March 2020 Runestone

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Your input is needed to make The Runestone a publication filled with events, photos and news. Please feel free to submit any events, news or photos (plain text with attachments) to therunestone@runestone.org.

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WORDS FROM THE ALSHERJARGOTHI
This last month I had the pleasure of attending Charming of the Plow in Washington. This was an event hosted by our Northwest Folkbuilder Joe Rozanek. Joe and all our Northwest family did an amazing job hosting this, so much so that we are going to make it a National AFA event in 2021!

It has been great to watch our AFA family Charm the Plow, across the country and around the world. So many intentions put out into the ether, so much will generated. I can't wait to see what the seeds planted will yield as the year unfolds.

As Spring moves forth and the plants begin to bloom and growth abounds, make this your year to shine like the Ostara sun! Aryan means "noble", this is certainly true, but it also implies "shining"... shining with nobility. How amazing it is to look into the faces of our AFA family and see that nobility shining from their souls. There is something truly inspirational when our folk are gathered, that nobility shines through and can lift any spirit and shine as a beacon to welcome our people home. I hope you all reading this can see this Shining Nobility of the faces in the pictures of this issue. More so, I hope that you all will come out and stand with us in that warm glow of our folk, our AFA Family.

Our next event is Ostara in the South, I would encourage you all to come on out and join us. At our national event, at home with your kindred, or in quiet solitude, I would like to wish you all the happiest and most fulfilling Ostara yet.

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

Matthew D. Flavel
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly
OSTARA IN THE SOUTH 2020

Ostara in the South is quickly approaching, March 13th-15th.

This year looks to be even larger and better than previous years. Three days and two nights spent in a lakeside resort in the beautiful Carolina woods. Cabin camping, great food, educational presentations, holy blotar, and sumbel, a galdr workshop. It doesn't get a lot better than that!

Our entire Witan will be in attendance, Steve and Sheila McNallen will be flying in from the West Coast, membership from across the country have already registered. Truly this is an event not to be missed. Our tentative event schedule is below.

OSTARA IN THE SOUTH 2020

FRIDAY:
2 PM- Greeting of the Gods(Gythia Erickson)
3 PM- Galdr: In Prayer, Ritual, and Magic (Gothi Herul)
5 PM- Supper
6:30 PM- Witan Question and Answer
9 PM- Wotan Blot (Alsherjargothi Flavel)

Saturday:
8 AM- Breakfast
9-11:30 AM- Women’s Group(Gythia Erickson)
9:30 AM- Discussion (Folkbuilder Stamm)
11:30 AM- Ostara Blot (Gythia Funk)
12:15 PM- Group Photo
12:30 PM- Lunch
1:30 PM- 25 Years of the Asatru Folk Assembly (The McNallens)
3:30 PM- Making the World (Gothi Turnage)
3:30 PM- Children’s Activities
5:00 PM-
5:00 PM- Supper
6:00 PM- Oath Ceremony
6:30 PM- Mead Competition Winner
Announcement
6:30 PM- Auction
8:00 PM- Sumble

SUNDAY:
7:00 AM- Galdr Session (Gothi Turnage)
8:00 AM- Breakfast
9:00 AM- Discussion (TBA)
10:00 AM- Wayfarer Blot (Gothi Herul)

Your registration fee covers an indoor bed space, all meals, and all rituals and presentations. A pretty good deal by any account. Beds are filling up quickly so please try to register as soon as you are able at this link https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ostara-in-the-south-2020-tickets-88910623067?utm-medium=discovery&utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&aff=esfb&utm-source=fb&utm-term=listing

Ostara In The South 2020
Join the AFA for our sixth annual Ostara in the South! We’ll have rituals, fun activities, and great food!
www.eventbrite.com

Hope to see many of you there.

Submitted by Blaine Qualls

Kindred Spotlight
In this month's Kindred Spotlight the AFA would like to recognize and honor the Volkswachstum Kindred of South Africa.

Our church is very fortunate to have all of these Kindreds all over the world. These local Congregations serve as a beacon for our folk that are looking for family. Volkswachstum Kindred is one of these groups that stepped up and took on the responsibilities of serving our people and their local communities. They host several events from pubmoots to celebrating the Holy Days.

One of the amazing things they are doing is going into the refugee camps and handing out supplies from donations and the South African relief fund.

Volkswachstum you are a Noble example of our folk and we are proud to have you as a local representative as part of our church.

Thank you so much for everything you do!
Hail Volkswachtum!
Hail the Kindreds of the AFA!
Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!

Jason Gallagher
Kindred Coordinator
Asatru Folk Assembly
kindred@runestone.org
FOLKBUUILDER UPDATES
by Folkbuilder Coordinator Marc MacLeod

The North West region is picking up steam and I’m pleased to announce our new apprentice Folkbuilder, Johnny Larson. Johnny will be working with Joe Rozanek regionally, and running the newest AFA recognized kindred, the Asco Folk Kindred.

New events, new kindreds and a new folkbuilder is bound to jump start this region, on top of the excellent job Joe has already been doing up there. Keep a eye on the NorthWest. I have a feeling we will be hearing more!!
Marc MacLeod
AFA Folkbuilder Coordinator & Witan
mmacleod@runestone.org

Day of Remembrance for Olvir of Egg
DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR OLVIR OF EGG
MARCH 9TH

Olvir of Egg was a Gothi of our ancestral ways during the reign of Olaf Tryggvason - a man wholly committed to the Ancestral ways of his people. Olvir was called before the king to explain why the ancient rites were still being held in his home district despite an edict to the contrary. He did his best to explain everything away as just a gathering of the people for camaraderie and and social drinking. Olaf let him return back to his district, but was still very suspicious of the happenings in Olvir's village.

Soon a man from Trondheim, Olvir's home area, informed the king that Olvir and others were planning a spir...
Olvir's tale is not one of joy to be sure, but it is a tale with a valuable lesson for us today. Olvir tried his best to protect his folk, ultimately it wasn't enough and he lost his life and all he loved. Today we face our own trials and while no one is hunting us down and slaughtering us for our beliefs(yet!) we still feel the need to protect our families from an ever encroaching immorality alien to our ancient ways.

So what do we do? What can we do?

Stand tall as individuals, raise our children in the elder ways, join together with others like us, build communities of true folk across all of Midgard, and most important of all...... hoist the beautiful trihorn flag of the Asatru Folk Assembly, fly it proudly so that it serves as a beacon for others of our kind seeking a home in this crazy time.

Olvir, and others like him, kept our ways alive long enough for them to be recorded so that generations later brave men and women could find it. Find it, fan the embers left for them into a blazing fire, and attract men and women like us to the fire that was Asatru. We are the recipients of something amazing, we are the recipients of our own tradition.....our own ancestral religion. Never forget the gift given us by the martyrs of our way.

Hail Olvir!!!

Gothi Blane Qualls
Asatru Folk Assembly
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Alaska and Far North
AFA members and Folkish Asatruar from all over Alaska gathered at the home and land of Gothi Steven Morrell for our Charming of the Plow celebration this year. We did something new and introduced a ritual drama to our Blot which we all agreed greatly enhanced the entire ritual experience. During Blot, the tools of our trade were blessed for the coming year’s work.

Coming out of winter, and seeing the coming of spring in the near future, everyone’s spirits were high and we enjoyed a great day together.
Eric Whisman
AFA Folkbuilder
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Deep South

The Florida folk held our Charming of the Plow this past weekend and enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship.

This was the first event for the American Crow Kindred as a fully affiliated kindred of the AFA. The clearing was alive with the songs of birds and the breeze filled the flags with life. One of our newest members, Michae Napier, was able to attend his first blót in which we made an offering to Ingui-Frey. In return we asked that he bless the tools we use to bring prosperity to our families in the coming year; as our ancestors did their plows before the ground thawed in preparation for the year's growing season.

These sacred times, when we form holy spaces to bring the Gods into our hearts, help us to live Asatru each at every day; until once again we unite in the common hamingja of the tribe to raise our voices in ritual.

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

Trent East
AFA Folkbuilder
teast@runestone.org

Midwest

Greetings from the Midwest.

We have had a very productive month with things going on in every one of our states. This is something that we want to continue to accomplish each month for our region. It is wonderful to be able to refer a new or existing member of a state to a person that is holding events in each state. It’s taken a long time to get here but it has
Indiana

Heimdalls Midgard Kindred met up for Charming of the Plow. We had a blót for the event and honored Eyvin Kinnrifi. Our new member returned and we are happy to have him. We are grow quite the family these days. I brought many of my Sagas and other books to the lunch that we had. We have been covering a history of the sagas and having commentaries on recommended books for our faith. Our next meetup will be March 29th. If you are around southern Indiana and want to attend let me know and I’ll fill you in on the details.

Ohio

Meanwhile in Ohio…. We are doing historical re-enactments.
Having fun with the last bit of Winter before welcome Spring.

Upcoming events:

March 8\textsuperscript{th} Charming of the Plow

March 28\textsuperscript{th} Northeastern Meetup

Please contact Jessica for details at jlambert@runestone.org

Illinois

Our state representative Jim had a meetup in Illinois. Not many showed up but those that did had a wonderful time. They have began to work together on a number of projects for this year. It will be interesting to see what all of this goes in the near future.
Wisconsin

On leap year day our Folk from Wisconsin got together. Our folk in Wisconsin have made a reclamation of AI Wisconsin. We are looking forward to seeing where this goes!

Michigan

An Indiana AFA member volunteered for the Viking Fire Festival in Michigan. A number of AFA members made it to the festival at different times. All have said that it was a memorable experience. Here are some pics
from the festival.
As a region we will be having our 2\textsuperscript{nd} Annual Ostara in the Midwest in Ashland, OH. This will be held over the weekend April 10-12. For more detail feel free to email me and the address below or \texttt{zcato@runestone.org}. So far overall we have had an excellent month. And we are looking forward to another awesome year in the AFA. Until next time… Hail!

Zach Cato, Heimdalls Midgard Godhi

AFA Apprentice Folkbuiler, Midwest

\texttt{HeimdallsMidgardKindred@gmail.com}
Zach Cato
Apprentice Folkbuilder
zcato@runestone.org

Northeast

AFA NORTHEAST CONFERENCE CALL

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 9, 2020. We look forward to hearing you there! Dial-in Number: (641) 715-3580 Access Code: 174-424

WOTAN ON THE PEAKS, BY ADAM HUDAK

On the 9th day of February we climbed to give Blot to the High One, our God of wisdom, our God of war, of the runes, and order. I was accompanied by Charles and Walter to a place called the Pinnacle and what a perfect name the "Pinnacle" for this moment in time and our purposes here today. A quick definition search will tell you "the most successful point, the culmination". Could that be any more perfect? And what lesson can we get from that definition? The path of Wotan, the not so easy path, leads us closer and closer to the point of evolutionary perfection, to greatness, to success, and victory over ourselves. Low nature desires and other forms of entropy leave us, our natural instincts return and we think what can we do for our folk, our descendants that they may too become something more in the ages to come.

So the question we can ask ourselves is what can we do today, this week, this month, or years to ascend closer and closer to that point or culmination, never reaching, but always striving.

Hail Our Wisdom Giver
Hail the one in the darkness giving light
Hail the God who has been known by one name never

UPDATES FROM STONESHIP HEARTH

Stoneship Hearth members gathered for a pubmoot on the 18th at Theodore's BBQ. We had a great time sharing meals and time in frith and having a good cheerful time amongst folk and family!
Mar 24 - Ostara In The North
Tue 6 PM · Brookfield, Massachusetts
Come join us celebrate Ostara in Massachusetts with The Stoneship Hearth! We will feast and give blot to Ostara and celebrate the coming of the sun and spring amongst kin in frith. This is a Potluck so bring your favorite dish the main course will be pork.

Aug 15 - Freyfaxi 2020
Sat 12 PM · Brookfield, Massachusetts
3rd Annual Freyfaxi in Massachusetts! Celebrate Freyfaxi with The Stoneship Hearth here in Brookfield, Massachusetts. We will be sharing the Harvest among the kin and sharing in frith and giving blot to the mighty Frey. This will be a potluck so bring your favorite dish the main course will be my famous Apple baked pork shoulder. Stay tuned as we get closer for a more detailed itinerary.

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**UPDATES FROM LANDSALE TRU FOLK**

Lansdale Tru Folk will be celebrating Thorrablot on February 1st when this issue is going to your mailboxes.

Coming up we have a hikemoot at noon on March 7 in beautiful Evansburg State Park, Pennsylvania! This is open to non-AFA members who are interested in learning more about the faith and taking in a great hike. Evansburg State Park is a beautiful forest with easy to medium in difficulty hiking trails nestled in the Suburbs of Montgomery County. After the hike, we will meet at Lansdale Tavern for lunch!

Meet At Evansburg State Park, enter through the main entrance of the park on Mill Road. Make a left on to May Hall Road. Turn RIGHT at Pavilion A. Park near the parking circle!

On March 21, we will gather for Ostara in Lansdale on March 21 at 2 pm. Then on May 2, we will gather for Sumarsdag in Lansdale. Please contact Clifford or Catie if you are interested in attending!

Ves Heill!
February was a very productive and busy month for us in Minnesota.

We had several events starting with our fourth annual Folkish Family Charming Of The Plow led by AFA Gythia Anna Mae Funk. Additionally, we had the monthly meet and greet where we met some new folks and had lots of laughs. And we finished the month off with the monthly book study on "Culture of the Teutons."

Looking forward to Ostara and all the other upcoming events. More events will be posted soon and the first hike and greet event of the season. We are also looking forward to Ryan Hanson’s annual tree planting day up
North, more details coming soon.

In other parts of the Northern Plains region we have a group of AFA members in the Omaha, Nebraska area that have really been working hard and laying down a foundation. They have hosted several book studies, meet ups and a Yule event back in December that had a decent turnout. If you are interested in attending events please email me or message on Facebook.

jgallagher@runestone.org

Northern Blood Kindred Monthly group schedule
3/7 Folkish Family Monthly Crafting Day Bloomington, MN 2-5 pm
3/21 Fourth Annual Folkish Family Ostara Celebration Bloomington, MN 3-6 pm
3/28 Folkish Family Monthly meet and greet Sammys pizza Duluth, MN 2-5 pm
4/4 Folkish Family field-trip to the Museum of Russian Art Minneapolis, MN 12-4 pm
4/19 Folkish Family Monthly Book study Bloomington, MN 2-5 pm
Northwest
Hails from the Pacific Northwest!

Many of us are recently returned from an epic Charming of the Plow gathering and weekend outside beautiful scenic Leavenworth, Washington.

We gathered to celebrate this sacred time, and to fellowship with our folk, and give offering unto Our Folk, Our Gods, and the AFA - to bless our tools and ourselves for this coming year.

We were joined by special guests Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel, Steve and Sheila McNallen, and AFA members from all over, including from Canada and Arizona for a full weekend of festive activities, ritual, lectures, discussion, and fellowship, not to mention an evening on the town in beautiful Leavenworth!
Those in attendance experienced a fascinating discussion on the runes with Steven McNallen, as well as presentations by Blake Wilkens and Elwynn Herman, not to mention the annual axe-throwing contest!
The highlight of the weekend by consensus, though, was the torchlight Odin Blot led by Matt Flavel. Under the crisp Washington skies, our voices were raised and offerings given for Our Folk, Our Gods, and the AFA.

Be sure to join us next year - it will be bigger and better, and be certain to be an event you do not want to miss
Folk History: Earliest Norwegian Law

From the ‘scarce’ book, “Earliest Norwegian law”, we see how personal rights were upheld prior to the coming of Christianity.

Men and women began to build homes in Norway three thousand years or more before the Christian era. Sometime in the later Stone Age, Germanic tribesmen began to move northward along the southwestern coast of Sweden and were soon finding their way into the lowland region around the Oslo Fjord and into neighboring valleys inland. There may have been people on the west coast already when the Teutonic race came to what was to become Norway, however, the Germanic thought, culture and civilization have dominated life in the North; as long as the Teutonic race has dwelt in the land. Most men have within them a strong urge to be with and among those of their own kind. Fylki or shire came into being to form primal units like the herad that has a military significance, the Fylki is the folk in a warlike array.

When the Norwegian monarchy was formed toward the end of the ninth century there were about thirty shires along the North Way, each saw themselves as a small state with autonomy. I Some of these freemen recognize the authority of a chieftain who might be called a Jarl. He was no doubt a leader, rather than a lord; especially he was expected to lead the men of the fylki on the battlefield and to represent the folk in their bargaining with the divine powers.

He was not however, entrusted with sovereign power, sovereignty, if that term can be applied to the political arrangements of Teutonic times, was held and exercised by the public assembly in which practically all the farmers held membership.

It is quite clear that these shires were built on a geographical basis, as for instance Firdafylkiki (the Firth fylki and Sygnafylkki,(the Sogn fylki) of which the latter derives its name from the great fjord.

Next in order of time the Gulathinglaw in the southwest and the Frostathinglaw with the center of gravity in the ancient Trondelaw. These are both credited by Snorre Sturluson to be the statesmanship of Hakon the Good, whose dates are generally given as 935-61, however with the Gulathinglaw it may be even older. There is much confusion about dates after King Olaf changed much of the traditional pagan history.
Here are some examples from the Law of Personal Rights:

1. Concerning murder in a crowd and improper resistance; There is this to say further, that if a man is slain in a crowd, it is well if he be revenged. But if he the slayer escapes int the wood, all shall join the hue and cry and n one shall hinder the pursuit. And if men who offer such hindrance shall be stricken down they fall as outlaws, but their property is not outlawed. Though they do not fall, they shall, nevertheless, pay a fine of forty marks t the king for breaking the peace.

2. Concerning manslaying in a gang fight; it is called a gang when men are together to the number five at the fewest. If four men are traveling the highway together and one of them attacks a comrade and becomes his banesman, the one who is alone in the lawsuit shall be counted the banesman. If a thrall is on the journey with them, he shall be counted the banesman, if they choose to accuse him. Again, if it is this way, that three men a traveling the highway together and one slays another and two survive and each accuse the other, they are both counted banesmen. But if one appears at the thing and the other does not, he is the banesman who avoids the thing.

Again, if it is this way, that two men meet at a crossroads and the one becomes the other man’s bane, and if thi one is still able to speak when men come to him, then the one whom he accuses shall be counted the banesman unless he finds help in the ordeal. Now if another man reports the slaying as his own deed, they shall both be counted banesmen even if the corpse shows but one wound. If a man wishes to report a slaying in the proper way, he shall go from the place where the deed was done in whatever direction he likes and report the slaying the nearest house, unless there be found inside near kinsmen of the slain man, either on his father’s side or on his mother’s side, or near relations by marriage. If such there be in that house he shall go on past and report th deed at the next house, unless the same difficulty is met with there, then let him go to the next house the third house, and report the slaying there, no matter whom he finds within. Let him tell where he lodged the night before.

Witness to such a report shall be presented a the arrow thing, one man’s testimony shall be sufficient and he may also bring a statement from his household. No one shall be accused of being a confederate or instigator unless his name was sent forth with the arrow and he is formally charged at the thing.

3. Concerning gang fighting; It is called gang fighting when men go at each other in two bands and proceed to fight. Those who provoke the fight shall pay a fine of forty marks, while those who defend themselves shall pay nothing, if the facts are known to witnesses. But if both sides are stubborn and neither band will admit having begun the fight, they shall pay the weregeld to the kinsmen of those who are slain and each band shall pay fort marks to the king.

4 Weregeld system; The first baug in the weregeld is called the head baug, it amounts to ten marks, (the value of thirty two cows), if the man who is slain was born to Odal right. The man fines increase or decrease in the
amount form this point just as the other atonements do. If there is no son the father takes the head baug if both are living the father takes three marks, if he is no longer able to fight the slayer owes him twelve oras. But if the slayer is outlawed, there are not atonements; when the slayer dies his heir assumes the responsibility for the að (duty to pay the weregeld). The whole family of the slayer paid the baug in accordance to closeness of kin to the slayer. There were the brother baug, cousin baug etc.

Gothi Thorgrun Odden
Asatru Folk Assembly
todden@runestone.org

Circle of Eir
Eir's Blessings!

Everybody needs a little extra help sometimes. Everybody does, too.

Women, being the frith-y creatures that we are, are uniquely suited to the task of manipulating energy for the purpose of healing. Magic, you could say.

Do you have a health concern and need a little extra energy? Are you battling with a mental illness like depression or PTSD? Is your baby having a hard time with teething?

If you've answered yes at all, reach out to us!

Once a month women of the AFA will get together to perform healing rituals all across the globe. If you would like to be included, please send a message to let us know!

At the same time, Women of the AFA! If you are interested helping to create a frithful, healing magic, let us know! It's easy, but it makes a huge difference to those of our community that need our help!

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

Our next healing ritual will be on Thursday, March 19th, 2020.

In Frith!

Catie
Call for Submissions

Seeking Submissions!

Ladies of the AFA: We're gearing up for our next round of the Frith Weavers email and we can't do it without you! Please consider writing a small article for our ladies! We need:

- Recipes

- Health and wellness (workouts, healthy living, etc)

- Spirituality (pieces on runes, gods, etc)

- Child raising
- Homesteading (canning, gardening, etc)

- And anything else you think our women might like to learn from you!

Please send submissions to frithweavers@runestone.org by March 6th, 2020!

Thank you to everyone!

Let's make this rock!

Additionally, If you would like to subscribe to the Frith Weavers monthly newsletter, please email us at frithweavers@runestone.org.

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**Call for Photo Donations**

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

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**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!
people, it's so rewarding to see your hard work being loved by our little heavens.

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 - kni 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.

Asatru Folk Assembly Calendar of Holy and Remembrance Days

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<td>February 17</td>
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<td>December 20-31</td>
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Volunteer for the AFA

Want to volunteer for the AFA? [Join us on facebook](https://www.facebook.com) or contact your Folkbuilder.