

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly



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WORDS FROM THE ALSHERJARGOTHI



I would like to start off this month's Runestone by announcing that my wife, Mandy, is pregnant with our first child. In April we look forward to welcoming our daughter into the world. Huge thank you to Gythia Catherine Erickson for putting together a surprise baby shower for Mandy at Winternights. Our AFA Family is truly the best.

The AFA's 8th annual Winternights in the Poconos was absolutely amazing! I have had the honor of attending all 8 and they have been wonderful. That said, the quality of folks attending is at an all time high. Those of you who have been to these events over the years

hearts with joy and pride. Thank you to everyone who made this such a successful event. Huge thank you to Lansdale Trufolk and Stoneship Hearth for hosting and especially to Cliff and Catie Erickson for overseeing all aspects of this event.

This month we will be taking the time to remember those men of our folk who have fallen in combat, those brave men who have fought for their folk, their counties, their Kings, or simply the men to their left and right. Take time this month to appreciate bravery and sacrifice. As we feast in honor of the Einherjar and as we celebrate Thanksgiving, remember to be thankful for all those who have sacrificed that we might have the blessings in our lives that we so enjoy.

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



Matthew D. Flavel
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WINTER NIGHTS IN THE POCONOS VIII



My very first true AFA event was Winter Nights in the Poconos I, back in 2012. I had been to heathen meet-ups and had met some AFA members at them, but this was my first time doing real Asatru. I remember nagging my Folkbuilder to make sure I was on the list because I knew I couldn't miss it. And I was right, it changed my life and was the first pull

rewarding thing that I do in my life.

This year at Winter Nights VIII, we had the strongest showing of families ever at Winter Nights in the Poconos. Over 20% of our attendees were children, and the Family registration was by far the most popular. Our Oktoberfest Ball had a perfectly matched number of men and women, who put a good effort into learning to polka, waltz, and chicken dance. The waltz turned out to be the most popular!



In addition to the Oktoberfest Ball, on our first night together we learned about easy mead making at home, with some contrast between this and more commercial methods. AFA Founder Stephen McNallen gave us a brief history of modern Asatru and how things have changed through the years for the AFA. Sheila McNallen added wonderful insight on the Kennewick Man investigation prompted by the AFA in the 1990s.

We enjoyed a chicken dinner prepared for us by the Stoneship Hearth of

Massachusetts before the Odin Blot. The Odin Blot made by Alsherjargothi Flavel was powerful, and some have found in a photo of the mead offering Odin's face. What do you see? After the blot as the folk exited the ritual ring, a shooting star flew across the sky. We were heard.



On Saturday we started with breakfast prepared by Kvasir's Scholars. Stoneship Hearth showed big and little kids how to paint their own runes on key-chains, after which Kali from New York and Sarah from Indiana took the little ones on a nature walk and crafts.

After lunch, Rosemarie from New York gave a presentation on practical herbalism. Catie Erickson held a workshop for the women while the men played kubb (and passed a horn). At the end of the women's workshop Mrs. Mandy Flavel was surprised with a baby shower put on by the ladies of the AFA.

and our current achievements and goals. This conversation quickly started to focus on Hofs and Hoftollar, specifically what AFA members can do to help our primary mission's success. That is, the practice, promotion, development, and dissemination of the religion of Asatru. The answer, as is common with almost any organization and especially churches, is people, time, and money. Matt pointed out that if each AFA member enrolled in Hoftollar at the 1% level the AFA could build or buy a Hof equivalent to Odinshof every two years. If we gave 10%, like the Christians do, we could



build or buy five Hofs every year. Of course, to justify a Hof somewhere we also need active, loyal, and stable congregations (kindreds) and AFA leaders in the area. Not only do these holy temples deserve to be used regularly to honor the Holy Powers, but they will need maintenance, emergency visits (frozen pipes, etc), and more. If you are interested in starting a kindred or enrolling in Hoftollar please let your Folkbuilder know today! Also, feel free to ask them about doing even more.

After this talk, Folkbuilder Coordinator Marc MacLeod oathed in our newest full

Folkbuilder, Trent East of Ravensblood Kindred. After the present Folkbuilders said their words to Trent over the horn, Trent finished the horn, if not on the first try. Next, our newest Gythia, Catie Erickson, was oathed in by Alsherjargothi Flavel while AFA Founder Stephen McNallen held the AFA East Horn. After words from both, Catie did not finish the horn because she announced the exciting news that the Erickson's are expecting a second child. Babies everywhere was a major theme this year.



Dinner was prepared by Lansdale Tru Folk members, with special thanks to Mark Orth for preparing an amazing smoked pork shoulders with a maple barbecue sauce. After dinner we held the 50/50 raffle, where the winner Derrick of Stoneship Hearth generously donated back his winnings to the AFA! Clifford (me) then ran a quick paced auction with some very generous items donated by AFA members and vendors.

held by the warm hearth. The incense and candle light filling that wooden hall, with its great stone fireplace, surely brought our mothers to be there with us. When the rite had ended and the men were properly sent out, the women then had a fertility blot led by Sheila McNallen. I can't say more about it because I don't know. This is secret women's stuff, but I am sure the ladies who were present can give insight to any of our ladies who would like to know more.



Late on Saturday, I think it was about 10:30 PM, we began High Sumbel in the large main hall we had dined in. We shared wise and goodly words over the horn, many of which focused on the great achievements by our members, kindreds, and leaders. The night was very late when we ended, but this did not stop our folk from spending time around the bonfire that night.

After breakfast, prepared by Ravensblood Kindred, Sheila McNallen held a Wayfarers Blot asking for Thor to protect our Folk on their journeys home. After the Wayfarer's Blot, Lansdale Tru Folk oathed in two new members. Congratulations to Adam and Jane!

I have been to every AFA Winter Nights in the Poconos and have helped organized half. I can say that this was the most successful year we have had. It didn't have our maximum attendance, but the quality of the members and the family orientation of this event was the strongest ever. There was only one problem all weekend. That family orientation was so strong that we had to make a beer run not because we ran out of beer, but because between all of us we had brought so little. What a wholesome problem to have had!





*AFA Winter Nights in the Poconos VIII
October 2019, Milford, Pennsylvania*

Ves Heill!



Clifford J. Erickson
AFA Folkbuilder, Witan
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KINDRED SPOTLIGHT

In this month's Kindred Spotlight, the AFA would like to honor the Lansdale Tru Folk of Pennsylvania.



The Lansdale Tru Folk have been part of the rock solid foundation of the AFA for many years now. Hosting and organizing Winter Nights in the Poconos and building and creating bonds in the Northeast for several years now. Led by our very own Folkbuilder and Witan Cliff Erickson.



Thank you for all your hard work and being a Noble example for our folk and future

Hail the Lansdale Tru Folk!



Jason Gallagher
AFA Kindred Coordinator
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GOTHAR UPDATE

by Gothar Coordinator Blaine Qualls

SPIRITUALITY

I keep hearing the words spiritual and spirituality thrown around by people who are unhappy with where they are in their lives. Unhappy that someone isn't there to take them by the hand and suffocate them with dogma and rules for how to enliven their bleak meaningless lives. Cries of, "The AFA isn't spiritual enough." or "The AFA is too political." seem to continually come up among those who have decided to leave our church and tread some new path of their own choosing.



So what is Spirituality then? What are these men and women yearning for that apparently our church is lacking?

By definition within the American Heritage Dictionary Spirituality is:

"A religious belief or manner of pursuing a religious life."

Dictionary.com:

"The state or quality of being dedicated to God, religion, or spiritual things or values...."

Medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com:

others and with nature.

These definitions, and most others, give a person the understanding that Spirituality is basically dedication to a religion/church(in our case Asatru/Asatru Folk Assembly) and the individual work it takes to bring yourself in tune with the Divine (in our case the holy Aesir and Vanir).

So, if Spirituality is a combination of belonging to say the AFA, AND(!!!) becoming a better person at your own level, how can the AFA be lacking in spirituality? If a person chooses to leave our church because their lives are not good enough, how can it become somehow our fault? The AFA's fault?

Wouldn't these people be better served by reaching out to their Gothar, their priests and priestesses, and seeking ways to better connect with the holy Aesir and Vanir? Wouldn't these people be better served by interacting with their co-religionists rather than going it alone? Wouldn't such lost people be far better served by attending blotar and sumble whereby they may have a chance to feel the Divine in a spiritual setting?



The answer overwhelmingly is, "YES!", and yet these types of people would rather carve out a new path for themselves when they haven't even devoted themselves to the one they are complaining about. It is foolish at best, frustratingly sad at worst. These are, for the most part, good, well meaning people who get led astray by the whispers of some wannabe messiah/dungeon master with a chip on his or her shoulder. These "good" people tread a fool's path for several months/years before realizing they had the key to spirituality all along and then come back home....come back to the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Truly if someone wants to become more spiritual then learn how your Ancestors viewed the Divine, join with others whenever you are able to honour the holy Gods, seek out the solitude of nature to break up the soul crushing daily grind of the modern work-eat-sleep-work again cycle, and, when it seems you have hit a spiritual wall, a spiritual crisis of some kind then seek out a Gothi or Gythia for aid in reacquainting yourself with the Gods.

Asatru is something each of us reading this have a connection to, the very blood coursing



against all things to preserve that gift so that you, and the generations after you, may have the same connection to the Divine that they had. They did not struggle as they did just so that some knucklehead could come along and bemoan his existence (mainly due to his or her own lack of wherewithal) and blame his church for not connecting him to the Divine.

The Asatru Folk Assembly is by far one of the most active Asatru churches in the world. Every week all across the globe members are gathering for Blot, sumble, camaraderie, etc. Our Gods and Ancestors are honoured wherever we have members and our Gothar have taken up the mantle of the priest to aid our Folk in their search for a connection to the holy Aesir and Vanir. Anyone who says the AFA is lacking spiritually is not attending the same events and celebrations that I and 99% of the rest of the AFA are attending.



Gothi Blaine Qualls Jr.
AFA Gothar Coordinator
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FOLKBUILDER UPDATES

by Folkbuilder Coordinator Marc MacLeod

It was another great year in the Pocono's Mountains at Winter Night 2019. I love to celebrate the coming of Winter in the North East.

This year I had the Honor to give Apprentice Folkbuilder Trent East his Oath of full status Folkbuilder. Trent is officially the youngest of our leadership and with continued maturity, hard work and dedication, Trent and others like him may lead the AFA into the future some day.



Marc MacLeod
Folkbuilder Coordinator & Witan
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Óðinshof

The Folk gathered on October 26th at Óðinshof to celebrate Winter Nights and to pay our respects to the Disir.

An opening Blot was performed by Sheila McNallen after people arrived helping to set the mood for the day. The children had fun and spooky activities including costumes and face painting, pumpkin carving and more. There were some new Folk attending and lots of time for great conversation and getting to know one another.



Dinner was prepared by many helping hands and just in time for the power to go out. Having advanced notice this would happen we were prepared and had lighting and candles ready and the end result was a very intimate and lovely dinner feast.



After dinner we were led to the ritual circle and Sheila stirred our hearts with a lovely Disir Blot. At the Disir Blot, always a bit different than others, we each called upon and invited a female ancestor to join us. The women entered the circle and sang a beautiful song compiled by Catie Erickson and Olivia McKoy. As the men joined us we also felt the

rune by Milena Robbins and took a few minutes to contemplate and focus on it.



At the end of the evening, a small group of us enjoyed a seven round sumble led by Steve and Shelia McNallen. Although we could have regaled each other all night with tales of ancestors past or from our own interesting lives, the night finally wound down and we all made our way home or to bed.

Krystal Bailey
Hagvirkr Kindred



OCTOBER FOOD DRIVE

Another successful food drive helping the people of Brownsville. It was great to see some new faces and have such a great turn out of volunteers. We helped feed (to my knowledge) around 190 people (69 families). This is probably a big help right now especially with the power outages that have been going on. ♥





Marc MacLeod
Folkbuilder Coordinator & Witan
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Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigrith

On November the 9th we honour Queen Sigrith of Sweden. Widowed at a still young age, Queen Sigrith had many suitors vying for her hand in marriage. One by one each suitor was rebuffed, earning Queen Sigrith the nickname, Queen Sigrith the Haughty.



Eventually Sigrith did accept an offer of marriage from Olaf Tryggvason, king of Norway, and a rabid christian. Soon Sigrith travelled to Norway for the wedding ceremony. In the course of talking over the wedding plans Olaf asked Sigrith to give up her ancestral Gods and embrace christianity. She refused, and he promptly slapped her across the face with his glove. She rose, told him that strike might well be the death of him, and immediately called off the wedding. Years later Olaf was killed in battle by Sigrith's husband fulfilling her earlier prophecy.

Few today are willing to stand up for their beliefs in the face of adversity, Sigrith has much to teach such people. We may be living in a different time than she did, but our ancestral ways are under just as much, if not more, of a threat. Today we have again chosen to take a stand by embracing our noble ways; we have chosen to take a

building a positive future upon the families of our folk, and living noble 'tru lives, we do in fact honour Sigrith and all those of our kind who chose not to kneel before the bedouin spirit.

Let us again rise and be a strong people! Hail those strong noble souls of the past! Hail Queen Sigrith!



Gothi Blaine Qualls Jr.
AFA Gothar Coordinator
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Alaska and Far North



Towards the end of the month of October, AFA Kindred Der Volkstamm auf dem Nordliche Bar and other AFA members from all over the state of Alaska traveled hundreds of miles to meet at the home of Gothi Steven Morrell for our annual Winternights event.

In typical Alaskan fashion, this was a multiple day event, and the frith, mirth, and love amongst the members was felt very tangibly.

Being a day to honor the Disir and the female ancestors, Blot was deftly led by Oathed Kindred member Channcie Alfred under the clear and star-filled northern sky.

A hearty feast was held afterwards and the night ended with Sumbel.

Our next event is our Feast of the Einherjer on November 10th.



Eric Whisman
AFA Folkbuilder
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Deep South

Florida had a great Winter Finding in the Ocala National Forest. It all started with a powerful blot to Odin. After lunch we got to know our new friends and further build frith with our folk. We even had a member from Georgia make the trip! Around the fire we held sumbel together. We discussed the coming 25th Anniversary of the AFA and excitement is

membership campaign. And throughout the day we were entertained by flocks of turkeys roaming the campground. We couldn't have asked for more from a venue and will definitely hold future events there. I want to personally thank everyone who came and made it a great experience.



We also welcomed a new member and the return of an old member this month. Welcome Home!



Lane Ashby
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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This October, many of our Deep South members made something of a pilgrimage up to the

It was an amazing event, as usual. We listened to talks from Matt Flavel and Stephen McNallen, attended three fantastic blots (Odin, Disir, Wayfarer), and witnessed two oathings! Besides myself taking the Folkbuilder Oath, the AFA also gained an amazing new Gythia! Congrats to Catie Erickson on her well-deserved title!

After the event, everyone said their goodbyes and left. Everyone from our region made it home safe and sound, thanks to Sheila McNallen's powerful Wayfarer's Blöt!

Hail the Disir!
Hail the Folk!
Hail the AFA!



Trent East
AFA Folkbuilder
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Four Corners

Activity has been increasing in the Four Corners region! Starting in August Arizona started regular moots 1st Sunday of the month, with more moors and meet-ups coming in the future! September and October was no exception, to get on board with the steam building up in AZ and to get out to build the strong bonds of frith that make your folk home feel free to reach your Four Corners Folkbuilder at jplourde@runestone.org, or Chad on Facebook as Chas O Scalar, as he is spearheading these gatherings.



In Utah we've had very busy folk from new folk blessing the Loveless family, with a healthy baby girl, and the founding of the Rocky Mountain Folk Kindred lead by Josh Birdzell Utah is up and coming folk hot spot in the four corners.



Lastly out of Colorado We have had Jason Plourde performing Wotan bløts in Utah and Colorado with eyes on AZ, and NM next, as well the last years newly founded regional event Thor Fest 2020 just around the corner, venue is secure, tickets, and registration will be opening soon! Thor Fest 2020 is great opportunity to spend time with your folk, and to shake off the cabin fever and wintertime blues! With games, food and folk it's an opportunity you don't want to miss!



Jason Plourde
AFA Folkbuilder
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Midwest

Greetings from Indiana,

This month has been very eventful. Myself and many others from the Midwest traveled out to Pennsylvania for Winter Nights. I believe that there were ten adults and four children from areas of Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. It is always a pleasure to meet up with the AFA leadership, kindreds and folk. I very much enjoyed meeting the members of Stoneship Hearth who joined us in our Midwest pic below.



Congratulations to our new Folkbuilder Trent East and Gythia Catie Erickson! Also another big congratulations to the Flavel family and Erickson family whom are both expecting newborns in 2020. I am glad to have been present for the announcing of such fantastic news. Gythia Catie led the Disirblot that, in which I believe, all of us there felt the ancestors present. Hail the Disir!

Members of my kindred met up with the Grim Raven Tribe of Kentucky. Continues our long going interaction with this nearby kindred that happens whenever possible. My kindred has had a lot of good times with this kindred since they first came on board the AFA. And we will continue to do so!



Heimdalls Midgard met up for our own Winter Nights. This has been a special time for my kindred since we started. This will have been our second official Winter Nights as a kindred with many more to come. I am pleased to say that my kindred has made it through two yearly cycles of our holy days.

One another note, we had some strange guests at my kindred's meeting. Yellow Jackets! Drunken Yellow Jackets at that. We had a lot of fun watching these little ones sharing the mead with us. I kept thinking, "Mom never told us honey could do this!" must be running through their yellow jackets heads.

Here are another member's thoughts on it:

"Sunday we had our monthly Heimdalls Midgard Kindred meeting in a beautiful rural area. We had a bottle of mead that had spilled over while being transported to the meeting. Some mead was left on the bottle that was the delight of a group of yellow jackets who happened to be at the picnic tables. They commenced to get extremely inebriated. Many were staggering around and falling over. I thought staggering was reserved for two legged creatures but these little six legged gals proved me wrong. One of the yellow jackets was completely passed out and we thought she was dead. One of the other insects came over and started working on her drunk sister. In a while the drunk yellow jacket was conscious and trying to stand up. We lost interest in watching and left for a while. When we came back the drunk insect was gone. We think that the sobering process was successful. We were amazed that yellow jackets would take care of their sick sisters like this.

"From this experience we drew a few conclusions. The first is that our yellow jacket friends



than most of us. I have never seen a two legged creature staggering around or passed out at an AFA function. The third is that yellow jackets are very cheap drunks. There was so little booze that I could not see it. That may not be saying much because I am nearly blind but it takes a quantity of mead I can easily see for me to get a buzz. And fourth and most surprising, yellow jacket nurses take care of their passed out sisters and get them back on their feet. This certainly demonstrates a level of compassion and technical proficiency I did not expect. I suspect it also demonstrates experience with alcoholic sisters.”

—Frederick Kilpatrick

In November I will be hosting a central Indiana meeting. It will be held towards the middle of the month. We have had quit a few new Indiana members and long standing members in that area. It is high time that we start getting together on a regular basis. The Midwest is really picking up and it is exciting to watch and be a part of.

All in all it has been a great month. Looking forward to the last few months of the year and on to 2020. The Midwest has lots of plans for the coming year that we will talk about more once the time draws closer. Hope everyone had a Happy Winter Nights! Until next time...

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Zach Cato

Apprentice Folkbuilder

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Northeast

UPCOMING MEET-UPS

Thursday, November 7, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

New Jersey Pub Moot

Hailey's Harp & Pub Moot

400 Main St, Metuchen, New Jersey

Look for Seamus in the AFA hoodie.

Saturday, November 16, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Fall and Winter Hike and Pub Moot Series

Evansburg State Park

Cedars, Pennsylvania 19426

<https://www.facebook.com/events/663736537459140/>

Saturday November 30, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Lancaster area Pub Moot

Diener's Country Restaurant

2855 Lincoln Hwy E, Ronks, Pennsylvania

<https://www.facebook.com/events/441351836520161/>

UPDATES FROM STONESHIP HEARTH

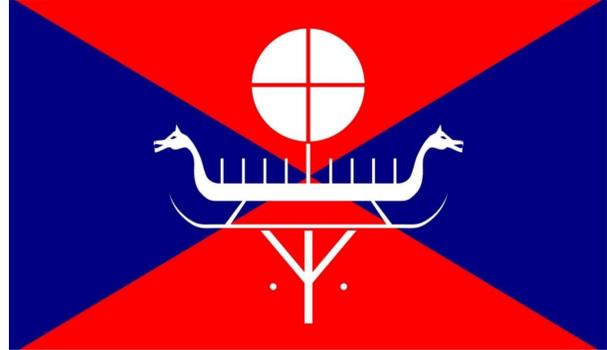
This will be the official flag of The Stoneship Hearth of Massachusetts!! I'm super happy how this design came out. Derrick drew it and VB Sean made it come to life. Thanks a lot Sean, it came out great brother!



Derrick Bubar
Stoneship Hearth

changing and beautiful is all I can say, other than that the kinship and frith was unreal! I love our folk and I love our Church!

HAIL THE AFA!!!!



UPDATES FROM LANSDALE TRU FOLK

If you didn't already know by reading this issue so far, we have been busy with Winter Nights in the Poconos, where we oathed in two new members, Adam and Jane. Welcome both!

On November 16, Lansdale Tru Folk members will be hosting the next in a series of fall and winter hike moots in beautiful Evansburg State Park! This is open to non AFA members who are interested in learning more about the faith and taking in a great hike. Evansburg State Park is a beautiful forest with easy to medium in difficulty hiking trails nestled in the Suburbs of Montgomery County.



After the hike, we will meet at Lansdale Tavern for lunch! For a full list of dates please see our Facebook events list.

Holy Days celebrated by Lansdale Tru Folk in 2019:

Thorrablot, Saturday Feb 23 (Thor)

Ostara, Sunday March 31 (Ostara)

Sumarsdag, Saturday May 4 (Odin)



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)

Please contact Clifford Erickson if you are new interested in any of these events, if you are in the Northeast region looking for other members, or if you will be passing through.

Ves Heill!



Clifford J. Erickson

AFA Folkbuilder, Witan

cerickson@runestone.org

Northern Plains

We have been pretty busy in Minnesota. The Northern Blood Kindred continues to host several events in the real world like so many of our AFA Kindreds and members around Midgard.



I am honored to be the AFA Kindred Coordinater and working with our AFA Kindreds. It's a beautiful thing seeing all these local groups hosting events and creating a future for our Children.



If you are interested in starting a AFA Kindred or have questions about the program you can email at Kindred@runestone.org Congratulations to newly ordained AFA Gythia Catie Erickson. We now have two AFA Gythias!

Northern Blood Kindred Upcoming events:

11/16 — Monthly Meet and Greet @Kramarczuks –
Minneapolis, MN

11/17 — Monthly Book Study group – Bloomington, MN

12/14 — 4th Annual Folkish Family Yule Celebration –
Bloomington, MN



Jason Gallagher



Northwest

Hails from the great Pacific Northwest!

This past month of October saw members of the AFA coming together for Hikes, rune groups, a remembrance for the famous “Guido von List”, Mead making and an Alvar Sumble. Thanks to all those that participated and made the effort to leave our busy lives to be among our kinsman. Gathering with our fellow AFA members always recharges me mentally and spiritually, I’m looking forward to this next month and getting out again!

For those of you who are isolated in the NW, every Wednesday evening we have our AFA NW weekly call-in forum so that there is an opportunity for you to learn, grow, and share with other AFA members. Currently our call-in is at 8:00 PST, but we may be adding an earlier call on the weekend for those of you whose schedules can’t make it. In the forum we discuss topics ranging from the basics of Asatru’ to the other worldly powers of the runes. In this week's forum, we will be discussing “Sacred spaces' their creation and their relevancy in the practice of Asatru.

If you would like to organize an event in your area, contact me and I will help you set it up.

November 6,13,20,27 "Wodenstag" AFA NW weekly call-in Forum

November tbd Rune Study/Holiday celebration – Vancouver, BC

November 1st Rune Study/Pub moot – Vancouver, WA

November 3rd Moot/discussion “Asatru in the 21st Century” – Edmonton, AB

November 10th Remembrance for Queen Sigirth – Portland, OR

November 16th Feast of the Einherjar – Vancouver, WA

November 23th Tubs Hill hike – Coeur d' Alene, ID

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



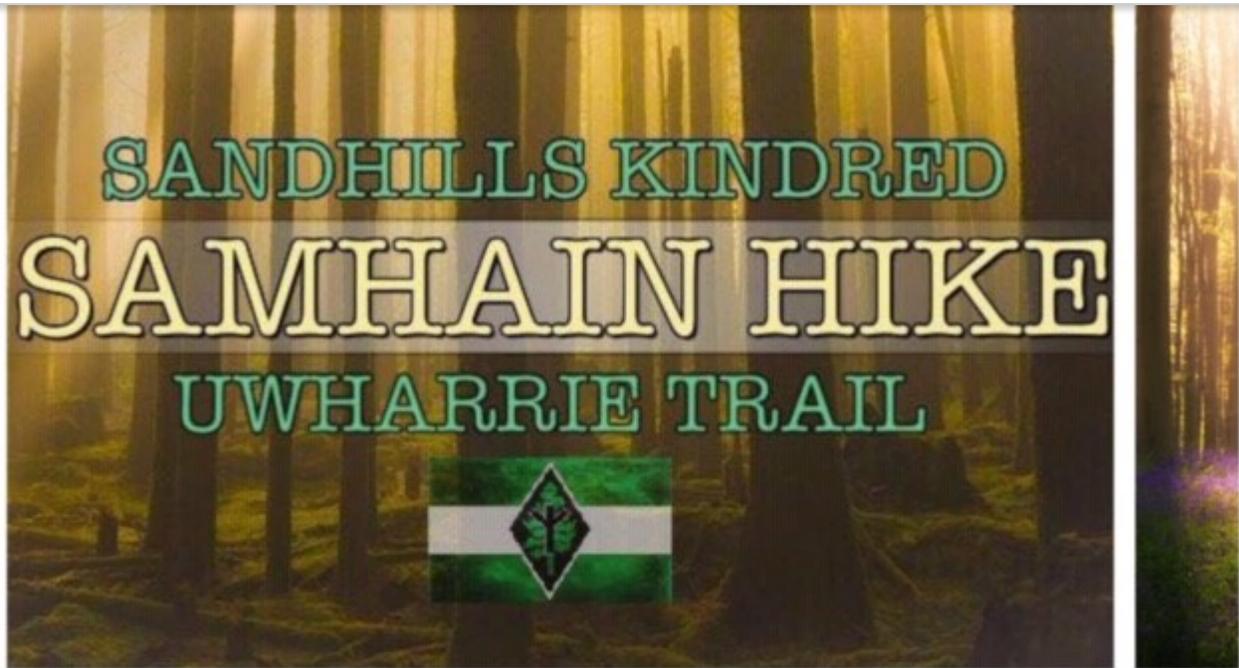
Joe Rozanek
AFA Folkbuilder
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Upper South

October has been a banner month in the Upper South. Our growth has been phenomenal. We held an Advancement Meetup earlier in the month to plan our end of year activities. We also had an Asatru Brother, Matt Waldrum from San Diego California, who came and spent some time with us. That's one of the great things about the AFA: you always have family and a warm place to stay all over Midgard.



We've got two big events coming up soon. Sandhills Kindreds Samhain Hike takes place on Saturdæg Oktober 26th 9am at Uhwarrie Mountain Trail. Our other event will be our Tennessee Kindreds Samhain Blot on November 2nd. These will be two powerful events and theirs sure to be ample amounts of motivation at each one.



Please come be a part of our thriving community. We're also planning a Kindred reoathing in November and will be having a joint Yule with the Southern Shire Kindred on the beautiful Pee Dee River in December. More to come as we plan the logistics. Hail Odin 🌿

Paul Hester
AFA Folkbuilder
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Greetings! We here in the upper south have had an active month. Several members from our region made the trek up to winter nights in the Poconos, and I would like to thank landsdale trufolk, stoneship hearth, and especially cliff and catie erickson for hosting such a wonderful event. I would also like to congratulate catie on her ordination, and my good friend Trent east on his folk builder oath. There was also a baby naming ceremony in Virginia during this time. We also had a great meetup at the Richmond Virginia Celtic Festival and Highland Games! Haggis was eaten and Guinness was drank and we all enjoyed some great European culture! We have a meetup at the Bavarian chef in Fredericksburg

Virginia coming up November 2, at 5pm, be there or be square.



If you are not on Facebook and want to stay in the know about events and meetups, please contact me by email, rstamm@runestone.org, or join our regional telegram chat group “AFA upper south.” We want you engaged with the region and with our folk!



Lastly, I'd like to tackle a few sensitive subjects. There has been some fear and concern lately about doxing and how membership in our church plays into that. I can tell you firsthand that doxing is not a fun thing to go through. I can also tell you that there is life after doxing.

The reality is that 99.9% of the people who have been doxed did not experience this solely due to their membership in the AFA. Doxed members usually come under scrutiny from activities well outside the purview of church membership. I can tell you with absolute certainty that had I not been a police supervisor on the frontline of protests and riots, had I not supervised the arrest of several protesters the day before my dox, I would never have come up on the radar. I would never have even been known. These people were looking for any excuse to dox and attack a member of law enforcement, even the slightest evidence of anything they disagreed with. Others had generally engaged in political activity. If you are doing nothing but going to work, taking care of your family, and not engaging in online "trolling," you are more than likely safe and will not show up on anyone's radar. That said, be proactive. Ensure that your privacy and security settings are secure.

Secondly, I was doxed hard. I was on national news and local news. I made the London telegraph, and here I am, still standing tall, still a proud member of this great church. I no longer work in law enforcement, but I still work and provide for my family. There is life

through the same, and he is successful and has just taken his folk-building oath. **Stand true, stand tall and resolute, and be proud of our folk and this great home of ours, the Asatru folk assembly.**

With that, we segue into my next and last topic, loyalty. We have seen some great defections this past year, and without fail those that leave for ego driven and selfish reasons, fail. The gods are always watching. Wyrd and orlog are inescapable. It is a sad day when people we trusted or loved allow their ego control them and leave with delusions of grandeur. The solace is in the fact that we continue to soldier on, we continue to stand true and loyal to each other, to the folk, and to the AFA. These others inherently fail, and their names are lost to history, their bright fame forever tarnished by their betrayal.



It does hurt the folk to see a once trusted friend betray their church, and this makes these acts all the more painful, however we still have our warm and welcome hall, our afa family, and the gods still smile upon us. For we are resolute, we are loyal, we are strong. We carry on, shoulder to shoulder with our folk, waving the brilliant blue trihorn banner proudly aloft, as we continue to build our future, our families, and our folk. Hail the Gods, Hail the folk, and hail the AFA!



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West



Had another great get together at Katherin's Biergarten this month. We gathered in the game room — even played some shuffleboard — and had a fabulous German brunch and time with our folk.



cream. We all discussed next month, if the weather permits, to meet up and go on a morning hike before gathering for lunch. Stay tuned for more information to come on this!

It's always wonderful to have this quality time together. We are excited for the future, and for our next gathering. See you all soon!



Deedy Cherms

THE SAGA OF THORRODD SNORRASON AND JAMPTALAND, 1026CE

This is a story from the time of Saint Olaf or Olaf Saga Helga, (ie, Holy), or not so in the case of Olaf II. It took place in the year, 1026ce, in northern Norway at a settlement called Jamptaland, a sparsely settled area, that both kings of Norway and Sweden claimed taxes, a border area along the spine of rugged mountains and hostile weather.

The saga tells a story of an ancestor of Snorri Sturleson, 1220ce., the author of the 'Heimskringla, the History of the Kings of Norway', and this ancestor is Thorrodd Snorrason.

Now I will let the Saga tell of how this Icelander, Thorrodd Snorrason, made his journey through this wild and hostile area of Jamptaland and the first time in written sources that we see what is meant by the word, "Troll".

On the orders of King Olaf Thorrodd Snorrason had remained in Norway and had not received permission from the king to return to his native Iceland. Thorrodd being ill-pleased with not being allowed to travel wherever he chose and wanted to a master of his own fate volunteered to be an emissary to travel to Jamptaland on the orders of Olaf to collect taxes from the people of that land. However, Thrand the White and eleven others has been sent on the same mission to collect taxes and never returned. Thorrodd thought it better to be free and travel so he set off with eleven others to tell of what the King required, that a tax was to be levied.

They arrived east and met a man named Thorar he was the Law Speaker there and was a

men and chieftains of the district were as responsible as he, and promised he would summon an assembly. Thorar laid the matter before the people, and they all agreed on not wanting to pay the King of Norway any tax. As to his emissaries, some wanted to hang them and make sacrifices. It was decided to detain them until the bailiffs from the King of Sweden arrived, the emissaries were well treated and lodged, and told to wait until the tax was collected, not knowing that the people of the district were to decide what to do with them and the emissaries were lodged two at a time, Thorrodd and a companion stayed at Thorar's place.

At this time a great Yuletide entertainment was happening with joint drinking. There were many farmers in that settlement and they all drank together at Yuletide. There was another settlement not far away where lived a relation of Thorar, a powerful and wealthy man, who had a grown son. These relatives were to celebrate Yule at each other's place in turn, first at Thorar's. The two kinsmen drank to one another, and Thorrodd, to the farmer's son. They held a drinking match, and in the evening a contest arose between the Norwegians and the Swedes. As the drinking progressed it became clear to Thorrodd things that he did not suspected and chose to leave the settlement, so Thorrodd and his companion took their clothes and left.

When it was discovered that they had fled, bloodhounds and men pursued Thorrodd and were found hiding in the forest. They were then thrown into to a pit and ill-treated. Being it was the middle of Yule Thorar left to see other kinsmen and left to guard Thorrodd was Thralls that began to get drunk and in the dark one of Thorrodd managed to get out of the pit by standing on his companions shoulders. Thorrodd tried as he could to lift up his companion only to find he could not, so he used a pulley and brought his friend out to the pit. They made there escape and by placing reindeer hooves on backward on their feet walked into the forest. Bloodhounds and men tried to track them but the reindeer scent and the backward marking hoofs fooled the men and dogs.

Thorrodd and his companion traveled through the deserted forest for a long while and then came upon a small farm. They went in and found a man and woman sitting by the fire. The man gave his name as Thorir and said the woman sitting by him was his wife. He told him he had to flee the village due to a killing. Thorrodd and his companion were well entertained and afterwards they were given bedding and a place to sleep on the dias. When the fire in the fireplace was about to die down a man came in from another house, he had never seen so large a man. That man wore a scarlet cloak with a gold lace border and a most stately appearance

you give them some help, because you are better able to do than we. Thorrodd heard the large man was named Arnjot Gellini and gathered that the woman of the house was his sister. Thorrodd had heard that Arnjot was a wicked highway man and evil doer.

They slept for a while and then Arnjot came to get them up and make ready for the journey. They were given breakfast and skis and departed, Arnjot on his broad and long skis and after some time it became hard for Thorrodd and his companion to keep up with Arnjot, so he told Thorrodd stand on his skis behind him and to grab his belt and the companion to hang on to Thorrodd and Arnjot ran fast as if unencumbered.

After a third of the night had passed the three men came to a shelter and kindled fire and began to eat, but while they ate Arnjot told them to take care and throw away all bits and pieces of food, whether crumbs or bones. When they had finished eating they hid their leavings and prepared to go to sleep.

In one end of the house was a loft above the crossbeams. Arnjot and the two others climbed up into the loft and Arnjot slept on the outside toward the ladder and with his halberd and sword.

Shortly afterwards a group of twelve men came in, they were merchants traveling to Jamptaland with their wares. They were noisy and cheerful with merriment. They had kindled a big fire and ate their dinner and prepared to sleep and had left the remains of their dinner where they slept. After a short time a big Troll Woman came to the house and when she entered she swiftly swept everything together, bones and everything she thought edible and devoured it. Then she grabbed the man nearest to her and ripped him to pieces, and threw him on the fire. Then the others awoke as if from a bad dream, and jumped up, but she killed them one after the other, so only one survived, he ran under the loft and asked for help. Then Arnjot grabbed him by the shoulders and pulled him up. Arnjot grabbed his halberd and ran it through her between the shoulder blades so the point came out at her breast. She reared up quickly and shrieked fiendishly, and rushed out of doors. Arnjot had to let go his spear and she took it with her. Arnjot cleared away the corpses and set the door and door frame back in the house, for she had broken both when she ran out.

They slept the remainder of the night, and when it dawned they arose and ate their breakfast and when they had eaten, Arnjot said, "now we shall have to part, you must follow the tracks that the merchants made when they came here yesterday, but I shall be looking for my halberd. As a reward for what I did for you I will take some of the things these men had brought along. You Thorrodd shall deliver my greeting to King Olaf.

Norway and return home to Iceland.



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THE GIVE AND THE GET

One gets out of the Asatru Folk Assembly what one puts into the Asatru Folk Assembly.

This might seem, at once, like an obvious sentiment and a clichéd one. It's the sort of statement that we hear all the time, throughout our lives. Many if not most of us probably brush it off as just one of those things our parents say. Even so, I think most of us can understand that there is truth to the phrase.



It is certainly true when it comes to our church. It comes up every so often. That person in the middle of nowhere who complains that we don't do enough. Or the person who says we aren't spiritual enough. There is always someone on the edge of the AFA who doesn't drive to events that are "too far" or find ways to become involved in our community. And let's face it- being a part of the community is one of the most important parts of what we are doing. Being connected to those who believe what we believe makes what we do so much more powerful.

One gets out of the Asatru Folk Assembly what one puts into the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Take a moment and consider how large our church is. On the one hand we are one of the

There are some members of our church who legitimately live too far away from other members to participate in a practical manner. On the other hand, we have members who live within 30 minutes of each other who have yet to actually get together for even a pubmoot.

Perhaps one of the biggest things to consider is our leadership. We are so lucky to have such a great crop of Folkbuilders and Gothar in the AFA. The men and women who have done their best to support and build our church. We have men and women who literally drop what they are doing to spend hours on the phone with a member who is having trouble. Or who will drop everything to drive hours away to help a member in need. They would drive hours away from home for a single pubmoot, only to turn around and go home at its end. Why? Because it is what is best for our church and for our folk.



One gets out of the Asatru Folk Assembly what one puts into the Asatru Folk Assembly.



The fact of the matter is that we don't have enough Folkbuilders and we don't have enough Gothar to do everything that our folk would like for them to do. They do the very best that they can, even at the expense of their own time and money. They give so much of their spare time for the AFA. They give so much of themselves for the AFA.

That isn't what is asked of everyone. It is for those who chose to it. At the same time, however, one must consider what they want out of our church. Did you join the AFA simply because you wanted to be able to say you were a member of a church? I'm guessing not. Did you join for community? For the chance to find and worship your Gods with likeminded people? Did you join so that you could learn and grow in your own faith? I joined for all three reasons. I will venture to guess that most of us did.

The thing is, those things don't just happen. It requires some effort. It requires some dedication. It requires some work. If you don't have an active community near you, start one. How? Host a pubmoot. Sometimes it might not work, but host one at a local restaurant and keep hosting one until people show up. The worst thing that might happen is that you have a nice meal before you go home. The best thing that can happen is that you find





If you think the AFA isn't spiritual enough maybe you haven't been to a national gathering. Maybe you haven't attended a blot held by a local kindred. Maybe you've done both of those things and something else is missing from your life altogether. Do you find ways to incorporate the divine into your life every day? Little blots at home? Daily blessings of your food?

When no one lives nearby and traveling is difficult or out of the question, what do you do to connect? Do you sit at home and complain because nothing is happening near you? Or do you find your folk online and engage them? I know that this isn't ideal, but sometimes the only way we have to communicate and connect with our folk on a regular basis is by reaching out online. Spending a little bit of time and a little bit of effort to connect with our folk however we can go a very long way.

One gets out of the Asatru Folk Assembly what one puts into the Asatru Folk Assembly.

We can all sit back and wait for someone else to make things happen. We can show up only when all the work has been done, enjoy the moment, and then leave. We can take from the experiences on offer. At some point, however, we need to give as well. By giving a little time and a little effort to building our communities, by involving ourselves in the community we then have the opportunity to get more out of it than we might otherwise.



Our Folkbuilders and our Gothar are doing their very best to build up all the area's of all of the regions, but don't wait for them. Don't wait for someone else to do the hard work. Put yourself out there. Host that moot, make that drive. Ask the questions you need to ask to get the ball rolling. We need you to reach out. Our community, our church needs all of our members. We need our members because what are we

without them? It is reasonable to assume, conversely, that our members need the AFA. For whatever reason- for spiritual growth or community. So, let us all join together to do together what we cannot do apart. Let us put in the time. Let us put in the energy. Let us work to grow out community and to grow our church.

Because one gets out of the Asatru Folk Assembly what one puts into the Asatru Folk Assembly.



Gythia Catherine Erickson
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AFA MILITARY PROGRAM



**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.



Gothi Kevin Long
 AFA Military Program Coordinator
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Circle of Eir



Eir's Blessings!

Everybody needs a little extra help sometimes. Everybody does, too.

Women, being the frith-y creatures that we are, are uniquely suited to the task of manipulating energy for the purpose of healing. Magic, you could say.

Do you have a health concern and need a little extra energy? Are you battling with a mental illness like depression or PTSD? Is your baby having a hard time with teething?

If you've answered yes at all, reach out to us!

Once a month women of the AFA will get together to preform healing rituals all across the globe. If you would like to be included, please send a message to let us know!

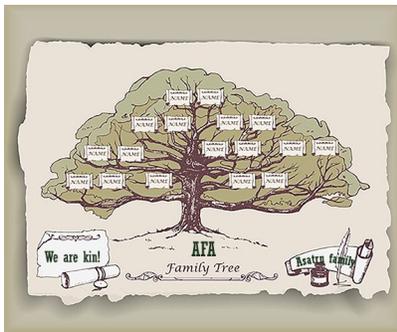
At the same time, Women of the AFA! If you are interested helping to create a frithful, healing magic, let us know! It's easy, but it makes a huge difference to those of our community that need our help!

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

In Frith!
Catie

AFA Genealogy Group

I created the AFA Genealogy Group on Facebook to help our Folk with genealogy and family history research. This is a good place to learn, share tips, and information on genealogy.



Discover if you are related to other AFA members! We use GEDmatch kit numbers to batch process each person to every other person in the database and then post a chart in the group so that you can see if you are connected to other members. Many of us have discovered that other AFA members are also blood family.

Come and join us!

Contact Steve Ingle, Sheila McNallen, or Terry Rumph for an invitation to the group. As a side note, this group is for AFA members only.

Hail the Ancestors!

Steve Ingle
Genealogist/Family History Researcher

FRITHWEAVERS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Frithweavers is a new monthly newsletter written by the women and for the women of the AFA. It will include any number of articles about health and wellness, homeschooling and child-rearing, homesteading, spirituality, recipes, and more! The first article will be released this month on September 6th. If you would like to subscribe to the newsletter, please email us at frithweavers@runestone.org.

(Men are welcome to subscribe, too — but don't forget to let your wives know!)

SEEKING SUBMISSIONS

Frith Weavers Monthly Newsletter is looking for submissions! We are ALWAYS looking for new submissions. We are looking for articles about health and wellness, homeschooling and child-rearing, homesteading, spirituality, recipes, and anything else you think our women would be interested. Do you have a skill or knowledge that you think could help our women grow? Share it! Please email your articles to frithweavers@runestone.org, and thank you very much!

AFA 50 AND OVER GROUP

This group is a place where AFA members 50 and over can come to support one another in facing the challenges of aging, caring for family and loved ones and exploring how over shared beliefs can help with it all.

To join the group you must be a member of the AFA in good standing. You must be 50 or older, exceptions are the AFA Witan, AFA Folkbuilders and AFA Gothar/Gythia. There is no commercial activity or soliciting in the group.

Hail the AFA!

Hail the Gods & Goddesses!

Terry J. Rumph

AFA and over 50 Group Admin Team

tjrumph@yahoo.com

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, our publications, 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.

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

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

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

Thanks in advance!

Baby Blanket Project

The Baby Blanket project is rapidly approaching it's first year mark, and it has been a ROUSING success! The Ladies of the AFA have knitted, crocheted, and sewn beautiful baby blankets for over 20 of our littlest folk, with more on the way. They've been delivered everywhere from Alaska to Florida, California to Sweden!

If you are a member of the AFA 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!



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.**

Asatru Folk Assembly Calendar of Holy and Remembrance Days

Date	Observance
January 9	Day of remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 20	Thorrablót
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 17	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olivir of Egg
March 20	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 30	Hexennacht
May 1	May Day
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric
June 21	Midsummer
July 9	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rudd Mills
August 9	Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia
August 18	Freyfaxi
September 9	Day of Remembrance for Herman of the Cherusci
September 23	Winter Finding
October 9	Day of Remembrance for Guido von List
October 20	Winter Nights
November 9	Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigrith of Sweden
November 11	Feast of the Einherjar
December 9	Day of Remembrance for Egil Skallagrimson
December 20-31	Yuletide

Volunteer for the AFA

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



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