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

**Words from the Alsherjargothi**



October marked the 10th year we have celebrated Winter Nights in the Poconos. 10 years in the same camp, 10 years or prospective, where we were, where we are, where we are headed.

Winter Nights in the Poconos was the Asatru Folk Assembly's first National Event outside of California. At that time, the vast majority of the AFA's membership was on the West Coast of the United States, with the majority in California. 10 years later and half of our AFA family live East of the Mississippi River. At the first Winter Nights, we filled 4 tables for Sumbel and were overwhelmed by that number. This year we filled the whole room, and it was a normal thing. 10 years ago, it was separate cliques of 5 or 10 guys here and there, various groups alternated between attending the scheduled events and drinking in their cabins. This year we had nearly 100% participation nearly 100% of the time, all united as one big AFA family, together and happy. 10 years ago it was a bunch of single men. Today women, children, families

are well over half of those in attendance. We have come a long way and we are headed in a wonderful direction. I cherish our roots and I loved those events a decade ago. I love where we are even more... We have accomplished so much and the potential for our future is limitless. How far will we be 10 years from today? With the blessings of the Æsir and amazing people like yourselves, the future will be glorious and our AFA victorious!



Matthew D. Flavel  
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly  
[mattflavel@runestone.org](mailto:mattflavel@runestone.org)

## Monthly News

### *Hail the Newly Ordained*



At Winter Nights in the Poconos X, 3 new Gothar were ordained as priests of the Æsir. We are very honored to have these men represent us before the Gods and we are confident the Gods are proud to have them represent the Gods to us. Please join us in congratulating Robert Stamm, Daniel Young, and Trent East as AFA Gothar.

Hail the Gothar!

Hail the AFA!

Hail the Æsir!

*Folkbuilders Oathed In*



On Saturday, October 16th, at Winter Nights X, 4 apprentices took their oaths as Folkbuilders of the Asatru Folk Assembly. We would like to congratulate Heather Young, Jessica Lambert, Timothy Dumas, and Cody Raynard. We are exceedingly proud to have these outstanding ladies and gentlemen building our AFA Family!

Hail the Folkbuilders!

Hail the AFA!

Hail the Æsir!

## 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)

We have very exciting things going on as I type this. Specifics will be forthcoming as soon as we close on something, but we are in negotiations on a fantastic property right now. We have had some amazing opportunities and it is all because of the generosity of people like yourselves, thank you. Our biggest struggle continues to be finding lenders and getting the liquidity to make big purchases. The economics get better the bigger our war chest becomes. We will continue to push forward and with luck, your generosity, and the blessings of the Gods, I should have something very exciting to report shortly.

Hail Njörðr!



Matthew D. Flavel  
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## Day of Remembrance



### *Queen Sigrid of Sweden*

Though little information of Sigrid, Queen of Sweden, exists in a historical text, the stories abound. Born a Swedish noblewoman Sigrid married Erik the Victorious and together they had one son. She became the Regent after the king's death, and it wasn't long before her vast wealth drew out all of the suitors, one of whom was her own foster brother.

Tired of the constant suitors, and very aware of poor manners, it is said that Sigrid invited her foster brother and another suitor to a feast only to light the building on fire and lock them inside. This didn't scare away the Christian Tyrant, Olaf Tryggvason.

She might have entertained his proposal, but when he demanded that she convert to Christianity to wed him, Sigrid immediately turned him away. This enraged Tryggvason so much that he first insulted her age and beauty, and then slapped her. The story says she then told him that his behavior very well might lead to his death.

It was not long before Sigrid united Sweden with Denmark by marrying King Sweyn Forkbeard. Already feuding with Olaf, it didn't take much for Sigrid to convince her new husband to go to war. This led to one of the largest ancient maritime battles, the Battle of Swold, in which Olaf Tryggvason was killed.

What can we learn from this story?

While we can't run around burning to death the people that annoy us, we can take a stand for ourselves and our Folk. We have the right to defend ourselves and our dignity from those who would try to diminish us. And when we all work together as a cohesive group so much can be done to defend and raise our Folk up.

It is never in our best interest to play it nice just for the sake of being polite. Honesty and hard truths are rarely looked at with fondness, but they are so important. Be honest, be truthful, defend and build your dignity. We are our deeds.



Gythia Catie Erickson  
[cm.erickson@runestone.org](mailto:cm.erickson@runestone.org)

**Remembrance & Holy Days**



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

2021

<b>Date</b>	<b>Observance</b>
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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Observance</b>
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

## Feast of the Einherjar



One of the most recognizable motifs in Asatru is that of the Viking warrior. Helm, sword, beard, and blood: boys and girls have long been memorized by the stories of Valkyries and the eternal feasting and fighting of the Einherjar in Odin's hall, Valhalla. Pop culture has taken the Berserker and the Valkyrie and remade them hundreds of times.

Our ancestors lived in a different time when fighting wars and general “viking” was necessary for survival. For a warrior, to die in battle was the greatest honor. Today, war is not necessary in the same way. Most people scoff at war, urge their children to “do better” or “be better”. For those of us who practice Asatru, however, we recognize the importance and the value of the warrior. More important still, is the importance and the value of those who have fallen, the Einherjar.

Once a year we set aside a day specifically to honor the Einherjar. We raise a horn to the fallen warriors to thank them for fighting for our people and our freedom. One way to celebrate is to set a place at the table for the Einherjar. Serve them the same food you are eating for dinner. Pour them a glass of wine, or beer. When you are done, leave the plate outside under a special tree as an offering. Another way to celebrate would be to visit the graves of veterans at a local cemetery and help to clean them up. Leave some decorations or a small flag.

You don't have to have any veterans in your immediate family. It is a guarantee that somewhere down your ancestral lines you have family who fought in a war and just as likely that some of them didn't return from the front lines. It is in your blood. So raise that horn, and raise it high. Remember our fallen.

Hail the Einherjar!

## Upcoming National Events

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

### **Feast of the Einherjar at Baldrshof**

November 11 - 14

Minnesota

[Baldrshof Feast of the Einherjar – Asatru Folk Assembly  
\(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)





Witan Clifford Erickson  
[cerickson@runestone.org](mailto:cerickson@runestone.org)

## Feast of Einherjar at Baldrshof



<https://runestone.org/product/northern-missouri-feast-of-the-einherjar/>

We will be gathering in Northern Missouri this November 11-14 to remember and honor the fallen warriors.

Come join us for three nights of Blot, Sumbel, feasting, and games. No one truly dies that is honored, whose deeds are still shared among the folk.

We will have outdoor games for the adults and children, classes and demonstrations, presentations on the Einherjar and Freyja's Fallen, and discussions. There will be time for our Veterans to get together in frith and remembrance.

We will be in a private setting with 300 feet of waterfront. there is a game room inside

so there will be lots to do and time to do it. Meals included and there will be an auction.

Space is limited, there are regional airports nearby and people willing to drive to pick up folk. Members will be coming from Kansas City and Springfield Missouri, Iowa, and Omaha for those that are flying in.

## Folkbuilder Spotlight



This month, the Asatru Folk Assembly would like to shine the spotlight on Apprentice Folkbuilder Tij Rudd, of Australia. He has worked tirelessly to promote his ancestral ways in Australia, despite all hurdles.

Thank you Tij, for all you do for your Folk!

### **\*How did you discover Asatru & what called you to this religion?**

Although I was aware of Odinism from an early age due to family, I first discovered Asatru during the early 2000s, when learning of Stephen McNallen's writings & the AFA. At the time I was still only young & unfortunately had less interest in spirituality than I would later in life. Over time I was taught more about Odinism, & its evolution here in Australia/overseas. This led me on to researching & learning more about the varied forms of ancestral spirituality within Germanic Paganism, though never venturing too far from the Odinic practices I was familiar with. Eventually, in approximately 2015 I became more interested & involved with Asatru, with it fast

becoming a very important part of my life.

**\*How do you & your family live Asatru every day?**

It is very important within our family that in our daily lives we live by the values & virtues of our folk, learned from the culture & lessons passed down to us from our ancestors, & from the stories of our gods. Teaching these stories & lessons to our children at an early age is important within our family also. We practice, as well as teach our children, to acknowledge the influences that the gods, spirits, & our ancestors have on us, & the roles that they play in the world around us & our lives every day.

**\*How did you find your way home to the AFA?**

Towards the end of 2019, I came across a social media post showing a gathering of folk from the AFA. The first thing I noticed was the absence of the role play style attire & props that have become common at Asatru gatherings, in their place was a group of well-dressed & presented folk, forging and sharing frith, and honoring our gods in a way that resonated with me personally. As I began to search more I came across many similarities between my own beliefs & those held by the AFA. I was also impressed to see the charity work that the AFA & affiliated kindreds had been doing, with community food drives, etc. The amazing Hofs the AFA has built so far are an amazing sight, & a great sign for the future. Around May 2000 I made contact with Gythia Sheila McNallen, after a very positive & helpful conversation, & discovering AFA members within the Oceania region, I had gladly made the decision for myself & family to join the AFA.

**\*Why did you choose to serve your church as a Folkbuilder?**

As I had become the leader within our local kindred, my focus was already on growing our community locally, & providing or encouraging more real-life interactions among our folk for both social & spiritual practice. Without a current Folkbuilder from within the region, it made sense to offer my assistance for the role. I also felt that it gave me a chance to be a more beneficial & productive member of the AFA family. I feel as my ancestors would have pride in seeing me do my part to grow & strengthen a better future for our folk & faith. I'm proud & very grateful to be given the opportunity as an apprentice Folkbuilder. I'm also lucky to have the chance to assist & get to know better the great folk we have as members in this region.

**\*What advice would you give someone just starting to learn about Asatru?**

Read a lot! Make yourself a list of books, including the Eddas/Sagas as well as cultural/historic literature & more contemporary writing on Asatru and Odinism, if possible get assistance or source reading lists online. Very importantly, give yourself time & have patience. Talking with other folks can be very beneficial also. Online connections can make it easy to find others with shared beliefs, though caution should always be taken in public forums. The best situation is to find other folks within your region & get involved in actively practicing Asatru. In many aspects, we are able to grow & learn more from participating, than we are able from a spectator's perspective alone.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## Introducing the newest AFA Kindreds



I am beyond honored to announce The Sigtyr Kindred of Minnesota as an Official Kindred of the Asatru Folk Assembly. This Kindred is one of several that help run and support Baldrshof. Led by the dual Folkbuilding team of Nathan Erlandson and Ashley Mcstocker. Keep an eye on these folks because they are going to do great things! At the beginning of the summer, they started hosting weekly recovery meetings for those of our folk in need and they have gotten quite a bit of interest so far.

Gaining Kindred recognition is not an easy thing, it takes dedication and loyalty, and willingness to stand with the AFA at all costs. Thank you for stepping up Sigtyr!

Hail Sigtyr Kindred!

Hail the Kindreds of the AFA!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!



Today it is my honor to announce the Northwest Odinsfolk Kindred of Oregon as an official Kindred of the Asatru Folk Assembly. It is a beautiful thing to see our folk gathering together all over Midgard and building communities and creating families. AFA Kindreds are made up of dedicated hardworking members, those who go the extra mile. The Northwest Odinsfolk Kindred has stepped up to build a community, a home, for their region. Led by Gothi Joe Rozanek, this group of highly motivated individuals is working hard to create a home for future generations of our folk.

Gaining Kindred recognition is not an easy thing, it takes dedication and loyalty, and willingness to stand with the AFA at all costs.

Thank you for stepping Northwest Odinsfolk Kindred!

Hail the Northwest Odinsfolk!

Hail the Kindreds of the AFA!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!



Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher

[jgallagher@runestone.org](mailto:jgallagher@runestone.org)

The Artisans of the AFA  
Support Our Folk





<http://boldravenwoodcraft.wixsite.com>

Bold Raven Woodcraft is dedicated to the goal of bringing art and beauty back into the carpentry industry. Plywood is used only whenever it's necessary and MDF (particle board) is never used on any of Bold Raven's projects. Crown molding, trim, wainscoting, furniture, cabinets, and countertops are a few examples of what Bold Raven proudly builds and installs.

For more information or quotes please contact: [boldravenwoodcraft@gmail.com](mailto:boldravenwoodcraft@gmail.com)

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



Folkbuilder Jessica Lambert

[jlambert@runestone.org](mailto:jlambert@runestone.org)

**Now Available in the AFA Store**



[runestone.org/product/limited-edition-njordshof-t-shirt](https://runestone.org/product/limited-edition-njordshof-t-shirt)

This shirt is being sold as a fundraiser for Njörðshof. This is the first hof dedicated to Njörðr in, at least, 1000 years and the first EVER in North America. Support this endeavor with this amazing t-shirt!

Thank you Tim Dumas for donating these!



# Óðinshof

## First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

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### Alaska

#### *Welcoming a New Apprentice Folkbuilder*

Please join me in welcoming Michael Conner of Alaska as the AFA's newest Apprentice Folkbuilder for the Óðinshof District. We are excited to watch the Last Frontier grow and thrive for us with Michael, Eric, and Gothi Morell's hard work.

Hail Michael Conner!

Hail the AFA!

Hail Óðinn!



Michael Conner  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[mconner@runestone.org](mailto:mconner@runestone.org)

#### *Winter Nights in Alaska*



As the leaves fell and we began to look forward to Halloween and the first snow of the year; the veil between our world and the realms of the dead thinned. AFA kindred Der Volkstamm Auf dem Nordliche Bar and other AFA members and Folkish Asatruar gathered at the home of Gothi Steven Morrell for our Annual Winter Nights celebration. We brought dishes that either our deceased female ancestors prepared for their families or our deceased female ancestors enjoyed.

There was a powerful Blot that night led by Steven Morrell to Freya, to the Disir, and the Disir of each family were called out and honored during blot.



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Gothi Steven Morrell  
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## Arizona



Samuel Ramsey  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
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## California

*Winter Nights at Odinhof*



It was an excellent, spooky Winter Nights at Odinshof this year if a bit rainy as well! Saturday festivities included a haunted maze for children built on the newly expanded Hof grounds, a feast in the hall, auction, and concluded with a lovely, moving Disablot by Gythia Sheila McNallen that left all in attendance feeling the warm presence of their Ancestral Mothers.



Then on Sunday the doors of the Hof were opened up to the community and featured an incredible performance by local bard and musician Dalrymple, arts & crafts and face painting for kids, and good spirits and merriment for all. Even as the great Northern California “bomb cyclone” raged outside, Odinshof was a warm and bright home for the local community and the folk.



Next for Odinshof on Saturday, November 20th is the Feast of the Einherjar honoring the fallen warriors, veterans, and great heroes of our folk. It is sure to be an excellent, powerful event for us. Contact your local Folkbuilder for more details!



Connor Norris  
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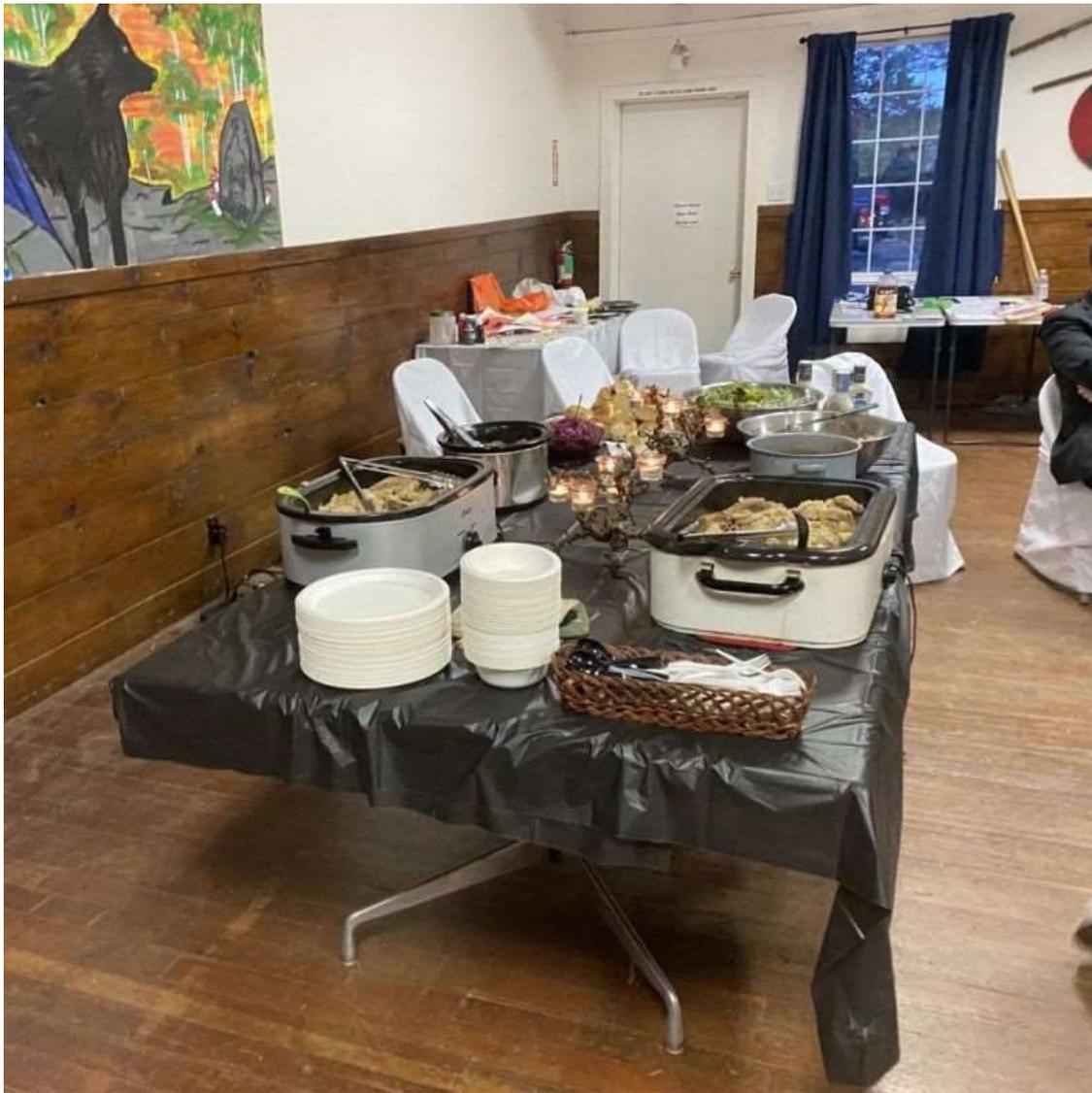
Victor Podbreger  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[vpodbreger@runestone.org](mailto:vpodbreger@runestone.org)



### *Children's Haunted Walk and Festivities*



This month we celebrated Winter Nights at Odinshof! We started the day off with wonder festivities for the children, with games set up inside the Hof and once the rain let up they went through our “Haunted Walk” set up by Nichol with help from our wonderful volunteers! The kids absolutely loved it. There is nothing more heartwarming than the sound of shrill screams and laughter of being super excited and scared at the same time coming from our children!



After festivities, we had a wonderful traditional German dinner made by none other than our wonderful Folkbuilder Krystal!

After dinner, we did a beautiful Blöt led by Gythia Shelia McNallen honoring our ancestral mothers. We started this Blöt by washing our hands and calling upon a mother. We harnessed our power and gathered before Blöt. We then entered through the veil into “our mother's home”. It was quite a beautiful evening!

*Samhain at Odinhof*



On Sunday we had our Harvest Festival for the community. Even though it was DUMPING rain we did not allow it to dampen our spirits! We had face painting, games, good food, and a wonderful story put on by Dalrimple complete with harps and singing! It was loved by all and so much fun to be a part of! Blessed Samhain!.



Sierra Chapman  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[schapman@runestone.org](mailto:schapman@runestone.org)

*Land Taking Ceremony*



On Sunday, October 31st, several kinsfolk from Odinshof got together at my house for a Land-taking/Land-blessing. We had a nice BBQ lunch potluck and fellowshiped before doing the ceremony. We had cheeseburgers, homemade potato salad, stuffed mushrooms, and various sides.

Led by Thorgrun, we began the ceremony by thanking the Land Wights and asking for their protection and blessings. we drove stakes with bind runes on them at the four corners of the compass and proceeded to hail the Gods at each point.

We all had a great time. I am always grateful for the AFA. I love how acquaintances have become friends and now have become like family. To me, THIS is what the AFA is all about! This is what is meant by "It's like coming home."

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Jim Secola



Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[jsecola@runestone.org](mailto:jsecola@runestone.org)

### *Upcoming Event*

Feast of the Einherjar is coming up on November 20th. If you are planning on attending please reach out to me or Sheila to RSVP. I need a guest count to plan the meal. If you plan on spending the night please let us know. thank you!



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Gothi Thorgrun Odden  
[todden@runestone.org](mailto:todden@runestone.org)



Gothi Kevin Long  
[klong@runestone.org](mailto:klong@runestone.org)

### *Food Pantry Update*



Our Odishof Food Pantry (OFP) was the Saturday prior to our October gathering. It coincided with a successful workday so there were plenty of volunteers. We served 24 families comprised of 84 individuals from six remote communities in both Butte and Yuba counties. We make sure our recipients feel respected, and they're always encouraged to return.

This year each family was given a small flyer about our own Harvest Fair, scheduled for Sunday, October 24th. Our OFP families were told to just come to enjoy the festivities with a free lunch provided. With gas prices now in the \$5.00 range, few residents can afford to travel out of the area. We continue to look for multiple ways to help our local communities, bringing joy to them.

### *Busy as Elves this December*



We've got lots of good things lined up for the local Brownsville residents. On Sunday, December 12th we'll host our third Yule Celebration for the community, the largest such event to date.

This includes something brand new for us! Toy runs are popular with motorcycle owners, who get together for a group ride and show up with presents stacked on their bikes. Folkbuilder Jim Secola is planning just such an event to bring children's gifts to Odishof. We'll have lunch waiting as they unload toys from their bikes and pile them on our waiting tables. The members of his new Facebook group, Norcal Backroads, are already signing up to make this a success.

Our festive hall - and plenty of holiday treats - will greet the families who arrive that afternoon to select presents for their children. Last year we had help from the local LDS church and Toys for Tots, too. If you want to assist in any way – with a donation, as a volunteer, or to ride up on your bike with Norcal Backroads, contact Sheila McNallen or Jim Secola.

### *Upcoming Events*

All are welcome to our Odishof events hosted on the third Saturday of the month. Write to Gythia McNallen if you want to be on our mailing list.

November 20

Odinshof Food Pantry (volunteers needed 9:15 to 11:30)

Feast of the Einherjar ~ more details to come

December 12

Annual Odinshof Yule Celebration for the community

Mountainair Yule Toy Run, organized by Folkbuilder Jim Secola

Local families invited to pick up toys for their children

December 18

Odinshof Food Pantry

Odinshof Yule Celebration for AFA members and guests ~ all day



Gythia Sheila McNallen

[sheila@runestone.org](mailto:sheila@runestone.org)

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## Montana

*Ullr's Den*



The fall air is crisp here, and morning temps are in the teens and twenties. Intermittent weather systems bring flurries of snow, and the local ski hill gets a fresh dusting, before melting off again. This is Ullr's time. On any given morning as I commute to work, numerous vehicles can be found parked at access points to public lands in the pre-dawn hours. Lone hunters, pairs, and the occasional family gearing up for a hike in. Weekends bring caravans of trucks hauling campers, and trailers filled with UTV's and gear. I myself missed out this year. Unable to get my license in time, or put in for any tags, but I am witness to an annual ritual, so primal, so deep-rooted in or very nature, that we can feel it in the change of the weather and see it in the changing color of leaves. It's hunting season!

As I said earlier, I personally missed out this season due to my recent move, home purchase, and a very long (still technically going) fire season. But this is nothing new, as fire season has taken precedence for most of my adult life. For the past 20 years, I've been called away from partaking in the hunt, only being able to go out a handful of times. Those few times, I felt very fortunate. I grew up in the Sierras, hunting, fishing, hiking, and gold panning my entire life. The outdoors became not only my playground

but eventually my place of work. The hunting pack was replaced by a fire pack, and my rifle, shotgun or bow, was replaced by the chainsaw, ax, or shovel. Now that I no longer go out on the fire line, I am keen to head back into the hills in pursuit of game, and rekindling memories. And, I've landed in one of the best places to do so: Montana.

The outdoors is a place that many of us actually "grow up". Grandfathers, fathers, uncles, older brothers, teaching their grandchildren, children, nieces/nephews, or siblings, lessons on life, nature, conservation, survival, and sportsmanship. I can Snell a hook in my sleep, gut a Trout and fillet Bass like I write my name, wing shoot Dove and Quail, sight in a rifle, and butcher large game with ease. If you asked me to solve an intermediate algebra equation, ...Huston, we have a problem! My father and grandfather were far better teachers than any I had in school, and aside from fire, cars, and history, it's the bulk of what I know (or at least retained). As I've been here, seeing folks out fishing, perusing local classifieds for gear, on the local gun boards looking for a rifle for my wife, seeing the catches and kills in the local sporting goods store, and the occasional drive along a lonesome dry creek that looks ripe for a bit of prospecting, I kind of realized that many of our folk might be in the same position, yearning to get out there and recapture those memories, or get back into something they loved, and haven't been able to do as much as they once were.

For those of you on Telegram, you may have seen or heard of the new Group "Ullr's Den". A group devoted to the outdoors, and allowing us to share in the outdoor experiences we engage in. Hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, skiing, target shooting, prospecting, foraging, are just some examples of topics found therein. I'm not in many of the Telegram groups, as there can be too much to keep up with, but if this is something that interests you, please join the conversation! Ullr is the God of the Hunt. He is the best of archers, and untouchable on skis. He is a deity of the outdoors, and as such, this group is named for him, and dedicated to outdoor pursuits. It is also a way to encourage ourselves, and each other, to get outside. So, get out there, pick up a new hobby, chase a new species, learn some new plants, hike a new trail, make some lasting memories, and teach the future generations. Go out and do honor to Ullr, and do it in his domain!

Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan

[rharlan@runestone.org](mailto:rharlan@runestone.org)



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### *Biggest Little Italian Festival*



Mandy got sick at a very inopportune time so we were forced to cancel the scheduled meal at our house, but we would not let that keep us down! Instead, we enjoyed a lovely meal at the Gold N' Silver Inn, had some drinks, and absorbed some culture at the Biggest Little Italian Festival.



In November we will be doing a Queen Sigríð wine walk in Carson City on Saturday the 5th. Then we will be celebrating a meal at my home on Sunday the 6th (Chai White Russians, Súrkoal mei banaan, and Pumpkin Bread with Cream Cheese Swirl...and whatever else folks bring)



Matthew D. Flavel  
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly  
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## Oceania

Tij Rudd



Apprentice Folkbuilder

[truidd@runestone.org](mailto:truidd@runestone.org)

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## Oregon

### *Hails from the Pacific Northwest!*

Mark your calendars the weekend of February 5-7, 2022 for our yearly AFA Pacific Northwest National event! We will be coming together to blot the Gods and Goddesses of the Aesir and Vanir to encourage new growth in the upcoming year and share together in troth. Leavenworth Washington is the location and is as close to the alps as you will find with a Germanic-themed city nestled in the snowy mountains. This is a family-friendly event and there will be plenty of activities, blots, and a trip to the Bier Stube!



This month I had the honor to officiate the wedding of two of our kindred members here in Oregon, Travis and Kasey Mae. We had a wonderful ceremony that felt like one with nature and the gods located in Astoria Oregon. There was a running river behind the altar representing Nifleheim and we had a fire to represent Muspelheim the

combining of which created Midgard. The jumping Salmon and rushing water added credence to the liveliness in the air. Marriage is a sacred bond for the creation of life and Travis and Kasey have done quite a bit of creating as their children attended the ceremony! Powerful oaths were sworn over the oath ring and their hands were fasted together with a cord, combining the fates not only of these two amazing people but of their great families as well.

Upon completion of the ceremony, a traditional “running of the bride” contest was held wherein both families held a foot race to decide who would serve drinks to the victor, with Kasey’s family winning and Travis’s family having this honor. There was plenty of Mead to be raised in a wedding Sumbel, where the horn was passed and raised with each participant speaking of the Bride and Groom. The meal of freshly caught Salmon was blessed and an offering is given to the Alfar and another placed at the ancestors' table.

The celebration lasted well into the night culminating with a blot to Thor for prosperity and protection as Thor is a god of the people. Many people who had not heard of Asatru’ had an opportunity to experience their native religion and their souls were touched by the presence of our mighty ancestor Thor. This really was an amazing evening and I am very thankful to be a part of it, and I know that Travis and Kasey will have a long fulfilling life together with their children here in Midgard!



Every Thursday evening, we have our “Donnerstag” AFA NW weekly call-in forum, in which we discuss topics ranging from the basics of Asatru’ to the otherworldly powers of the runes. This is a great opportunity for us all to learn and grow spiritually, no matter if you have been Asatru for 20 years or 20 days I guarantee it will make you think!

If you would like to organize an event in your area here in the NW, contact me and I will help you set it up.

November 4,11,18,25-----” Donnerstag” AFA NW weekly call-in Forum 8:00 PST

November Odinsfolk gathering---TBD

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



Gothi Joe Rozanek

[jrozanek@runestone.org](mailto:jrozanek@runestone.org)

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## Washington

*Honoring the Gods in the Pacific Northwest*



This month our local members remained busy hosting and attending events, gatherings, and blots all around the Pacific Northwest.

Early on in the month, we were fortunate to have two AFA members from out of state join us for a night where we exchanged stories, jokes, and shared frith.

Shortly after their departure, we met with new applicants who quickly became part of our AFA community and we are beyond glad to have them as part of our local kindred.

Later that weekend the children gathered at a trampoline park to celebrate my son's birthday.

On the 17th we were split between two events.

Members of our local kindred gathered for winter nights in Centralia, WA while the rest of us ventured off to a meet and greet with kindreds from all over the PNW meeting new friends and seeing many old ones.

Amongst the demands of such a busy month, we stayed true to our physical and spiritual goals meeting every Tuesday and Thursday to lift weights, socialize, conduct rune study, and feast. More often than not the amazing women folk of our region brought meals, cooked, and fed us all, making hosting these "Iron club" nights a simple task.

On the 23rd we gathered for Hausta blot hosted by a good friend of ours in Longview, WA.

Coming together on the 30th for Samhain we shared many stories of our more recent ancestors over mead and a fire ensuring the names of our loved ones and their deeds may never be forgotten.

Last but not least the Folk gathered on the 31st walking our children all around the neighborhood reclaiming all the candy for the Folk! The children had a blast on this most wholesome of days!

Here in WA, we are constantly engaging in Honoring our Gods, rituals, family fun, studying our lore, and building the greater community.

We have an open-door policy for all our AFA brothers and sisters! If any of you ever happen to be passing through the region please don't hesitate to reach out.

Upcoming in December we will be hosting a Yule event open to all AFA members in the PNW region. We have secured a beautiful Venue and look forward to seeing all of you there! Please contact Heinlein or Myself for more details.

HAIL THE GODS!  
HAIL THE ANCESTORS!  
HAIL THE AFA!



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**Florida**

*Dísablót for Winter Nights*

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The Florida Folk got together to hold a Dísablót for Winter Nights in honor of our female ancestors. We made a specific offering to Frigga, foremost of the Dísir, and one to all the Dísir. Lighting the common hearth that binds us we remembered our female ancestors who made it possible for us to be here. It was a pleasure to welcome one of our new members to their first event just in time to enjoy the delicious food that was in abundance.



For Sumbel we asked that everyone choose one of the Holy Dísir for the first round, this gave people the opportunity to become acquainted with some of the goddesses they may not have been as familiar with, like Fulla, the sister of Frigga; Var who listens to the oaths and private agreements between men and women; Vor, who is so knowledgeable that nothing can be hidden from her; Syn who guards the doors of the hall; among others. Sumbel opened with a horn being raised to the Dísir Eir for a

member's father that was undergoing cancer treatment and could not attend. For the second round, we honored the female ancestor in the photo each person brought for the Dísablót. The third round developed into toasts for the next generations focusing on how they will never know a world without temples to our gods and goddesses.



Before departure our folk enjoyed one another's company. Watching the children play, discussions turned to topics like how we can become more self-sufficient, raise money for Njörðshof, and our upcoming Yule event. Parting is always the hardest part of any celebration. This was no exception. It fuels us for the time we are apart and recharges our batteries to give our all so we can prosper as we witness the Asatru Folk Assembly reach heights for our faith that have not been seen for a thousand years.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

### *Upcoming Florida Events:*

Álfablót

November 14th

Yule

December 18th & 19th

(our 2022 schedule will be released next month)



Folkbuilder Lane Ashby

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### *Thoughts on a Personal Altar*



An altar should hold a special place in any Heathen home. Traditionally it was on or near the hearth, which formed the center of the home as the focus of both warmth and cooking. In the modern era, it would be ideal to keep a small flame lit in the kitchen, representative of the Light of ancestral tradition.

Beyond that, the altar is best thought of as a devotional place for the memory of the ancestors. Thus, small mementos such as photographs or cherished personal items can be kept on the altar as ways of remembering our honored dead. Certainly, it is also correct to have icons of the gods also, although the Germanic tribes made few representations of their gods, implying that reverence of the ancestral family was predominant.



There is no wrong way to prepare or present a personal altar; anything that could be discussed about the altar would be a recommendation and not a requirement. On my own altar, in addition to photographs of my parents and grandparents, I have a drinking horn (of course!), an offering bowl, my personal Hammer, candles, and a few sacred objects such as small stones from various sites that I consider sacred – my grandparents’ homestead, for example, and from various moots and events that I have attended.

I meditate every day, and ideally, this seated meditation is in front of my altar. I light a candle and say a short prayer to the memory of my ancestors, and reflect on how I can hold my place with honor and dignity.

In short, there is no wrong way to prepare an altar. Anything that puts you in mind of your Family and Folk, anything that reminds you of your obligation to your Honored Dead and those yet to come, is absolutely correct. We are The Folk, and this is our obligation.

Lawspeaker Allen Turnage

[turnage@runestone.org](mailto:turnage@runestone.org)



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## Georgia

### *Women's Role in Asatru*



Since October is the month of Winter Nights, the time that we honor our ancestral

mothers, I felt it would be appropriate to discuss the role that our women play in Asatru and its worldview.

There is a worrying trend among some in folkish circles that women are nothing more than walking baby-makers, and this could not be further from the truth! Motherhood is such a sacred role, as our Folk would not exist without it, but it is merely the tip of the iceberg when it comes to what our women are made for.

As followers of the Æsir and Vanir, we worship many Gods, but also many Goddesses. Frigga, Freya, Ostara, Saga, Fulla, Sif, Nanna, the list goes on. We worship these Goddesses for a plethora of reasons, certainly not limited to motherhood. Our Goddesses exemplify loyalty, courage, and duty. Our Goddesses are more powerful than we could ever fully perceive, our Disir strived to embody those virtues, and our lovely AFA women do the same today!

Women, walk through this life proudly and with your head held high! You are a sacred being who will be hailed along with a long line of Holy Mothers one day! Men, honor your wives, your sisters, your mothers, and your daughters! They are the other half of the puzzle to keeping our people alive and strong!

Hail the Disir!



Gothi Trent East  
[teast@runestone.org](mailto:teast@runestone.org)

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## Indiana

*Camping at the Crossroads of America*



It is an honor to share my first Runestone submission with all of you. We have been hard at work here in central Indiana to begin building frith and fellowship between our Folk.

On the first weekend of October, we began an exciting new chapter for our people here at the Crossroads of America by holding a small camping excursion. Camping is an excellent way to reach out and commune with our natural world and rekindle a touch of our shared ancestral spirit. As the night grows long and the mead flows, there is no better way to grow kinship amongst Folk than around a crackling fire. We spoke of our pasts and present, we spoke of our hopes and failures, we shared food and stories of our Gods and People.

We held Blót, slept in the rain, and did a pretty solid number of pushups.

*Invading Ohio*



A small, elite unit of Indiana invaders traveled to the Waynesville, OH Sauerkraut Festival. We looted the enemy state of Ohio of valuable trinkets, a multitude of beers, and snack foods that incorporated sauerkraut in dubious ways (you don't eat sauerkraut pizza because it's delicious, you eat it to convince yourself it actually exists.) Indianapolis into Waynesville, OH is a long journey for store-bought sauerkraut; so we used that as an excuse to spend time with our Ohioan Folk which was no burden at all. It was not the first time that we have smuggled ourselves across the border into Ohio to spend time with our Eastern neighbors, it will not be the last; already we have formed bonds with our friends Under Ash and Oak which I expect to last a lifetime. I can think of no better neighbors, they are a credit to our District and Folk. I begrudgingly forgive their woeful decision to live on the wrong side of the Iron Curtain of the Indiana/Ohio border and we all look forward to seeing more of them in the future.

*Winter Nights in the Poconos*



I will not recount at length the excellent time that our small Indiana cadre had at Winter Nights in the Poconos. Suffice to say, it was the first national event that any of us had ever attended (and only the second time we had met one another). For someone like myself (and probably for many of us) who have been disappointed with organized efforts in the past, Winter Nights was food for the cynical soul. I have never before attended a gathering of Our Folk which has made me feel so optimistic about Our People's future.

The rituals were what they should be; practical, effective and easily understood by visitors/laymen. The frith and family atmosphere was what it should be; welcoming, unified, and family-friendly. The dance part was what it should be; loud, semi-belligerent, and with a Dio sing-along.

But the real importance of what we are building was summed up during Sumbel when someone (name withheld) raised a horn and commented, rightly, on what music it was to hear the laughter, crying, stomping, and yelling of children in the background of our holy ritual. There is no more poignant soundtrack to the momentum and victory of Our People than those sounds, and I had never before heard it sung so well.

In fairness, Dio is a close second.

Hail the Children!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Johnathan Rock  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
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*Winternights in Indiana*



We celebrated our fourth Winter Nights as a kindred this weekend. My how time flies! Heimdall's Midgard had a rough start but things have come together quite nicely over the last four years. We will have been together as a kindred for six years in February 2022. Every time we have a great event, I am reminded of how glad I am to be a part of what we do. It was fun having my dog with us as well.



We were messing around with slingshot this weekend at camp. While we were shooting these nuts, that we found all around us, I noticed something. Some of them were starting to grow into the ground. I had seen the nuts before but never taken root. It had an impact on the Ancestral Veneration we discussed and put much meaning into why we should continue to reproduce our own and make sure that they grow to do the same.



Although we will not be camping for the rest of the year, we will still be having

monthly moots each month. If you would like to attend please feel free to contact me and we will set things up. As always, until next time...

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Folkbuilder Zach Cato

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## Italy

*Honoring the Langobards*



Langobards were a germanic tribe that migrated to Italy in 568 AD. Most of them were heathens worshipers of germanic gods as Wotan/Odin, Frea/Frigg, and Donar/Thor. In south Italy, they ruled for more than 500 years (from 570 AD to 1077 AD).





Three ancestral heathen rituals are attested among the Langobards in the south of Italy: 1) the cult of the holy tree, probably a rite very close to the worship of the cosmic tree of the Saxons, the Irminsul (the nordic Yggdrasil). This ritual was connected probably to Thor or Odin. 2) the cult of the Goat's Head, connected to Thor and 3) the cult of the Gold Vyper (gold serpent), probably connected to Odin/Wotan.

These pictures are from the langobard necropolis of Castel Trosino, situated near Ascoli Piceno, in center Italy.



Francesco Morese  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
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## New England

*Samhain in the White Mountains*



Samhain in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. This was the third year of this tradition and the first year with multiple AFA members present. We keep the tradition of the Wandervogel for many of our gatherings. There was a hike into the mountains followed by a blot at twilight. The revelry coming down the mountain in the dark with the ancestors is something to experience.



The feast changes from year to year but is always based on what wild fish and game we can provide, homemade beer, and mead, homemade cheese, home-baked bread, and deserts. This year we had a venison ham stew, corned black bear with cabbage, Ambrosia mead, a seven month Oktoberfest, an alpine cheddar washed in brown ale and caraway from the black cave of the Quinlans, a sourdough rye bread with a hint of molasses and the ever-present bottle of Akwavit.



Before we broke our fast we prepared a plate for the ancestors and placed it at their

table, which would look very familiar to anyone who attended Winter nights. The rain put a damper on our usual fire but we managed to muster sufficient merriment without it. Like any gathering of our folk I left with my heart full but already looking towards next year.

Jeff Cummins

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## Ohio

### *Winter Finding Celebration*



The leaves are showing their stunning beauty, the air is nipping our noses, and the day is growing shorter, we find ourselves amongst autumn wonder yet again. In light of the season, some of the lovely folk of Ohio joined me at my home to celebrate Winter finding, the final harvests of the year, and to strengthen friendship and frith for the

coming winter.

As always great food was enjoyed with a place set for Guido von List as well. We learned of his life a bit and paid our respect. Needless to say, we all enjoyed each other's company and visited for quite some time. We took part in a wonderful blot which I personally always feel reinvigorated by.

In the current times, these things that are close to our hearts are especially important. After more visiting and our goodbyes, another great moot came to a close. I love my Ohio folk, all of you, and I wish you all a delightful fall season take care in all of your endeavors.



Joe Drotos  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[jdrotos@runestone.org](mailto:jdrotos@runestone.org)

### *New Apprentice Folkbuilder*

We are extremely excited to welcome Christine Dumas of Ohio as our newest Apprentice Folkbuilder for the Þórshof District. We absolutely love to see husband and wife Folkbuilding teams and this one will be amazing! Ohio is really picking up steam and we are all excited to see the great things Christine accomplishes in the coming months and years.

Hail Christine Dumas!

Hail the AFA!

Hail Þórr!

### *Sauerkraut Festival*



On October 10, Under Ash + Oak Kindred gathered at the Sauerkraut Festival in Waynesville, OH. Apprentice Folk Builder John Rock from Indiana joined us with two other members.



We enjoyed walking around the festival and checking out the vendors. We settled together in the beer garden, enjoying a live band, delicious sauerkraut dishes, and conversation. Next year, I'll definitely be tasting the delicious sauerkraut desserts. Who knew there were such things as sauerkraut brownies! A big thank you to Christian and Elisabeth for coordinating our event.



Christine Dumas  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[cdumas@ruenstone.org](mailto:cdumas@ruenstone.org)

*Oathing In the Presence of Folk and Ancestors*



Wow!

What an incredible event. I don't think one person that attended didn't leave feeling charged and excited for the future. Not only was it the end of one journey for me and the beginning of another, but I was also lucky to stand next to 3 of my peers for theirs. Furthermore, I had the pleasure of being in the company of 2 Witan, 4 Gothar, and a Folkbuilder from Baldurshof as well. But I want to also mention the great pleasure I have taken my oath in front of all the Apprentice Folkbuilders and membership in attendance. The people that step up and go the extra.mile(s) deserve a lot of credit, but if it wasn't for the Folk why would we need leadership? We are a church, but also a great and exciting community.

I am very happy to share that I am going to be working on several projects while my wife starts the journey I just was on. I would also like to thank everyone that attended Winter nights. So many of you volunteered to make this a great event it was inspiring to see. Often we look to the past, but I am very optimistic about our bright future!

*Samhain Traditions*



Tradition is so very important to our people and in my home, it is no different. Every Samhain night we set a place for our immediate Ancestors and have a meal with them. This evening my wife prepared a sumptuous meal of cilantro chicken, lentil soup, rye toast, and parmesan brussels sprouts. After we finished and toasted them with homemade mead gifted to us by a dear friend, we proceeded with the leftovers to the rear of my property and offered the leftovers and mead to the Land Wights. Asking for their goodwill and protection and thanking them for allowing us to live a good life here. Everyone does things differently, I am pleased to share our home ritual with you all!

Hail the ancestors!

*Coming up In Southern Ohio*

# CHRISTKINDLMARKT

AT THE GERMANIA SOCIETY  
CINCINNATI, OHIO

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6TH 2PM



Under enclosed, heated tents, German music, a children's lantern parade, petting zoo, caroling children's groups, and carriage rides. Traditional German food, Glühwein, pastries, cookies, and candies. Imported German gifts, such as steins and glassware, nutcrackers and smokers, cuckoo clocks, linens, Christmas candy, toys and more!



Folkbuilder Timothy Dumas

[tdumas@runestone.org](mailto:tdumas@runestone.org)



For anyone that knows me, it does not come as a surprise that October is my favorite month. Not only do I love all things spooky but I love the change of the seasons. This is a very spiritual and special time of year and it goes by so quickly I try to savor as much of it as possible.





We started our month off doing a moot at Farmpark Metroparks in Kirtland Ohio for their Apple Butter and Cider Festival. We saw and learned how apple butter was made as well as cider. The park was also getting ready for its Halloween drive-thru and we were able to walk the trail and see the spooky sites. They had one area that was a Viking battle area!



My son and I spent a couple of weekends at our local Farm in Chardon Ohio and we harvested apples, pumpkins, green beans, flowers, raspberries, and corn. It is so satisfying being able to harvest your own food as well as support a local farmer. We brought some of this food to our local Winter Nights celebration at Joe Drotos's house. We offered it to the Gods to thank them for such bounty.



Next up was our trip to Winter Nights in the Poconos!!! This is always very special for me because the area reminds me of where I was born and the soil and trees speak to me every time I go there. This year was extra special for two reasons. I was able to bring my son. Seeing my son play with the other children brought me such joy and warmed my heart. I was in charge of the children's schedule this year and we had so much fun. We had a campfire storytime, a Halloween party, a hike, and a very special ritual to the ancestors. I feel it is crucial that the children have some form of education at our national events to teach them not only about Asatru but about our culture within the AFA. This is how we will win the next generation and how our children will carry our legacy and the legacy of the AFA.

The other very special part of this year's Winter nights was I took my oath as Folkbuilder. This is such an incredible honor and I have worked hard to earn it. But this would not have come without the help of Joe Drotos and Timothy Dumas by my side guiding and growing this area to be what it has become. I also had the wonderful pleasure of taking my oath with my very close friends Timothy, Heather, and Cody. It is a moment in time that will remain forever in my heart.



I brought my son on a full moon hike at a local park. We talked about the lore surrounding the moon and the importance of the moon for our planet. We also walked through the forest trying to hear or see any creatures of the night. No one came out to say hi, but the moon was breathtaking.

We ended our month with a fun night of pizza, beer, and horror flicks. We had planned to do a campout but the weather was not on our side so this was the next best thing to enjoy some folk time.

I say goodbye to Autumn and it will be time to prepare for the winter ahead as well as spend this time with the ancestors while the veil is thin.

I look forward to seeing everyone coming up on November 27th for our Feast of Einherjar in Chardon, Ohio.

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

*Coming Up in Northern Ohio*



Join your Ohio Folk for:



Saturday December 4th  
NOON in Parma, Ohio  
For details contact  
[jlambert@runestone.org](mailto:jlambert@runestone.org)



Folkbuilder Jessica Lambert

[jlambert@runestone.org](mailto:jlambert@runestone.org)



## Pennsylvania

### *Upcoming Events in Western Pennsylvania*



### *Winternights 2021....10 Years of Frith and Folk in the Poconos*



Saturday, October 16th was ushered in with some rain after we all had a very jubilant winter night's ball! After waking up early to heat the ovens to get breakfast ready, I took in the beautiful fall foliage outside the kitchen door. The hall was quiet, with no pitter-patter of children's feet or conversations between friends new and old yet. I walked around the hall and could feel the 10 years' worth of frith shared in this space. It truly felt like home.

After partaking in the day's groups, workshops, and the auction it was time for ritual. A storm had settled in, bringing with it a drop in temperature, whipping wind, and rain falling at a quick pace. The group of us stood around the flames under the protection of the pavilion, as the rain fell around us. With eyes closed, we breathed deeply to center ourselves. Gythia Catie said, "as you leave this circle, you are the Disir and Alfar now." With this, it was time to begin. We stood in the shadows, behind trees, in the rain. Just as our ancestors and the wights must as they watch our doings from afar. We watched as our folk processed in under the pavilion. It was a sight to behold watching as our large gathering process in under the pavilion. The men galdr'ed Ansuz, as we Perthro. The Alfar lit the way for we Disir, making sure the night was safe for us to visit. Giving out the blessings was an honor for us, and since doing this I think we all feel closer to the Gods and ancestors; both recipients as well as those administering the blessings.



After our moving ritual, it was time for high Sumbel! The hall was glowing from the light of candles hung from the ceiling as well as on our tables. We spoke of our honored Gods and Goddesses, of family and heroes passed. Some of our women folk snuck to the corner of the hall in between rounds. It was showtime! We had practiced earlier in the day, some of just one or two times but it sounded like we practiced for hours together. With the beat of the drum and pounding of our menfolk's hands and feet, we sang our first written folk song. In my opinion, we sounded like we practiced for hours.

I am sure our Gods, ancestors, as well as our men, were smiling widely during this moment.

This weekend was one to remember and I will truly cherish these memories made with my AFA family. It is my wish that all of our folk can share in these experiences! Join us next year!



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### *Seeing the Fruition of Hard Work*



This month for many of us it was Winter Nights in the Poconos. Many weeks of preparation by many and it all accumulated into by far our best one yet. For me, the memories I will walk away with will stay with me always. There were many powerful Blots. It was also great meeting people for the first time. Though as I am sure many agree it's like we have known each other forever and perhaps we have in another time and place.



One of the greatest highlights was seeing my good friends take their oaths into our Kindred as well as the Folkbuilder and Gothi oaths. Much sacrifice and work going on behind the scenes for those things to happen. I know very much what it is like to stand up there and see it all come together. It is definitely a time for celebration but also a time to not rest too long as I know those fine men and women know. Nothing is over. Much work lies ahead for all of us. Many of our Folk still need to hear the call of our Gods. It's our job to make that happen. WE are those messengers!

Hail the Gods!  
Hail the Folk!  
Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!



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Gythia Catie Erickson  
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### *Winter Nights and Weddings*



October was very busy for the Erickson household. The month started with a flurry of preparation for Winter Nights in the Poconos X. Lansdale Tru Folk bore the brunt of this as the host kindred, but we also had help from the Under Ash & Oak kindred, from the Donar's Oak kindred, from all of our Þórshof Folkbuilders & Gothar, from the Keller family, and from all of those who volunteered to help in the kitchen. The festival went so well that it is hard to imagine there was ever a time when we were not good at

this or when we stressed about making it all go smoothly. My favorite things through the weekend, from a long list of great things, were the children's costumes and the "Oktoberfest Banger's Ball Discothèque". You had to be there!



I also had the great pleasure of witnessing two marriages in October. First was the marriage of my brother-in-law David to his new wife Marianna. While they are not Asatru, they are some of the kindest folks I know, and their outdoor self-uniting wedding (a Pennsylvania Dutch legal tradition) was as natural as it comes. Next, I was honored to speak for Gothi Jason Plourde at his wedding to Gythia Anna née Szczepanski. I have known Jason for nearly all of my time as an Asatruar and I am very happy to see the young Plourde family getting started!



I am a blessed man. I am blessed with a beautiful wife, I am blessed to have a son and a daughter, I am blessed to have a strong and stable kindred. I am blessed to be able to grow my children and these relationships in our Asatru Folk Assembly.



Witan Clifford Erickson  
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## Scandinavia

*A Hike in the Westrogothian School's Footsteps*



For many people, modern-day Uppsala is recognized as the main Asatru cult center in ancient Scandinavia. However in the early 20th century enthusiastically archaeologists and laymen presented a completely different theory. Not only was the center placed in Västergötland but it was also the actual home of the Aesirs and many locations known from the Eddas according to those who proclaimed the Götaland theory, or the Westrogothian School as the theory is known as. They would rely heavily on etymology and the look of the surroundings more than actual archaeological findings and met fierce resistance from scholars.

One such man was Gustav Lundén and with his writings as inspiration a group of members from Hroptatyr kindred and friends went out on a hike. It was a beautiful sunny day with a clear blue sky and autumn leaves. The hike would take place on and around the mountain Halleberg which is Scandinavia's largest hillfort, interesting in its own right but that's not what brought us there. Gustav Lundén had during his research read a passage in one of Carl von Linnés books that he had seen "the mightiest of

valhalls” at Hallberg. Valhalls in this regard meant “ättestupa”, a steep slope where old people would throw themselves out and end their lives according to the lore.



Lundén would latch on to the usage of the word Valhall and then build a case that Hallberg actually is Valhalla and from there he manages to put a ton of locations together quite convincing using passages from Voluspa and other points of references. So we made our way to Gladsheim where Odin held court and up to Hlidskjalf high

above. Unfortunately, Odin's pond beneath has been destroyed when houses were built and many other parts of the big grave field that lay there have also been spoiled. The pond was according to Lundén Urds well (naturally). All that is left after building railroads, houses, and roads is a stone circle but it is a magnificent one. It's a bitter price of European man's engineering skills that not even our forefather's last resting places were safe when the modern world picked up steam.

We finished off by performing a small Odin blot at the northern part of the mountain where one can see far out over Lake Vänern, the biggest lake in Sweden and one of the biggest lakes in Europe. I'm certain that we will return again as there is much more to uncover and the surroundings are stunning.



Obviously one has to take Lundén's theories with a huge grain of salt. But I have become deeply fascinated by the man who is unknown today but dedicated his life in the pursuit of our folk's past wherever it may lead him. If it wasn't for men like him during the early 20th century we wouldn't have seen the powerful resurrection of interest in our ancestral faith. Lundén had a cause that made him wander, explore and research. The cause of making our folk understand where we come from. The cause to make us come home.

Jörgen Kaiser



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## South Carolina



Folkbuilder Heather Young

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*What is Sumbel?*



### **Sumbel, What is it?**

It's a ritual toasting hosted by Asatruar for centuries. In modern Asatru, we do Sumbel in 3 rounds. The priest will bless the horn by galdering the ALU formula. Ansuz, Laguz, and Uruz.

The role of horn bearer is filled by a Gythia or a lady of high status in our Folk Community. This is a tradition that dates back hundreds, if not thousands of years. The horn bearer is the keeper of frith, and her feminine magic cleanses the horn each time it's passed. Being selected to bear the sacred horn is a tremendous honor.

There should also be a man or woman of a high-status present that maintains order in Sumbel. For example, if someone were out of line, he or she would help them stay on track.

### **The Sumbel Structure**

The first round is to the Gods of order. We in the Asatru Folk Assembly do not honor the forces of chaos in any way during Sumbel or Blot. When toasting one of our gods feel free to use kennings to describe them, for example, one of Thor's kennings is Ve-Ur (temple strong). Speak poetically and noble, and with a joyful heart!

The second round is to the ancestors. This one can be very personal and emotional and is somber in tone very often. Things to remember during this round are, that we are toasting someone who has passed away, not a living relative. And when you do, make sure you say their name over the horn, because hailing "Granny" is ambiguous. Hailing "Ethel Smith" carries more weight and will be heard by the ancestors on the other side of the veil.

The third round is to the heroes. This round is kind of an open round. Toasts to living folk or boasts of a personal accomplishment, reciting poetry, or singing a song is all acceptable.

Most often in the heroes round, folks will toast a living person that you'd like to honor.



## Sumbel Etiquette

If a person were toasting forces of chaos during Sumbel or raised a horn to people alive or dead that are not of our European folk, Sumbel would be stopped. The offending person would be asked to return the horn to the horn bearer and asked to leave. The horn bearer would likely pour out the horn, refill it and begin the round again. Words spoken over the horn must be noble, spoken to Gods of order and folk of our heritage. These aren't just faux pas, they are seriously egregious.

Something to note, it's considered rude to "add on" to another person's toast. Maintain decorum and frith while others are holding the horn. Also and lastly, please refrain from using profanity during Sumbel. Toasting your grandmother and swearing at the same time is ridiculous. My grandmother would be highly embarrassed and disappointed if I used foul language in her presence. And she is present during Sumbel.

I hope you find this helpful and use this to guide you when you are participating in Sumbel.



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## Sweden

*Sweden's First Wotan on the Peaks*



On the 18th of October, Swedish AFA members conducted the first Wotan on the Peaks in Sweden. The first of many to come! Far to the north did we ascend a mountain overlooking the Torne river that separates Sweden and Finland. The crisp autumn air carried our voices as we called out to our Allfather, Wotan.



We offered up mead to him and asked in return for the continued success of our church, the Asatru Folk Assembly. A gift for a gift! And Wotan was truly with us. See for yourself! We spotted the tree after the blot, a few steps away from us. Wotan, hear our call! Let the Folk hear you once more! Set their hearts and souls on fire!

Hail Wotan!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Blot to Njord**

Members of northern Sweden will gather to blot to Njord in November. Get in touch if you are interested in joining us!

### **Feast of the Einherjar**

Members of northern Sweden will hold a Feast of the Einherjar, to honor our ancestors who fell in battle. Get in touch if you are interested in joining us!

### **Alvablot**

Join us as we honor our ancestors up in Norrbotten. We will blot on the 8th of November.

### **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!



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## **Tennessee**

*Renaissance Festival in Alabama*



We went to a Renaissance Festival in Florence Alabama. They hold this every year, maybe next year I can get others to go and mingle with potentially like-minded folk.

Coming up events for November, I will be holding a moot in Savannah and Dyersburg TN.

On another note had lots of fun visiting Melissa Mills in Missouri this month, next month I am looking forward to our Folksgiving.



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## Virginia



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*The Warrior Spirit*

As we are walking in this world, we have situations that we are put in that make our lives difficult. Odinhof member Gray Will gave good advice and life experiences while teaching the menfolk about sparing and honor. Everyone who heard the words spoken should take away only one thing and that is to not run away from the problems we face but to charge headlong into the fray and face those problems straight up. With honor, we face our lives with a head held high, to see the tenth Noble Virtue of Victory come to fruition.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Warrior Spirit!

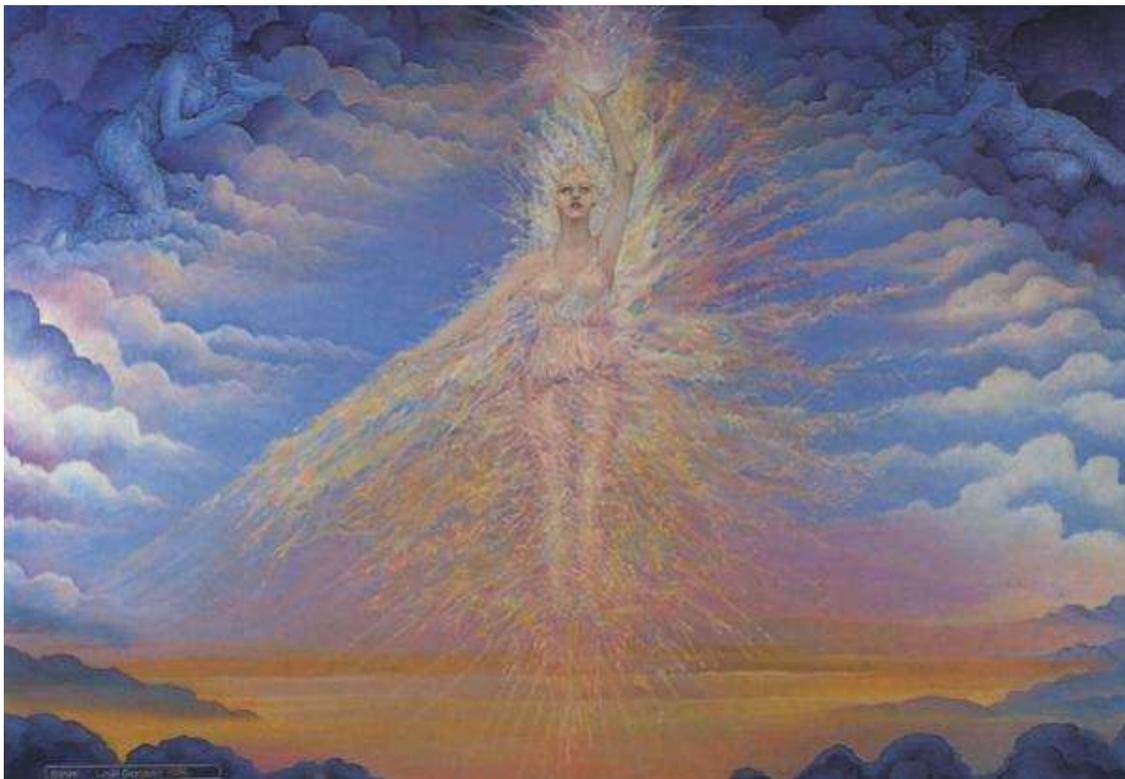
Hail Victory!



Folkbuilder Cody Raynard

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### *Life and Rebirth During Winternights*



Greetings to all! We had fantastic Winter Nights in the Poconos! I was honored to stand next to a few people I love very much, take an important oath to their folk and our church. It's often the accomplishments of those we count amongst our family that means more than even our own great feats.

The veil is thin this time of year. As Sunna dips low into the horizon, and the days grow short and cold, I find myself thinking of death and rebirth. Aryan myth and time move in cycles, and repeats. There is no finality in death, and without it, life cannot be born anew.

"As with men, it has always seemed to me that books have their own peculiar destinies. They go towards the people who are waiting for them and reach them at the right moment. They are made of living material and continue to cast light through the darkness long after the death of their authors." -Miguel Serrano

The Maestro here is referencing books, but if we look at the quote, he is saying much more. One day will peel off the mortal shell and we will become an ancestor. Our deeds will continue to cast light, or shadow, from beyond the grave. Will your children raise a horn to you? Will they light incense and give offerings to you during this time of year? Will your name be so filled with bright fame that one day your name may be celebrated as a day of remembrance? What we build here in Midgard, echoes in eternity. Meister Von List tells us to practice Aryan nobility in the great things, and the small. By taking the small step in cultivating nobility in all you do, you are well on the path to an honorable life, and to be remembered.

The sun is setting on the year, but the promise of Ostara looms large. Fear, not the cold dark night, resurrection, and the return of the sun await on the path to the awakened.

Hope to see you all at Thorshof for Yule!



Gothi Rob Stamm

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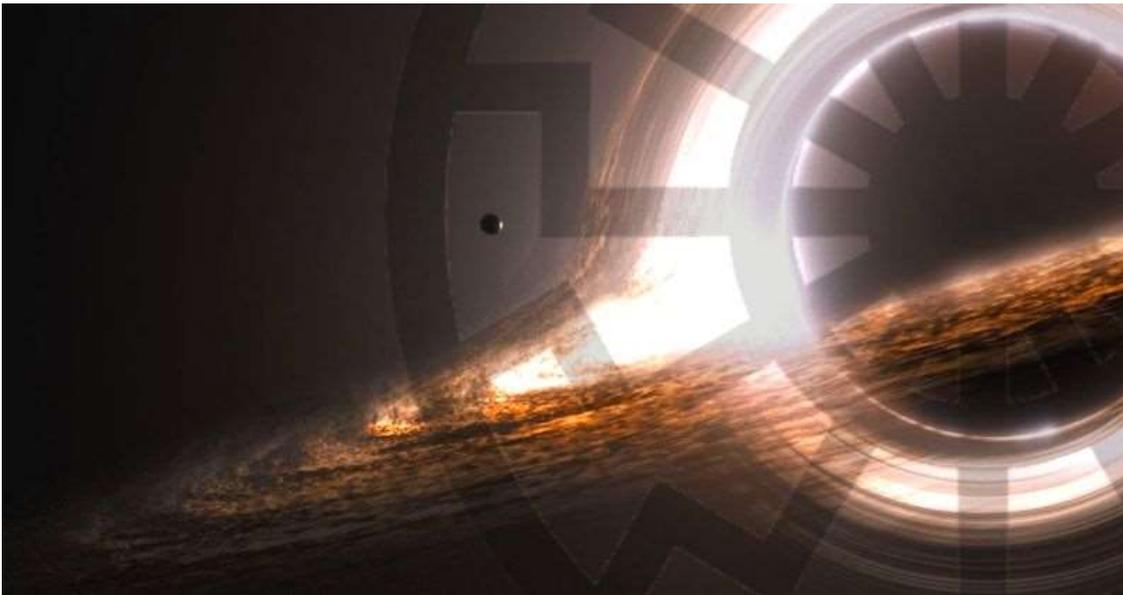


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## West Virginia

### *Sun of Suns: A Contemplation of our Faith's Second Most Controversial Symbol*



We use this symbol often, and not many people know what it is. Here are a few thoughts, and one of the many aspects of this extremely powerful symbol.

"There she sits, enthroned at the center of all possible worlds. At the center of a Galaxy, Sun of Suns, a Black Sun. Mother of mothers, she spins stars by the billions around her spinning wheel.

Around her throne, all the heavens swirl in age-long ellipses, sometimes closer to her warmth, sometimes further away. Those happy cosmic summers are called Golden Ages by her great-grandchildren when they pass close by her throne; but the long and bitter Solstices we must spend far from her radiance cause eons of ignorance, brutality, and death.

We might call her great-grandmother, for she is a mother of stars, which are mothers of planets, which are mothers of peoples. Planets bear peoples like trees bear fruit, and Suns bear planets. But only Great Grandmother, the Black Madonna on her throne, bears Suns, raises them, guides them along their course.

The twelve rays of her runic sigil - twelve great ages have been known since the beginning of human civilization. Twelve cycles of succession, a circular procession around the throne of the unmoved, circles within circles within circles in a cosmic mandala of dancing stars and families of stars.

Around a central Axis they spin as if lashed to a great wheel, and this Axis, the great Pillar of the heavens, throws out beams of energy and particles at impossible speed, which then circle back into orbit, gathering, consolidating, creating new heavenly bodies, and therewith, new forms of consciousness.

Gods and Giants, Celestial and Terrestrial, all dance in a procession around this axis, weaving into, in, and out of one another, around a perfect center.

Her throne itself is a place of impossible, inscrutable power, encapsulated by an inner chamber - a circular sea of cosmic potential that takes all, absorbs all, crushes matter, light and time alike into her embrace - a total death of ego, of all illusory separation, of a complete union - absolute oneness - with the Unmoved.

To cross the event horizon is to freefall toward the center and become one with it. Inside the inner circle, all paths lead to the center - and at the center, should some brave, devoted, or foolhardy spirit wend its way there, it gained ultimate power at the cost of total absorption into it. If we send our meditations into the event horizon, they are absorbed and realized. If we send our spirits there, they are at once made immortal and obliterated.

From her seat, she has witnessed the births, deaths of the millions and billions of celestial spirits. She knows your fate. The future hers to know but not to tell, patiently, she abides our suffering and joy, our births and extinctions, our inhale and exhale as a galactic organism.

Smiling from her throne, she awaits the time when she will call them all home, back to her crushing embrace, to begin time's great cycle anew."

*Welcome to the Family*



On October 24th, Stonewall Kindred gathered at Yankauer Nature Preserve outside Martinsburg, WV to welcome new members. Moving fresh off the momentum gathered at Winter Nights, we held a picnic moot, welcoming in a new family and their children both to the Kindred and to the AFA, and also drew a prospective member who left saying he looks forward to continuing a relationship that is off to an excellent start.



We formally ended the gathering with the consecrating of a horn by our womenfolk and our sharing it in frith: hailing and welcoming new friends and strengthening bonds with the old, toasting to the brilliant destiny of the Folk community we endeavor to build.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA, and Hail Stonewall Kindred!



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**Baldershof**  
Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly



**Arkansas**



Join your folk for an Time Yule in Oklahoma! Dec. 4th and 5th

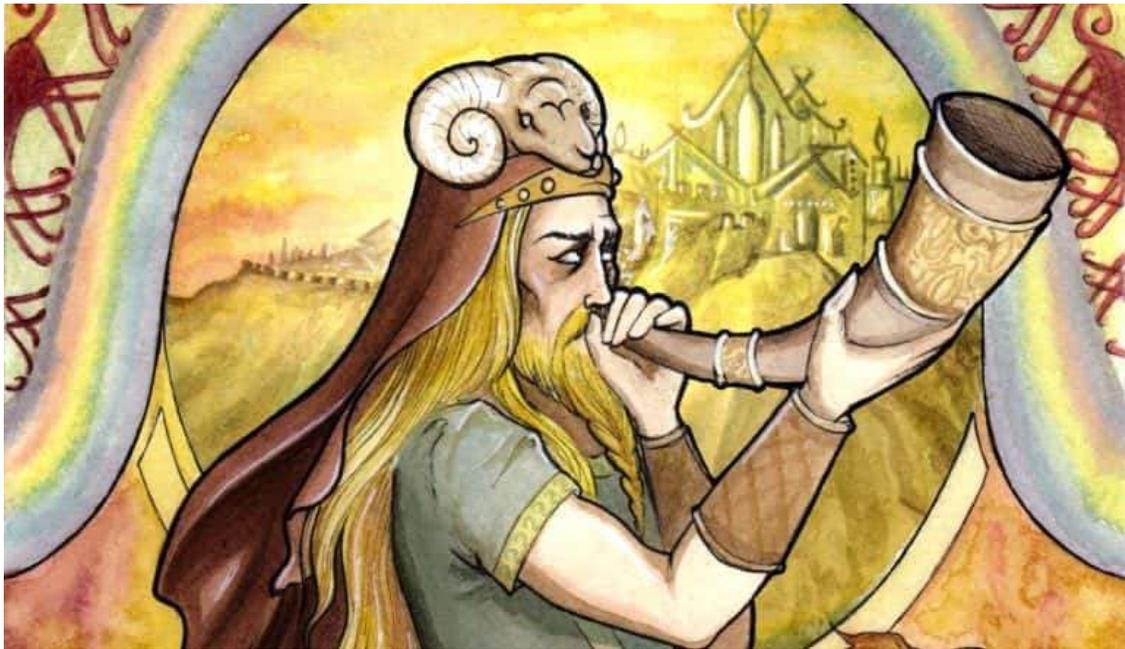
Help haul in the Yule tree to the great hall. Go a wassailing! Indulge in the treats of the season! Help put together the Old Time Yule in Oklahoma cook book. Join in the making of decorations, decorate the tree. And gather around the fire as the stories of Yule are told.

This is cabin accomodations \$ 70.00 per person, 130.00 per couple. register now!

Registration for the Yule event can be done at the link below:

<https://letsgoaviking.ticketspice.com/an-old-time-yule-in-oklahoma>

*Heimdall in Midgard*



I am going to tell the story of Heimdall when he traveled to Midgard.

Heimdall was known as the watcher over the Gods, and he was also known by his role at Bifrost bridge, which he had made from fire, air, and water which shows up as a rainbow in the sky.

Heimdall got bored of being a watchman because there was never any threat to Asgard at the time. So Heimdall traveled around but couldn't travel far without being recognized and being congratulated for his hard work. He carried over his shoulder a great bugle, Gjallarhorn, the blasts of which could summon help from all nine worlds. One day Odin noticed that Heimdall had been hard at work. Odin would sometimes go into disguise in order to go out into worlds below him. He decided that Heimdall should have the same opportunity. Heimdall was excited for he had been waiting a long time to visit Midgard and to get to know the people there. He laid his bugle and his sword to one side and dressed in the garb of the people of Midgard.

He slipped across the bridge and landed on a deserted shore. The first people he noticed were Edda and Ai, a poor couple who lived on the empty beaches of Midgard, seeking a meager living from the sands. They lived in a tumble-down shack and didn't have much, but they offered what they had gladly to Heimdall. Their shack barely had any furniture, with only a seaweed bed on which to sleep on, but it was agreed that Heimdall could sleep there with them, and at night he slept Between the couple. He slept very well. After three nights Heimdall called Ai and Edda over to him and showed them how to make fire out of driftwood. Ai and Edda were taken back from this, and that's when Heimdall left.

Ai and Edda's lives were better because of fire. Their water was heated; the most inedible nuggets were softened into tender morsels of food. And most of all they had warmth. Nine months later a second gift came to Edda, for she gave birth to a son she called Thrall. Thrall was an ugly, wretched-looking boy, with a knotted body and twisted back, but he was kind and he worked hard. When he was old enough, he married one like him- a deformed young woman called Serf. They had many children together who worked as well as their mother and father.

When Heimdall left the home of Ai and Edda he traveled on. Eventually, he came to a home occupied by an older couple who went by the names of Amma and Afi. When he arrived Afi was working hard, whittling away at beams with which to improve their house. Heimdall sat down his belongings and began to work with Afi. Soon they had built together with a wonderful loom, which they presented to Amma, who was seated happily by the fire with her spinning wheel. Heimdall ate well that evening, and when it came time to sleep, he was offered a place between them in their only bed. For three nights Heimdall stayed with Afi and Amma and then he left them also.

Sure, enough nine months later and to the surprise of the elderly couple, Amma gave birth to a son, they called him Karl the Yeoman. Karl was a thick-set, beautiful boy, with sparkling eyes and cheeks of roses. He loved the land and fresh air was almost food enough for him. When he was old enough, he married a woman who saw that their household ran smoothly and that their children and all their animals were fed and comfortable. They grew up to be very successful and they are the first of the ancestors of the yeoman farmer.

The third-place Heimdall went to visit in Midgard was to a wealthy couple who lived in a fine castle. The man spent many hours honing his hunting bows and spears, and his wife sat by his side, well dressed and flushed by the heat of the fire in the hearth. They offered him rich and delicious food, and at night he was given a place between them in their luxurious and comfortable bed. Heimdall stayed there for three nights, although he would have stayed there forever, he returned to his post at Bifrost bridge.

Nine months later, a son was born to the couple in the castle and they called him Jarl the Earl. His father taught him the skills of hunting and living off the land, and his mother passed on the refinement and breeding that Jarl became known as 'Regal'. When Regal was but a boy, Heimdall returned again to Midgard and claimed him as his son. Regal remained in Midgard, but his fire pedigree was soon known about the land and he grew to become a great ruler there. He married Erna, who bore him many sons, one of whom was the ancestor of a line of kings who would rule the land forever.

Heimdall took his place once more in Asgard, but he was prone to wandering, as all the Gods are, and there are many more stories of his travels.



Tabetha Owens  
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### *Winter Nights In Missouri*



The AFA in Arkansas, Missouri, and Tennessee had our winter nights. Melissa Mills is always going above and beyond to host such events. In AR our very own Tabi has been organizing multiple moots and has been rather successful and helpful growth in our areas. Our state is growing and our get-togethers are more and more successful. I am excited to see what the next year holds.

This yule in OK We will have a baby naming for a local baby and a man and woman making ceremony for a MO boy and girl. I am very excited to see these types of events become more common. As our youth thrives we know we are on the right path!

Hail The Folk!  
Hail The Gods!  
Hail The AFA!



Folkbuilder Michael Sessumes

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## Canada

### *Welcoming a New Apprentice Folkbuilder*

Please welcome Trevor Sydorenko of Manitoba as our newest apprentice Folkbuilder for the Baldrshof District! We are overjoyed to have a Folkbuilder in Canada! We are all looking forward to Trevor's accomplishments in the coming months and years. Canada is poised to catch fire with Asatru's zeal and participation!

Hail Trevor Sydorenko!

Hail the AFA!

Hail Baldr!



Trevor Sydorenko

Apprentice Folkbuilder

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## Illinois

### *Winternights and Samhain in Illinois*



We had another active month for the AFA in Illinois. As a number of new members from the southern part of the state have joined us recently, a moot was held in that area on October 2nd that allowed members to get to know one another, share frith, enjoy a meal, and have an all-around good time.



The last weekend of the month, AFA members and friends from across the state gathered for a Winter Nights observance, including a potluck dinner.



We held a Blot dedicated to Frey and a Celtic-themed Samhain celebration. This was our largest turnout in Illinois for an event to date and afforded another great opportunity to build community, as well as have a meaningful spiritual experience.



James Cummings  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
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### *Welcoming a New Apprentice Folkbuilder*

Please welcome Nicholas Rice of Illinois as our newest apprentice Folkbuilder for the Baldrshof District! We are excited to see the success Nicholas will achieve in the coming months and years.

Hail Nicholas Rice!  
Hail the AFA!  
Hail Baldr!



Nicholas Rice  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
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## Minnesota

### *Virtue Recovery Meeting*



In the Baldrshof district, myself and member Josh Hemmingson have started what we

call A Virtue Recovery Meeting. This is a support meeting that is based on the 9 noble virtues, making it a “9 step meeting.” We differ from the (much respected) Narcotics and Alcoholics anonymous. While we identify our past choices and reliance on substances, we are striving to fill the gap of what is missing, with a virtuous life. To not necessarily focus on what we used as a crutch, but how we can truly be the most powerful and purposeful beings that we can be.

By applying the virtues in this specific way, we follow a set of steps as they were put together originally by the Odinist AA group out of Texas. Please note, though we follow this set of steps, the design of our meeting has been molded and catered to what we believe will best serve our folk as a whole.

Step 1) Admit we have a problem with addiction and that we have used our personal power unwisely and destructively. Noble Virtue: TRUTH: I stand at the Well of the Wyrd and peering within, I see that addiction is poisoning my fate.

For our step 1 meeting, we each identified how fundamental truth to any extent has been the cornerstone of being true folk. It was noteworthy that we all acknowledged how not sustaining this virtue initiates the crumbling of all we have built from the already once rubble.



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Apprentice Folkbuilder  
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*Updates from Baldershof*



Getting Baldrshof ready for the cold dark days of winter. Continuing updates and modifications.

Quick prep for Winter Nights then checking furnace operation, windows, rodent prevention, and windows. Make sure we are prepared for snow and its removal where needed.

We will be having a Baldrshof District Folksgiving and Yule event with funny holiday movies and kindred competitions for tree decorating.



Folkbuilder Nathan Erlandson  
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*Winter Nights and the Plourde Wedding at Baldrshof*



What a great month it was! On October 16th we had the monthly food distribution at Baldrshof. This is something I look forward to every month now. Helping people and interacting with the local community. Being in a really small town is amazing especially when you live in a city environment like mine. It's refreshing and of course, being around the folk makes it even better. The next food distribution is November 20th, 10 am-12 pm.



And we ended the month with a three-day event at the Hof. Friday was Winter Nights at Baldrshof and Saturday was the wedding of Gothi Jason Plourde and Gythia Anna Mae Plourde. That was such an amazing day and was very honored to be part of it. Sunday was Halloween and we offered Hot Apple Cider and bars and candy for the local kids trick or treating. Our very own Alsherjargothi was there to greet the locals with us. Northern Blood Kindred will be starting our monthly crafting days up again at my place like we did in the past. More info coming soon.

If you are interested in becoming an AFA Kindred or have questions please email us at [kindred@runestone.org](mailto:kindred@runestone.org)

### **Upcoming events**

11/20 Monthly Food Distribution at Baldrshof 10 am-12 pm

11/20 Feast of Einherjar at Baldrshof 12 pm-6 pm

11/27 Folksgiving at Baldrshof 10 am-6 pm

12/17–19th Yule at Baldrshof

12/18 Monthly Food Distribution at Baldrshof 10 am-12 pm



Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher

[jgallagher@runestone.org](mailto:jgallagher@runestone.org)

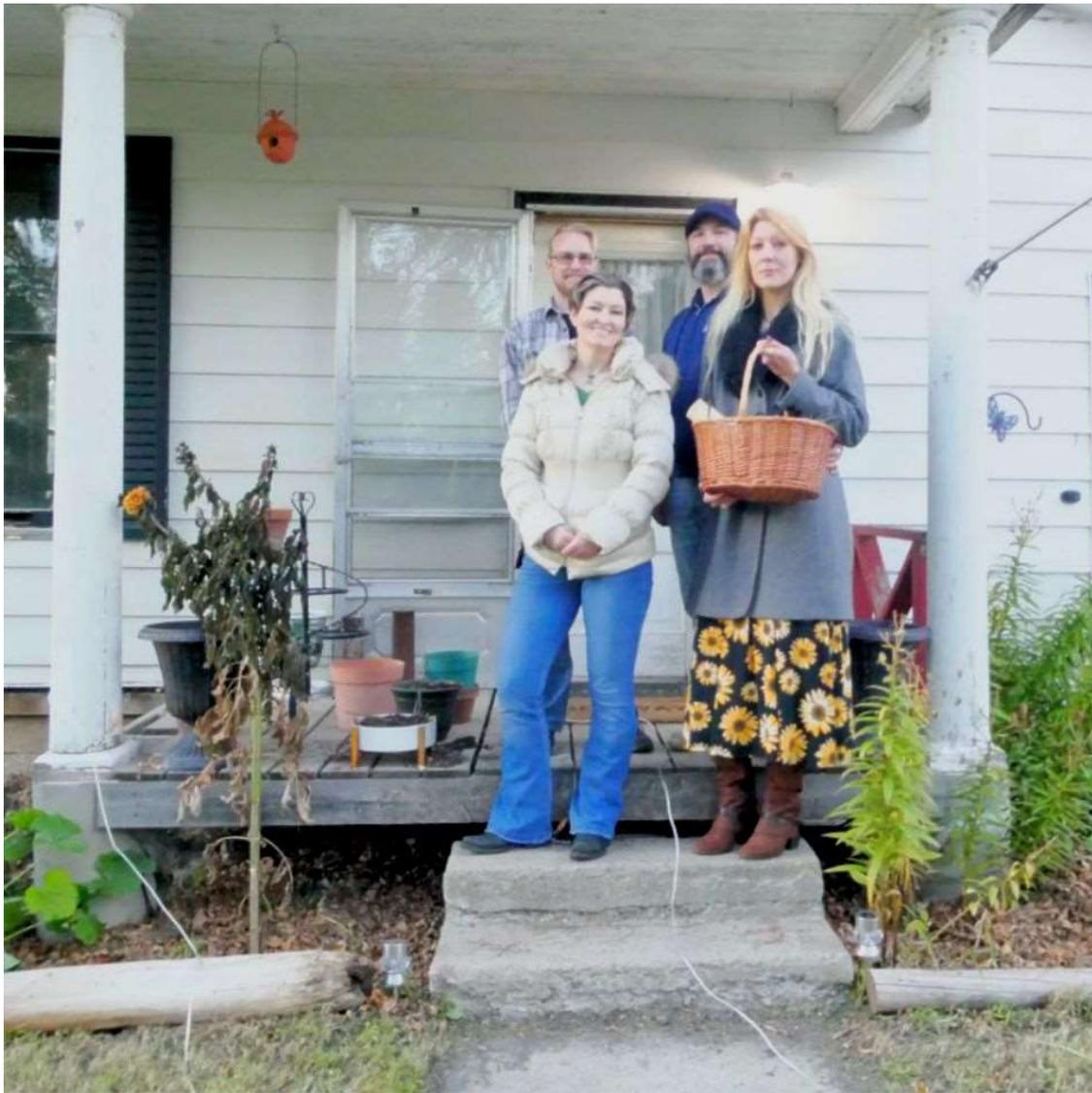
The Team here at The Runestone would like to wish The Plourdes an eternity of happiness and a big congratulations on their union as husband and wife.



Gothi Jason Plourde

[jplourde@runestone.org](mailto:jplourde@runestone.org)

*Land Taking in North Dakota*



This month, I was pleased and honored to conduct a land-taking ritual for one of our members in North Dakota. During a land taking, we bless the property and invite the gods and benevolent wights in. Land taking is a great way to start a life in a new home. It creates your own sacred space. It helps set the tone in living a life of honor, knowing that this is your own.



We walked the perimeter of the property, making small offerings to the existing benevolent spirits and warding against any malevolent ones. Thor and Sif were asked to bless this home. After the final offering, Bri was welcomed into her newly sacred space.



This faith doesn't only exist within the walls of a Hof. By inviting the Divine into your home as well, you are making it a bigger part of your life and your being. By setting the intentions for your home, you make it that much easier to live a life working with the Divine.

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

Gythia Anna Szczepanski  
[aszczepanski@runestone.org](mailto:aszczepanski@runestone.org)



*Boos and I Dos....Busy at Baldrshof*



It has been quite a busy month at Baldrshof! The food shelf, Winter nights, a very special wedding, fall decorating, and Halloween all in one month!

The food shelf was another success, and we handed out most of the food that had been donated. Those who donated were very generous and the bags that were handed out were full to the brim. We also had members joining us for their first time at the Hof, which is always special. We all shared a meal of loaded baked potato soup that afternoon and spent a few hours in each other's company.

Following the food shelf, the Hof shifted into event prep mode! Thank you to

Apprentice Folkbuilder Ashley McStocker and Folkbuilder Nathan Erlandson for spending two full days cleaning Baldrshof. The task of getting the yard work completed before the snow starts was also completed. The Callahan family spent a day preparing the grounds for winter.



Winter nights was held on October 29th. Gythia Anna Plourde and Witan Brandy Callahan conducted the Disir blot for the Folk and an "appetizer buffet" meal followed. Folk each brought a delicious finger food or appetizer to share and the Hof buffet was overflowing with food! The blot was beautiful and powerful at the same time, as we raised our voices to the Disir in the House of Baldr.

We were also gifted a large amount of organic honey this weekend, which will be used to make mead for the Hof. Thank you so much, Brody and Friends! Special thanks, also, to the Hanson Family of Minnesota for all their work in the kitchen for Winter nights!



On Saturday, October 30, Folk gathered again, this time for a very special wedding. Gythia Anna and Gothi Jason Plourde shared this special day with family and local Folk, as well as leadership from several different areas of the U.S. The bride was absolutely stunning and the wedding rite conducted by Alsherjargothi Matthew Flavel was beautifully done. Following the wedding vows, we gathered for a feast in the hall and celebrated the newly married couple. Special thanks to North Dakota member Bri for helping all the ladies get beautiful before the ceremony and to everyone who helped keep the kitchen running smoothly, especially the Mills family from Missouri and new members from Minnesota, Jessie, and Ken!



On Sunday, October 31, Folk gathered for Hof cleanup and Fall decorating. The late morning light was truly beautiful shining through the stained glass of the Hof as we spread fall leaves, pumpkins, and acorns about the place. We also prepared for our first

Halloween at the Hof, setting up a candy table and hot apple cider for trick or treaters.

There will be more fantastic events coming up this fall and winter:

November 20: Food Shelf & Feast of the Einherjar

November 27: Folksgiving!

Please contact any of our local Folkbuilders for more information about these events:

Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher [jgallagher@runestone.org](mailto:jgallagher@runestone.org)

Folkbuilder Nathan Erlandson [nerlandson@runestone.org](mailto:nerlandson@runestone.org)

Apprentice Folkbuilder Ashley McStocker

[amcstocker@runestone.org](mailto:amcstocker@runestone.org)

***Guided By True North***



I have been asked what the meaning of “Guided by True North”, the motto displayed on the Baldrshof flag, means or represents.

For many who have followed their path to Asatru, it often feels like a "calling" or a "coming home". The new follower of Asatru is welcomed with open arms into whichever organization, social media group, or church they have chosen, but then what? What happens when the "newness" and the excitement of finally finding that beacon you have been searching for fades away? What happens when you have had

your fill of Viking memes and Havamal quotes, and you need something more?

When the "shine" starts to wane from your newfound spiritual path and the confusion sets in from constantly being told "You're doing it wrong", it is time to start finding your True North.

True North is the geographical location of the Northern Pole. It is a constant that will not move, will not change, and can always be found. It will differ from magnetic North shown on a compass due to magnetic declination which varies depending on your location on Earth.

Asatru also has a "true" and a "magnetic" North.

The "magnetic North" of Asatru depends on many things. The social climate of the time, the newest archaeological find, the best and brightest of the new YouTubers, the next best-selling book, or recently published academic paper. The "true north" of Asatru never wavers faith in yourself, faith in your family, faith in the Gods, faith in your Folk. When these four foundations are solid, you will always have something to hold onto when the world shakes around you.

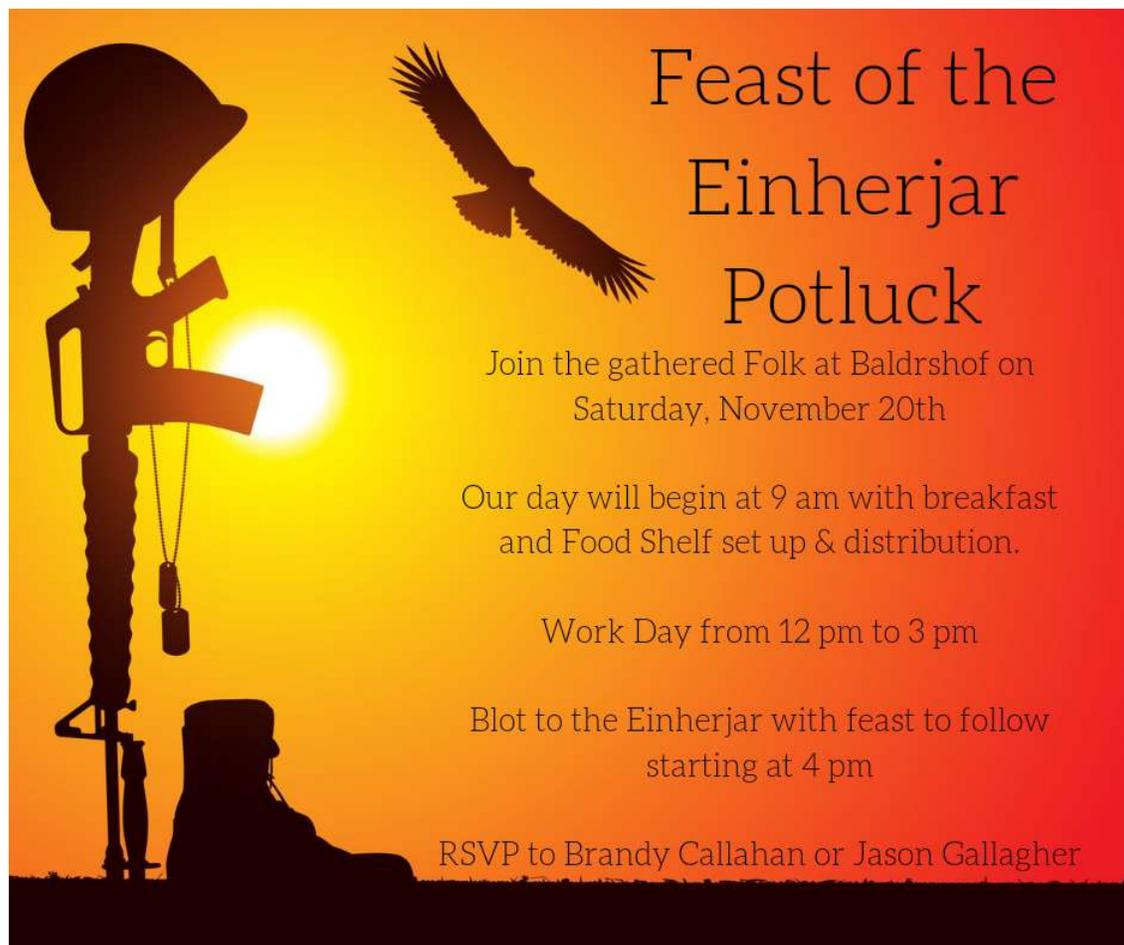
**Find Yourself:** Uncover your strengths and identify your own weakness. With honest intention, evaluate your beliefs and values and incorporate them into your spirituality. Bring only the best and brightest of yourselves to your Gods and to those you call family and kin.

**Find Your Ancestors:** You would not exist without the love, trials, tribulations, strengths, and sometimes failures of thousands before you. Learn about them and learn from them. Strengthen your ties to your history, honor the lives before yours, and take pride in the name you were given. Live in such a way that your children and their children will walk the paths on Midgard with heads held high and with pride, in the foundation you have laid at their feet.

**Find Your Gods:** Seek the wisdom of Odin, the strength of Thor, the foresight of Frigga, the love of Freya, the goodness of Baldur, the courage of Skadi, the beauty of Sif, the creativity of Bragi, the skill of Ullr, the dedication of Idunna, the selflessness of Tyr, the decisiveness of Forseti, the talent of Eir, the knowledge of Saga... Learn from your Gods and from your lore. Preserve the culture that they represented. Keep the knowledge and the worship of our Gods alive and known. Be worthy to gain their attention and strive to take their notice.

**Find your Folk:** Asatru is not, nor has it ever been (despite current popular opinion) a solitary practice of faith. During the times of our ancestors, only the outlaws were left to live life outside of the community gates. It is through our Folk, our churches, kindreds, and families that we find strength and understanding. Nearly all tenants of honor and worth in Asatru are based on the needs and success of families and communities. Join a community. Do your best to serve it and protect it. It is your tribe or clan that determines your worth, not the outside world or those outside the community gates.

### *Upcoming Events*



## Feast of the Einherjar Potluck

Join the gathered Folk at Baldrshof on  
Saturday, November 20th

Our day will begin at 9 am with breakfast  
and Food Shelf set up & distribution.

Work Day from 12 pm to 3 pm

Blot to the Einherjar with feast to follow  
starting at 4 pm

RSVP to Brandy Callahan or Jason Gallagher

Baldrshof  
Saturday, November 27, 2021



Join the gathered Folk at Baldrshof for our  
very first "Folksgiving"!

Potluck Thanksgiving meal with deep fried turkey!!  
Spend the day with good food and good Folk!  
10 am - 6 pm



# Yule at Baldrshof

FRIDAY, DEC 17 – SUNDAY DEC 19

Spend 3 days and 2 nights with your Folk in celebration of the Yule season!  
Yule crafts, holiday movies, tree lighting, gift giving, multiple feasts and blots!

RSVP to Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher



Witan Brandy Callahan  
[bcallahan@runestone.org](mailto:bcallahan@runestone.org)

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Missouri

*The Veil is Thinning in the Heart of America*



We have had a great and busy month in October here in the Missouri, central Corridor area!

Many traveled from TN, IN, AR, and all over Missouri to join in the celebration of Winter nights! Stories were shared as horns were passed around the glow of candles. A hearty feast was shared and our Blot called in the Disir and all were encouraged before or strengthened their connection with their ancestors. Thank you to Apprentice folkbuilder Jesse Parton for bringing a car full and making it possible for our folk from surrounding areas to join in the community. We appreciate your hard work and devotion to our folk my friend.



We will be starting a new Lore study on Tuesday evenings at 6 pm starting November 16th. Both in-person and through zoom for those unable to be there in the flesh. If you would like to participate please reach out to me at 307-649-5657 and I will get you the

link or an address. We will be starting with the Volsung Saga. A free digital file is available please reach out if you need it.

Folksgiving will be Sat November 27th in Springfield mo. All are welcome please RSVP to 307-640-5657 by November 23rd.

Feast of the Einherjar, Nov 11-14th still has a couple of spots left to register. Register at this link, <https://runestone.org/product/northern-missouri-feast-of-the-einherjar/> 4 Blots, Sumbel, Presentations from Mr. McNallen, and Bryan Wilton as well as a talk on VA benefits by our own Grey Will. A wedding, a baby naming, and 3 nights of feasting as well as an auction are on the agenda! We are all looking forward to this event. Please join us.

An Old Time Yule in Oklahoma is scheduled for Dec 3-5. Het details and register here! <https://letsgoaviking.ticketspice.com/an-old-time-yule-in-oklahoma>

I also want to encourage each of you to make an attempt to get to Baldrshof this coming year! There are opportunities to get in a car and ride on up often enough that if it's a lack of reliable transportation stopping you, we have a way around that! Reach out and we will let you know when we are traveling that way and if there are seats available in the vehicle! Meeting your extended family of folk is important. We want to help you make that happen!

There is a lot of opportunities to gather with your Folk, honor your gods, embrace your ancestors and build your community!

From all of us in the heart of the country, enjoy the cozy season, reach out to connect with your ancestors as the veil is thinning, and practice gratitude for all that you have harvested from both the fields and in your lives this year! Gather with your family and folk and celebrate all that you have and all you will cultivate in the future.

Hail the Folk!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Disir!

Hail the AFA!

*Upcoming Events*

**You are cordially invited to join you folk  
For Feast Of The Einherjar Nov 11-14  
in northern Missouri  
as we gather to Honor the fallen  
and  
celebrate the life and opportunities  
their sacrifices have afforded us with.**

The weekend will include:

Blot to Wotan

Blot to Freya

Blot to the Einherjar

Blot to Tyr

a celebration of life with a wedding

3 feasts

Sumble

a test of skills

a presentations on Odin and Freya

a talk on attaining V.A. benefits

Learning Utisetá

Registration is on the [runestone.org](http://runestone.org) site click on the  
event picture to register.

A Thanksgiving dinner featuring a roasted turkey, cranberry sauce, and vegetables. The turkey is the central focus, surrounded by fresh produce like apples and oranges. In the foreground, there's a white bowl of green beans with red peppers and a small white square dish of cranberry sauce. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border with floral patterns.

# *Folksgiving in the Ozarks*

***You are cordially invited to  
join your folk for feasting  
and frith!***

***saturday November 27th at  
3pm***

***please RSVP TO 307-640-  
5657 by Nov 23rd***

Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

[mmills@runestone.org](mailto:mmills@runestone.org)



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## North Dakota

### *True North Folk Kindred Pub Moot*



On October 2nd, 2021 members of the True North Folk Kindred were pleased to meet with our friends in North Dakota during the beginning of the month Pub Moot. We met at a restaurant in Bismarck ND where we enjoyed very delicious meals and some very good conversation.

It seems a small thing to simply go to lunch. However, it can be argued that such things are extremely important. There's a lot to be said for significant rituals and large events, however, the smaller more intimate occasions that we can take to build our community can be just as important if not more so.

At large events it's true we may be able to engage in a more dramatic spiritual experience, but is there any better way to get to know an individual than to sit down face to face, your family and theirs, and simply speak to one another while enjoying delicious food?

At this Pub Moot, which will hopefully be only one of many, we were very pleased to enjoy such friendly company. This event will be only one of many more to come in the future. It is our hope to continue building Frith and good fellowship with our community and the local region and beyond through events both big and small.

### *Embracing Change*



Not too long ago I found myself wandering through a State Park during a thunderstorm. During the calm between the heavy rains and thunderous booms of lightning, I found myself walking alone, alone along the muddy trails. I thought of many things during those hours before the tornadoes began and I was forced to return home. One recurring theme was the thought of change.

All too often change can be devastating, even terrifying. We find ourselves so comfortable in the lives we know and the status quo that we've become accustomed to that the thought of changing anything, even a small thing, can be absolutely terrifying.

Yet, is it always a bad thing?

Sometimes we find ourselves affixed by a stasis that has cast itself over our lives. This stasis prevents us from growing, from developing as a person, from gaining wisdom, and even from obtaining the successes we have long sought. This stasis can make us complacent, and cause us to no longer chase our dreams, goals, or ambitions. So why do we stay with it?

Sometimes we may think we have no choice, but we do. We always have a choice. Through our actions and choices, or the actions and choices of others, every situation is made temporary and subject to change. We need not accept situations that make us unhappy or fearful, for it always lay within our power to change it.

Change is an invigorating force. To be removed from our comfort zone and forced to adapt, grow stronger, and learn which can only happen if we embrace change. And not all changes are bad. Sometimes that thing that we fear the most might be the very thing that leads us to the most beautiful part of our lives. Yet we'll never know if we never take the leap.

Perhaps change can sometimes be nothing more than the bridge that spans the gap between the life you live now and the better life that awaits on the other side.



Cormag Àlainn  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[calainn@runestone.org](mailto:calainn@runestone.org)

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**Oklahoma**

*Winter is Coming*



With the first chilly winds of Summer's End in Oklahoma, the reality of cold coming to stay for a spell invokes a taming of the warm season's wild growth. Those cool breezes inspire tidying up loose ends around the homestead as if I were tucking in my own shirt. Time to batten down the hatches.

Our ancestors set the bar high with their examples of fortitude against adverse conditions. Surely fixing fences, repairing vehicles, and cleaning gutters will be more comfortably done now before winter is fully here. I do know that relaxing will come much easier when I know I've done my best to prepare for what could come this season. Many of those preparations resemble blessings to elders with long memories.

The minimum cold season goal is to preserve what we have while shorter days, frozen precipitation and hungry varmints look to change those plans.

This season also brings us the opportunity to recharge and heal up those growing pains of summer. Who doesn't love long days and warm nights, fresh-picked produce, and sunlit evenings that keep us outside late? Giving the garden a rest, cooking more, and spending time visiting and playing board games with family and friends is a welcome respite from the summer hustle. Who knows? With the early evening darkness inspiring an early bedtime, maybe we'll even catch up on much-needed rest.



Fri Dec 3-Sun Dec 5

Come home to your Folk in Oklahoma for Yule this year. We will be waiting to greet you there.

This will be a Yule to remember!

<https://letsgoaviking.ticketspice.com/an-old-time-yule-in-oklahoma>



Shea McCurdy  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[smccurdy@runestone.org](mailto:smccurdy@runestone.org)

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**Texas**

*Winter Nights at Enchanted Rock*



We traveled to Enchanted Rock and had a look at the world from atop the mountain. It was as if time itself had frozen and with nature all around us, we offered our sacrifice to the Gods right on the edge of the cliff – we all honored Freya and in the quiet, the outside world heard our cries. It was a beautiful, and inspiring adventure for our Fridr Folk.

After we went to an inviting camp encircled with cedar and pine – the night air clean and fresh, so much so that we could see the stars above our campfire. Another enchanting folk memory to add to the best of them!

Hail the Gods and Goddesses! Hail the AFA!

*Ax Throwing Moot*



For our Moot, we took up Axe Throwing! It's true what they say, our Ancestors are in our minds' memory because this was our first time, out of the gate and every one of us was naturally skilled. It was a blast and a great skill to strengthen – we can't wait to continue throwing at future gatherings of our kindred.

Hail Fridr Folk! Hail the AFA!



Thomas Gleason  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[tgleason@runestone.org](mailto:tgleason@runestone.org)

## *Galdr Group Series*



Fridr Folk Kindred Dallas-Fort Worth has continued its group galdr series with the Kenaz and Elhaz runes, gathering for discussion, meditation, and frith at both a dock and a bluff overlooking a lake respectively. Being in touch with nature is key to living an Asatru life and to maintaining spiritual health.

Looking forward to our statewide gathering for Feast of the Einherjar in the next couple of weeks!



Justin Day  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[jday@runestone.org](mailto:jday@runestone.org)

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## Wisconsin

### *Welcoming a New Apprentice Folkbuilder*

Please welcome Josh Rapin of Wisconsin as the AFA's newest Apprentice Folkbuilder for the Baldrshof Region. We are very excited to share Josh's success and achievement in the coming months and years.

Hail Josh Rapin!

Hail the AFA!

Hail Baldr!



Josh Rapin  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[jrapin@runestone.org](mailto:jrapin@runestone.org)

*Corn Maze, Hay Rides.....A Spooky Good Time in Wisconsin*



This month's moot saw AFA members from across the state get together at a family

farm in central Wisconsin. We started the day with fellowship and lots of food. One of the best parts of our community, especially here in Wisconsin, is that everyone that joins us is well fed and sent home with nourishment for the journey. We have some pretty amazing and generous cooks.

We also celebrated the birthday of one of our Wisconsin children with a pretty cool titanic cake. Next up was a hayride through a haunted forest, which was pretty cool and included a tour of the farm. The corn maze turned out to be a great adventure for many of our members and thankfully everyone made it to the finish.

Thank you to all who came out. It was a good time bonding and always enjoy meeting new members.

Our next moot will be held on November 21st. Members can watch for emails, calls, and texts for all the details. Looking forward to seeing everyone's happy faces.

As always if you have any questions, I can be contacted at: [jault@runestone.org](mailto:jault@runestone.org).

We are our future Ancestors!

Hail the Folk

Hail the AFA



Folkbuilder James Ault

[jault@runestone.org](mailto:jault@runestone.org)

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