



Óðinshof

First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.odinshof.org

 Runestone.org

 Email the Witan

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Words from the Alsherjargothi



Midsummer at Óðinshof was amazing! If you were there, you know. If you were not, I hope to see you there next year. It was great to see so many new members and their families this year and we all had a very powerful experience. This year I got to show Óðinshof to my dear friends Gothi Daniel Young and his wife Folkbuilder Heather Young. For the first time as a Gothi, I had the honor of performing a naming for twins!

Amazing Midsummers were had across the land and AFA members worshiped our Gods in larger numbers than ever before!

Big things are happening at Njörðshof as those folks prepare for next month's dedication!

Summer is always a time for activity, a time for doing and I would encourage you all to get out and make the most of this special time of year.

I want to talk briefly about something that was made very clear to me at Midsummer, openness is key. We had a number of new folks at Óðinshof this year and before the Óðinn Blot, I asked everyone to be open. I asked that folks leave their analytic brain outside the circle and go in open to the divine, with an open heart and an open mind and to see what happens. Amazing things happened! From now on we are going to make openness a priority during ritual, and I am confident the difference will be noticeable!

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



Matthew D. Flavel
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly
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Remembering Martin Rojas 1992-2022



It is with heavy hearts that the Asatru Folk Assembly announces the unexpected loss of

one of our Folk, Martin Christopher Rojas.

Martin, born in 1992, was a bright light taken from the Folk too soon. Since joining his Folk in February 2022, after returning to his home state of Minnesota, he had made many friendships. He was a constant smiling and positive face at every moot, event, and holiday he attended. His mixture of good humor and quick wit will never be forgotten. The laughter of Folk was never-ending in his presence.

His dedication and support of Baldrshof was immediate after joining the AFA. He didn't miss a single event, workday, or food pantry distribution. He traveled across Minnesota to share Frith with his Folk and support AFA members in neighboring states.

It seems only yesterday that folk of Baldrshof said their goodbyes to Martin in May as he made his way to Georgia. He was excited to meet the folk in the area and was planning his first visit to Thorshof. None of us thought that the goodbye would be final.

Hail Martin Rojas!

Asatru is Our Birthright

“Asatru is the religion with homework”

“You have to earn your hammer”

“The Gods call who they will”

These are all misleading.

It is of course good to study history, lore, runes, language, and all the other thing that help to inform our faith.

It is of course good to act in a way that is noble, brave, kind, and righteous.

It is of course up to the Gods to do as they will, and we can't presume to understand the motive.

However, none of these are the defining characteristics of our faith and religion...

Asatru means “Belief in the Gods” or more literally “Troth to the Aesir”, a holy faith in the Aesir. This is faith not only in the sense of “belief” but also in the sense of “trust” or “loyalty”. “I have faith in you” means more than “I believe you exist”, it means “I believe you will do right” and “I believe you will succeed”.

Our ancestors are our direct, physical link to the Aesir. The Aesir are the most ancient blood ancestors of our Folk. We are that same link for our descendants and all their progeny.

The Aesir created the world and gave us life, wit, and vigor. Every Blot we make to the Aesir is a return on this gift, made from the world created for us by the Aesir. Our faith is to continue this gift cycle perpetually. We should always be mindful that the Aesir started the gift cycle and our ancestors -Asatru and otherwise- maintained this gift cycle through the successful lives they led. Our existence is proof of this success. Our children's prosperity and faith are proof of our success.

So do your homework. Prove you are honorable. Listen to the call of the Gods. But always remember that Asatru is the birthright of every single one of our Folk, even if they need to be reminded. Bring them home.



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Folk Futhark

The Folk Futhark

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Introducing Witan Svan Herul's recent creation, the Folk Futhark!

This is THE rune set of the Asatru Folk Assembly and our Hofs! If you've seen any of Witan Svan's murals, you may have noticed that he uses runes from all four of the main futharks: Elder, Younger, English, & Armanen. The purpose of this, and of the Folk Futhark in general, was to create a living tradition of runes for our modern Folk.

We are no longer Proto-Germanic, nor Vikings, nor Saxons of the Heptarchy, and we are certainly not all Armanen... We are modern Aryans, with our roots spreading across all of Europa, and we are building a modern tradition of Asatru and rune work. This Futhark holds the same concepts and mysteries of the Elder Futhark runes, but some of the staves themselves are borrowed from the other three rune rows.

With all this being said, I will start writing short lessons on each of the Folk runes, and explaining why Witan Svan chose different staves, if applicable. We will study a few runes a month, starting after Ostara!



Now that we talked about the Folk Futhark and what it means for the AFA and modern Asatru, I'd like to start a rudimentary rune study, beginning with the first three runes.

FEHU- This is the first rune of every main futhark, and often symbolizes cattle or wealth, as cattle WAS wealth for our ancestors. Going beyond that, Fehu can be read as a rune of opportunity and potential. Some have equated it to the potential energy that existed before the Big Bang! This fits well with the idea that the Futhark, when studied in order, tell the story of the Cosmos from the beginning to the rising of Gimle out of the waters.

While the concept and name are the same as the Elder Futhark, the stave has been replaced with the Armanen rune known as FA, which is described as "the primal fire".



URUZ- This is always the second rune of any given rune row. It's also one of the runes that means the same thing in both Elder and Armanen rows, although with added connotations in the Armanen.

As Fehu is potential power, or wealth in cattle, or opportunity waiting to happen, Uruz is the logical next step in the greater story told by the Futhark. Uruz is raw, primordial power, it is the aurochs of our ancestors' days. If Fehu is your potential energy, Uruz is having your fists up. Fehu is energy waiting to be used, Uruz is energy READY to be used. Uruz is having a round in the chamber. Uruz is being centered and grounded and ready to defend or attack.



THURISAZ- The third rune of most rune rows, it is the next step after Uruz.

Where Uruz is having your fists up, or your weapon loaded, Thurisaz is throwing the punch or firing the first round. The point in the middle of the rune represents the APPLICATION of the potential energy represented in the previous two runes.

Thurisaz also represents Þórr, the Warrior Prince of Heaven and Earth. Think of the top of the symbol as Heaven/Asgard, the bottom as Earth/Midgard, and the middle point as Thunor charging forward to unleash the might of Mjolnir on anything that seeks to harm the worlds of Gods and Men.



Gothi Trent East
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The Quest for Freyshof

“Njörðr in Nóatún begot afterward two children: the son was called Freyr, and the daughter Freyja; they were fair of face and mighty. Freyr is the most renowned of the Æsir; he rules over the rain and the shining of the sun, and therewithal the fruit of the earth; and it is good to call on him for fruitful seasons and peace. He governs also the prosperity of men.”

– Gylfaginning



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

This sacred quest has had a great start so far! The generosity has been amazing, as always!

This is the list of things that need to happen before we can make Freyshof a reality:

1. We need to pay off Njörðshof. (We have paid off 33%)
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 26%. (This is membership dues/hoftollar plus other donations)
3. We need to locate a suitable property.
4. We need to find lenders and build a war chest.

This is not a "quick" process so stay patient and resolute. As we progress, I will keep you all updated on our progress!

Hail Freyr!



Matthew D. Flavel
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AFA Homeschool Program

Calling all Musicians!



Greetings folks. I'm very proud to say we have got a lot of registrations for this fall's inaugural kindergarten class! We are very excited to welcome our first class. Remember

folks, registration for kindergarten is still open! If you are interested in volunteering to help us, and make this the very best experience possible for our children, please email me and tell me about how you can help. Specifically, I'm looking for musical-minded folks to aid in developing musical education, as well as putting together a yule recital program for kids of all ages.

Keep a look out in the AFA parenting group for announcements about conference calls for volunteers.

And don't forget to pick up an AFA Academy crest tee shirt on the runestone website! Show your school pride.



Gothi Rob Stamm
Dean of AFA Academy
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Day of Remembrance

Alexander Rud Mills



Alexander Rud Mills was born in Forth, Tasmania, and lived from 1885-1964. He was the guiding light for the foundations of Asatru in Australia.

In 1933 Rud Mills began writing books about our faith and in 1936 he founded the Anglecyn Church of Odin. Mills was able to build a solid Asatru community, but during the turbulent times of the Second World war, Rud Mills was bitterly persecuted by his government, and the community that he built was suppressed. With no evidence against him of illegal activity, Alexander Rud Mills was imprisoned. It was nearly a decade before Mills was released and despite all of his efforts, he was unable to revive

his church to its former glory.

All was not lost, however. Alexander Rud Mills's many publications and his passion lived on and inspired a new generation. In the 1970s a group of Odinist Students at the University of Melbourne campaigned to have Odinism recognized as a formal religion in Australia, hoping to be able to protect the faith from the same persecution that Mills suffered. It took almost two decades, but by the early '90s, Odinism was granted religious status in Australia. Alexander Rud Mills's vision also, notably, inspired Else Christensen, who was a leading voice of Asatru in North America.

So, what can we learn from this story?

Alexander Rud Mills didn't live to see the culmination of all of his hard work. When he died Odinism and Asatru were still a repressed faith in his homeland. Even without reward and recognition, he worked until his death, to try and revive the ancient folkway. And he did succeed. Could he have ever imagined how far-reaching his influence would be while he lived? Despite being imprisoned and persecuted for his beliefs, Alexander continued. Even without knowing that his hard work would bear fruit, he continued. He didn't give up in the face of a thankless, and dauntless task. He didn't let his ego or his own self-importance stop him from doing what he believed he needed to do. There were no rewards. There were no praises. There was nothing in it for him except the knowledge and the belief that he was doing the right thing for his folk.

Take from this story the need to remember that the bigger picture, even when we can't see it, is so much more important than just ourselves. We do what we are doing for our children and for their children so that when we are gone they have a foundation strong enough to hold them up and help them build better and stronger.



Gythia Catie Erickson
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Remembrance & Holy Days



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

2022

Date	Observance
January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 15	Þorrablót
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 19	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olvir of Egg
March 20 (observed on 21st)	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon

Date	Observance
April 31 (observed on 16th)	Hexennacht
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
May 1 (observed on 21st)	May Day
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric of the Goths
June 21 (observed on 18th)	Midsummer
July 9	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills
July 16	Sigrblót
August 9	Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia
August 20	Freyfaxi
September 9	Day of Remembrance for Prince Hermann of the Cherusci
September 21 (observed on 17th)	Winter Finding
October 9	Day of Remembrance for Meister Guido von List
October 15	Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen
October 15	Winter Nights
November 9	Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigríð of Sweden
November 19	Feast of the Einherjar
December 9	Day of Remembrance for Egill Skallagrímsson
December 20	Mother's Night
December 20-31	Yuletide

Sigurblot



Sigurlót literally means ‘Victory Blot’ and was celebrated by our ancestors in the early summer months. On the one hand, our ancestors were celebrating their victory over the harsh winter. Life had won. On the other hand, our ancestors performed blot to ask for victory. With the warm weather and the completion of the planting time the men often

turned their minds to the duty of man. War. Practically speaking, summer was the better time to organize new campaigns and set sail.

In our modern times, the vast majority of us are not familiar with war in a personal way. We do, however, all have our struggles. Sigurblót is a time to refocus. It is the time we can use to reorganize our priorities, figure out the steps we need to take in order to reach our ultimate goals, and break free from those that we struggle with.

One great way to celebrate Sigurblót is to offer a meal or some other item you spent time making thanks for the victory of life. Another option is to sacrifice a bladed weapon to the fire. A nice knife, for example, the blade dulled in battle so that it cannot be used against you (this is symbolic, of course), offered to the fire is a great way to ask our Gods for victory during the coming winter.

A gift for a gift.

Upcoming National Events

Fallfest at Baldrshof



Register Here: [Fallfest at Baldrshof 2022 Aug19-21 – Asatru Folk Assembly](#).

[.\(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)

7 Meals * 4 Blots * 3 Morning dedications * High Sumble * Daily Fika * Multiple Educational discussions and Classes * Children's Blots and Activities * Vendors * Auction and Silent Auction * Hnefetafl Tournament * Games for Adults and Children * Meet your Folk and local and National Leadership.

Winternights in Ohio



Register Here: [Winter Nights 11 – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)

The Eleventh Annual Winter Nights will be held in Scioto County, Ohio from October 14- 16! Since 2012, this long-running AFA festival has been dedicated to our ancestral mothers, the Disir. When the harvest is in, the summer plants have died off, and the winter is quickly approaching the veil between the living and dead is said to be at its thinnest. Again, we will gather to worship our Gods, our Goddesses, and our Ancestral Mothers. We build upon the success of the Asatru Folk Assembly by making new friends and renewing old friendships. We look forward to seeing members and friends!

Your registration fee includes all workshops, lectures, meals, tent camping, and of course our holy rituals. Only AFA members and vouched-for-guests will be admitted to this event. If you are not an AFA Member you should confirm with the member who is vouching for you that they will do so when asked about your registration.

Things to know:

- Children 17 and under attend for free!
- You will need to bring your own bedding and it can get chilly at night, so plan accordingly.
- Tenting is encouraged! There are also hotels within 20 minutes of the camp.
- Dogs are welcome but must be leashed at all times and are not permitted in common indoor areas such as the dining hall.
- The camp location will be provided upon registration.

If you have any questions please email cerickson@runestone.org

Member Family - Weekend: \$150

Member - Weekend: \$100

Member - Daypass: \$50

Guest - Weekend: \$125

Guest - Daypass: \$60

Child - Weekend: Free

Child - Daypass: Free



Witan Clifford Erickson
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Know Your Gothar



Gythia Sheila McNallen

This month we celebrate Gythia Sheila McNallen's birthday. A tireless dedicated and trusted member of our clergy team, Sheila has been here since the founding of the Asatru Folk Assembly. Married to Founder Stephen McNallen, Sheila has been working behind the scenes since the beginning. While for years, Alsherjargothi McNallen has been the face of Modern Asatru, to those in the know, Sheila has been at the heart and soul. Gythia McNallen served the Assembly under Founder McNallen's administration as the Secretary and Treasurer, while still working as a full-time teacher

before retiring in 2016.

Under Alsherjargothi Flavel's administration, which began in 2016, Sheila took the initiative to help with the coordination of events at Odinshof. In 2019 Gythia McNallen served as the Folkbuilder At Large, serving underserved areas with all their membership needs. While serving the Assembly in so many capacities, Sheila was working her way through the AFA Gothar Program to her ordination in 2019.

Today, Sheila sets the standard with charitable giving at Odinshof, feeding an untold number of families every month. The rest of us are doing our best to keep up with her.

Happy Birthday, Gythia McNallen. You and Mr. McNallen have laid a rock-solid foundation for us to build upon. Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do for us all.

“Happy birthday, Gythia McNallen. Thank you for your tireless effort in service to our gods, and our people. You have meant so much to Heather and I, and we are so very grateful to count you amongst our closest friends. We love you!” - Gothi Daniel Young

“Gythia Sheila has offered a warm welcome to all for as long as I have known her, and she has always supported Asatru families. I remember at Midsummer in California, back when it was hosted at the CYO camp, Sheila was talking in front of everyone and reminded all of us ‘singles’ that we still had a day to get to know each other. I’m glad she did this kind of thing because meeting my wife in the AFA has been such a blessing.” -Witan Clifford Erickson

“When I was going through a particularly trying time in my life, the McNallen’s called me, and Gythia Sheila spoke to my wife. She was so reassuring and calming. Sheila has that easy demeanor and soft strength of presence. The feminine nurturer principle in perfection. The first time we met in person, you’d have thought we had known each other for years. A wonderful lady.” -Gothi Robert Stamm

“Sheila is like the mother of the AFA and a nurturing presence to all who need it. There isn’t a single soul who has done more or worked harder for our church and that’s saying a lot.” -Gothi Trent East

“Sheila, thank for pushing me and encouraging me to go further than I thought I could ever go. Your example is one that all of us should seek to emulate. Wishing you the happiest of birthdays!” -Folkbuilder Heather Young

“Gythia McNallen has been an inspiration to me since I joined the Asatru Folk Assembly. Her drive and dedication to her gods, her church, and her folk is truly astounding. She has laid the groundwork for the amazing opportunities I have as an AFA woman and I’m grateful to her for it! Happiest of birthdays Gythia McNallen! I am sure you will continue to inspire and motivate us even more in the years to come!” - Witan Brandy Callahan

“The thing that truly floors me about Gythia McNallen is the subtle yet powerful grace in which she applies her motherly wisdom and feminine ease to everything she does. When tackling issues oftentimes we menfolk will try to accomplish goals through mission orientation, and we lose sight of a certain personal touch. Yet Sheila will almost waltz into a situation with ease and form that is entirely different and accomplish the task tenfold and make it look like the frustrations we were dealing with didn’t exist at all. -Witan Svan Herul

“Sheila is, and always has been, the heart of the AFA. There is no one that puts more love into this.” -Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel



Gothi Daniel Young
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Be a Doer



We need you to volunteer for the AFA!

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

to help our Folk.

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

Baby Blanket Project

The Women of the AFA are proud to be continuing this fine and noble work we call the Baby Blanket Project! We're committed to ensuring all new babies born within the AFA are gifted a handmade — knit, crocheted, or woven — baby blanket! It's just our little way of celebrating each new addition to our folk!

This project has been going strong for nearly a year now, and has been a rousing success! The Ladies of the AFA have knitted, crocheted, and sewn beautiful baby blankets for over 20 of our littlest folk, with more on the way. They've been delivered everywhere from Alaska to Florida, California to Sweden!



If you are a member of the AFA who is expecting a baby, please let your Folkbuilder know so we can get a blanket to you. If you would like to contribute, either financially or by volunteering as a baby blanket crafter, let your Folkbuilder know about that as well, so he can get you in touch with the right people. It's so rewarding to see your handicraft being loved by our little heathens!

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

Folk Services

For some, it may be a natural disaster. For others an unexpected change in health, and for some just an unforeseen chain of events. Whatever the case may be sometimes we find ourselves in a sticky situation, and although we try and to work and do our best to



pull ourselves out, sometimes we may need the help of our Folk community to give us a hand up...

That's when our folks Services Program comes in. We give one-time monetary grants to those members in need. These folks are so grateful and we know that once they get back on track they will contribute to this fund. For those that are able, we are in need of funds so we can be prepared for when these situations arise

in our community. If you're able please place a donation today. Even a small donation adds up in the grand scheme of things and even \$5 or \$10 can help if enough people pitch in. If even a fraction of the folks who like the page did that each month, imagine the possibilities!

AFA Folk Services is intended to provide modest, one-time monetary grants to AFA members in dire need of basic services. It is also to be a source for referrals and information to help members get help beyond what the AFA can directly provide. For more information, please email folkservices@runestone.org.

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

Thanks in advance!

Photo Donations

We have a real need for hi-res photographs of our members' gathering, being active in their kindreds, and showing what it means to live Asatru!



If you are willing to donate some hi-res photos for use in promotions such as the AFA Calendar, the AFA website, our publications, and more please email them to the AFA at photos@runestone.org. The larger the resolution the better, so please email them from the device where the photo was taken.

Eir's Blessings



Everybody needs a little extra help sometimes. Women, being the frithy creatures that we are, are uniquely suited to the task of manipulating energy for the purpose of healing. Magic, you could say.

Do you have a health concern and need a little extra energy? Are you battling with a mental illness like depression or PTSD? Is your baby having a hard time with teething? If you've answered yes at all, reach out to us. Once a month women of the AFA will get together to perform healing rituals all across the globe. If you would like to be included, please send a message to let us know!

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

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

Last Will and Testament

Recently another member of our AFA family passed beyond the veil. He was only 29.

PLEASE make your will today! PLEASE include specific instructions on how you want your funeral handled and what YOU want to be done with your remains! PLEASE send an original signed copy to Allen!



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/>.

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



Please welcome the Folc Irminsul Kindred of Indiana as the newest official Kindred of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Now there are two AFA Kindreds in the state of Indiana and another Kindred joining the network of Kindreds in that District.

It gladdens my heart to see so many of our folk stepping up and coming together and building Kindreds all over Midgard.

Gaining Kindred recognition is not an easy thing, it takes hard work and dedication.

Standing with our church at all costs.

All new Kindreds go through a six-month probationary period before joining our family as an official Kindred.

Thank You Folc Irminsul Kindred for all your hard work and dedication to our church.

Hail the Folc Irminsul Kindred!

Hail the Kindreds of the AFA!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!



Gothi Daniel Young

dyoung@runestone.org

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

RavenWing Customs



Created by folkish homemaker Lindsay Wallace in 2021. Located in rural Northern California. Specializing in jewelry, home decor, accessories, and gifts. Using resin, custom vinyl cutouts, vintage frames, upcycled goods, and always ethically responsibly sourced wildflowers and specimens. Botanical art, oddities, commissions, and more!

Etsy: [RavenWingCustom - Etsy](#)

Instagram: [Raven Wing Customs \(@ravenwingcustoms\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

Email: RavenWingCustoms@gmail.com

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



Folkbuilder Jessica Lambert

jlambert@runestone.org

Ancestral Food and Culture

Callahan Colcannon



Colcannon is a traditional Irish dish of mashed potatoes and cabbage. Each family has its own recipe that is usually passed from one generation to another.

The Callahan family saves colcannon for special holidays or events and is served at

funerals, Winternights, and Yule.

Ingredients

- *2 pounds of russet potatoes, peeled and chopped for boiling
- *2 leeks, washed and chopped (white and light green parts only)
- *1/2 head of cabbage
- *1 stick of butter
- *1 cup heavy cream
- *1 garlic clove, minced
- *3 strips of bacon
- *Green onions for garnish

Instructions:

- *Boil potatoes until tender, about 15-20 min. Drain well and return to pot.
- *Fry bacon and drain, save the drippings. Crumble bacon into small pieces.
- *Using the bacon drippings, add cabbage to the pan. Cook on medium-high heat until cabbage just starts to brown, about 7-9 min.
- *Add leeks to the cabbage and cook until leeks seem tender, about 5 min
- *Add garlic and cook about 1 minute more and remove from heat.
- *Mix potatoes, butter, and heavy cream. Whip with a mixer until creamy. Slowly add more cream if needed for a creamier consistency.
- *Fold bacon and cooked vegetables to potatoes.
- *Garnish with green onion
- *Salt and pepper to taste
- *Garnish with green onions
- *Serve warm

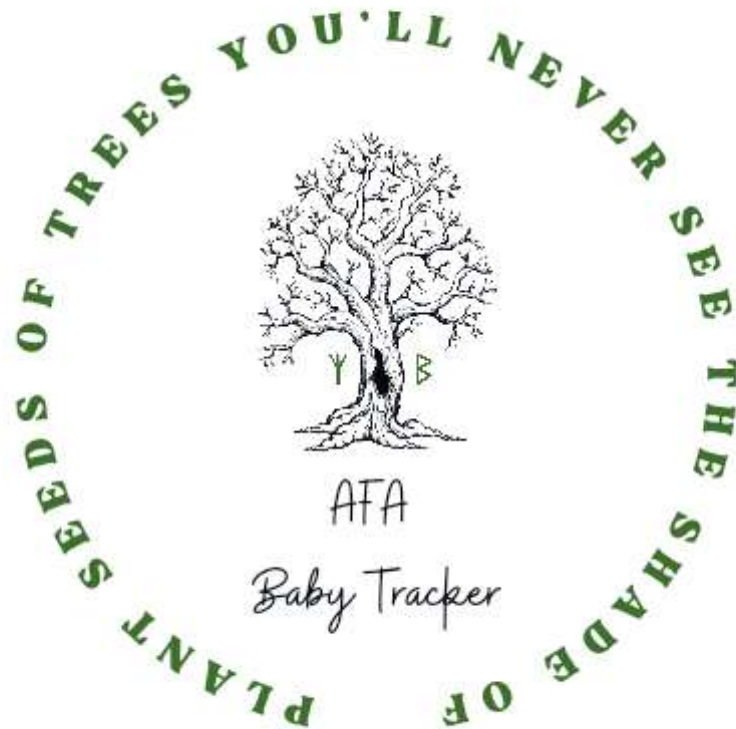
Serves 6



Folkbuilder Timothy Dumas

Tdumas@runestone.org

Baby Tracker



To show the growth of our folk we present to you an ongoing baby tracker. We will be keeping track of how many children have been and are born within the AFA from 2022 and forward. The ongoing tracking is proof that we are building something sustainable for the future of our folk, which is a place for these children to grow up within and a place where they can feel proud of who they.

Total babies born in 2022: 19

Jessica Keller

Apprentice Folkbuilder

jkeller@runestone.org



Now Available in the AFA Store

Asatru Academy Tshirt



\$23.00 – \$27.00

Buy Now: [Asatru Academy tshirt – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](https://runestone.org/asatru-academy-tshirt)

Food Pantry at Odinhof



In anticipation of a large number of vehicles at this year's Midsummer, I decided to move our Food Pantry ahead by one week, to the fourth Saturday instead of the third. An announcement was posted to the local community pages on Facebook, but I figured we needed to be ready for our “regulars” on the 18th as well.



Connor Norris and a few others set up tables close to the road and were ready for anyone who drove in. It proved wise to have food on hand “just in case.” Over the next two hours, they gave food to twelve families; but that was only part one of our monthly food giveaway.

The next Thursday, I brought in another load of food. On Saturday morning, the familiar red sign was placed by the road, and we were ready. Steve and I had the help of Zac Gable who did all of the heavy work this day. As always, the locals heaped praise on us for helping the community during these dire times. My simple response was, “Our pleasure. We're glad we can help.”



Gythia Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org

Midsummer at Odinhof



You'll be hearing lots of the details about Midsummer 2022 from our Folkbuilders in this Runestone newsletter. All agreed that it was one of our best to date. The weather was balmy, but not hot – and even gave us a rain shower on Saturday. The following summary gives you an idea of what was happening:



This year's Viking Games were planned by Mason Johnson, Folkbuilder from Washington. Individual participants - men, women, and children, could participate in the obstacle course that included archery, boulder carrying, and ax blows at foes, represented by standing logs. Short videos of this mayhem have been posted on social media.



Other event features included fire dancing by Krystal Podbreger and Jay Le'Vie. Auctioneer Connor Norris had us bidding on over 80 items (!) which brought in proceeds essential to Odinhof's upkeep. Zach and Alyce Gable, volunteer firefighters from the scorched hills of Berry Creek, gave us a deep look at CPR as a life-saving technique. Live music was provided by Paul Stevens on guitar and by Tanner Thayer, who played "oldies" on our hof-piano.

Each AFA Hof honors a historic person who contributed to the revival of the old religion. For us, our esteemed personage is Meister Guido Von List (1848 – 1919), from Austria. Following a presentation by Connor Norris about his life, a shrine dedicated to Von List was hung on the wall next to the Odin mural.



Our Alsherjargothi's Odin Blot on Friday night was intense, proven by the blue energy that followed him around the fire, as captured by multiple cameras. Gothi Daniel Young from South Carolina led us in the Midsummer Blot to Baldr, in which a beribboned sun wheel infused with personal intentions was set ablaze. Gothi Young shared the importance of Baldr's role, his death, and rebirth in the family of the Aesir, even as the Sun itself was reaching its fullness and preparing for the long journey into winter.

The Wayfarer's Blot led by Gythia Sheila McNallen, with husband Stephen, reminded us to use "right action" as we galdrd Raido. Then came the blessing of individual mjollnirs before leaving Odinhof for the trip home.



Unique to this Midsummer event was a panel discussion featuring five of our Folkbuilders. The general topic was applying Asatru principles in our lives, with examples of successes and challenges. Participants were Folkbuilders Sierra Chapman, Heather Young, Rachel Johnson, Mason Johnson, and Sam Ramsey.



You've all seen the magnificent Odin mural inside our hall, painted with great passion by Witan Svan Herul last October. To make sure that all clearly understand this is Odin's-hof, a sacred center for our Folk, a dais and altar to Odin are now installed below the mural. Our first ceremonies of the Folk took place on Saturday. This included honoring Sam Ramsey of Arizona, who took his official Folkbuilder oath. There was also a baby-naming - in fact, two baby-namings - for the twin sons of Krystal Flatley. Matt Flavel brought forth a strong spirit as he spoke Nornir words to each of those wee

boys.

Summary

If you have never experienced an Odinshof Midsummer, they've been the national gathering since 2010. Whether you camp, stay in an Airbnb, or the Brownsville motel, we guarantee it will be a “family reunion” you'll never forget.



Gythia Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Odinshof

HOF EVENTS -
From Now
Until Yule

- July 16, Sommarfest-Sigrblot
- August 20, Freyfaxi
- September 17, Winter Finding
- October 15 (revised), Winter Nights
- November 19, Feast of the Einherjar
- December 17, Yule

The background of the graphic shows a silhouette of a person in a long dress holding a large, glowing net against a twilight sky with a single star.

THIS SATURDAY

JUNE 25TH

FOOD PANTRY

AT THE ODINSHOF CHURCH

8408 La Porte Road, Brownsville



Reducing food insecurity in rural Yuba
and Butte counties.

No one will be turned away!

Pull up in your car
and we'll load it with groceries.



What moots are you missing?

Some of our June events: Welsh Festival in Southern Idaho, German Bistro dinner in Montana, Enchanted Trail hike in San Jose, CA

July events

Iron Club (Tues/Thurs – ongoing) with the Mason & Rachel Johnson in WA

JULY 1: *Frith & Frolic at Western Gateway Park* in Penn Valley, CA; Sheila McNallen organizer

JULY 2: *Wine Walk in Carson City*, Matt Flavel organizer

JULY 2; *Oregon Moot - Silver Falls Hike & Blot*; Mason Johnson organizer

JULY 9: *Sacramento Thrift Moot* followed by lunch; Ashley Stockton organizer

JULY 9: *Day of Remembrance Dinner & Havamal Study* in San Jose; Connor Norris organizer

JULY 9: *Alsherjargothic Dinner* hosted by the Flavels; Reno, NV

JULY 16: *Odinshof Food Pantry* 9:30 to 11:30 (Volunteers welcome!)

JULY 16: *Sigrblot at Odinshof*, 11:00 to 9:00, overnights are welcome. RSVP to Ashley, Sheila, or Sierra

JULY 23: *Aqua Golf and lunch* in Redding; Ashley Stockton organizer

AUGUST 20: *Freyfaxi and Food Pantry* at Odinshof.

Do you wish something was happening in YOUR area? As a member of the AFA, you can help host an event. Contact Gythia McNallen or one of the Folkbuilders near you. If you have a viable idea, we'll explain AFA standards and norms for events, and assist you in advertising and promotion. Ideas include festivals, fairs, cultural events, picnics, hikes, campouts, museums, concerts, movies, gyms, classes – or simply a meetup for coffee or a meal. Talk to us!

DISTRICT EVENTS
Check *Our Events* calendar
odinshof.org

Arizona

Celebrating Midsummer at Odinshof



This month we celebrated Midsummer. My 2nd time attending. One of my favorite times of the year when good folk gather from all over to not only Honor the Gods and the Ancestors But also Honor our community together as one and join our collective energy. It was absolutely amazing event. I look forward to the next year.

Insight from our Folk

"Joining the Asatru Folk Assembly has truly been one of the most life-changing

decisions I have ever made. My brother has been a member of the AFA for many years and encouraged me to join during my teenage years. The day I turned 18 I put in my application to join and was welcomed wholeheartedly by the upper leadership and the folk. It has exceeded my expectations in every way and has created unending opportunities for me to meet like-minded and loving folk. Without the Asatru Folk Assembly, I never would have been able to develop the relationships I have created with my now most trusted friends that I have ever had. I have nothing but positive things to say about this organization. The AFA does a great job at preserving the cultural roots of our ancestors that no other organization that I have come across has done. The Asatru Folk Assembly is truly a remarkable restoration of our ancestors religious and cultural traditions that will survive the annals of time. It is the Asatru Folk Assembly that will pave the way for future generations of European ancestry to return to the ways of our ancestors. It is a true reconnection with the Gods."

-Eli, from Arizona.

"I am fairly new to the AFA and early in my studies of the literature. I grew up faithless and never found anything that felt quite "right" ... until now. The values of Asatru and the significance of family have been inspiring. Going back to my roots has given me a deeper sense of identity, and the more folk I meet, the more connected I feel to something larger than myself.

I just experienced my first big event- Midsummer at Odinshof-and what a truly amazing experience full of kinship and spirituality. It was wonderful to feel surrounded by my folk and to visit the Hof at last. The beautiful and spacious grounds brought with them an appreciation for the surrounding nature. From the blots to the games, to the excitement of the auction, I found myself at home and grateful to be part of a growing faith. The atmosphere was alive with conversations by the fire, the many playing children, and captivating fire dances. Of course, Stephen and Sheila can't go unmentioned-such warm and welcoming individuals who felt like a mother and father to me upon first meeting. For me (and many others I'm sure), the Odin Blot was the most spiritually moving experience. When Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel called upon our gods, they themselves answered from the sky and sent chills down my spine. Each blot was an opportunity to give thanks, and to send forth hope and positive energy for the season to come, and to reflect on the ancestors before us. Overall, I feel more connected to the folk at large and know better than ever that I have found a home in Asatru. Hail the gods; hail the folk; hail the AFA!"

-AD

"I have known of our gods since early childhood. I read endless books, and watched

every documentary on PBS I could. I felt the same towards our ancestors; read their histories, and recounted their glory and struggles. I thought of our faith as something dead and the gods absent.

One day a friend of mine suggested that I attend the inaugural Charming of the Plow event in Leavenworth. I participated in my first blot to the All-Father. Since that moment my trajectory on this world (and the next) has inexorably changed. I have met absolutely the best folk and have a connection to the Gods and Ancestors that was dormant.

Hail the Gods, Hail the Folk, Hail the AFA!"

-CS



Folkbuilder Samuel Ramsey

sramsey@runestone.org

Introduction

I joined the Asatru Folk Assembly at the end of a long journey of self-discovery, and at the beginning of my adventure out into the real world. My first exposure to the world of the Gods and Goddesses of my people came while a student at UC Santa Cruz, surrounded by redwood trees, hearing the wind rustle the leaves while reading about Odinn, the Allfather, and I realized that I was not alone. As I read more, I felt myself being physically touched by an unexplainable force, and a burden was lifted. I immediately felt lighter, as if a condition I didn't know I had was healed. Despite all my belief in using empirical evidence to find truth and avoiding supernatural or theological explanations for the world, I found myself having a religious and spiritual experience. From that day, I resolved to learn more about our Gods, but I also had to learn about myself. I learned about the existence of the AFA back then in 2008 and was highly impressed by what I saw from them but didn't yet possess the sufficient willpower to join.

Finally, in 2013, I graduated college with a BA in history. I didn't yet have any real direction in terms of a career, and a history degree isn't exactly desired by employers,

but I did have more of a direction in life. I had met a wonderful young woman while at school who so often brought out the best in me. I became more confident overall, and the social anxiety that I had always felt so severely had seemed to lessen over the years. That summer, I finally realized that joining the AFA was what I had to do. After I joined the AFA, I experienced a connection to traditions and ideas that I was so ignorant of before but seem so fundamental and crucial now. I finally realized after I joined the AFA that I wasn't alone in being a seeker of the wisdom, favor, and truth of our Gods and Goddesses, and I appreciated greatly the people I met and formed bonds with, and did blot with, after I joined. In 2015, I brought my long-time partner Emily to her first AFA event, Midsummer in Sonoma County, California. In October of that year, we were married by Steve McNallen in Santa Cruz. In 2017, we had our first child together, and in 2018 we had our baby-naming ceremony for Charlotte at Odinhof.

Odinhof has been a magical place for me ever since the AFA acquired it in 2015 and dedicated it to the Allfather. Not only was it the culmination of a titanic effort for our church, the spiritual energy of Odinhof is palpable, and powerful. Odinhof is a testament to the return of our Gods to the forefront and the awakening of our Folk to their power and to our destiny. Odinhof, ever since my first visit there, has been a place of our own, for our Folk to connect with each other and with our Gods. It is a place of freedom, and fulfillment for us. But I know it's not the end. I know that in the end, the AFA will fulfill all its goals. I know that our Gods will be at the forefront of a worldwide revival of our Folk's destiny, and I know that in the end we will find Victory, though there will of course be setbacks along the way. I am proud to have been an AFA member for 9 years (as of next month), and also ashamed that I have contributed only relatively little to our cause. This is something that I am now resolved to change. The AFA to me is my home, and where I belong. Since the day I have joined I have known this, and the day I die I will look back and smile on my time with our Folk. I will die proudly knowing I have honored the Gods of our people and fathered just a few of the next generation of our Folk who will be witness to our final Victory.

Longsword Practice



Today a few of the Arizona men showed up in the 100-degree heat both outside and inside the gym to learn the art of the longsword.



We practiced basic footwork and basic attacks and defenses, and most of all we proved how much we could sweat inside the protective gear.



I look forward to going back and honing our abilities further and awakening more of our genetic memory of the ancient battlefields our ancestors fought on. Most importantly, we had fun as family and as Folk. Look for us to do more together soon and keep checking on the AFA Moots and Meetups page on MeWe for the latest activities.



Lou Nickerson
Apprentice Folkbuilder
lnickerson@runestone.org

California

Introduction

Hello all! It is a wonderful thing, the opportunity to serve the very slim subsection of humans in Midgard that I can truly call my own. In keeping with the fantastic examples provided to me by many of the AFA's wonderful leadership, and after careful consideration, I have decided to expand my participation in the church. Not only do I want to help in whatever way that I can, I see this as a chance to deepen my knowledge of Asatru and to put its tenants into more real-life action. Serving in the Shasta County area growth is of expedient concern. I will be planning and performing the usual functions and duties along with hopefully some fewer formal gatherings. I want to emphasize the community aspect of our faith during my time in this role. Thank you for your time. There is no place like home.



Sebastian Sheldon
Apprentice Folkbuilder
ssheldon@runestone.org

Children's Activities at Midsummer



Midsummer was a success! Many children meant many activities. I made a snack bar for them and gave them several different activities such as bubbles, and painting and a few of them participated in the Viking games.



Many helped keep things cleaned up and set a great example for the other children. We continue to learn and adapt to the growing families at our larger events and keep it fun and creative as well. We can't wait for our next event and a large group of future Asatruers!

Upcoming Events



Odinshof 8408 La Porte Rd Brownsville, CA

July 16th 2022

11 am - 9pm

Featuring a Sigrblot to Ódin for Victory!

Schedule includes:

Sunna greeting, leadership talks including a discussion about Victory from Steve McNallen, lunch, AFA News from Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel, Adult & children's games, guided Sif meditation, Arts & Crafts, Dinner, 50/50 raffle, Blot, Sumble, campfire songs and more!

This event includes lunch and dinner and is potluck style so please promptly RSVP to Ashley Stockton about bringing a dish otherwise a donation of mead or coinage is greatly appreciated.

If you plan to arrive early food will not be provided before Saturday.

If you would like to volunteer, our monthly food pantry will be the Saturday morning of the event at 10am.



This will be a PRIVATE EVENT with members & trusted friends

RSVP to Ashley Stockton at

Astockton@runestone.org

or Sheila McNallen at Sheila@runestone.org





SATURDAY
JULY 9TH

SACRAMENTO THRIFT MOOT



12:00 MEET AT STARDUST VINTAGE
EMPORIUM THEN ONTO OTHER SHOPS
FOLLOWED BY DINNER @ BONN LAIR

APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDER ASHLEY STOCKTON
707.800.5333



Apprentice Folkbuilder
astockton@runestone.org

Baby Naming at Midsummer



This month was full of frith, folk, and fun! As many of you know midsummer was just a few weeks ago and was full of great times. From Viking games to Odin Blot, From Frith building to Oathing of new a Folkbuilder Midsummer at Odinshof was amazing. The most amazing of all (in my opinion of course) was our first ceremony at the new Odins alter painted by Witan Svan Herul. On Saturday, June 18th Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel performed our first ceremony, a beautiful baby naming ceremony, for not just one child but two! Two beautiful twin baby boys named Conrad Guyes Flatley and Flynt Malice Flatley. When I heard there was going to be a baby naming ceremony I was beyond ecstatic. I had never attended one before, then their beautiful mother, Krystal Flatley asked if I would help her hold one of the boys while the ceremony

commenced, and that action alone almost brought me to tears as I gladly accepted. To be a part of something so beautiful, so meaningful and so powerful brought me such joy I could never put into words. As I stood there holding Flynt while Matt began the ceremony all I could feel was love, affection and adoration radiating from their mother, and in that moment, I knew these young boys were in for a wonderful, full life protected and guided by not only the gods, goddesses, and Norns but also from their mother. The way she looked at them with such love in her eyes is a look I will never forget but can relate with as I look at my own son the same. As Alsherjargothi began the ceremony, rain began to drizzle, letting us know Yngvi Freyr was present and raining His blessings down upon not just us but Conrad and Flynt as well. As Alsherjargothi began speaking of the runes each Norn had Cast for the boys, the rain grew louder and stronger with cracks of thunder from Mighty Thor making his presence and protection of these young boys known.



Then almost as befittingly as it began, Alsherjargothi ended the ceremony. the rain ceased and the sun pulled through, Baldr and Nana making their presence and guidance

known as well. As Krystal began speaking of the journey, she had to endure to be blessed with these beautiful boys you could feel the energy of Frigga and Freyja enter the building. As tears were shed between those involved in the ceremony it was known at that moment that this family will always be looked after and protected, not just by the gods and goddesses but by our Folk as well. I am ABSOLUTELY honored to have the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Krystal Flatley and now her two wonderful sons as well. The smiles on these boys are absolutely contagious and you can't help but feel peace when holding them. I am excited to see these babies grow into toddlers, children, teenagers, and young men, with a mother like Krystal behind them, they are destined for absolute greatness and a whole family of the folk behind them to help them succeed.

Hail Krystal Flatley!

Hail Conrad Guyes Flatley!

Hail Flynt Malice Flatley!

And as always

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

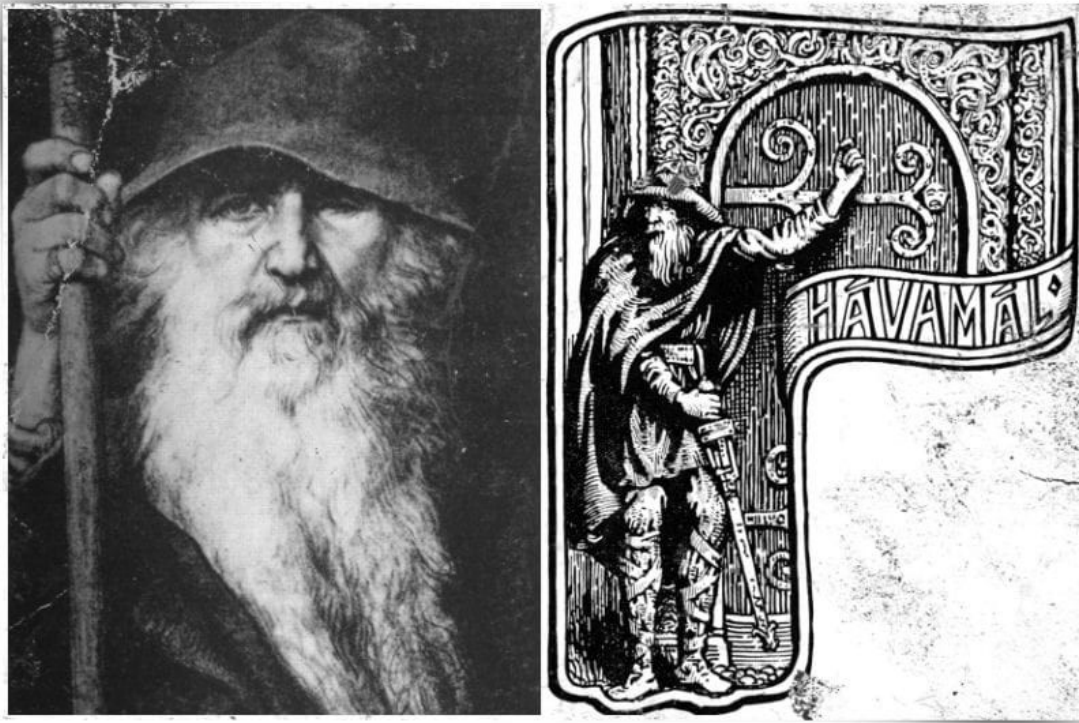


Sierra Chapman

Apprentice Folkbuilder

schapman@runestone.org

The Importance of Our Sacred Texts: Introduction to Hávamál Study



Our ancestral religion is first and foremost one of practice. We are the doers. Members of the Asatru Folk Assembly perform the rites as is our duty to honor and commune with our Gods, Goddesses, and ancestors, in the manner that has been passed down to us over millennia. While other religions place a great emphasis on their scriptural tradition, even to the point of relying upon it solely for spiritual authority, Asatru does not. In fact, historically speaking, our textual sources come comparatively late in the timeline of our religion, as traditionally our lore was passed down orally by poets and holy men, rather than through old tomes and their scribes. This however does not mean that there is no place for our sacred texts.

First though, a disclaimer: I am not a Góði and I will not presume to speak with the authority of one. I rely first and foremost on our Goðar for spiritual authority, and I suggest my readers do the same. All I can share is my opinion on how this particular practice has deepened my experience with our religion.

Before the advent of the Asatru Folk Assembly and our clergy, a common phrase one might hear when first investigating Asatru is that it is "a religion with homework", referring to the fact that absent a priesthood of Goðar to come to for spiritual education, the modern Asatruar was lost in the proverbial weeds on how to live as an Asatruar, with a multitude of books one could read on the subject of "Germanic paganism" but little direction to go off of. The vast majority of literature on the topic of Asatru that one might commonly find on store shelves can be described as introductory books, with very few that I would personally consider to be spiritually enriching. While there may be no shortage of purported commentaries on our ancestral religion, there are scant few

primary sources: texts that are considered a sort of starting point for all information on what our ancestors actually knew of our lore and how to live their lives.

Chief among our spiritual literature is of course the Poetic Edda or "Elder" Edda, which will be the text primarily addressed in this piece, with one important poem in particular. The Poetic Edda can be considered the gold standard of our lore, and contrary to popular belief, there is no scholarly evidence that the Poetic Edda was corrupted by Christian writers, or even composed post-Christianization. By all accounts, the Poetic Edda is of wholly Asatru provenance. This misconception stems from confusing the Poetic Edda with the Prose Edda, which of course was written by Snorri Sturluson after the Christianization of Iceland. That is not to say that Snorri's "Younger" Edda is to be considered unreliable, just that the Elder Edda can be regarded as the most reliable. One might reflexively compare the Poetic Edda to the Christian Bible, but this is not really an accurate comparison. If anything, the Poetic Edda is perhaps more akin to the work of the ancient poet Hesiod, who records the origins of the Greek Gods in his epic poem the Theogony.

Of the Poetic Edda, there is one poem in particular that I wish to highlight, as it will be the subject of my monthly articles going forward, that being the Hávamál or Words of the High One. The "High One" in question is of course Óðinn, the one-eyed King of the Aesir, knower of all wisdom and Drighten of warriors. I need not introduce the God Óðinn to my audience, but the context of how Óðinn relates to the Hávamál is important, as these are His own words, imparting to us His people, the Folk, the knowledge and wisdom that He has acquired through His wandering of the world under the guise. As such, the Hávamál can be considered incredibly important to the practice of our faith and daily life as Asatruar, invaluable even. That the words of the Highest of the Gods can be at our fingertips is quite extraordinary.

The Hávamál consists of 166 verses of what can be described as proverbs: advice and wisdom that can help one to live a good and hopefully long, healthy life. In it are glimpses of Óðinn's adventures, but it is mostly focused on best practices for living well. There are however deeper, esoteric levels of understanding to the poetic verses which require meditation, and that is where my practical recommendation comes in.

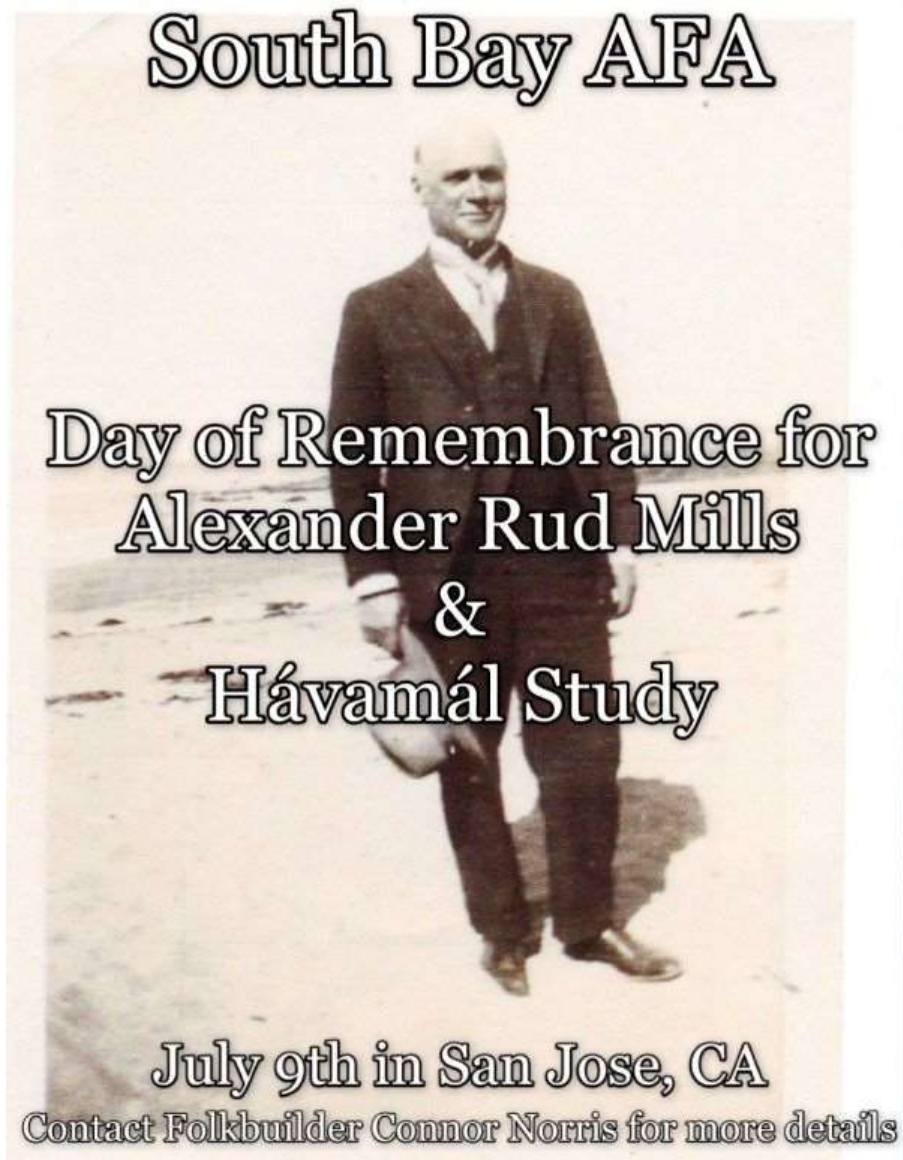
Part of my own religious practice has been to actively study a verse of the Hávamál every morning upon waking. There are numerous translations of the Poetic Edda and it should be the one book every Asatruar has in his or her library. I recommend keeping a journal of your thoughts on each verse, and upon successive readings, you may discover that your understanding of a given verse will deepen. This can be part of a spiritual practice that vivifies your connection to our ancestral religion in a new way,

and over time it can develop your relationship to the divine, helping to guide your actions in Midgard.

Starting the 9th of July 2022, I will be hosting monthly Hávamál studies in my local area, and I invite others to join in study at home as well. I encourage everyone to read and take notes on each verse, and if you have any thoughts, please feel free to share them with me via email. I will be publishing my notes in the Runestone every month, so I hope you will look forward to that.

Through the study of the Hávamál and the lessons therein, one can work to live a life that can be said to be "True to the Gods", or in other words, Asatru!

Upcoming Events



South Bay AFA

**Day of Remembrance for
Alexander Rud Mills
&
Hávamál Study**

July 9th in San Jose, CA
Contact Folkbuilder Connor Norris for more details

After last month's hike in Santa Cruz, the AFA of the South Bay Area is returning to

San Jose for a Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills, and to inaugurate our new monthly Hávamál Study! We'll be meeting on Saturday, July 9th at 5 PM in St. James Park (located on North 2nd St, San Jose, CA) where we will read and meditate on the first 9 verses of the Hávamál. Afterward, we will walk down the block to Ludwig's German Table for a meal in honor of Alexander Rud Mills.

We hope to see you there!



Folkbuilder Connor Norris
cnorris@runestone.org

Upcoming Summer Plans



First off, thank you so much to everyone who put in so much time and effort to prepare the Hof for Midsummer. The weekend after weekend people were showing up and working their tails off lending their time, skill, and devotion to make it a better place.

Our reward definitely came when people arrived for Midsummer with smiles and a sense of awe on their faces. Thank you to everyone who made the trip, some clear across the country to celebrate with us. The highlight of Victor and I's weekend was definitely finally meeting our friends Gothi Daniel Young and his beautiful wife Folk

Builder Heather Young from the Carolinas.

Now that the big event is out of the way I am refocusing on my Kindred and Moots.

Keep an eye open for announcements about meet-ups in the Sacramento area as well as the Folkish Family Campout hosted by Hagvirkr Folk Kindred. As things are planned, I will be reaching out personally to locals but if you are not local and have an interest in joining in on some meetups, please contact me. We are definitely looking toward some outdoor adventures with you all.

I would also like to congratulate Justin Maurer, Nichol Maurer and Asa Barnes on oathing into the Hagvirkr Kindred at Midsummer. I simply cannot put into words how integral these folks are in operations at Odinshof. We are all lucky to have them around. You guys set a shining example to others, and I am so proud to have you as family.



Folkbuilder Krystal Bailey
kbailey@runestone.org

Evolution of Odinshof



Some call it a temple; others a church; but for all, it's always a hof to one of our Gods. This past month, the Asatru Folk Assembly acquired its fourth temple, Njordshof in White Springs, Florida. This last one was built as a church, but in contrast to the classic steepled structures in North Carolina and Minnesota, it has simple, twentieth-century lines. Regardless of how they look, they are all holy sites dedicated to our Gods. This is where our folk gather, but also where they will build the continuity as descendants of our Gods and Ancestors – with purpose, love, and unity that will carry us into the 22nd century.

There is one other hof, though. It was a dance hall, a karate studio, a youth center, and a Christian school. Mostly, it was known for being the old Grange Hall. But all that was in the cosmic wyrd that would bring us to this point today.



We had been celebrating the 20th anniversary of the AFA, complete with cake and champagne with eighty or so members. Steve's book, "Asatru – A Native European Spirituality" was unveiled for the first time. It was Midsummer 2015, and one more time, I wrote a hefty check as we left this rented camp in the Sonoma County wine country. But there was a residual sense of power and promise as we packed up our belongings. Stephen McNallen, our Alsherjargothi at the time, had inducted us into a new year of "transformation."

New things were already manifesting. The week before, Gothi Thorgrun Odden, met with a realtor about a building site for a hof. She was curious about our plans, so he described our goals and the fact that our organization was growing and needed a "place of our own." She had a place in mind and made sure that it could be accessed on our way home from Midsummer. The same day as our Wayfarer's Blot, three cars pulled into the gravel parking lot of the old Grange Hall. That moment changed everything.

The dark red building with white trim and paned windows called to us. It felt like a sanctuary when we went inside. Cool, despite the warm June day. Quiet, still, waiting...

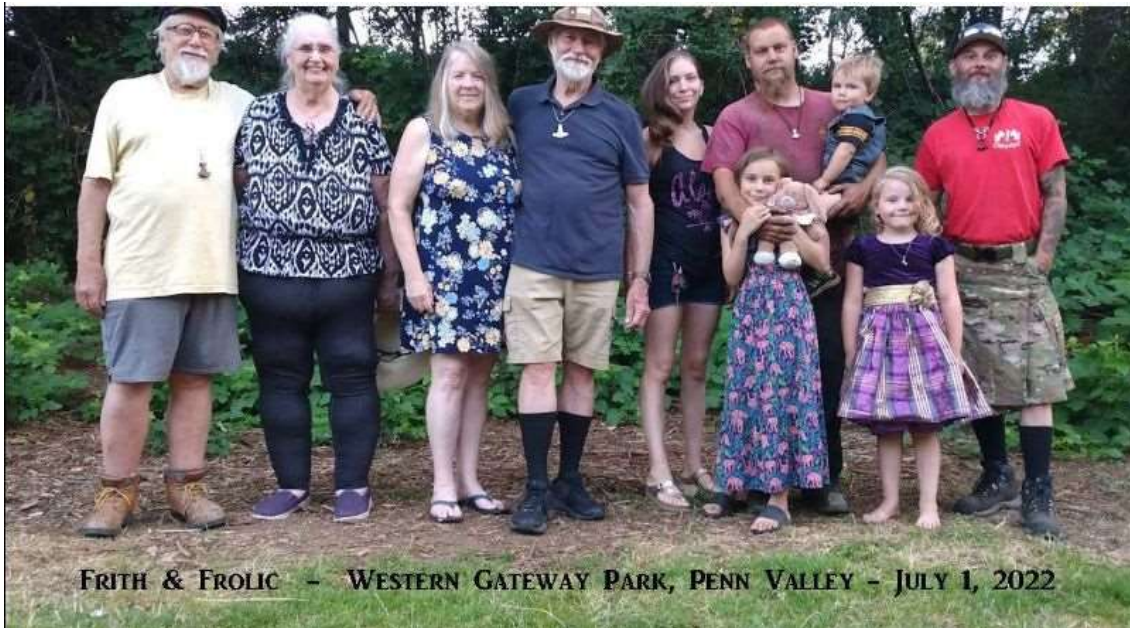
It offered more than we could ever imagine. A 40x60 foot hall, a commercial kitchen with a gas range, and all the pots, pans, and bowls we could ever use. Two restrooms and an office area for books, computers, desks, and all that could make this place function as the center for the AFA.



And then we went out the back door. Pine trees shaded a half-circle of massive picnic tables. But Steve's attention went to a rock, standing four feet high and situated between two stately pine trees. It would have been “natural” in Ireland as it clearly gave the appearance of a stall ready for ritual use.

In only thirty minutes, we came to the conclusion that this place was “meant to be.” We were smack-dab in an unincorporated hillbilly community called Brownsville, a town we'd never heard of. Strangely, we knew this all had been laid out for us. It was time for us to make the next move. Raido was called and commitment made. In the dappled late afternoon sunlight, we stood around that rock. A drinking horn was slowly filled with mead and passed one by one, so each of us could pledge this as “the first hof of the AFA.”

Frith & Folic - A Moot for Families



As much as we enjoy our monthly gatherings at Odinhof, it's beneficial to meet more often. Our first such gathering in a very long time was at a popular park in Nevada County. We chose a Friday evening for this casual, laid-back picnic dinner. All agreed to continue planning these. Stay tuned for announcements of these local meetups in the Gold Country.

(Guess what! You can plan something similar in your area. Ask any Folkbuilder how.)



Gythia Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

Idaho

Midsummer Celebration in the Forest



This month the Northern Bastion Kindred celebrated midsummer and honored the shining God Baldur deep in the forest. Meat, mead, and merriment were in abundance that day, and as our kindred grows so does our conquerable spirit! Hail Sunna! Hail the Gods! Hail the Folk! Hail the AFA!



Derek Wright
Apprentice Folkbuilder
dwright@runestone.org

High Desert Moot



Had a great moot for everyone in the High Desert Region at the Malad Valley Welsh Festival. Had folk from Western Eastern and Central Idaho along with some Salt Lake folk. I appreciate everyone coming out for my first moot as a Folkbuilder and I look forward to the future of our region! Please join us in the Boise Area next month!



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Iowa

Introduction

Hello, my name is Clayton Von Kepner. I was recently appointed Apprentice Folkbuilder for the State of Iowa. A position for which I have much enthusiasm. I

recently visited the Baldrshof for Midsummer this past weekend and then sped home for my very first moot of many today. I had one member show up today but that is one more than I knew last week, and I am hoping to make the number of members increase in the near future. My goal is to increase member activity in Iowa and use it to bridge the gap between the Baldrshof in Minnesota and the rest of the bordering Midwestern states.



Clayton Von Kepner
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Montana

Bayern Brewing Moot



A meet-up was held at Bayern Brewing in Missoula Montana on June 11th. The Harlan and Greaney families met and welcomed our newest Montana member, Taylor Lucas, and a long discussion was held covering AFA Kindred requirements. Over plates of Schnitzel, Flieschkäse, and true German Bier, the foundations of a future Montana AFA kindred have officially been laid.



Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan

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Nevada

Gatherings in Nevada



We had a lot going on in Northern Nevada this month! Several of us went to celebrate Midsummer at Óðinshof. Mandy and I had the honor of hosting Gothi Young and his wife Heather at our home for a few days before our Midsummer event and after, which was very nice.



The month started out with a leisurely wine walk in Carson City and ended with a fantastic meal at my home.



Dan brought a fantastic dip and chip platter, Anthony brought cinnamon rolls, and the Flavels provided white sangria, meatloaf, and BLT pasta salad!

Upcoming Events

7/9/22

Alsherjargothic Dinner

Tropical Schnitzel Returns...

Bring stuff!



Matthew D. Flavel
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Oregon

Hails from Northern Idaho



We celebrated midsummer in nature's hof, the forest. The connection of man to our gods is never stronger than to be in the wild. The energy and life of the trees and land Wights harmonize something inside that our modern cities cannot provide.

The Eddas tell the tale of how Baldr was protected by a promise of all things that they should not harm him save the mistletoe. Loki the prince of Chaos hated Baldr immensely and his jealousy drove him to find the one thing that could harm him. He fashioned an arrow made of Mistletoe and manipulated Baldr's blind brother to throw the dart which killed him. Odin was so overcome with grief that he sent his son Hermod on the eight-legged horse Sleipnir to Hel to ask for his return to the living. The Goddess Hel replied that if all creatures weep for him she would send him back, and all did save for an old woman who was Loki in disguise. Baldr was kept in Hel, Nana his wife killed herself to be with him her love was so great. On the funeral pyre, Odin whispered in Baldr's ear, what exactly no one knows, but it surmised to be the secrets of the universe. After the Gods and the forces of Chaos battle during Ragnarok, in which the gods are killed and the universe is destroyed, Baldr will be resurrected with

his brother Hodr to begin life anew, with all the secrets that Odin whispered in his ear.

Baldr is celebrated at the solstice to honor him and his rebirth. Midsummer is the longest day, and the sun starts to disappear daily but will be reborn again at the winter solstice, and Just like Baldr life will begin again in an endless cycle of creation.

We lift a horn and burn a Solar cross in the honor of Baldr and Sunna. The story of Baldr and his death and rebirth are very symbolic not only for the sun but also in our lives. During our time here in Midgard we experience rebirth many times in the death of old ways and the beginning of new. Without death there cannot growth, for example, we are children and then we become adults with all the responsibilities that it entails, from young adults we transition into being parents and so on.

At this time of year think of all the times, you have suffered a symbolic death and rebirth. When we are reborn the world is new again, with new hopes, dreams, discoveries, and adventures. Do not mourn the passing of the old you but embrace this new beginning with fresh eyes and live it to the fullest!



Gothi Joe Rozanek

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Washington

NordVestri Midsummer Excitement



Starting out the month with our kindred meeting where we sang songs from our recently released Asatru folk hymns music book. Talked about lore, personal goals, and growth. Set goals and talked strategy on how to complete them.

We had a great time with Iron Club this month. We lifted weights, and had sword fighting, boxing, and water games for the kids.



A baby was born at the end of May, so we had his naming ceremony and introduction to the folk. It was a very beautiful and moving ceremony around the fire.



MidSummer at Odinhof, the NordVestri Kindred put on the Viking games for adults and children.



The children ran, knocked logs over with an ax, practiced archery, and knife throwing. While the adults had the joy of carrying a large rock as well as knocking "monk" logs over with axes, shooting arrows at targets, and throwing knives.



Rachel Johnson
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Outreach for Victory



This month was a little slower for our kindred. We continued working on physical fitness, and our communal garden and continued enjoying each other's company for a game night once a week, but instead of focusing on us, we chose to focus on our greater folk who haven't come home yet.



We went to our midwife's summer get-together that was for all her previous clients, many of whom seek a deeper connection to their history and ancestors. We baked Fyrstekake, a traditional Norwegian mid-summer recipe and my wife sported her dirndl. It gave us a wonderful opportunity to talk about what mid-summer and Asatru were. Now thirty people know about the AFA and have an opportunity to come home and honor the Gods of their ancestors.



We all have an opportunity to share our community with the greater folk. It doesn't always require baking or going to events though. It can start with a small conversation when it comes up naturally with a coworker or simply explaining a time off request for our holy days to your boss.

Now, I'm not asking any of you to get on your bicycles and go door to door, but we can all do better to put our community out there. Remember, we seek perfection through progress, and with enough progress we shall manifest the world we seek.

Hail the Gods

Hail the Folk

Hail the AFA



Tyler Heinlein
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"Order of the Wolf: Youth Camp"



This month we gathered as a Kindred with folkish practitioners from all throughout the PNW to pull together a Children's Ulfling camp. Great effort was put forward by dear friends of ours to ensure an extremely powerful and enriching experience for our Jr. Ulfhedinn!

The children started the weekend with a short lecture on the 9 Ulfling virtues which was followed by a Ulfhednar ritual where the children wore wolfskins, Howled, and committed to their virtues. This was a 3-day event full of educational stations, swimming, camping, late-night bonfires, and storytelling.

Throughout the weekend the young Ulflings were challenged on the skills they learned reinforcing lessons and judged on conduct. Learning stations included shelter building, food gathering, purifying water, Marksmanship, and fire-making.

On the last day of the event, the final challenges were issued, and a beautiful award ceremony was held. Many children earned awards, and some received pep talks on how they can improve for next year.



All children grew! They grew in the lore, as individuals and in working as a team to achieve their goals. All in all, our Ulflings left this event transformed into strong cubs seeking to improve themselves so that one day they may grow from Ulfling to Ulfhednar. We look forward to this tradition growing with every coming year. This weekend was full of families and children with the capacity for many more.

If you are interested in learning more, moving to the PNW, and or bringing your child to spend a weekend with "The order of the Wolf" Please contact me to get involved with this Folkish Summer camp!

HAIL THE GODS!

HAIL THE ANCESTORS!

HAIL THE AFA!



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