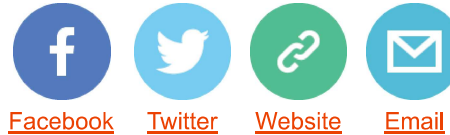


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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

In February we Charmed the Plow. In that spirit AFA leadership has spent February preparing plans for the year and planting seeds —putting things in motion. I have spent a lot of time this month working on our Hof and working with our Witan to fine-tune our organization because we are always striving to be better and to accomplish more. We see progress all around us and great things coming together.

you haven't registered for this event, there is still time. I can't stress this enough, (those of you who have been to them know why) take the time and make the effort to come to a national event; they are truly life changing and the bonds formed at these events transcend distance.

One thing we are focusing on this year is continuing to evolve and refine our Gothar program and a big part of that is the installing of a Gothar Coordinator. I am very proud to announce that Gothi Blaine Qualls will lead our Gothar and direct this year's Gothar training. Blaine brings a sincerity of commitment and a spiritual depth that will propel our Gothar to an even higher standard. We have great things ahead and it has been inspiring to see all the activity of AFA members across the country. Meeting with other Asatruar and raising a horn, that's when we stop talking about Asatru and start doing Asatru. As Spring approaches, go out, take a risk, meet up with other AFA members and make Asatru happen!

Hail the Gods!

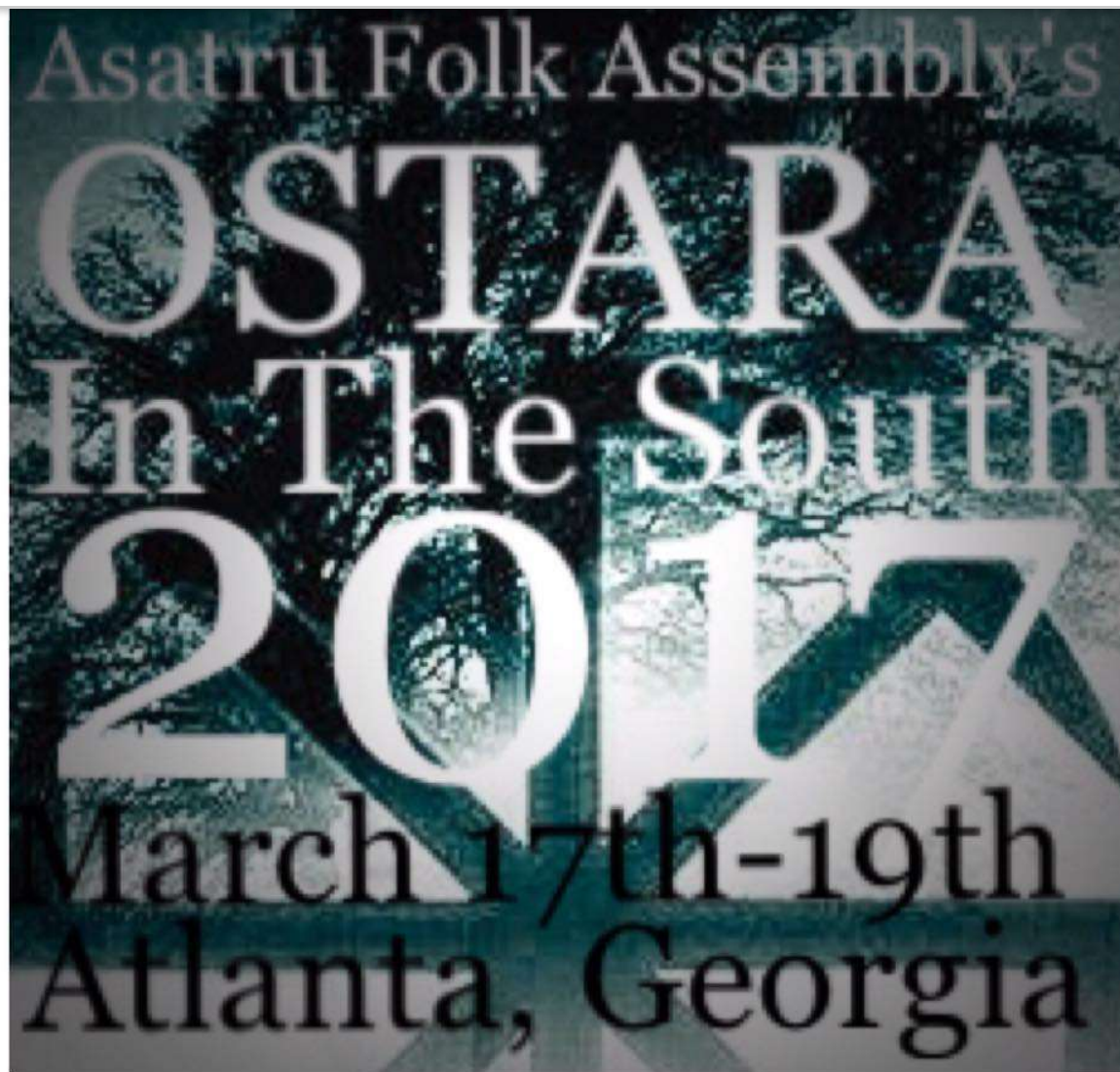
Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Matt Flavel,

Alsherjargothi, AFA

Ostara in the South 2017



Save the date! March 17-19. The Asatru Folk Assembly's **Ostara in the South 2017**, is fast approaching. This is the premier AFA event in the Southern Region. This price includes lodging, food, events, and a Southern Pig Picking. There will be an outstanding line-up of the best authors and

If you have any questions please email me at phester@runestone.org. You may click on the Eventzilla link below for quick an easy registration.

<http://ostarasouth17.eventzilla.net>

Hail the Folk!

Paul Hester

AFA Deep South

Apprentice Folkbuilder

Walpurgis / Mayday in Southern California



An event by:

Tru-Folk Kindred with the AFA

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

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

There will be guest speakers, workshops, a mead competition, rock climbing, archery, swimming, and plenty for the kids and adults to have a great time. Come be with other folkish Folk and connect with our Gods and Goddesses in the So Cal mountains.

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

Greeting Card Project

Hails my Folk!

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

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

By email:

Jamie Souigny

jsouigny@runestone.org

Elizabeth MacBryghde

emacbryghde@runestone.org

By mail:

Jamie Souigny

4805 5th St #141

Rainbow, CA 92028

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

Circle of Eir - A Call to Healing

AFA Circle of Eir performs a monthly healing ritual calling on 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 me an email at patriciahall@runestone.org

The March Healing Ritual will be held Thursday, March 16, at midnight EST/USA. Hail Eir!

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



Courage
Truth
Honor
Loyalty
Discipline
Hospitality
Industriousness
Self-reliance
Perseverance



Our military program would like to thank all those who supported us in our Book Drive Fundraiser last month. Together we raised just over \$1,000 for the purchase of much-needed Asatru literature for our troops' spiritual growth and welfare.

A reminder to our military folk and families...Please ensure that your AFA membership records reflect your current military status and a note of your military address if different than the one used on your records. This is the only way we have to properly reach out to our military personnel.

Our military program would also like to introduce and welcome CWO Daniel Steiner to our team. Daniel will be assisting as our Navy/Marine Corps Liaison. In this capacity, Daniel will help us maintaining a real-time link with our Navy/Marine Corps Folk. Welcome Aboard Sir!

CWO Steiner:

Folk Kindred. I have been an official member of the AFA for not quite a year, although I've been following the organization for a while. I have followed the Heathen path for many years, though for a long time I didn't have a name for it—mostly family traditions and an interest in history—"hidden history" as my son puts it. I was raised in the Church, however I finally let that go after deploying a few times and finding it to be 1) completely hollow, and 2) extremely similar in teaching and practice to an ideology which I was actively fighting. I am not good at turning the other cheek. I joined the Marine Corps following the attacks of 9/11, and since they've let me stick around I'm still here. Since moving back to California I've met some very good people who've brought me in like family. My wife Andrea is working towards her nursing degree and our four children keep getting bigger. We have three awesome sons and one gorgeous, well-protected daughter; and an American Bulldog, who thinks she is Big Sister, and definitely not a dog.

In an effort to keep the intro short and somewhat interesting, I'll do my best to edit down and "civilianize" my official service bio.

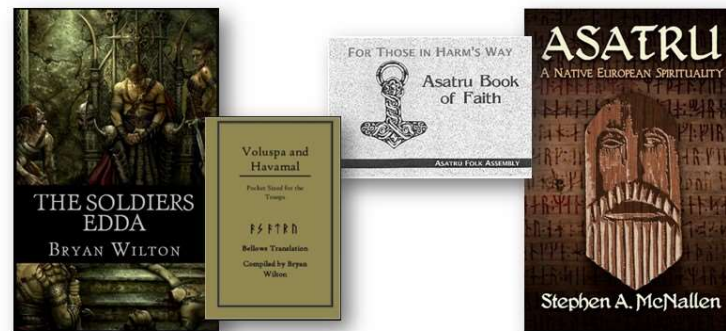
I enlisted in October 2001 and reported to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in September 2002. As an artilleryman, I attended MOS school aboard Fort Sill, Oklahoma, during the winter and spring of 2003—watching the invasion of Iraq from the chow hall's TV in frustration. I then reported to Camp Pendleton, California for duty with the 11th Marine Regiment. In May 2005 I attached to and deployed with Battery A, 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

My next assignment was with the 10th Marine Regiment, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. In April 2008, I deployed to Iraq as part of the Target Acquisition Platoon (TAP) Detachment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. There I attached to H & S Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment. I deployed again from November 2009 to May 2010, now in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. I attached to H & S Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment for the duration. In February 2011, I attended the Basic Parachutist course aboard Ft Benning, GA (earning the esteemed Lawn Dart Award) (and a broken leg). In August 2011, I returned to the 11th Marine Regiment.

In January 2015, I reported to The Basic School aboard Camp Barrett, Quantico, Virginia. Upon graduation, I reported to the Marine Artillery Detachment, Fort Sill, to attend follow-on training. I then reported to Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, as the Target Acquisition Officer, where I am currently.

been discussing the Nine Noble Virtues and how they apply to the military professional. To those who will be attending the Walpurgis event in April, I look forward to seeing you there. I can be reached via email, at desteiner0803@gmail.com.

BOOKS FOR THE BARRACKS



**Help us put three dozen of these book sets
in the hands of our military warriors
DONATE TODAY!**

Folk Services

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

have the level of success we have achieved and I am looking forward to seeing how far we can go in the future.

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

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

Folkbuilding News
by Mark MacLeod, Folkbuilder Coordinator

Well as the weather starts to change, the sun starts to reappear, and the snow melts away, we head into March and the beginning of the AFA event season. These premier events are a chance to see old friends, make new ones, meet leadership, honor our gods together, and most of all, get a first hand experience of what makes the AFA different than all the rest! We have been spending much time and effort to make sure we provide these events for our membership. These events are not money makers (we're lucky to come out even most the time); they are a benefit to our membership and we feel strongly that these events make our communities real. So pick an event this year and commit to go. I've never seen anyone walk away from one regretting that they made the trip. We have tried to spread out our events as much as we can so everyone can attend one. The more support we get for these events, the more we will do. So remember, like anything else in life, you get out of it what you put into it. Here's a list of events for 2017:

- **Ostara in the South** (Georgia) March 17-19
- **Walpurgis / May Day in Southern California** April 28-30

- **Fall Fest in the Northern Plains** (Minnesota) September 8-10
- **Winter Nights in the Poconos** (Pennsylvania) October 12-15

Hail the Gods and Goddesses!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

News from the San Diego Tru Folk by Jamie Souigny

Hails from So Cal's *TruFolk Kindred!*

We had a great moot this month at our favorite local park and the weather was perfect! We have been having a bit of a wet winter but can't complain out here in sunny California. It was a beautiful day and a great day for a Vali Blot as we look forward to the return of the Sun and upcoming Spring. We are starting to pull out of the darkness of Winter. We are eagerly planning all of the exciting upcoming events of 2017.

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

Come join us!!!

We have decided to try weekly moots. Other religions do a weekly community gathering . Why not us? We have set up a Facebook group to announce locations and details of such meetings. The name of the page is Southern California AFA members. We also have folk in the Orange county and Riverside county areas.

jsouigny@runestone.org

or Heather (SD Folkbuilder) @

HeaTHOR@runestone.org

Hail the AFA !!!

Hail the Folk !!!





News from the Northwest

by Elizabeth MacBrÿghde - Folkbuilder, Gythia

On Saturday February 11, Northwest AFA members and friends gathered to celebrate Charming of the Plow in Centralia, WA. A blot was held in honor of the Vanir and the spirits of the land, as we sacrificed some mead and asked for blessings of fertility and joy in the coming spring. A bowl of pea seeds was blessed and the Folk got to take some home to plant in their own gardens. We enjoyed a feast and tasted some new local meads and a good time was had by all.

[Upcoming events:](#)

On Saturday, March 11, member Steve Foster will be hosting a pub moot at McMennamin's in Olympia, WA. This is a good opportunity to casually meet up with local Puget Sound area members for drinks and discussion. For more information, please send email to emacbryghde@runestone.org.

Ostara

On Saturday, March 25, join us for an Ostara celebration in Centralia, WA. Blót will begin at 3 p.m.; we welcome guests to arrive early to socialize and help with preparations. We will have eggs for dyeing, and Swedish pancakes for dinner, a local Folk favorite. Contributions of snacks and mead are greatly appreciated, please email me at emacbryghde@runestone.org for the address and directions or if you have any questions.

Hail the Gods, Hail the Ancestors, Hail the Folk!



Alaskan Charming of the Plow 2017

On a warm, snowy Alaskan Sunday, members of *Der Volkstamm auf dem Nordliche Bar*, other AFA members, and Folkish Asatruar from around Alaska gathered in Palmer Alaska to celebrate Lord Freyr and his sister, Lady Freya.

Blót was performed by Gothi Steven Morrell, invoking the power of Freya and Frey and blessing the tools of our trade as we prepared for the coming years work.

Following Blót, we ritually walked to the garage where we planted leeks that we would care for and nurture throughout the summer.

A great feast of pot roast followed, and once blessed by our Gothi, a portion was given to the Holy Powers, ancestors, and wights of the land. We all ate our fill, then gathered together to hold Sumbel. Powerful words were spoken over the horn, songs were sung, and boasts were made.

We parted ways at the end, but as always felt very empowered by our time together and looking forward to when we will meet again.





News from the Four Corners

by Roland L'Heureux, Apprentice Folkbuilder

Arizona:

Folkgard of Holda & Odin is getting pretty well-known for our impromptu food moots. While this month's scheduled event for Feb. 9 was a 2 ½ mile moon-light hike up the Superstition Mountains, our group that night of eleven participants (6 adults and 5 children) unanimously voted to postpone the Hike Moot in lieu of a Village Inn Pie Moot. The wisdom of the group proved true as we spent the next couple of hours visiting and getting to meet new folk. Debra and I thank you all for sharing your time with our kindred.

Phoenix Valley area, and would like to join us in our celebration of the Spring Equinox and the rebirth of Mother Earth please contact rlheureux@runestone.org for more information.

Due to the seasonal activity of members, there will not be a regional conference call scheduled for March. If you are conducting Asatru events or activities in the Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, or Utah areas and would like to have your event advertised in *The Voice*, send your event details and contact information to rlheureux@runestone.org.

New Mexico:

If you are in the Albuquerque/Santa Fe area of New Mexico, be aware that there are open meetings at least once a month and a runic study group on the last Friday of each month. The kindred prefers to keep blots and sumbels limited to their kindred members and vouched-for and voted-on guests. If you are in the New Mexico area, please let them know so they can arrange a meeting. The kindred is also active in working with military populations and people struggling with addiction. POC: Sophia Durrell; hypognosis321@gmail.com.


Colorado:

If you are in the Denver Metro Region of Colorado, and would like information on events in that area, please contact Nate Jeffsson via Facebook@ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1759645577648790>

“Warriors of the Wild Hunt”

**East Phoenix Valley
Arizona**

Asatru—
It's about roots,
It's about connections,
It's about coming Home.



AN AFA / FOLKISH ASATRU KINDRED

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

Across the Northern Plains we have seen a bit of a winter thaw, a much needed break in the snow and cold. We are now hosting monthly conference calls for our Northern Plains membership, for more information, you may contact me at ulfssonr@gmail.com We also hosted a really well-attended Meet and Greet in Bismarck, North Dakota with over two dozen adults and a half dozen children. It was a great "mini-event" as we spent several hours discussing topics covering nearly every aspect of Asatru. Several new faces were in attendance which is also always good.

March will see us hosting a weekend long Ostara celebration here in North Dakota. These weekend events have begun to get a region-wide reputation as "the place to be" if you are an Asatruar in the Plains. We regularly draw in members and guests from across the entire region. These events are styled after the larger national AFA events so members from other regions will feel right at home if they





News from Minnesota

by Jason Gallagher, Apprentice Folkbuilder

On February 18, several members came together to celebrate **Charming of the Plow**. It was a beautiful sunny day and unseasonably warm for this time of year. We had a great turnout and a pretty nice spread for a feast. We continue to grow with good solid folk in this state and throughout the Northern Plains region. I'm already looking forward to the next event.

Folkish Family Ostara in Zimmerman, MN on March 11.

Folkish Family Feast and Greet in Stillwater, MN on April 15.

You may contact me at jgallagher@runestone.org if you are interested in attending.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Ancestors!







News from the Midwest

by Blaine Qualls, Gothi and Folkbuilder

Things here in the Midwest continue to grow. We have begun monthly conference calls for all of our regional members - for information please contact at ulfssonr@gmail.com

We have a Meet and Greet hosted by member Cole Distel in Columbus, Ohio at the Wurst und Bier on March 10 - for more information, please contact either me or Cole. Additional details may be found on the [Facebook page set up for this event](#).

We are seeing a great upsurge in both membership and in activity with many newer members trying to organize things in their respective areas. It's looking to be a very active spring.

News from the Northeast

by Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder

Porrablót hosted by Lansdale Tru Folk
Lansdale, Pennsylvania

faining fire. It has been very warm since, so it seems that the Thunderer was pleased with our "breaking out of cabin fever" celebration!

While small in numbers, the Folk enjoyed a feast of broiled black goat, vegetables, liverwurst, Catie's amazing goat cheese bread, rye bread, Cliff's "too hot for everyone else" chili, Don's dill potato salad, and goat cheese cake. After the feast, we held a joyful sumbel followed by conversation related to the goings on of the AFA and the *Lansdale Tru Folk*.

The next *Lansdale Tru Folk* event open to guests will be a Sigrblot in May. Look for details as it approaches!

AFA Northeast Conference Call

Hosted by Clifford J Erickson

Monday, March 6 at 8:00 p.m.

Dial-in Number: (641) 715-3580 Access Code: 174-424

Open to all members to discuss news and updates for the Northeast Region. Our next Northeast conference call will be at 8:00 p.m. EDT on Monday, March 6, 2017. We look forward to hearing you there!

AFA Northeast Hikemoot

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

Nockamixon State Park, Pennsylvania

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

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

AFA Northeast Pubmoot

Saturday, April 15, 2017 1:00 PM

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





News from the Upper South by Paul Hester, Apprentice Folkbuilder

On December 15, a Western North Carolina Meet-up was held. Members Sean Kelly & Ben Bolding got together for the first time. Ben said, "I'm extremely proud to be in an organization with people like him." There's a lot of growth and things are starting to happen in Western North Carolina.

On February 12, we held an Upper South Motorcycle Ride. Those who attended had a great ride through the Shenandoah valley of Virginia - 110 miles of beautiful scenery and clean air! The Upper South has many more events coming up, so please don't be bashful and come on out. All AFA members are always welcome at events hosted by The Iron Guard Kindred. Thank you Corey for organizing such a beautiful ride!

The monthly Upper South Meet & Greet was held in Rocky Mount, NC on February 19. Some people drove over four hours to attend and that was truly appreciated. We talked logistics for Ostara,

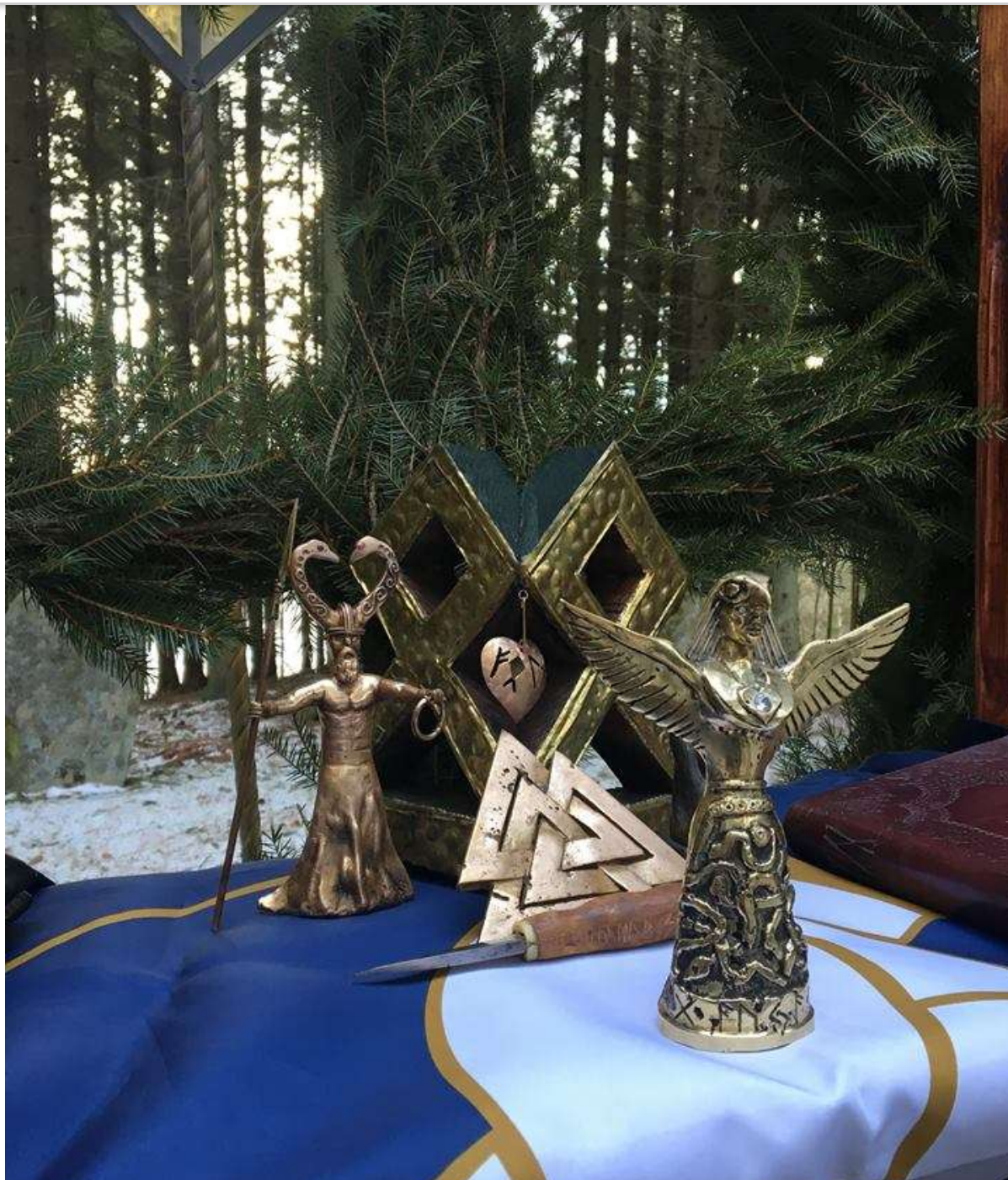
Hail the Folk!



News from Scandinavia by Anders Nilsson, Apprentice Folkbuilder

On Saturday, February 11 AFA Scandinavia and Ranrike kindred met once again in order to keep our ancestors' faith. Twelve participants attended for a Dísar/Freja Blot. Several of those in attendance were new AFA members and one family traveled four hours one-way to get there. AFA Scandinavia is growing in numbers but most important of all is the quality of our new members.

We have just started two AFA kindreds in Norway with really good people. I have attended three podcasts — the results of these have been really good and more interviews are scheduled. One of our members, Linus Borgström has started his own podcast, [Folkpodden](#) where he talks about various topics related to our faith and to the AFA. This is a very exciting new initiative.







Item of the Month - Official AFA Hoodie





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

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: <http://runestone.org/volunteer/>

Save the Date!

Ostara in the South (Georgia), March 17 - 19

Register today at <http://ostarasouth17.eventzilla.net>

Walpurgis/Mayday in Southern California, April 28 - 30

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

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

Registration information coming soon!

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

Registration information to be announced!

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

Registration information to be announced!

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

Registration information coming soon!

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