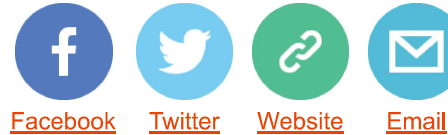


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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

Donate to the AFA



Words from the Alsherjargothi

Watching spring bloom amongst our folk has been a beautiful sight to see, especially this year. In case any of you hasn't heard, the annual AFA Ostara in the South was an astonishing success this year. Beautiful location, great attendance, and most importantly, a vibrant and united folk. The folk in attendance were full of energy, zealous for our Gods, our Folk, and the AFA. I want to thank everyone who made this event possible, those who organized this as well

beseeking our Gods for success, to win, in all their endeavors. Now as then, it is time for us to seek victory and define in our hearts and minds what victory is. Victory is not just one big prize in an all or nothing game to be achieved at the finish line. Large scale victory is a result of daily small scale victories, each building upon each other. Let us march forward together this year, like the radiance of the dawn, let us conquer all that stands in our way and light up the world with our empowerment, piling up victories where there was once only darkness and shadow. By focused will, let us be victorious in our health, victorious in our families, victorious for our folk.

If at all possible, I encourage you to make it out west for the first AFA Walpurgis/May Day in Southern California at the end of the month, when you make it to one of these national events it changes your life.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Matt Flavel

Alsherjargothi, AFA

Ostara in the South 2017



The AFA Deep South hosted Ostara in the South this year by apprentice folkbuilder, Jason Plourde, and it was a great success! Despite some adversity, Ostara in the South 2017 turned out to be an amazing event with 80+ registrants, a renewal of vows along with the engagement of the Alsherjargothi. From an amazing venue, Ostara definitely manifested herself in all her aspects this year as she walked amongst the Folk. A big thanks to Bryan Wilton, Allen Turnage, Annette Buam, Bryan Blue, and Michael Sagginario for speaking and sharing their knowledge with us this year, as well as a big thanks to all the folks who came out to participate. With the AFA's opening event this year being such a huge victory, there's definitely growth and progress coming for the folk this year!

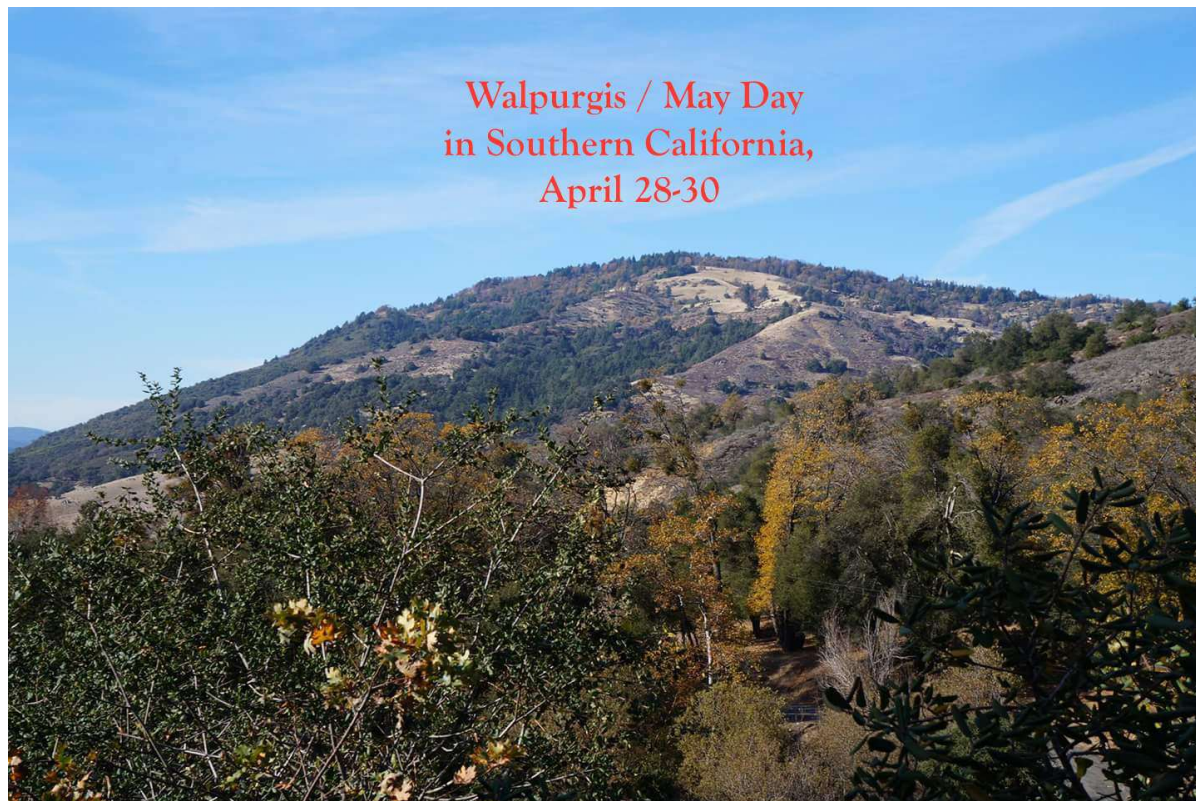
Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail The AFA!

-Jason Plourde

Apprentice Folkbuilder - Deep South region



An event by:

Tru-Folk Kindred with the AFA

On April 28-30, come to Southern California to celebrate Walpurgis/May Day in the old ways around a bonfire with the Folk at night and spring festivities during the day.

This is our first AFA weekend folkish retreat here, so please come and support us to make this our first *annual* folkish retreat!

Bryan Wilton will be speaking along with a Freyr blot, Matt Flavel and AFA leadership, workshops, a mead competition, mead class, archery, swimming, crafts and plenty

in the So Cal mountains.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/735569629936208/?ti=c>

Greeting Card Project

Hails my Folk!

We continue to gather artwork for a collection of greeting cards to be offered for sale to our Folk. Our goal is to have cards available for all of our observed holy days and special occasions. There has also been talk of using some of the proceeds to fund a Yule card for hospitalized Asatruar veterans.

I can't draw much more than stick people, but I am sure there is much artistic talent in our community. We are also reaching out through our Prison Ministry for art contributions from Folk on the inside. Artwork may be submitted via email or conventional mail.

By email:

Jamie Souigny

jsouigny@runestone.org

By mail:

Jamie Souigny

4805 5th St #141

Rainbow, CA 92028

If you have any questions or suggestions, please send me an e-mail or pm via Facebook

Circle of Eir - A Call to Healing

members and families in need of healing. If you would like to become a member of the Circle or would like to submit the name of someone who needs healing, please send me an email at patriciahall@runestone.org

The March Healing Ritual will be held Thursday, April 13th, at midnight EST/USA. Hail Eir!

AFA Asatru Military Program
by Roland Jos L'Heureux, National Coordinator



The AFA Asatru Military Program wants to thank the AFA and Tru-Folk Kindred for their invitation to speak at this coming Walpurgis/May Day celebration in San Diego, CA., this April 28-30, 2017. Our presentation will cover where we've been as a "military program," where we're going, and our current efforts to see to it that those goals are realized. We will also have a table set up so you can come by and ask questions, offer suggestions, and show your support for our Asatru military personnel.

Military Program will be revealing its first, very own Military Challenge Coin. This first set of 50 coins will be the only sequentially numbered set we strike, with coin #1 going to the Tru-Folk kindred to auction off at their event as a gesture of our thanks for their hospitality and commitment to our Folk. Come out...support the AFA and Tru-Folk Kindred...and get your numbered, first run ever, AFA Asatru Military Challenge Coin.

Another first run item, available now, is our Military Program ball cap. Our cap can be purchased for \$24.00 (+\$8s/h) by contacting military@runestone.org or myself directly at rheureux@runestone.org. (Inside tip: caps will be on sale at the Walpurgis/May Day celebration for \$22.00).

See you at Walpurgis...

Folk Services

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

We have had some amazing support to boost our funds for folk services as of late. It is the support of our community that helps our Folk in times of unforeseen trouble. Without this support, we would not have the level of success we have achieved and I am looking forward to seeing how far we can go in the future.

Note from the founder: We need your help! Lots of people "like" our posts, but few actually pitch in. I understand—that's human nature—but we need to build at least a small fund for emergencies, rather than simply passing the hat for specific events. Your contributions are earnestly solicited, and of course are tax-deductible!

Thanks in advance!
Jamie Souligny

Folkbuilding News
by Mark MacLeod, Folkbuilder Coordinator

Well things are in full swing now and the energy is GREAT! I had the pleasure of spending last week in Georgia at Ostara in the South, and it exceeded all expectations. This weekend we had our local Ostara here in Northern California and I've spent today enjoying the pictures from all the other Ostara events around the country. With this recent enthusiasm, I've been having folks asking, what can I do? How do I get that in my area? These are the questions we like to hear!!

I'm pleased to announce our most recent group of new Apprentice Folk Builders. Jamie Souligny has been a big hand any time there has been a need. She has been managing Folk Services and very active in Southern California, with Tru Folk Kindred. She has stepped up as our Apprentice Folk Builder at Large, which means she will be covering our regions here in the states, and over sea's that don't presently have a local Folk Builder. Matt Sarver, from Louisiana has stepped up to folkbuild for the South Central region. A region that hasn't had a Folkbuilder for some time now. Most of you may be familiar with him from starting the Asatru Folk Exchange so our people had a place to spotlight their businesses and a place to sell their goods. Last but not least Cole Distel is going to be working to get our Midwest Region moving. He's already hosted a few local meetups in Ohio, and traveled to Georgia last week to meet us all with his family. Cole already has events planned for the next few months in Ohio, Indiana, and they are working on a joint event with the Upper South guys in Kentucky. All of these were much needed positions to be filled and its great to see them dive in with vigor. Can't wait to see the efforts pay off. If you don't know them, reach out and introduce yourselves. Good things are ahead!

Hail The Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!





News from the San Diego Tru Folk by Jamie Souligny

Hails from San Diego's Tru Folk Kindred!

We are pulling out of Winter with much energy and enthusiasm. We had an amazing Ostara gathering this month with lots of fun, festivities and fellowship with our Gods and Folk. We did our egg decorating contest, egg hunt and great feast. The kids helped us to beat ol'

missed!

Our kinsman Matt Waldrum contributed this beautiful writing to share with our Gods and Folk!

Fair is Freyr | at the coming of spring,
The hills and fields | now turn to green.
Guard of the Aesir | Bringer of Peace,
Blessings of Froði | are what we seek!

New seeds now grow | on barren fields,
And in our hearts | new life is stirred.
Babes are born | and grow in wombs.
A better crop | there never was.

But firth will fail | if strength should wait.
And so we ask | who rides in war;
Atriði protect | the lives of our folk!
Bloðughofa rides | on weal-working foes!

For peace and plenty | and life we meet,
To strengthen bonds | of troth and love.
Hear us Yngvi! | Lord of Plenty!
Fill our lives | with joyous gifts!

We are very excited to be hosting our first So Cal event and look forward to all of the great Folk who will be tripping out for the event. We are going to have some great vendors and amazing speakers. Looking forward to awesome Blots and great times with like minded Folk from all around the country! We also have Wolf ambassadors that we will get to have interaction with and a local sage gathering hike!
Come join us!!!

We have set up a facebook group to announce locations and details of such meetings

The name of the page is Southern California AFA members

We also have folk in the Orange county and Riverside county areas.

If you are not a "facebooker"

You can reach myself Jamie

(App Folkbuilder at Large) @ jsouligny@runestone.org

Or Heather (SD folkbuilder) @ HeaTHOR@runestone.org

We are holding a conference call Sunday April 9th 7:00.p.m. (712) 770-4035 access code 925455

Hail the Gods and Goddesses!!!

Hail the AFA !!!

Hail the Folk !!!



News from Alaska
by Eric Whisman - Apprentice Folkbuilder

For those that dwell in the Far North, the coming of Ostara is very significant. It marks the end of our long winter and the beginning of spring.

Appropriately, everyone who attended Ostara in Alaska brought with them their joy for the end of winter's grasp and the beginning of the sun's warm embrace once more.

AFA kindred Der Volkstamm auf dem Nordiliche Bar, other AFA members and Folkish Asatruar and our families gathered in Palmer Alaska for a weekend long celebration of the Goddess Eostre and the new life of spring.

That night, at Equinox, marked a very significant moment for Der Volkstamm auf dem Nordiliche Bar. As the fire burned, words were spoken and oaths were renewed it marked the beginning of Year Four of the Tribe. In a rather emotional ritual, we welcomed brother Tyler Max Hansen, The Metal-Smith, who finished his probationary period and took his Oath to Der Vokstamm and was welcomed as a full member and brother.

And just as the Sun is gaining strength and life, so too is the Tribe gaining power and longevity.

Hail the AFA,

Hail Der Volkstamm auf dem Nordiliche Bar!





News from the Four Corners
by Roland L'Heureux, Apprentice Folkbuilder

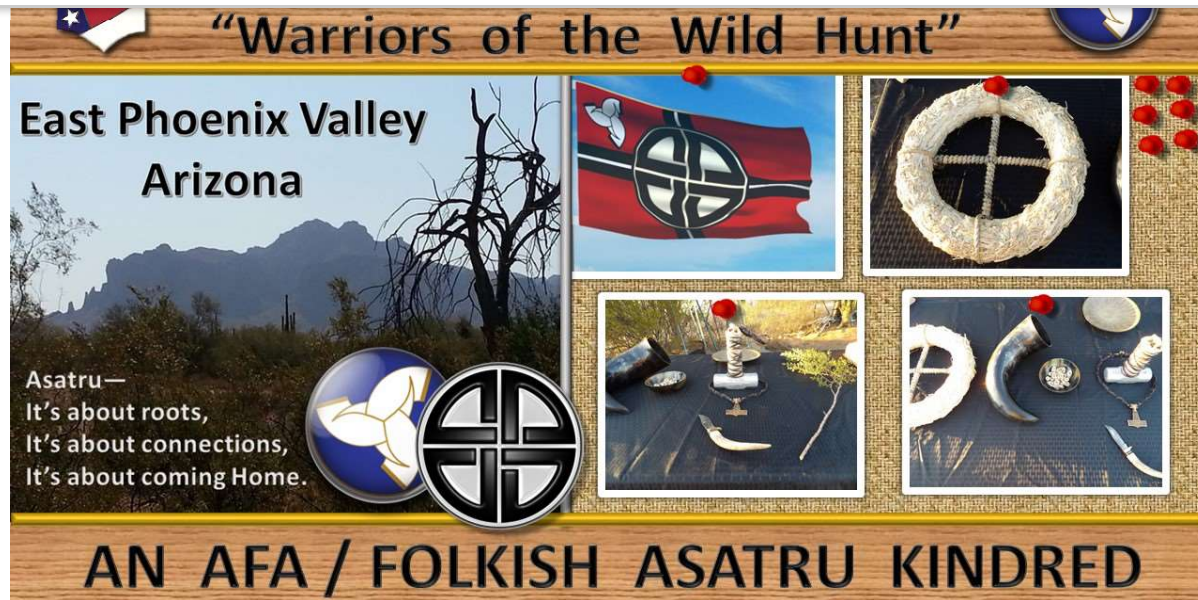
News from the Four Corners Region

growth of its membership as a whole, but also celebrated in witness of the unlimited potential which each individual member brings with them for the betterment of our Folk.

In The Land of Enchantment Sophia Durrell and her group conducted Blot and gathered for instruction in runology (hypognosis321@gmail.com). In Colorado and Arizona, Sumble to our Gods, heroes and ancestors was made while study groups and forums were created to toast each other's quest for knowledge (Asatru Denver Metro @ https://www.facebook.com/groups/1759645577648790/?ref=br_rs and rlheureux@runestone.com). And in Utah the team of Zach and Josh have begun to gather our Folk whose hearts have heard the call to return to the Gods of their true fathers (Point of contact: rlheureux@runestone.com).

To further nourish this growth, and harness this potential, I want to invite everyone in the Four Corners and surrounding Regions to join in our Regional Conference Call the second Sunday of each month beginning at 4pm (MT). This is a time for meeting and passing information between others in your immediate area, to ask questions, or to just catch up on the latest "real-time" news. The call-in number is (712) 451-0200 and the access code is 110727 (<https://www.freeconferencecall.com/wall/rlheureux>).

Looking forward to hearing from you all.



**News from the Northern Plains
by Blaine Qualls, Gothi and Folkbuilder**

Spring has finally come to us here in the Northern Plains...the snow has mostly melted away, the temps are rising, and Sunna stays with us a bit longer everyday. To celebrate this great change we gathered together to honour the Gods and the turning of the wheel. Men, women, and children from across the region; from Minnesota, South Dakota, and North Dakota. From our opening ceremony Friday until our Wayfarer blot Sunday morning we laughed, we feasted, we celebrated our ancestors and honoured our Gods. Truly the Gods and Ancestors walked with us for a time, for a brief few days we left this mundane world behind and returned back to our ancestors realm. We hailed Wotan, Eostre, Frigga, Freya, Thor, and many of the olden Gods, we raised horns to our Ancestors and our Folk; we left this amazing celebration united in our goal to see the ancestral ways again made strong here in Midgard. We here in the Northern Plains are

hosting meet and greets, holding celebrations, planning study groups...it is great to see. Anyone planning to visit, or pass through, our region please get in touch with either myself, Blaine Qualls, or our Minnesota Folkbuilder, Jason Gallagher. Hail the AFA!!! And Hail to the Doers!!!





News from Minnesota

by Jason Gallagher, Apprentice Folkbuilder

March has been a busy and productive month for us in the Northern Plains and in Minnesota. We started a monthly study group and held a Ostara celebration that had a great turnout. If you plan

jgallagher@runestone.org

Hail the Gods!

Hail the AFA!

Study group April 5th Pizza Ranch, Shakopee, MN 5:30 pm

Folkish Family feast and greet, Stillwater, MN April 15th 4-7 pm

Folkish Family pizza greet May 13th 4-7 pm Waite Park, MN

Midsummer weekend campout June 3rd-5th Zimmerman, MN



News from the Midwest by Cole Distel, Apprentice Folkbuilder

With Ostara in the South behind us the Midwest region is charged and ready to advance into a year of Success and Victory. There are many events still in the planning though a few have already been announced.

The AFA Midwest region will be having a Meet Up at the Ashville OH Viking Festival on April 29-30. Members will be meeting at 9:30am at McDonalds located on 5056 Walnut St S. South Bloomfield OH. Then we will be hosting an Advancement Gathering at the Nine Irish Brothers Pub on 575 Massachusetts Ave Indianapolis Indiana at 7:00pm.

News from the Northeast by Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder

AFA Northeast Hikemoot

Saturday, April 15, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Nockamixon State Park, Pennsylvania

<https://www.facebook.com/events/107314509794670/>

AFA members and their like-minded guests are invited to join Folkbuilder Clifford Erickson for a hiking trip at Nockamixon State Park in Bucks County, PA. We will be meeting at the Kahagon Road Parking Lot off PA 563 or Old Bethlehem Road. We will head out on the Quarry Trail at 10:15 AM, which is 2.65 miles of "more difficult hiking." This trail winds through old foundations which are remnants of a summer camp. The trail provides a spectacular view of the lake and an overlook of the old quarry that provided building material for area structures. Afterward, we will head right around the corner to the Country Place for the Pubmoot listed below!

AFA Northeast Pubmoot

Saturday, April 15, 2017 1:00 PM

[Country Place](#) - 1007 Route 313, Perkasie, Pennsylvania 18944

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1872917926260391/>

A get together! Especially enjoyable if you have worked up an appetite from hiking. If you have like-minded friends bring them along. This place is super cheap, but cash only. There is an ATM in the lobby.

News from the AFA West by Ryan Harlan, Apprentice Folkbuilder

in order to plant a few fruit trees, as well as seeds of growth and change for ourselves and folk. We talked of fertility, growth and abundance. We placed our trees into Jord's embrace, and took turns shoveling in some good dark earth to nourish them. In a few years time, our Folk should be able to enjoy some Peaches and Apples come harvest time. Inside, where it was a touch warmer, we discussed the significance of Charming of the Plow, and references such as Gefjon plowing away Zealand from the mainland and claiming it as her own. We ate well as always. I'm never surprised by the amount or quality of food which glads our bellies at our events. The time came for Sumble, and we gathered to collect our thoughts on the Gods, our Ancestors, heroes, and friends. Another thing which glads my heart (aside from the food) are the heartfelt words which grace our Sumbles. Truly awesome. After, some crept of to sleep, while other stayed up and solved the world's problems over a few more horns. Come daybreak, food was once again being cooked to break our fast. Some plans were made for up coming events (start thinking about Midsummer!) before we cleaned up and headed home.

Ostara: Ostara/Eostra graced us with her presence on March 20th, but our celebration and veneration of her took place a few days later. We gathered at the Hof on March 25th to honor her and her influence in our world. We had charmed the plow a few weeks prior, preparing our fields for that which we wish to reap. We spoke of fertility traditions and symbols which speak to the season and remind us of the power of life cycles and the fecundity of the Earth. Our children set about the task of dyeing and decorating Eggs, which would soon be hidden by us Adults, for them to find shortly after. We had a great discussion on Hamingja, and luck. How it affects us as individuals, as well as a Folk. We feasted well on Ham, some Scotch Eggs, Salads and tasty treats of all sorts. Afterwards, we gathered around the fire in our ritual area to hold Blot. Our Gothi, Mike Hunter, called upon the higher powers to join us, and we called upon Ostara to bestow our Folk the gifts of fertility and abundance. Once the main part of our Blot had been finished, we were able to test our Hamingja by cracking Eggs against each other. We had each taken an Egg earlier, and decorated them with symbols and Runes which we felt drawn to. Some for protection, or luck. Other for beauty and love. We each took turns smashing our Eggs against another, until only one was left unscathed. That Egg and it's owner were the bearer of the best luck. Our own Mandy Dale won if you're curious. With Blot done and a great food coma setting in, Folks began to head home or to bed. A hearty few remained for an intimate Sumble and all around camaraderie. The next morning brought cloudy skies with a side of Bacon and Coffee. A quick clean up, and we were on our way home. A small event, but we made it big.



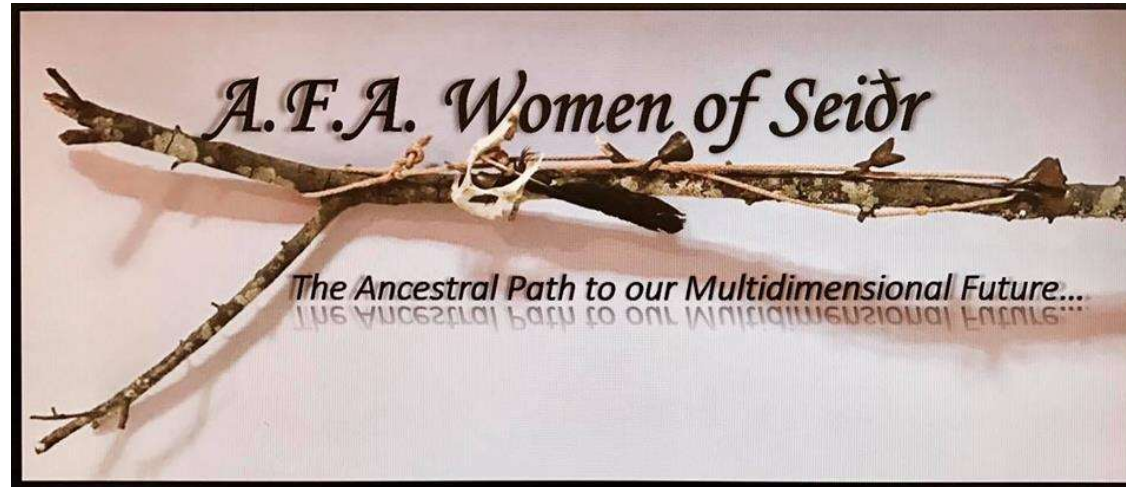


Women of Seiðr Program by Annette Baum

The AFA Women of Seidr had a wonderful first outing at Ostara in the South 2017. The WOS held its first private meeting and working, and I facilitated a well-attended workshop for our ladies on "Seidr & The Path of Holy Womanhood." I would like to extend a special thanks to all the WOS members in attendance who contributed to the success of our work: Karen Bevis, Catie Reid, Mandy Dale, and Jessica Choyce.

In other news, I plan to attend Midsummer at NewGrange to present another Seidr Workshop for men and women. Additionally, there will again be a private WOS meeting/working at this event.

please connect with me on Facebook to learn more.



Item of the Month - Official AFA Hoodie





New full zip-up hoodies black or blue only. You can buy it here: <http://www.runestonegifts.com/shirts>

AFA GOTHAR PROGRAM

Once again the AFA Gothar program is taking application for students. The Gothar program is being rewritten as we speak, it will entail two years of dedication on the students part with no promise of any reward. A college level program is our hope, one that will garner the respect of all. Truly the AFA Gothar are some of the finest on Midgard and we plan to maintain that quality and commitment for any future students. Applications are now available on our website, runestone.org . The Gothar program will begin June 1st, 2017. We welcome all applications, but want to remind applicants that we have only a limited number of spaces for this year's curriculum..... we look forward to reviewing your applications.

AFA Gothar Board

Shop and Help the AFA

RUNESTONE GIFTS: AFA Member Discount

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

SHOP AMAZON and SUPPORT THE AFA

Support the AFA by shopping Amazon through our Amazon affiliate link! The AFA gets a small percentage of every Amazon sale made by starting your search from [this link](#). Bookmark the link for future shopping!

Volunteer for the AFA

Want to volunteer for the AFA? Fill out this survey: <http://runestone.org/volunteer/>

Save the Date!

Walpurgis/Mayday in Southern California, April 28 - 30

Register today at <http://mayday2017.eventzilla.net>

Midsummer at NewGrange Hall - Asatru Hof (Northern California), June 16 - 18

Registration information coming soon!

Freyfaxi in the Northwest (Central Washington) August 4-6 (still pending)

Registration information to be announced!

Fall Fest in the Northern Plains (Minnesota), September 8 - 10

Registration information to be announced!

Winter Nights in the Poconos (Pennsylvania), October 12 - 15

Registration information coming soon!

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