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Words from the Alsherjargothi

I hope all my AFA family have had an amazing summer and I hope you are all poised for an even better fall.

This month something very significant happened to me and, in a way, to us. On July 30th, a tragic training accident happened off the coast of Southern California and 8 young men's lives were cut far too short. As it turns out, one of those young men was Asatru. A few days later, the AFA received an email asking for help with the funeral. This young man was not an AFA member and we didn't know his godfather who reached out. Not sure where the family got our contact information but the fact that they reached out to the AFA in their time of grief means a great deal. This young man was fortunate, his family respected his beliefs and did their best to honor his faith. As the month progressed, his body was recovered, his service was planned and arrangements were made.

I drove down to San Diego last week and had the tremendous honor of officiating the funeral of Lance Cpl. Chase Sweetwood and of sending him off on his journey beyond the veil. The

alive and those that have passed. I was very fortunate in that AFA member and friend of mine, Grayson Wilson, was there to assist me. I spent the rest of that day and the ride home thinking about the significance.

First, the example of someone so young stepping to the front and devoting his life to serve as a warrior for his country speaks to the very best of our values. The fact that unaffiliated Asatruar and their families look to the AFA for spiritual help and recognize our relationship with the Aesir is both, a tremendous honor, and a powerful testimony to the legitimacy of our church and the efforts made over the last quarter-century.

On a personal level, I was so very thankful for this opportunity to honor a fallen Marine and his family. As the Alsherjargothi, I am extremely proud that people look to us in their time of need. As we have grown in success, great responsibilities, and opportunities come our way, may we always be ready to rise and meet them.



Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Matthew D. Flavel

Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly

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Monthly Food Distribution

Our August food distribution for the community went off without a hitch. A huge thank you to our volunteers new and old, the ladies from the food bank as well as volunteers from the community who stepped up to lend a hand! Beginning in September, our distribution days and times will be the second Friday from 10:15 to 11:30. The Yuba Sutter Food Bank staff will be driving the truck to and from Yuba City, saving our volunteers several hours in transit. The hospitality and good-will we lavish on the locals will remain the same - and that's what counts.

Odinshof Roof Repairs

This fine old building has been maintained the best we can, but it also needs extra loving care from time to time. Last winter's storms caused serious roof leaks that brought us to a crisis point. The best solution was to hire a roofing crew to do the repairs, replacing all of the screws and washers which hold the metal sheets in place. Eventually, we need to replace all of the metal sheeting, but for now, we have a workable solution.

Upcoming Events

Due to the wildfires in California during the last half of August, we felt it was wise to postpone our Odinshof Freyfaxi gathering for a few more weeks. Fear of evacuations, traffic issues, and the thick, unabating smoke called for this. We have rescheduled FREYFAXI for September 5th and are encouraging members from near and far to come for some relaxation, but also, reflection on what we've learned and can share with others. If you're unable to make it to Freyfaxi, then come back on September 26th for our WINTER FINDING gathering. Like all events at Odinshof, camping is available on site. It will have a similar theme to Freyfaxi as we edge closer to winter. Come join the fun and plan the future!

Your Donations at Work

The McNallens are making a challenge to you all! Help us pay the basic costs of our three hofs which include utilities, insurance, and repairs. Our family is contributing \$20/month to the Odinshof Fund. Can you do the same – or even more?

If the answer is YES, write to Sheila who can set up a monthly recurring payment plan using bank-card processing like our membership. It will only take a few minutes of your time. You

Tra

can set the amount at whatever works for you, and it can be allocated to any of our donation programs: Odinhof, Thorshof, Baldurshof, Folk Services, or South Africa.



Gythia Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org

Þórshof: Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly



Wow, what a busy month it has been in the upper south! Early in the month, we had a family picnic at Þórshof, then a week later the northern Virginia folk had a meet up in Charlottesville Virginia. Tennessee had a meetup in Nashville at a German restaurant hosted by member Will Migala. Capping the month off we had our first annual Freyfaxi event at Þórshof! Donar's Oak Kindred and Irongard Kindred hosted. There was also a Freyfaxi event in Tennessee hosted by Brian and





If you missed these events please watch the Þórshof page and the upper south group on Facebook for upcoming events! As you can see, our region is absolutely bursting with things to do! We will be having a trunk or treat event on Halloween for the kids and a Halloween party for adults at Þórshof in October.

I'd like to congratulate the Bostics of Virginia on the birth of their son. Tennessee member Billy Sapp is still making his way along the Appalachian trail; you can follow him at "mtnrifter" on Facebook. Let's continue to cheer him on on his adventure!

Your upper south team is always here to help and talk if you need us: Witan Svan Herul, Folkbuilder Rob Stamm, apprentice Folkbuilders Daniel Young, and Cody Raynard.



Folkbuilder Rob Stamm
rstamm@runestone.org

Day of Remembrance

I have the profound pleasure and honor to talk to you this month about a great man, a man that all Germanic people owe a debt of gratitude to. Hermann Von Cherusci, known to the Romans as Arminius. Hermann was born into a royal family of the Cherusci tribe in either 17 or 18 BC in Germania. As a child, he was a hostage to the Roman empire. Hermann was afforded every luxury in Rome and learned the ways of the Roman empire. He eventually earned his Roman citizenship and was made a Roman Knight due to his capability as a Roman officer and soldier fighting in the great Illyrian revolt.

Soon after Hermann's service in Illyria, he was sent Germania as a commander to help Governor Publius Quintillus Varus complete the conquest of the Germanic tribes. The Romans trusted Hermann to command Roman troops against his own people, but Hermann had other plans. Secretly Hermann worked at uniting several Germanic troops and plot against the invading Roman army.

Hermann knew the Romans were incredibly capable on open ground, and it was suicide to take on the legions in an open field, so he convinced Varus to march the legions through the now-famous Teutoburg forest. The Germanic warriors had the advantage in the deep forest, it was their home ground and a place they felt comfortable, whereas Romans were not accustomed to deep woods and had a healthy fear of the forest. Once in the Teutoburg forest, the legions were destroyed by the combined effort of several Germanic tribes. Stopping cold the march of Rome into Germania.



After the seminal battle of Teutoburg Forest, The Romans made several small attempts to again invade Germania. Notably, Hermann's own brother, a Roman officer, was involved in the fighting and a plot that had Hermann's wife and child captured and be lost forever into Roman Hands. All further Roman incursions into Germania were defeated and Rome never was able to conquer or cow Germania.

Hail Hermann! If Hermann had not been successful, Germania may well have fallen to

thousand years of continued German culture and language. Despite the incredible personal cost to himself, Hermann never wavered from love and service to his folk. He gave up a life of privilege and luxury in the greatest empire of the classical world in order to fight for his people. Hermann lost his family, his own brother was made enemy, and yet Hermann still persisted in his dedication to his people.

Herman would be eventually assassinated by other Germanic nobles, fearful of the great power he had amassed, but his legacy lives on. Hermann and his honor and dedication serve as a powerful example for our folk to follow. Hermann is still beloved by Germans today, his statue looms over the forest where he had his greatest triumph as a stark reminder that Germanic spirit will not be conquered.



Folkbuilder Rob Stamm
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Kindred Spotlight

American Crow Kindred



In this month's Kindred Spotlight the AFA would like to honor and recognize the American Crow Kindred of Florida.

Originally founded in 2017 and reconstituted in 2019 and became a fully affiliated AFA Kindred in January of 2020. Their kindred is host to several events including Charming of the Plow, Midsummer, Winter Finding, and Yule. But the first and longest-running gathering is their Beach Blót in May. Being on a peninsula surrounded by the ocean that is also scattered with lakes, rivers, and marshlands it was only natural that they held blót to Njörðr, Lord where the sea meets the shore, for our yearly May Day Festival. In addition to the AFA events, their kindred also participates in local Intracoastal Waterway Cleanups each year and they have submitted an application to adopt a local highway as a way to honor Frigga and give back for all the beauty Midgard provides us.

Thank you American Crow for everything that you do and for being a shining example of our Church. Thank you for being doers!

Hail the American Crow Kindred!

Hail the Kindreds of the AFA!

Hail 25 years of the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!





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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!

Fallfest was this weekend in Minnesota! Look for a detailed report next month.

October 16 - 18

AFA Winter Nights in the Poconos 2020

Pennsylvania

November 21

Baldurshof Dedication

Baldurshof: Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Minnesota

February 5 - 7

Northwest Charming of the Plow 2021

Washington

Ves Heill!



Deep South

American Crow Kindred, Florida



In August our Florida Folk celebrated Freyfaxi on the Gulf Coast. We held blot to Freyr thanking him for the fertility of the land and the beasts upon it. We enjoyed the bounty of Midgard in the form of a delicious buffet of snacks prepared by the supporting wife of a kindred member. The kids had fun collecting crabs along the canal while the adults caught up with one another; renewing frith, discussing our plans for upcoming events, and how we can continue to improve.



At Sumbel after raising a horn to our Gods and Ancestors and the traditional boast round we held up a special horn and drank to Terry J. Rumph whom many of us had the pleasure to



meet at Ostara as well as the young boy Cannon Hinnant who lost his life so tragically in the prior weeks. After the

festival, we visited our steer at the farm he is being raised.

Our next event will be Winter Finding to be held in the panhandle. We hope to share this celebration with other members of the Deep South.



Lane Ashby
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Europe

Sweden



August 22 was the date for Hroptstýrs harvest blot. It was a great ceremony. We gave offerings to Tor while we could hear the thunder above us. Magical! After the blot, we ate together around a campfire. A beautiful ending to a beautiful ceremony. Hail Hroptatyr, Hail the AFA, and a big thank you to everyone who showed up for this ritual.

Andreas Svensson





Folkbuilder Anders Nilsson
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Midwest



Greetings. As we renew our focus on building families, we have seen an amazing time of

be a sign with the Asatru Folk Assembly name on the section and we can take pride in being a positive influence within our community.

Our book study group is working on Asatru: A Native European Spirituality by Steve McNallen. Good discussions have to lead to all sorts of learning not only about Asatru but our own people. We are working on forming an official kindred and are very excited to see our family growing. Our monthly meet and greet were held once again at a beer garden in Germantown. It was wonderful seeing new faces and one of our members even sang a very beautiful rendition of "Edelweiss". We have another book study coming up at the end of August and then the majority of our members will be attending the AFA Fallfest in Minnesota at the beginning of September. Also, the September meet and greet will be on the historic Washington Island. Exciting things are happening and we would love for more of our Folk to join.

Each month there will be a meet and greet on the last Sunday of the month. We will be moving the location around the state each time to include members who may not have access to travel that far from their homes. We have a young couple who host a monthly book study in their home. We participate in both Odin World Prayer Day on the 9th of every month and Wotan on the Peak. We also will be setting up various field trips around the State to learn about the rich history our Ancestors brought to this area. We have recently decided to add a monthly "project" night where we will be working as a group constructing homemade items. (the first project will be "Viking Chairs") Come and be a part of Wisconsin's growth.

As events are set up they will be shared on social media or through email, text, and phone calls. Anyone interested in getting involved with the AFA in Wisconsin, please feel free to contact me.



James Ault
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jault@runestone.org





It has been a great month for us in the Midwest. We have had quite a few new members join. We have had new babies born. We have had a Handfasting and Naming Ceremonies. We have had meetups in several of our States. Each month we spend together confirms how important community is to Asatru. Seeing these faces and having blot and discussions makes it all worth it.

Here we have folks from Michigan meeting up. It's nice to see things beginning to come together up there. Many places are shut down still but that didn't stop these gentlemen.



Here you see the Handfasting that was done within my Kindred. It was a special moment for all of us involved. It is great to see our families growing and coming together.



More kindreds in the Midwest are beginning to form. It will nice when we have one for each State. And we will! Until next time...

Zach Cato



Northeast



I hope everyone is doing well. It's been a busy time in the Northeast. Many new members bring all of us much joy. We are growing at a nice steady pace. Some may think not fast enough but, in my own personal experience, I have found that anything of value takes time and can't be rushed. If rushed it usually crashes and burns. We may never get to see at least in this particular life what will become of our efforts in the here and now but, we are certainly doing our part and I'm proud to be apart of this with each and every one of you. So let's make sure with all going on around us we remain strong in body and mind but, also use our wisdom.

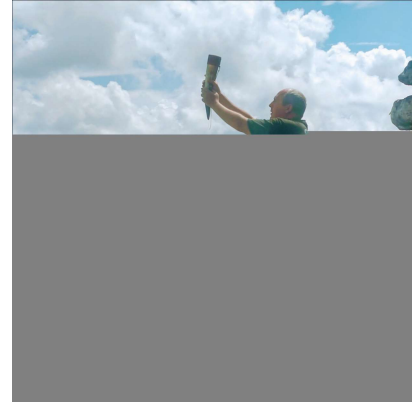


This month we held Freyfaxi in Lansdale and it was very special to be back at our kindred



location. The folk keeps growing and growing in attendance. We spent some much needed time catching up with each other. Then it was time to have Blot. As always a powerful experience and certainly made all of us realize all the things we can be grateful for this year. Freyr has been good to all of us. Sumbel was held and the night was finished till we meet again.

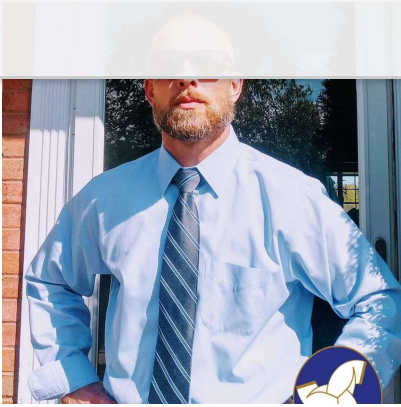
Following Freyfaxi the very next day we held a Wotan on the Peaks hike. For me personally, it was special to go back to the same place where the journey of doing these particular hikes began. A place called the Pinnacle. And do we ever stand at a Pinnacle at this very moment in time! What will you do to keep pushing towards that point of perfection? Towards higher evolution and mastering yourself in every aspect? Keep striving! The Asa are with you, the Ancestors are with you and all of us in the AFA are as well.



The hike went perfectly as planned. We set up our ritual area overlooking the edge. We also took a few moments to gather our thoughts and remember why we took the time and effort to make this journey. I faced north and started to raise my hammer to hallow the area and at that very moment in the corner of my eye, I saw a raven dancing in the sky. Calling to us and in all our minds it was a sign he was happy we have returned once more. Allfather will here the good news that his children remain loyal to him always. As we can see there are no coincidences. We must only open up all our eyes so to speak.

Coming up in September Harvest Fest in Lansdale on the 19th. Following in October on the 14th, Wotan on the Peaks hike at Mt Washington, New Hampshire, and of course the big one Winter Nights in the Poconos the 16th thru the 18th. Definitely do not miss the latter. A very special place.

Adam Hudak
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Northwest

The NW has been growing at a steady pace thanks in no small part to the disruptions in our country that we see at the moment, and with this comes growing pains. The AFA is not a democracy, our leaders are in place because Wotan has made it so. Through synchronicity and divine providence, every one of us is exactly in the right place and we all must do our part in the awakening of our folk.

A Kindred is not just a small collection of local people; it is a part of the whole. It is a kindred of people all over the world, from Scandinavia, Africa, Australia, Italy, and here in North and South America. That is our kindred, all of these people have felt the same call to our Gods that you have felt and we are connected by Wotan! The Odinic archetype has called all of us to awaken out of this materialistic nightmare of never-ending slavery to be free! To shake off the chains that were forced upon us through the 1000-year war of Christian conversion, to destroy the mental prison that has been created through the oppressive financial, educational, and government system that we have been programmed from birth to be a part of. Wotan the All-father, the deity that exists in this world and the worlds beyond created us and his blood runs in our veins. Blood connects the members of the Asatru Folk Assembly all around the world and we are all kin and the Asatru Folk Assembly is our Kindred!

If and when the time comes we must do our duty to stand up and support members of our Folk around the world when needed, and they in turn will support us. We must actively try to awaken the millions of our people that are still asleep so that they may taste true freedom, freedom in the knowledge that there is a natural law that governs the planet and we are a part of it. One with nature and always advancing consciousness, civilization, art, fitness, and knowledge.

A Kindred, these small parts of the body of Wotan are destined for great things. For now, they may only be a group of 10, but one day it will be 100, then 1000, then 10,000, a

100,000, and then a million! We will shake the earth with truth and an Iron will that cannot be broken, we will together break the generations of lies that have been forced upon us!

We are Lions in charge of our destiny, not sheep that scramble when it's Sheppard calls. Lions do not speak with sheep, a Lion roars and sheep run! The AFA is the worldwide kindred that will be the spiritual liberation of our Folk!

This Month we have a remembrance for one of Germany's greatest heroes, Herman of the Cherusci- who defeated a Roman legion and kept Germany free from the subjugation of Rome, there is a hike scheduled for September 12th in Washington and we will be honoring this famous ancestor.



Due to the Covid-19 situation our annual trip to the Mt. Angel Oktoberfest is canceled, however, we will be raising a horn at and donning our Lederhosen at our own AFA Oktoberfest at the Oregon coast! There will be a hike and blot on the beach for Winter finding and Oktoberfest dinner and celebration at a local brewery. This will take place on the weekend of September 25-27.

Please contact me for more information if you are interested in attending an event.



Folkbuilder Joe Rozanek
jrozanek@runestone.org

South Central

August was somewhat eventful here in South Central. We got some new faces; the Saturday study call is becoming more active, and I was able to reach out to each and every member of

something like a hurricane can bring a community together. Due to that one natural disaster, I was able to speak to almost everyone in the region through a phone call, text, messenger, or email. I had several really good conversations, many for the first time. And I can't count how many times I heard, "Let me know if anyone needs anything".

We are looking forward to a great September. The study calls will continue, and Gothi Kevin Long is planning our first, major AFA event in the near future. The tentative date is September 26th so watch the AFA South Central page for further details. Reach out to Kevin to share ideas or for more information.



Michael Foley
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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West

Birth Announcement - Henry!



Henry joins our kindred in AFA West. He is the second child of Dan and Marta. He was born on July 15 at 8 pounds, 9 ounces.

Henry is a strong name of Germanic origin, commonly used by royal families with many variations throughout Europe. Its etymology means 'home ruler'.





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 expensive!)? Please notify Mandy (mandy@runestone.org) with the subject line: BABY BLANKET.

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 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

send a private message to the [Folk Services page on Facebook](#).

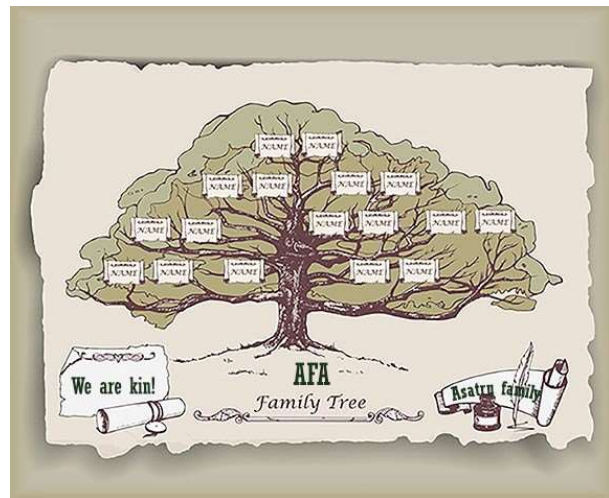
Your contributions are earnestly solicited and of course are tax-deductible! Please donate to Folk Services or one of our other AFA Fundraisers at <http://www.runestone.org/donate/>.

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!"

Fifty & 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

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

2020 Calendar

The AFA is proud to present our new **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

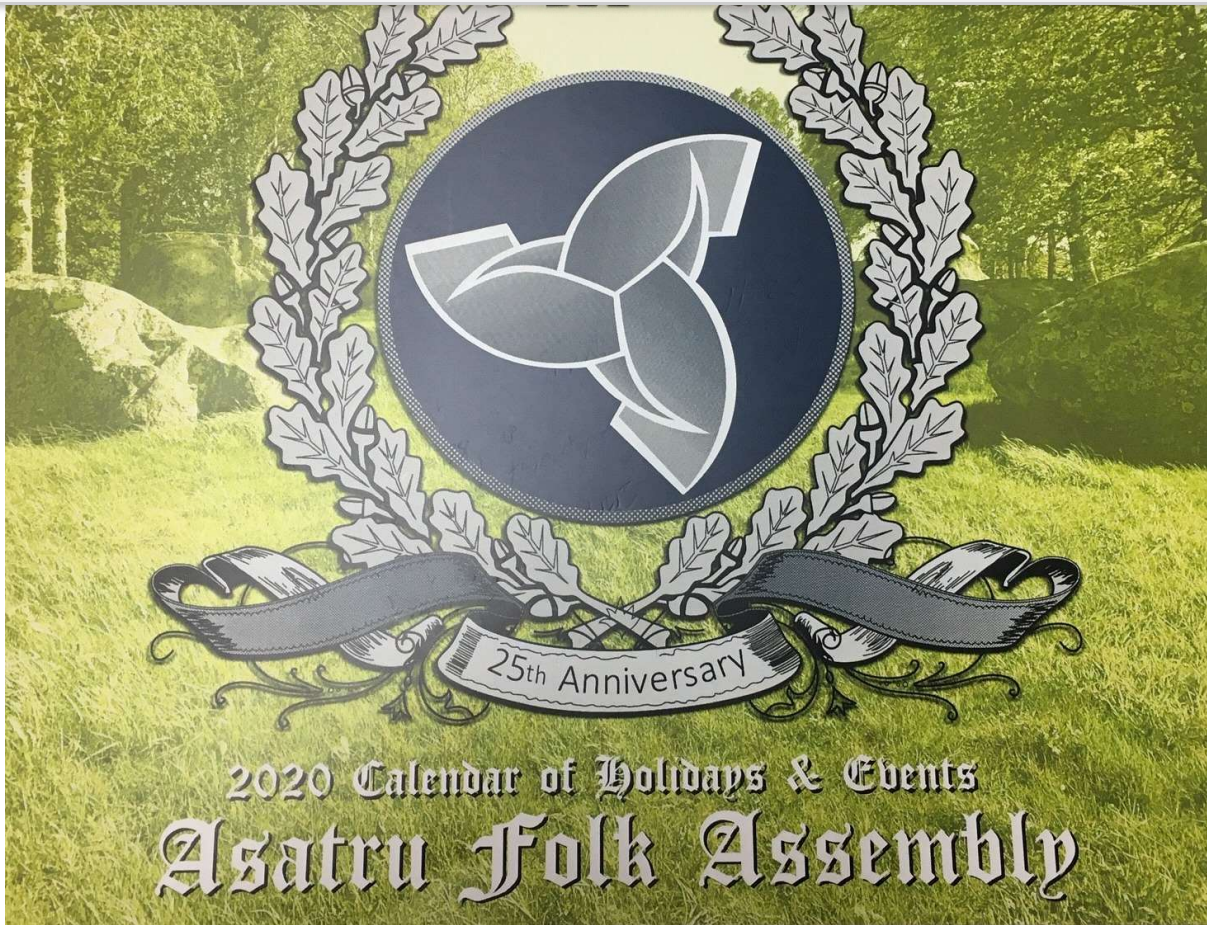


Photo Donations

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. 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

Date	Observance	Tra
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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