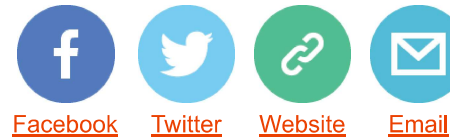


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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

I write this having just strung the first ever Yule lights on Mandy and my new house! I am overjoyed with the blessings that have come our way. This time of year is about taking stock of our blessings and appreciating those who we get to share our lives with. With taking stock in mind, I look at 2018 for the Asatru Folk Assembly and I am astounded at the ways the Gods have blessed us and how we have been blessings to each other. Over

Midsummer. The number of AFA affiliated Kindreds has doubled to 23. We have seen parts of the country where we had very little become wellsprings of AFA activity such as Massachusetts and Texas. Our current Gothar class has more than twice the number of students of any previous year. More than just a growth of numbers, the quality of our members is astounding! It has been my honor to be able to travel and interact with my AFA family throughout the year and I could not ask for better folk. Our AFA family has given and continues to give with an open heart, we almost have our first Hof paid off! AFA members dug deep and helped out more members than ever with Folk Services, taking care of our own when life got rough. For the first time, our members came together to provide needed relief to folks in South Africa who are savagely tormented for our shared blood and heritage.

As we celebrate this Yule season, we all have much to be grateful for. I am tremendously proud of our AFA family and the mighty force our church is in this world. I hope you all are proud of your AFA brothers and sisters across the United States and around the globe. May you all have hearts full of cheer and homes full of family as we close out 2018 with rejoicing, with reverence, and with excitement for a victorious 2019!

Happy Yule!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Matthew D. Flavel

Alsherjargothi

Asatru Folk Assembly

mattflavel@runestone.org



Kindred Spotlight

For our inaugural Kindred Spotlight, the AFA would like to recognize Minnesota's Northern Blood Kindred. One of our most active kindreds, Northern Blood gathers almost weekly with a wide range of activities including kids story time and kindred wood working. Most recently these fine folks have begun making chainmail bookmarks to raise money to pay

2017 Folkbuilding Excellence Award winner, Jason Gallagher heads up this amazing group and as this region has become one of our very best, this kindred has followed suit. These trailblazers were the first AFA Kindred in Minnesota and have set a great example as new AFA Kindreds are taking shape in the area. Northern Blood, you are amazing people and the Asatru Folk Assembly is very proud of all that you do!

Matthew D. Flavel
Alsherjargothi
Asatru Folk Assembly



Gothar Update by Blaine Qualls, Jr., Gothar Coordinator

The Gothar of the Asatru Folk Assembly are having an amazing year. Our Gothar are truly taking on the role of priests for our church, they are interacting with our membership in

counseling in their times of struggle, they are helping to educate, and aiding our Folkbuilders in bringing our lost folk back to their native religion.

We currently have the largest class of students in the Gothar training program that the AFA has ever seen... 7 men and 3 women who selflessly decided to step up and give their all to complete our training course. A training course that entails a full year of academic studies on par with any seminary course. Our students learn the deeper level significance of our lore, the importance of performing blot and sumbel in a traditional fashion, basics of counseling, and more. After that year they will then spend 6-12 months practicing what they have learned among our membership before being ordained and becoming worthy of the title of Gothar. Each of these men and women volunteered for this program of their own free will. Each of these men and women seek only to help our folk and our church grow and become more than it is. Each of these men and women are the embodiment of the word Noble.

Our Gothar are always here for any member who is in need, please feel free to contact any of us and we will be happy to help you if we are able. Our Gothar are:

Matt Flavel, Alsherjargothi, Nevada
Blaine Qualls, Gothar Coordinator, North Dakota
Allen Turnage, Lawspeaker, Florida
Thorgrun Odden, Witan, California
Bryan Wilton, Gothi, Oklahoma
Bodi Mayo, Gothi, Georgia
Steve Morrell, Gothi, Alaska
Michael Hunter, Gothi, California

Contact information for each of them is available on the website, runestone.org . And the next time you see one of them, give them a pat on the back for all they do for our church and our Folk.

ODINSHOF MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

AFA Food Distribution by Jessica Roesner, Apprentice Folkbuilder

For the past five months the folks here in Northern California have been donating their time and efforts to the community of Brownsville by offering a food bank once a month. For those of you that are just joining the voice, Brownsville is the tiny town where our Hof resides. The town was devastated in Mid- June, when a fire destroyed the Golden Eagle Market. This is the main source of groceries for this community. A large portion of the community is elderly, on a restricted income, some even without vehicles and with the next town being over 30 miles away, something needed to be done. So the AFA, Viking Brotherhood and Yuba Sutter Food Bank teamed up to help ease the burden. We host this food bank the first Saturday of each month at Odinhof. This is a very unique food bank because we actually have meat and produce to give away which is rare. Most food banks only give away canned food and empty calories. This month we served 85 families and 210 individuals. I would like to thank our volunteers for all their hard work, with out you we would not be able to make this possible.

Hail the Doers!!!

Be an Example By Bryan Wilton, Gothi & Folkbuilder

One and all, great leaders are far more careful than most men in dealing with people. They take precautions which lesser men neglect. They know that only through other people is it possible to succeed.

Whenever we stop for a second to consider the difficulties we may be facing, our success and setbacks, we will find other people at the root of most of these difficulties. Pay close attention that I mentioned setbacks AND successes. It is no accident that Charles Schwab was considered to be America's greatest salesman and built one of the biggest steel

for the moment. Henry Ford had an understanding for the needs and wishes of the crowd, as well as the individual. There is an art to influencing people and if you wish to get anywhere in life, it may be high time for you to learn it.

Most of the time we see successful business people and successful people in general acting upon what we might consider to be an innate understanding of what's going on around them. We see them make almost magical moves and sometimes it seems as if everything they touch turns to gold. Steve Jobs, Walt Disney and Bill Gates come to mind. Of course they all worked as hard as they could and they were prepared for whatever lucky break came their way, but lots of people do that on a daily basis. What is it that really helps catapult a person into the next level or dimension of success? Most of the time, these men are utilizing sound psychological principles which they themselves cannot even put into words. It is no accident that we see the assistants' of those people we truly consider to be successful go on to achieve great things as well. If you want to learn about music you take music lessons and taking them from a Master is all the more important. Those assistants; witness day after day their bosses overcome almost insurmountable difficulties by getting people to like them. They learn how to "question and answer well" by watching the success of it in action.

While it may seem silly, Theodore Roosevelt had an uncanny knack of being able to influence people and lead them because he, like many others, took the time to listen to them. Here was a man who had enjoyed high adventure and had the capability to hold an audience in absolute awe regaling them with his many wondrous tales. But Roosevelt knew that to be a President his connection with people must go much further than just an admiration of the things he had done. At one particular dinner, on a campaign trip in Omaha, following his return from a hunting trip in Africa in 1912 we find a particularly fitting description of how he did this. At this dinner he asks a close friend to tell him about a group of individuals across the table from him. After he has learned what each one is proud of, what he likes and what their interests are, Roosevelt now has a topic of conversation for each man at the table.

Asatru has a built device for such occurrences. We call it Sumbel. It is a wonderful ceremony that allows us to connect. Our ability to connect and communicate effectively is

for? How many times has it happened to you? All of the preparation and study and learning we need to do for this outline to be successful in your life, requires that you use it in order to connect with people. Connecting with people may also require one to realize that they are not the most important person in the room, but given the right frame of mind and a willingness to set your ego aside, you will be surprised just how fast you can become one of the most important people in any room.

At a recent Winter nights celebration, I began to notice groups of 6 – 10 people forming little clicks all on their own, each one slightly set apart from the other. All of them wished to be known or to make new friends but as I spent my time walking between each group, I began to think that perhaps a formal blot might not be the thing I wanted to use to help build a community. So we formed up to enjoy a sumbel. As we passed the horn around, instead of asking the questions we needed too so as to get to know the other person, lo and behold they began to give it away to the group as a whole. Each person found something in common with the next person and we all sat in a large group for the rest of the night. Fast friendships were made that night that are still in good standing today. Our community was given a chance to grow because I stepped aside from roles that I and others considered to be important in leading the blot in order that others may have a chance to express themselves. We each found out a little about the other in those solemn rounds. In the presence of what we consider divine we allowed ourselves to reaffirm the idea that each of us is important enough to allow the other man to be who he is supposed to be.

In the Havamal we find a bit of instruction to help us take this concept a little further.

*6. A man shall not boast of his keenness of mind, but keep it close in his breast;
To the silent and wise does ill seldom come
When he goes as a guest to a house;
For a faster friend, one never finds than wisdom tried and true.*

*7 The Knowing guest, who goes to the feast, in silent attention sits;
With his ears he hears, with his eyes he watches,
Thus all men are wary.*

in today's world. Everywhere around us we see so many people given their own reality TV shows and instant fame by showing off and running off at the mouth about what they think they know. When was the last time you took the opportunity to set aside your own ego and do your best to listen to the people around you? If you want to achieve the success you are desirous of, if you want people to look at you in a new and favorable light, consider for a second how important it is to understand what we are being told in the lore, take the time to get to know who you are going to be dealing with and engage them in such a manner that it makes them; not you, feel important.

The premise of this idea is so simple, yet so often it is overlooked, misunderstood or a person just cannot do it. Its seriousness is such that physicians, lawyers, police officers and all manner of public officials are trained to listen to people in the daily operation of their profession. Why would we not use this same level of commitment when the time comes for us to make an investment in the most worthwhile piece of property we own. Ourselves.

It doesn't matter if it's the relationship with your family, your co-workers and the boss or that very important interview or sale. There are two things we absolutely must do to begin our road to success. One: we must take the time to do a little research about who we are dealing with. We've seen how Teddy Roosevelt approached this situation but there are numerous examples of people we all admire doing the same thing. Charles Schwab, the man who built the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, considered the understanding of other men's interests an important tool of leadership. As the head of the Emergency Fleet Corporation he encouraged the Admiral in charge to build 50 new ships instead of the record high mark of 31. Somehow, he figured out that the Admirals hobby was Jersey cows. Mr. Schwab offered him the best jersey cow in America if he could do this. The Admiral set about to meet this new challenge enthusiastically. All manner of salesmen have the good habit of making notes concerning the interests, hobbies, likes and dislikes of their customers. How much better would your marriage or work life be if you were to take the same amount of interest in your coworkers or spouse and children?

So it would seem that our first step to building up our success with other people is to take the time to learn about them. How many times have you heard the statement "It's not what

than you can even imagine. If each of the people you know considers you to be someone who cares enough to remember one of those little details about them, it will change the way they think of you. Every single time. It will also allow you to overcome the preconceived notions people may have about you. You know; the ones given to you by other people.

Secondly, we need to close our mouths and open our ears. Now that we know or remember something about a person we want to do business with or build a relationship of any kind it is time to listen. We already have a subject about which they will want to talk. Let them. When you actually listen to them you are helping them to feel important. You are providing, to some small degree a sense of validation that the things they consider to be important really are. This will go a long way towards helping them view you in a favorable light. But occasionally, some folk are just naturally people of few words. If question after question is answered with a yes or no, it has a tendency to put a damper on an up to now successful program of dealing with and influencing people. Suppose you must deal with someone who is older and more experienced than you. Now what?

During a train with Herbert Hoover, in his private car, a onetime correspondent with The Chicago Daily News spent a quarter of an hour receiving simple “yes” and “no” answers from Hoover. Here was a chance to get a private interview with one of the most important men of the twentieth century and he was failing. By sheer accident he hit upon a time tested trick in interviewing people. He made a misstatement of fact concerning something Hoover knew about very well. He made an offhanded comment about old fashioned prospecting as they crossed Nevada. The presidential candidate took him up and corrected him about the advancements being made in modern mining practices. And for nearly 2 more hours he gave his undivided attention to a man he barely knew and the interview of a lifetime. The reporter took advantage of a tactic which allowed the other man to demonstrate his superior knowledge. This goes well beyond just validating a person’s belief; here he is actively boosting a man’s ego.

In my time with the US Army, my first Platoon Sergeant was a Vietnam veteran and I was a young E-1. Our job was to patrol the DMZ in between North and South Korea. It took everything I could not to dislike the man. He was hard-nosed and had, from what I could

went about trying to use these very tactics to improve the situation. I began to seek his opinion and work hard to follow his suggestions. In very short order I was leader of a squad and using some of the stuff he taught me, I eventually did very well in my service. This sergeant was working as hard as he could to keep a bunch of soldiers doing their job in a professional manner and none of them seemed to care that he had truly learned it the hard way. He knew what he was talking about. In taking the steps to learn about his history and listen to him, I reassured him that his efforts were not in vain and I began to succeed myself.

So what all of this comes down to is that we need to listen and learn about whom we are dealing with. We need to do so to the best of our ability and sometimes we have to put our ego in check to accomplish this. It does not matter if it's with your co workers, your boss or in front of a crowd, you should remember that you have found yourself there for a reason, don't let your ego ruin it all by interfering with your ability to connect and get your message across. I will wager that your future success is far more important than the immediate gratification of your ego and trying to be right all the time.

If you are Asatru and reading this, I am certain that you have seen many times; someone sacrifice their future in any number of ways by trying to be right with regards to our faith. There is also what I call a tendency to "lead with the chin" and every time I say it people have no idea what I'm talking about. I'll discuss that whole issue in a later chapter.

Very rarely have we seen someone come along who has taken the time to try and help Asatruars learn how to live a good life. Too many conditions have been placed upon the quality of the faith to further socio-political agendas. So let's try something new. Let's try and build upon solid principles which will enable us to work as effectively in the world and as often as possible; even better than the man next to us. Ansuz has long been believed to be the rune which represents Odin and all the gifts he has to offer to mankind. Our sense of communication and the inspiration to know how to deal with people is a reflection of his actions. In the Vafthruthnismol, he asks of Frigga her opinion of what he is about to do, not because he has too or needs too but perhaps it is because he respects his partner that much. Imagine how important your partner would feel in your life if you treated them as such. Don't spin out just yet thinking of all the times in the lore where he has done

you cannot understand how they interact with one another. Odin goes to extreme lengths to collect the mead of inspiration; likewise his offering for a drink from Mimirs well was costly and his sacrifice to earn the runes. Given what we have read so far in this book, and using just the two tools we have discussed, imagine how much success you would enjoy if you were to take these two examples of learning about the people we are to do business with and then actively listen to them, to similar, but not necessarily the same, extremes. What if you really worked at it just as Odin has? In the end, Odin finally has to deal with the one being he knows he cannot conquer, but it does not stop him from doing his best to learn as much as he can and stack the deck in is favor. He has ensured he will have a legacy that lasts. You can too. This is the difference between great men and regular men.



Birth Announcements

Torbjörn Karlsson of Hroptatyr Blotlag

On November 17, we held a ceremony for our son Torbjörn Karlsson together with family and members of AFA. His name was proclaimed to the gods and he was welcomed into our community. It warmed our hearts!

~ Sara and Peter

Hell Torbjörn
Hell Hroptatyr
Hell AFA



Our friends in Gaur kindred, Oscar and Nataja's little girl have got her blanket. She is called Celina and was born in July. And according to statements from the family the felt is very popular.



Wedding Annoucements

Matt & Mary Beth of Sandhills Kindred

Best of wishes to Sandhills Kindred Members Matt & Mary Beth on their Beautiful Hand Fastening. They're truly a beautiful couple and an asset to our community.



Scott and Stephanie of British Columbia

AFA Members Scott Sinclair and Stephanie Bullock have set the date for their wedding in B.C. Canada. Congratulations Scott & Stephanie!



Day of Remembrance for Egil Skallgrímsson



December 9th

Egil Skallgrímsson, son of Skall-Grim and Bera, came from a long line of shape shifters (possibly Ulfhednar). From a young age Egil demonstrated a spirit of intense passion; even at a young age Egil's passionate nature disposed him to bouts of violence and fits that equated to a berserker's rage. From early on in Egil's life he demonstrated the aptitude of a

trade, Egil had gained much fame as a viking during raids. Throughout Egil's saga he is depicted as having a pattern of outbursts in which he rights wrongs he felt were committed against him.

Egil is also depicted in the sagas as an adept master of the runes, In one tale Egil had scratched a rune on a horn suspecting it had been bewitched or poisoned, causing it to erupt. Having thus confirmed his suspicion he lashed out at his ill-willed host killing him and several others who had pursued him. This murder and the slaying of his pursuers put him in ill standing with king Erik Bloodaxe and his wife, queen Gunnhild, the witch who had cursed Egil's horn that night. Egil demonstrated his aptitude in rune craft again when he erected a "Nothing" pole cursing the kingdom of king Erik and queen Gunnhild.

This course of events lead to another demonstration of Egil's talent for poetry he had began to demonstrate at age 3. Egil staved off his own execution by composing a poem so compelling and flattering of his bitter rival king Erik Bloodaxe that it stayed his hand in Egil's execution and compelled Erik to grant Egil his freedom and give up his claim to vengeance or settlement. In contrast to the conflicts Egil confronted head on as a warrior, he was a gentle soul with a focus on family and friends. On one occasion he had used runecraft to save the life of a woman by correcting healing runes that had been carved incorrectly. This side of Egil is further demonstrated in his las great poem, where he grieves the loss of his son, showing even in his old age that family was still his dearest and highest priority.

Yule approaches, be it family by blood, or adopted AFA family, lets take time to put our families first. Take a moment to step back and reflect on the values and the unbroken love of our Folk that your ancestors shared, making your life and existence possible today. Be the warrior when need be for your ancestors and folk and a hero to your descendants. Live your life in such a manner that whether you are a humble farmer or a great warrior, your deeds will one day be worthy of a saga in your own right!

Submitted by Jason Plourdes
Folkbuilder and Gothar Student

by Cameron Mottus, Founder for Australia, New Zealand
and South Africa

The plight of the South African Whites continues. In my opinion, the situation in South Africa is the thin edge of the knife for European people around the world. Marxism and anti-European hate are an existential threat to our Folk. What we do now will define our future.



"We are cutting the throat of whiteness."
Joseph Malema, South African Politician

What started out as a challenge put out to the members of my region (Australia, New



Over the last few months the AFA has raised a tremendous amount of funds for the South African Family Relief Project (SAFRP). Originally at the beginning of our campaign I had passed on our initial results to their founder, and this was her response:

"Thank you so much for your kindness and the fact that you are willing to share our plight in your country. We truly need all the help we can get. We live without electricity and try to be self-sufficient but it is not easy. Winter is upon us and we are not coping to feed the masses. We are positive and pray every day. Hard work and giving to families in need is our passion and we will continue to do so."

Granted, most of the folks we are helping are not Asatruar, but they are still our Folk and I am taking a personal interest in ensuring that we do what we can to assist them. What I find most inspiring is that the South African Folk, despite the hardships they are facing, keep moving forward and making the best of the situation they are in.



How do you help? Simply go to www.runestone.org and click on the Donate button. In the description, type "South Africa", fill in your particulars, and then click 'Donate Now'.

\$20.00

USD

Make this a monthly donation ?

South Africa

Donate Now

Personally, I am committing to \$20 for the next 12 months. If we all do that the Folk in need will get an ongoing, predictable stream of funds.

Where does the money go? Initially, the money will be held by AFA Folk Services. Every month the AFA will make a donation to one or more charities in South Africa. Currently, there are two that we are considering.

1. [The South African Family Relief Project](#) - The SAFRP works on a daily basis to assist people in need.
2. [Suidlanders](#) - The Suidlanders are preparing for the potential of a future emergency (genocide/civil war)

If you know of any other South African charities or you want to help please contact me at cmottus@runestone.org.

Words from the AFA Military Program



ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY MILITARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Hails! If you are currently a member of the military regardless if you are in the states or any other country, please send us an email with your current status i.e. Deployed, in-garrison, or stationed abroad.

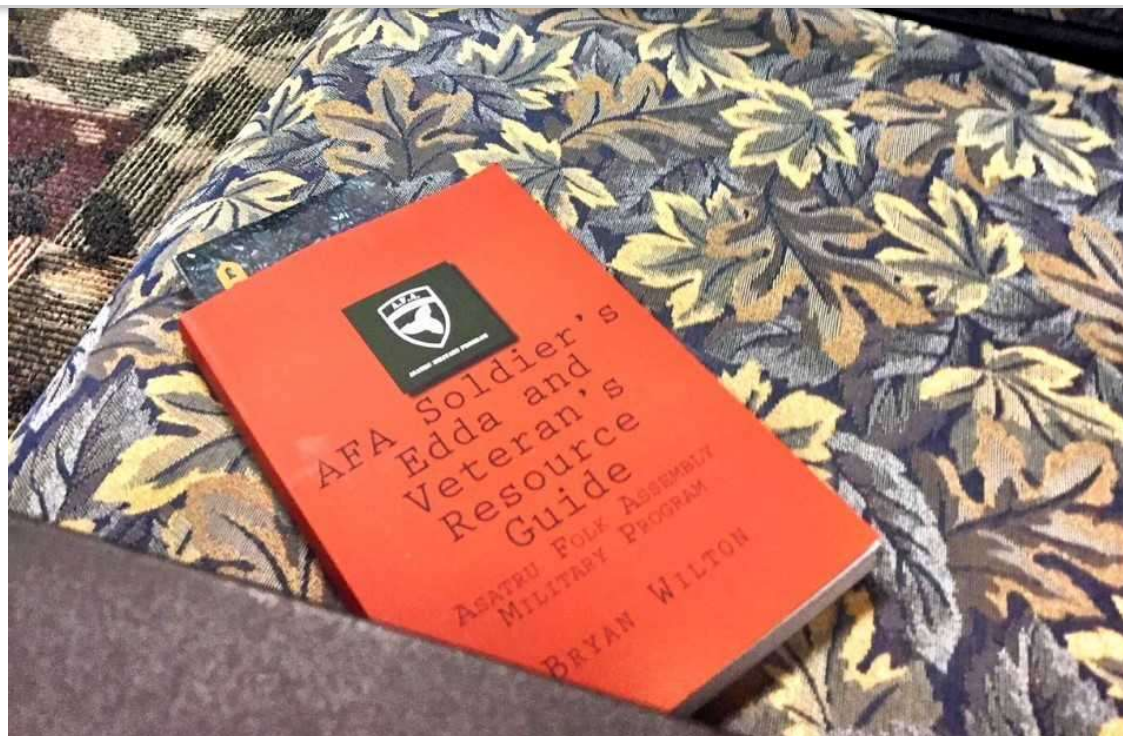
We are trying to compile a list of each military member and their locations so we can send out care packages through the holiday seasons, quarterly, ensure your religious needs are being met etc. That being said, if you know of any of our members and their status, being they don't have service and what not, send us their mailing address and we will get some items send out.

Also if you or anyone of our members who are veterans, active, retired, or about to transition from the service and are having a hard time finding a new career path or just need other vets to talk too, let us know as well and we can try networking and/or lend an ear for you or the individual.

Thank you and have a great holiday season!

Kevin Long





Make Your Yuletide Shopping Help the AFA!

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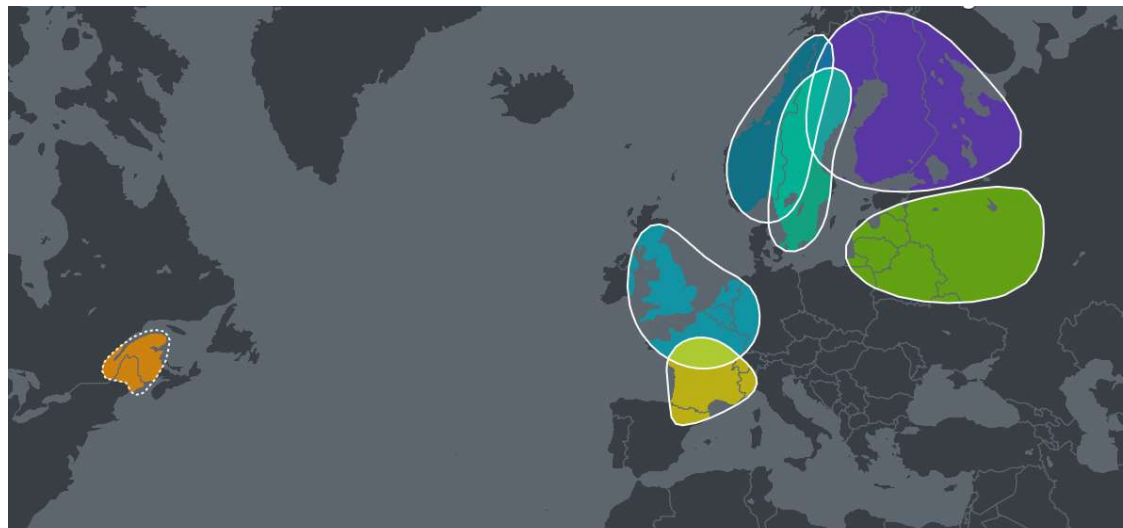


The end of the year is fast approaching, and with it we will all need a new calender! Pick up one of the official AFA calenders and every month you'll be greeted by wonderful pictures of our Folk from all over the world! Grab yours for \$15 [here!](#)

A special thanks goes out to Nate Hayden who put it all together.

**Geneology – Discovering Your Family’s Lore
by Cameron Mottus, Apprentice Folkbuilder**

compared to what I expected them to be. I expected 1/2 Quebecois, 1/4 Swedish and 1/4 Estonian. The results contained some surprises.



DNA Story for Cameron

● France	35%
● Baltic States	21%
● Sweden	18%
● England, Wales & Northwestern Europe	15%
● Norway	6%
● Finland	5%

The most curious surprise was DNA from the UK (15% England, Wales and Northwestern Europe come from) because no one in our family had ever mentioned English in our blood.

Just after Yule I made a boast that I would spend the next year working on my family's genealogy and be the genealogist of our family. Not only is are the findings a gift for my children, but a gift to my mum and brother, and to all of my aunties, uncles and cousins. Initially, to facilitate sharing my discoveries with my family, I created a secret Facebook group for my mum's family. I invited all of my mum's family members to join. Next, I logged into Ancestry.com and created a family tree for my mum's family.

Where do you start?

The simplest answer is to talk to your parents, grandparents and great-grandparents if they are still with you. These people are a huge storehouse of easy to access information. Gather all of the documents and evidence that you can and put it in a safe place. I also created a folder on my computer which I called the "shoe box" where I have stored all of the digital files that I have found.

Ancestry.com has a handy feature called hints. For each person you add to your family tree Ancestry.com will attempt to match them to an existing record in their database. This can be helpful when you do not have a lot of information to work with. I have found hints to be very handy providing clues.

My mum's family is Quebecois and have been in Canada since the early 1600's. As I found new ancestors I would Google their names and birthdays to see what would show up. This is a great way to flesh out some of the exciting stories in your family as well as find additional resources. I have found entire books, Wikipedia pages and web sites about family members. Here are a few examples:

- Catherine Timmons 1836-1912: from Ireland (The first ancestor from the UK!)
- Louis Fontaine 1723-1799: French Canadian Revolutionary War Patriot
- Joseph-Louis Gill 1719-1798: "The White Indian Chief", the son of Samuel Gill who was captured in Salisbury, Massachusetts at age 10 by Abenaki warriors. Samuel Gill was adopted by the Abnaki. (The Gills are my oldest English ancestors...not Scottish as we had always suspected!!)



Now I can see where that mysterious 15% came from. As I discovered the stories of my family I have been posting them back to my family's private Facebook group to ensure that our family's lore is past on.

When working on Ancestry.com you may find relatives who have already done a lot of the work. They can give you access to their family tree and you can copy it by hand into your family tree OR they can provide a GEDCOM file. Any family tree can be exported to a GEDCOM file and passed on to someone else. GEDCOM files can provide an excellent foundation for your family tree.

What happens if you are given a GEDCOM file and you already have an established family tree? You can use an application such as Family Tree Maker to merge the GEDCOM file into your family tree and synchronize it with your Ancestry.com family tree.

UPGRADES
Click here for
NEWS
UPDATES

Family Tree Maker 2017

Available now! As a download or on a disc.

Genealogy is a very satisfying and addictive. I have already invested close to 100 hours over the past five months and I have barely scratched the surface. However, the stories I have found for my family are priceless.

Call for Photo Donations

We have a real need for hi-res photographs of our members gathering, being active in their kindreds, and showing what it means to live Asatru. If you are willing to donate some hi-res photos for use in promotions such as the AFA Calendar, the AFA website, and so on please email them to photos@runestone.org. The larger the resolution the better, so please email them from the device where the photo was taken. Thank you in advance!

Folkbuilder at Large Update by Jamie Lynn Souigny, Apprentice Folkbuilder

Have you had some recent victories in life? A new marriage? A promotion? A new baby? Have you gathered with Folk for a Holy Day or even just a moot? We want to celebrate with you as a community! Please submit anything YOU would like added to "The Voice" to your Folkbuilder Jamie Souigny!

Hail the doers!!!

Hail the AFA!!!

Hail the Gods and Goddesses!!!

Hail our Folk!!!

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

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 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](#).

Your contributions are earnestly solicited and of course are tax-deductible!

Thanks in advance!

Jamie Souigny
Apprentice Folkbuilder at Large

Far North Regional Updates



Alaska Update
by Eric Whisman, Folkbuilder



Feast of the Einherjer 2018
-Eric Whisman, Folkbuilder

On November 18th members of the Alaskan AFA kindred Der Volkstamm auf dem Nordliche Bar, other AFA members from all over the state, and one very special AFA member from out of state gathered at the home of Gothi Steven Morrell for our annual Feast of the Einherjer Celebration. Having a strong presence of former military members as well as families from military backgrounds; this celebration has always been very special to us.

We held Blot to Odin that night around the ritual fire, and then had a a great feast where every dish appropriately had a pork element to it.

It was a powerful night and connections amongst spread out folk were strengthened, and new bonds of friendship were forged.

Northwest Regional Updates



Oregonian Update
by Joseph Rozanek, Apprentice Folkbuilder



Hails! Another outstanding month for Asatru' in the NW, we had a Remeberance for Queen Sidgard in Vancouver Wa, rune meetings in Moscow ID, and Vancouver BC. Thanks to Blake, Shawn and Emily for hosting and conducting the groups. Our feast of the Einherjar was a big success, bringing together our Northern Washington members.

We have Jule coming up in December, and is one of the most festive events of the year. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone from the Portland/Vancouver area!

Also save some of that Christmas money so that you can afford to attend our first regional event "The Charming of the Plow" (Feb 1-3 2019) to be held in Leavenworth Washington! Mark your calendars, we will start collecting the first week of January to reserve our venue. Leavenworth being central to the Pacific Northwest is a picturesque town located in the Cascade mountain range. The cost of the event will be around \$100 to include food and lodging, and it will be snowy so be prepared.

Let me know if you would like to create an event in your area and I will assist you in the best way I can.

Hail the Gods!

Joe Rozanek

Jrozanek@runestone.org

Apprentice Folkbuilder NW

Upcoming Events

11/9 Remembrance Day for Egil Skallgrimson, Svartálfar tribe, Beatty Oregon

11/11 Remembrance Day for Egil Skallgrimson/Rune group 5:30-7:30 Vancouver Wa.

11/10 Runic Study group 6:30pm-7:30pm Moscow, ID

11/22 Jul celebration, Scappoose Or.

11/22 Jul celebration, Svartálfar tribe.

First Experience by Kurt Krumlauf of Svartálfar Tribe

I have found and been with the Old Gods since 2008. I have never had the chance to attend any gatherings or meet anyone that followed this faith as I lived in Yuma Arizona. I recently moved to south central Oregon, Klamath Falls area, and was contacted by the Svartalfar Tribes Chieftain, Steve Mundy. He invited me to the fall equinox Blot that the tribe was conducting. I was a little nervous and hesitant about what I would find and who I would find but was excited none the less. When I arrived, I was warmly welcomed and made to feel at home by the tribe. The Ceremony that was held was something I have never felt or witnessed before in my life. When I had been to church growing up, I never felt as moved or as happy as I did when we entered the sacred ground Svartalfar Tribe had made. Never have I felt as close to any God or ancestor as I did when the ceremony began. I truly felt as though I had come home and belonged. Afterwards, we had a meal and mead. I got to know the folks and felt more at home every minute I was there. I was very impressed and pleased with how seriously everything was taken and how everyone treated me. I left later that night truly looking forward to doing more with and for the Svartalfar Tribe and the Folk in the future.



Northeast Regional Updates



Pennsylvanian Update
by Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder and Member of the Witan



Feast of the Einherjar

and the distinction between warrior and Einherjar. Afterward, we celebrated Feast of the Einherjar with a faining led by Catie Reid followed by a feast and sumbel.

Folkish Yule in Pennsylvania

Hosted by Lansdale Tru Folk

Lansdale, PA

December, 29 2018

A Yuletide Faining, open to friends and members of Lansdale Tru Folk and the Asatru Folk Assembly, followed by a feast and a sumbel hosted by the Lansdale Tru Folk. If you would like to bring an offering or gift to the Gods, an ancestor, or for luck in the new year please do.

For information, please email cerickson@runestone.org.

Massachusetts Update **by Marco DeNuzzio, Apprentice Folkbuilder**



The month of November started with a Blot to Ullr. The God of the Hunt, Winter, and the games. As residents of the Northeast. Deep in the frozen lands of Vinland, we not only thrive, but enjoy Winters icy embrace. A hunt is a proper way to start off the month for good Harvest and blessings. The second week of November the Botulfr Stoneship Kindred held a Feast of the Einherjar. We remembered and honored those who had fallen, who fought for Folk, both past and present. It was a moving and powerful experience, followed by an incredible night filled with food, drinks, laughter, and even some light sparring. A small ritual was held later that week giving the rose used in the Einherjar Blot back to the land. We also Hailed one of our own from the Ravens Blood Kindred out of Georgia Dalton Woodward. He is deploying at the beginning of the year to Afghanistan. Also a congratulations is in order to Dalton and his lovely Wife Karen Woodward for their recent Handfasting!

Winter is a beautiful time of year in New England we plan to have a Skadi Blot and a Ski trip at the end of the month of November. The beautiful traditions our ancestors have passed down have not been lost by all. The amount of energy from our AFA community not only emboldens us but inspires us.

Our Members are dedicated craftsman and artists. All of their craft work and art work is

scientists they take the mundane and turn it into something remarkable.

The month of December will be very busy. As I am sure it will be for many. We plan on doing several outdoor activities and spending time with Family and friends. We will be holding several small events throughout the month. And we will be donating our time to volunteer at a soup kitchen near us. Have a Merry Jul to all. May the Gods continue to guide you and yours to life's blessings.

HAIL THE FOLK!
HAIL THE GODS!
HAIL THE BOTULFR STONESHIP
AND HAIL THE MIGHTY AFA!

Need Fire
by Erik Wolf of Botulfr Stoneship

Tall pines, full snow, shadows in the moon's glow.
Cold breath, whispers in the hollow of an old grove.

Hail the elder folk.
Hail to those who've lived and loved, and will.
Watchers in the wooden hills.
Tall rocks, carved stone, mindful of a giant's throne.
Bear prints, game trails to hunt and feed my own.

Hail all birds and beasts.
Hail from sea to sea!
Watchers in the frozen trees.
Crack the branches under feet.
Trod upon the path beneath.

Listen to the wolves, they call.
Do not fear these woods at all.

Now I feel as still as ice.
I Need Fire!

Ravens, they croak.
Do thoughts and memories...
They make our dreams.
Far and wide, I can hear them mock.

The mind is like a raging stream.
I am the fool who will be wise.

I am the man in Wolves' disguise.
I walk or die under frozen eyes.

I Need Fire!

I Wander now through years past.
I am King yet no horns blast.
I know my death is coming fast.

I Need Fire!

Burn! Burn! BURN! I say.
Flicker in the wild wood.
Burn! Burn! BURN! I say.

Pulling tight my cloak and hood.
For I Need Fire!



Central Corridor Regional Updates

Oklahoma Update by Bryan Wilton, Folkbuilder and Gođi

Throughout this month we have all seen many of our folk turn their thoughts and hearts to those ancestors who brought us here. Whatever they may have believed we have all felt the loving touch of a grandmother or parent helping us along the way. In many regards our efforts here are of the same character. There are thousands, indeed millions, of men and women who have simply settled for an alternative way. One which doesn't really challenge their preconceived notions about who and what they are. But I have always contended that when we make the profound decision to change the spiritual foundation of our lives, there will be some consequences to that. Families may not feel so close anymore. Those warm remembrances of our childhood may now be buried under years of military service, incarceration, drug addiction and alcoholism, the pain of loss, the pain of being a victim. In

can we allow them to ignore the limiting system of beliefs which brought us to these crossroads to begin with. But it doesn't happen overnight, nor is it qualified by adoption of any political ideology. People grow into the powerful path of heathenry. And for them to do that, we have the responsibility of being an example of someone who is enjoying the quality of life which escapes so many people. We should be helping them along the way. With powerful examples. To build our minds, our bodies and strengthening our hearts so that we too might be able to show these folk the hospitality and generosity which is so much a part of our way of life. In the same manner that we call upon our gods and our ancestors to finally reveal ourselves in sumbel and experience that wonderful connection, when our folk come calling, and they will, we make them welcomed.

Midwest Regional Updates

Heimdall's Midgard Kindred by Zach Cato of Heimdall's Midgard Kindred

Hello everyone, Heimdalls Midgard Kindred has been staying active with our weekly conference calls for study and monthly meetings. In November we had our biggest meeting to date with 8 people attending. Anne's husband and son joined us for the first time and Dan's wife came, John and his son were present as well. There was a great family feel to this feast and Sumbl. We all had a great time at the Overlook Restaurant and we will probably be returning there for our Yule dinner. Everything is coming together nicely and I couldn't be happier with my kindred.

On another note Anne and I started supporting the Distels' in their Wotans Wolves program. I'm sure our children are going to have a great time as they go through the program. Tiffany and Cole Distel are doing an amazing job with this. I couldn't be more proud of the work that they are doing for the children of the AFA and Midwest. I am deeply honored to have forged the connections with them and Kvasirs Scholars. And as time moves on we hope to make these connections stronger and stronger.

continuing the weekly study conference calls in December and our get together for Yule.
Heimdalls Midgard Kindred wishes everyone in the AFA Family a Happy Yule and New
Year! Until next time... Skål

Hail the Gods

Hail the AFA Kindreds

Hail the Ásatrú Folk Assembly

Zach Cato, AFA Midwest, IN

Heimdalls Midgard Goði

South Central Regional Updates



Texas Update
by Clyde Brown III, Apprentice Folkbuilder



Black Sun DFW had an amazing time at its Feast of The Einherjar! Members of the Fettered Folk Hearth, Odinic Rite were in attendance and further Frith and tribal unity was built with these kinsmen. The cooks battled the ovens and stoves for hours-- Hail Ashley Pender and company! Anthony and Angie Walker gifted us with duck meat fajitas... what a treat! Venison chili and back strap fried steak were also the order of the day, Texas-style all the way. The feast was epic!

Sundown brought us around to a wonderful Blot, followed by sumbel. We are proud to call the Fettered Folk Hearth friends and brothers. All in all...it was an epic night and definitely one to be remembered. Our friends from The Clan MC showed up and proved how upstanding and respectable they are.

Meanwhile during the same weekend, another contingent of Black Sun members were busy in the North Star State, Minnesota, helping put on a great Einherjar Feast and Blot in

served, both past and present. The hospitality of those present and helping to host was stellar... it was a great venue and the experience was beyond words to describe. There are many great things coming out of Minnesota in the days to come.

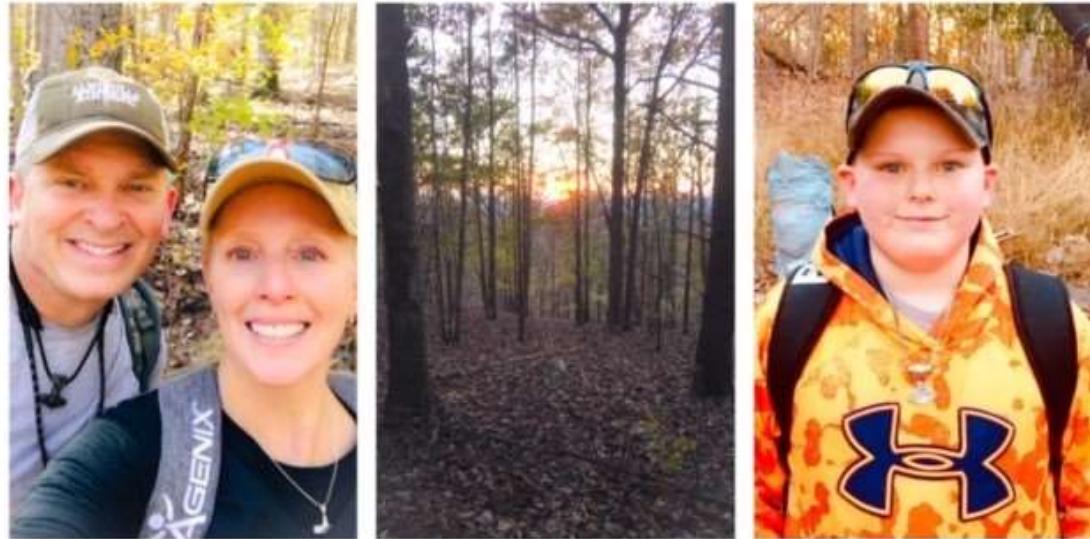
HAIL THE GODS!!

HAIL THE BLACK SUN TRIBE!!

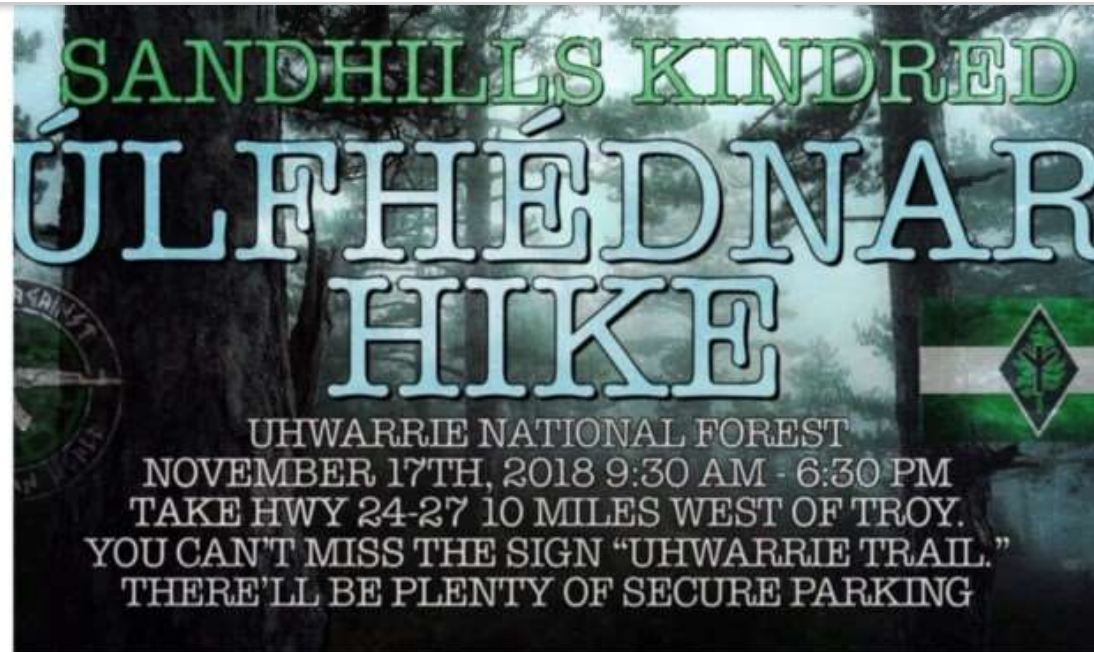
HAIL THE AFA!!

HAIL THOSE THAT DO!!

Upper South Regional Updates



**North Carolinian Update
by Paul Hester, Folkbuilder**



Thu	☁	46	34
Fri	☀	56	33
Sat	☀	61	37
Sun	☁	61	39
Mon	☀	60	36
Tue	☁	54	35
Wed	☀	57	37

Our Sandhills Kindred Ulfhednar Hike was a resounding success. Kelley logged 17 miles and 38,000 steps on her Fitbit, the highest she's ever recorded. I think what prevailed was a sense of sacrifice, pride, and individual achievement. I witnessed leadership and determination at an unprecedented level, which is truly a hallmark of our Folk. The growth, endurance, and self awareness from such an event is truly priceless, not to mention the Frith we shared. On this day we made our Gods and Ancestors Proud. Finally, congratulations to David, one of our youngest members, who earned his Thor's hammer.

We had an awesome time at the Valhalla Pub & Eatery in Charlotte last night. We had a little leadership get together just to celebrate a wonderful bountiful year. We are truly excited at what Sunday night we held our Upper South Conference Call. We had a solid group of 14 people who are truly committed to building our region. We thank those who showed up for our gathering and those who took the time to join the conference call. Together we will build kindreds and hofs all over Midgard.

We'll be celebrating "Yule, Mother's Night " Dec. 25th @ 2pm at our home. An event will be created and invitations will be sent out. We are gathering to not only celebrate mothers nigh, but to thank the gods for a bountiful year. Oh Yea, we will have a special guest. Hail the High Ones.

Deep South Regional Updates

Alabama Update by Trent East, Apprentice Folkbuilder

The Deep South region of the United States have been, for nearly 400 years, a very prosperous place for our Folk here! Many of our Ancestors came to this area to start anew and make their fortune!

While the southern states are certainly not what they used to be, we can still find hope in the quality of our Folk here! Michael Behrens, one of our most devoted Georgia members, was gracious enough to host a Feast of the Einherjar and Remembrance of Queen Sigrid in his home! It was a very small and humble gathering, but a significant one nonetheless!

Next month, our Deep South Folk in Alabama and Georgia can look forward to Yule in Dixie 2018! Jeff Morris and his wonderful family have offered their home for us to celebrate winter solstice with quality Folk! I am personally very excited about this event, as is Jeff!

For those of you unaware, my kinsman Dalton Woodward is being deployed to Afghanistan this January. We know he'll be fine, and come back honorably and with many stories. However, if you would like to pray for him, we would all appreciate it.

Ravensblood wishes you all a glad Yule!

Hail Michael Behrens!
Hail the Morris Family!
Hail the Gods!
Hail the Folk!
Hail the AFA!

Florida Update by Ralph Viola, Apprentice Folkbuilder

Florida held the first annual Feast of The Hunters, our Thanksgiving on November 25. We will also be holding Yuletide this year. As will build a foundation for our community we thank the AFA for helping make it all possible.

South Carolinian Update by James Dover, Apprentice Folkbuilder



Several members from South Carolina supported a hike with Sandhills Kindred in the Uwharrie forest of North Carolina on the 17th. They showed true courage and perseverance seeing the ordeal through to the end, proving that we are a tough stock of people.

We held our first South Carolina Pubmoot on the 23rd, and it was a huge success- another step toward establishing a thriving Heathen community in the palmetto State.

Western Regional Update



Southern California Update
by Heather Clinkenbeard, Folkbuilder



November was another very busy month for the Tru-Folk.

Two of our members have birthdays in November:

Happy birthday, Matthew Waldrum!!

Happy birthday, Reilly Perez!!

Two of our members who are expecting babies both found out this month that they were having baby girls. Tru-Folk baby girls!! Will be here by next midsummer and we are very excited and happy for both couples and families. Congratulations to Angie and Randy and also to Brad and Bre!!

We had our feast of Ullr at the park where we met new folk who I'm sure are now a part of the Tru-folk family. Our ritual honored Ullr and Skadi reminding us to fight for what we believe in and focus on our targets for success. We talked about the courage strength and accuracy they possessed and how to use that in our everyday life.

Grayson lead our Feast of Einherjar ritual when the men folk and put on an amazing evening filled with comrades and fire. He explains below.

For Feast of the Einherjar I felt that our Kindred should have a very in depth event because for Tru-Folk Kindred the Einherjar aren't distant hero's from the past that are separated from us by time and space; as we have many military veterans whom lost comrades killed in action as well as other members who lost Folk on the street or on the inside.

We built a Longboat to be offered as the sacrifice along with Irminsul beautifully wood burned with Hávamál Stanza 76 - "A good name never dies" by Kevin Long which was fitted into the boat which in turn was placed upon a large bonfire, members and friends placed pictures and items of friends whom had fallen for their folk to offer up too.

For the ritual we created the Valknut with stones boards and candle holders with 7 red candles, 1 black candle, and 1 white. The reason for this is:
Three of the red candles represent Tyr for his great sacrifice and the bloodshed of warriors. The next one is to Odin and representing his association with death and the great power of its transformation symbolized in the black candle.
The top triangle with a white candle represents Freyja while a Gather of the Slain is also associated with the love and sacred femininity, for blood and death must be for something.

The nine candles were carried down to their places to start the ritual by nine of our women members representing the Valkyries. It was very powerful to have the white candle carried and placed by one of our lady's who is several months pregnant to symbolize new life that which is worth the bloodshed and death.

The directions were called in and the site was made hollowed. Odin, Freyja, and Tyr were called upon.

Heart to hand to horn went around as well as a Valknut box crafted from the fellow folk at Winter Nights, within it earth from the Battlefield of Antietam where a Blot to the fallen had been performed. The members touched the earth to feel physically a piece of this realm OUR Folk changed forever with their blood.

Words were then spoken citing the significance of this event. Then nine men carrying nine

The Kindred then did three rounds to the Gods and Goddess, Heroes and ancestors, and an open round that was more sharing of fallen folk and poems read in their honor.

The Einherjar, so who were they exactly? The lore tells us they were the warriors who fell in battle, but it doesn't say ALL the slain become Einherjar and I think this shows that it was how that warrior LIVED that made him an Einherjar just as much as how he died.

Let's backtrack a little shall we? Perhaps the best way to explain what the Einherjar and their Feast IS would be by explaining what this and they are NOT! It is not a Romanticism of death because we see that a lot today don't we, "Die in battle and go to Valhalla" "Victory or Valhalla" it's even a meme. Catchy I'll admit but it makes traumatic death into some romantic notion.

Allow me to level with you all. Death, traumatic death is NOT romantic. It is Horrific. Upon the setting in of irreversible hemorrhagic shock and due to damage to the internal organs many times a person will involuntarily defecate and urinate themselves in what I can tell you is the beginning of organ failure and many times all the while they are screaming in excruciating pain, begging you to save their life and keep them from that great beyond.

In the olden times the conflict was physically harder but more direct, together side by side upon the field of battle and we can still see this today in the desert, the street, and upon the yard. Because while the battlefield has changed and is different what's at stake hasn't and it could be said it is even greater than in that day because more of it stands to be lost. What the Modern World has in store for us and all peoples is the death of Our Folk Soul.

You saw the faces of our fallen folk upon the memorial table, they were once like you and me and we can be like them and it doesn't require us dying. It requires us getting back up and keeping on so that when or if our Orlog leads us to a challenge that takes our life we were able to have and able to work our Wydr so that it is a death that cements us as Einherjar.



Northern California Update by Jessica Roesner, Apprentice Folkbuilder

We have been very busy here in Northern California, we celebrated Feast of the Einherjar, hosting monthly food banks, preparing for the Nevada City Toy Run, fund raising to pay off Odinshof and my personal favorite preparing for Yule!!

Feast of the Einherjar was a spectacular event. The evening prior to the event the Viking Brotherhood and a few folk gathered and prepared a live turkey to be feasted on. The next day roughly 40 folks came out on November 10th and 11th to honor the Einherjar. We spent the day taking part in Viking games such as Tug-O-War, Viking Arm Wrestling and Jomswiking.

Michael Hunter lead a talk about the origins of veteran's day known as Armistice Day. The

One-harrier, you can find more information about the trials in the Masks of Odin, chapter 9 entitled Initiations. The rest of the day was very low key giving our folk time to reflect, share stories and create greater connections with one another.

As a friendly reminder proceeds from Odinshof tee shirts, hoodies and calendars all go towards paying off the Hof. Thank you to everyone who has been able to make a contribution. With your continued efforts we will reach our goal in no time.

On December 8th the Viking Brotherhood will be partaking in the Nevada City Toy Run by not only having members riding for this charitable event but by also having a booth to sell food and drink to continue to raise money for Odinshof.

Three Rivers kindred will also be having a Mid Winter Holiday dinner on the 8th. All local AFA members are welcome to join, please message myself (Jessica Rose) or a member of Three Rivers for more details.

Our next event at Odinshof will be on December 22nd and 23rd for Yule. Folk from multiple regions will be heading to Northern California for what I'm sure will be a much talked about and joyous event. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible that weekend.

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

Northern Plains Regional Updates



**South Dakota Update
by Blaine Qualls, Jr., Folkbuilder, Gothar Coordinator and
Member of the Witan**



November saw the Ulfhednar Clan and other AFA members busy across the area. On November 10th several of us gathered with a local independent folkish kindred to celebrate the Feast of the Einherjar and build bonds of frith between our respective kindreds. Strangers came together and within a few short hours we were departing as friends and making plans for future events.

November 17th oathed members of Ulfhednar sat down to share a meal and some quality time with our brother Jesse Jansen. Jesse is awaiting a heart transplant and has to live in Minnesota until after he gets a new chance at life so our celebrations together are rare and always special. That Saturday night meal was one of the best I've had in a long time and not because of the food... Seeing our brother still fighting and refusing to give in empowers

And now the Ulfhednar Clan is planning our annual "Yule on the Plains" 3 day celebration. It seems almost cliché to say it, but each year this event gets bigger and better. Our campsite added 2 new cabins/yurts last year, that seemed like more room than we would really need at the time. As of this writing we have every bed in every cabin/yurt spoken for except 2 single bunks... That's a good problem to have in my book. Our growth continues and the quality of the event only gets better with each passing year. If you are planning on being in the area or interested in attending feel free to get in touch with me.

Minnesota Update

by Jason Gallagher, Folkbuilder



November was a productive month for us here in Minnesota. It started out with our monthly meet and greet. The following weekend we had the monthly fundraiser crafting day where we continued making the AFA trihorn bookmarks to raise funds Hof fundraiser. The cost of each one is \$20 with \$10 of every sale going to the Hof fund.

also held a discussion on the Younger Futhark and the Armanen Runes.

And we closed the month out with the first regional AFA triple Kindred event Feast of the Einherjar. The Black Sun Tribe, Northern Guardians Kindred, and Northern Blood Kindred came together in solidarity. This is the first of many events coming to our region and state. Its only going to get better from here and continue to grow!

If you are interested in attending a event you can reach me on Facebook or email me at jgallagher@runestone.org

Upcoming Events

12/15 Folkish Family Yule Bloomington, MN 3:30-7

12/20 Monthly Edda study and Mother's night Blót Bloomington, MN Blót 6-8 Bloomington

12/29 end of yule meet and greet 4-7 Pizza Ranch Shakopee, MN

12/30 Monthly Fundraiser crafting day Bloomington, MN 12-3

1/19 Folkish Family monthly meet and greet Davannis Plymouth, MN 4-7

1/20 Monthly fundraiser crafting day Bloomington, MN 12-3

2/9 Third annual Folkish Family Charming of the Plow Bloomington, MN 4-7

2/23 Folkish Family Meet And Greet Pizza Ranch Albert Lea. MN 4-6

2/24 Monthly fundraiser crafting day 12-3

3/9 Folkish Family Monthly Meet And Greet Crooked Pint Alehouse Duluth, MN 4-6

European Regional Updates



Europe Update

by Anders Nilsson, Apprentice Folkbuilder

Right now we don't have that many members in Europe except for Scandinavia. The reasons for this are many but mostly a lack of people able and willing to start the ritual work with others. Things usually don't happen by them self, one must actively and with force make things happen. Another difficulty we face is that we are 44 different countries with very different customs and, above all, we do not share the same language. Even though English is a unifying language most of the European countries don't speak English

The above mentioned is not a hindrance. Let's just see it as a challenge this will not slow a great cause what we all need to do is to start making our deeds the deeds of our gods and we need to start actively promoting our religion to fellow Europeans.

What can I as a Folkbuilder do?

Well, for the moment I can't do more than support members who want to build a kindred and do the administrative work. I also work on our contacts and building friendships with other organizations that share our Folkish beliefs. Finally, I do whatever I can to promote Asatru Folk Assembly in various platforms.

What can you do as a member?

First, I'd say you should try to actively seek like minded people and start practicing Asatru-get together and do rituals. This you can do alone as well the most important thing is that you act.. You can also promote and share our updates on any social media platform that you have spread the word that we are here and that we are going to stay.

We will have regular conference calls every 28e at 20:00 and I also invite the members to Sweden next May for a fantastic weekend with our American brothers and sisters.

Sweden Update
by Anders Nilsson, Apprentice Folkbuilder



The second part of our Utesitting course took place the 10th November on the west coast at a huge grave complex it contains ritual and burial structures from Stone Age to the Iron Age. It must have been a really good place to live since the ancestors stayed at the same location for a few thousand years and continued to bury their dead at the same place over and over again.

We arrived late in the evening in complete darkness and walked through a spruce tree forest on a small trail that led to a clearing where there are two big stone circles. They are a bit special because they share the same stone where the two circles meet and on that spot we made camp. It rained really hard so we had to get the tarps up quick we had no other option than to crawl in and stay under the tarps for the rest of the night.

This place has always been very pleasant, soft and welcoming with a female guardian but it changed somewhat during the night, footsteps, hands on the tarps pressing down, whispers, unnatural lights and so on. All this is quite normal in these places but I was a bit surprised that it was so raw and somewhat aggressive.

One always feels a bit uncomfortable to not be able to see what's outside the tarp or tent on this occasion though it added a new feeling to the whole experience and that is what it's

Next and last trip will happen in January and for all those interested how didn't make it this round we start a new course next spring. And I'm laying the foundation for a more esoteric second part more to come on that later.

Sweden Update

by Linus Borgström, Apprentice Folkbuilder



As November draws to an end, we are truly seeing a change of seasons. The goddess Skade has gracefully guided our northern lands into her frosty comfort and the scenery outside my window now reflects that most ancient Thule, once told of in the annals of

discussions with You, my friends in the AFA, it is to not take all that it has to give for granted. Instead, the members of the AFA always inspire me to share their excitement and hunger for knowledge and inspiration and to explore all that represents the lives and deeds of our ancestors. Because let's face it; it's easy to forget what's right in front of you, and to be blessed with the proximity of ancient Norse Bronze Age mounds, Viking age dwellings and even Beaker culture hideouts within an hours drive is something I hope I could share with you all.

This brings me to the important lesson that many Europeans have to learn today. To not take the gifts, remnants or stories of our ancestors for granted. We often make haste to put away the evidence of those who came before into soon to be forgotten drawers of a museum in order to build a new parking space, highway or a horrid concrete slab-excuse of a house.

The excitement when faced with the prospect of learning something about your history, of cherishing the memories of a great great grandfather or speaking those first few words in our ancient tongue - is the flame that we aim to kindle once more in the hearts and minds of our European brothers and sisters. This flame is what we have seen in the AFA, and this flame; is why we look to the west.

Australian, New Zealand, & South African Regional Updates

Australia and New Zealand Update by Cameron Mottus, Apprentice Folkbuilder

In November I had the delight of getting to meet one of our newest members in beautiful Brisbane, Australia. Peter is a keen young man who wants to be active. His challenge is similar to the challenge faced by most of the folk in the south... isolation.

generate decent results over time. I have been able to create a thriving kindred in one year in Christchurch because we got a critical mass of people involved. That is the trick. To assist the growth of our region I have asked for volunteers to be leaders in their cities. I am unofficially calling these leaders “deputy folkbuilders”. The volunteers are:

- Australia
 - Peter Silcox (Brisbane, Queensland)
 - Brandon Smith (Melbourne, Victoria)
 - Hayden Shreeve (Risdon, Tasmania)
- New Zealand
 - Rex Foot (Porirua, North Island)

We have established a Facebook group and are working on ways to build momentum across our region. I am excited to see how much growth we can achieve in 2019!



original piece called Song for Allfather and two covers (Heill Odinn by Burzum and Song for Odin by Alchemical Poetry).



Upcoming Events

- 8 December – Folk Jam (Christchurch NZ)
- 15 December – Wotan on the Peaks (Christchurch NZ)
- 16 December – Midsummer celebration (Kaiapoi NZ)

South Africa Update
by Cameron Mottus, Apprentice Folkbuilder



South Africa has been a tough nut to crack. We are all aware of the challenges facing our folk in SA. This has moved us to action and this year the AFA has raised and donated \$1500USD to the South African Family Relief Project. I am so proud of the generosity of the AFA! Thank you!!

That being said, there were some real challenges to get that to happen. Looking to the future I want do the following:

1. Identify friendly folk and grow our network and membership in South Africa.
2. Establish an AFA affiliated kindred.
3. Establish or work with an existing charity that is consistent with the Nine Noble Virtues.

I need your help. If you know of heathens in South Africa please or if you know of good charities please pass them on to me. (cmottus@runestone.org) If you want to be involved let me know and I will add you to the new AFA South Africa secret group. Just message me on Facebook (Cameron Mottus).

Wotan's Wolves Youth Program

Greetings from the Wotan's Wolves Youth Program. We are currently accepting Asa youth ages 2-17 years of age. Your child upon acceptance into the program will begin learning about our lore and folk in various learning methods according to their age bracket. Our youth membership have the advantage of learning anywhere in the world by having their assignments emailed to their parents along with updates.

We also provide our Wolves with an award system based on point earnings. After achieving so many points they will receive the corresponding prize. Your child will join the ranks of youth getting a jump-start on learning our ways and beliefs while having a blast at the same time. The best part about this program is that it is 100% FREE all we ask is for your time and dedication. Thanks for all the support and we hope to enroll your children soon.

If you are interested in enrolling your child please contact us on Facebook or personally.

Instructor

Tiffany Distel- wotanswolves02@gmail.com

Director

Cole Distel- distec11@gmail.com

AFA Mead Makers Group

Thanks to the generosity of many of our home brewers, mead is abundant at our events. Mead is a fairly easy brew to make, and can be as simple or as complex as you want it to be. In the past, it was mostly women who were in charge of making mead, but these days people from both sexes enjoy the craft.

Mead Maker's group on Facebook. We have folk from rank beginners to people who have been making mead for decades, so there's lots of people to learn from. To join please notify your Folkbuilder and we'll get you added to the group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AFAMeadMakers>

Folkish Business Directory



New for the AFA, Carrie Overton is putting together a Business Directory for our Folk! Send us your contact info (website, business type, etc..) and we will add you to our AFA Business and Crafter's newsletter that will be coming soon! This is our chance to promote and support Folkish businesses so we can help each other flourish and grow. Community starts with working together and working in each other's interests. Lets make it happen!

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

The Baby Blanket project is rapidly approaching its 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!





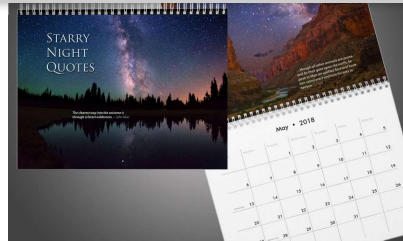
The Women of the AFA are proud to be continuing this fine and noble work we call the Baby Blanket Project! We're committed to ensuring all new babies born within the AFA are gifted a hand made - knit, crocheted, or woven - baby blanket! It's just our little way of celebrating our new folk!

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.

Photography & Art for 2019 Calendar

We are compiling art and photography for a 2019 calendar. The 2019 AFA Calendar will have the Holy Days for 2019 and other events, and feature art and photography from different members. We'd like to have each month feature photography from AFA events that occurred in 2018 and 2017.

If anyone has an eye for the camera and enjoys taking pictures at these events please submit your work. The work may be useful for more than just the calendar. An



Blót, Sumbel, or nice picture of the sun, nature and folk may be a perfect picture for the month of June.

There is a lot of room to work with here.

Have fun and please send submissions to photos@runestone.org

Greeting Card Project



At Midsummer we were able to look at various prototypes for cards and discuss plans of how and when to print them. Any artists and poets or people that know the Lore well and might enjoy being involved, please contact me below.

Holy Days: Our plan will be to concentrate on 1 to 3 card designs per upcoming Holy Day. At this time we are looking at ideas for Winter's Finding and Yule. Yule may be a little more important at this time, but a great Winter Finding design is always welcome.

Recovery, Military Memorial, and so on.

Art Cards: This would be cards that are creative and relevant to Asatru. This may be photography, or art related to Lore. Poetry and phrases of Lore may go well here as well.

For poets and those that know our Lore: The inside of our cards would always benefit from a thoughtful phrase. I am not always the best at finding a fitting phrase, so if there is a phrase or line of poetry meaningful to you, please send it and I can aim to fit it with our art. Or, if you'd like, I can send rough drafts of cards that I'm unsure what would fit best, and you can have a go at figuring something out.

Please contact me at nhayden@runestone.org.

Volunteer for the AFA

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

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