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Words from the Alsherjargothi



In July we celebrated Victory. Around the world and across the country we held Sigrblót, in our kindreds, at our Hofs, with our families. The AFA has been blessed with so much victory recently and a big part of that is increased interest from the world around us. July saw several interviews from at least 4 different media outlets. We realize that the Fake News Media will often look to attack us, what was really nice though, was that one interviewer gave us a fantastic and fair interview! In all cases, there are many of our folk without who now know the AFA exists and thrives! I want to give a heartfelt thank you to Reverend Jack Ashcraft and Expedition Truth for their excellent interview.

As we move into August, let's begin to appreciate the ripening of all our hard work. I have seen so many AFA members, especially this year, work hard on building themselves and their families. I have also seen a tremendous outpouring of generosity towards our AFA. Let's take the time to appreciate that and to share that positivity with each other.

The Mission to Establish Njörðshof

"The third among the Æsir is he that is called Njörðr: he dwells in heaven, in the abode called Nóatún. He rules the course of the wind, and stills sea and fire; on him shall men call for voyages and for hunting. He is so prosperous and abounding in wealth, that he may give them great plenty of lands or of gear; and him shall men invoke for such things."



[Njörðshof Fundraiser – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)

Njörðr shall have his hof and our AFA Family shall make this happen. The road to Njörðshof begins today and has 3 phases:

1. We must pay off the remaining loan amount for our previous 2 hofs: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED! (pay off check will be in the mail Monday!)
2. We increase or Maintain our average monthly income (including this fundraiser!): We have met the Goal, now we MUST maintain it!
3. We locate a property and secure funding and any necessary down-payment: We have compiled a list of counties in order of best to less best. We have secured lending for \$20,000 (not enough...but possibly enough for nonpayment.) We have a list of Real Estate Agents to begin contacting next week.

I will adjust these numbers and update you all on progress as it happens. Your generosity is Astounding and ALWAYS appreciated.

HAIL NJÖRÐR!



Matthew D. Flavel
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly
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FallFest VI



[FallFest VI – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](https://runestone.org)

Please join us Labor Day weekend 2021, September 3rd-5th, to celebrate the 6th

Annual Fallfest!

Celebrate the prosperity and abundance of the Asatru Folk Assembly as we all prepare for the Harvest season! Guest speakers include Founder Stephen McNallen, Gythia Anna Szczepanski, and Folkbuilders James Ault and Zach Cato. Several workshops and children's activities will be held throughout the weekend. Numerous blots and feasts!

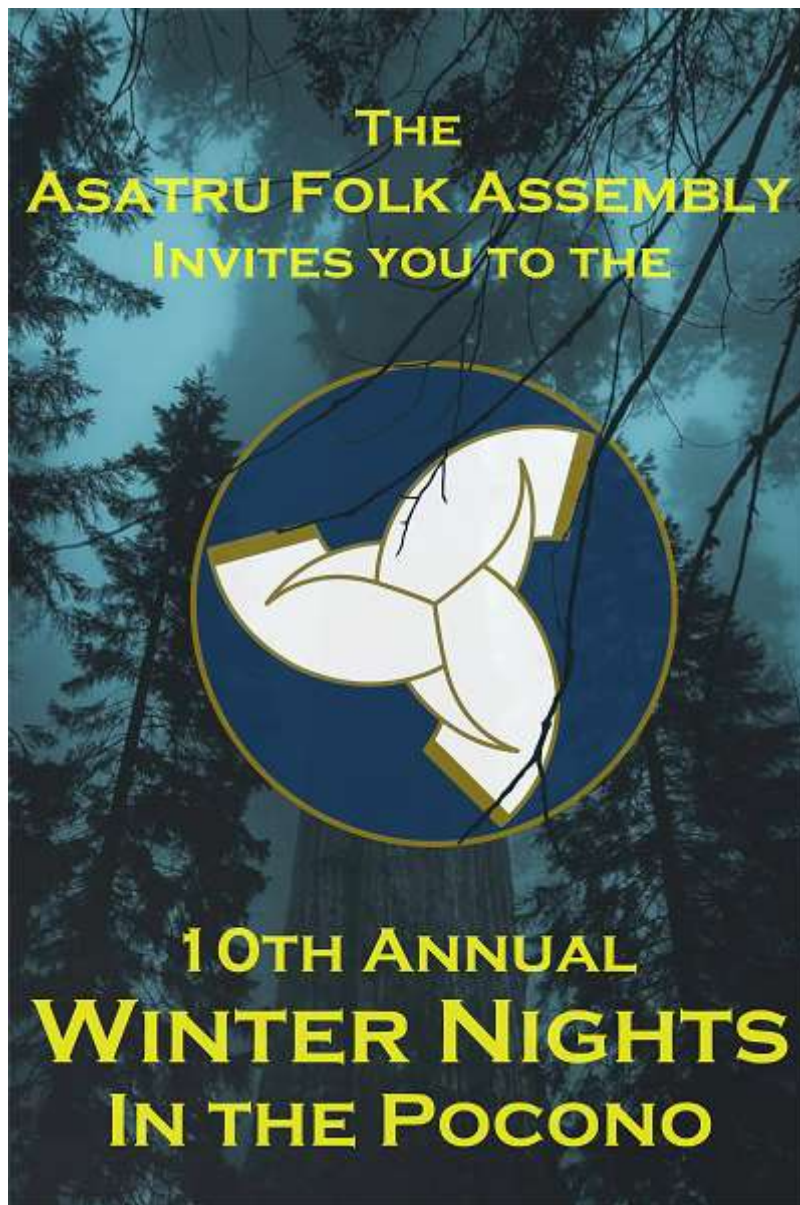
The price of tickets includes a camping spot for the weekend! Detailed event information is available prior to the event.

Fallfest 6 is open to AFA members and vouched for guests.



Witan Brandy Callahan
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Winter Nights in the Poconos X



[Winter Nights X – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)

The Tenth Annual Winter Nights in the Poconos will be held in Milford, Pennsylvania from October 15- 17! Since 2012, this long-running AFA festival has been dedicated to our ancestral mothers, the Disir. When the harvest is in, the summer plants have died off, and the winter is quickly approaching the veil between the living and dead is said to be at its thinnest. Again, we will gather to worship our Gods, our Goddesses, and our Ancestral Mothers in the crisp air of mountains as winter sets in. We build upon the success of the Asatru Folk Assembly here in the Northeast by making new friends and renewing old friendships. We look forward to seeing members and friends!

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.

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 but must be leashed at all times and are not permitted in common indoor areas such as the dining hall.
- The camp location will be provided upon registration.
- If you have any questions or concerns please email cerickson@runestone.org



Witan Clifford Erickson
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Day of Remembrance

King Radbod of Frisia

August 9



Radbod, known as the greatest King of the Frisians, spent his life tirelessly fighting against the subjugation of the Franks. While his predecessor, Aldegisel, had accepted Christian conversion easily, Radbod was unwilling to stray from his belief in the Gods of his people.

On the verge of accepting baptism, Radbod turned to the Priest presiding and asked if his ancestors would be waiting for him in the Kingdom of Heaven. Upon being told that his pagan ancestors were burning in Hell Radbod refused the baptism, expressing that he would rather burn in Hell with his pagan ancestors than live in Heaven with beggars.

His rule, 680 – 719 CE, was spent fighting against the Frankish rule and banishing Christianity from his land. Despite losing to Pepin of Hertal on several occasions

Radbod never gave up. While never successful in his lifetime, his successors continued the battle for many years after his death.

What can we learn from this story?

Radbod was not bolstered in his mission by success. When he looked back he did not see win after win, but quite the opposite. What Radbod could see, however, was the long line of his Ancestors stretching back to the first in his line. He saw them and he was proud of them and of their faith. Rather than disappointing them, King Radbod did his very best to make them proud and to continue their legacy.

Our culture, our society, as a whole, is under attack. They would have us turn our back on our families and on our folk. They would have us turn our backs on Asatru and our Ancestors. They would see the death of the traditional nuclear family and of the dedicated community. Everything from the books we read to the shows we watch looks to tear down the idea that our Folk should grow stronger together.

Like Radbod we should look behind us to see the long line of our Ancestors standing behind us, supporting us. We should then look forward to the bright future for our children and their children, a future that we should fight for tirelessly, no matter how many times we might stumble along the way.



Gythia Catie Erickson
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Remembrance & Holy Days



[Calendar – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)

2021

Date	Observance
January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 23	Porrablót
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 20	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olvir of Egg
March 20	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 17	Hexennacht
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
May 22	May Day
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric of the Goths

Date	Observance
June 20	Midsummer
July 1	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills
July 17	Sigrblót
August 9	Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia
August 21	Freyfaxi
September 9	Day of Remembrance for Prince Hermann of the Cherusci
September 22	Winter Finding
October 9	Day of Remembrance for Meister Guido von List
October 15	Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen
October 16	Winter Nights
November 9	Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigríð of Sweden
November 11	Feast of the Einherjar
December 9	Day of Remembrance for Egill Skallagrímsson
December 20	Mother's Night
December 21-31	Yuletide

Upcoming National Events

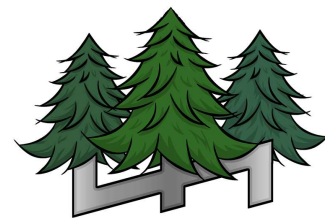
Please contact your favorite Folkbuilder or Gothar if you are interested in attending the events below. The way to get the most out of your membership in the Asatru Folk Assembly is in person with your Folk!

Fallfest at Baldrshof

September 3 - 4

Minnesota

[FallFest VI – Asatru Folk Assembly_\(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)



Winter Nights in the Poconos

October 15 - 17

Pennsylvania

[Winter Nights X – Asatru Folk Assembly_\(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)



Feast of the Einherjar at Baldrshof

November 11 - 14

Minnesota

[Baldshof Feast of the Einherjar – Asatru Folk Assembly](#)
(runestone.org).



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

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.

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 [Donate – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](#).

Thanks in advance!

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. Maybe 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 [Do Your Own Will Online — Free Online Will](#).

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

Óðinshof First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

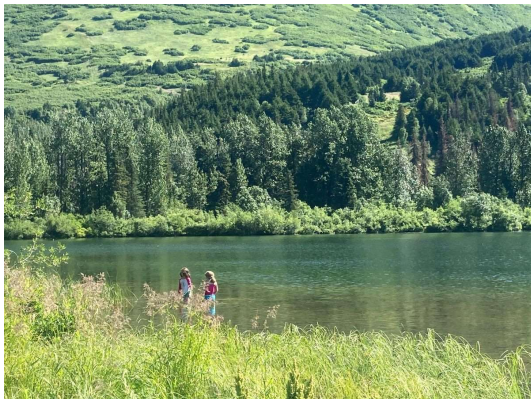
Alaska

Honoring Heimdall in the Mountains

For Alaskans, July has traditionally been the time of year when we gather at the mountain pass between Seward and Anchorage and give Blot to Heimdall.

Being conveniently located in the wilderness between the city and towns where our members reside, we had a great turnout.

The night before Blot, several members showed up and made camp at a local campsite.



The following morning, we made our way to the blot site and met up with other

members and friends sorely missed. After a quick trek through the woods on an old gold panner's trail, we came to the clearing by the creek where we held Blot. As always, the time spent with such great folk is never enough.



Folkbuilder Eric Whisman
ewhisman@runestone.org

Contact me to get involved!



Gothi Steven Morrell
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Arizona

Contact me to get involved!

Samuel Ramsey
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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California

ODINSHOF FOOD PANTRY – every third Saturday



June's food pantry was the week after Midsummer, one of those 100+- degree days. We had a good turnout of volunteers, but the heat seemed to keep the locals at home so we had bags of food leftover. We just stashed them back in the hof until our July Food Pantry on the 17th.

In mid-July, Sheila filled her SUV with another load of food from the Interfaith Food Ministry. With plenty of promotion on several community Facebook pages, we were ready for Saturday morning arrivals. This time, most were new recipients from neighboring Butte County who were thrilled to know about us. Word is getting out that we reach out to communities that are overlooked by everyone else. Our volunteers filled bags as quickly as we could get them into cars. Total served: 24 families/83 individuals. Thank you all!

Donations to fund our food charity:

Not only will your donations help with the monthly purchases we make from other food charities, but we are needing new (used) refrigerators and a generator for anticipated power outages.

You can make single Odinshof donations (earmarked for the Food Pantry) through the AFA website or we can help you set up repeating donations each month. There are other ways to make donations, too. Contact Sheila McNallen if interested.

UPCOMING DATES:

Ask to be put on our contact list. A flyer is emailed for each event.

August 21, FREYFAXI & Odinshof Food Pantry

September 18, WINTER FINDING & Odinshof Food Pantry

October 16, Odinshof Food Pantry

October 23, WINTER NIGHTS at Odinshof

November 20, FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR & Odinshof Food Pantry December 18,

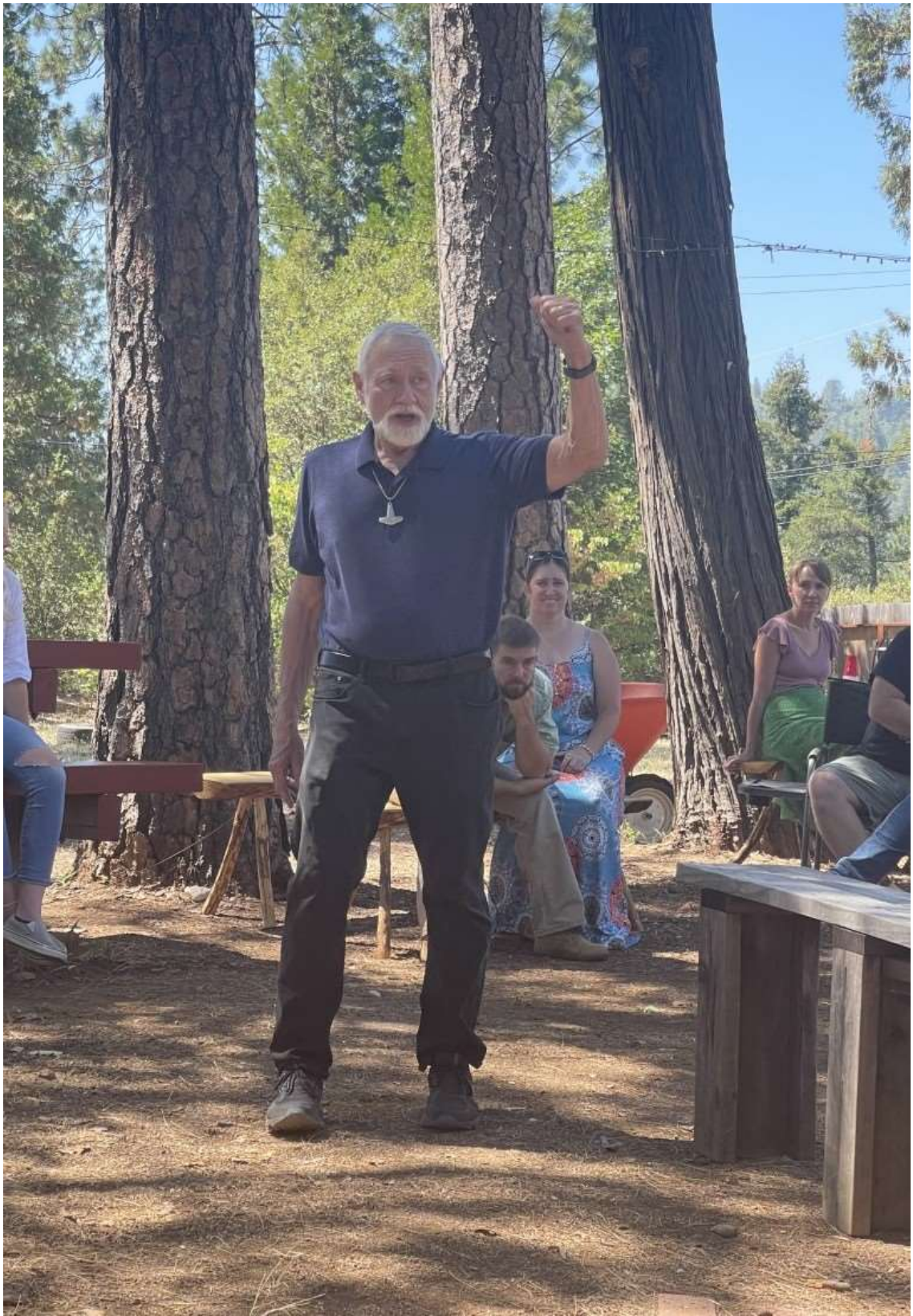
YULE & Odinshof Food Pantry

Sommarfest/Sigrblot



Many of the ladies then gathered in the hall for a deeper, personal look at what victory looks like for our women. Outdoors, “meadmaking” was demonstrated by Chris Matthews with a plan of producing ritual-mead for our hof. Late in the afternoon, Sheila McNallen handed out songbooks to the children and adults for a little sing-along

Darkness wouldn't descend for hours, so our Alsherjargothi settled for an early evening Blot to Odin for victory (Sigrblot). As expected, the energy began flowing with our Sowilo galdr. The call-and-response to Odin was thunderous, leaving everyone a bit exhausted. The day had been simple, yet full. We closed up early making this a single-day event.





Come join us on the third Saturday of each month as we come together to honor our Gods, Ancestors, Landvaetr – and our Folk. Our next gathering is Freyfaxi, August 21st. For those who want to stay over, it will probably include a partial workday on Sunday. We still need to install the fencing around Kinderheim, our preschool play area, and prepare the hof interior for an extraordinary depiction of Odin, to be painted by Witan Svan Herul.



Gythia Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org

Contact me to get involved!

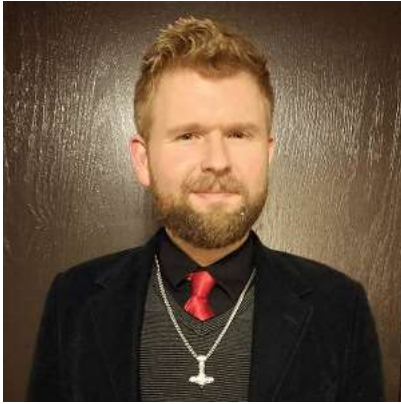


Sierra Chapman

Apprentice Folkbuilder

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Contact me to get involved!



Connor Norris
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Contact me to get involved!



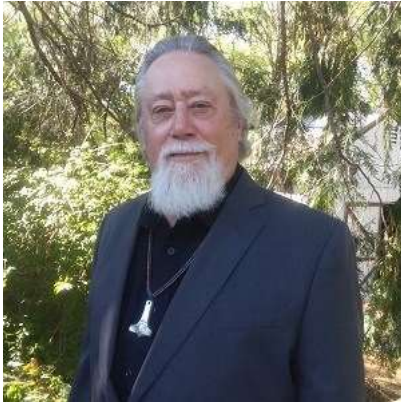
Folkbuilder Krystal Bailey
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Contact me to get involved!



Gothi Kevin Long
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Contact me to get involved!



Gothi Thorgrun Odden
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Colorado

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Andrew Johnston
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Montana

Contact me to get involved!



Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan
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Nevada



Please come out and join the Flavels for the Radbod Wine Walk in Carson City! We will meet up at 1 PM at the Brewery Art Center in Carson City on August 7th. Carson City does a Wine Walk the first Saturday of each month and this month WE will be raising our glasses to King Radbod and his brave decision to stand with his ancestors even in the fires of the Christian Hell (if that were to be his reality).



Matthew D. Flavel
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly
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Oceania

Contact me to get involved!

Tij Rudd



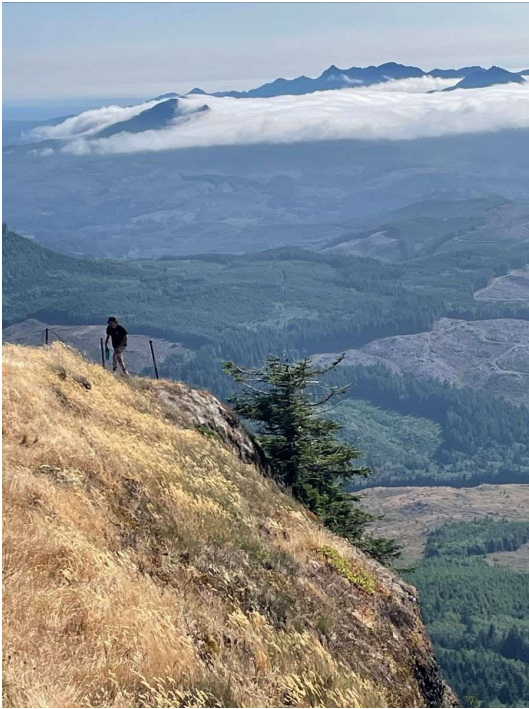
Apprentice Folkbuilder
trudd@runestone.org

Oregon



Odin's Blot on Saddle Mountain

Hails from the pacific NW! Odinsfolk kindred based out of Portland had a hike and Odin's blot in Oregon on Saddle Mountain. It was a very steep and grueling hike, but one of our very pregnant members was able to make it demonstrating just how resilient and strong our Womenfolk are!



Updates from Odinsfolk Kindred

Our kindreds have gathered all over the region, and we have our weekly Zoom call-in forum every Wednesday at 8:00 PST for the Odinshof district, but all AFA members are invited.

Odinsfolk kindred will be hosting a hike and Freyfaxi at the Cascade Head located in Lincoln City Oregon on August 22, and there are several other events happening around the NW this month. We have kindreds located in Vancouver BC, Coure' d Alene ID, and Seattle Wa, If you are close to one of these areas and interested in attending send me an email for the details.

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



Gothi Joe Rozanek

jrozanek@runestone.org



Washington

Harvesting Ideas and Plans for Victory



This month the bulk of us took time to reflect on the many inspiring moments we have shared over the past year or so noting the many great ideas that we have pondered over as a group. This month was much different than many in the past as it served as a form of group meditation formulating how we will bring many of our ideas to full fruition with the aid and assistance of our AFA Kinsfolk. Many plans have been made and many will be executed over the next few months all of which will bring us closer as a community and will benefit the folk as a whole. Along with this time of preparation, we maintained our regular rites to Thor multiple times a week and many members of our kindred stepped up and started contributing to the overall success of these gatherings in various ways making it a much more fulfilling experience.

This month we also aided in deconstructing an old cabin to help our kindred's newlyweds obtain lumber to build their new home at their lovely homestead.

As August approaches we are planning to start things off strong with a Wotan on the Peaks on the first and a Freyfaxi event Aug. 6th - 8th. We are also hoping to welcome home our newest addition by the end of the month so a baby naming ceremony will be in order!

May the Gods and Goddesses continue to bless our noble folk in all our endeavors!

HAIL THE GODS!

HAIL THE ANCESTORS!
HAIL THE AFA!



Mason Johnson
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Dórshof Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Thorshof July Food Distribution



We held our second charitable food distribution at Thorshof, before Sigrblot. We again had no shortage of volunteers, with Folkbuilder Trent East and his lovely bride, Madison coming all the way from Georgia to lend us a hand, along with members Bobby and Lori from North Carolina.

We have finally found a regular donor to help us put food on the tables in Linden for those who need it. Plans for widening our net are currently underway with the help of Gythia Sheila McNallen and Gothi Jason Plourde, more details to come on that in the coming months!

Hail the Doers!



Heather Young
Apprentice Folkbuilder
hyoung@runestone.org

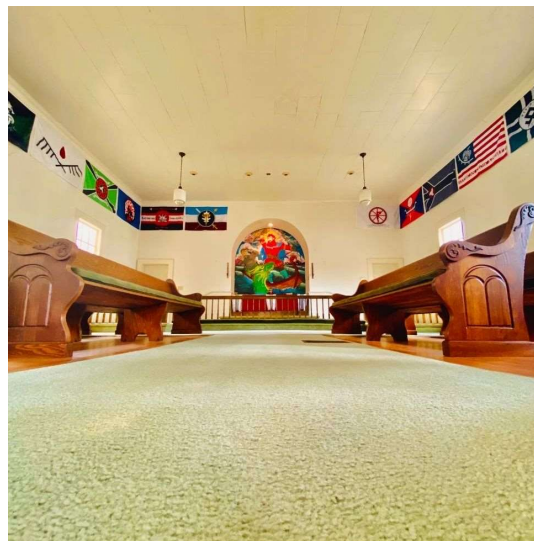
From the Backyard to the Hof



It is unbelievable to think about. We just celebrated our 12th holiday at Þórshof, The Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

At Sigrblot, while we were enjoying sumbel, it occurred to me. This month at Freyfaxi will be our first “Second” event at our beloved Hof dedicated to AsaÞórr.

Dedication of the Hof last July was a smashing success. Folk came in from all over the country for a single-day event, totaling about 80 people. We poured buckets of sweat leading up to that event, our knuckles busted, with smiles on our faces. But the next few events saw attendance under 10 in some cases. We were learning. We were going through growing pains. The transition to a temple from state parks and backyards was not easy. We were figuring it out as we went. And continue to do so now. Every event presented an opportunity to grow and establish traditions. Attendance was slowly increasing every month. Yule 2020 was a highlight, with our first event over 20 folks.



We held our very first Ostara at Þórshof this past March. It was a huge success with over 75 in attendance. The momentum had been established. We look now at regular attendance in the 30s. The kitchen runs like a well-oiled machine with Apprentice Folkbuilder Heather Young at the helm. Witan Herul holds classes in Rumph Hall, before every ceremony. We have held food pantries, with regular volunteers helping

them function. While we are still learning, we rise to every challenge with grateful hearts that we have the pleasure of having a place to celebrate our gods and with our folk. Our grandchildren will have a place to worship our gods. Just the very thought of that brings a smile to my face.

Too many people helped make this happen to list them all here. We thank them every time we walk through those doors to raise a horn to our Gods, our Ancestors, and our Assembly.

We hope to see many more faces in this, the second year of Þórshof. Bring a dish, bring your family... and bring a joyful heart as we embark on another successful year here at Þórshof, The Second Hof Of The Asatru Folk Assembly.



Folkbuilder Daniel Young
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Florida

Florida Sigrblot



Florida celebrated its first Sigrblót this month with a blót to Týr. We thanked the boldest and most courageous God for his sacrifice. We reflected on the sacrifices we must make in our lives for the victory we seek. Whether it is reaching new heights for our church, better physical health, or spiritual growth, victory is not won without sacrifice. After a light lunch, we held Sumbel where we committed to redoubling our efforts in seeking victory for our Gods and the AFA.



Plans were discussed for the upcoming Freyfaxi as well as the 2nd Deep South Regional Winter Finding in September.

It was also a great pleasure to spend time and share a meal with one of our Virginia members.



In our desire to reach as many of our Folk as possible we are happy to announce the Asatru Folk Assembly has added the video-sharing platform Rumble to its social media presence. See all of the AFA and Stephen McNallen's videos at www.rumble.com/asatrufolkassembly.

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



Folkbuilder Lane Ashby
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Contact me to get involved!

Lawspeaker Allen Turnage
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Georgia

Sigrblot in Alabama



This July, some of our Folk from three different states celebrated Sigrblöt in Birmingham, Alabama! We spoke a bit about victory and what it means to us, and I led a blöt to Tyr, asking him to bless the assembled Folk with victory in all of our endeavors!



The AFA has been blessed with abundant victory, and this continues to be the case! We have many Gods and Ancestors and Folk to thank for this, but for now, I will simply say:

Hail Tyr!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Folkbuilder Trent East

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Indiana

Greetings from Indiana



July has been a month of growth for us here in Indiana. We have had two new members join the AFA and a few potential members asking questions and inquiring about membership. One of our new members participated in July's Heimdall's Midgard Camping event. It's always great to meet new Folk and build frith with them. We all came together for Sigrblot and feasting! Great times!



On our Kindred Camps, we never use a lighter to start a fire. It is always done in a very primal way. I like to start our holy fire with sparks. I never use any type of flammable fluid when building the Holy fire that cooks our food, lights the night, and more. This month I have begun working on making short survival videos. I have the first one done and I'm going to add to it each Heimdall's Midgard Camping trip. After I've built up a handful of these videos, rounding out what I'd like to teach, I'll make them available for our Folk. Heimdall means something like, "Hearth-Fire," or "fire of the home." That is one reason our fires are built this way.

On the weekend of the last Sunday of the month, you can always expect a weekend of outdoors AFA frith in Southern Indiana. This August we will be camping but also having a field trip to Indiana Caverns where there are zip lines, caves, canoeing, and more. If anyone is near feel free to contact me and I'll fill you in on the details. Also, about 5 or so of our Folkbuilders will be meeting up in Oklahoma Aug 20-22. Please contact Melisa Mills, mmills@runestone.org, for more information on this event. I'm very much looking forward to it. Until next time...

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



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Contact me to get involved!



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Italy

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Ohio

Under Ash + Oak Kindred



On Saturday, July 3rd we traveled up to The Ohio Caverns to explore these great subterranean features. We walked through a few miles of tight passageways that were dug slowly through the limestone over thousands of years. It was a very nice 54° down there while above us was a typical humid July afternoon. It took about two hours to complete the tour. We had many laughs and very much enjoyed seeing the beautiful stalagmites and stalactites. Even below ground nature is such a beautiful thing to

experience. Afterward, we traveled up to a nice pub for refreshments and Frith, said our goodbyes, and finished up the day.



This event was hosted by members of Under Ash + Oak Kindred. I am very proud of my Kindred and would like to thank Christian, Elisabeth, and Dan specifically for organizing, hosting, and getting other couples to come to join us.

Hail the doers!

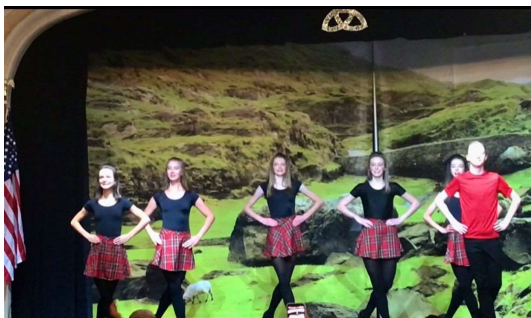
Hail Under Ash + Oak!

Hail the AFA!

Belated Saint Patrick's Day



On Saturday, July 17th your Southern Ohio Folk attended the Belated St Patrick's Day Festival at the Irish Heritage Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. The building was an old schoolhouse converted into a convention center/museum celebrating all things Irish complete with a pub. Different floors hosted a wide range of activities throughout the day including Ceili dancing, Traditional Irish music, bagpipers, genealogy workshops, singing, and many more family-friendly activities. One of our members even brought his kilt and sporran! After this great experience and a few pints of Guinness, we met up for dinner down the road at a pub and finished the night in good spirits.





Join us Saturday, August 7th all day for Dublin Irish Days in Dublin, Ohio. Oktoberfest at the Germania Society in Cincinnati, Ohio in August



Timothy Dumas
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Great Lakes Medieval Faire





On a dreary and rainy day, the folk of Northern Ohio met at one of the great gems the state has to offer, the Great Lakes Medieval Faire. It has shops, games, food, music, and wonderful live shows to experience. In the midst of mud and mist, we all had a wonderful time. Some tried archery and others throwing axes. The little one among us even achieved a knighthood and I myself tried my hand at the highland games. If you haven't been to such a place it's worth a look. They are a lovely amalgamation of Aryan culture and a window into our imaginations. The artisan capabilities of our people are also on full display at such places and we can support each other's endeavors directly in

a Europeanesque marketplace. I wish you all well and I hope you have fun at a place like this sometimes, we certainly did.

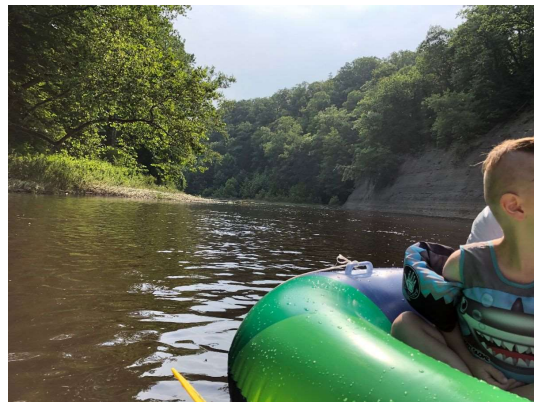
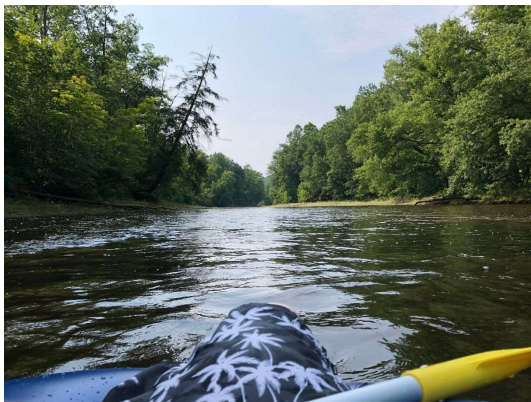


Joe Drotos
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Viking Tube Raiders

On July 24th we gathered at Hidden Valley Park in Madison Ohio. We started our adventure with a packed lunch in the pavilion. It was pouring rain, we were stalling to see if the weather would clear up so we could go tubing on the Grand River.

Thankfully it did!!!! We got our tubes and threw them in the very chilly water. We got in, cracked open some beers, and just kicked back and slowly floated along the river. Our lazy river adventure ended up being a 5-hour long float!





It was after 8 pm once we got back to our cars, so we decided to head to Geneva on the Lake and grab a bite to eat. We had some great festival-style food, gyros, and funnel cakes, and watched a local cover band play at the sports bar outside. The night was perfect and what made it the best was the company we had. Our folk are always dear to my heart and every adventure is better with them!



Hail the Folk!
Hail the AFA!



Jessica Lambert
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Pennsylvania

Lansdale Tru Folk Sigrblot





In the Northeast this month the Lansdale Tru Folk hosted Sigrblot. We arrived early in the afternoon and were very happy that the weather was holding out due to a mostly rainy week. We caught up with each other and even met for the first time one of our newest members who made a relatively long trip to be there. As for myself, this was a special day. This was the first time that I hosted one of our kindred events from start to finish. Luckily I have had good training along the way from Erickson's and also the best wife a man could ask for who took care of all the food preparation prior. At 3:00 it was time to give Blot to our Victory Father. The premise of this Blot was the victory over oneself. As we know if we are not capable within our own inner universe we cannot be of much help to others and Allfather is the master in this realm. Some runes were used to help not just us but all our Folk along the journey we must take and we finished with giving our gifts and receiving his. To this day I still feel the power of that ritual. Not long after it was time to eat. The food was blessed and we enjoyed a good meal together. To finish up the night we said wise words over the horn during Sumbel. Thank you to everyone who made it out and a special thanks to Chris Moyer for allowing us into your home on that day.



Folkbuilder Adam Hudak

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8th Annual AFA Freyfaxi Celebration in Lansdale, Pennsylvania



Please join us for the 8th annual AFA Freyfaxi celebration in Lansdale, and the 4th anniversary of the Lansdale Tru Folk, an Asatru Folk Assembly kindred.

The feast is a potluck, so please bring a dish. The main course of pork will be provided by the Ericksons. If you have a garden or make crafts, please bring an offering for the ritual. (to be burned)

[Freyfaxi in Pennsylvania \(vk.com\)](http://www.freyfaxi.com).

Contact cerickson@runestone.org if interested.



Witan Clifford Erickson

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Contact me to get involved!



Gythia Catie Erickson
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South Carolina

Asatru At Home

When I first joined the Asatru Folk Assembly in 2018, my mission was simple. I wanted to learn how to practice Asatru at home in a meaningful and powerful way that was easy to teach my youngest daughter in the coming years. What I learned and have continued to learn is the importance of Ancestor Worship.

When most of us think of doing proper worship, we think of a gift cycle to our noble Gods and loving Goddesses. However, we often overlook the practice of ancestor worship. We often have altars at home dedicated to Odin and Thor, Frigg and Baldur, which is appropriate. But to some of us, we may see the gods in an abstract way. They are so powerful, their nature is so mysterious, we may never fully understand them. But our ancestors, we know them. We have been held in their loving arms, hugged them, and eaten meals with them. Spent years of our lives looking up to them. Often we have pictures of grandparents on an altar. But what does ancestor worship consist of and what can we do to honor them in a spiritual way?

Alongside our portraits of our grandparents and great grandparents at our family altar at home, Heather and I have small items that belonged to a loved one, such as jewelry, medals that her grandfather earned in the service, and things of that nature. Sometimes I'll pour a shot of rum for my grandfather (his favorite drink.) I'm currently trying to track down my grandmother Mary's favorite perfume. We may pray to our ancestors to brag to them about an accomplishment that they would find joy in. Or thank them for the time we had with them. Ask them for guidance in life's difficult times. Things we would normally do if they were still with us on Midgard.

Another common way to honor our ancestors is during sumbel. During sumbel we encourage folks to say their ancestors' name over the horn, which, in a sense, brings their glorious deeds to light in a powerful way. Simply saying "Hail Papa Dan", using a sweet nickname that he would recognize is nice, but saying "Hail Col. Dan Van Sickle!" gives us and those who watch our worlds a much clearer picture of who he was, and is in my life.

A practice that has been becoming much more common is preparing a plate at a high place at the table during feasts at Hofs, Kindred events. Where maybe the folk gathered to prepare a full plate for the collective ancestors or someone, in particular, we want to honor. Recently the team at Thorshof dedicated a shrine to our friend, Terry Rumph by sharing a beverage with him at his Shrine.

These are just simple examples of the practice of ancestor worship and are by no means dogmatic. There are plenty of ways you can honor your ancestors at home. But the very best way to honor them is to carry ourselves in an honorable and noble way that would make them all proud. We are, after all, their representatives, and as Elder Gothi McNallen has said, "we are all ancestors in training."

Hail the Ancestors!



Folkbuilder Daniel Young
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Contact me to get involved!

Heather Young

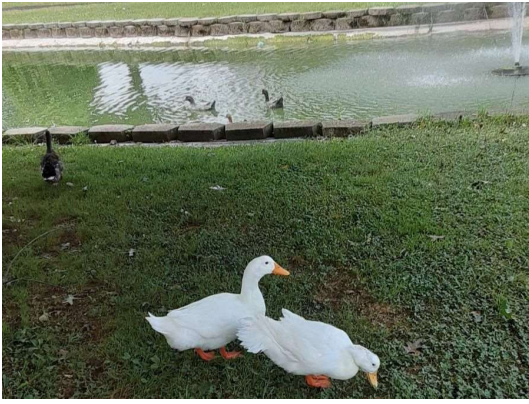


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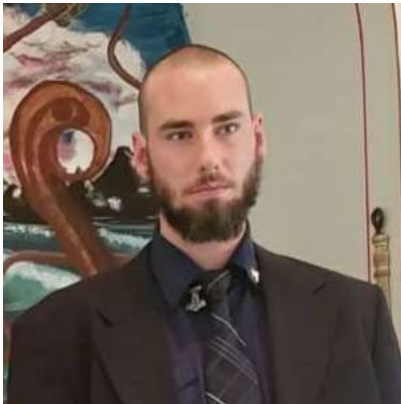
Tennessee

Salsa and Ducks





We met up at the La Fuente Restaurant. After some good food and great conversations, we headed over to the nearby park. The water system they built was really neat. There were a lot of ducks, with a 25 cent food dispenser. So we threw a few handfuls and watched them go crazy over it. After exploring the park, we parted ways.



Jesse Parton
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Virginia

Maryland Meet & Greet



On Saturday, July 10th, we held a Meet and Greet in Frederick, MD. It was hosted by Apprentice Folkbuilder Pat Cook and Apprentice Folkbuilder Cody Raynard. We had an amazing turnout! We met at Il Porto Restaurant and had some amazing food while discussions on a variety of topics arose. After lunch, we went for a nice stroll through the town to a very nice playground for the children to play and have fun. It was great to see families together building Frith with each other. It was a great day and I cannot wait to see you all again!

The Marriage of Mikey and Samantha Gibson



On the 24th of July 2021, Mikey Gibson and Samantha Mitchem of Þórshof District were married! A very beautiful ceremony presided over by Witan Svan Herul. They exchanged vows in Harmony, NC surrounded by family and friends who were glad to be a part of the union of these two very amazing people. With their Wyrd intertwined, and their journey starting into the future, we wish you both the very best in life and that you both come closer to the Gods and grow together in magnificence.

Hail the Gibsons!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Terry Rumph Dedication/ Sigrblot at Þórshof



Today was a day that was imbued with Victory! Þórshof had an altar dedicated to Mr. Terry Rumph, a beloved and dear friend to all of us in the AFA. A beautiful dedication performed by Folkbuilder Trent East to this amazing individual. Afterward,

Folkbuilders Rob Stamm and Daniel Young led a very informative class on what Sigrblot was all about and what was to happen during Blot. After Sigrblot, we held a Sumbel that held a great many of our Ancestors hailed and honored by all in attendance. Thank you to all who showed up and made this Sigrblot an amazing time to gather together in Frith.

Hail the Gods!

Hail Terry Rumph!

Hail Victory!



Cody Raynard
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Hail Tyr and Terry Rumph!

On a hot July 31st afternoon, folks gathered at Thorshof to celebrate Sigrblot.



Before our much-anticipated Sigrblot, Thorshof hosted a food pantry to serve our local community. Trent East paid respects and dedicated an altar in Rumph Hall to our friend and beloved passed elder, Terry Rumph. Soldier, police officer, volunteer, and very

dedicated Asatruar. Terry wore many hats. Terry was especially devoted to Tyr, today was a fitting day to dedicate his altar.



The ritual was officiated by Gothi student Stamm, who was assisted by Gothi students Trent East and Daniel Young. We hailed Tyr and asked for victory in our endeavors to keep striving forward to achieve greatness!



July marked the one-year anniversary of the dedication of Thorshof. One year of powerful ritual, frith, and honor to our ancestors and gods. We would love for everyone to come out and experience firsthand this magical temple to the thunderer.



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Witan Svan Herul
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West Virginia

Wotan On The Peaks



On July 31, Stonewall Kindred climbed South Mountain along the Appalachian Trail to share a horn of mead with the High One. Odin Blot was held at Annapolis Rocks, a cliff face formed from ancient glacial ice overlooking Maryland's Cumberland Valley. The climb was a much-needed test of our collective physical endurance as well as our emotional courage. Fellow visitors to the overlook kept a respectful distance as we made gifts of our devotion, our love of Folk, and our dedication to a brilliant future, pouring them out, joyfully at this ancient meeting place between earth and sky.

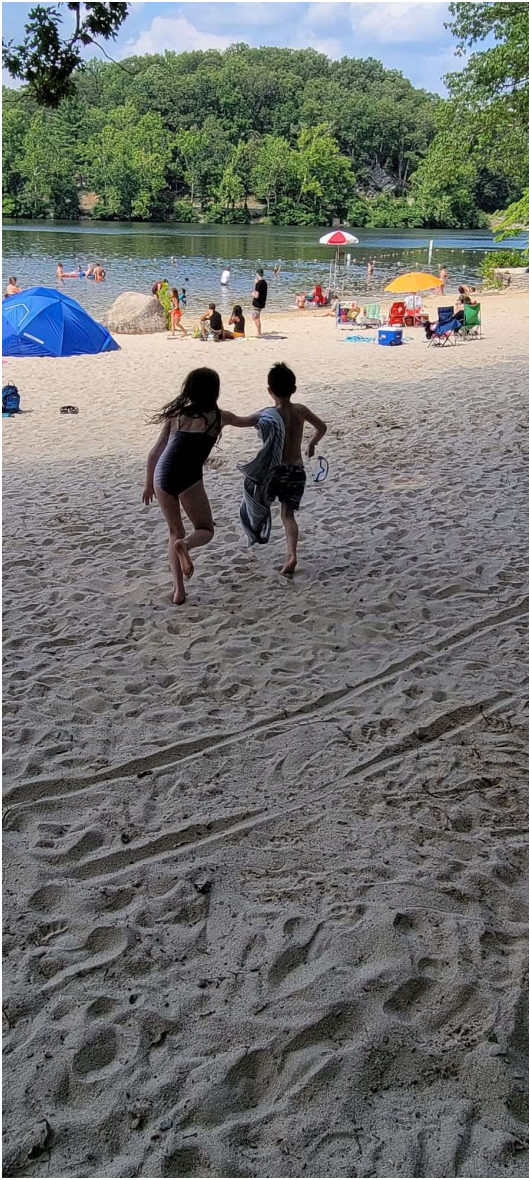


BBQ, Swimming, and Smiles



On Sunday, July 25th we gathered at Cacapon State Park, WV. We had 8 adults and 5 children in attendance. Of those, two were new and two prospective members came to cookout and reconnect under the shade of the oaks, followed by a dip at Cacapon Beach. All the new and prospective members expressed interest in returning and being part of the community.





August 14: Freyfaxi

August 21: Moot: Climb Zone - Laurel, MD

September 19: Winter Finding

October 15-17: Winter Nights in the Poconos

November 13 or 14: Feast of the Einherjar

December 18 or 19: Opening of Yuletide

December 31: New Year, Close of Yuletide

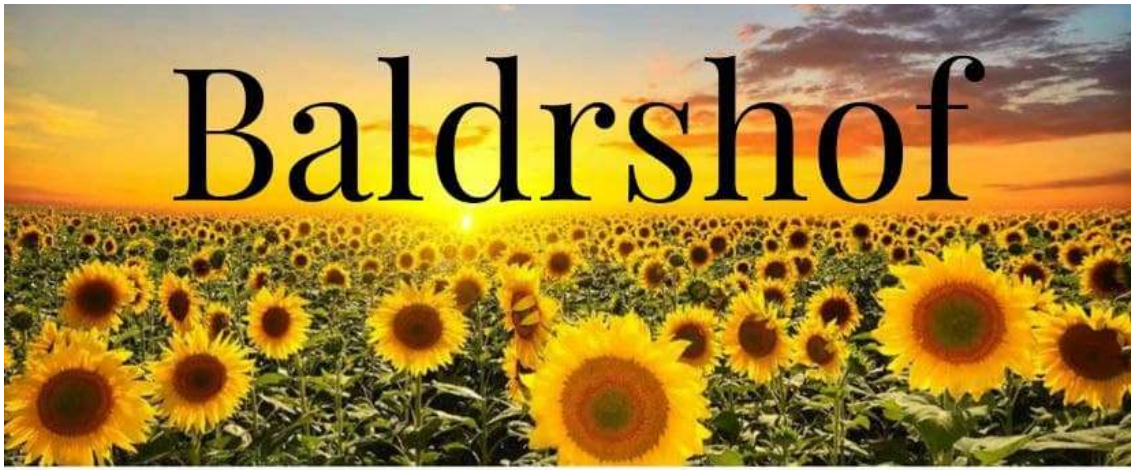
Patrick Cook

Apprentice Folkbuilder

pcook@runestone.org



Baldrshof
Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly



FALL SCHEDULE

Freyfaxi

Saturday, August 21

Work Weekend

Saturday, August 28

Sunday, August 29

Fallfest

September 3-5

Work Day

Saturday, October 2

Winter Nights

Saturday, October 30

Work Day

Saturday, November 6

Feast of the Einherjar

Saturday, November 20



[Heavener Rune Stone Adventure weekend with your Folk \(ticketspice.com\)](https://ticketspice.com)

We have been working with many states and look forward to our runestone event in Oklahoma.

Come join us all!



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Illinois

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James Cummings



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Louisiana

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Michael Foley
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Minnesota

Hiking and Dining with The Northern Blood Kindred



July was a busy month. On July 10th Northern Blood Kindred hosted our annual Wotan on the peaks event led by Gythia Anna Szczepanski. This was at the nearby state park where we will be sleeping for Fallfest also. After the hike, we ventured off to Baldrshof for dinner and followed with Sigrblót.

Upcoming events

8/8 Folkish Family hike moot with Northern Blood Kindred at Baker park reserve

9/3-9/5 AFA Fallfest VI at Baldrshof



Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher

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Baldrshof July Food Distribution and Updates



On July 24th we started up the monthly study group at Baldrshof. This event will be on the same day as the monthly food distribution. Gythia Anna led a discussion on the book *Odin's Wife* in the first three chapters. Northern Blood's next hike moot is July 8th in Maple Plain, MN.



Fallfest VI at Baldershof is a month away on Labor Day weekend September 3-5. We have a private camp reserved for sleeping and that is included in registration. Please let me know if you are flying in and we will set you up with a ride. Also, we will have bedding pillows, etc for those folks too. If you plan on attending please register as soon as possible. We need to know how much food to get and lodging arrangements etc.

Click here for Fallfest Registration

[FallFest VI – Asatru Folk Assembly](#)

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!



Witan Brandy Callahan

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Sigrblot On The Peaks



This July, those of us in Baldrshof District decided to combine an old tradition and a new one. We had been planning to hike up our local mountain and complete the associated hiking trail for a few months. Since 2018, we have been participating in the "Wotan on the Peaks" event, using what modest peaks Minnesota has. Every year, we all walk away with a sense of accomplishment in pushing ourselves.

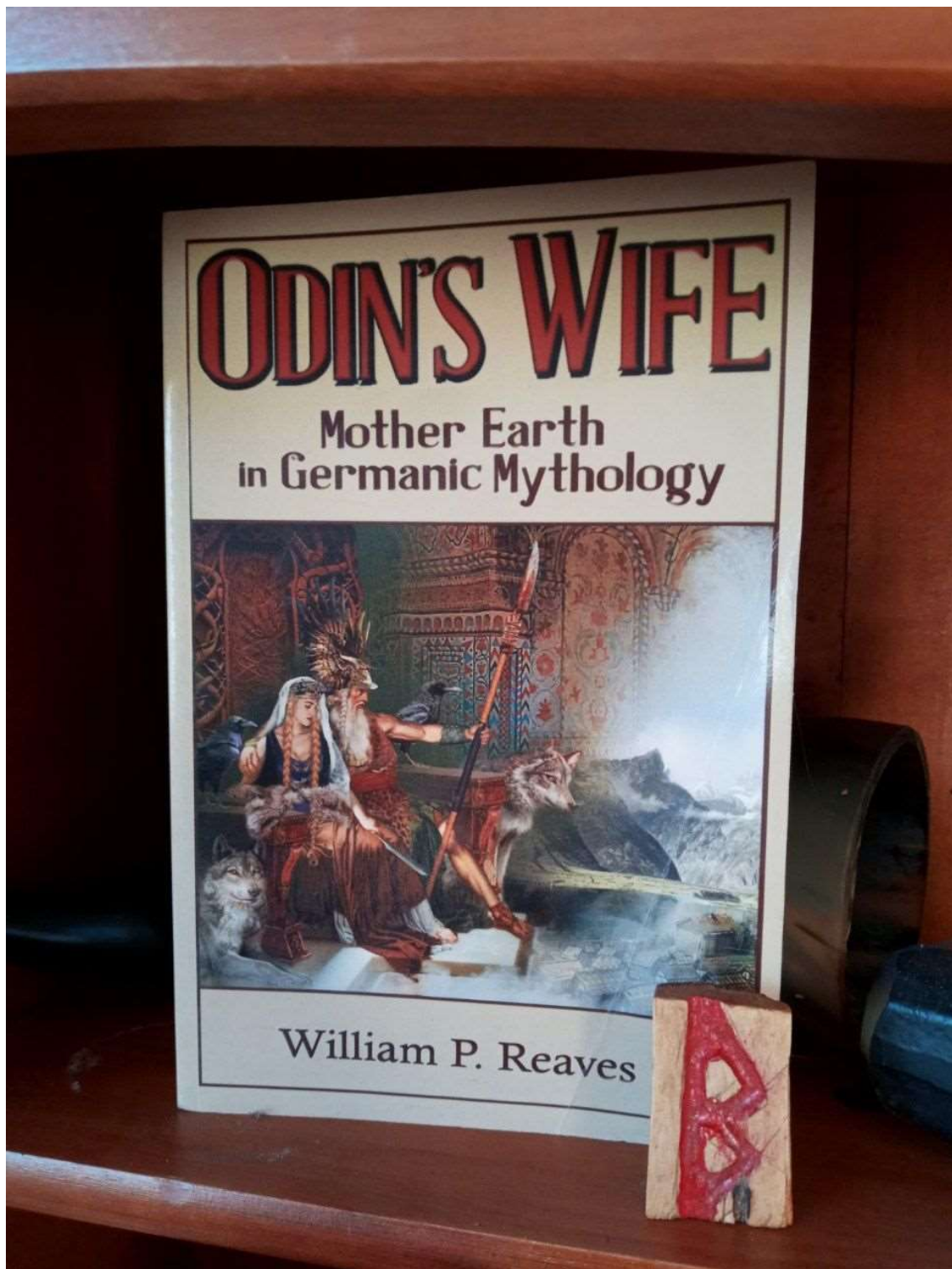
This year, we also were planning out our first Sigrblòt. The thought occurred to us after Midsummer to combine the two. What better thing to bring into the first Sigrblòt at Baldrshof than that sense of victory?



After a 4 mile hike, with a small offering to Odin in a spot that seemed to be meant for that very purpose, we headed to our Hof. The women called the men to blót in one of our newest old traditions, kulning. We then put into the horn our own victories and offered them up through the mead to Odin, the Victory Father.

After blót, we enjoyed a delicious meal cooked by Witan Callahan. We sat in our beautiful Hof and shared laughs. By the end of the event, we had had members from 5 different states join us, some of who hadn't even seen our beautiful Hof yet! This year has been just the start of our victories, and I cannot wait to see what is yet to come.

Book Study at Baldershof



We have just started our monthly book study! We are currently reading *Odin's Wife*, a look at Frigg and some of the other "Mother" goddesses. This is a great book, sure to inspire some great conversations.

Since we just started, there is still time to get a copy and come on over! Dates are to be determined, feel free to email me at aszczepanski@runestone.org with questions.



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Contact me to get involved!



Gothi Jason Plourde
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Contact me to get involved!



Ashley Mcstocker
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Contact me to get involved!

Folkbuilder Nathan Erlandson
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Missouri

Our Folk Blooms in the Ozarks!



This Summer is in full, hot, sunny swing here in the Ozarks! And we are seeing the fruits of our labors! Flowers in full bloom, mulberries bringing the birds to the trees, and the BBQ grills are kept busy with burgers, dogs, and steaks!

This last month we welcomed apprentice Folkbuilder Jesse Parton of TN to come and meet some extended folk family in Springfield MO. We grilled out and spent time talking, laughing, playing games and strengthening bonds, and planning for the future.

It was time well spent. Thank you for making the long drive, Jesse!

We want to congratulate one of our youngest, Rex Young, on being industrious and getting his first job! Congrats Rex! We are proud of you!

Congratulations also to his father Chris on a successful move this last month to a location closer to Springfield. We are so glad to have you two as part of our family here. And we wish you luck on finding a new job here too sir!

Congratulations to Lutisha Wilson! She is killing it in her college classes while working her tail off in a new position in her fill time job. She is an inspiration! Well done girl! Your future is only getting better and brighter!

Congratulations to Bekah Brussell in KS for passing her 1st set of boards! She has meer few weeks left to finish her classes and a new job in her field already lined up! Well done! Way to work hard and create a better future for you and Terry!

Congratulations to Chris Lawson! He has had some changes in his job and will be able to create more opportunities to meet with and build bonds with his folk now that his weekend is no longer devoted solely to his job! Well done Sir! We look forward to seeing you!

Like the summer sun, the future is bright for our folk here in the Ozarks, and we hope all of you are reaping the rewards of a life well-lived and the industriousness our people are known for!

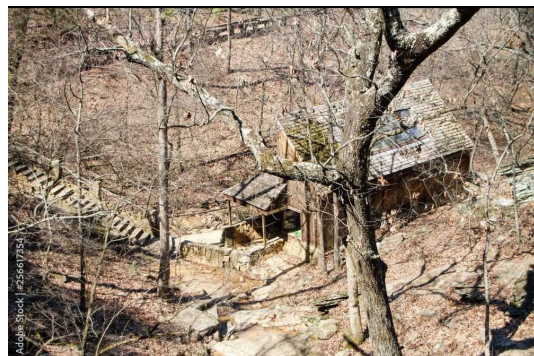
Hail the Doers!

Hail the folk!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the AFA!

Freyfaxi and Heavner Runestone Adventure Weekend!



If you have not been to Heavner Runestone in Oklahoma yet, this is the time; we will be celebrating Freyfaxi and visiting the Runestone together.

Accommodations for the weekend are in AC/HEAT/Electric equipped cabins. Food and accommodations are included in the registration fee and the Runestone visit itself is free.

We will have games, stories around the fire, an auction, a celebration of Freyfaxi, and the Heavner Runestone visit all in one weekend. We will also be joined by special guest Sean Black, aka The Norse Pagan Shaman, and author Bryan Wilton who will give a presentation on the Heavner Runestone.

Don't miss this spectacular event. Come and join your folk for a weekend which will be long talked about!

[Heavner Rune Stone Adventure weekend with your Folk \(ticketspice.com\)](https://www.ticketspice.com)

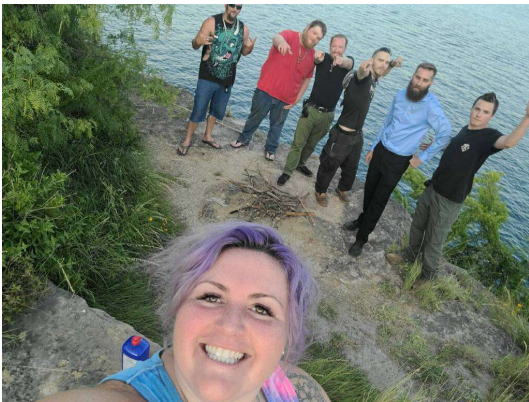


Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

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Texas

Cliffside Sigrblot



Thomas Gleason held Sigrblot on July 31; we had a good turnout which included new guests. We held blot on a cliff 70 feet above the water level. There were dozens of boats and hundreds of people in the water; if they had not yet heard the name of Odin, they did that day!



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Contact me to get involved!



Justin Day
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Wisconsin

Food and Fun at Little Bohemia Lodge



Hello my AFA family, this is Joel Eastman. We had a very well attended Moot at The Little Bohemia Lodge in Beautiful Manitowish Wisconsin. We had great conversations about the growth of our Folk, and future upcoming events. We enjoyed great drinks and delicious food; then we went outside to talk awhile and get a great photo of us all. The future for our Wisconsin AFA Folk is getting brighter every day. Between myself and James Alt, we are always trying to come up with ideas for interesting and fun events to get our Folk out with us to fully get the most out of their membership.

Joel Eastman
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Vedrfolnir Clan Fun in the Sun



The AFA kindred Vedrfolnir Clan of Wisconsin traveled “Up North” for a day of Frith, Nature, and canoeing. We met at a beautiful small town park to grill out for lunch. The adults enjoyed good conversations as the children looked for snakes and enjoyed the muddy riverbed. We headed over to the local Discovery Center to enjoy a natural playground and some canoeing. Before heading over to Wisconsin’s monthly Moot, held at Little Bohemia Lodge, we made some plans for future get-togethers. Vedrfolnir

Clan is a strong family kindred who are very active not only in the State but within the AFA.



Hail Wisconsin!

Hail the Vedrfolnir Clan!

Hail the AFA!



Folkbuilder James Ault

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