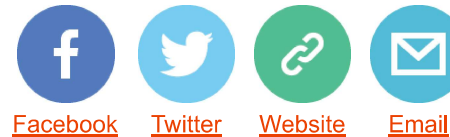


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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.

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Words from the Alsherjargothi

August marked the waning days of summer and the beginning of the harvest season. It has been amazing to see the photos of all our AFA family around the world celebrating Freyfaxi. The great God Frey was honored across the land and we began the first of the great harvest feasts of Asatru. As Summer fades and Fall begins, it is a great time to take stock of what we have accomplished, for ourselves, for our Folk, and for our AFA family. Now is a time to bring in all the wondrous accomplishments we have made in our own lives

we celebrate and will celebrate for the next few months. Let's share the very best of ourselves with our AFA family, close to home and around the world!

September is set to be an amazing month for the AFA, we are all extremely excited for the 3rd annual Fall Fest in Minnesota. Our folk will travel from across the country to celebrate and to worship with our AFA family. Gothar Coordinator Blaine Qualls and Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher have created one of the greatest events in the AFA year. Our Northern Plains Folk are one of, if not THE, most committed and active areas of AFA activity. Mandy and I as well as the McNallens are beyond excited to celebrate with them this coming weekend.

If you would like to join us, there is still time to hop in the car and head to Minnesota! If not, I would urge you to do everything in your power to make it to Winter Nights in the Poconos in October. These events are how I fell in love with the AFA and how I met some of my very best friends. Winter Nights specifically is where I met my lovely wife. These gatherings of the Folk build bonds that transcend distance and last a life time. We would love to see all out AFA family at these amazing upcoming events.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Fallfest III, 2018
by **Blaine Qualls, Jr., Folkbuilder of the Northern Plains,**
South Dakota



September 7,8,9 in the Minnesota Northwoods the Asatru Folk Assembly will be hosting one of its premier national events. This event, now in it's third year, grew out of a conversation between myself, Sheila McNallen, and Gothi, Bryan Wilton at Winter Nights in the Poconos 2014. Our first year saw antifa try to stop us, but they only served to make the event even that much better. Our second year was a huge success with people from across the country attending.

Each year this event has grown bigger, each year this event has grown better. This year will be no different. We have special guest, Steve McNallen speaking. We have our Lawspeaker, Allen Turnage, giving a presentation; we have Gothi and Witan member, Thorgrun Odden holding a discussion. We have world renowned author and Gothi Bryan Wilton giving one of his always inspirational talks. Blotar, a rite of womanhood for a young lady ready to take her place in the tribe, baby blessings, sumbel.....amazing food, a mead competition, and yes, even a bagpiper. Cabin camping with hot showers right on the St. Croix river.

Truly, this is THE event of the year, we may not have the Hof, but here there is no having to sleep in tents. We may not have the beautiful Pocono mountains, but we do have the just as beautiful Minnesota northwoods. We will have nearly the entire Witan of the Asatru Folk Assembly, numerous Gothar and Gothar students, Folkbuilders and leadership from across the country. Anyone who has attended this event before knows just how amazing it really is. We only have beds for 120 people and they are filling up quickly. Get registered soon and come enjoy some Northern Plains hospitality.

Blaine Qualls
Gothar Program Coordinator



Winter Nights in the Poconos, 2018
by Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder of the Northeast,
Pennsylvania

AFA Winter Nights in the Poconos

Every year the Tru Folk here in the Northeast gather to worship our Gods, our Goddesses,

renewing old friendships. We look forward to seeing members and friends at this year's Winter in the Poconos hosted by the Asatru Folk Assembly in Milford, PA from Friday, October 12 2018, 6:00 PM to Sunday, October 14 2018, 12:00 PM [EDT].

Your registration fee includes all workshops, lectures, meals, cabin lodging, and of course our holy rituals. Only AFA members and vouched-for-guests will be admitted to this event. If you are not an AFA Member you should confirm with the member who is vouching for you that they will do so when asked about your registration. Registration opens August 1st at:

<http://winternights2018.eventzilla.net>

Things to know:

- Children 17 and under attend for free!
- The cabins have bunks. You will need to bring your own bedding and it can get quite chilly at night, so plan accordingly.
- Tenting is permitted in the main field.
- Dogs are welcome for a small fee but must be leashed at all times and are not permitted in common indoor areas such as the dining hall.
- Camp location will be provided upon registration.
- Check out the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/events/2154889354794973/> more information and updates.

If you have any questions or concerns please email cerickson@runestone.org or gschindler@runestone.org.

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Ves Heill,

Clifford J. Erickson

AFA Witan, Technical Administrator, & Folkbuilder- North America Northeast



Food Drive at Oðinshof by Spencer Scott of the Viking Brotherhood

Good day all. As many of you know, the local Golden Eagle Market that feeds many families in the town of Brownsville has recently burnt down. In an effort to help our neighbors and lessen the load on those families in need, it is with great pride that the AFA has teamed up with Yuba-Sutter Food Bank, Inc. to host a food drive at Odinshof the first Saturday of every month until further notice. The food drive will begin at Noon and go until 4pm. The Yuba-Sutter food bank not only provides food, but has provided us with a refrigerator and new freezer so that we can store and provide more perishable food items. The Red Cross has also joined our fight and has provided personal hygiene items for us to distribute as well. Along with the combined efforts of many of our Folk and the Viking Brotherhood, who happily volunteer to distribute food, the food drive has become an ever growing success. We were able to serve 126 families and 325 people yesterday September 1st where we received many thanks and kind words for our continued efforts to assist those in need. We will continue to put our best foot forward in this fight as well as come up with new inventive and more efficient ways to contribute and help the people of Brownsville. We thank those of our folk volunteers who continue to help as well as the Viking Brotherhood for taking the lead and keeping us organized in this ongoing venture. For anyone who wishes to get involved, we gladly welcome the help and look forward to seeing everyone at what's promised to be another great event next month on Saturday October 6th at noon.





**The Hyndlujoth
by Bryan Wilton, Folkbuilder and Gothi**

The Hyndlujoth is an interesting lay given the time in which it was out down on paper. The

offerings (Hyndla hints at less commendable methods) has induced Freyja to assist him in establishing his genealogy. Freyja, having turned Ottar for purposes of disguise into a boar, calls on the giantess Hyndla ("She-Dog") to aid her." People have readily accepted this for literally hundreds of years. It reinforces the idea of Freya as a witch. Simple enough. But this isn't how I see it.

If you read it like it is and accept the explanation offered, what good does this do for the community? What benefit is there to be gleaned from a story which has been around for 100's of years in written form suggesting Freya is going to help Ottar win a simple wager? This story has lasted hundreds of years to show how much our ancestors were enthralled with gambling? While they did have a powerful affinity for gambling (I've long suspected that the premise for the crucifixion was lifted from Germanic ideas. The whole pierced in the side with a spear, while soldiers gamble for his clothes is something bible authors of that time took right out of Germanic lore) this was more than just an attempt to continue vilifying their heathen mentality.

The concepts espoused in the lay are in direct opposition to the church teachings of the day. Every aspect of monotheism insists that there must be an intercessor between man and the divine. This intercessor is essential for man to become anything. In fact, if the intermediary of the church does not approve, not only will your current circumstances be denigrated and vilified, your hereafter will also be one of unimaginable torture. To lend weight and authority to these decisions, they are seemingly backed by what everyone has been taught as the word of God. Yet this old tale, quite rebellious for its time, tells every man that it is his legacy to achieve greatness and that the tools he needs to do so reside within his own heart. It is of no small importance that it is a woman telling him this.

Freyja spake:

1. "Maiden, awake! | wake thee, my friend,
My sister Hyndla, | in thy hollow cave!
Already comes darkness, | and ride must we,
To Valhall to seek | the sacred hall.

This first stanza is of paramount importance. While many people perceive it as simple greeting, there is much, much more here. In these four lines we see Freya, the goddess of love, abundance and ruler of Folvangr (the other great hall of the wartime dead) greet what we have come to know as a simple savage as a friend. While she may be sweet talking

doing here is asking this base, simple, uncouth individual, who literally lives under a rock to join her. Something dramatic must be afoot!

*2. "The favor of Heerfather | seek we to find,
To his followers gold | he gladly gives;
To Hermoth gave he | helm and mail-coat,
And to Sigmund he gave | a sword as gift.*

This is something of an over-simplification of these gifts. Odin is not simply handing out fantastic things to every Tom, Dick, and Harry who happens along. There is always a plan. Usually a lesson for those who have ears to hear. Sigmund, in particular, is a fine example of what that gift might look like. If you are not paying close attention, Freya is doing the same thing with Ottar. Sigmund was given the opportunity to claim the sword if he could pull it from the tree. Which he did. His son Sigurd, on the other hand, was given the broken pieces of a sword. It was his own skill which crafted such a worthy blade. A skill he had labored hard to learn under the mentorship of a demanding master. The important fact here is that Odin presented him with the opportunity to achieve great things, it is Sigmund and Sigurd who possess the skills necessary to make it into something worthwhile. What the father hands the son, in many cases, are the pieces of a heritage. I'll discuss this more in the chapter on the Reginismol.

*3. "Triumph to some, | and treasure to others,
To many wisdom | and skill in words,
Fair winds to the sailor, | to the singer his art,
And a manly heart | to many a hero.*

Each of these gifts every man has in measure, but he must educate, train and practice to make the most of them. Our efforts along such lines are to help us make the transition from being possessed by such ideas to being in possession of them. This is a very important distinction and one which most self-described academics fail to perceive.

*4. "Thor shall I honor, | and this shall I ask,
That his favor true | mayst thou ever find;
Though little the brides | of the giants he loves.*

This is simply Freya trying to reassure Hyndla that her effort won't result in her

*And along with my boar | shalt thou let him run;
For slow my boar goes | on the road of the gods,
And I would not weary | my worthy steed."*

This one right here, all marked in bold and italicized, is the one which makes all the difference in the world if you have eyes to see. These beings are on a quest of sorts. One to define the power of Ottars ancestry. Along the road to Valhalla, the pathway of the dead, which is another term for the road of life, Freya mentions that her boar is dragging his feet and that she will not tire her worthy steed to prod him along. It means she is not riding Ottar, who is disguised as a boar, furthermore, she asks Hyndla to release a wolf which might encourage him to pick up his pace. Think about that. Ottar asks Freya to help him and she cuts a wolf loose on his butt. Hyndla distrusts her, but she comes along anyway. Making accusations one might expect from beings who do not understand the interactions between the divine and the faithful.

Hyndla spake:

*6. "Falsely thou askest me, | Freyja, to go,
For so in the glance | of thine eyes I see;
On the way of the slain | thy lover goes with thee.
Ottar the young, | the son of Instein."*

Freyja spake:

*7. "Wild dreams, methinks, | are thine when thou sayest
My lover is with me | on the way of the slain;
There shines the boar | with bristles of gold,
Hildisvini, | he who was made*

By Dain and Nabbi, | the cunning dwarfs.

*8. "Now let us down | from our saddles leap,
And talk of the race | of the heroes twain;
The men who were born | of the gods above,*

*9. "A wager have made | in the foreign metal
Ottar the young | and Angantyr;*

The foreign metal is gold. The fruits of his race are obvious. He is the culmination of generation after generation of physically and spiritually similar people. The fruits of his race are everything they have accomplished.

*10. "For me a shrine | of stones he made,--
And now to glass | the rock has grown;--
Oft with the blood | of beasts was it red;
In the goddesses ever | did Ottar trust.*

This is not a once and done kind of deal. The age-old summation of the tale would have you believe that this entire affair was something like summoning the devil with some magic spell. I'm sure the parallels to that idea would quickly be pointed out to churchgoers of the day. But no. This is a description of dedication or regular and persistent worship of Freya as a goddess. Unlike many of the people in modern heathenry who want to call upon the divine as a holy backup against the problems, we create for ourselves. She has not come through because of an emergency. This praise of a goddess and one would presume, the rest of them as well, has been a part of Ottar's life. Much as it should be in ours. Ottar's efforts are something more in-depth than the posting or meme's.

So Freya begins to answer his faithful request by calling upon a crude imagery of the feminine and releasing a wolf to chase him? She is not done with him yet. Now Hyndla begins to remind him of who he is by reciting a list of his ancestors.

*11. "Tell to me now | the ancient names,
And the races of all | that were born of old:
Who are of the Skjoldungs, | who of the Skilfings,
Who of the Othlings, | who of the Ylfings,
Who are the free-born, | who are the high-born,
The noblest of men | that in Mithgarth dwell?"*

Hyndla spake:

*12. "Thou art, Ottar, | the son of Instein,
And Instein the son | of Alf the Old,
Alf of Ulf, | Ulf of Sæfari,
And Sæfari's father | was Svan the Red.*

*Hight, methinks, | the priestess Hledis;
Frothi her father, | and Friauf her mother;--
Her race of the mightiest | men must seem.*

*14. "Of old the noblest | of all was Ali,
Before him Halfdan, | foremost of Skjoldungs;
Famed were the battles | the hero fought,
To the corners of heaven | his deeds were carried.*

*15. "Strengthened by Eymund, | the strongest of men,
Sigtrygg he slew | with the ice-cold sword;
His bride was Almveig, | the best of women,
And eighteen boys | did Almveig bear him.*

*16. "Hence come the Skjoldungs, | hence the Skilfings,
Hence the Othlings, | hence the Ynglings,
Hence come the free-born, | hence the high-born,
The noblest of men | that in Mithgarth dwell:
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!*

*17. "Hildigun then | her mother hight,
The daughter of Svava | and Sækonung;
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!
It is much to know,-- | wilt thou hear yet more?*

*18. "The mate of Dag | was a mother of heroes,
Thora, who bore him | the bravest of fighters,
Frathmar and Gyrrh | and the Frekis twain,
Am and Jofurmar, | Alf the Old;
It is much to know,-- | wilt thou hear yet more?*

*19. "Her husband was Ketil, | the heir of Klypp,
He was of thy mother | the mother's-father;*

20. "Next was Nanna, | daughter of Nokkvi,
Thy father's kinsman | her son became;
Old is the line, | and longer still,
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!
21. "Isolf and Osof, | the sons of Olmoth,
Whose wife was Skurhild, | the daughter of Skekkil,
Count them among | the heroes mighty,
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!
22. "Gunnar the Bulwark, | Grim the Hardy,
Thorir the Iron-shield, | Ulf the Gaper,
Brodd and Hörvir | both did I know;
In the household they were | of Hrolf the Old.
23. "Hervarth, Hjorvarth, | Hrani, Angantyr,
Bui and Brami, | Barri and Reifnir,
Tind and Tyrfing, | the Haddings twain,--
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!
24. "Eastward in Bolm | were born of old
The sons of Arngrim | and Eyfura;
With berserk-tumult | and baleful deed
Like fire o'er land | and sea they fared,
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!
He was kinsman of Sigurth,-- | hear well what I say,--
The foe of hosts, | and Fafnir's slayer.
- 26., "From Volsung's seed | was the hero sprung,
And Hjordis was born | of Hrauthung's race,
And Eylimi | from the Othlings came,--
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!

*But Gotthorm was not | of Gjuki's race,
Although the brother | of both he was:
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!*

*28. "Of Hvethna's sons | was Haki the best,
And Hjorvarth the father | of Hvethna was;*

*29. "Harald Battle-tooth | of Auth was born,
Hrörek the Ring-giver | her husband was;
Auth the Deep-minded | was Ivar's daughter,
But Rathbarth the father | of Randver was:
And all are thy kinsmen, | Ottar, thou fool!"*

If you look closely, you will see that this is an almost impossible heritage. Ottar appears to be a mix of every great hero, king, wise woman, and warrior in the history of the north. Isn't that interesting. I would take this idea of ancestry even further and point out that many of the folks in heathenry today also have a powerful list of great names in their family tree. Ottar may well be compared to us. The example we might relate too. And Hyndla calls him a fool for not understanding his ancestry. Each one of those people made themselves into something by their own hand, with the gifts they possess. And here is Ottar, expecting a gift for a gift when he already has a portion of each champion inside him. Not to mention the blessings of Rig upon mankind as well as the original gifts from Odin, Vili, and Ve. Seems to me he is already in possession of some fantastic gifts from the get-go.

This is where most heathens are at today. In possession of, but with no clear instruction as to how we might tap into this mindset. In an age of comfort, this is a hard task to accomplish. In a comfortable world, why would we need too aside from advancement at work or the building of relationships? Much of what is required to be deciphered remains hidden. Yet here is a tale that reminds us we are in possession of what it takes to survive the radical changes which are far more commonplace on Earth than we would like to admit.

Imagine what a true understanding of these ideas might mean for your thought process. One which might change from seeking confrontation, expecting the worst, boosting our

you might become if you were capable of shedding the mindsets which dominated the lives of your mother and father, the worries which consumed them or separated yourself from the overwhelming concerns portrayed on the nightly news? What happens when you set aside the conspiracy theories and absolute certainty that you must have divine help to take that next step towards becoming something more? What happens we change our mindset to one which embraces the idea that we have what it takes to survive and thrive in any situation we might find ourselves in? In the Rigsthula, this change in mindset is about the time Kon-Rig loses the Kon part of his name and becomes Rig himself. The self-actualization represented by the rune Mannaz comes to mind. Where man becomes a savior of himself. The only difference between a wise man and a fool is the nature of his thoughts.

In all of that, we have been given a form of instruction on how to mentally understand what is happening with the holy ceremony of Sumbel. From the Gods, to the ancestors, to ourselves. We cannot simply hold blot after blot expecting some god or goddess to come down and give us a gift for a gift. Why ask for gifts we are already in possession of? Our task is to capitalize upon those gifts. That requires we tap into a positive mindset and make it conducive to creating a world we would wish to live in. Free of the encumberments foisted upon us by monotheism, big governments, and radical political ideologies. It is up to us to make it worthwhile that we might remember the value of our race. Our heritage, our ancestry. Else the wolves will be cut loose upon us. I am sure that within each of our lives we have found ourselves with the wolf literally at the door. Almost always because of our own thought process. Our best thinking breaking down the barriers of our heritage to allow others the advantage over us. Which brings us to the puzzling inclusion of the Short Voluspa in the Hyndlujoth.

Most people think it is a mistake. But I don't. I have written extensively about this man making ceremony involving Baldur and the path he must take. From this point on, no one is holding his hand. He is using the gifts that are his to develop himself into a being worthy of ruling Asgard. A divine example of the mindset based upon ego (the inflated sense of self, every bit as much a cancer to positive thought as other cancers are to the body) and the opposing mindset dedicated to the development of self by mastery of his environment, the healthy choices he makes and his return to rule Asgard as a fully developed divine being. Asgard by this time, like the youth of man, has been burned away by negative concepts of utopian ideals, the over-inflated ego of Loki and the concepts first introduced by the three

that which ruins the teamwork of man and beast by stealing what was hard-earned from others for themselves.

Fragment of "The Short Voluspo"

30. Eleven in number | the gods were known,
When Baldr o'er the hill | of death was bowed;
And this to avenge | was Vali swift,
When his brother's slayer | soon he slew.
31. The father of Baldr | was the heir of Bur,

32. Freyr's wife was Gerth, | the daughter of Gymir,
Of the giants' brood, | and Aurbotha bore her;
To these as well | was Thjazi kin,
The dark-loving giant; | his daughter was Skathi.

33. Much have I told thee, | and further will tell;
There is much that I know; | wilt thou hear yet more?

34. Heith and Hrossthjof, | the children of Hrimnir.

35. The sybils arose | from Vitholf's race,
From Vilmeith all | the seers are,
And the workers of charms | are Svarthofthi's children,
And from Ymir sprang | the giants all.

36. Much have I told thee, | and further will tell;
There is much that I know;-- | wilt thou hear yet more?

37. One there was born | in the bygone days,
Of the race of the gods, | and great was his might;
Nine giant women, | at the world's edge,
Once bore the man | so mighty in arms.

*Ulfrun bore him, | and Angeyja,
Imth and Atla, | and Jarnsaxa.*

*39. Strong was he made | with the strength of earth,
With the ice-cold sea, | and the blood of swine.*

Heimdall is the combination of the Sea and the Sky. A benefactor to mankind. The visits of Rig to the great-grandmother/father, the grandmother, and father and the mother/father are generational visits. Each generation doing better than the last one. Each one has invited the divine into their marriage and their children have moved forward in the world to great success. It is no wonder that it is Heimdall who kills Loki at Ragnarok. Loki represents the uninspired human intellect throughout the lore. His jealousy, his outrageous ego, his inability to understand how the divine interact with each other, even though he is afforded a seat at the table, and his creation of the monsters which put the lives (humans) the gods have put so much effort into would be reason enough for anyone.

*40. One there was born, | the best of all,
And strong was he made | with the strength of earth;
The proudest is called | the kinsman of men
Of the rulers all | throughout the world.*

This is Thor, the warder of men. The result of the union between the Sky and the Earth.

*41. Much have I told thee, | and further will tell;
There is much that I know;-- | wilt thou hear yet more?*

*42. The wolf did Loki | with Angrbotha win,
And Sleipnir bore he | to Svathilfari;
The worst of marvels | seemed the one
That sprang from the brother | of Byleist then.*

*43. A heart ate Loki,-- | in the embers it lay,
And half-cooked found he | the woman's heart;--
With child from the woman | Lopt soon was,*

This is Loki breaking off from developing in the same aspect of the other gods and trying to do it all alone. Thor and Heimdall utilize their unique heritage to become valuable and powerful aspects of what we consider Holy. One is a defender of men, the warder of mankind, One bestows the gifts to men which allows them to drop the moniker Kon-rig and become Rig himself. He bestows a path upon married couples who invite the divine within the homes and their relationship. Loki wishes not to share, to keep it all for himself, to show that he is just as great as the rest of them simply by thinking about it. Much like the arrogance of academia and self-ascribed scholars we find in heathenry today. His failure is the destruction of all that we know. And those forces are very much at work in the world today. People who do not understand the interaction of the divine, who believe they can go off and figure it out all by themselves. These folk will always pick the easier, softer, more comfortable path, full of excuses and few worldly successes. But the dreams of a golden future will sow the seeds of their own destruction. They will lie, cheat and steal to try and build a fast fortune. But first, they will find themselves isolated from people who are not bound up in their own thoughts and egotistical deeds.

*44. The sea, storm-driven, | seeks heaven itself,
O'er the earth it flows, | the air grows sterile;
Then follow the snows | and the furious winds,
For the gods are doomed, | and the end is death.*

*45. Then comes another, | a greater than all,
Though never I dare | his name to speak;
Few are they now | that farther can see
Than the moment when Othin | shall meet the wolf.*

This is Baldur. The fully developed. In as much as Kon-rig, learned the language of the birds and the use of the runes to drop the Kon and become Rig himself, a simple man with a powerful heritage and blessing. He is something we almost cannot imagine. And the examples we have in Asatru are few and far between. Now consider if this process were to involve the development of a god. Such as Baldur. Who considers his heritage, and the divine nature of it and makes the right choices again and again completely removed from where he began. With a powerful relationship and partner standing right next to him. It is as alien a thought as any simple mortal being can imagine and yet it is.

So that all thy words, | that well thou hast spoken,

This memory beer represents an interesting parallel with the horn at Sumbel or where Brunnhilde offered a basic instruction to Sigurd on the runes following a memory draught. Many people would wish to make it a magical reference to ALU, but in reality, it is akin to slapping the baby on the butt for that first breath of air and the look at a new life.

The third morn hence | he may hold in mind,

When their races Ottar | and Angantyr tell."

Hyndla spake:

47. "Hence shalt thou fare, | for fain would I sleep,

From me thou gettest | few favors good;

My noble one, out | in the night thou leapest

As Heithrun goes | the goats among.

48. "To Oth didst thou run, | who loved thee ever,

And many under | thy apron have crawled;

My noble one, out | in the night thou leapest,

As Heithrun goes | the goats among."

Freyja spake:

49. "Around the giantess | flames shall I raise,

So that forth unburned | thou mayst not fare."

Hyndla spake:

50. "Flames I see burning, | the earth is on fire,

And each for his life | the price must lose;

Bring then to Ottar | the draught of beer,

Of venom full | for an evil fate."

Freyja spake:

51. "Thine evil words | shall work no ill,

Though, giantess, bitter | thy baleful threats;

A drink full fair | shall Ottar find,

If of all the gods | the favor I get."

despite the best efforts of lesser men and monstrous beings. Ansuz, ancestral wisdom offers us a cup from which we might drink with understanding so long as we know from whence we have come.

An Elm Sprouts

Last month Gothi student Martin Klasson and his wife welcomed a new baby into the world. They have named their little girl Embla and the parents have requested to keep the more intimate details private. The family lives in Sweden. May Embla's life be filled with fortune and strength! Hail to the newborn!





**Day of Remembrance
For Hermann of the Cherusci
By Zach Cato, Apprentice Folkbuilder of the Midwest**



The month of September brings in the Day of Remembrance of Hermann of the Cherusci. He is one of our greatest heroes from the distant past (approximately 17 bce-19ce). There are a few reasons why we take the time to remember Hermann der Cherusker, whose name is derived from Old High German 'heri' and 'man' meaning "Man of War." He was the son of Sigimer, a Prince of the German Nation. He had lived

high honor status. Upon this he would be assigned the task of infiltrating Germania in order for Rome to take control of the area. He would ultimately reunite with his true folk, rally up German tribes and keep the Romans from conquering the land for many many years. In this Germania would continue to thrive and keep their traditions and culture from radically changing from foreign influences.

This brief glimpse into the deeds of Hermann is important because the vast majority of us have been virtually held captive by the interests of others who are not sympathetic to our Folk or our traditional values. Most of us are educated and trained in ways that would seek to destroy what had originally shaped us and gave us noble purpose. But, however, if we are able to tap into our true ancestral ways we are more likely to save ourselves from self-destruction. By rallying our Folk together for common purposes we become stronger and better equipped to take on the forces that wish to confuse our efforts of survival, frith and prosperity. To remain estranged from our Folk at this point is to leave our orlog in the hands of those who would have us surrender and deny ourselves for the establishment of a fate that we may never recover from. To unite is our only option if we are to recover from the battles waged against us. When we each make the effort to reach out to our Folk and build connections, when we turn to our lore for direction and determination, when we succeed in deeds that will shape our future in ways that are harmonious to us instead of those who aim to crush us, we come closer and closer to achieving what Hermann achieved all of those years ago.

So on the Ninth of September and during this month, ponder the actions you could make in honor of this concept and turn it into a reality. What can you DO to help your folk unite? In what ways can you challenge yourself to perform deeds that make a difference? How can you give your Folk hope and purpose to continue to work for our noble cause day in and day out, month after month, year after year? If we all do our part nothing can stop us from achieving our goals. Asking these questions of ourselves and following through with the answers we conceive show others that they can do the same. Help new members to get the fire of our purpose spreading within. Help those in your area make a difference that reflects the passion of our virtuous path. Be an example to the Folk at large that we are here, we are able, we are succeeding and being what our ancestors dreamed we could be if only we realized our potential.

seek to scatter our efforts for their own glory need to know that each day more and more of our Folk our waking up from this nightmare placed before us. Even more so we need to fully embrace this ourselves. Everyday we are actively getting more involved with each other, finding better ways to become all that we can be and not looking back. We our looking forward towards the guiding star of our ancestors, of the blooming of our folk in miraculous ways and to the successes of all our endeavors combined. We've seen progress and we seek to see more. So when you meet with your kindred, you speak with your fellow Ásatrúar, you make your next goal, know that we're all in this together and we by uniting and persevering we can make each and every one of our sacrifices and deeds worth every second that we put into them.

HAIL the Folk!
HAIL the Doers!
HAIL the Memory of Hermann
and the Glory Ahead of Us!

Zach Cato, Midwest
AFA Apprentice Gothar

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."
Joseph Malema, South African Politician

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

"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

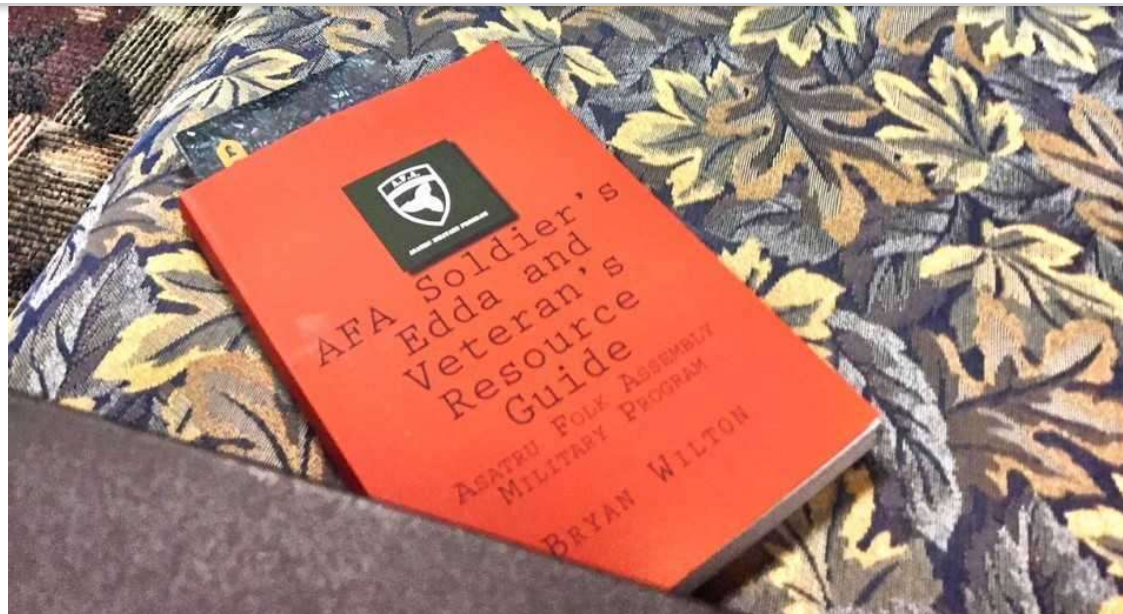


ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY MILITARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Our material has reached states all over the US and even abroad! Once again thank you to all our folk who donated to our book drive fundraiser, volunteers, and those who share our posts! We have already helped some of our folk find their way home and become AFA members, that is a victory!! We have some plans in the making to further our success and presence as AFA military members on our bases and in our community! If you are interested in volunteering to help the program out in any way, send us an email or reach out on Facebook.

Kevin Long
Military Program Coordinator
Klong@runestone.org





Folkbuilder Coordinator Update by Marc MacLeod

The Upper South has always been a strong area and they only seem to get stronger. The AFA has a few kindreds in that region and we have two strong Folkbuilders there as well. Good things are going to come from there and this month we're welcoming William Michael Sailor to our Folkbuilder team! William will be coordinating our folk in the Upper South in West Virginia and is the leader of the Hollow Creek Kindred. If he's in your area please contact him.

Hail the Folk!
Hail the Doers!
Hail the AFA!





**Northeast Regional Update, Pennsylvania
by Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder and Member of the
Witan**







Winter Nights in the Poconos

October 12 – 14

Milford, Pennsylvania

Lansdale Tru Folk, an AFA Kindred in Pennsylvania, welcomed our newest member Catie Reid at our First Anniversary Freyfaxi Sumbel! We do not rush to oath new members, often taking a full year to get to know someone. Catie has been a big part of our activities for the past two years and we were honored to oath her in at our one-year anniversary of Lansdale Tru Folk. Before Lansdale Tru Folk formally oathed to one another as Kindred, we spent 4 years making offerings to our Gods, Goddesses, and Ancestors as an informal “blot group” which itself grew out of local pubmoots. Clifford led the Blot to Frey, Njord, and Nerthus which was based on the same rite written four years ago the first time we made Blot together, marking the fifth Freyfaxi we have celebrated together. We are committed to maintaining a family friendly and close knit group, and we are excited to watch our families grow with two weddings coming up over the next year. While we are slow to admit new members, all members of the Asatru Folk Assembly are welcome to join us as we host the following upcoming events:

- Harvest, 9/15 at 3pm
- Feast of the Einherjar, 11/17 at 3pm
- Yule, 12/29 at 3pm

Please contact Clifford at cerickson@runestone.org if you are interested in attending!

**Northeast Regional Update, Massachusetts
by George Schindler III, Apprentice Folkbuilder**



The Gods and Goddesses of our strident Folk are with us always... I yearn for Europe and love Amerika too. The beauty of the mountains and the sacred silence of the whispering forests... I have always lived by the shores of the Atlantic... the shores of which our ancestors sought out and found. My Folk soul has awakened and I hear the songs of stories yet to be sung. Odhinn urges me on as the winds of resistance try to hold me still. I am a White European man in Amerika. My Folk Hail from Denmark and Norway. From Ireland and Germany... once torn from my ancestral embrace, only to finally find myself nuzzled in the sweet fragrant bosom of Freya. Caressed by the golden tresses of Sif. Idunna feeds me a slice of the golden Apple of youth. I ask the Nornir questions and I receive their answers. Skuld continues to look away as Urd gently draws forth my orlogthaettir and deems my journey worthy. I know because Verdandi approves. On this soil I am defined as a White Amerikan.

They do not understand that any boundaries are mine own. My soul drifts Northeastward and returns as Hugin and Munin so often do. And like them, I too have news for Allfather. I see and hear the shouting crowds of Odhinns children throughout Europe and farther...my

Embla should we scorn and denigrate the Gifts given by three Great Aesir ?! NO! I will BECOME THAT MUCH MORE! We Germani are descendants of High kings and Queens of Asgard...Ek, I am! WE ARE INDEED PRIVILEGED!!!

Wotans winds are stirring and our groggy Folk are shaking the malaise from their minds. One by one, sometimes two by two, they come home.

We are Busy planning for our Kindred gatherings as well. Oh so very soon the Northeast region of the Asatru Folk Assembly will celebrate and pay homage to our Feminine forces that surround us, who protect us. We grow tougher as our bonds strengthen. I urge all Northeast AFA to reach out to me when in need. Our spiritual health is our foremost concern and a nice talk is always a relief from the morass. I am here to listen for efficient venting purposes and for questions I can ultimately answer. **I AM AT YOUR SERVICE!!**

The Botulfr StoneShip Kindred will be in full force come Winter Nights and we are elated and excited to be a part of this grand event. Be prepared to amp up your heart rate. My fiancé Heidi and I plan to honor our Folkish traditions with an Asatru Handfasting Rite. Gratefully Bound to each other under the open sky as our Disir are honored. We will loudly Hail our Ancestors!



Marco has been busy creating magnificent art to be placed upon every surface imaginable. Clothing, Mugs etc.

We are reaching into the northern climes of Nova Scotia and Canada as well. It's a bountiful time for all of us! May we all have a seat at the table!

For those on the fence about attending WinterNights, allow me to nudge you in the right direction. Come and celebrate with a real flesh and blood Ásatrú community! You'll thank the Gods you did! In Frith!! Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

<http://winternights2018.eventzilla.net/web/event?eventid=2138952206>

If you have any questions please contact: cerickson@runestone.org or myself: gschindler@runestone.org



The month of August started for the Alaskan AFA with a meetup at everyone's favorite German restaurant in Anchorage. Friends had a chance to catch up and see each other again, and we were joined by a new person who was looking to meet up with everyone and start becoming involved.



The following weekend, we held our Freyfaxi blót and our day of remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia out at Gothi Steven Morrell's home. We had a good turnout with people from all over the state in attendance.



Coming up next month, we have a hikemoot and a Wotan on the Peaks on Mount Marathon down in Seward, hosted by apprentice Folkbuilder Tyler Max Hansen as well as a day of remembrance for King Herman of the Cherusci.



**Far North Regional Update, South Central Alaska
by Tyler Hansen, Apprentice Folkbuilder**



In a proud first, on the 18th of August, A.F.A. members from south central Alaska came together for a meet and greet. The fall winds were awakening that afternoon, but a determined folk persevered. We enjoyed in the company and frith that only the like minded know. The time was spent recognizing the bounty Freyr has provided, and discussing how to develop further as we forge ahead in new growth. Planning was done for an upcoming Wotan on the peaks event, set for sept.9th

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the A.F.A.!

**Northern Plains Regional Update, Minnesota
by Blaine Qualls, Jr, Folkbuilder and Member of the Witan**



Here in the Dakotas we have been busy preparing for Fallfest which is only a few days away and looks to be another great national event. Later in September, on the 29th, we will be going out as a group to the largest Scandinavian cultural event in North America, Norsk Hostfest. This is not a strictly Asatru event, but there are many Asatruar attending and many who are very sympathetic to our ways.....it is always a good time with great people.

And for those of you looking for a place to celebrate Yule in the Northlands with true folk, our annual 3 day Yule event will be here before we know it. 3 days of cabin camping, rituals, great food, and great people. This event has grown into something of a tradition here in the Northern Plains.....each year we grow bigger and better. Anyone interested in attending feel free to get in touch with me.

**Northern Plains Regional Update, Minnesota
by Jason Gallagher, Folkbuilder**

Hudson,Wi.What a great time spent with the folk honoring King Radbod and feasting on delicious German food.And we finished the month off with Freyfaxi celebration.This was an amazing time and our very own Anna Funk led us in a powerful Blót and Sumble. Im looking forward to Fallfest in a week and seeing everyone again and meeting new folk from out of state.This is going to be a weekend packed full of Rituals and workshops and crafts for the kids to work on.If you plan to be in the area and would like to join us you can message me on facebook or email me at jgallagher@runestone.org

9/4 Monthly Study group 5:30-830 Bloomington

9/7-9/9 Fallfest

9/16 woodworking day Bloomington 12-3

9/22 Hike on the Mississippi River Fort Snelling state park Minneapolis 4-7

9/29 Ullr Blót TBA

10/6 Childrens 9 Noble virtues Study Bloomington 1-3

10/20 Disir Blót Bloomington 3:30-7 Bloomington

10/27 Herman the German field trip New Ulm,MN 2-6

11/17 Feast of the Einherjar Gasthof Minneapolis 5-7

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

Hail those who Do!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!



Upper South Regional Update, North Carolina by Paul Hester, Folkbuilder

We held our Sandhills Kindred “Wotan on the Peaks” at the summit of Morrow Mountain on the beautiful Uhwarrie Mountain Range in North Carolina. We gave Blot to Wotan and an offering, which included a hand carved spoon, to the Landvættir. The spirits and ancestors were in our midst, as we raised a horn in praise of the high one and asked that he continue to release his might and spirit upon Midgard. We later enjoyed a meal and libations at the Stoney Mountain Winery. There’s nothing like family.



What a wonderful Saturday evening spent at the 2nd Annual AFA Upper South Freyfaxi. Svan's Frey Blot was phenomenal and I felt fully grounded at its completion. The Vaettir, Vanir, and Ancestors were truly in our midst spreading their blessings among us. Thanks Michael and the Hollow Creek Kindred for the beautiful Oath Ring, we will always cherish it. Congratulations Dalton on your Oathing into the Iron Guard Kindred. I always leave, feeling renewed, knowing nature is truly on our side. Hail Frey.



I'd like to Congratulate Adam & Rachel Cook on the birth of their Son Clyde Alexander Cook. He weighed 8 lbs. 7 oz. and 20.5 inches long

Upcoming Activities

- Rigshule Class 9/15/18
- Upper South Fall Fest 9/23/18

The West Regional Update, Southern California by Heather Nicole Clinkenbeard, Folkbuilder



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August - Harvest was a month of truly sitting back and reaping the rewards of what we have planted. The theme of the month without trying was noticing in many ways how we have come to grow. Watching the seeds we planted grow into the orchard of life. We had a what we thought was going to be a small freyfaxi only inviting from the small closed kindred group because we were having the event at our members home. Every time we thought the last people showed up, two more would pop in. The ending total was 25 adults

a powerful ritual to Frey and ended with a birthday cake for Kevin Long. The theme was gratitude for what we have, what we are thankful for, what we built and all the children that showed up. The Gods are powerful! I felt they were just as grateful for what we have built. A Tru-Folk blessing to you all and a very Happy birthday to our very own and the very best Kevin Long.



**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 Gods and Goddesses!!!

Hail our Folk!!!

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

We have had some amazing support to boost our funds for Folk Services as of late. It is the support of our community that helps our Folk in times of unforeseen 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

**Pacific Northwest Update, Oregon
by Joseph Rozanek, Apprentice Folkbuilder**

Idaho. We had a Hike and Blot to Wotan on Saddle Mountain in Oregon, Mead making and a Rune meeting in Portland, and a few Moots in Seattle. Steve and Shelia McNallen stopped over for dinner to top it off and a really big thanks to my wife for all her hard work preparing for their visit. We also added two new members to our region, Stephanie in Vancouver BC and Morgan in Seattle, Welcome! We are steadily connecting our members and creating the strong bonds that we all value. Steve in Kalamath Falls is confident that there will be a kindred there soon thanks to long lost members coming together!

The Month of September has a Hike up Mount SI in Washington, another in the Columbia Gorge Oregon and a remembrance for Hermann of the Cherusci in Washington, British Columbia, Oregon and Idaho. There is also a Winterfinding towards the end of the month and Rune study groups in both Idaho and Oregon. If you have an idea or suggestion for an event in your area, do not hesitate to contact me and we will make it happen. Put forth the effort to come out to one of the events and let's keep building this region to be an exciting place for our native spirituality, Asatru!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Joe Rozanek

Apprentice Folkbuilder NW





9/3 Runic Study group 6:30pm-7:30pm Moscow, ID.

9/8 Mount Si Hike and Wotan Blot 12:00 North Bend Wa.

9/8 Hermann of the Cherusci Remembrance and Moot, 7:00pm-9:00pm Seattle Wa.

9/9 Hermann of the Cherusci Remembrance and Moot, Couer d' Alene ID

9/15 Hermann of the Cherusci Remembrance and Oktoberfest, 7:00pm Mt. Angel Or.

9/17 Runic Study group 6:30pm-7:30pm Moscow, ID.

9/18 Runic Study group, 5:00pm-6:00pm Vancouver Wa.

9/22 Winterfinding blot, Kalamath falls Or. Evening

9/22 Winterfinding blot and Oktoberfest, Couer d' Alene ID

9/23 Dog mountain hike (Columbia River gorge) and Wotan blot, Cook Wa 1:00pm

9/30 Winterfinding blot, Oregon. 1:00pm



South Central Regional Update, Texas by Cylda Brown III, Apprentice Folkbuilder



The Black Sun Tribe held a powerful Freyfaxi gathering and paid reverence to the Harvest in Houston on the last Saturday of the month.... The momentum that BST is experiencing is proof positive that perseverance and hard work will see its fruition if values and formulae are adhered to.

What we are seeing in the Texas region has never occurred before... powerful group rituals and a yearning for tribal unity under the banner of our Holy Gods. The AFA is

As always, a huge heartfelt thanks to our Sister Theresa Ferguson for opening up her heart and her home to all in attendance. The gods definitely were in attendance as well that night as we chanted, drummed and paid reverence to the High Ones.





Deep South Regional Update, South Carolina by James Dover, Apprentice Folkbuilder

The Deep South is growing with exuberance. Our goal is to burn bright the fires of our soul, guiding our Folk in the region back home. Interest in our ancestral indigenous tradition seems to be manifesting everywhere, even here in the bible belt. It is our mission as Deep South leadership to build and maintain a thriving community to which our Folk can belong.

Michael Behrens and his son gave blot to the Allfather in a Wotan on the Peaks in the Kennesaw Mountains of Georgia in early August. Trent will be attempting one of these Wotan on the Peaks every month.

In South Carolina, Jeff Van Slyke hosted a Freyfaxi blot on August 19th. We also welcomed a new member, Kevin Gelesh of Columbia, SC. We are planning to start a monthly pubmoot in Lancaster, SC beginning in September. We intend to host a Winter Nights event in October.

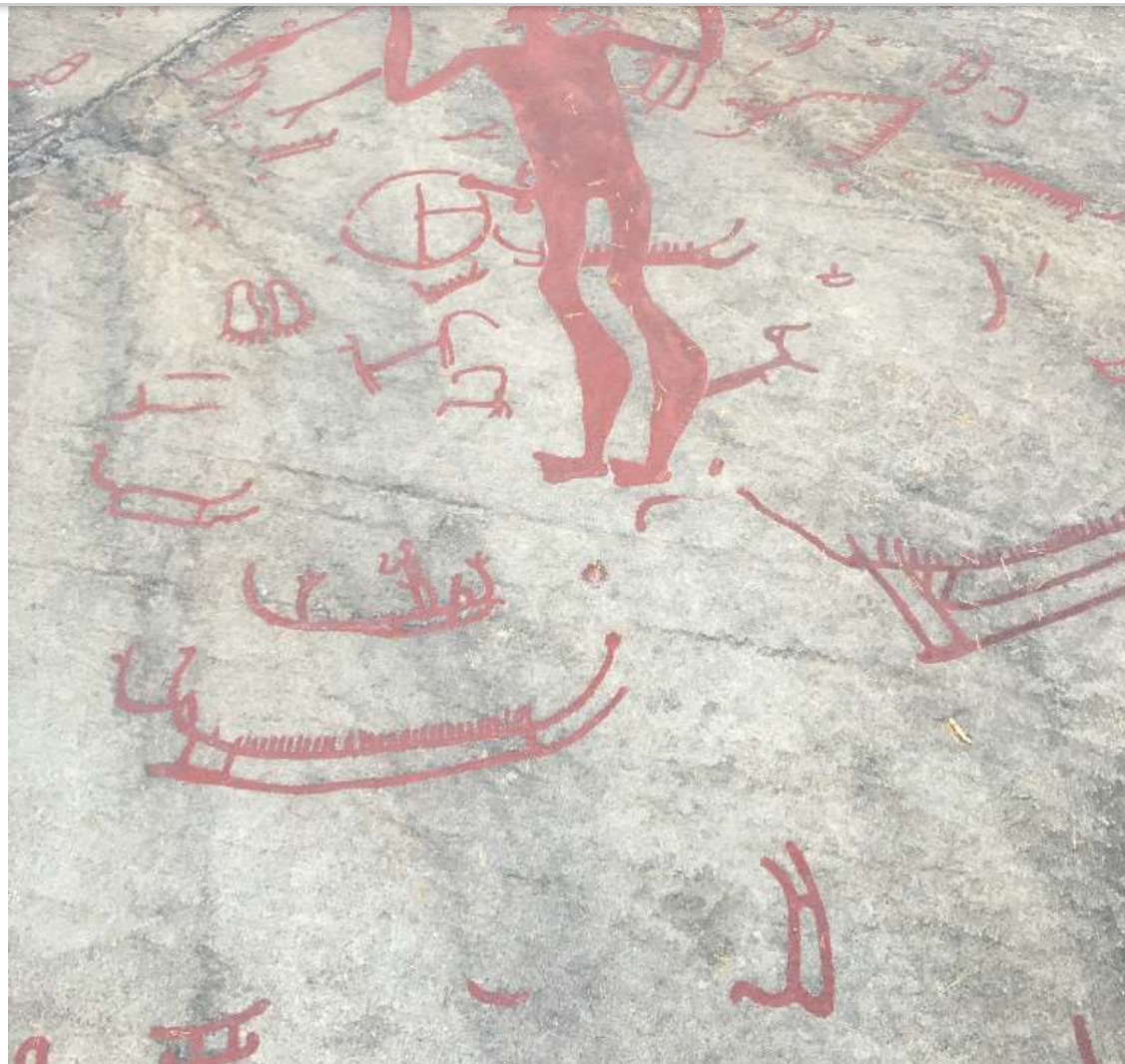
Florida saw several new members this month, the Henry family and Kevin Corr. Ralph is planning a gathering in October, details to come.

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



**European Regional Update, Scandinavia
by Anders Nilsson, Apprentice Folkbuilder**





This month has been hectic for us here in Scandinavia. We started the month off with 3 Odin blots and 2 naming ceremony's. Norway have had its first official AFA ritual it was done on a mountain in Oslo that was used as a place for the beacon. We also had the pleasure to show our two friends Anna and Matthew from the states the Bronze Age rock carvings in Tanumshede. Later in the evening we held a Odin blot in one very special stone circle. The work with our Etsy shop is going forward and we are gaining some good

As some of you already know Linus Borgström has stepped up as the folk builder for Sweden and that is really good news for us Linus has showed dedication and commitment I wish him all the best in his folk building task I will continue Folk building for the rest off Europe.

As I'm writing this we are in full progress with our Autumn blot that's being held the first of September this event is going to be a special event in many ways but more on that in the next issue.





Australian, New Zealand & South African Regional Updates by Cameron Mottus, Apprentice Folkbuilder

I want to firstly begin by telling you how happy I am that the AFA now has such an incredible number of members worldwide and as I do so I would like to welcome Gavin Tischendorf and Bandon Smith from Australia!

This month I want to take a moment to write about leadership and kindred building. This is written primarily for the members of my region but is applicable to members across the world.

We Need Leaders, We Need You!

I discovered Asatru about 4 years ago. It was like a lightning bolt had struck me. I read the Eddas and started to look at our ancient European history. I was really surprised at what I found as I studied history at university and had no idea about our pagan past. I just thought to myself, I have to let as many people know about this as I can. My belief is that all European people should know about our old ways so that they at least have a choice to keep our ancient beliefs and traditions alive.

and when I look back, some of what I did was kind of cringe worthy but I truly believe that the “spirit of the intent” is the most important consideration!

As wyrd would have it I began to travel for my job across Australia and then New Zealand. I have hosted meetups across both countries. Sometimes I have had five or six people attend, which is awesome, but most of the time one other person will show up or no one at all. When there is no one, I still move on with the meetup. I go over the discussion points or blog by myself. I never get disheartened. I know my work is of the utmost importance to my people and I truly believe that the existence of our people is not negotiable.

I recognize that it is a numbers game. The more people I talk to, the more likely that someone will become interested in Asatru and then the AFA, and if in Christchurch, my kindred.

I once hosted a meetup in Sydney. One of the women attending mentioned that she could not host a meetup because she did not know enough. I told her and I will tell you, you only have to know one day more of the topic than the person you are meeting with. (That day I was hosting a meetup about rune magic which I had learned earlier that week.) I learned that trick trying to survive as an instructor in the army and then as a teacher when I moved to New Zealand. Be just be one lesson ahead of the students. That is the trick. You do not have to be a Stephen McNallen or a Matt Flavel. When you are talking to a new person, you will be amazed at how much you know compared to them.

Currently, there are designated leaders within the AFA who are the folkbuilders. We are here to assist you grow. I encourage everyone to tap into your leaders to be leaders themselves. Host meetups, Edda readings or blots. Go hiking/tramping/bush walking, go shooting, 4x4ing and intermingle the lore and spirituality. Talk to people about Asatru. Wear your hammer in public. Invite people to join the AFA and then to join your kindred.

For those of us in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa we are very dispersed with one member per city or state. I am personally asking you to be a leader in your area. Build a community around yourself. You will be surprised how quickly exciting things happen once you get small group of people together.

Build Kindreds

I moved to Christchurch June 2017. When I arrived I was the only member of the AFA in the city. A year later there are nine AFA members in our Christchurch based kindred. We celebrate together with our families, we are creating original music for the folk, brewing kindred beer, writing a book, go shooting and climbing mountains.



There is so much going on. Where will our kindred be next year or the year after?

Attaining a critical mass of four AFA members and creating an AFA affiliate kindred should be everyone's goal. The world turns after that. If you have any questions please reach out to me. cmottus@runestone.org.

We now have 700 members in the AFA, if everyone of us invited one person to join over the next year, we would have 1400. Do it!

Kind regards,
Cameron Mottus
Apprentice Folkbuilder (ANZ and SA)
Asatru Folk Assembly

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**Midwest Regional Update, Indiana
by Zach Cato, Apprentice Gothi**



September even better. This last gathering of ours proved to be quite a spiritual and enchanted outing. Once we had all made it to Patoka Lake we were blessed with the presence of two large black crows. They watched us as we had our discussions and blot, and they would even eat lunch with us. After they each had ate their meal of meat they hung around for a little while then flew away. These were the only birds I saw out there that day. They appeared to pleased with us and fled to tell the High One the news. We all had a blessed day and left us looking forward to the next time we would all meet up again. I am proud to have the people I have in the kindred!

We had a new face show up to this gathering and have another prospective member that should be joining us on our next outing. These are exciting times for our kindred and everything seems to be coming together quite nicely. We haven't set the date for September's gathering but we have a few ideas for the place and should have all of the details posted in the next week or so. We're going to keep up the good work and help our Folk grow stronger and closer together. Until next time...

HAIL the Gods!
HAIL the Doers!
HAIL the AFA!

Circle of Eir - A Call to Healing

AFA Circle of Eir performs a montly 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 an email to Patricia Hall at patriciahall@runestone.org. This month's ritual will be held on the night of the 20th, a Thursday.

Hail Eir!

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.

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



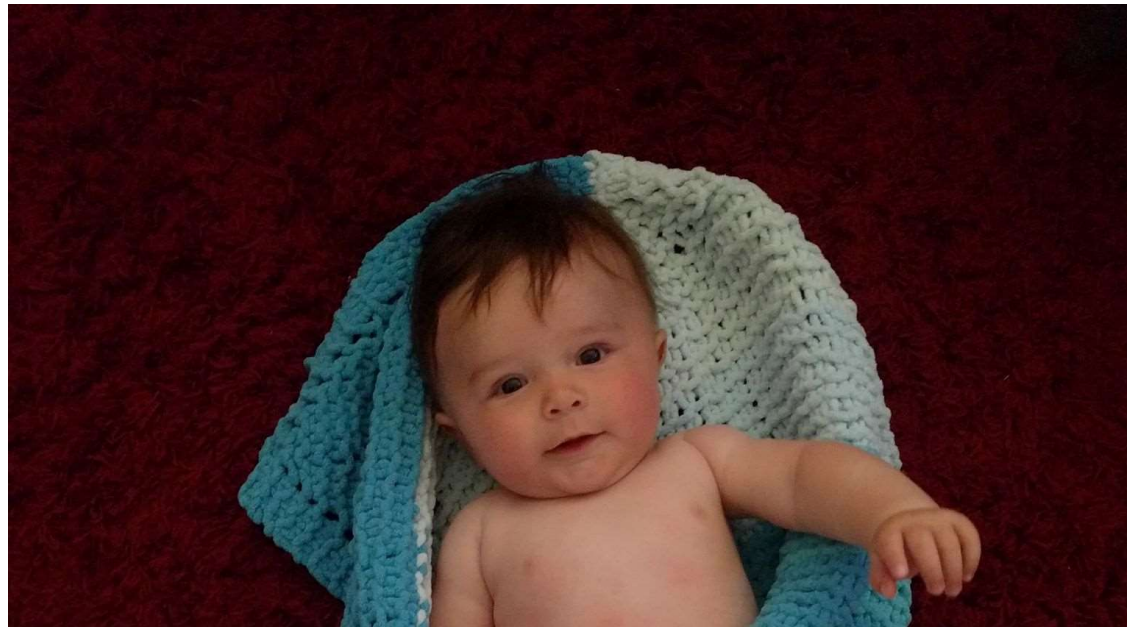
New for the AFA, Carrie Overton is putting together a Business Directory for our Folk! Send us your contact info (website, business type, etc..) and we will add you to our AFA Business and Crafter's newsletter that will be coming soon! This is our chance to promote

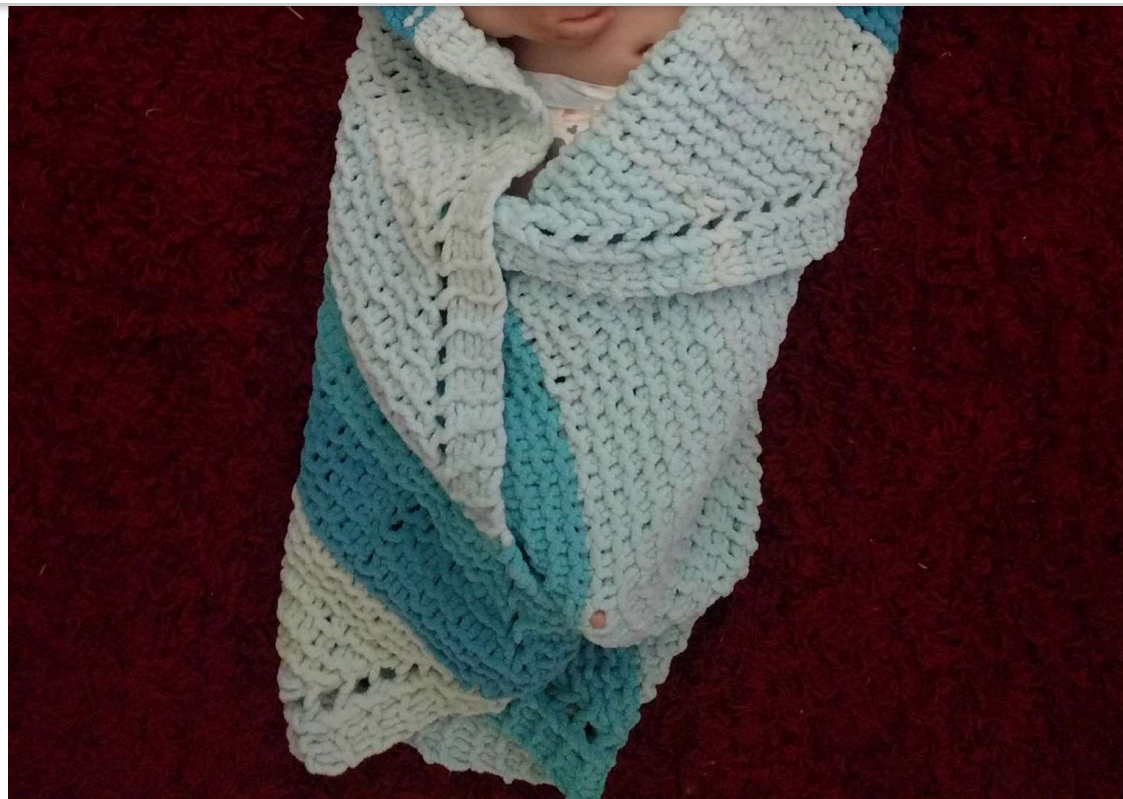
Please send your info to: coverton@runestone.org with the subject "AFA Business Directory".

Baby Blanket Project

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

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.

Have fun and please send submissions to Nate Hayden nhayden@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

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.

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.

Item of the Month

Oðinshof. The spiritual center and first Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly. Mighty. Tranquil. And wonderful. And now you can show your support for such a storied place with this excellent T-Shirt! A stunning red to match the blood of our Gods and Ancestors that flows in our veins! Comes in sizes small to XX for \$20+shipping. Get yours now!





[Shop and Help the AFA](#)

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

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

Volunteer for the AFA

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

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