



We are off to a great start in 2022! As of the end of January, the AFA is at an all-time membership high. The success we have all enjoyed lately is not the result of anyone great moment or any spectacular surge. Our success is the result of the blessings of the Gods and our perseverance. We strive to give our best to our Gods and for our Folk, we keep trying even when things are hard. We push through and we win!

Please keep perseverance in mind as life gets difficult or as folks get lethargic. Push forward, sometimes by inches, sometimes by miles but always forward. I am blown away by the amount of activity in January, we have pictures of moots and gatherings across the United States every weekend, this is an amazing time to be an AFA member. Keep up the amazing work! Keep winning!

Matthew D. Flavel



Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly
mattflavel@runestone.org

The Mission to Establish Njordshof

"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 \(runestone.org\)](https://runestone.org)



Matthew D. Flavel
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly
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Day of Remembrance

Eyvind Kinnrifi



Near to what could be considered the beginning of the Christian conversion of Norway, under King Olaf Tryggvason, there was a farmer of Noble stock who stood against the king and his attempts at conversion.

Eyvind (Pronounced Ivin) Kinnrifi was called to make plans against the upcoming invasion by his friend Harek of Thjotta, who had very recently returned home after himself refusing conversion to Christianity. Eyvind answered the call, and for the sake of haste, he traveled with only a small retinue of men. He was well welcomed by Harek, but shortly after his arrival Eyvind was ambushed.

Unbeknownst to Harek, he had been followed by some of Olaf Tryggvason's men. They forced Eyvind to Thronhjem, where Olaf attempted to convert Eyvind, first with offers of land and gold, and then with threats of torture and death. Unwilling to turn him back on his faith, Eyvind was eventually killed.

So what can we learn from this story?

On the 9th of February, as we stop to remember Eyvind Kinrifi and his unwavering faith despite the consequences, take a moment to consider what in your own life is important to you. Have there ever been times in which you had to choose between keeping your faith and losing something else? A Job? A friend? Family?

Even in these times, when we are living with unparalleled freedom of choice, it can be difficult to choose faith over all else. It is sometimes easier to hide behind the idea of a pseudonym or to keep your faith hidden from those in our lives that should matter. Remember, when you think of Eyvind, what truly matters. Stand strong with and take pride in your Folk.

Hail, Eyvind Kinnrifi!



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	Þorrablót
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 9	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

Charming of the Plow



Charming of the Plow is a ritual that takes place at the early beginning of the planting season. As the name implies the plow, or other tools used, are blessed and offerings are made to the Gods for a productive growing season. Traditionally, after blessing the plow, a ceremonial furrow was dug and then filled with cakes and other offerings. For

our ancestors, this was a crucial time of year. Poor preparation often led to a poor harvest and a poor harvest led to starvation.

Asatru is the modern celebration of our ancestral heritage. Charming of the Plow symbolizes our willful penetration of the unyielding soil. It is with our own industriousness, our own will, that we create, that we change, that we provide. In the Asatru Folk Assembly, we often celebrate the Charming of the Plow by planting a tree.

Inflict your will on your world. As Asatruar, this is a time to “charm” the implements of your own productivity. Entreating the divine to bless your tools and your plans for the year is essential to starting things off right. Inviting the divine into our plans and intentions is a great way of making us aware of the sacrality that should be a part of all we do. The AFA encourages all Asatruar to be industrious in all that we do. Dream grand dreams. Make solid plans. DO big things. And after hard work, reap a bountiful harvest.

And what can you do to celebrate Charming of the Plow? Though most of us do not rely on growing our own food to survive, now is a good time to consider starting a small garden, or even just growing some herbs on the patio. Make a plan. Choose a small patch of yard and map out your garden beds. Bless the shovels and spades. Dig up the soil and begin fertilizing it with eggshells and coffee grinds. Prepare. If you cannot plant a small garden begin planning some projects. Sew a quilt, build a chair, take an idea and make a plan, and then put that plan into action.

Inflict your will on your world.

Upcoming National Events

Ostara at Þórshof



<https://runestone.org/product/ostara/>

Ostara at Þórshof, an Asatru Folk Assembly national event, is scheduled for March 11 – 13 at our very own Þórshof!

There will be fun and games for the children, classes for the adults, and good memories to be made. We have an assortment of different activities for people of all ages in attendance. Classes to be held will cover a wide range of topics.

As always, we will be having an auction of unique and one-of-a-kind Asatru-related items. All auction proceeds go to help fund these amazing events. We ask anyone who would like to donate to this great cause to please donate an item to the auction or bring your cash to bid! Anyone wanting to set up a vendor table at this event please feel free, all we ask is a donation of a substantial item to the auction.

2nd Annual Elsefest in Wisconsin

Registration will open soon. Check back on runestone.org for updated event details and registration links.

AFA

Remembers Folk Mother

Else Christensen

APRIL 22ND - 24TH 2022



Please Join Us For The 2nd Annual Elsefest
to Honor the Folkmother.

jault@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



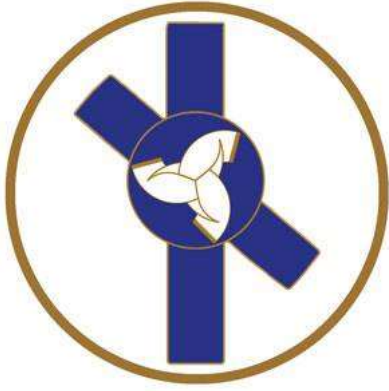
The AFA Youth Program is now halfway through a very successful year! We had high hopes when this program started in January and the kids have surpassed all of our expectations and goals. Our youth have been working on monthly assignments and fun projects centered around Lore, Days of Remembrance, Holidays, 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 <http://www.runestone.org/donate/>.

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 <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



Lawspeaker Allen Turnage
turnage@runestone.org

**The Artisans of the AFA
Support Our Folk**

Luna & Runa



<https://mewe.com/p/lunaruna>

My name is Madison East, and I'm the owner of Luna & Runa! I have a background in graphic design and small business branding but am now branching out into creating more spiritually related art! For reference, I've done the banners and general aesthetics of each of the Hofs, as well as various AFA certificates.

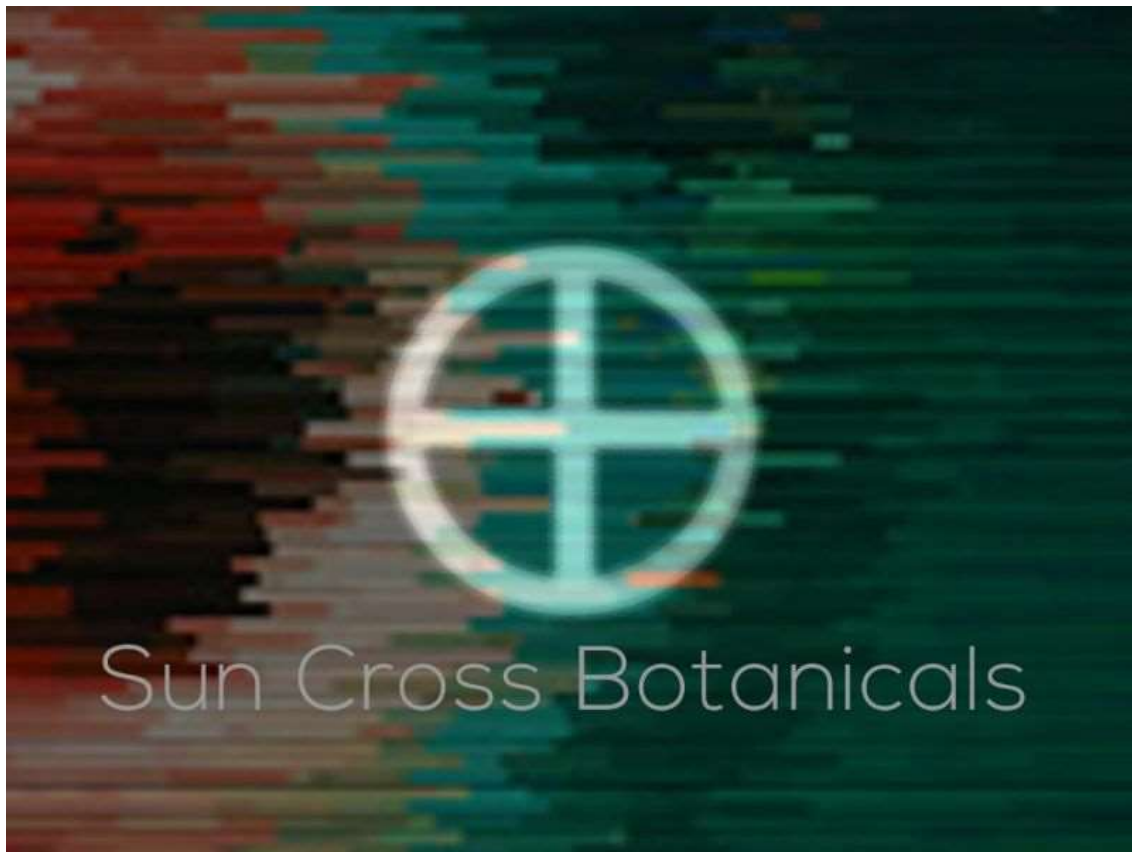


Currently, I am selling sets of my Elder Futhark rune cards for \$40, but I will be doing other rune rows and styles in the future. I can also sell 8x10 prints of any of my rune artwork for \$15, or 5x7 for \$10!

Reach out to me any time at meast@runestone.org for any inquiries!

If you would like to advertise your business please contact me !!!

Sun Cross Botanicals



Some of my favorite hobbies include plant identification, foraging, and European Ethnobotany which is the study of the plants used by our Ancestors for centuries. I have made my own teas and beauty products for a while now with these botanicals but now I am sharing them with you all.



I will be listing medicinal teas, face masks, bath salts, and beard products in the near future. All teas are made in small batches packaged with care. I can ship to you or for those in my district pick up can be arranged.

My items can be found in the AFA Marketplace as well as Etsy <https://etsy.me/3opjTT9> and Instagram as SunCrossBotanicals



Jessica Lambert
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Odinshof Food Pantry



On Friday evening, Steve and I took two cars filled to the rooftops with cases of food for the greater Brownsville community. Two hours later, filled bags lined the tables. The next morning, with the help of Zac, Anthony, and others... we gave food to 31 families, feeding 85 individuals. Doing this "work" each month fills me with joy and satisfaction knowing we've reached out to good folk with few resources. We DO make a difference and people love us for it.



Gythia Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

Thorrablót at Odinhof



During our winter months, we tend to have smaller events at Odinshof. This time, it was perfect though: all who came expressed sincere interest in working together for the betterment of our community.



Following our Food Pantry, which is always an intense couple of hours, we began our day with a delicious lunch prepared by our new Apprentice Folkbuilder, Ashley Stockton. Most gathered for socializing around the fire, as the day had a chill. Two of our newer members, Asa and Cody, were busy with grounds clean-up and brush removal. Many thanks to them.



At one point, the woman gathered in the hall with Gythia Sheila to discuss the value of “self-acceptance.” A quick review of the Asynjur, lesser-known Goddesses in our lore, was a reminder that these holy women can be called on in times of need. We will continue this discussion at our Odinshof Ladies Moot on February 12th. All women are invited



Back outdoors, adults gathered for “games” which included ax and knife throwing on a corner of our property, while the children kept busy on the swings.



In the late afternoon, we gathered indoors to hear Steve McNallen speak on Thorrablót in a 21st Century World. Then Sheila McNallen updated everyone about upcoming events and news of interest. Our Allsherjargothi updated our progress with funding Njordshof, which led to promises of cash donations from our Folk.



To a drumbeat, Matt Flavel led us into the ritual circle for the Thor Blot. The horn of mead offered to the Jotun-slayer was poured into a hissing fire. The next round of mead contained Thor's gifts to us. Horn held high, each gave a hearty hail to Odin's son.

As the day came to a close, about a dozen of us regrouped in the darkened hall with the McNallens leading a formal three-round Sumbel. Shared memories, thoughtful words, laughter, and thanks were expressed. Truly, one of the most touching was from our newest member, who said he finally understood what it means "to come home." Hail the Folk!

Gythia Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org



Upcoming Events at Odinshof



Our focus can be scattered at times as we are focused on caring for our families in this crazy world that we sometimes forget to take time for ourselves and self-care. Let's take this day for some healing and frank conversation about our goals, needs, dreams, and building Frith and friendship with the wonderful ladies of our community. We are planning on some fun crafts as well!

Hosted by Krystal Podbreger and Gythia Sheila McNallen. Please RSVP sheila@runestone.org or kpodbreger@runestone.org

February 12th at 11 am. This event is a potluck. \$10 donation for crafts is appreciated. This is NOT an overnight event.



Folkbuilder Krystal Bailey

kbailey@runestone.org

Alaska



Michael Conner

Apprentice Folkbuilder

mconner@runestone.org

Alberta (Canada)

Sowilo-A Shining Beacon



Greetings from Alberta. It's been a cold couple of months up here in Canada. We've been experiencing arctic temperatures where it's been as low as -38C on some nights. As hardy as some of us true Canadians are even temperatures like that make one want to stay inside. And that makes it hard to communicate with any new possible members.

As bleak as it looks, we did get a break from the frigid temps. I took advantage of it so I went out and toasted to the Gods when the sun gave us that temporary relief. As I felt the warmth it reminded me of the rune sowilo. The sun rune acts as a beacon attracting and encouraging those who seek it. And we too must act as a beacon, in a positive light, to attract our people who want to “come home”. The Gods are calling out and we must help. Even as the winds of Thor still blow cold there is still the promise of warmer & better days to come.

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Cory DeMars
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Arizona



Samuel Ramsey
Apprentice Folkbuilder
sramsey@runestone.org

California

Introduction to My Folk



Hello everyone. I'm Ashley and as of December I am an apprentice Folkbuilder for Odinshof District. I currently live in Shasta County California. I have been involved with the AFA for approximately seven years, but recently felt called to become more involved with my folk and my church.



My hopes are to bring something to my district that no one has yet done and one of those things is holding moots monthly here in Northern California, as there are so few members this far north and no one in leadership up here until now. Employing all of the

natural beauty Northern California encompasses you can expect from me plenty of outdoor activities like hiking, fishing, marksmanship, and bushcraft.

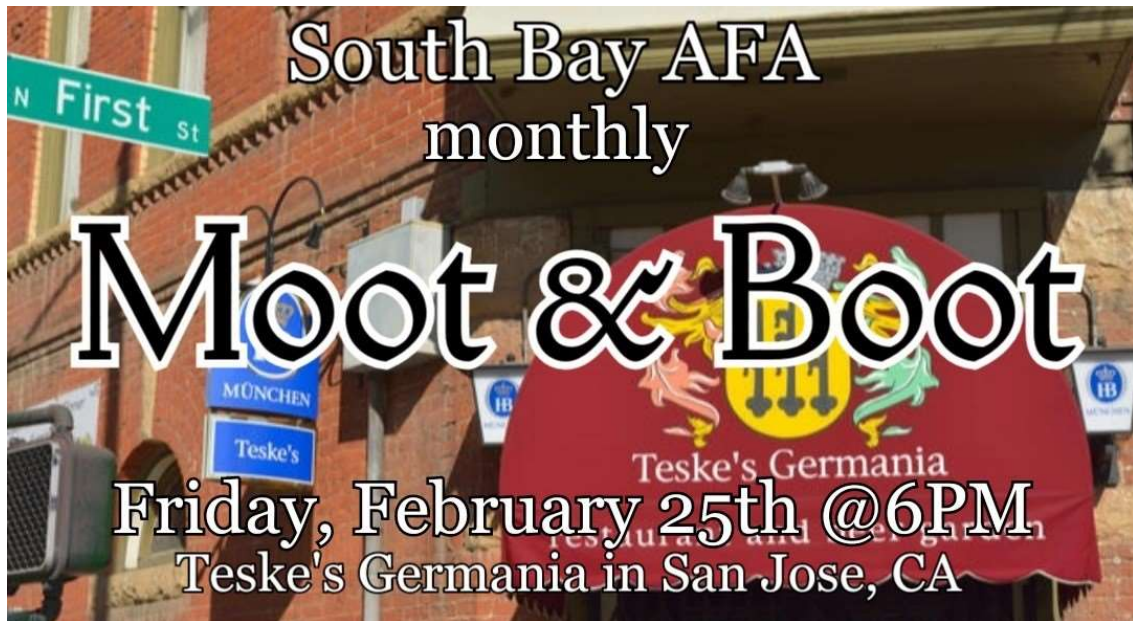


Utilizing nature as a conduit for new knowledge while also connecting us to our gods and goddesses. I naturally love assisting others so please feel free to reach out to me at any time. I look forward to making some amazing memories with all of you in this beautiful new year!



Ashley Stockton
Apprentice Folkbuilder
astockton@runestone.org

Upcoming Event



Join us for our monthly German dinner at Teske's Germania in San Jose on Friday, February 25th at 6 PM at Teske's Germania in San Jose, California. Enjoy a nice boot of quality German beer, a delicious schnitzel, and the company of the local folk!

Contact Apprentice Folkbuilder Connor Norris for any questions. We hope to see you there!



Connor Norris
Apprentice Folkbuilder
cnorris@runestone.org

Come Join us for a Family Cookout



This month was pretty quiet on my end due to Covid ripping through our household, but we will bounce back! In February we are getting back into the swing of things, with a Family Cookout for the Sacramento Area folks (or those willing to make the travel) on February 27th. We will be at a park having family-friendly fun with games, good food, and frith. This is open to all AFA members and thier vouched for friends that would like to see what we are about but cannot make it to the Hof yet. Please email me for more details or keep an eye out on MeWe for our Moots and Meetups Post!



Sierra Chapman
Apprentice Folkbuilder
schapman@runestone.org

Urnes Stave Church or Heathen Hof?



When science challenges orthodoxy, paradigms are corrected.

Nothing could be more obvious than with new technology such as dendrology, (dating by tree ring growth) that contradicts the sophistry of the Church when declaring that all of the Stave Churches were built originally as churches. It starts with a decree by the Catholic Church that Norway with the brutal conversion of Norway to Christianity started around 1020 with the Martyrdom of King Olaf, a tyrant of extreme cruelty and cunning. For example, the dating of Urnes Hof/church shows that the trees in some of the oldest parts of the building were cut down in 723. Another point that raises questions and I believe answers this issue of what came first the Hof, or the Church was the carving on the North Wall depicting Nidhogg eating on Yggdrasill a most basic part of our Lore and very Heathen.

There are also remnants of earlier construction under the Urnes Hof/Church. The architecture is not Romanesque as suggested in Wiki but in my opinion, was indigenous to Norway and possibly other parts of Scandinavia and possibly the continent but being nearer to Rome in time and space were destroyed earlier, read here the Saxon Conversion, another testament to cruelty and the power of propaganda.

Just the sheer skill in obtaining seasoned trees and knowledge to build these fine architectures is not something one would expect to happen in the short life of Olaf the Saint or even his Bishops that came after him and spread rumors of his miracles and church construction.

You see, with the coming of Christianity, came the Roman Church and Divine Right of

kings a most helpful form of opposition to what in Norwegian history is called “Petty Kingdoms” meaning no less than an attack on small republican, assemblies where a Chieftain/Gothi, Gythia were seen as leaders due to ability and service or value to the community that could be removed by the challenge at the Thing or combat in an extreme case.

Yes, we contrary to the bishops (the scribes of the Church) had law and order as the rule. There were in fact three areas of Norway and Sweden that were districts sort of a district court in modern parlance. The elder was Gula Thing, near Bergen and northward, the second was the Frostathing near central and southern Norway and Eidvasting in the east and border area of Sweden.

I have no doubt that the Cross was added to the Stave Hof/Churches and the latter was most likely constructed as a Church. Just like Christianity has done in other lands, they keep culturally familiar things out of the fire and add the propaganda for the new generation. Nothing new in the bag of tricks of tyrants.

Some things are true, such as the spiritual, our connection to the Divine, Numinous, Creator Ancestors.

There is a reason that the word, Rune means Mystery.



Gothi Thorgrun Odden
todden@runestone.org

Montana



Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan
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Nevada

Monthly Dinner



Our monthly dinner was hosted by Dan and his lovely family. We appreciate the hospitality, and we all had a great time.

February's dinner will be at the Flavel house on Saturday the 12th. Cocktails and potluck dinner, menu TBD.

Any AFA members who want to attend are warmly invited.

Matthew D. Flavel



Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly
mattflavel@runestone.org

Oregon

Growing In Oregon



It's been a pretty good month here in Oregon. We have gotten 3 new members who all seem to have a good energy about themselves. We met up with one of them and this guy hand makes xylophones and marimbas, super cool in my personal opinion. On a personal note, I'm looking to get material to start a group lore/Rune study group for people in my area and hopefully extend it to other good folk in the area in an attempt to build a bigger and tighter community in the area. Looking forward to Charming of the Plow up in Washington and can't wait to see everyone there.



Joshua Adams
Apprentice Folkbuilder
Jaadams@runestone.org

2nd AFA National Northwest gathering in Leavenworth Washington



Hails from the Pacific Northwest! Only a few days left before our 2nd AFA National Northwest gathering in Leavenworth Washington. This year we have Steve and Shelia McNallen, Matt Flavel, and several other AFA clergy will be attending making this an exceptionally special weekend. There are still a few spots open, so If you have the means try to attend this landmark Northwest region event!

Email me at Jrozaneck@runestone.org for the registration details.



2022 Charming of the Plow Schedule

Friday:

1630 Opening Ceremony-Greeting the Gods

1800 Dinner

1900 Welcome/Introductions ~Gothi Joe & Gythia Sheila

2000 Speaker Founder Stephen McNallen

2100 Odin blot- Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel

2130 Formal Sumble

Saturday:

0800 Breakfast

0900 Children's Blot

0930 Speakers ~ Gothar/Folkbuilders

1100 Games practice

1200 Lunch

1300 Viking Games / Women's Moot

14:30 Auction

16:00 Charming of the Plow Blot

1630 Speaker Q & A with Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel

1700 Trip into Leavenworth (optional)

1800 Lodge: Dinner/social time

1900 Lodge: Kennewick Man Saga _ McNallens

Evening – Open activities/socializing

Sunday:

0730 Galder session ~ Steve McNallen

0830 Breakfast

09:30 Ullr's blot- Gothi Joe Rozanek

1000 Closing and Goodbyes

1100 Departure

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Gothi Joe Rozanek

jrozanek@runestone.org

Washington

Trajectory Set to Victory



January flew by though not without laying the groundwork for the rest of the year.

This month we established 3 new clubs. Culture club, Ansuz Direct, and Berserker Club.

Now in addition to our biweekly iron Club where we gather in honor of Donar developing our strength and frith we will also be meeting Wednesdays for culture club which will include the development of musical talents along with instilling a greater appreciation for those of our folk who were great composers of music and developed other European cultural aspects.

Sundays moving forward we will be hosting a zoom-based reading club called Ansuz Direct.

All PNW AFA members are welcome to join us on these readings so please email me if you are interested in attending. Mjohnson@runestone.com.

Berserker club begins this month. This is where we will develop team skills, martial ability, basic first aid, and survival skills.

Between these clubs and a handful of large events, we foresee a year full of victories!

Not only do we plan on staying busy developing our local membership we intend on utilizing everything we have learned so far on our journey to leave a lasting impact aiding in the growth of all our neighboring regions. We look forward to many visits to Oregon, Idaho, and Montana in the coming months!

This month we gathered for Thorrablot, Iron Club, Culture Club, and a powerful kindred meeting.

At our kindred meeting, our womenfolk skillshare, and all of our men set new personal records on the weight deck. Many of our folk have shown tremendous growth and dedication towards personal development creating an energy of excellence in our local community. We have taken time to set personal goals, make 3-year plans, vision boards, and set community goals. I am beyond excited to see what this year brings to our PNW AFA family!

HAIL THE GODS!

HAIL THE ANCESTORS!

HAIL THE AFA!



Mason Johnson
Apprentice Folkbuilder
mjohnson@runestone.org



Tyler Heinlein
Apprentice Folkbuilder
theinlein@runestone.org





Food Pantry at Thorshof



On January 29th we hosted our food pantry for the community of Linden, NC, in which we had fed several families, including some established regulars. Afterward, we had several families arrive later in the day during Witan Herul's class. It's an amazing feeling to be able to make a difference in the area. One development to note, the Food Pantry has been so successful, garnered so much positive attention that the local churches have begun doing the same. How amazing is that, that we started giving-charitable food, and our noble example has caught fire in the small town of 125. We thank our volunteers, our donors, and mostly, our Ancestors and Gods! This is how we build bright fame.



Folkbuilder Heather Young
hyoung@runestone.org

Thorrablót at Thorshof



On January 29th we held our 2nd Thorrablot at Thorshof. We had families come from as far away as Maryland, Virginia, and Georgia. We had our usual leadership team in attendance, Witan Herul, Gothi Stamm, Gothi East, and Gothi Young, and all played an active role in the proceedings.



Gothi Young gave a short class on the foundational Noble Virtues of Asatru, including the 10th Noble Virtue, Victory. Witan Svan followed that with a class on Thorrablot, and the rune Thurisaz. Everyone in attendance felt this was Witan Herul's best class to date. We are so thankful for the wisdom shared by our Gothar.



Ritual started with an offering to Raud the Strong, by Gothi East. We asked that Thor bless us with a portion of Raud's strength and determination. Gothi Young lead us all in ritual offering to our Champion, our friend, our protector, AsaThor. May Thor continue to bless us with strength and the will to fight! Hail Thor!



After Thor Blot, we held a small Sumbel in Terry's Hall by candlelight. It was a first for newcomers, and emotions were high. Not emotions of sadness, but of joy. During the third round, it was announced that our great friend Bobby Shotwell and his wife are expecting their third baby! Also, the Bethard family are a few days away from learning the gender of their third child.



Our children played, our folk laughed and shared good drink and good food. Our leadership team, particularly Gothi Rob Stamm, darted back and forth snapping amazing photos. Everyone chipped in, everyone had a great time. If you live in the area, and you haven't been to our beloved Temple, what are you waiting for? Come see us, take your place in the kin-fence!



Gothi Daniel Young
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Upcoming Events at Thorshof

Holy Tidings:

Þórrablöt: January 29th

Charming of the Plow: February 26th

Ostara: March 11-13

Hexennacht: April 30th

May Day: May 28th

Midsummer: TBD(18th or 25)

Sigrblöt: July 30th

Freyfaxi: August 27th

Winter Finding: September 24th

Winter Nights: October 29th

Feast of the Einherjar: November 19th

Mother's Night of Yule: December 18th

Work Days:

December 11th(2021)

January 8th(2022)

February 12th

April 9th

May 14th

June 11th

July 9th

August 13th

September 10th

November 12th

December 10th



Witan Svan Herul

sherul@runestone.org

Florida

Florida Calendar of Events



Charming of the Plow-February 27th

Ostara-March 26th

Hexennacht-April 16th

May Day-May 7th

Midsummer-June 18th

Sigrblót-July 17th

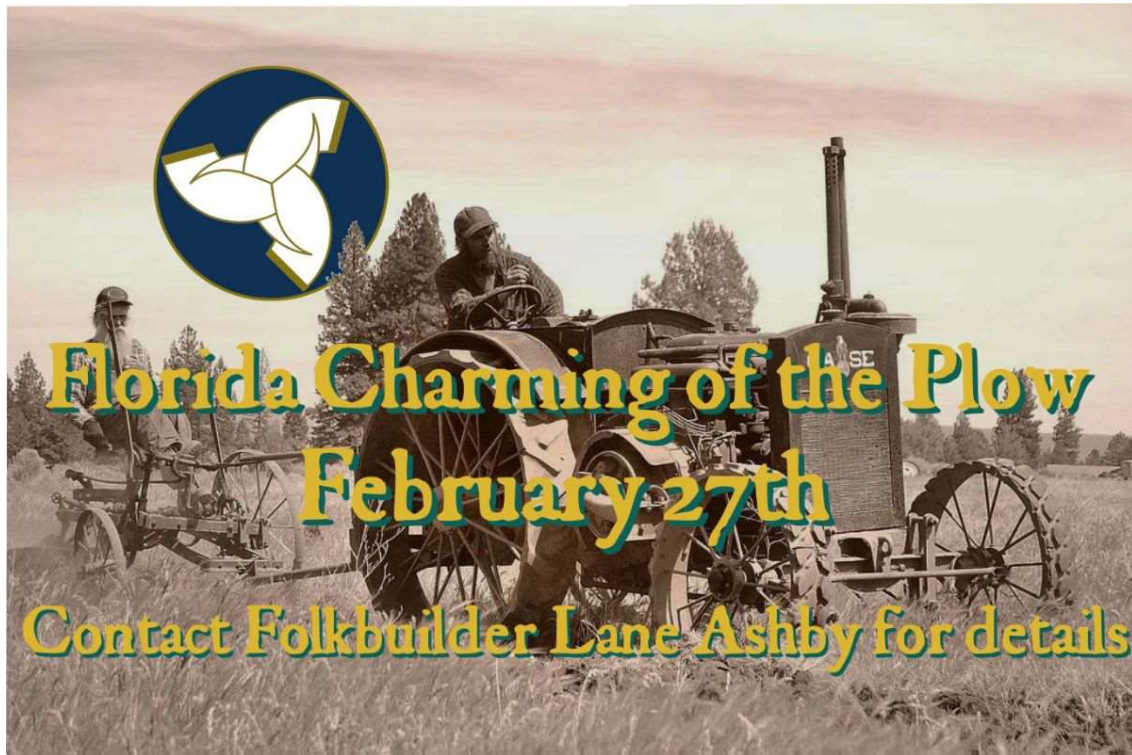
Freyfaxi-August 20th

Winter Finding-September 17th - 18th

Winter Nights-October 15th

Feast of the Einherjar-November 12th

Yule-December 17th - 18th



Folkbuilder Lane Ashby
lashby@runestone.org



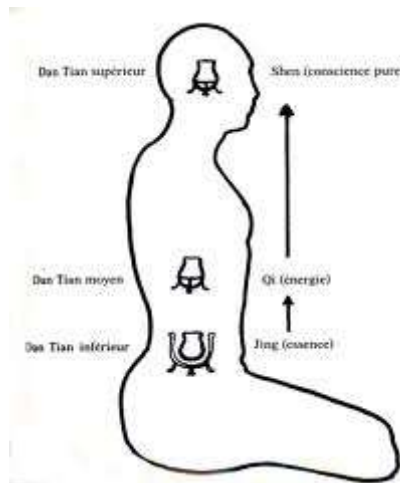
Gythia Anna Plourde
aszczepanski@runestone.org



Gothi Jason Plourde

jplourde@runestone.org

Meditation Part 2



Now that you are in the habit of fifteen minutes a day (you ARE in the habit, right?) we can add a couple of elements to enhance your practice.

First, posture. When you sit, stretch the neck upward slightly and tip the head down as if you are looking at something on the floor about ten feet away. This straightens the spine completely.

Next, breathing. When sitting - or any time, really - you should breathe from your diaphragm. This promotes complete filling and emptying of the lungs, which enhances energy circulation and clears the lungs of impurities. With each complete inhalation tighten the muscles in the pelvic floor (also known as the perineum; this is much like the muscle contraction used to staunch the flow of urine). This prevents the loss of spiritual energy.

Lastly, for today, is the Big Picture. I was trained in the practice of kundalini meditation. Kundalini theory says that your Life Energy - variously called kundalini, chi, or ond - lies dormant at the base of the spine and must be awakened by mindfulness and meditation. So, when you inhale imagine your breath reaching all the way to the

base of your spine. Then when you exhale imagine that life force rising up the spine. You can imagine your breath sequentially activating the three cauldrons that Mr. McNallen writes about: Bodn, Son, and Odrereir. This work will raise your life and spirit from the lower motivations - food and sex - through the heart, with the love of family and tribe - up to the ideals of self-realization. This is the highest manifestation of the Odinic path.

Up next: mantra. Practice, practice, practice. Elevate!



Lawspeaker Allen Turnage
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Georgia

Reconstruction or Revival?



Many organizations and individuals who practice Asatru often fall into the trap of trying to do things “by the book”- by this, I mean they want to do things in the exact same way that our ancestors supposedly did. They want to read or recite their invocations from a script during Blöt, they want to wear tunics during ceremonies, they only ever spell names and locations in perfect Old Norse, and they only focus on Viking Age Scandinavia or Iceland. These folks call themselves “reconstructionists”.

Reconstructing Asatru to make it historically accurate in regard to how the Vikings practiced it sounds great, but as modern Aryans living in the 21st century, would we be properly worshipping our Gods by pretending to be Icelandic? Well, maybe Witan Svan would be, but my ancestors, for example, were Saxons and likely worshiped our Gods differently from the Icelandic Folk. Our people come from all over Europe, from Ireland to Russia, from Finland to Greece, and each of these regions connected with the Divine in similar ways, but different enough that “reconstructionists” will split hairs

and call things “inauthentic” ... All while not properly connecting with the Gods in the process. Rituals and invocations and prayers are about speaking from the heart and continuing the gifting cycle in a meaningful way. I don’t know about you, but when I speak from the heart, it is never in Old Norse.

One of the big things that set the AFA apart from and above the others, is that we are REVIVING Asatru rather than reconstructing Asatru. Our faith is alive, and the Gods should be worshipped in the modern world just as fiercely as they were in ninth-century Iceland! We speak English (or another modern language) when we invoke Thor for strength, not Old Norse. We wear suits and dresses when we hail our ancestors, not tunics from Amazon. Our Gods must appreciate these things, as they have been blessing us abundantly for the last 27 years!

It is 2022- Asatru is alive, and it is the AFA who makes it so!



Gothi Trent East
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Indiana

Song of Ice and Fire-Baked Pizza



Happy New Year from Indiana! We celebrated on Jan. 1st with a traditional Irish-American corned beef and cabbage meal and Blót dedicated to our ancestral hero Raud the Strong. We told stories. We played chess. One guy put another guy in a headlock. We forced my children to sit and listen to Prof. Benjamin Bagby sing Beowulf in Old English until they begged to be allowed to go to bed (I highly recommend purchasing his recording or tracking down a video online).



A week or so later we gathered again with some of our Folk who are in possession of a large wood-fired pizza oven. We made pizza. We ate pizza. We banged drums while ranting and raving. We had a good time. Coincidentally, I am told that the monolith of a pizza-making device we were using is so heavy that it sits on FOUR feet of concrete footer. By my calculations, I will need six strong men and a team of oxen to steal this oven and move it to my living room. Volunteers/oxen are encouraged to send me an email.



The end of the month saw several of us again breaking bread with our brothers and sisters in Ohio (particularly those of Under Ash and Oak). The food was good, the Bierhaus décor was gooder, and the company was even gooderer. It seems as though every time I gather with a group of our Folk; I meet someone new who turns out to be terrific, further reiterating the importance of gathering together with Our People. After all, the only thing more important than good grammar is good friends.



After dinner our Indiana contingent split into separate teams, one team invading an ice sculpture festival while the Bravo team fell back to hold the line at a local bar. This was an important strategic move, allowing an elite team to brave the cold, infiltrate and document valuable ice sculpting technology while I got to sit around indoors and lure observing enemies into complacency by consistently losing at pool while eating fried chicken livers. This is how the war is won, people.



As always, anyone who is interested in attending any of our (primarily central) Indiana events is encouraged to contact me through Runestone.org. We are eager to welcome you home.

Johnathan Rock
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Greetings from Indiana



Heimdall's Midgard got together in January to celebrate Thorrablót. We had dinner, discussions, blot, and Sumble. We are looking forward to another year of

accomplishments and frith. And getting back to camping!

Next month we will be meeting up again for Charming of the Plow. There are lots of events in the works for this year. More details on that next month. Until next time...

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Folkbuilder Zach Cato

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Italy

Burning Befana



These are pictures of the "Old woman Bonfire", an ancient ritual with heathen roots. The old witch represents the old year with his negativities and suffering. By burning it (during the night of 5th January, at the end of the 12 nights, when Odin rides the Wild

Hunt) an apotropaic rite is carried out in order to drive away the Evil and the evil spirits and propitiate the fertility of the fields and the abundance of future crops.



The old lady is called "Befana" in Italy and "Frau Holle" or "Perchta" in Germany and Austria and is connected with the langobardic goddess Freya, which is the equivalent of Frigg, the wife of Odin: it's evident also the similarity with Mother Nature/Mother Earth Nerthus.



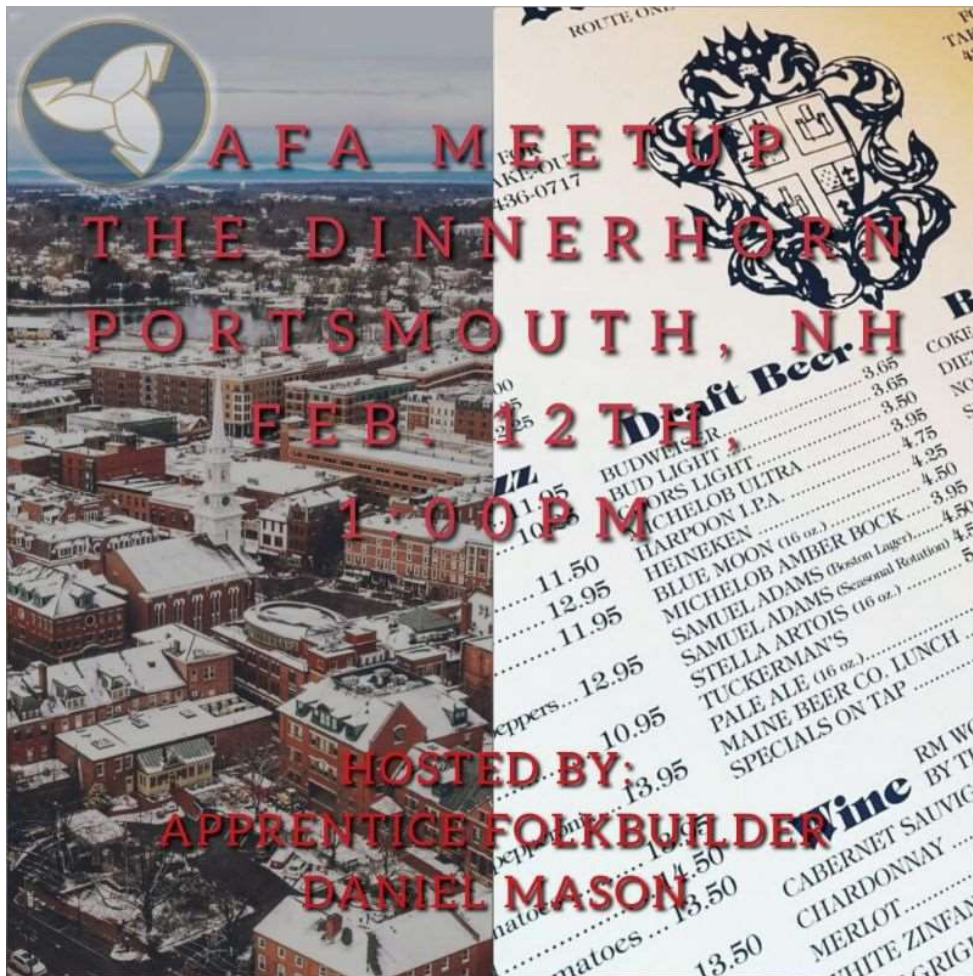
Francesco Morese
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Maine

Things are Happening in Northern New England



We are starting off the year right by welcoming a few new members here in the New England area. My wife and I had an unplanned moot at our home with our newest member from Maine. We had a nice dinner and good conversation. I hope the rest of the year is also filled with opportunities to make new friends.



UPCOMING EVENT: Feb 12th at 1 pm - We are having a moot in Portsmouth, NH at a restaurant called The Dinnerhorn. If you can make it, please join us!



Daniel Mason
 Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Ohio

Isbjörns läger Northeast Ohio Moot



An excellent turnout for the folk of Northeast Ohio and visiting members from neighboring Pennsylvania. It was a cold night to honor our ancestors of old. Many of whom would often venture away from the home and family on expeditions and voyages. Not only to bring wealth to their clan but also to prove their metal as men. In modern times we are often given so much luxury we forget what it is to struggle.



So, we gathered, and we struggled. Through 3 feet of snow, after hiking with gear, 250 yards through the fields, with temperatures dropping into the single digits, we struggled. Not for material wealth but to honor our ancestors and to prove to ourselves and each other our metal, and in doing so together, like the voyaging parties of antiquity, we grew closer as folk.



Christian Williams
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Christmas Story House



On a frigid January day, I held my monthly moot at the Christmas story house. The very house it was filmed in is in a Cleveland Ohio home so I thought we could have a

look. I only had one member grace me with his presence that day, but it's always worth it to see any of our great folk. After looking at the gift shop and getting our tickets it was time for the tour. It looked just as you would expect right down to the leg lamp in the window and Ralphie's decoder pin in the bathroom. The tour guide gave us some facts and trivia and allowed us to self-guide around the house for a time. After the main attraction, there is a small museum with many pieces from the film ranging from costumes to the toys Randy played with, there were even old scripts.



After a bit of nostalgic fun, we decided to get a bite to eat at the local pub. The service was terrible, to be honest, but my company was delightful. It never matters how many of us get together or what we do all that really matters is that we all keep forming the strong bonds and great friendships and community that makes our organization great. If you ever find yourself in Cleveland, maybe take a little trip to the Christmas story house, I found it very enjoyable. Take care of yourselves. Hail the Gods and Hail the AFA.

Upcoming Event



February 12 join us for a beer, brats, and board game night. Bring your favorite game, snack and drink, I'll have bratwurst cooking. 2:00pm and anyone is welcome to sleep over if they care to drink.
[234-238-2300](tel:234-238-2300).



Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Day of Remembrance of Raud the Strong



On January 8th, members came together at our home to remember Raud the Strong. A feast was made with rare London broil steaks, homemade cheese noodles, fresh green salad, and homemade biscuits with apple butter. We told tales of strength and offered a setting of our meal to Raud the Strong.

Wassail in Kentucky



Under Ash + Oak Kindred gathering at our fellow member's home in Kentucky on January 15th.



A bountiful potluck was held with warm cooked turkey, collard greens, soft biscuits, brussel sprout salad, chips, salsa, and homemade apple pie. All served with freshly made Wassail.



After enjoying our meal and conversations together. Thorrablót was led by a hosting member. During ritual, we placed our Thor's hammers in a bowl and blessed. The libations were offered to an old apple tree on the property.



The day together unfortunately had to come to an end. We thanked our host for their generous hospitality and discussed seeing everyone at our next upcoming event.

Upcoming Events in Ohio

**Join your Folk in
Columbus, Ohio Saturday
Feb 19th 2pm for:
CHARMING OF THE PLOW**



**Contact Apprentice Folkbuilder
Christine Dumas for details
Cdumas@runestone.org**

Christine Dumas
Apprentice Folkbuilder
cdumas@runestone.org



Under Ash + Oak Anniversary Dinner



On Saturday, January 29th Under Ash + Oak met with other AFA Folk from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Indiana at an amazing German Restaurant in Cincinnati, Ohio. The aesthetics of this place are unmatched by just about any other place of its kind that I have been to and the food here is killer.



Near this time last year Apprentice Folkbuilder Joe Drotos hosted a moot here and the foundation of Under Ash + Oak was formed. We were very excited to have Folk from so many places join us in celebration. Delicious food and drink were scarfed down, Frith was built and perpetuated, and even an award and recognition were given to a kindred brother who has gone above and beyond to bring members into our great community.



Many of us view the AFA in different ways. To some, this organization is purely spiritual and they find great solace in that. Others yet see the AFA as a great community to raise their children have their families be involved in. I challenge both those schools of thought to look at the other and join the two into one. For myself, helping to build this great community has given me so much spiritual insight and has contributed to me working on myself as not only a better AFA member, but a better Husband, Father, and Friend. I am so proud of my kindred and all the work the members in our sphere of activity are doing. I look forward to seeing everyone again at Charming of the Plow.



Folkbuilder Timothy Dumas

tdumas@runestone.org

Strengthening the Feminine Energy



As our menfolk went in the frigid cold to have a campout, we ladies stayed home and enjoyed time together. We held a ritual for the Norns, asking for guidance and clarity, to gain a better understanding of the feminine powers in our world around us. This was a beautiful and very powerful ritual done by Jessica Keller. We all felt the feminine energy flow around us and this brought us much closer.



In the morning, we woke early to prepare breakfast for our men returning from the cold. We prepared delicious strawberry crepes as well as classic eggs and bacon. Our men were very happy to return indoors to their ladies welcomed with a warm cup of coffee.

After breakfast, we gathered for our Thorrablót officiated by Mike. After a powerful blot, we engaged in a nerf battle with my son and chit-chat and long goodbyes.

Our community here is small but growing. And our bonds grow with it. The best part about the gatherings we hold is the kinship. My AFA folk here are not only my friends but my family. The connections we make will last a lifetime and every day I'm ever so grateful that I followed my heart home to the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Upcoming Events



We are headed north Friday, February 25th for the Michigan Nordic Fire Festival!!!

Festival hours on Friday are 5 PM thru 11 PM.

Check out the website for festival details, this is a whole weekend festival, but we Ohioans will only be there Friday.

<https://www.michigannordicfirefestival.com/>



Join us Saturday, February 26th at 1 PM for the 10th Annual Cleveland Kurentovaje Festival!

Cleveland Kurentovanje (koo-rehn-toh-VAHN-yeh) is a multi-day "Slovenian Mardi Gras" festival, celebrating the end of winter and the beginning of spring. Founded in 2012, with the first event held in 2013, we host a multi-day festival filled with cultural and festive events, which culminates in a day-long Parade & Festival celebration on Saturday complete with costumes, a parade, ethnic food and drink, musical and cultural performances, and Kurents — mythical creatures who are believed to chase away winter and usher in spring.

Cleveland Kurentovanje at Slovenian National Home
6409 Saint Clair Avenue Cleveland, OH, 44103

Folkbuilder Jessica Lambert

jlambert@runestone.org



Pennsylvania

First Annual Maple Moot in Pennsylvania



In mid-January members from Pennsylvania gathered at a wonderful place called Shady Maple Smorgasbord in the heart of Amish Lancaster county. If you have never been, it is a glorious place. It is America's largest buffet which features some of our most comforting "Pennsylvania Dutch" foods. We braved the below-freezing temperatures and met for fellowship, frith, laughs, silly conversations and shared a delicious meal together. It definitely helped break up the post-Yule slump a bit. Instantly warmed! (Also, feel free to stop here on your way to/ from Winternights in the Poconos- it may be on your route up there) We hope to see you for next year's second annual Maple Moot!



Jane Malseed
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jmalseed@runestone.org

Runic Yoga Part 3



If you have been following along over the past couple of months, we have covered variations of the IS, KA, MAN, and UR runic yoga. We covered some basic methods on how to perform them and also some of the meanings behind each. I will say there is much more though. If we stay disciplined in the process the runes will constantly reveal more to us. On another note, reading about these topics is great but the "key" is not found there. It's found in actual practice. Nothing is greater than that and nothing more profound than when the answer comes to you from that "voice" within from doing so. At that moment you know what was spoken was what you have been seeking.

For this month's Runic Yoga practice and to add I have given this quite a bit of thought. I feel it's best to cover the NOT and EH rune together in one article. They are intricately connected, and we'll see the importance then. So, we will cover just the

Cross Rune Stadha here. Some may be asking themselves "what is the Cross Rune?".

That is understandable. It technically isn't part of the Armanen Futhorkh. We can look at it in a couple of ways. One that comes to mind is the Sun Cross and the other as Spirit crucified in Matter. The latter is very important for us in this case. That is what we are at this very moment and one possible goal would be to break free from it. In the end, it is certainly not Christian. Much of the symbols we find today have always been ours and ours to take back. So, with that let's begin.

Face North, stand in the IS rune position, and take 3 to 7 breaths. While doing that, imagine being on a mountain or someplace in nature meaningful to you.

Now raise your arms like the picture provided.

As you breathe in, picture yourself drawing in energy from all four directions. From the sides, below, and above.

With each breath picture, it all is colliding in your center.

Do this for a minimum of nine breaths.

Lower your arms and if done right you will very much feel you are being magnetized. For me, it's from my head down to my feet.

Say a few positive affirmations to yourself now. It could be something like " I AM the Initiate. Filled with health, spirit, memory, will and power" or something along those lines. Use what is best for you.

At this point, you may be noticing somewhat of a pattern in how this is all going. You have pulled the different energy streams from all directions in the previous runes and put them into this one. Hence why I feel that this is such a powerful practice. In my experience, this particular one gives a much different feeling. Not so much relaxed or calmness but a feeling of strength and a willingness to take on the world so to speak. I feel alive and with purpose, the Initiate. I would also like to touch on another aspect of the importance of Runic Yoga. We all may know that dance, mantras, galdr, etc has an effect on our physiology. We feel good after doing it. By combining the form (stadha) and the mantra of the rune itself the end result is twofold. Twice the results and twice the acceleration on not just our physical bodies but the other more subtle like the astral, mental, etc. It works in all of them, at once, and in turn, makes us evolve or involute depending on our thoughts on this matter.

Thanks for listening and we'll pick this up again next month.

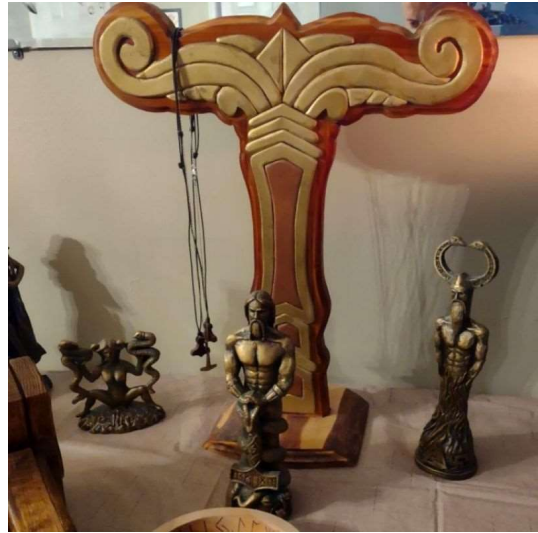
Happenings in Pennsylvania





It was a busy month in the Northeast. First up was a hike for our High God. It was the third of January we made it out to this special place. We also had a surprise visit from our friends down in Stonewall Kindred. Apprentice Folkbuilder Pat Cook came to the first one a few years back, so it was nice to have him there again as well as everyone else that made the trip. The weather was perfect that day for the Aryan (rain, snow, ice), and our Rite once to the top was well received by the Tireless Hunter for all worth knowing.





The second was Thorrablot in Boyertown. I really enjoyed having everyone come over to my place for this one. We had great conversations. Everyone pitched in and brought something to help with dinner and we built even better bonds with our Warrior God.

Lastly, I wanted to give a special thanks to my wife for all she did that day and leading up to it. She is truly my luck in so many ways.

Upcoming events: Look for Charming of the Plow in Pennsylvania and a hike in Jim Thorpe PA. I will post details once exact dates and times are set.



Folkbuilder Adam Hudak

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Gythia Catie Erickson

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Update from the Ericksons



Witan Clifford and Gythia Catie have just finished moving from Lansdale near Philly to Erie County, Pennsylvania. We are looking forward to hosting some meetups near Erie, especially when the ice melts and the boats are sailing. If you or anyone you know is in this area and wants to participate in Asatru, please let us know.



Witan Clifford Erickson
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South Africa

Welcoming a New Apprentice Folkbuilder

Please join me in welcoming Daviyd Van Vuuren of South Africa as the AFA's newest Apprentice Folkbuilder for the Þórshof District. We are overjoyed to have someone step up to build our AFA in South Africa! Daviyd comes to the job with enthusiasm and a great attitude. With the blessings of the Æsir, Daviyd is poised to do great things in the coming months and years!



Daviyd Van Vuuren
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Sweden

Thorsblot in the North



January 23d the Lugnet family invited Thor the Thunderer to a feast. With warm food and a joyous mood, we asked the son of Odin to bless our year with courage and strength. Hail Thor!

A Swedish Treat



In Sweden, we have something called "fettisdagen". This day has Christian origins and was one of the days before the fast of easter. Although Christianity has waned considerably in Sweden, this tradition still remains. On this day, we eat a special pastry called a Semla. And it is delicious, so we thought we'd share the recipe for it!

Fettisdagen occurs earliest 3d of February and latest 9th of March. But as the years go by, the date gets pushed earlier and earlier, as it is big money for stores and bakeries. We Swedes are crazy about Semla. So don't feel bad if you make it outside those dates.

Semla Recipe

Ingredients

Buns

11 oz milk

5 oz butter

1 Tbsp cardamom

2 oz fresh yeast or 2 packages dry yeast

1 egg

1/2 cup plus 2 Tbsp sugar

1 tsp salt

5 cups flour

Filling

1 1/4 cup cream, whipped

3 1/2 oz almond paste, coarsely grated

2 oz milk

powdered sugar

Directions

Buns

Combine the milk, butter, and cardamom in a small pan and heat until the butter has melted.

Leave to cool to just above room temperature and add the yeast.

Transfer to a large bowl and add the egg, sugar, salt, and flour. Knead until smooth, shiny, and elastic, about 10 minutes. Let rise until doubled, about 20 to 40 minutes.

Tip the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead slightly. Shape into 12 balls.

Place a few inches apart on parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Let rise again until almost doubled, 15 to 20 minutes.

Bake at 400°F for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden, then cool on wire racks.

Cut the tops of the buns, making three incisions to form a triangular lid. dig a bit of the bread out and save it for the filling.

Filling

Blend the reserved breading, almond paste, and milk. Spoon a bit of filling onto each bun and top with whipped cream. place a lid on each bun and dust with powdered sugar.

Upcoming Events

Join the Lugnets up north as we celebrate Charming of the Plow this February 26th.

The Saturday Call

Every Saturday we have a call over teams for the Swedish AFA members. Calls will vary in topic, but the idea is to get to know each other better, and hopefully serve as a first step in eventually meeting up in the real world.

Invitations are sent out over email so make sure to check yours if you want to join.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Erik Lugnet
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Tennessee

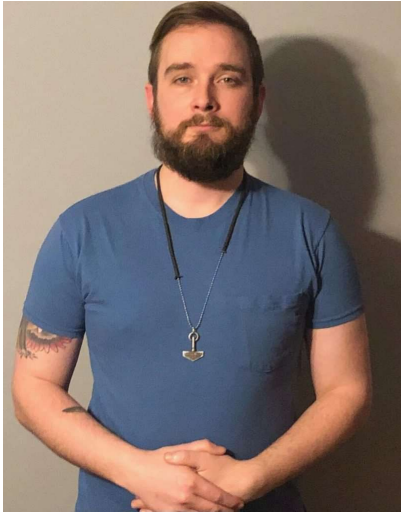
Tennessee Spirit



Hello, my name is Russell Brown. Tennessee has been my home for thirty years; I was born here, raised by hand in the woodlands, taught by old, gritted men and respectable ladies. Like most young men, I was listless, lacking spiritual direction and discipline that called to me. When my State and Nation called, I answered, I served my time in the Army. My body was more potent during my second tour in Afghanistan. My mind was sharper, and I received personal gnosis one wintry night. This experience stuck with me and began a feverish need to know or understand what I saw that led me in the end to the AFA.



These experiences push me to serve my folk whenever I can. While I am new to Folkbuilding, I do so to aid the people, my state, and the AFA.



Russell Brown
Apprentice Folkbuilder
Rbrown@runestone.org

Growth in Tennessee

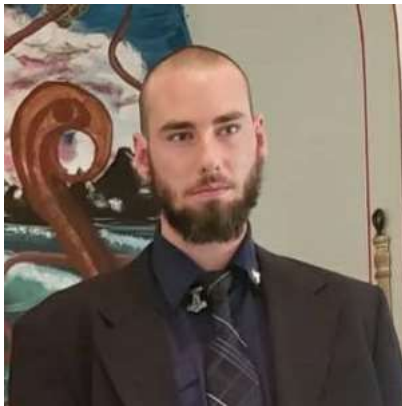


Recently the state of Tennessee has begun its own reawaking of the spirit of the Folk. My beloved Tennessee has a beautiful landscape of rolling hills to stoic plateaus and breathtaking mountains, welcoming the Folk who would call it home. The soil of the spirit is fertile with the foundation of a Kindred being grown here, the Ingvi Freyr kindred, to be exact.

The Tennessee Folkbuilders have planned to reach the far-flung Folk in their state by holding separate moots to maximize the reach of the Gods. Currently held moots have been in Columbia, Tennessee at the Asgard Brewery, and to the cheer of the Folk, it was good. Jesse Parton and Russell Brown are the current Folkbuilders in the state with hopes of including more to cover even the farthest corners of the state.

The future of the Tennessee folk is expanding along with the AFA!

Upcoming moots and meetups in February will consist of nature walks at a state park to take in the fresh air and history of the park and potentially some fun activities down the road. With hope and a dash of luck, we can further the reawaking of the Folk in the Volunteer State.



Jesse Parton
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jparton@runestone.org

Virginia

The Measure



I seek within myself the fortitude to live a life worthy of admiration by my Ancestors and my Holy Gods.

I seek to act in accordance with the Nine Noble Virtues and Values upon which the rebirth of our faith was founded upon.

I seek to adjudicate the Eight Fold Goals of our community both within myself and within the greater Folk Nation.

I seek to implement the criterions of the Laws of the Hall and the Statement of Ethics as set by the Asatru Folk Assembly, in seeking frith with all within our Folk Nation of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

I seek to hold myself indeed to the holy oath of fraternal bond that I made upon crossing the threshold into our faith.

As we look to the future of what we have built, we must always look from the past that built us in the first place. Witan Svan Herul taught me a simple yet very profound measure that I reflect upon daily to see if I measure up. We all have strife that comes into our lives, the difference is how do we combat them. We must face these problems with nobility and fortitude, that will make our Ancestors proud to be called our kin. This Measure was a great way to reflect upon the day and see if my deeds have matched my words. The question I ask myself is "Do I measure up?" It is a question we should ask ourselves every day, to not just be a good person but to be NOBLE. So, my question to you, is do you measure up?

Virginia Meet-Up



On January 8th Gothi Rob Stamm and Folkbuilder Cody Raynard got together to hold a meet-up at Craft 31 in Williamsburg, VA. We had a great time discussing Asatru and other topics, as well as enjoying some amazing food together with laughter and great cheer.

Welcome to Midgard Annabella Lee Shrieves



I wanted to congratulate member Rob Shrieves and his wife Cristina Shrieves on the birth of their newest member of the family. Please join me in welcoming Annabella Lee Shrieves to the Folk, she was born on Dec. 28, 2021, weighing in at 8 lbs. 15oz and 20.75 in. long! May this beautiful bundle of joy bring happiness to the Shrieves family. Welcome to the world little one!

Hail Annabella Lee Shrieves!

Folkbuilder Cody Raynard

craynard@runestone.org



Wisdom in Action



Greetings everyone. Most of us are in deep dark winter now. The cold winds blow but be warm in the knowledge that soon dawn will slip her rosy fingers over the horizon, and spring will be renewed!

So, you have read the Edda's, all the sagas. Maybe you have even tackled some rune knowledge. Great! What now?

To know, according to Wisdom, does not mean “to think”, but to be the thing known: to live it, to realize it inwardly. One does not really know a thing unless one can actively transform one’s consciousness into it. -Julius Evola

We have to put that knowledge into action. A person can read about bullfighting all day, but they don't know it, truly understand it, until they are in the arena facing down an angry bull. The same can be said for our religion. You must live it, every day, to truly know it. Our ancestors did not have a separation of church and state, they didn't only consider their faith while they were at the Hof or during ritual. When we are at work, play, home, in our relationships, in everything we do, Asatru informs us of Noble actions, our faith guides us. An oath to a coworker is no less an oath to your kindred mate. Your ancestors don't stop watching when you leave the temple or ritual space. Strive to live and breathe Asatru, embody nobility, bring pride to our church, and live a life worth remembering.



Gothi Rob Stamm

rstamm@runestone.org

West Virginia

Thorrablót in the Stonewall Shire



How do you honor the Thunderer? What manner of offering might be pleasing to the God of Strength, Speed, and Explosive Action?

Would we pour and share a horn of mead? Certainly!

But what reason has one, so beloved of his Folk, so high and holy as Asa Thor, to take

notice of just another libation poured into the ground?

We must do something with it first!

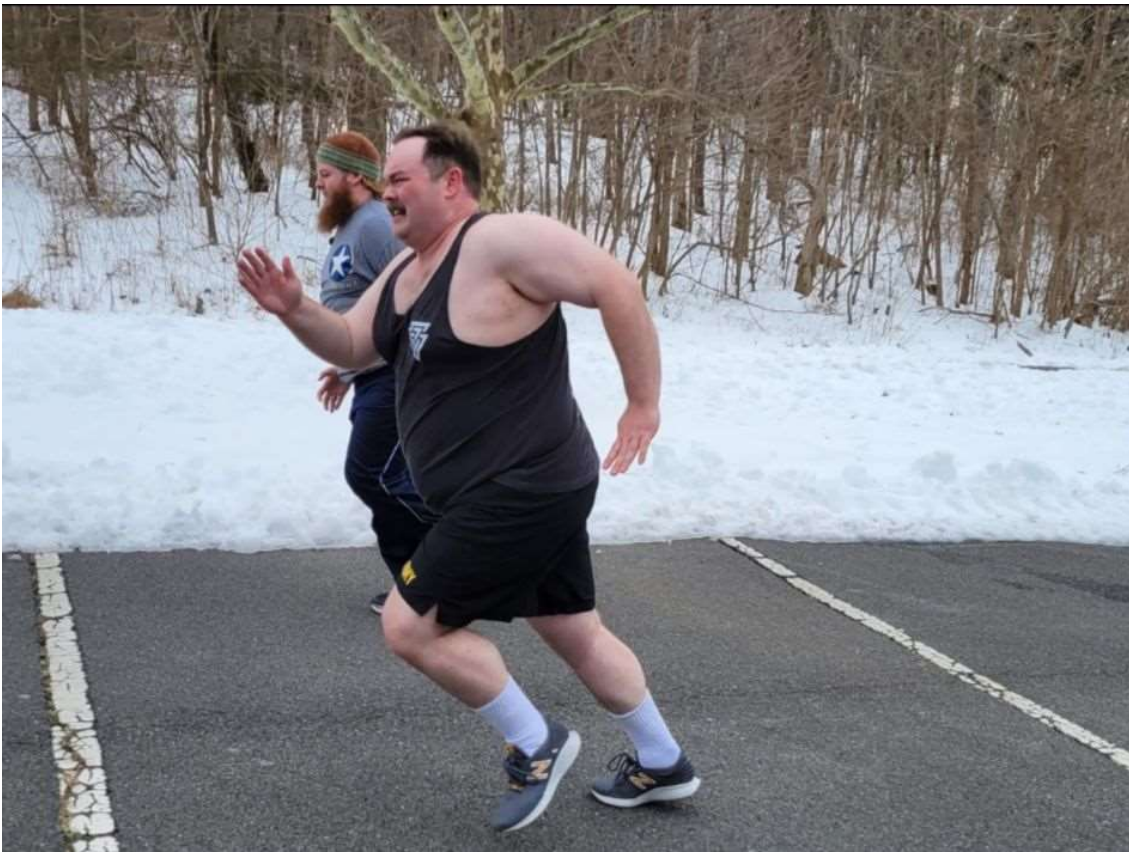
It is the life force, the vital essence of the worshipper, that is the True sacrifice. The physical and spiritual contact between the giver and the gift is the moment at which the life force is transferred - "charged," as we say

And it is this magical charge, this gift of concentrated Will, that Truly nourishes the Gods.



On Sunday the 23rd of January, Stonewall Kindred gathered at Shenandoah River State Park in Virginia to celebrate Thorrablot, giving the seat of honor to the Storm Rider Himself. Our True gift was in the form of the vital electricity flowing from our hearts to our limbs, and in the spirit of the vital action the Mighty One loves so much, we "turned up the voltage" of this gift in a way we thought He would appreciate: by recreating the trials of Thor in his visit to the hall of the Giant King.

Our first trial was to run (while the giant Skrymir was walking): a major wake-up call for all of us as we break the static, leftover hibernation of the holidays!



Next, it was the impossible foot race of Thor's thrall Thialfe against "Thought," represented by an actual foot race in friendly competition against one another. By this time the blood was pumping against the crisp, cold air in which we spent the entire day!



We then picked up the Giant King's "cat." (Due to an unfortunate shortage of giant cats to pick up, we substituted a decent-sized boulder and had a tossing contest). After that contest was won by our newest member Stephen Oakes, we then returned to our Ve on the banks of the Shenandoah, where Thor sat in judgment as we wrestled "old age," by locking arms with one another and wrestling, each man to a single knee.



Last but certainly not least, we drank water - lots of it! Perhaps we didn't drink enough to cause the earth's tides, but after sitting in the frozen open-air those gallon jugs presented plenty enough of a physical challenge to please the Thunderer. We hope our mere human imitation of His great feat at least made him smile as he watched us brave the freezing liquid in his name.

We then took that charge, that mighty magnetic force built through our series of exertions, and channeled it into the Mead in our Blot horn. Before pouring it, we accepted blessing from the Defender of the Gods upon our Mjolnir pendants, which had been laid out before the altar while we went through the day's physical sacrifice.

From our hearts to our hands to the horn; from the horn to the earth to the Gods. Hail Thor!

Finally, I was honored to present a new and very promising member, James Bethard, with his first-ever Mjolnir pendant. It had been my first Hammer as an Asatru practitioner, a difficult thing to part with. But where better, than before the high seat of the Mighty One Himself, than to increase the Voltage of one's first Hammer by passing it on to a brother in the Faith? Welcome home James and wear it with pride!



After Blot was formally concluded, we engaged in one last unofficial test of courage - a quick plunge in the sub-freezing Shenandoah River! I'm proud to report that nobody from Stonewall who was physically able chickened out.

It was just the way a proper Thor Blot should have felt. Lighthearted, high energy, and tons of camaraderie. The Frith bonds, we feel, are deep and long lasting after this day.

Our hearts are Tru, and we feel the Thunderer must surely agree.

MIA! A manly game that brings JOY to the Beer Hall!



"Lot Box is always play and laughter among bold men,
Where the Warriors sit in the Beer Hall,
Happily together."

- Anglo Saxon Rune Poem

Here is an example of a pastime that brings Joy among rough men. A game you can honestly say tests your Luck while building camaraderie among the war band.

Stonewall decided to try out MIA, a dice game with roots in ancient Germanic Mead Benches. It is our intention to use it as a 50/50 raffle among the men of the Kindred, as a more interesting way to pay for incidental expenses while testing this ancestrally driven side of ourselves.

Using a lot box that normally houses a set of Runes, we sat and tested our collective and individual Luck by dicing while in the presence of the Mighty One this Thorrablot.

It's a game that relies on Luck (read as precisely your level of magical Voltage) and upon your ability to manipulate Luck (in this case, through the subtle art of bluffing).



Here are the rules in short. May it bring as much joy to your Mead Bench as it has to ours!

RULES: you begin with three "chips," which we represented in this picture (awesomely) with pieces of ice.

1. You roll two dice in the lot cup, and you alone get to look at your roll. You may then tell the truth (to the man to your left), lie "low" or lie "high."
2. Your opponent (to your left) then decides whether to accept your claim or call it out. You are safe in telling the truth lying lower than you rolled but lose a "chip" if you are caught lying higher than your roll.
3. If you are called out as a liar, you must show your roll. If it is shown to be a lie, you lose a "chip." If it is the truth or lower (but not lower than the table's minimum roll, see rule 4) then your caller-out himself loses a "chip."

3. Whether or not you roll higher than the man before you. You MUST claim an equal or higher number than the last roll. The table's minimum roll is whatever was last "accepted." Thus, it gets harder to lie and easier to get caught the longer a round goes.
4. Whenever a player gets caught, the round is over and the table's minimum roll resets back to zero.
5. The lot cup passes sunwise, until only one player is left with any chips. This is the winner of whatever is in the pot...in our case, the winner of the 50/50 raffle.
6. Order of precedence: the highest rolls are doubles. 6-6, 5-5, and so on down to 1-1. After that, the higher number is thought of as the "suit" and the lower number is the "rank." 6-5, 6-4, 6-3, etc. Down to 2-5, 2-4, -2-3.
7. The lowest possible roll, thus, is 2-1. This roll, however, is called "Mia!" and it alone is worth two chips instead of one. If you lie Mia, you risk getting caught at higher stakes. If you call out Mia, you risk the same.

We had a successful trial run and worked out a few kinks to where we can agree on a coherent set of rules. May it bring you and your Mead Bench as much joy as it brings us, especially as, over time, it is connected from point to point in Wyrð, a tradition of laughter and bonding among frith folk!



Patrick Cook
Apprentice Folkbuilder
pcook@runestone.org

Baldrshof
Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly



Food Pantry at Baldrshof



Work Day at Baldrshof



January brought some especially frigid days to the Hof. Between the sub-zero temperatures and the snowfall, there was a lot of work to do. Just as Baldr's light shone in even the coldest of nights, our Folk continued to do their best for his Hof.

There was extensive snow shoveling which culminated in the use of machinery that packed more power than a mere mortal. Snow, and the ice beneath it, was removed to clear the way for our Folk.

Then came preparation for Thorrablót. The interior of the Hof was cleaned, Yule decorations were removed, and the rehangng of our Kindred Flags was begun. The work was filled with anticipation of the coming celebration and there was good cheer in the air. You know a place is special when a simple task like sweeping is fun and there is no shortage of motivation!



Cormag Àlainn
Apprentice Folkbuilder
calainn@runestone.org

Winter at Baldrshof is quite cold and snowy with temps reaching well below zero and wind chill dipping as much as 40 degrees below zero. Minnesota winter weather is not so different from what our ancestors in Scandinavia faced in their time, though they had it much more difficult overall.

We are still finding time to run the food shelf, we are still finding ways to get out there for small jobs that still need to be done, and we are having some fun and we are thriving!

Big projects will start up as the weather warms up and we can get the folk out here to their Hof to make Baldrshof the sanctuary one worthy of Baldr and Nanna. The first large undertaking for the upcoming season will be in April, the weekend of the 16th for a work weekend.

There will be a food shelf in the AM Saturday. We ask all who can make it to be a working part of Baldrshof and join us as there will be a few large projects that we need all the help we can get with. First off, that weekend we will be going up 60 feet to seal the steeple from the outside weather. We also must put gutters up since we will have a lift to do so.

Secondly, we will be pouring epoxy to seal and coat the feast hall. It will be a

permanent flooring solution that is nearly zero maintenance.

Third, we have outdoor grounds work to complete as part of the basic maintenance that must happen. There will also be exterior construction to be done building a gable above the front doors.

Now that we're open, we need to be here, we need to be working and maintaining our Hof. We need to be building relationships with each other and our gods. We want all our folk to come out but leadership more than anyone else should be setting the example and working hard to make our Hof's godly places for our folk to gather. Because that is the role of a leader, to lead by example, not merely direct or supervise, but to work your ass off and be someone of substance that our folk will follow.

Join us for frith and fellowship, we will provide meals and there is nearby lodging to relax after the workday. Reach out to me or any of the local leadership here for questions.



Folkbuilder Nathan Erlandson

nerlandson@runestone.org

Thorrablót at Baldrshof



On the 22nd of January Baldrshof was host to a cozy Thorrablót. On my way to the Hof, I spotted a double rainbow making a circle around the sun pointing in the direction of the Hof, with the top half obscured by heavy clouds. I'd say that's a good sign!

Very icy roads made it difficult for Folk to gather, but those who did meet in the Hof in the afternoon to enjoy pastries and socialize with one another.

Several of us helped cook the day's meals while Folk spoke and enjoyed good company. Midday brought a discussion about Thor's adventure with Utgarde-Loki, the concept of forgiveness, and the overcoming of challenges set before us. We enjoyed listening to philosophy and mythology podcasts together for a while after our talk. Then it was time for Blót.

Assembling at the Altar of Baldr, the Folk gathered close together. Calls and honoring's were made to Thor, who was welcomed into our midst. As his blessings were given there was a feeling of closeness not only with Him but between the Folk as well.

We then enjoyed dinner. The main dishes were "Heart-Attack Meatloaf" and BBQ Meatloaf, and I must say these were quite delicious!

After that, we held an intimate Sumbel before parting ways to return home once again. We left just in time for a winter storm to begin, covering the roads in fresh snow and

obscuring our vision just as we hit the highways. Thankfully everyone made it home safely!

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

Upcoming Events at Baldrshof



Charming of the Plow at Baldrshof

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19
10 AM TO 6 PM

Join the gathered Folk in celebration and feasting!

Food, Folk, + Frith

Activities + Discussions

Blot

Join the gathered Folk at Baldrshof, Saturday, February 19th, 10 am to 6 pm, for Charming of the Plow!

Our food shelf will start at 10 am for those who would like to participate!

Our day will include Fika at 10 am, lunch, and a feast dinner! Blot to the goddess Gefjun begins at 1 pm and Sumbel to conclude our evening. Men's and women's discussions led by Folkbuilder Nathan Erlandson and Witan Brandy Callahan.

Bring any seeds or garden tools you would like blessed for the upcoming planting season!

Contact Witan Brandy Callahan with any questions. We hope to see you there!



Witan Brandy Callahan
bcallahan@runestone.org

Arkansas

Also, members in Arkansas Missouri, and Louisiana have been getting together for weekly zooms talking about our Gods Goddesses and the runes.

For information on these calls and future events please email towens@runestone.org.

Arkansas Asatru.



My family and I enjoyed a nice meal at Hibachi in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Hopefully more join us next time everyone is welcome in the AFA even if you are not in Arkansas.

Upcoming Events



IHOP IN HOT
SPRINGS
ARKANSAS
NOON
FEBRUARY 26TH

RSVP TO TABATHA OWENS
AT 8703458077

Our next event will be at IHOP in Hot springs Arkansas at noon on February 26.



Tabetha Owens
Apprentice Folkbuilder
towens@runestone.org

Traveling and Gathering our Folk



This month was spent traveling all over the Nation. We worked at Odinhof for a few days and enjoyed the folk there.



I helped Southern California hold a moot with our Folk. While traveling home, I went on several adventures, meeting our Folk.



Once home we held moot in Harrison, Arkansas, it was last minute, but the turnout was fantastic! The surrounding states here are growing rather strong, and we all meet very often to pull resources and make our events better. Looking forward to the coming months and all that is in store!



Michael Sessumes
Folkbuilder
mssesses@runestone.org

Illinois

Welcoming a New Apprentice Folkbuilder

Welcome, Shane Duffy of Illinois as the AFA's newest Apprentice Folkbuilder for the Baldrshof District. Our Illinois membership has grown rapidly and is poised for greatness. Shane joins apprentice Folkbuilders, Jim Cummings, and Nick Rice to grow and develop membership in this vibrant state.

Hail Shane Duffy!

Hail the AFA!

Hail Baldr!



Shane Duffy
Apprentice Folkbuilder
sduffy@runestone.org

Continuing the Momentum into the New Year



The new year continued with some good times and good work with the folk. We had a really nice moot at a local member's house, filled with some wonderful conversation amongst friends. It's always important to take the time to reinforce those bonds of friendship and rejoice in each other's company. Big thanks to Apprentice Folkbuilder Jesse Parton for making the drive over from Missouri to spend time with us.



I've kept to my goal of traveling every month to meet a new group of folk, and with the hundreds and hundreds of AFA members, I'm going to be at this for quite a while. I was proud to be able to meet up with Under Ash + Oak Kindred out of Ohio and NE Kentucky for an absolutely outstanding feast and a very Wassailing and Thorrablot. I especially want to thank Folkbuilders Timmy and Christine Dumas for their generosity and hard work in all that they've done in that area and for welcoming me to make that drive over to spend time with them and their kindred.

SOUTHERN IL PUB MOOT
EFFINGHAM, IL
GRAB SOME GRUB AND A DRINK WITH YOUR FOLK
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH AT 6PM

CONTACT APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDER NICK RICE FOR MORE INFO AND TO RSVP
770.709.1959 / NRICE@RUNESTONE.ORG

The fun doesn't stop in January. To start the month, I'll be heading over to the Indiana area to join Apprentice Folkbuilder Jon Rock and his folk for a moot and blot in honor of Eyvind Kinnrifi. I'll also be holding my own Pub Moot on the 19th here in Southern Illinois. As always, all AFA members and vouched-for guests are more than welcome. Feel free to reach out to me for more info.



Nicholas Rice
Apprentice Folkbuilder
nrice@runestone.org

Thorrablót in Illinois



Hrafnagud Kindred sponsored our second annual Thorrablót in Northern Illinois on January 29. The event was well attended, including some new folks (both new AFA members and new faces we hope will become members), joined by members from Wisconsin. It is encouraging to consider that we now have a state event that can be considered “annual”, as it speaks to the durability of frith.



We enjoyed a delicious potluck meal, had a hammer throwing competition, and celebrated a (very chilly) Blot to Thor.

Our next event will be a pub moot (details TBD) towards the end of February.



James Cummings
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jcumings@runestone.org

Manitoba (Canada)

Working Through the Winter Months



As January comes to a close, we start to see the sun staying out longer, and the weather hopefully warming up more. We have had more snow this year than in many years past, and so flooding is a big concern, but with us going into fall very dry, and most lakes almost dry, that will hopefully save us.

We have been having lots of homeschooling meet-ups, large dinners, and gatherings over the last month. We are still heavily locked out of normal society, but that has been a blessing in disguise as it has allowed us to meet other like-minded folks, and build honest connections.



With the start of the trucking convoy for freedom up here, we can feel the tide turning against the draconian measures placed against us, and there is a strong ray of hope that life will be returned to normal, thanks to the strength and resilience of our people.

I'm looking forward to reporting to you all in the February runestone that everything is returning to normal, and we can start getting meetings going at local pubs and restaurants.



Trevor Sydorenko
Apprentice Folkbuilder
tsydorenko@runestone.org

Minnesota

MN Axe Throwing Moot



In the west metro of MN, we held a fantastic ax-throwing moot. It turns out that red-headed heathen womenfolk have phenomenal ax throwing skills.



We had an amazing turnout, throughout the whole night, we had 9 members, 11 nonmembers and 6 children join the fun. The night was filled with a lot of good conversation, laughs, and frith. Hail the folk!

Virtue Recovery Meeting - Industriousness



In the Baldrshof district, member Josh Hemmingson and I have started what we are calling the Virtue Recovery Meeting. As I always like to state; though we very much appreciate and respect any and all 12 step programs (such as NA and AA) there are aspects of which we cannot apply to our particular faith. And so was born the 9-step process, which we are piecing together to run in a format and structure to be able to be adapted with anyone across the AFA.

To continue on with my monthly article, I am on our 5th step this month. “Ask the Gods to help remind us that we are able to change our destructive behavior. ‘Having awakened to who I have been, I choose to lay healthy actions into the Well of Wyrð, with the Gods at my side, so I may live with honor and luck in the future.’”

In a life some of us have lived, taking any pride in what we do is something that was out of the realm of possibilities. We may have worked hard, to continue the lifestyle we were living. The lengths that one can go to maintain a certain level of destruction are sometimes absurd. But through all the effort, we were not building a life. In finding recovery, we get this opportunity to put forthright action and have real honor in all we do. We now take care of ourselves, our families and are an asset to our folk. We have always been willing to work hard, but have now, finally, put those energies into a virtuous life in line with our beliefs.

It is amazing to me to see my folk rise from a life of turmoil and filth, and grow into some of the best friends, parents, sons, daughters, comrades, and folk that I know. To the Asatruar reading this that feels like they are in a dark hole and want to be better, I

implore you to reach out. We meet every Friday at 5 pm CST. Our meeting is via zoom, which opens up the possibility for participation worldwide. If you would like to see what we are all about, feel free to contact me, or any member of leadership for my contact information.



Ashley Mcstocker
Apprentice Folkbuilder
amcstocker@runestone.org

Winter Walkabout Wotan Hike at Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis



On January 9th Northern Blood Kindred hosted a hike in the frigid below zero weather at the Frozen Minnehaha Falls in Minneapolis.



I want to thank Witan Brandy Callahan for driving the distance and leading the Blot for us. We were joined by two other members and one child.



Afterward, we went and shared in fellowship and feasted together at a local restaurant

before going our separate ways. Northern Blood will be starting up our craft and woodworking day again in April.

Upcoming Baldrshof Minnesota Events

Upcoming Minnesota Events

**PLANTERIUM AND
MUSEUM FIELDTRIP
WITH NORTHERN
BLOOD KINDRED
3/27/22**

NORTHERN BLOOD KINDRED

OUR BLOOD RUNS DEEP

**RSVP WITH
FOLKBUILDER
JASON GALLAGHER**



2/6 Folkish Family monthly hike with Northern Blood at Nine Mile Creek in
Bloomington, MN

2/19 Monthly Food Distribution at Baldrshof 10-12 and Charming of the Plow 12-6

3/13 Folkish Family monthly hike with Northern Blood Kindred at Fort Snelling state
park

3/18-3/20 Ostara weekend event and Monthly Food Distribution at Baldrshof.

3/27 Folkish Family Fieldtrip to the Planetarium and Museum. St.Paul, MN

4/10 Folkish Family Monthly Craft Day with Northern Blood Kindred. Bloomington,

MN

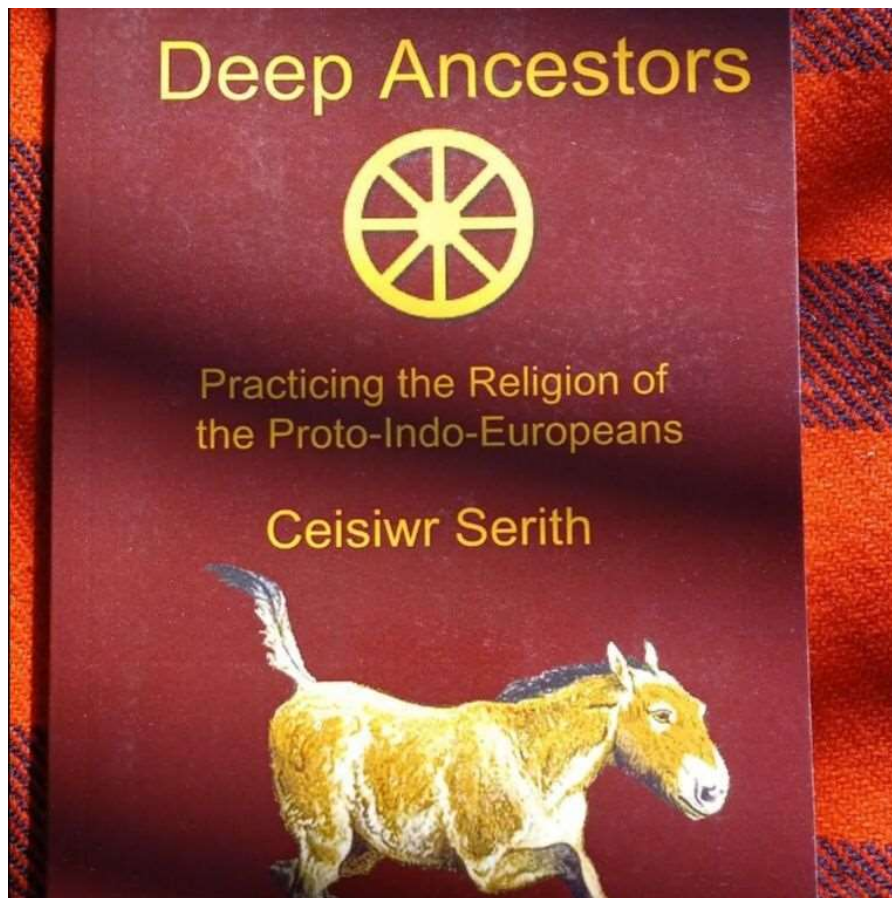
5/8 Folkish Family monthly hike with Northern Blood Kindred at interstate park Wisconsin.

If you are interested in attending any events, please contact me at jgallagher@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher
jgallagher@runestone.org

Baldrshof District Women's Book Study



Please join us on Friday, February 11th, at 7 pm Central for the Baldrshof District Women's book study!

Our group is currently reading *Deep Ancestors* by Ceisiwr Serith. Our one-hour discussion will cover chapters 1-4.

This study will be held through teams. Please contact Witan Brandy Callahan for a meeting/group invitation.

AFA Women's Coffee & Crotchet



Please join the AFA Womenfolk for Coffee & Crotchet on Sunday mornings in February at 11 am Eastern/8 am Pacific.

This teams meeting is open to all AFA Women and Spouses! Catch up with the AFA Ladies, enjoying your favorite morning beverage, lovely conversation, and threadwork!

Dates Include:

February 13

February 20

February 27

Contact Witan Brandy Callahan for information or a meeting invite!

AFA Gothar



The Gothar of the Asatru Folk Assembly are always here for their Folk, families, hofs, and communities. Their duties range far outside the ceremonial. While ceremonies, Blot, and rites are important roles of our gothar, they also manage the districts in

clerical duties, event coordination, Hof management, Folkbuilding, and program management.

The AFA Gothar also provides counseling services to our Folk in times of need.

While Gothar may reside and manage specific districts or areas, all Gothar serve the AFA and its members as a whole. You can reach out to any of them, anytime, for anything no matter which district they are in.

The Gothar of the AFA:

Alsherjargothi Matthew Flavel

Mattflavel@runestone.org

Lawspeaker Allen Turnage

aturnage@runestone.org

Witan Clifford Erickson

cerickson@runestone.org

Witan Svan Herul

sherul@runestone.org

Witan Brandy Callahan

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Gothi Thorgrun Odden

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Gythia Anna Plourde

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Gythia Catie Erickson

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Gythia Sheila McNallen

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Gothi Jason Plourde

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Gothi Joe Rozanek

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Gothi Trent East

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Gothi Rob Stamm

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Gothi Daniel Young

dyoung@runestone.org

UPCOMING EVENTS
MINNESOTA & NORTH DAKOTA



February 13 - Callahan Hausmoot
Contact: Brandy Callahan

February 19 - Baldrshof Charming of the Plow
and Food Shelf
Contact: Brandy Callahan

February 27 - Fargo Pubmoot
Contact: Jaime Alainn

March 4 - SigTyr Pubmoot
Contact: Ashley McStocker / Nathan Erlandson

March 13 - Northern Blood Hike
Contact: Jason Gallagher

March 18-20 Baldrshof Ostara
and Food Shelf
Contact: Melisa Mills /Brandy Callahan

March 27 - Northern Blood Planetarium &
Museum Moot
Contact: Jason Gallagher

April 3 - Callahan Hausmoot
Contact: Brandy Callahan

April 10 - Northern Blood Craft Day
Contact: Jason Gallagher



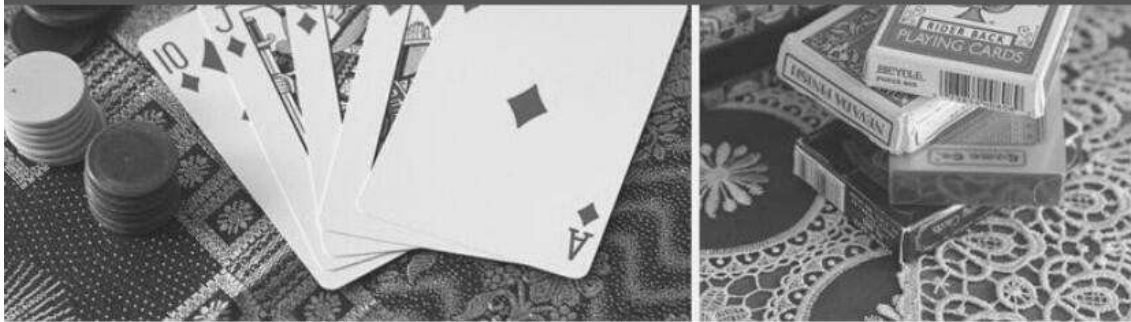


SUNDAY LUNCH & CARDS

At the Callahan House
Alexandria, MN

FEBRUARY 13, 12 NOON - 5 PM

Contact Brandy to RSVP
701-260-6979



Witan Brandy Callahan
bcallahan@runestone.org

Missouri

Planting Seeds for the New Year in the Heart of the Country



Last year saw a whirlwind of activity here in the Heart of the country. We had more than one meet-up a month, several large events, and some much-needed travel to Baldrshof to see our folk family there.



January was a time to reflect on the past year and to make our plans for this year.



Here are some pics of the 2021 year in review! We hope you were able to join us last year and will enjoy seeing yourself and your folk together!



And if you didn't make it out to get to know your Folk family last year, we hope these pictures let you know we are here, we are not just hanging out in chat groups. Also, be JEALOUS! Be VERY JEALOUS! Enough to come out and see us.



We don't worry about where you are on your spiritual journey. We will not grill you on what you have or have not read. We will open our doors; our arms and we will embrace our fellow Asatru folk.



So, make sure that you put us in your goals for the year! Make a commitment to being there with us. Honoring our Gods and making your ancestors proud!



If 2021 was about coming back together, 2022 is about putting down roots in your community.

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



Folkbuilder Melisa Mills
mmills@runestone.org

North Dakota

North Dakota Moot



Our ND Moot took place in Moorhead MN and right next door in Fargo ND.

We met on the last Sunday of January at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead. The museum itself is fascinating. Within it, we saw a full-size Norse Longship in the style used by Vikings. The ship had been constructed and sailed by a group of friends in Minnesota in the modern age.

Behind the museum, there is a Stave Church in the Norwegian style. While the inside was closed, viewing the church from outside was still marvelous. Nearby the church we were delighted to find snow sculptures made by the locals.

The sculptures included the image of Aegir, Odin's Throne, a Chinese Lung Dragon, and even an interesting version of Aquaman. It's always good to see so much talent!

After that, we had a lovely lunch in Fargo just a few minutes drive away. Personally, I was happy to gorge myself on a half rack of BBQ Ribs. They gave me a towel with my food and boy did I need it!

Our next ND Moot will take place on the last Sunday in February. It will be an indoor sporting event in Fargo and looks to be great fun! Watch our social media for more information.

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



Cormag Àlainn
Apprentice Folkbuilder
calainn@runestone.org

Oklahoma

Affirmation



Oklahoma members took a trip south to meet and reunite with our Texas brothers and sisters in celebrating Thorrablót.



Texas is rather large, so we were actually closer to the event site than many of the Texas members.



The space that we occupied was hallowed by the god of storms and the weather was very pleasant. Lots of sun-kissed faces traveled home after the gathering.



Our kinship was evident from the start when we all spoke with the same southern drawl. It continued with our willingness to compete and cooperate in the spirit of Thor.



Our states were evenly matched most of the time, but Texas hospitality pushed them ahead, at least until we get an opportunity to host them.



One of the most refreshing things that we shared was the vision of a positive future for our Folk and the AFA. I can't stress enough how important it is to support your folk in their goals and celebrate their achievements. We left with such a feeling of great things to come, all that we could do was go home and get started.

We will be getting together in February for food, work, and art. Dates to be determined. Get in touch with me and we'll create together soon!



Shea McCurdy
Apprentice Folkbuilder
smccurdy@runestone.org

Texas

Moots and Hikes



We held a moot and hike, this was located in Austin, Texas. Getting out of the house and meeting new people felt great!



We held a moot at a restaurant local to Erin and her husband Jerry, we discussed the benefits of joining the AFA. We ate great food and enjoyed the awesome company. We were excited she became a member shortly after!



Thomas Gleason
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Thorrablot in Dallas-Fort Worth 2022 - Fridr Folk Kindred Texas



On January 29th and 30th Apprentice Folkbuilders Thomas Gleason and Justin Day of Fridr Folk Kindred Texas worked together with Apprentice Folkbuilder Shea McCurdy of Oklahoma to host a joint Texas-Oklahoma event on the shores of Lake Lewisville to pay homage to the mighty thunder god Thor!





This included an opening ceremony to honor the landvætrr, traditional Icelandic style Kjotesuppe (Lamb Soup), games of strength like arm wrestling and foot boxing, dancing, and a silver smelting demonstration.



Then we had a discussion of the story Lokasenna from the Poetic Edda where Thor puts the insults and taunts of the sinister Loki to rest with his no-nonsense thunderous personality.



Next, we held a blot to Thor in the evening and a wayfarer's blot to Baldr in the morning.



It's been fantastic to see the explosion of membership in both the Texas and Oklahoma areas and we look forward to sharing fun and frith with the Oklahoma folk again soon!



Justin Day
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Wisconsin

Wisconsin is cold but the AFA Fólk carry Flame!



First off, I'd like to thank Folkbuilder James Ault for presenting me with the opportunity to join him in Montana to aid in the rebuilding and repair of Elder McVan's garage and property, it is a beautiful thing seeing wonderful Folk gather to put right the ill work of cowardly degenerates and infinity more powerful! That being said it was an honor and my absolute privilege to stand and be counted in that endeavor. James has recounted our trip some and spoke of the irrefutable contributions of Ron McVan to our people. On behalf of all our folk, the AFA had many representatives and like-minded friends join without question!!! Hail the Doers!! Hail Ron McVan! Hail Folkbuilder Ault! The rest of the month has seen me following Folkbuilder Ault in planning and coordinating for future events ECT. which I appreciate very much as learning to be effective as a Folkbuilder I have also come to learn is a very tall order but none the less

this is a challenge I will not fail in! Especially with the resource of such wonderful leaders to draw from!



This past weekend we had our local moot at Dave and Buster's because it's cold here! We had a wonderful time with the many in attendance playing games and making conversation, we were joined by a wonderful AFA family just moved from Pennsylvania and a good time was had by all.



Last but not least, I wanted to share my excitement that our Kinsman Joel Eastman my Wife Kirsten, and I have formed a probationary AFA Kindred. We hope to expand and aid our local AFA community as we grow. Thank you Alsherjargothi Flavel, Folkbuilder Ault, and Folkbuilder Gallagher for your guidance and encouragement. We are and will be Vatnafölk. As we are the High one's "Lake People".

Until next month my fine feathered Folk, Ásáheill. May the Æsir continue to smile on us the Trú Folk for they are with us in all things. Wotan Mit Uns. The awakening is upon us.



Josh Rapin
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Hero of the Folk



For Ostara 2021 many gathered in Montana to celebrate the yielding of winter and the welcoming of Spring. As the wayfaring folk embarked on their journeys home an act of cowardice and terrorism was enacted against one of our beloved Elders, Ron McVan. Late at night, the coward firebombed Ron's garage with his vehicle inside of it which was attached to his home where he was sleeping. The AFA and others who love and cherish Elder McVan jumped into action to provide financial support for his loss.

Shortly thereafter a reserve of Ron's books that had been stolen from him 20 years ago miraculously reappeared and were quickly repatriated with him.



Elder Ron McVan, along with the Folkmother Else Christensen and Elder Stephen McNallen has put their dedication to reawakening the flame of our Folk Soul through calling upon Wotan/ Odinn. Elder Ron McVan has touched so many lives with his artwork, books, music, and poetry. He is one of the most gracious and selfless men that I have had the honor to know. Among his literary works are "Creed of Iron" and "Temple of Wotan" to name a few.



This past January a bunch of us from different walks and different tribes came together to take a stand for Ron by rebuilding his home better than ever. Lending validity to Elder McVan's heartfelt mission of unity within our folk. It is proof that the time has come to unify under one banner in Midgard!



In this, the Wolf's Age, cowards will attack a sleeping old man in his home because they disagree with his beliefs.

No symbols have ever been appropriated; No beliefs distorted.

Our ancestors are our ancestors.

Only those who hate the truth of our ancestral ways seek to distort or destroy our heritage.

We are strong, We are Wotansfolk!

Wotan Mit Uns!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Upcoming Events

**PLEASE JOIN YOUR FOLK
12PM FEBRUARY 20TH
◆BLADES AND BOARDS
IN WAUSAU, WI. FOR AX
THROWING (\$15 BY THE HR.)
AND FREE PIZZA!
FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR
DETAILS, PLEASE REACH
OUT TO APPRENTICE
FOLKBUILDER JOSH RAPIN
JRAPIN◆RUNESTONE.ORG OR
FOLKBUILDER JAMES AULT
JAULT◆RUNESTONE.ORG**



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