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## Words from the Alsherjargothi

September was a busy month for the AFA! The month started with Fallfest V. Due to State Coronavirus restrictions, we ended up hosting the fifth Fallfest at the same house where we hosted the first Fallfest. It was great to come back to where it all began and evaluate how we have grown in the past 5 years. Our Northern Plains family hosted an amazing event, as we have come to expect from these fantastic folks. Fallfest also saw the oathing in of two AFA Folkbuilder, Brandy Callahan and Zach Cato. A very special treat for some of us that weekend was traveling to Baldurshof! It was great to be able to see our third hof before the dedication and to get our hands involved in helping restore the building alongside other AFA members. Five years ago, having a hof in the region was a distant dream, today that dream is a reality!



It has been great these last few months to watch as we have activity at all 3 of our hofs now

several times each month! This month, Óðinshof has finally acquired the lot adjacent to the hof. This lot was being used as a homeless camp that was a nuisance to the town and appeared to be a dumping ground for garbage, among other things. With some hard work from our AFA West volunteers, the homeless were sent on their way to pursue their destiny in (hopefully) distant lands, and the lot was cleaned until it was back to beautiful. This lot will add an acre to the Óðinshof lands.

As I write this I am planning for Winter Nights in the Poconos in a couple of weeks. This will be the 9th Winter Nights in the Poconos! This is an amazing time to be a part of the AFA and I encourage you all to go out and get involved, we have great things happening all around us!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Matthew D. Flavel

Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly

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## Óðinshof - First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

September in (and around!) Odinshof was the busiest month we've ever experienced... Sierra fires, which began in August, continued to threaten the area around Odinshof for most of September. Intense smoke and heat, evacuations, and utility shut-offs made for a really interesting time, in a bad way. On the other hand, several really great experiences made it more than bearable. GATHERINGS, AN EMERGENCY EVACUATION, FOOD GIVEAWAY - AND NEW PROPERTY ACQUIRED!

Our Freyfaxi Celebration was postponed until September 5th because of fires throughout the area. The upside is that we seek the company of friends and folk in such unstable times, so

sacrifices at the harvest feast in the distant past. She reminded us that, just a few years earlier, we had hosted a memorable Freyfax at a member's horse ranch just a few miles down the road. It was by chance - or was it? - that nine months later we came across the old Grange Hall for the first time, and history was made. Hail Frey, the bringer of plenty!

Another great thing came from that weekend, however: We officially took ownership of the ¾ acre right next to Odinhof, which had been vacant except for a makeshift homeless camp. Deed in hand, vagrants leaving, all that remained was a clean-up day to greatly improve our situation. Marc is handling that this weekend. What will we do with the new acquisition? Perhaps camping or a yurt...time will tell!

Three days later, on the 8th, our complacency was destroyed. Odinhof was threatened by an aggressive fire. Steve and Sheila McNallen sped up to the hof in their two cars, while Victor and Krystal Podberger did the same. Between them, they successfully loaded up their vehicles with everything irreplaceable - the items on the Ancestors Table, representations of the Gods, ritual items and banners, and perhaps most impressive, the weighty God-poles - virtually trees in themselves! - of Odin, Thor, and Frey. As they drove away to safety, the clouds of smoke and the glow of the fire rose above the trees. Luckily, the flames spared Odinhof, and the town of Brownsville too; all the evacuated items were returned for Winter Finding.

Thursday, the 24th, was food distribution day. Steve, Sheila, and Adam were the only AFAers on the scene as cars drove in, one after the other, looping all way around the Hof parking lot...then around to the other side of the building...and then doubling up...But the food truck had not arrived! It was running late, operating with half the usual crew. When they arrived we all worked together to get things rolling. We fed a lot of people - and gave many of them the solace, the reassurance, they needed to face their losses, evacuations, and other stresses.

The Winter Finding celebration, on the 26th, ended our marathon month. We all celebrated as Brodie and his lovely lady brought their infant son for his baby-naming, with Founder Stephen McNallen officiating. Friends and family came from far and wide to honor young Russell James Beowulf. The evening saw a flaming, power-filled blot to Odin, as Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel made us aware of the One-Eyed One's presence among us. Mighty was our mood, as the wode moved around us!

EVENTS (Information will be posted on Facebook and sent out via email)

- October 24: WINTER NIGHTS
- November 14: FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR

- December 12: Nevada County Food & Toy Run (food booth)
- December 19: YIII F

FOOD BANK at Odinshof (volunteers needed)

- October 8
- November 13
- December 11



Gythia Sheila McNallen  
[sheila@runestone.org](mailto:sheila@runestone.org)

## Upcoming Events

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

October 16 - 18

AFA Winter Nights in the Poconos 2020  
Pennsylvania

January 22 - 24

Thor Fest 2021  
Colorado

February 5 - 7

Northwest Charming of the Plow 2021  
Washington

Baldurshof: Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly  
Minnesota

Ves Heill!



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

## Alaska

After a very busy summer for members of Der Volkstamm and for Alaskan members of the AFA; we all gathered at the home of Gothi Steven Morrell for our annual celebration of King Hermann of the Cherusci.

Embraced in the leaves of the changing seasons, the yellow-gold and reds laid the scene for our Wotan's Blót. With some new faces, some regular ones and ones not seen for a couple years; we raised Horn and Battle-steel to Wotan and King Hermann.



Folkbuilder Eric Whisman  
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The Deep South held Winter Finding in the Florida panhandle this month. Our Florida Folk were excited to celebrate this festival with our Folk from Alabama and Georgia. We held blot



to Odin making our offering with the American Crow Kindred's first batch of mead. After sharing a meal we were treated to the recordings of P. D. Brown regaling us with the creation story of our Folk and the tale of Ragnarok.

Before departing the next day we enjoyed a hearty breakfast. It was great to see an old friend who has returned to the Deep South as well as one of our new members. It was hard to leave, but our hearts were full.

Earlier this month the American Crow Kindred honored Frigga by participating in the 13th annual Palm Coast Intra-Coastal Clean Up where we picked up trash along the city roads, trails, and waterways.



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



Lane Ashby  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
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## Europe

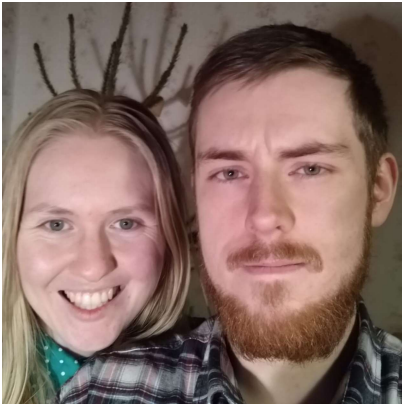
### Sweden

On the morning of Saturday, 19th of September, in the north of Sweden, Laura and Erik Lugnet were blessed to receive a healthy baby-girl. On her 9th day breathing the air of Midgard she was named Ida-Karolina Tyyne Lugnet by her father and accepted into the clan. As part of the naming ceremony, Ida-Karolina drank and was anointed by, water from a cold-spring that had been struck by lightning many years ago. May Thor aid her in her coming struggles decreed by the Norns, whatever they may be!

Both parents wish for a bold, joyful, and blessed future for this girl.



Hail the AFA!



Erik and Laura Lugnet  
AFA Family

Gautr kindred, in one the dark forest,  
somewhere in Sweden.



Freyröld endir,  
Ullröld byrja



We see that summer has now passed. The beautiful colors of autumn inspire to walk in the forest and a cup of tea under a warm blanket on the terrace. We who have grown crops, have or are in full act to harvest. Freys time has come to end and a new time is here. It is Ullr's time with hunting and winter that is coming. The day is now shorter than the night and we feel how the year wheel has turned and winter is here. We thanked Frej for the time he has been with us and welcome Ullr to be with us. We did this by meeting and holding blot, sacrificing some of our harvest,s and raising a horn. And despite the promise of rain and the fact that it poured down before we started our walk to the blot place. The gods let us stay dry through the blot and we could honor our gods in the sparking light of the fire.



## Hell Asatru Folk Assembly



Martin Klasson  
AFA Member



Sweden had our yearly Ting on September 5th. This time we had the honor to be guests at Gautr kindred and their newly renovated barn/Hof. The Ting is the place where we all meet ones a year to discuss how the past year has treated us and lay new goals for the coming year.

The Ting is also the forum for new ideas and the place where members can air their opinions on different matters. One of those things we made formal was that this year's international meeting is going to happen at least we are going to plan as though it will happen. Due to travel restrictions and so forth, we really don't know how 2021 will look the date is not yet fixed but as soon as this is done we will come back to you.

was done in accordance with tradition.

The rest of the evening was spent talking to old friends and making new contacts many of us ended up at the outside fire watching the stars go by.

Hail AFA

Hail Gautr

Hail Sweden



Folkbuilder Anders Nilsson

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

## Midwest

Greetings from the Midwest,

Things have been doing well over in our neck of the woods. I can't say much has gone down in our activities but I can say they have gone up! Lots of people have been coming to events then they have before. Places that have had little interaction are having more! From down here in Indiana to Wisconsin and finally Ontario we have things in the works. I am proud to hail the Midwest in that regard.



We have events planned this month in all of the states in the Midwest Region and elsewhere. To find out more about them please reach out to Gythia Anna Mae, myself, or James Ault. We would be happy to find a moot near you.

Heimdall's Midgard had a wonderful weekend last weekend. We thought we were going to have a crowded site with non-AFA people (there was only one site left in the camp when we

went to reserve one). We ended up with not a crowded site but a peaceful spot outside of all the ruckus. With no one site, we pretty well had the whole place to ourselves. The Gods and

Tra

Ancestors do shine upon us!

We have food over the grill, Thing-Assembly, Blót/Sumbal, and all-around a great time. Before we knew it, time was up and we had to go back to the work week waiting for the next get-together. As soon as we leave we're ready to come back! Good problems to have!

Winter Nights in the Poconos is coming around the corner and I hope to see you there! This is a very important celebration for Us and our Ancestors! Last year was amazing and I have no doubt this year will be as well.

On a final note, I'd like to thank Matt, the leadership, the Midwest, and my Ancestors for the blessings I received Sep. 13th 2020. I serve my Gods and Folk unto my last breath and beyond! Until next time...



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



Folkbuilder Zach Cato  
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**Northeast**



I hope my AFA family is doing well. Over here in the Northeast, the seasons are slowly changing. Colder mornings are upon us and another round of Jera is almost complete till it all starts again as it always will. It's also a great time to reflect on ourselves and consider how much we have changed over the course of the year. We can look at our accomplishments, our failures, and make the adjustments needed to finish another round strong. I have no doubt all of you will do this.



This month the Lansdale Tru Folk met on the 19th for Harvest. I arrived slightly late but, pulling up and seeing everyone there gave me great joy. We keep growing! We took some time to catch up and also keep an eye on the many children in attendance. These children will only know Asatru, the healthy way from this young age on. How special!

It was soon time for Gythia Erickson to lead us in Blot to our Goddess Iðunn. A powerful experience as always and we ended the rite by leaving apples in the forest. The children enjoyed this and for us, we contemplated the immortality behind it. Soon after we enjoyed ourselves more as we ate and finished the night with Sumbel around the fire. Speaking words of power

Upcoming as many know Winter Nights in the Poconos October 16th-18th. If you have not registered yet please do so we can get an accurate count on attendance. It would be a great help if you do. Much goes on behind the scenes with these events. I'm looking very forward to seeing all of you there.



Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



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

## Northern Plains

### SOS Expo

Living in Grand Forks has us situated right in the middle of the Northern Plains. For some time now Susan and I have strived to build up Folkish Asatru in the Grand Forks area, hosting Feasts and Blots, organizing meet-and-greets, as well as Rune and Lore discussions. A few people here and there would show up, acquaintances from work, family members, but none were expressing any real interest in going further than lunch or dinner.

Then I saw an event listing for the Souls of Spirit Expo coming to the Alerus Center, and felt an instant pull to register for a vendor booth. This would be the perfect venue for letting the people of Grand Forks know there are Folkish people actively building a Folkish community right here. Not hours away, but right in town.

My excitement was effervescent! I was counting the days, hopeful, yet unsure of the

I went to a vendor's dinner the night before, and this circle of women all fell silent as I approached the table. I was very much the "odd man out" in this group but took a seat and after a moment the woman to my right asked about what my booth would be offering. I gave a short summary of Asatru and how we promote Folkish community growth and cohesive family values and was instantly asked, "Yeah, but what are you SELLING?"

I had to laugh a little and said that my primary goal is community outreach, but I would have some Runes and miscellaneous trinkets on hand if someone was looking to spend money, too.

The two women to my right seemed interested and began asking more questions regarding the hows and whys of me promoting Asatru and choosing the venue. They were kind in their wording and genuinely curious.

The next morning I set up our table, armed with a large amount of tri-fold and bi-fold pamphlets. Little did I realize the plethora of materials would not be enough!! Shortly after noon, Susan rushed to her office to print out the welcome message, the declaration of purpose, and the code of ethics from [runestone.org](http://runestone.org). I provided contact information for myself and the AFA to those who were interested.



I spoke at length with a gentleman named Chad and his wife. He is already Asatru but was a reluctant solitary practitioner as he thought he was the only guy around here, and he had never even looked into the AFA. I hope to see him at the October gathering I will organize.

Another man named Dwight who came from Bismarck was so happy with what we are doing he came back by our table at least 4 times with more questions and to just listen to what I was saying to others.

A leader of Spiral Tree Traditions asked about collaboration on future meetings as she was very impressed by the way I presented the information I shared, and Willows Mysticals out of Billings, MT is interested in my Runes.

I had numerous people who were utterly amazed and glowing with joy to find out that Folkish Asatru is even a thing as they had never even thought such a thing could be. The light of hope in one woman's eyes looked like she was on the verge of tears. She, too, came



The topics I touched on included our 25th year anniversary, our Hof locations, displayed various "Asatru 101" reading materials, promoted Mark Cook's Norse Trivia game, I discussed Rune Lore, told the tale of Tyr and Fenrir, the tale of Thor gifting Trjegul Bygul to Freya, the Nine

Virtues, the concepts of Orlog and Wyrd, Fylgja, and numerous clarifications on the nuances of each and how they differ from more commonly spoken of factors such as karma and tenets of the Abrahamic faiths.

It was an overwhelmingly positive experience. I plan to maximize the momentum this experience has generated and to bring more of our Folk home and hopefully they find their place is a part of the Asatru Folk Assembly.



Steven Speers  
AFA Member

## Northwest



Hails from the great Pacific Northwest!



What a fantastic month September has been for Asatru' around the

NW. The North Idaho Althing celebrated Oktoberfest in Couer D'alene, there were kindred meetings with the Nordvestri up in Seattle and a Winterfinding Thorblot out at the coast in Oregon!

October presents us with one of the most important figures in the Runic revival of the past century with a remembrance of the famous Guido von List. There will be Runic studies in Canada, and we will also be honoring the Gods with a Sumbel and mead making at the end of the month.



Every Wednesday evening, we have our "Wodenstag" AFA NW weekly call-in forum, in which we discuss topics ranging from the basics of Asatru' to Runes.

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

- October 2,9,16,23,30th-----Wodenstag AFA NW weekly call
- October 5th-----Seattle area Moot - Nordvestri
- October 11th -----Apple picking Moot, Garfield WA
- October 23 ----- Moot, Feast, Sumbel, Kelso Wa.



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



Folkbuilder Joe Rozanek  
[jrozanek@runestone.org](mailto:jrozanek@runestone.org)





On Saturday, September 26th, 2020, folk gathered near San Antonio at AFA member Lori Wadsworth's house for our first AFA moot in a long time! We had members from all over Texas join the moot, some drove over 4 hours and we appreciate that! It was a great time to meet and get to know one another, share food, and frith! During this moot, we also added members to our new kindred; the Friðr Folk Kindred! Later in the afternoon we shared a horn and held blot to our gods and goddesses. Many members stayed later into the night and enjoyed each other's

company!

I want to thank Lori again for hosting a successful first moot and opening your home without hesitation to our folk! Thank you as well to all our members who were able to make it! The Friðr Folk Kindred plans on meeting twice a month! Our next moot will be on October 10th in the Houston area, location is TBD. If you are in Texas and would like to attend a moot/event, please reach out! We have a bright future here in Texas so do not be shy, come to a moot and experience some great frith and be a part of something great!!



Hail the AFA!



Gothi Kevin Long

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

## Baby Blanket Project



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

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

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

Would you like a blanket for your newborn, or to donate and help with yarn costs (yarn is

## Youth Program

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

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



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

## Folk Services

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

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

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

monetary grants to AFA 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](#).



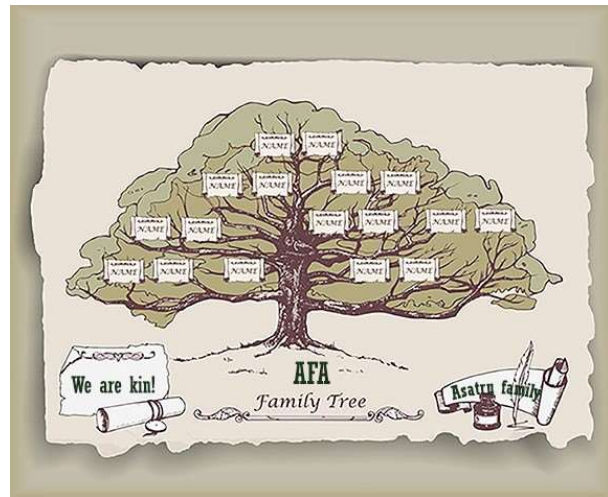
Your contributions are earnestly solicited and of course are tax-deductible! Please donate to Folk Services or one of our other AFA Fundraisers at <http://www.runestone.org/donate/>.

Thanks in advance!

## Genealogy Group

This is a place for AFA Members to discuss genealogy, family history research, and share tips and information related to genealogy. Rules here are simple: Keep your posts to the subject matter of this group, keep it friendly, have fun.

Every month, Steven Ingle publishes a spreadsheet listing all participants with their cousin matches. Yes, we all have cousin matches in the AFA, some closer than others. This is open to our greater family tree and is not just for members in the U.S.



What if you're brand new to all of this? First, you will need to have your DNA tested through one of the companies like Ancestry DNA or 23andme. We will give you instructions on what to do when you get your results. What if you're not on Facebook but still want to participate? When your DNA is tested, and you get results, you can create a Gedmatch kit number, Send that kit number to Sheila and we'll run it in the next batch. She will send you the results of your analysis. You too will say, "Oh, my Gods! Wow! Incredible! and "Hey, there Cousin!"

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. There is no commercial activity or soliciting in the group.

## Eir's Blessings

Everybody needs a little extra help sometimes. Women, being the frithy creatures that we are, are uniquely suited to the task of manipulating energy for the purpose of healing. Magic, you could say.

Do you have a health concern and need a little extra energy? Are you battling with a mental illness like depression or PTSD? Is your baby having a hard time with teething? If you've answered yes at all, reach out to us. Once a month women of the AFA will get together to perform healing rituals all across the globe. If you would like to be included, please send a message to let us know!

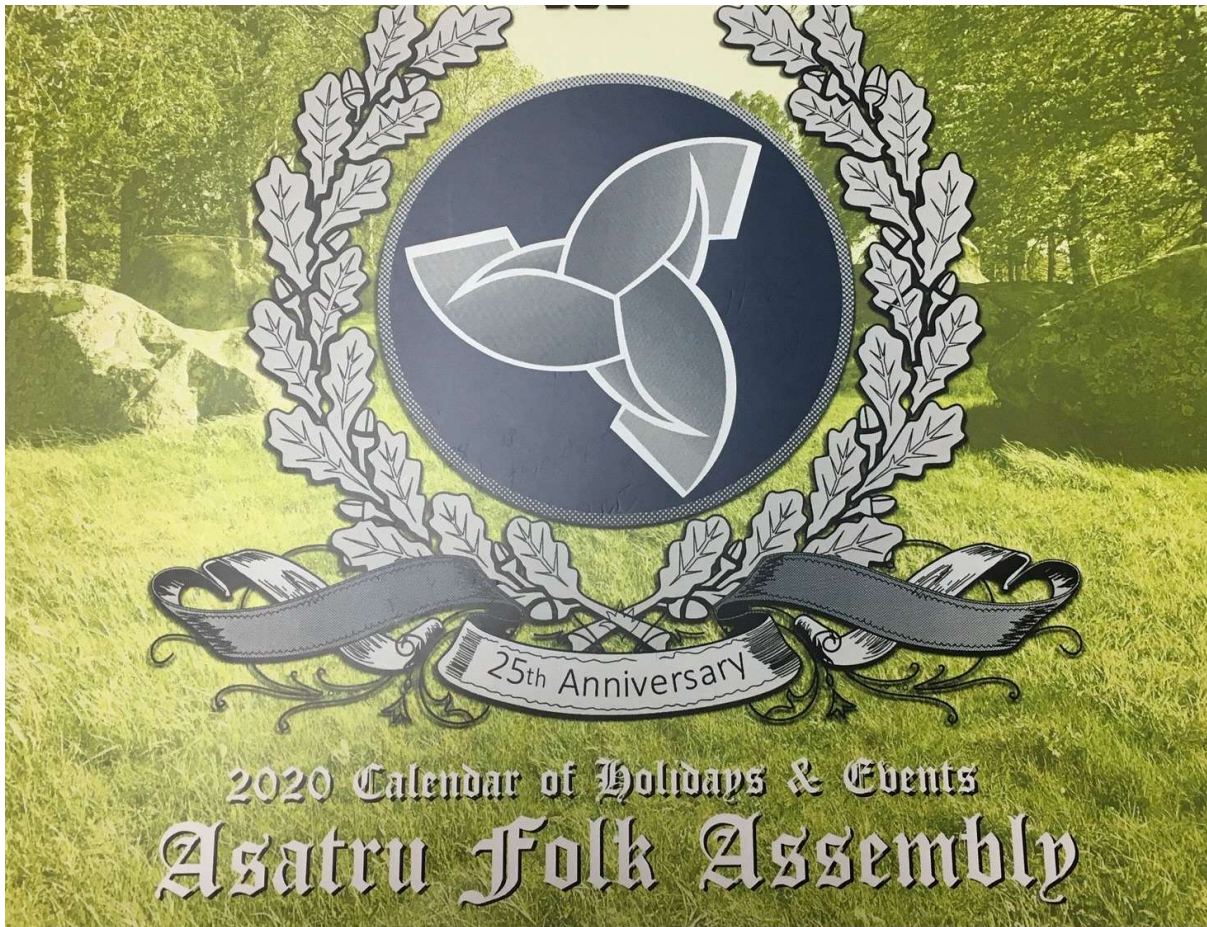


At the same time, Women of the AFA! If you are interested in helping to create a frithful, healing magic, let us know! It's easy, but it makes a huge difference to those in our community who need our help!

You can reach us at [EirsBlessings@runestone.org](mailto:EirsBlessings@runestone.org)

## 2020 Calendar

Celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the Asatru Folk Assembly with photos spanning twenty-five years of spiritual growth and activism. Get it at the AFA store at <http://www.runestonegifts.com/>.



## Photo Donations

We have a real need for hi-res photographs of our members' gathering, being active in their kindreds, and showing what it means to live Asatru. If you are willing to donate some hi-res photos for use in promotions such as the AFA Calendar, the AFA website, our publications, and more please email them

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



# Asatru Folk Assembly Calendar of Holy and Remembrance Days

Tr

<b>Date</b>	<b>Observance</b>
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
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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