their days will always be available to us.

We gave honor to and commemorated the death of Balder, son of the Allfather Odin and Mother Frigga, beloved of all creatures and that through Balder we are connected to all things living and not yet born as well as to all that came before us.

In closing, we incorporated a straw man - projecting into it anything that we wanted to move on from, that burdened us and as we set in aflame, the purification power of the fire cleansed us and allowed us to move forward with personal weights removed from our shoulders.

All participants felt the energy and power that flowed through us that night and believe that experiencing this brought us all closer to one another as group ritual so often does.





AFA Military Program Update
by Kevin Long



ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY MILITARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

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

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

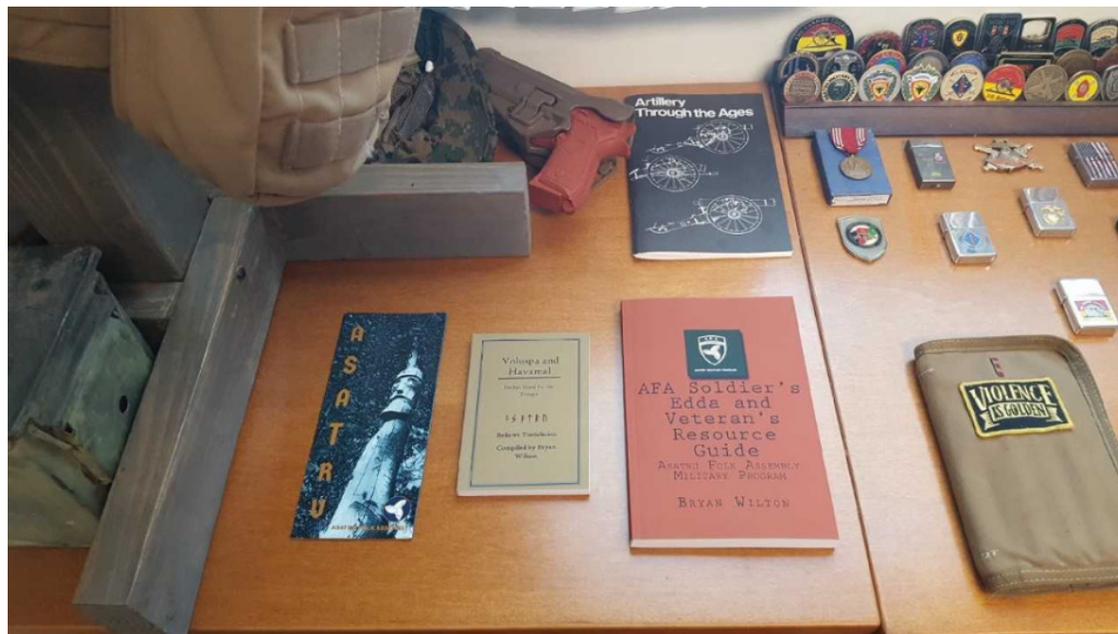
Also, I have a few books/pamphlets left from our successful book drive, if you know anyone in your area needing any material; Soldiers Edda and/or the Pocket Voluspa, send me an email as well!

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

Thank you all!

Kevin Long

AFA Military Program Coordinator Klong@runestone.org or Military@runestone.org





AFA Store

DIRTYSTONE GIFTS AFA M... D...

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





\$20.00 at the Runestone store <http://www.runestonegifts.com/shirts>

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!

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

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

Thanks to the generosity of many of our home brewers, mead is abundant at our events. Mead is a fairly easy brew to make, and can be as simple or as complex as you want it 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

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 promote and support Folkish businesses so we can help each other flourish and grow. Community starts with working together and working in each other's interests. Lets make it happen!

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

Directory”.

Baby Blanket Project

The Women of the AFA are proud to be continuing this fine and noble work we call the Baby Blanket Project! We're committed to ensuring all new babies born within the AFA are gifted a hand made - knit, crocheted, or woven - baby blanket! It's just our little way of celebrating 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 JUNE. We would love to have your children and the children of your kindred draw pictures, write articles or stories for our publication. Please help us make the Runepebble just as awesome as the voice. The children need it !! Please send anything to heathor@runestone.org Thank you!

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



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

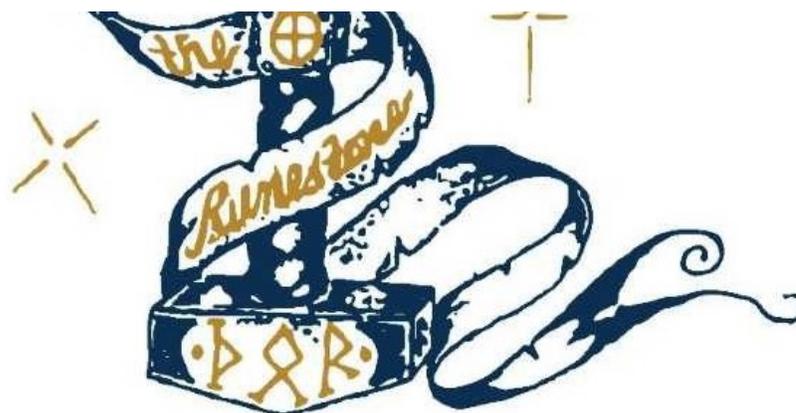
January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 20	Thorrablot
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 17	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olivir of Egg
March 20	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 30	Hexennacht
May 1	May Day
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric
June 21	Midsummer
July 9	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rudd Mills

- July 7 Day of Remembrance for Alexander Ragnvald
- 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.





*Copyright © *2019* Asatru Folk Assembly, All rights reserved.
The Runestone, Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly*

Our mailing address is:

Asatru Folk Assembly
P.O. Box 124
Brownsville, CA 95919

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

