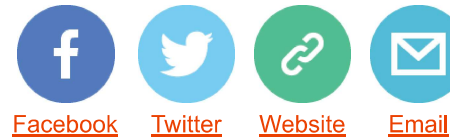


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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](mailto:thevoice@runestone.org).

Donate to the AFA



## Words from the Alsherjargothi

The Asatru Folk Assembly is at a new all time high and we are only getting stronger! What an amazing June and what a powerful start to the AFA year! Traditionally the AFA years runs from Midsummer to Midsummer. With a new year, we have a new focus, and for the next 3 years we will focus on Immortality and the symbol to guide that focus over the next year is the Trihorn. I have to say we are extremely well positioned to start this focus on Immortality. At present, the AFA has more members than ever before. We have members

Africa. We have 20 AFA Kindreds in the first 2 years of our Kindred Program, Kindreds all over the country but also in Sweden and New Zealand. This year's Gothar class is 10 students (and that is just counting the ones who were accepted this time around!), which is more than twice any previous year. Midsummer at Odinshof set a new attendance record for any AFA event!

What is perhaps most amazing is that, while seeing a meteoric rise in both membership and participation, we have seen an equally impressive rise in the quality and the dedication of our membership. I never cease to be amazed at our AFA family; you all are the cream of the crop. I mentioned earlier that we are focusing on Immortality. We will talk more about that over the coming year, both at our events and thru The Voice. I would like to conclude by asking you to keep the idea of Immortality on your mind. Immortality for yourself (building a legacy and developing your woad self), Immortality for the AFA (helping your AFA family build our church in a way for it to last for all time), and Immortality of our Folk (taking care of our own, building our people, proud and unique, recapturing the dignity and creativity that shaped this world and will shape the worlds to come).

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

Matthew D. Flavel  
Alsherjargothi  
Asatru Folk Assembly  
mattflavel@runestone.org





Eric Whisman, Cylde Brown III, Marc Macleod, Matt Flavel  
Odinshof, Midsummer 2018

**Midsummer at the Hof**  
by Ryan Harlan, Folkbuilder of the West, Northern California



*Midsummer at Odinhof 2018*

After returning home from the Hof, unloading my truck, and sinking into my chair, the first thing I tried to do was write my this article for The Voice. "I've got to get this done before it all becomes a blur!" Well, I failed. It was already a blur! We had such a packed schedule, and everyone was busily moving about, listening to talks, judging mead, participating in rituals and helping where needed... I realized quickly that this was going to take a moment. Now that I've had a while to decompress, to soak it all in and give it some thought, it's hit me. We've done it again! This was the biggest event that the AFA has hosted thus far. Record numbers of attendees, baby naming ceremony, and a delicious pig roast. I'd like to say this one had it all, but in truth, we'd like to see ourselves do it even better next year! The thing which made this (and all of our events) what it was is something so remarkable, so precious, it needs special mention. You! Our members make our events what they are! We had members flying and driving in from across this country, a die hard couple from Canada, and even a plucky Englishman came as an invited gust. Without our members (of whom we have the best!), who are our driving force behind everything we do, none of this would be possible! It's done because of and for you! Thank you for helping us show the

I'd like to say that the event started on Thursday, but, in reality, it started long before that. Our very own Jessica Rose (Hail Jessica!) had been busting her rear, buying groceries, cleaning, and all around planning, for what seems like months. Way to go! A fine example of industriousness. Next time you see her, tell her thanks for all she does for us, most of which goes unseen. Back to Thursday. Members and leadership slowly trickled in on Thursday the 21st. Last minute preparations and set up were underway, folks taking in the Hof for the first time, dinner getting started, and our first Blot almost underway. This was the scene when I arrived at about 4pm. Prepping done for the day and dinner eaten, we gathered in the ritual area where we gave Blot to Tyr as Sunna started to set. As usual, Michael Hunter did not disappoint us. His Tyr Blot will be remembered by all who attended. After Blot, Folkbuilders and Gothar gathered for a small Sumble before turning in for the night. The main event was to begin in the morning, and we needed some rest. Or not. We got there eventually.

Morning came and the bustle of breakfast began. A little bit of bacon, eggs and taters to start the day. Food blessed and consumed, we needed to get the few last things done before the next wave of members began showing up... But too late! They're already arriving in droves! The Viking Brotherhood made sure to greet those who pulled into the parking lot, directed them to park and showed the way to the camping spots. Mandy was checking people in at registration and ensuring that the awesome event t-shirts weren't forgotten. The rest were trying our best to dot the I's and cross the T's. A greeting of the Gods got things started as we called out the names of the Holy High Gods and Goddesses, inviting them to join us during the weekends events and enjoy in the Frith. Soon our pig was prepared for our dinner and lowered into the cooking pit, enticing us with the occasional waft of smoke. A talk was held in the main hall on the cyclical nature of all things, Matt spoke on the current state of the AFA, our amazing growth over the last year, and our continued growth in the coming years. This was followed by a quick Q&A session before we tucked into some of that succulent pork. And it was DELICIOUS! We feasted on that noble beast until our hearts and stomachs were content. A major thanks goes to Rocco Urman and the Viking Brotherhood here (Hail Rocco! Hail the VB!), for securing the meat for this feast and doing the cooking. Another thanks goes to our volunteers who helped get the pig ready for cooking. I can't remember everyone who helped, but your hard

Now, there isn't much that could top off a feast like that. Or is there? Wotan's Blot. That can. We once again made our way into the ritual area. Walking into the circle, slowly moving in the direction of Sunna's daily trek around the Sonnenrad, which holds our Folkish flame at it's center. Amidst the flickering torchlight we song our souls out calling to the Allfather. "Hail Wotan! Hail Wotan! Hail Wotan! WOTAN! ... MIT UNS! WOTAN! ... MIT UNS! WOTAN! ... MIT UNS!" Oh yeah. More than a few of us were a bit hoarse the next day. Especially our Alsherjargothi and one very spunky Canuck! If you have yet to attend one of our Wotan Blots, you are seriously missing out. I think that many who were in attendance that night would agree. My first real AFA Blot was a Wotan Blot at a Midsummer, and it remains my favorite and most profound Asatru experience to date!

Saturday morning came, and with it came another packed day! To get the blood pumping, a morning workout session and some light sparring was provided courtesy of Sean Saindon and Grayson Wilson. A little cardio and some practical defense work got the appetites going. Breakfast, cooked by the TRUFOLK! of San Diego, was a welcome sight. After the food was eaten and the Hall cleared, Sheila McNallen led our Womenfolk in a workshop where they learned about lesser known Goddesses, healing herbs, and other things special to the Feminine Powers, which you can read about below in Sheila's article on the event. As the fairer sex of our Folk were busily delving into the feminine mysteries, us guys got a chance to converse for a bit. We then moved into the hall from outside so the Ladies could perform a Women's Blot. Even though I might not know the deeper mysteries discussed in that room or around the ritual fire, I do know that it was VERY well received. Thank you to Sheila (Hail Sheila!) for providing that for our Ladies!

We then listened to an amazing talk entitled "Remember the Saxons", in which we learned a bit more about our Saxon ancestors, linguistics, the massacre of Verdun, and the heinous crimes of Charlemagne the Cruel against our faith and people. We were even given the opportunity to take an oath (in Old Saxon!) which allowed us to reverse the forced oath taken by the survivors of that massacre and the many others who were forced to convert. I thoroughly enjoyed this talk, as those who know me know that I am a bit of a nerd when it comes to things a bit more on the Anglo-Saxon side of things. Special thanks to Scott Shell (Hail Scott!) for taking the time to join us and give us such a wonderful presentation!

Gothi Michael Hunter. By this time we had grown in such numbers that we didn't have enough space for everyone in our ritual area. We moved into another prepared area, specifically made larger, and still had to make a double circle around the fire! Hailing Baldur the Bright and Beautiful, beloved son of the Allfather and Allmother, as well as radiant Sunna at her annual Zenith, we gave Blot. A drum beat. A Horn full of mead. Mead infused with the might, main and sheer will of so many of our Folk. It was an amazing thing to behold, and an even more powerful thing to have taken part in.

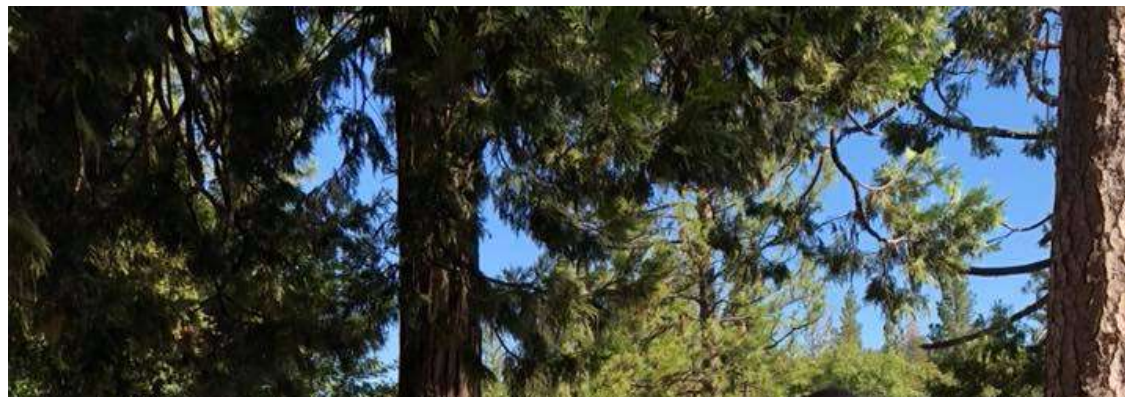
After so much, so early in the day, other organizations would have tapped us. Not us. We continued on with the Naming Ceremony for the Nickerson family and little Charlotte, performed by our founder, Stephen McNallen. Congratulations to Emily and Lou! Speaking of babies, the AFA is in the midst of a Folkish baby boom! There were more children, more babies, and more families than I have ever seen at one of our events. Our hearts are filled with such joy to see our members (and leadership) building the Folk in such a way. This is another reason that the AFA stands head and shoulders above others. We're on a mission to build strong, healthy, resilient families steeped in our culture, folkways and religion. And from the look of things, we're on the right track.

Stephen McNallen then gave a talk on the origin and creation of our Trihorn symbol, his system of the "Three Cauldrons", and our continued evolution into the infinite. If you haven't heard Steve talk on his cauldron system, you should. While Steve spoke, some of us went off to judge the meads entered into our competition. Five lucky attendees were selected to taste what our Folk had to offer, which I oversaw. Needless to say, it was rough work. But we slogged through it. T'was a thankless task, but someone had to do it. In the end, one entry emerged victorious. Clyde Brown II (our newest Apprentice Folkbuilder) and his Blueberry Melomel had won. The numbers don't lie. Thank you to all who entered!

Bryan Wilton also did double duty that day, giving a lecture on the Poetic Edda and his musings on the greater wisdom contained in Hyndluljóth, but he also acted as our auctioneer after dinner. Do we already have the gifts of the Gods inside us? Guess you'll have to ask Bryan the next time you see him. All I can say is, he hasn't disappointed me any of the times I've heard him speak.

important what she has done for the future of our folk at this event. Involving them and tailoring a ritual for their participation. Not only does this educate them in the why and show them the how, but it allows our younger generations the opportunity to practice among their peers and establish their own relationship with the Divine.

A BBQ chicken dinner was whipped up, once again by the Viking Brotherhood and including a few willing volunteers, followed up by some very important announcements. Names of those accepted into the Clergy Program were announced (Hail to you all!) and the award for Folkbuilder of the Year 2017 was awarded to a man who definitely deserves it. Congratulations to Jason Gallagher! (Hail Jason!) A fine example for the rest of us to live up to. Next up was the auction. Many fine donated items went home to the highest bidders. A little humor courtesy of Mr. Wilton (as well as mead donated and passed around courtesy of Blaine Qualls and Les Lauer) made the auction one to remember! Les himself go into more than one bidding war, and came out on top of more than one. Hope that gift basket sustained you on your long drive home! A complete set of "The Odinst" works by Else Christensen was won by Steve McNallen, who promptly donated it back to the Hof for our archives. The man is retired and just can't quite stop giving back to the AFA and the Folk. Thank you Steve! Other fine items such as Mead, A Slovakian Tobacco Pipe, Jewelry, drinking vessels, original works of art, and an axe and shield set were all up for grabs. A 50/50 raffle was held, which Les Lauer won. Les immediately donated his half of the pot back to the Hof, and it wasn't a small amount. Seriously. We have some of the most generous people among our ranks. Dinner done, raffle won, and auction over, we concluded the night with a very powerful Sumble which went well into the night.







*Physical Fitness Training*



*Midsummer Blot, led by Gothi Hunter*



*Baby Naming Ceremony for Charlotte Nickerson, performed by Stephen McNallen*



*Children's Blot, led by Folkbuilder Heather Clinkenbeard*

Sunday, bright and early. Our Final Day. Volunteers, again, made us some hearty food to break our fast and fuel our bodies for our travels home. With full bellies we held our Wayfarer's Blot. Kevin Long led us in Blot to Thor for safety and protection on our way back to our homes and loved ones. The Wayfarer's Blot is always bittersweet. Powerful, yet somber. It signifies the end of our event, but also resets the clock until we come together again next year. We left last year stunned at the the success we had. Record numbers of attendance, quality speakers, the bonds forged and strengthened. This year was the same. We knew that soon we'd be saying out goodbyes and hugging like the giant family we are and, once again, marveling in the absolute success of once again smashing our numbers from the year before.

Bags and vehicles packed. Hugs distributed. People began the trip home. Clean up

allow my brain to process what I had just taken part in. The rituals, the Frith, the Kinship, the informative talks, all the families... I can't wait to do it all again next year. We hope to see you there!



### Other Going-Ons at Odinshof

#### AFA Food Distribution

For those who are not in the know, Brownsville, the small town where our Hof resides, is just that. A small town. About a week prior to our Midsummer event, our little town was hit really hard when it's only market caught fire and burned to the ground. This was the primary source of groceries and fuel for many. In order to help out our neighbors, the AFA has teamed up with the local food bank and will be helping to distribute food from the Hof on the first Saturday of every month. Our first food hand out was done by the Viking Brotherhood and was very well received by the community. Since we'll be making this a regular occurrence, any of our members are encouraged to come by and lend a hand. Especially our Central and Northern California members (but it's by no means required!). If you are interested in helping out, please contact myself or Jessica Rose and we will be more than happy to answer any questions and get you set up. Our next food distribution will be held on July 7th.

#### AFA Book Drive

By now, everyone should have received an email from me describing our effort to stock the library at the Hof. The intent is to maintain a repository of texts, books, newsletters and

help us out by buying new items, please reach out to either myself or Bryan Wilton. We do not have a delivery address set up yet, so please make sure to contact us prior to sending anything. Also, please refrain from sending things directly to the Hof. There isn't always someone there, and we don't need things delivered to the Hof and left unattended on the doorstep. Anything sent should be of a Folkish nature or an academic work. No uni stuff! if you do decide to purchase something new, please remember that Amazon Smile is an option (details in the Shop and Help the AFA section). The AFA can be selected as your charity of choice and a portion of all purchases made becomes a donation to the AFA as well. Double Whammy! A book for the AFA library and a small portion of the cost comes back to us as well. What a way to help your Folk! Once we have established this library, items may be eligible for checking out or potentially donated at auctions during our National events in order to raise funds! Let's see what kind of tomes we can come up with and increase our store of reference material!

**A Women's Circle Touches the Divine  
by Sheila McNallen**



*Women's Workshop and Blot, Midsummer at Odinhof 2018*

I had a dilemma. How do I plan a Women's Discussion Group, have it be relevant and spiritually significant, and maybe even include a ritual - all in one hour on a Saturday morning? Could we make it a significant bonding experience for the ladies present, many of whom are new to our Asatru ways? I took on that challenge.

We began at the long dining tables in the Hall. I discussed the nature of our goddesses Frigga and Freya, emphasizing that they both have roles throughout our lives. I then introduced our oft-forgotten goddesses, the Asynjur - twelve ladies, quite obscure in the lore, but who have been beautifully presented in Alice Karlsdottir's new book, [Norse Goddess Magic](#). A short discussion of each of them made us realize how these goddesses can touch us personally, and how their special gifts can help fulfill our everyday needs if we just reach out to them. An added pleasure was an assortment of fresh herbs brought by

impressions of these goddesses and how we could use their power and gifts here in Midgard.

We left the hall and filed out to our ritual circle, feeling comfortable with these deities who were going to be playing new roles in our lives. A brilliant array of fresh cut flowers filled a ceramic milk jug, and was our offering "from heart, to hand, to jug." Our mead was named Idunn's Blessing due to the golden apples from which it was made. Since the Asynjur are connected mostly with Frigga, Jan recited a stirring poem, passionately delivered, that she wrote for that mighty goddess. Then twelve of our ladies read a short poem to each of the Holy Ones we were honoring. The blessings of the Asynjur were felt. Before leaving the circle, we knew we were all joined in friendship and sisterhood.

Crossing our arms in Gebo fashion and holding hands, we truly completed our circle. The beauty of our women joined in love and trust; it was a ritual to remember.

**At the Height of Light  
by Ynghar**





Of friendship and frith,  
and bonds reforged,  
We gathered to honor our Gods.  
Children and babes  
and Elders so wise,  
Such love for all that were there.

Hail to the Day!  
The power of Light!  
Hail to the Brightest of Gods!  
Baldur grant joy!  
Let laughter ring out!  
Let shine the strength of our Folk!

Sunna so fair!  
She kisses our skin!  
And keeps us safe from the dark!  
That wolf that runs,  
may it's legs turn lame!

Hail to our Folk!  
So strong and fair!  
Blessed by the gifts of our Gods!  
We return to the world,  
our spirits now soar!  
Keep always the Folk in your hearts!

(photo credit goes to Gray Will, of the TruFolk Kindred)

## From the Yew, New Life





AFA Members Clifford J. Erickson and Catherine M. Reid of Lansdale, Pennsylvania are very proud to announce the birth of their son Eoghan Robin Erickson on May 30, 2018, 8:57pm. Eoghan weighed 9lbs 7oz at birth, measured 21" long, and is very healthy. Eoghan Robin is named for Clifford's maternal grandfather Eugene and Catie's stepfather Robin. Eoghan (pronounced /owen/) is a Celtic name meaning "Born of the Yew" and Robin is a Germanic name meaning "Fame, Bright, Shining". Mother and Father are both eager to introduce Eoghan to our AFA family over this summer and at Winter Nights in the Poconos.



**A Wolf Cub Born**





On the 18th of June the Svavner family welcomed a little baby girl into their life. Little Ylva (meaning "she-wolf") is the newest member of the Gautr Kindred of Sweden. May this little one grow strong and as brave as those she's named for!





*Ylva's Naming ceremony, set nine days after her birth within an Ironage Stone Circle*





On June 22, 2018, we lost David Shadwick, known to some as Skarp Bragisson. He was a one of a kind individual; friendly, outgoing and caring, with his unique rambling poetic method of explaining things. He was always eager to help in any way possible. We lost him much too soon, at the age of 49.

Dave found his path to the Gods by way of the runes and started on the path, not knowing he wasn't the only person to walk this path. He found the Eagle Kindred of Idaho in the mid 90's and took the Oath of the Gothar on December 19, 1998. He was a member of the AFA and the Asatru Alliance.

Before becoming disabled, David worked as a customer service representative. He used those same skills for the Kindred as our Public Relations person. For most people, he was the first person in the kindred they became acquainted with. David always told me he was our cheerleader, inspiring people to do more and learn more. He was a mead brewer, having won the people's choice (aka mead hog) award at the Asatru Alliance Althing.

David dodged death many times before. Here are some of the things that happened to him: born with spina bifida, hit by lightning, bad car crash, hit in the eye with a fast-moving wire, black mold poisoning, three strokes, needing to have his heart stopped and restarted and having a pacemaker installed. This spring he got the flu, then sepsis. Recovery was extremely slow. Then he was told his heart and liver were done, he would not recover but get worse. He chose to have a picnic with family, friends, and kindred while he was alive rather than a sad gathering after he had gone. Having used the last of his energy to spend time with everyone, he crossed over less than a week later.

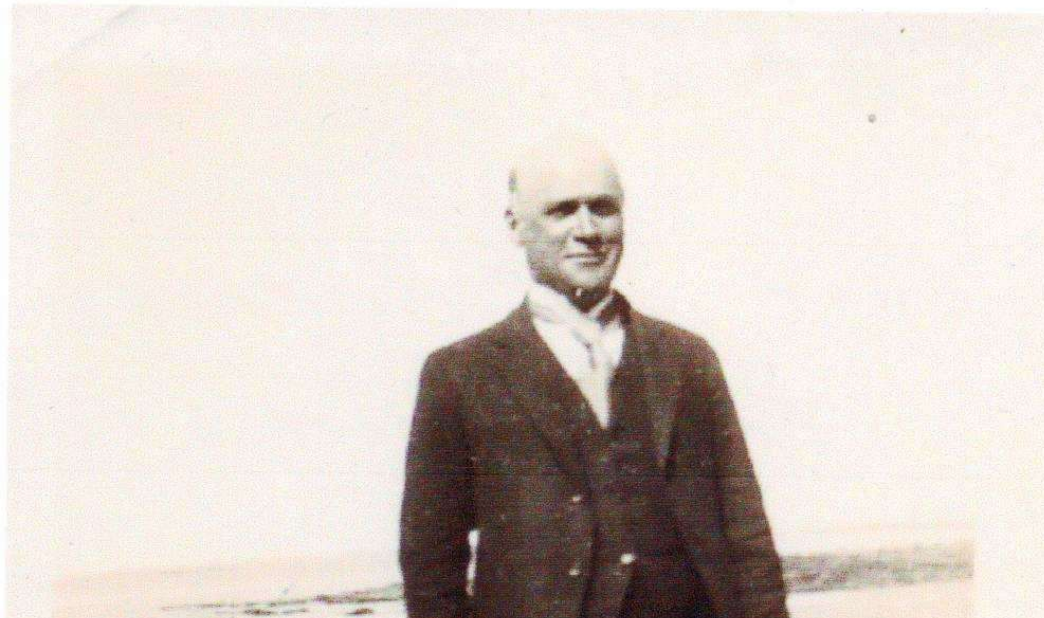
He will be greatly missed by all who had the opportunity to get to know him. Hail Skarp Bragisson! May the Gods and Ancestors receive you well!



*And kinsmen die  
And so one dies one's self.  
But a noble name  
Will never die  
If good renown one gets.*

*Cattle die  
And kinsmen die  
And so one dies one's self.  
One thing now  
That never dies  
The fame of a dead man's deeds.*

## Day of Remembrance For Alexander Rud Mills





It is with great pride that I announce the AFA's first annual Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills. Rud Mills lived from 1885 to 1964 and was the guiding light for the foundations of Asatru in Australia. In 1933, Rud Mills began writing books about our faith and in 1936 he founded the Anglecyn Church of Odin. Quickly he gathered the Folk and a community of Asatruar was born. During the turbulent times of the Second World War, Rud Mills was bitterly persecuted by his government and the community that he built suppressed. All was not lost, however. The writings and the vision of Rud Mills inspired others to take up the banner our ancestral faith, perhaps most notably Else Christensen. Ripples from that first effort, that spark of what could be, have shaped and inspired the thriving faith we have today. It is high time we showed this Asatru Visionary his due! Hail Alexander Rud Mills!

Matthew D. Flavel  
Alsherjargothi

## **Our Folk in Plight** **by Camerron Mottus, Folkbuilder 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."

What started out as a challenge put out to the members of my region (Australia, New Zealand and South Africa) has now turned into a fully fledged fundraising campaign supported by the Asatru Folk Assembly.



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](http://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](mailto:cmottus@runestone.org).

### **Words from The Folkbuilder Coordinator by Marc MacLeod**

What a great month to be in the AFA. It warms my heart seeing all the Midsummer Celebrations (and even Yule in the Southern Hemisphere). Our kindreds are really setting the bar high, our leadership is pumped up, and it really is showing all across the globe. Baby's are being born like I haven't seen in the AFA and our Folk are coming home. It makes me proud to be a part of it!

One of the highlights of Midsummer for me was to award the Folkbuilder of the year medal for 2017. I want to congratulate Jason Gallagher! Jason's persistence, dedication, and perseverance to the position has been a true testament of commitment! He has overcome some personal challenges and never let it effect his commitment to the position. He's never

been his focus and it's really shown in his region. Not only is the growth impressive, but the quality of the community he has built in Minnesota and the surrounding region is incredible. Thank you for your service Jason! It's noticed and appreciated!



Also we made our newest Apprentice Folkbuilder. I'd like to welcome Clyde Brown to the leadership! Clyde will be Folkbuilding in the South Central Region. If you live in that region and don't know Clyde, reach out to him and let him know where you're at. He's very motivated to make something real happen in Texas. But he can't do it alone!

I hope to ride this wave of enthusiasm through 2018 and beyond. We are doing it right Folks! When everyone gets involved, there is no stopping us! Hail the FOLK!

Marc Macleod  
Folkbuilder Coordinator







## Words from The Northeast, Pennsylvania by Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder and Member of the Witan

### Winter Nights in the Poconos, 2018

October 12 - 14, Pennsylvania

Registration information coming soon!



Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen

Lansdale Tru Folk, an AFA Kindred, gathered to honor the Folkmother Else Christensen this may. Remember, any AFA member is welcome to Lansdale Tru Folk's rituals in Lansdale, PA. We gathered again at Midsummer where AFA Gythia Patrica Hall performed the naming rite for Eoghan Robin Erickson, son to Clifford Erickson and Catie Reid of Pennsylvania. Our calendar for the rest of the year is as follows:

- Harvest, 9/22 at 3pm (falls on the actual equinox!)
- AFA Winter Nights in the Poconos, 10/12 - 10/14 (confirmed)
- Feast of the Einherjar, 11/17 at 3pm
- Yule 2018, 12/29 at 3pm





**Words from the AFA Military Program**

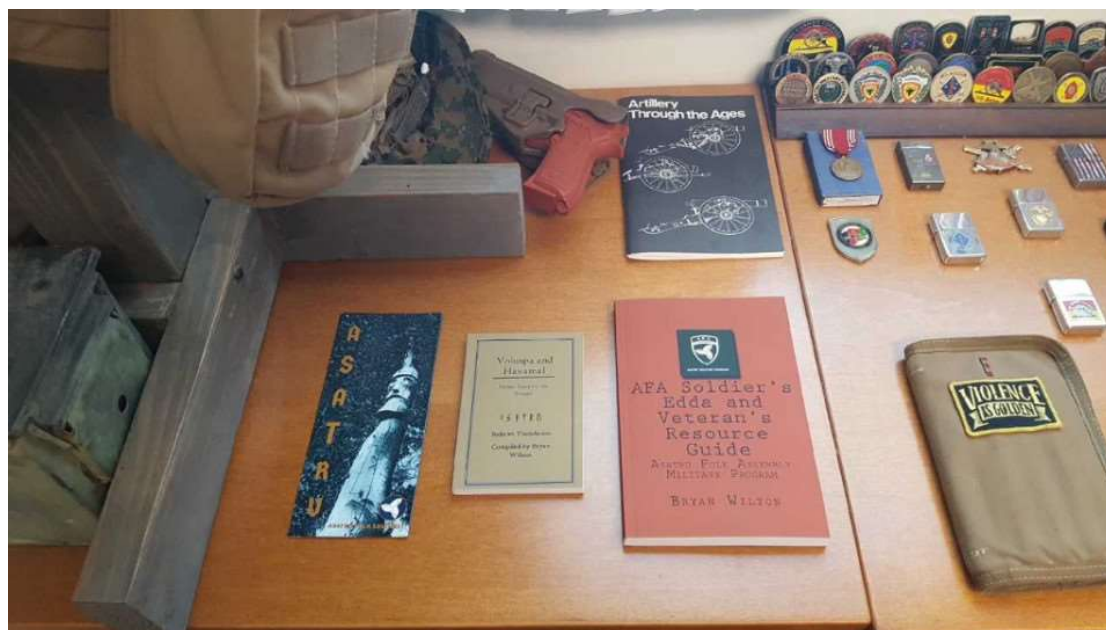


**ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY  
MILITARY OUTREACH PROGRAM**

Hails!

material we have been putting out to our bases, VA hospitals, and libraries seems to be a hit, especially online with the photos shared. We are now constantly getting military members messaging us interested in our material and the AFA. One service member has already joined one of our AFA Kindreds! This is awesome, and this is also why these books need to keep finding their way into our military members hands. So, if you are interested in helping deliver these materials, send us an email or send me a message on facebook. Thank you in advance!

Kevin Long  
Military Program Coordinator  
klong@runestone.org





## Words from the Northern Plains, Minnesota by Jason Gallagher, Folkbuilder



*Northern Blood Kindred*

I started writing this while I was riding home on the bus from Midsummer at Odinshof. This was such a powerful weekend with so many amazing things happening. The kids, babies, families; it was like a big family reunion.

Back in Minnesohta... we had the usual busy month. It started with the Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric at Winzer Stube German Restaurant in Hudson, MN. The next day we had our monthly crafting and woodworking day. We celebrated Midsummer with our biggest attendance yet of 42 people. We continue to grow with more families and babies on the way! I could not be more proud of what we have! And we finished the month off with our monthly Edda study group.

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Minneapolis. Our very own Anna Funk is hosting Blot on the Bluffs on July 9th at Taylor Falls, MN. This will be a blend of Odin World Prayer Day and Wotan on the Peaks. And join us September 7th thru the 9th for the third annual AFA Fallfest in Northern Minnesota! This is a AFA event that you won't want to miss!

If you are interested in attending an event you can email me at [jgallagher@runestone.org](mailto:jgallagher@runestone.org).

Hail the Families!

Hail the Doers!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

- 
- 7/8 - AFA Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills, Gasthof, 6pm - 8pm, Minneapolis, MN
  - 7/9 - Blot on the Bluffs, 3:30pm - 7:30pm Taylors Falls, MN
  - 7/14 - Children's Nine Noble Study, 3:30pm - 6pm, Bloomington, MN
  - 7/26 - Folkish Family Edda Study Group, 5:30pm - 8:30pm, Bloomington, MN
  - 7/28 - AFA Riverview Picnic Meet and Greet, 3pm - 6pm, Afton State Park, Hastings, MN
  - 8/11 - Children's Nine Noble Study, 3:30pm - 6pm, Bloomington, MN
  - 8/18 - Riverside Grill and Greet, 3pm - 6pm, Hutchinson, MN
  - 8/25 - Freyfaxi, 3:30pm - 7pm, Bloomington, MN
  - 9/7 through 9/9 - AFA Fallfest, Northern Minnesota
  - 9/29 - AFA Harvest and Ullr Blot, 2pm - 5pm, location TBA







**Words from the Far North, Alaska  
by Eric Whisman, Folkbuilder**



*Der Volkstamm auf dem Nordliche Bar*

As I write these words, the Alaskan AFA members and kindred, Der Volkstamm auf dem Nordliche Bar, are preparing for this weekend's Midsummer event. In typical AFA and Alaskan fashion, this event is going to be a weekend long event with ritual, feasting, games, social time, as well as some in-depth talks.

Certainly a busy month for it's members, everyone out doing all the summer things they can while it's still here. The Folk are just as dedicated as ever to each other.

Earlier in the month, I attended Midsummer at Odinhof in Northern California. I strongly recommend and encourage those who have not yet attended to make the effort to go, for they are truly life-changing events.



### AFA Alaska Member Spotlight

Each state and region has their own unique challenges for its members. In Alaska, this challenge is the physical distance between its members.

AFA Member and Oathed Tribesman of Der Volkstamm auf dem Nordliche Bar, Tyler Hansen has been a proud member of the AFA for over three years and had not let the challenge of distance get in his way.

A hardworking and loving husband and father of five, (with another one on the way!) Tyler and his family have consistently made the 200 mile drive on a monthly basis to attend Blót and Sumbel with their kinfolk; battling the elements with vigor and determination.

A highly skilled artisan, Tyler also crafted the legendary ritual hammer of Der Volkstamm, and it is the finest seen anywhere.

On the Kenai Peninsula (an area larger than most states!), he is my right-hand man to meet up with newer members. Regardless of how busy he is, he always makes the time to do so and has

and to the rest of our kin and Folk. Hail Tyler Max Hansen!













## Words from the Upper South, North Carolina by Paul Hester, Folkbuilder



June 2018 has been a phenomenal month in the Upper South. We held a concerted effort to ensure everyone in our region had an opportunity to attend a Midsummer event. Not

members and the Wild Hunt Kindred revealed their beautiful flag. Our region is truly thriving and we're ensuring that momentum is constant. We've got a wonderful year of activities planned ahead and our Freyfaxi Blot is just around the corner. These are truly epic times!

**Words from the West, Southern California  
by Heather Nicole Clinkenbeard, Folkbuilder**



*Members of the TruFolk Kindred of San Diego, Midsummer at Odinhof 2018*

Hails and a Merry Midsummer to you all from the TruFolk of San Diego!

his regular work outs every week. He's pushing our Kindred to their physical limit! He was even able to take his workouts with us to Midsummer at Odinhof where he got to show everyone a sample of what our guys are up to down here. We know that it is an important part of our journey to keep our bodies just as healthy as our minds and spirits.

We have been pretty consistent with our regular park moots, bonfires, workouts, hikes and just generally keeping in touch. Our Kindred, after a lot of hard work and people coming and going, has finally reached a point where we are now a family. Building community and bonds with each other and sharing in our growth. Our trip to the Hof just goes to prove it! We had a van and two cars drive the 9 to 11 hours up north, and we even had someone who flew in all the way from San Diego! I know building folk and a kindred can be hard and even frustrating at times; it took me many years to get where I am. But I have to tell you, if you don't give up and keep at it no matter what, the rewards are endless.

Hail the Folk!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the AFA!







### **Words from the Folkbuilder at Large by Jamie Lynn Souligny, 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 Souligny!

Hail the doers!!!

Hail the AFA!!!

Hail the Gods and Goddesses!!!

Hail our Folk!!!

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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

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 troubles. Without this support we would not have the levels of success we have achieved and I am looking forward to seeing how far we can go in the future.

We need your help! Lots of people "like" our posts, but fewer 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! Every little bit adds up! Got an extra \$5 this month? Shoot it over to Folk Services!

If even a fraction of the folks who like the page did that each month, imagine the possibilities!

Thanks in advance!

Jamie Souigny

Apprentice Folkbuilder at Large

**Words from the South Central Region, Texas  
by Cyld Brown III, Apprentice Folkbuilder**



*Black Sun Kindred*

The newly formed Black Sun Kindred held its first gathering, a meet 'n greet and Blot, on June 17th. Our AFA sister Theresa Ferguson welcomed everyone into her heart and home, and the gathering was a great success.

The turnout ended up being approximately 20 people, with a handful of little youngins running around having an exciting time. We spent the afternoon getting acquainted with one another and building Frith. Thor decided it would be righteous to bombard us with showers that day, but the rest of the Gods smiled favorably upon us and opened up a portal of bright sunshine shortly before we gathered for Blot. It was an honor and a pleasure for them to have done so.

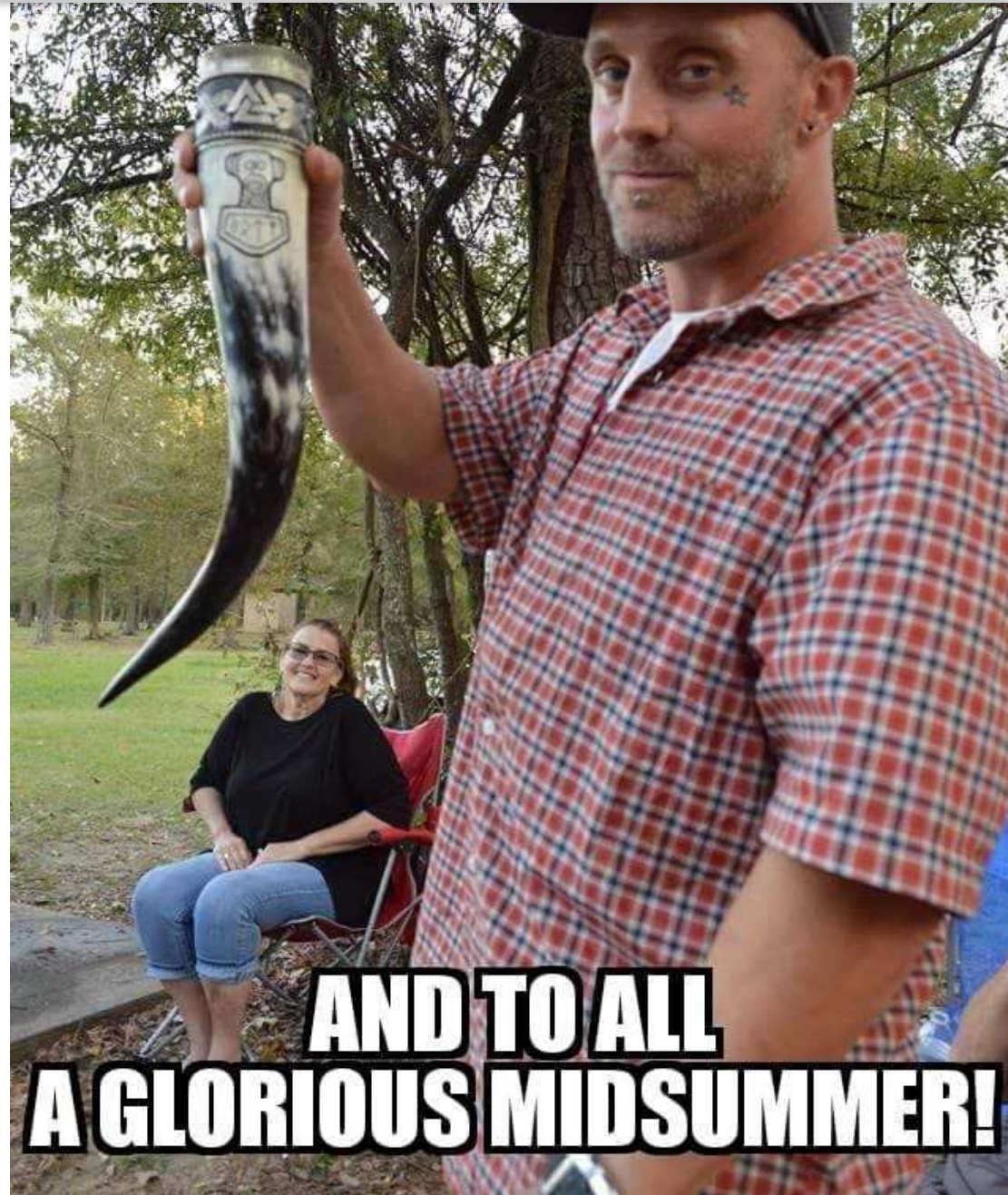
This is just the beginning of activity for Texas. I'm so looking forward to continued success!



Black Sun Kindred will be organizing a quaint gathering in a wooded area of Houston for the end of July. Come enjoy a Freyr-oriented feasting frenzy with us... And you know what that means, proof of the Gods and that they love us... PORK! So get creative, and bring something pork-related, in pot-luck style. You bring it, it'll get cooked!

Additionally we will enjoy Frith and Fellowship by passing the horn around in an informal sumbl, and partake of that favorite elixir of the Gods...





Hailsa!

It's been a couple of months since I have been able to share all the happenings in our region. I have been without an internet connection and all my tech has been in a storage pod. A lot of wonderful things have been occurring, however, whether it's been pub moots, bbq gatherings, or even the many simple Blots with dinner shared with our Kin. Our region has been buzzing! My family personally has been building up our homestead with our commitment to living a simpler life. We have downsized our footprint and committed to a more self-sufficient/agrarian lifestyle to bring us closer to our Gods and the many Wights we share our environment with. It has truly been an education in patience, industriousness, and sweat equity.

We have several elders currently building homes in the DIY fashion, as well as all the seasonal Midsummer activities in the heartland. The IBSAK June event has just happened this last 30th. It was hosted by the Southern region of IBSK in Springfield, MO. It was an amazing time had by all, a pool party, BBQ with our families and happy kids.. it was also a much needed planning session for fundraising and events for our folk. Stay tuned for more updates as I'm sure we are going to have a lot to share when it's all formalized.

I could not be more proud of everyone that chooses to stand up, to claim their role in building a legacy for our people and our Church. We are looking forward to becoming the beacon that so many are ultimately searching for. We are excited to be building our own traditions in spiritual observances of our holidays within a state that has been dormant for quite some time. The sense of ownership and pride is at an all-time high.

So please stay tuned to my little section of the Voice in 2018. I'm sure there is gonna be quite a bit to share and raise a Horn to. I'm excited to be a part of something so important to the spiritual lives of our people. Thank you for taking the time to read my little contribution. I promise to try to be both informative and brief in my submissions in the future. Brevity and Clarity. Folk and Faith. Purpose and Due Diligence.

Hail To The Aesir and the Vanir,

**Words from the Deep South, Georgia**  
**by Joshua Smith, Apprentice Folkbuilder**



June has been an amazing month for the Deep South! We had a moot at Sweetwater Creek State Park in Lithia Springs, GA with a wonderful turnout! Old friends got to shake hands, and new friendships were made as well!

A lot of us Deep South folk were unable to make it to the Hof for Midsummer, but that did





### **Words from the Northeast, Massachusetts by George Schindler III, Apprentice Folkbuilder**

Hailsa and Hello to all of our Asatru Folk Assembly Kindred far and wide! During Midsummer our bonfires roar and our Folk delight in kinship. Beautiful babies have been born and the AFA Kindred banners unfurled!

I'm personally proud to say that our Massachusetts members have worked very hard and our tenaciousness has yielded quite a reward. The Botulfr StoneShip Kindred was recently accepted amongst the ranks of established Asatru Folk Assembly Kindreds. Our Tartan Banner of Botulfr with the Bind Rune of Mannaz~Elhaz hangs boldly in Odinhof, First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly! We have much work to do and relish the opportunities to excel!!! HAIL THE DOERS!!!



Earlier this month, the New England AFA gathered under the trees and brilliant Sunna in order to celebrate King Athaneric and his life AND to give back to the Gods who have given so much to us over the years. We converged upon Leominster State Forest and had a great time. The kids ran amok and had their faces painted with runes as the bigger kids did exactly the same. Blot was held and the hearty roars of ODHINN were echoed back to in retort. We honored the Gods with mead and memory. We bellowed in uproarious applause as we all took a turn jumping the Need Fire! It was a family affair and all who attended left feeling a lot closer to their Gods and Folk, I can guarantee you that for sure.



Any inquires regarding The Botulfr StoneShip Kindred can be sent to me via email at [gschindler@runestone.org](mailto:gschindler@runestone.org). We are currently working on getting a website set up.



Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

## Words from the Upper South, Virginia by Svan Herul, Apprentice Folkbuilder



*Ironguard Kindred*

The Ironguard Kindred has had a very active year so far. Charming of the Plow, Eostre and Hexennacht were all events we have hosted or attended, and we will continue our participation for the remainder of the year's Holy Tides in the regions we call home. We joined together on a southern balmy and sunny Virginia day to celebrate the height of

We look forward to some groundbreaking events this year, and wish all of our fellow kindreds and the whole of the Asatru Folk Assembly a wonderful Midsummer!





**Words from Europe, Scandinavia  
by Anders Nilsson, Apprentice Folkbuilder**



*Gautr Kindred*

The 21st of June saw the Summer Solstice, and we in Gautr Kindred held Blot in the middle of nature. As a typical Swedish Midsummer, it rained. And as usual, the rain stopped the very moment we started our ceremony. The will calm down and a peace will take the sacred space.

We held the Blot to honor our Gods and continue an important tradition. For us Swedes,

and invoke the Gods in the land of our forefathers, we know that all the Holy Powers are with us. We know this because of our unbroken chain, stretching back through time.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the AFA!

Hail Gautr Kindred!



**Words from Australia, New Zealand & South Africa  
by Cameron Mottus, Apprentice Folkbuilder**



It has been a couple of months since there has been a submission from my region (Australia, New Zealand and South Africa). As I am in the south we are in the middle of Yuletide and I think it is a decent time to reflect.

A year ago I made a boast about working towards having five members per state in Australia and per island in New Zealand. I have to admit, I have not been successful. To have achieved that boast I would have had to have gone from three to thirty-five members in Australia and from two to ten members in New Zealand. The greatest growth has been in Christchurch New Zealand. We went from two members to four members and I have just approved two more. We have formed a kindred and I was honoured to be elected to the position of Alderman. What has occurred to me is the requirement for leaders.

When I discovered Asatru it was like a lightning bolt hit me. I just had to tell everyone about it and give them the opportunity to learn about their heritage...or not (ultimately, as free people that is everyone's choice). I started hosting meetups in Sydney and Melbourne. Many times I sat alone in a pub or held blot by myself as people who had said they would show up didn't. I persisted. It is like panning for gold. You have to go through a lot of sand before you find a nugget. My the first nugget that I found is my now good friend Daniel Lastovicka, who through the working of wyrd has ended up with me in Christchurch from our starting point in Melbourne four years ago. He is now

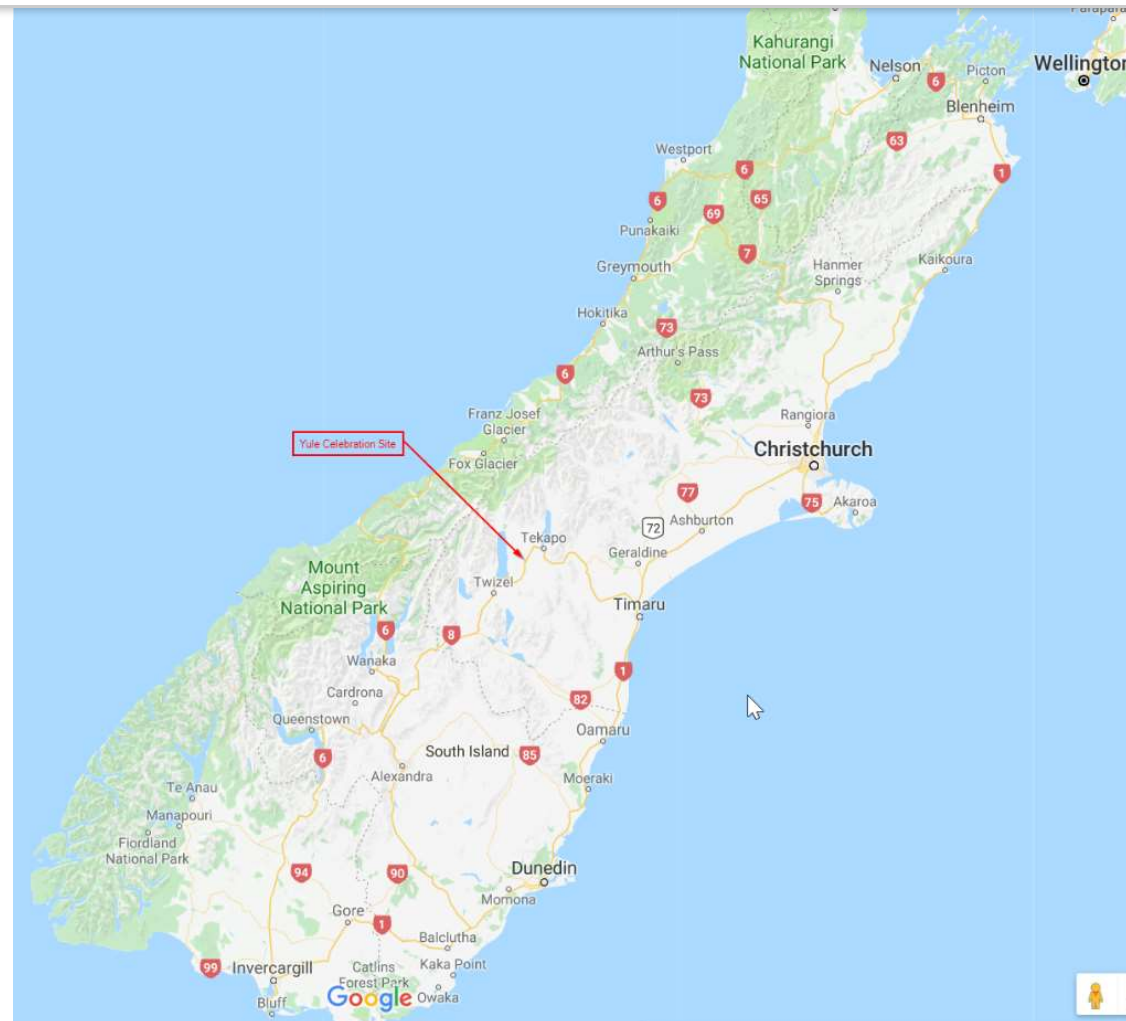
After investing a lot of energy, I think I am starting to see the results of that hard work. In the past week I have had three new people apply to join the AFA. One in Sydney and two in Christchurch. The moral of the story is that my direct action (meeting people in the flesh and then inviting them to join the AFA) results in people joining.

I am blessed that because of the the work I do, I have been able to meet all of our members in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and New Zealand. I can do a lot of networking as a result but I cannot do it all. I am calling on the members in my region to stand up. We now have at least one member per large city in Australia and two out of three cities in New Zealand. If you are the lone person, be the leader. Host meetups. Host blot. Host discussions. I will do everything in my power to help you and support you. You do not have to hold yourself out as an expert but just as person who is passionate about our Way. The people will come.

#### **Fensalir Kindred Yule Celebration**

Fensalir Kindred held its Yule celebration just south of Lake Tekepo on the South Island of New Zealand.





We had kindred members, non-kindred AFA members, non-AFA Asatruar and family members attend. The majority of the attendees were from Christchurch but we had family drive up from Dunedin and an AFA member fly down from Wellington. It was no small feat getting everyone together.



We met up mid-afternoon on Saturday June 23rd and set straight away to preparing our potluck meal and preparing for the blot.



*Some of the folk (my wife, son and Isaac) relaxing and enjoying the day.*





Our gothi, Isaac Bennet, led us in blot. Isaac is a professional musician and composer so he incorporated music into the ritual. I felt the hair on my arms stand on end when he sang the runes and finished the ceremony with a song that he had written about Odin. What an

When we got back to the cabin we spent the rest of night chatting in fellowship. The following morning we had breakfast and we had the honour of being wished a happy Yule by the folks at the Hof via video conference. Thanks for Setting that up Matt!

### **Yule Glögg (Mulled Wine)**

At your next Yule celebration, I recommend this recipe. It was a real hit, even among people who thought they were not going to like it.

Source: <https://www.thelocal.se/20141121/how-to-make-your-own-swedish-styled-mulled-wine>

Note: My recommendation is to use 1/2 cup of sugar instead of 1 cup of sugar.



### **Summary**

Makes: 1 bottle (700 ml)

## Ingredients

100 ml (1/2 cup) vodka

3 cinnamon sticks

10-20 thumb sized piece of ginger (peeled)

1 tsp cardamom pods

½ a Seville orange (peel only)

1 bottle of red wine

1/2 cup caster (superfine) sugar

1 tsp vanilla sugar

1 tsp raisins

1 tsp almonds (blanched and peeled)

## Method

1. Pour the vodka into a small jar. Add the cinnamon, cloves, ginger, orange peel, and cardamom. Cover and leave to infuse for a few days.

2. Strain the mixture through kitchen paper or a coffee filter into a saucepan.

---

Pour into sterilized bottles\* and keep until required.

4. Heat gently before serving, but don't let it boil.

\* Sterilize by washing bottles and then placing in an oven at 120C for five minutes.

#### Serving suggestions

Place a few raisins and almonds at the bottom of each glass, then top up with glögg.

Note: People thought the raisins and almonds were weird, so only do it if you want to be really traditional 😊

#### **Sydney Native European Meetup**

I was in Sydney a few weeks ago and hosted a meetup and met two new people, Paul and Nick. These are fine men. So, when I came back to Sydney for the week of June 25 I hosted a Yule blot at the QT hotel. What a beautiful place to chat about what is going on in our lives, politics and spirituality.

I want to give a shout out to Daniel Lastovicka for the excellent mead that he creates. It makes all of our blots that much better.

To finish off the evening we performed Yule blot. Thank you for attending gents!







South Africa

under the control of a communist government.

Invest the time to watch Lauren Southern's documentary "Farmlands":

<https://laurensouthern.net/farmlands/>

I am working with our lone AFA member in the region, whose name is Dewald, to build up our AFA membership and work with the charities on the ground.

You can donate by going to the AFA page, clicking on the donate button and putting South Africa in the comments: <http://runestone.org/>

Kind regards,

Cameron Mottus

Apprentice Folkbuilder (ANZ and SA)

Asatru Folk Assembly

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+64 204 112 7835

## Circle of Eir - A Call to Healing

AFA Circle of Eir performs a monthly healing ritual calling upon Eir and naming those AFA 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 an email to Patricia Hall at [patriciahall@runestone.org](mailto:patriciahall@runestone.org). This month's ritual will be held on the night of the 19th, a Thursday.

Hail Eir!

## AFA Mead Makers Group

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.

Are you interested in learning how to make your own mead? We invite you to join our AFA 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!

Directory”.

## Baby Blanket Project

The Women of the AFA would like to announce a brand new project - 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 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 Jamie (jsouigny@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 example may be as follows:

A photo from a Midsummer event, such as a pic from 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.

## 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.

**Life Tides:** These designs are always welcome as they can come at any time. A life tide can be any important moment to note. Marriage, Baby Birth/Naming, Graduation, 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.

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](mailto:nhayden@runestone.org).

## Item of the Month

Sharpen up your summer look with the AFA Trihorn tee. It comes in a dark blue emblazoned with an AFA bindrune on the breast and that symbol we all know and love on the back, the AFA Trihorn. Show your support for our wonderful organization for only \$20.00! Comes in sizes small to XX.





## 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!



Want to volunteer for the AFA? Fill out this survey: [www.runestone.org/volunteer/](http://www.runestone.org/volunteer/)

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