In February we Charmed the Plow. February was the start of our yearly cycle of productivity, time for dreaming is over, time for breaking ground has come.

Speaking of groundbreaking, February saw our first Charming of the Plow in the Northwest as a national event. Congratulations to Folkbuilder Joe Rozanek and his apprentices, Connor Norris and Mason Johnson, for putting on a spectacular event. I was fortunate enough to attend this stellar event and it was a great time with great people. The house we rented was probably the “nicest” we have ever held an event at and we look forward to coming back to celebrate next year!

February also saw the AFA continue to grow. I would like to welcome the
Vedrfolnir Clan of Wisconsin as the AFA’s newest kindred!

March is upon us! This month we celebrate Spring and our great dawn Goddess Ostara. As Midgarðr awakens from winter, so too do we get moving and shaking on our plans and work for the year. Let’s all make sure 2021 meets our expectations and then goes on to surpass them.

I hope you are all able to make it to Ostara in the South at Þórshof and our Baldrshof dedication.

Hail Ostara!

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

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

Day of Remembrance

Gythia Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Observance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong</td>
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<td>January 23</td>
<td>Porrablót</td>
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<td>February 9</td>
<td>Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi</td>
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<td>February 20</td>
<td>Charming of the Plow</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Day of Remembrance for Olvir of Egg</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
<td>Ostara</td>
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<td>April 9</td>
<td>Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon</td>
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<td>April 17</td>
<td>Hexennacht</td>
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<td>May 9</td>
<td>Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
<td>May Day</td>
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<td>June 9</td>
<td>Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric of the Goths</td>
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<td>June 20</td>
<td>Midsummer</td>
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<td>July 1</td>
<td>Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills</td>
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<td>July 17</td>
<td>Sigrblót</td>
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<td>August 9</td>
<td>Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia</td>
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<td>August 21</td>
<td>Freyfaxi</td>
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<td>September 9</td>
<td>Day of Remembrance for Prince Hermann of the Cherusci</td>
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<td>September 22</td>
<td>Winter Finding</td>
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<td>October 9</td>
<td>Day of Remembrance for Meister Guido von List</td>
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<td>October 15</td>
<td>Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen</td>
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<td>October 16</td>
<td>Winter Nights</td>
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<td>November 9</td>
<td>Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigrið of Sweden</td>
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<td>November 11</td>
<td>Feast of the Einherjar</td>
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<td>December 9</td>
<td>Day of Remembrance for Egill Skallagrimsson</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 20</td>
<td>Mother's Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 21-31</td>
<td>Yuletide</td>
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This went far beyond our expectations and guaranteed a spot as one of our annual national AFA events. It was a shining weekend for our leadership and AFA family with many prospective members. This featured three unique blots to Odin, Gefjon, and Ullr at a gorgeous lodge at the eastern edge of the mighty Cascade range.

Our featured speakers were Brandy Callahan and Stephen McNallen. Both addressed the spiritual challenges we face and how to maintain our resolve, composure, and trust in ourselves as noble people. Our Alsherjargothi, Matt Flavel, set a tone of strength, power, and passion with his Odin Blot on Friday night. Joe Rozanek's Ullr Blot on Sunday morning sent a clear message to awaken and empower our Folk.
Physical feats like wrestling, ax-throwing, and archery took place among the patches of snow. Some folks dipped in the hot tub while all enjoyed the traditional fireplace, just one of many conversation areas. It was so comfortable that many chose to not make the trip up-country to Leavenworth, known for its German ambiance. Leavenworth is lovely at night and will always be offered as a side-trip.

As for the cooks, we were given a dream-kitchen in which to prepare fabulous meals, besides being the hub of the whole lodge.

In the end, fund-raising was an essential part of this weekend. Apprentice Folkbuilder Conner Norris stepped up as an auctioneer and found his true calling. After a delightful hour of successful bidding, we found ourselves well-funded to pay our bills and set up next year's event.

A huge thanks go out to our regional Folkbuilders: Joe Rozanek, Conner Norris, and Mason Johnson, as well as Gythia Sheila McNallen.

In light of this being "Charming of the Plow," the Goddess Gefjon's name means "to give", related to Gebo. We benefited from the generosity of our Folk who did not let us down. The exchange of energy all weekend was palpable. All gave; all received. Hail the Folk!
Upcoming National Events

There is so much going on around the country right now in spite of various obstacles. Please contact your favorite Folkbuilder or Goifar if you are interested in attending the events below. The way to get the most out of your membership in the Asatru Folk Assembly is in person with your Folk!

March 12 - 14
Ostara at Þórshof 2021
North Carolina
https://ostara2021.eventbrite.com

May 7 - 9
Midwest Remembrance of Else Christiansen
Wisconsin
https://rememberelse.eventbrite.com/
Password: hailelse

May 13 - 16
Ladies Hot Springs Getaway
Arkansas
https://afahotsprings.eventbrite.com
June 11 - 13
Midsummer at Óðinshof
California

October 15 - 17
Winter Nights in the Poconos
Pennsylvania

AFA Ladies Retreat

Calling all ladies of the AFA and vouched for female guests!

This is our first ever AFA Ladies Retreat! We will be gathering together under one roof for 4 days and 3 nights in beautiful historic Hot Springs Arkansas! Home of the natural healing hot water springs!

This is an all-inclusive event! Meals and accommodations included in registration.

We will be joined by Gythia Ann Mae as we spend the time getting to know each other and building the bonds of friendship needed to grow in our faith together. It is going to be an amazing and life-changing weekend!

Don't wait to register ladies! Time is running out! This event has limited spaces available. Come join your sisters May 13th-16th 2021!

May 13 - 16
Ladies Hot Springs Getaway
Arkansas
https://afahotsprings.eventbrite.com

Be a Doer
We need you to volunteer for the AFA!

Yes, you. We have work to do and need folk who are artists, editors, writers, accountants, lawyers, publicists, reputation managers, professionals of all manner, technical support, web developers, system admins, tradesmen, craftswomen, and more. See the list of amazing projects we have below. We will find a way for you to help our Folk.

Please email volunteer@runestone.org to help us make a difference in our world.

Baby Blanket Project

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 handmade — knit, crocheted, or woven — baby blanket! It’s just our little way of celebrating each new addition to our folk!

This project has been going strong for nearly a year now, and 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 who is expecting a baby, please let your Folkbuilder know so we can get a blanket to you. If you would like to contribute, either financially or by volunteering as a baby blanket crafter, let your Folkbuilder know about that as well, so he can get you in touch with the right people. It’s so rewarding to see your handicraft being loved by our little heathens!

Would you like a blanket for your newborn, or to donate and help with yarn costs (yarn is expensive!)? Please email babyblanket@runestone.org today!
Youth Program

The AFA Youth Program is now halfway through a very successful year! We had high hopes when this program started in January and the kids have surpassed all of our expectations and goals. Our youth have been working on monthly assignments and fun projects centered around Lore, Days of Remembrance, Holidays, AFA Culture, and monthly themes based on the Nine Noble Virtues.

Registration for the Youth Program is open year-round and open to youth ages 6 to 18. Our program is currently e-mail based. Parents receive their assignments through e-mail on the first of each month. The Youth Program is free and open to all of our AFA families!

If you are interested in registering your child for the AFA Youth Program, send an e-mail to youth@runestone.org to get started.

Pen Pal Group

Did you know the AFA has a Pen Pal group?

This group is for folks who still love the fading art of writing a letter.

If you would like to participate in this amazing endeavor and connect with different people from all across the world, please send an email to penpal@runestone.org with your name and address, and we will get you set up with a pen pal for correspondence.

Folk Services

For some, it may be a natural disaster. For others an unexpected change in health, and for some just an unforeseen chain of events. Whatever the case may be sometimes we
find ourselves in a sticky situation, and although we try and to work and do our best to pull ourselves out, sometimes we may need the help of our Folk community to give us a hand up...

That's when our folks Services Program comes in. We give one-time monetary grants to those members in need. These folks are so grateful and we know that once they get back on track they will contribute to this fund. For those that are able, we are in need of funds so we can be prepared for when these situations arise in our community. If you're able please place a donation today. Even a small donation adds up in the grand scheme of things and even $5 or $10 can help if enough people pitch in. If even a fraction of the folks who like the page did that each month, imagine the possibilities!

AFA Folk Services is intended to provide modest, one-time monetary grants to 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, please email folkservices@runestone.org.

Your contributions are earnestly solicited and of course, are tax-deductible! Please donate to Folk Services or one of our other AFA Fundraisers at http://www.runestone.org/donate/.

Thanks in advance!

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**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 more please email them to the AFA at photos@runestone.org. The larger the resolution the better, so please email them from the device where the photo was taken.
Eir's Blessings

Everybody needs a little extra help sometimes. Women, being the frithy 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 in helping to create a frithful, healing magic, let us know! It's easy, but it makes a huge difference to those in our community who need our help!

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

Last Will and Testament

Recently, several members of our AFA family have passed beyond the veil. One was an old man in ill health, two were young men in the prime of life... all died with no legal will on record. Sadly, in two of these cases, our dead AFA members did not have their wishes respected regarding their funerals nor the final resting places of their remains.

We never know when tragedy will strike. We have a responsibility to our loved ones, we have a responsibility to our own legacies, to plan for our passing, and to make our wishes known. Planning for and contemplating our death is uncomfortable. Hopefully, we all have plenty of time for that down the road, but we can't count on that.
we worry about expenses or hiring a lawyer. We all have excuses to put things off until later, unfortunately, sometimes the clock runs out before "later" happens.

We have found an amazing resource for our U.S. members to make legally binding wills in minutes online for free. This site also has resources to make Advanced Medical Directives and Powers of Attorney. It takes only minutes at https://www.doyourownwill.com/.

Please make your will today.

The AFA would like to collect signed original copies of wills for all our members and store them. We want to ensure that when members of our AFA family die, their wishes are honored. Please send these to:

Allen Turnage
PO Box 16027
Tallahassee FL, 32317

Alaska

Folkbuilder Eric Whisman
ewhisman@runestone.org
Charming of the Plow 2021 at Odinshof still had a winter chill as people gathered outdoors for the start of our event. We welcomed many new members, as well as our regular crowd, plus a few guests from the Brownsville community. The Flavels were unable to make the trip from Nevada because of snow over the pass, so Gythia Sheila McNallen led everyone in our Greeting to the Gods welcoming ritual.

Later that evening, after dinner, Sheila also performed our blot to the Goddess Gefjon. A blazing bonfire and torches warmed us as we chanted three runes (Ingwaz, Uruz, Mannaz) while putting our “might and main and troth” from heart-to-hand, into a horn of mead given to the Goddess. A loaf of bread embellished with the Ingwaz rune - made by Milena - was offered into the fire. Goddess Gefjon's gifts to us in return were conveyed by the sprinkling of glacial water from far-away Iceland. We received her blessings for strength through our challenges, with attention to the things we needed to accomplish our goals and create wholeness in each one of us. Our speakers for the event included our Founder, Stephen McNallen, who gathered folks indoors for “Deep Runes – Not Just Another Rune Talk,” sharing his insights and important rune resources. Stephen Ingle, our accomplished genealogist, touched on the broad nature of family-tree research and also went into detail about DNA results and how they show our kinship with each other.

Our meals were marvelous, as always, and our folk contributed to our hof-fund through a 50/50 raffle. Gythia McNallen described the many projects that are underway, and opportunities for our members to play a major role – especially in helping with our premier national event this coming Midsummer, June 12-14. The night closed with a Sumbel, especially touching our hearts when Victor went to each person in the circle
and offered his own personal toast to them. Two of our very young girls also made sweet, sincere toasts, bringing smiles to us all.
Yuba-Sutter/USDA Food Bank ends – with good things to come!

Every month, the administrators of the Yuba-Sutter Food Bank have altered our times, dates, or procedures for doing distribution from our hof. It had become routine -- and tiresome. The biggest change came last week with the decision of their Board of Directors to move the Brownsville Food Bank to a central location in town, rather than use Odinshof. It was a shock to us but, we adapted quickly.

Today was our last day serving the community in this manner. As we filled cars with boxes of food for hungry families, we announced to each client that we’re not going away - and that, in fact, we will be hosting our own Odinshof Food Pantry! We’ll also be participating in community projects as much as we can, like the Ponderosa Park clean-up that Hagvirkr Folk Kindred did just last weekend. That was well-received, with so many words of appreciation for our work.

One of our volunteers today was a local lady, Trish, who has helped us numerous times by bringing Boy Scouts to complete their service requirements. Trish is one of our staunchest advocates. Her comment today was that “no group has done more positive good for the community” than our church!

As for other needs locals might have, she pointed out that our place would be perfect for young scouts to gather around a campfire, as in the old “pre-Covid” days. That ties into our values just fine. Obviously, this would be around the “social fire,” and not in our sacred ritual area. Our positive influence and reputation are growing through our good deeds. I handed out business cards today with my contact information about our
Odinshof Food Pantry, with the tag-line: “Serving the Brownsville community with love.”

UPCOMING EVENTS at Odinshof Open to all AFA members! Flyers will be sent in advance. Make sure your email is current. For more information, write to sheila@runestone.org

March 20, OSTARA
April 17, HEXENNACHT
May 15, MAYDAY
June 11-13, MIDSUMMER

James Secola
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jsecola@runestone.org

Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan
rharlan@runestone.org

Folkbuilder Krystal Bailey
kbailey@runestone.org

Gothi Thorgrun Odden
todden@runestone.org
Gythia Sheila McNallen  
sheila@runestone.org

Colorado

Andrew Johnston  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
ajohnston@runestone.org

Folkbuilder Jason Plourde  
jplourde@runestone.org

Nevada

Matthew D. Flavel
Oceania

Tij Rudd
Apprentice Folkbuilder
trudd@runestone.org

Oregon

Hails! Our first AFA National Leavenworth event “Charming of the plow” was a great success! Shelia McNallen wrote up a nice summary of our event this year so I will direct your attention to her article for a description of the weekend, but I am sure that I am not alone in saying that we are all looking forward to next year. This upcoming month of March brings us Ostara and there will be celebrations all around the NW with special attention given to the one in Couer d’ Alene on the weekend of the 20th, I hope to see you there!

Folkbuilder Joe Rozanek
jrozanek@runestone.org
This month we returned to weekly kindred gatherings that consist of Boxing/Grappling, Weight training, Lore Study, Feast, and frith. This month we welcomed 3 new members to the AFA in WA and all three have become fast friends who regularly attend kindred gatherings. We have maintained our Asatru "iron club" with the bulk of our members consistently meeting up for general weight lifting and lore study three times a week. We also had the pleasure of joining many other folks from all around the PNW for Charming of the plow hosted by Joe Rozanek our region's folk builder and a great friend of all of ours. This event was fantastic and hands down the most involved and well-organized event I have ever had the pleasure of attending. We had a most powerful blot to Allfather Odin lead by AlsherjarGothi Matt Flavel, a beautiful blot to Gefjon lead by Gythia Sheila McNallen, and the weekend was closed up with a fantastic blot to Ullr lead by Joe Rozanek himself which was met with light snow and Hearty farewells. All in all, February was a powerful month for the AFA in WA and we look forward to what the rest of the year may bring.
Mason Johnson
Apprentice Folkbuilder
mjjohnson@runestone.org

Connor Norris
Apprentice Folkbuilder
cnorris@runestone.org

Pórshof
Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Alabama

Folkbuilder Trent East
teast@runestone.org
The American Crow Kindred's Charming of the Plow in Florida honored Frigga, foremost of the Dis and splendid in all ways. We made our offerings to Hlöðyn-Frigga and asked that she bless the implements with which we secure the means to support our families that they may continue to bring us prosperity in the coming year.

We shared a meal together and discussed our plans for attending Ostara in the South at Dórshof. Before leaving for the day we held a drawing to win the 2021 AFA Calendar.

Lane Ashby
Apprentice Folkbuilder
lashby@runestone.org
Indiana

This month Heimdall's Midgard gathered for a weekend at a cabin. This is the second time we've attended this particular location. It's a beautiful spot and we're looking forward to seeing the place once nature is in bloom.

Our weekend was filled with lots of wonderful food and lively discussion. We played cards, worked on German vocabulary, honored Eyvind Kinnrifi, and celebrated Charming of the Plow in our area with blót and frith.
Our Kindred will be resuming our normal tent camping in March. We have these on the last weekend of each month. If you are nearby and would like to attend please feel free to contact me. We have presentations, food, and blót at each get meeting. Until next time...
Italy

Francesco Morese
Apprentice Folkbuilder
fmorese@runestone.org

New England

George J. Schindler III
Apprentice Folkbuilder
gschindler@runestone.org

Norway
Ohio

Sunday, February 21st several members and prospective members met in Pittsburgh at the Hofbräuhaus for an afternoon of German food, Bier, and Frith. We had people attend all the way from West Virginia, Northeast Ohio, Southeast Ohio, and right in the Pittsburgh area. It is very rewarding for me to meet new Folk face to face and hearing that our activity out of the Midwest region is motivating more members and members-to-be to participate.

If you have been nervous to come out, notice the smiles on all our faces and we have our families with us, there is nothing to worry about and I will never ask anyone to be in a picture they don’t want to be in if that is your wish. I would like to remind everyone to contact me, your local Folkbuilder, or any of your Godar if you are having issues in your life, questions, comments, concerns, ANYTHING, we are here for You.

Please join me, my family, and many of your Folk 1:00 pm Sunday, March 28th at the Cock and Bull Pub in Covington, Kentucky and hope to meet as many of you as I can at Ostara at Thorshof in North Carolina.
Pennsylvania

The month of February in the Northeast did not disappoint. First up was a Wotan on the Peaks hike in Jim Thorpe, PA. That particular weekend heading into it we all kept our eyes on the forecast. There was more snow expected and it did come! Yet with a little Aryan determination and luck, we all made it safely to the trail. As we made our ascent along the waterfalls it was certainly a little slippery. The snow was packed down with
ice on top and some pretty steep sections but, we all worked together helping each other out. For me personally, that was one of the highlights of the day. Not often enough elsewhere do we see that type of teamwork. We did what one could not do alone. The most special moment though had to be that one of our member's daughters made the climb that day. She never gave up and pushed on with the men. Quite the feat for a teenager. From what I was told for days afterward she had a different type of glow about her. This is what it's all about and what an accomplishment on her part. Well done again! When we made it to the top we prepared our sacred space to honor the One who can do it all, Wotan. For some this was their first ritual. It seemed fitting that we so happened to choose a ritual written by Stephen McNallen. One of the first to bring us Asatru that we see today and of course the one who brought us the AFA. It was a powerful rite. Allfather heard his children calling to him in the cold heights of the forest that day. With a renewed feeling of purpose, we made our way down. I want to thank everyone who made the trip that day. It's great to see after some time and much effort how much these hikes have grown.
Second up was Charming of the Plow in Lansdale. For me personally, this is one of my favorite Holy Days. Taking time to think about what goals we plan to accomplish and mapping out a plan to do it. With pent-up energy from a few slow, cold months it's soon time to release it into the world just as Gerda will do soon. We all arrived and caught up with each other. Being with your AFA family the time certainly goes quickly but, yet it never feels that way. Gythia Erickson lead us in blot that night. We honored the Gods Freyr, Gefjon, and Gerda as the men chanted Uruz and the ladies Berkano. A special ritual indeed and with that it was soon time to eat. There was much to choose from and we all enjoyed what was prepared for us. The night was getting late and we set out to close it with sumbel. For me and I know other members of the Lansdale Tru Folk this is when it hit us how large we have grown. Standing room only for some. That is a great problem (if we want to call it that) to have. Myself being a newer member of the kindred I often wonder the feeling of accomplishment that the Erickson's or anyone else involved longer than myself must feel in this regard. Hard work and selfless action to their Folk for all those years accumulated to what we saw that night. I have somewhat of an idea but, I definitely know nothing of value comes easily. If it does it probably has little value. The Lansdale Tru Folk realized that and did what had to be done. Thank you for your efforts. We are all truly grateful. I look forward to seeing you all again soon.
Coming up:

Ostara in Lansdale, March 20th, 3:00 pm
LTF Hike and Pub Moot, March 27th, 1:00 pm

Folkbuilder Adam Hudak
ahudak@runestone.org

Gythia Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org
Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

South Africa

Etienne Louw
Apprentice Folkbuilder
elouw@runestone.org

South Carolina

Heather Young
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Folkbuilder Daniel Young
dyoung@runestone.org

Sweden

Folkbuilder Anders Nilsson
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Virginia

Jacob Wells
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Cody Raynard
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Folkbuilder Rob Stamm
rstamm@runestone.org

Witan Svan Herul
sherul@runestone.org
West Virginia

Patrick Cook
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Baldrshof
Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Illinois

James Cummings
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jcummings@runestone.org

Louisiana

Michael Foley
Apprentice Folkbuilder
mfoley@runestone.org
Minnesota

Nathan Erlandson
Apprentice Folkbuilder
nerlandson@runestone.org

Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher
jgallagher@runestone.org

Gythia Anna Szczepanski
aszczepanski@runestone.org
Missouri

Hello from the Folk down in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas; February saw our Folk grow by 4 feet!
Welcome to the AFA family Freyja Ophelia Tannehill, daughter of Lane Tannehill from Oklahoma.
And welcome also, Olivia Ann Marie Wilson; daughter of Randie Wilson, granddaughter of Lutisha & JR Wilson of Missouri.

We, like many in the states, experienced the crazy and arctic-like weather this February! Brrrr! We are happy to be headed back towards warmer days and The celebration of the coming planting season! We gathered this last weekend for feasting and frith and enjoyed meeting one of our youngest new addition, Olivia. She never lacked for arms to hold her and folk to love on her.
Charming of the plow saw new and familiar faces this year. All left having experienced that which only comes from our own Folk when gathered in frith and celebration to our ancestors and Gods, the knowing that we are one people, one family. We offered the best of ourselves and requested the blessings to ensure a plentiful harvest both in the fields and in our lives as we planted the seeds of intention for the rest of the year.

Sumbel saw us all gathered around the table and bathed in the light of candles as we shared the ritual toasting. Sumbel is one of the best and fastest ways to learn about those you are with. And I can tell you that we were all seated around that table with some of the best our Folk has to offer. It makes us all look forward to our future together with enthusiasm and expectation. Each one of us brings something to the table. And every bit of greatness in the individual next to us fuels the greatness to rise within us. It is a contagious thing. And the better, stronger, and more resilient the individual, the Greater the tribe. This is why gathering together as often as we can is so vital to our futures. And to the futures of our children.

![Image of a group of people holding a banner]

We hope you all have made it through the winter with an eye to the spring, the things to come, and all you will bring to fruition this year! Surrounded by those who make you smile and gladly press on to the future with hope in your heart and a smile on your face!

Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

mmills@runestone.org
North Dakota

Folkbuilder Brandy Callahan

bcallahan@runestone.org

Ontario
The AFA members of Ontario recently held a meet and greet.

Although Ontario is a huge area, coming together in Frith is extremely important to build bonds for the future of our Folk. If you are in the Ontario area, want to get together with others in the AFA, or want more information about future events, please contact James Ault.

James Ault
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jault@runestone.org

Texas
February brought some unusual weather for the south, specifically Texas with our Snowmeggeden! Unfortunately, we had to cancel one event that was scheduled for the 13 Feb due to inclement weather. Our folk definitely went through some trials and tribulations from that, but we stand on top once again and ready to gather.

We ended the month with our Charming of the Plow celebration in Texas. We gathered at my home in Schertz, where Gothi Kevin Long honored Freyja and Freyr in a beautiful blot, honoring the inception of a new and prosperous fertile ground in the coming season. We planted a beautiful Peace Lily in honor of the event.

Hopefully, many of our folks in the south will be able to make it up to Baldurshof for the dedication ceremony on the 27th of March.

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Wisconsin

Greetings. As we continue our focus on building families, we have seen an amazing time of growth among the Folk of Wisconsin. Our monthly meet and greet are always held on the last Sunday of the month. We move these around the state each month to allow for more people to be able to meet each other. February's meet was held at a bowling alley in Port Washington. Fun and shenanigans were had by all in attendance. Many of our Wisconsin members will be heading to Ostara in the South and various other AFA events in March. For more information on future events contact James Ault.

February also saw the announcement that the Vedrfolnir Clan of Wisconsin had become an official Kindred of the Asatru Folk Assembly. It was very fitting that a baby-naming
was our first official gathering. We were very thankful that Gythia Anna and Folkbuilder Jason P. from Minnesota were able to attend and share in Frith.

Beyond the monthly meet and greet on the last Sunday of the month, Wisconsin has many other opportunities to get together and meet the Folk. We participate in Odin's World Prayer Day on the 9th of the month, Wotan on the Peak, crafting days, and various other opportunities to build Frith among our Wisconsin Folk. So many exciting things going on within our State, I encourage you to come and be part of that growth.

In keeping with our focus on family, we have moved the Moots away from bars and restaurants, choosing instead family-friendly outings, learning experiences, and team bonding type activities. Everything from bowling, ice skating, and zip-lining, to escape rooms, murder mysteries, and museums. We encourage members to bring spouses, significant others, and especially their children. We are the future ancestors.
Coming up in May, Wisconsin will host the Midwest Regional Event. This event will honor the Folk Mother, Else Christensen. For more information about this event, contact James Ault or your local Folkbuilder.

As events are set up they will be shared on social media or through email, text, and phone calls. Anyone interested in getting involved with the AFA in Wisconsin, please feel free to contact me.

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