

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly

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

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## Words from the Alsherjargothi



For those that do not know, my mother, Janet Flavel died a few days back. It was not an unexpected passing, but it still is painful and has given me a good opportunity to reflect on things. Some of this may be rambling, but they are thoughts that I find worth mentioning, nonetheless.

My mom spent the last 15-ish years of her life with the slow and merciless process of dementia. I gradually lost more and more of my mother until she was completely gone. We often think of our soul complex from a theoretical point of view. I got to watch the slow deconstruction of that complex over the march of years. This illustrated to me, in the most profound of ways, how we are all made up of pieces that make us "us," and as those were stripped from her one at a time, it taught me a lot. I feel I now understand what's meant when Óðinn says in the Grímnismál "For Hugin I fear lest he come not home, But for Munin my care is more."

I also am deeply comforted in the knowledge that my mother will look on from beyond the veil and watch over my family. I know we all think that, or "believe" this to be true but I FEEL it now in a profound way.

I don't write this to be morose, but I wanted to share some things that have been on my mind. Life is short. The older I get, the more aware I am aware of that. There is limited time, and we all have so many dreams to accomplish. The time is now, don't waste time, don't waste opportunity to build your legacy. Also, as I have come to understand, the best way to stave off senility is to keep mentally active. Always learn more, always think critically, always strive to be more than you are. A thought to leave you thinking on this month—our myths illustrate time and again that entropy occurs when we stand still. If we don't strive, if we don't move forward, the pull towards degeneration and chaos wins. The key to legacy is constant motion, doing more, achieving more, being more. By doing this, we stay one step ahead of the wolf.



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# Words from Our Witan

## *Hexennacht Ritual*



At Hexennacht, my blots tend to focus on the magic of women and gifts to the goddess Freyja. Three “mighty women” are called upon during Blot to bless the Folk with fire and smoke for protection in all realms, material, physical, emotional, and spiritual. Freyja, skilled in seidr, is given our gifts of gratitude and devotion and we ask for her to bless the folk with strength, determination, self-awareness, and skill to let us work our own “magic” in our own lives, in whatever way we can, whether that be through crafting and creating, building our physical and spiritual selves to greatness, or destroying all obstacles in our paths to victory.

Items needed:

Horn

Mead

Bowl

Cauldron

A stick to suspend the cauldron

Sand (if using cauldron, fill the bottom of the cauldron with sand)

Charcoal

Lighter

Lavender

Rosemary

Mugwort

Assistants:

3 ladies of the folk

*Gather your folk and have the women bless the mead. Enter the ritual space in a sunwise motion, forming a circle around the central altar.*

“Hail the Holy Æsir, Gods and Goddesses of our Folk! We ask you to join us today as we honor your kin!

Hail the Æsir!

Hail to the Honored Ancestors, Mothers and Fathers as far back as time remembers! We ask you to join your sons and daughters gathered here and witness our devotion!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the Friendly Vaetter, spirits of this land and place! We ask you to look upon us in worship, see our deeds!

Hail the Vaetter!”

“Freyja! Beautiful goddess of both power and beauty, of strength and love,

We give gifts of ourselves to you!

We give you our devotion, our love, our respect, and our might!

Hail to you, Freyja!

The daughter of Njord,

The wife of Odr,

The sister of Frey,

The mother of Hnoss and Gersemi,

You show us the power of love,

The power of strength,

The power of endurance.

You show us the power of the mothers, of the daughters, of the sisters and of the wives!

You teach us to be better women!

You inspire us to be better men!

Folk, prepare your gifts for Freyja. From your heart to your hand, and from your hand to the horn, give the best and brightest of yourselves to her.”

*Ask your hornbearer to collect the gifts of the Folk*

“Freyja! The horn is heavy with the gifts of your Folk.

If you find them worthy, take them from us now.”

*Hold the horn high and await the acceptance of Freyja.*

*Pour the gifts into the bowl.*

*Refill the horn.*

“Freyja, we have given you our gifts and we ask that if you find these folk worthy, bless us with gifts of your own.

We ask you to bless us with strength and will,

The ability to find our own power within,

To overcome and to achieve our goals.

Let us find that spark within ourselves, our own “magic”, our own gifts and talents.

Hail Freyja!”

*Receive the gifts of Freyja. Walk the horn around the circle of gathered folk and offer them the gifts of Freyja.*

*Pour remaining mead from the horn in the bowl.*

*Light the charcoal disc and place on top of the sand in the cauldron.*

“Hexennacht, in days of old, was the time of movement and preparation, of both folk and animals.

A time of transition and of magic.

Our folk gathered, men and women, young and old, in celebration.

As the herds and menfolk who tended them went out to pasture, they were blessed for protection and strength, and for a safe return.

Fires were tended, celebration made, and prayers spoken.

The magic of the Folk, was sent with the men and the herds.

They were sent with hope. They were sent with song, dance, blessings, and joy for the future.

As in days of olde, our women will bless you now.

Though you may not be tending the herds, remember you are tending your families, and leading your Folk to victory.”

*Motion your first assistant to come forward. She will place the lavender on top of the charcoal.*

“The first woman approaches,

With the devotion of a daughter,

With the love of a sister,

And with the compassion of a friend,

She lends herself to the Folk.

To bless you and to remind you that you are loved and never alone.”

*The first assistant should take her place at one end of the stick if a cauldron is being used.*

*Motion the second assistant to come forward. She will place the rosemary on top of the charcoal.*

“The second woman approaches,

With the support of a wife,

With the protection of a mother,

And with the strength of an aunt,

She lends herself to the Folk.

To bless you and to remind you that you will always be protected and supported.”

*The second assistant should take her place at the other end of the stick if a cauldron is being used.*

*Motion for the third assistant to come forward. She will place the mugwort on top of the charcoal.*

“The third woman approaches,

With the wisdom of the grandmother,

With the memories of the great-grandmother,

And with the ancient knowledge of the Disir.

She lends herself to the Folk,

To bless you and to remind you of your own immortality”

*The third assistant should take the fan. All three women should move together around the circle, blessing the folk with the smoke from the cauldron.*

“May the Gods and the Ancestors bless you with strength!

With love!

With protection!

With victory!”

*After the blessing is completed, close the blot.*

“This blot has ended.

We have given our gifts and received gifts in return.

Take the blessings of Freyja and the blessings of your women.

Go forward with passion, with strength, and achieve the victory that awaits you!  
Hail the Gods!  
Hail the Folk!!  
Hail the AFA!!!”



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## Words from Our Gothar

### *Individualism and the Clan*



Our Germanic world view puts unity ahead of all else. Individuality has no context outside that of the clan. The power of *o* is orderly and harmonious; it follows *r* (the right path). It is here where peace and freedom reign. Our ancestors compared “the group of kinsmen to a fence, Stave by Stave, enclosing a sacred ground. When one is struck down, there is a breach in the clan, and the ground lies open to be trampled on.”

This is Frith, and to be removed from that enclosure, to be deprived of human context is to be obliterated. Worse than death one becomes a Niðing.

If personal sympathies and antipathies can never stand up to the authority of Frith, how did this ideal of individualism come to take such a grip on our Folk? Particularly in America, where it was even further aggrandized to a “rugged individualism”. What causes someone to want to distance themselves from their people, their clan, or even their immediate family in extreme cases?

Well, we know the sacral locus of most Folk-religions is the Folk community itself.

The sacrality of the community is expressed in rituals celebrating the relationship with their own gods and “promote a strong sense of in-group identification and loyalty.” In contrast universal religions have the salvation of the individual as the sacral locus.

Gilbert Murray states “It is an atmosphere in which the aim of the good man is not so much to live justly, to help the society to which he belongs and enjoy the esteem of his fellow creatures; but rather, a means of a burning faith, by contempt for the world and its standards, by ecstasy, suffering and martyrdom, to be granted pardon for his unspeakable unworthiness.”

The Chinese experienced this in the third century when instead of the Confucian ideals of preservation of the body and perpetuation of the family, many turned to Buddhism with its celibacy and ritual acts of body mortification, albeit with much less impact.

People in individualist cultures are less aware of Innangard / Utangard boundaries. They show little emotional commitment or loyalty to the Innangard and do not hold a sense of common Wyrð with other members.

But this atomized existence is not in harmony with the cosmos (Xartus). Our Folk-Soul aches for those connections to be re-established. The dissonance of not living in harmony with the natural order or primal laws harms our Folk in various ways. Like a missing limb we experience that phantom pain. We have been taught independence is the goal to strive for, but interdependence is the ultimate goal. One moves from being wholly dependent as a child, to being independent, to reach our full potential though we must let go of that independence and become interdependent with the clan. g is the rune of sacrifice (making sacred). This is the mystery of the interdependence not just between men, but between the gods and men.

Of all the baggage those of us raised Christian carry, this hyper-individualism is the most detrimental and hardest to shake. Some may even mistakenly come to Asatru for their individual bona fides (being Asatru to distance oneself from Christianity is not

pious) and will either embrace the natural order of tribe over the individual, as is our folkway, or they will withdraw to their solitary practices, free of the obligations required by Frith. Individualism is the easy path, but it is not the right path. Freed from that limitation of individualism they grow stronger and make our folk stronger as a whole.

This is the deeper value of our motto “Asatru is about roots, it’s about connections, it’s about coming home.” Only within that fence of Frith do we find the freedom to become who we capable of being. It is here where the divine speaks the loudest to us, it reverberates off our members and is amplified in a way that is impossible for the individual. It requires sacrifice of the individual as exemplified by the All-Father. Óðinn did not sacrifice himself to himself to gain the knowledge of the runes for himself, he did it for the Æsir that they could bring order to the cosmos for the benefit of the descendants of Ask and Embla.



Gothi Lane Ashby

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### *Orthodoxy in Asatru*



We live in a time where “dogma”, “doctrine”, and “orthodox” are considered bad words, especially in “pagan” circles. This is because these words all bring to mind images of Christianity during the high Middle Ages: images of priests, ceremony, ritual, rules, and ostracizing when those rules are broken.

These concepts are NOT Christian concepts. They are simply religious concepts in general!

Many “pagans” in our modern times will say that Asatru is about following your heart, not listening to anyone else, only connecting with the Gods to “work” with them, etc.... This is demonstrably incorrect, a major disservice to our ancestors, and egregiously impious.



Our ancestors did, in fact, believe in hard truths about our faith, as did every other ethnic group regarding their ethnic faith, as did every universal faith, and so on. Much of Asatru was not up for debate, just like one would see in any real religion. For example, imagine debating with a Christian about whether or not Satan is evil. It sounds quite silly, doesn't it? Christians will not bend on this, because it is part of the orthodoxy of their faith, and it would cease to be a religion if this were simply a matter of personal opinion!

Asatru should be, and is, much the same in that regard. There are hard facts in our faith: the Gods are real, Loki is not worthy of worship, the runes have power, and so on.

None of these points are up for debate, and none of these are a matter of opinion if you are truly Asatru. If you disagree with any of these points, then Asatru is a purely academic pursuit for you.

Asatru is a REAL faith, with REAL rules, where our people connect with our REAL Gods. Anyone who says otherwise is not seriously interested in this faith.

Gods be praised.

Gothi Trent East

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*Walk the Pious Path, for Upon Victory Lies*



Life is good, treat it as such! Great with prayer, and a heart open to the gods, and your ancestors:

"Hail, day! | Hail, sons of day!  
And night and her daughter now!  
Look on us here | with loving eyes,  
That waiting we victory win.  
"Hail to the gods! | Ye goddesses, hail,

And all the generous earth!  
Give to us wisdom | and goodly speech,  
And healing hands, life-long."

Without faith, and piety towards our gods, building yourself up, and taking on the world is daunting. Perpetually theorizing about the gods closes you off from experiencing them. Learn what you need too and put faith in those who have dedicated themselves to their service and spend more time building a relationship with them instead. All the esoteric knowledge, and practice will never come close to the power of being a doer, winning the favor & blessings of gods.

Don't be too hard on yourself, as you grow and journey in Asatru. It's a faith, a series of ongoing relationships, and at times trials. These are things set in motion by the gods, and past actions of our folk, that are opportunities to shape us for the better and thrust us upward in life. This is why the gods & challenge bless those who are loyal, endure, and have conviction. They want us to be more like them, and growth & evolution is seldom comfortable. Be bold, have principles, be noble, and absolute in all that you do. Make each act you commit into action, an act of worship. Life is good, live it!

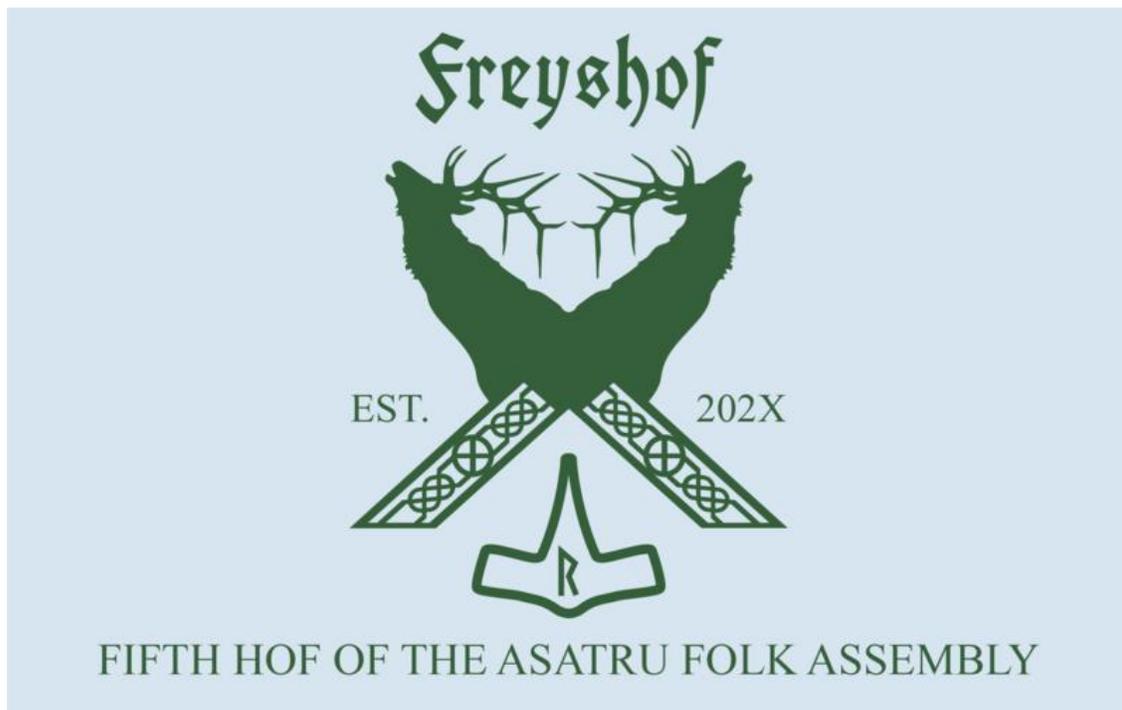


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## The Quest for Freyshof

*“Njördr 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 \(runestone.org\)](https://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 took out 2 separate loans for this hof. As of this month, we have paid the smaller of those loans off entirely! We now owe \$112,399.58 on our remaining loan.
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 7.5%. (This is membership dues and Hoftollar plus other donations)
3. We need to locate a suitable property.
4. We need to find lenders and build a war chest.

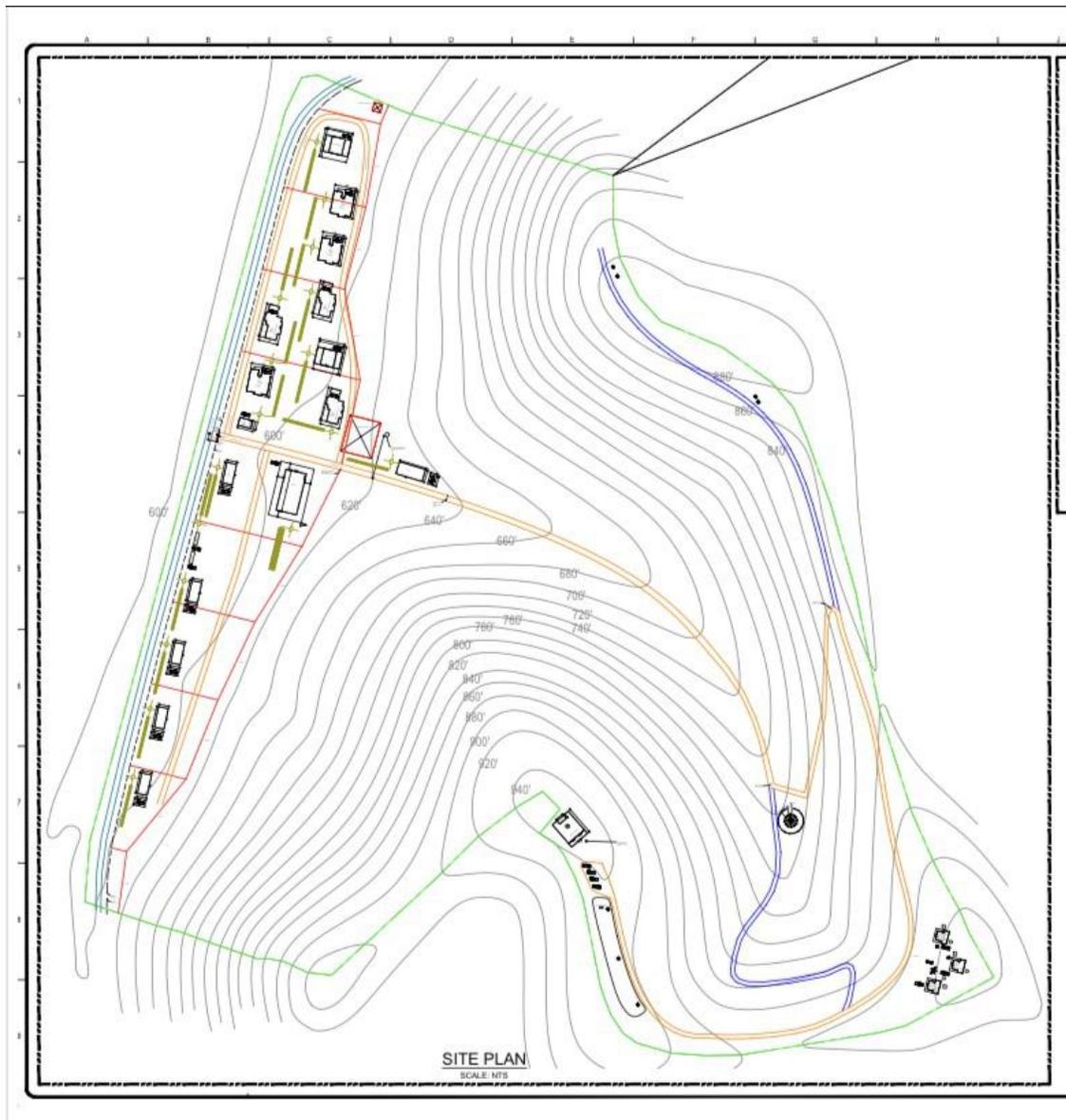
This is not a "quick" process so stay patient and resolute. As we progress, I will keep you all updated on our progress!

Hail Freyr!

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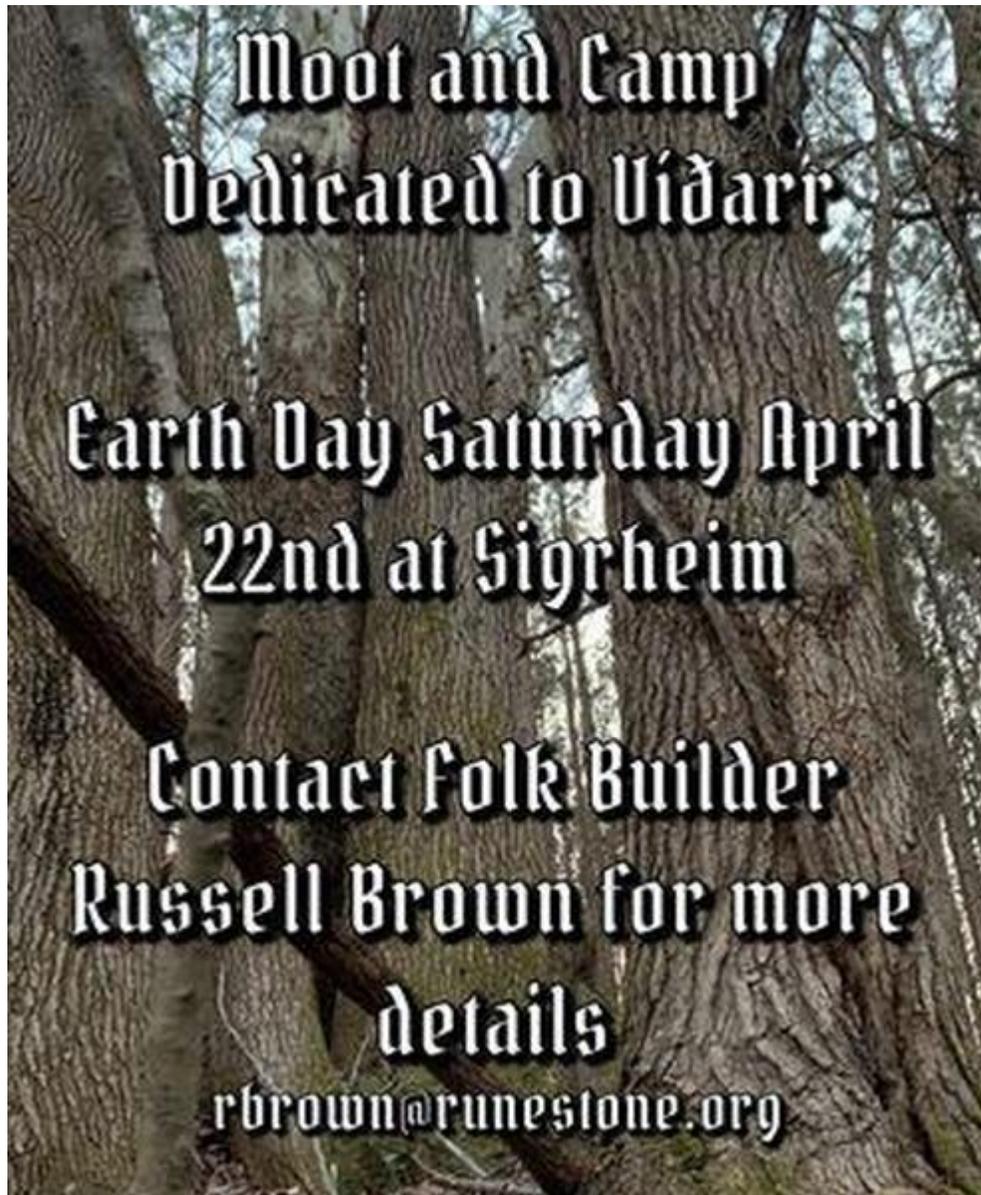


## Sigrheim: Home of Victory



Last month, a team went out to consult a septic engineer and to take more accurate

measurements. This new information is reflected in the updated site plan.



Plans move steadily forward for the home of the Asatru Folk Assembly! Our first resident is moving out to the property this very month! Also, a moot will be hosted on site 4/22.

As this project develops, please keep in mind; the dream is certainly to have several families live on the grounds BUT ALSO to have as many AFA families as we can get to come live in the surrounding county. The dream of our AFA community is very real and there are options for all different types of property and all different sized lots within minutes of Sigrheim. We have several families already looking for homes/property close by!



And don't forget, Sigrheim is OURS, and we can only build it up as the Capital of Asatru and the AFA with the help and donations of our generous Folk! Donate to the [Sigrheim Fund](#). Plus, we'd love to see you out there in July for Sigrblót at Sigrheim



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**Victory Never Sleeps**

The Asatru Folk Assembly Presents

vk.com/asatrufolkassembly

entropystream.live/app/MattFlavel

odyssey.com/@AsatruFolkAssembly:e

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Victory Never Sleeps!

Wednesdays at 6pm PST / 8pm EST



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## AFA Homeschool Program



Check out the Asatru Academy at [AsatruAcademy.org](https://AsatruAcademy.org)

Greetings everyone! We at the academy hope you had a wonderful Ostara. As we near the end of the school year, we are so proud of our students, and look forward to an even bigger school next year!

I'm sure you've seen our very nice Academy logo designed by the talented Madison East. But maybe you've noticed, we don't have something that every school needs—a school motto.

This is where our members come in. We want to hear from you! We need motto suggestions, which we'll translate into Old Norse rather than the Latin that you usually see.

Please email me at [rstamm@runestone.org](mailto:rstamm@runestone.org) with your entry.

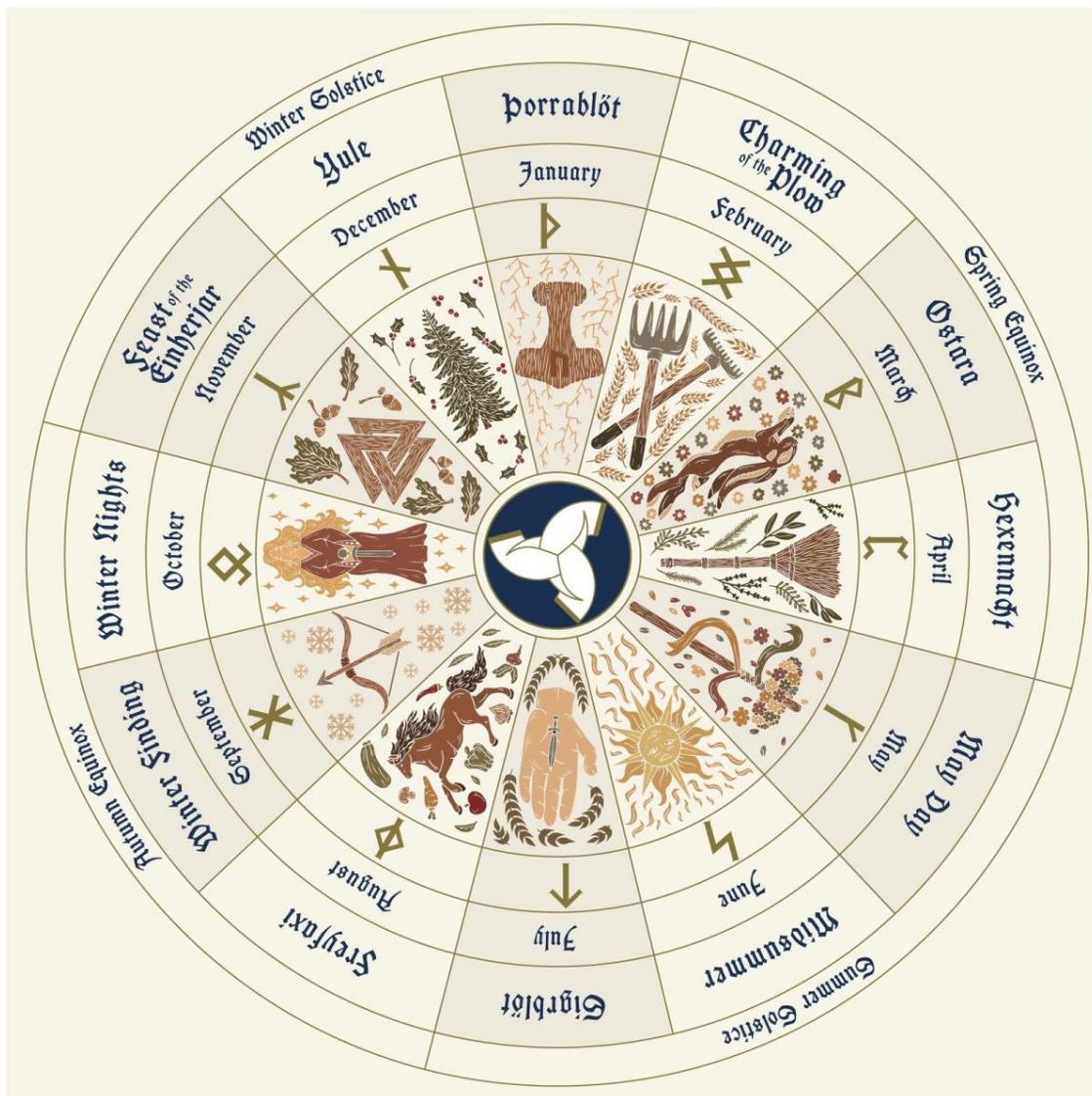
If we choose your entry, the winner will receive a t-shirt of your choice from the AFA store! And be announced in next month's Runestone!

We look forward to seeing what you all come up with.



Gothi Rob Stamm  
Dean of AFA Academy  
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## Remembrance and Holy Days



[Calendar – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)**2023**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Observance</b>
January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 21	Þorrablót
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 18	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olvir of Egg
March 21 (observed on 18th)	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 22	Day of Remembrance for John Gibbs-Bailey “Hoskuld”
April 28 (observed on 15th)	Hexennacht
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
May 1 (observed on 20th)	May Day
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric of the Goths
June 21 (observed on 17th)	Midsummer
July 4	Day of Remembrance for Sveinbjorn Beinteinsson
July 9	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills
July 15	Sigrblót
August 9	Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia
August 19	Freyfaxi
September 9	Day of Remembrance for Prince Hermann of the Cherusci
September 22 (observed on 16th)	Winter Finding
October 4	Day of Remembrance for John Yeowell “Stubba”
October 9	Day of Remembrance for Meister Guido von List
October 15	Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen
October 21	Winter Nights
November 9	Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigríð of Sweden
November 11 (observed on 18th)	Feast of the Einherjar
December 9	Day of Remembrance for Egill Skallagrímsson

Date	Observance
December 20	Mother's Night
December 20-31 (observed on 16th)	Yuletide

## Day of Remembrance

### *Jarl Haakon*



Jarl Haakon, or Haakon Sigurdsson, son of the Norwegian earl of Lade, was exiled to Denmark after the murder of his father by Harald II Graycloak. He soon allied with Harald Bluetooth and they overthrew his father's murderer. While Haakon became the sovereign in the west, Harald Bluetooth annexed southeastern Norway. The two would again join forces when Bluetooth needed aid in fighting against the Holy Roman Emperor Otto II in 974.

Though forced into baptism Haakon's faith in his gods was so strong that he was not only able to revolt against Bluetooth's efforts to Christianize Norway for a time, but

also to spread and expand his faith in his lands. In the end, powers that he could not control began to sway the attitudes of his men and he was killed by one of his own retainers.

Jarl Haakon was the last Asatru Ruler of Norway, his death in 995 CE leading directly to the takeover by Olaf Tryggvason.

So, what can we learn from this story?

There will always be people in our lives who do not understand our faith or our dedication to our faith. Even our friends might choose to try and change our minds. When the people we have trusted do this we can sometimes find ourselves doubting our choices, even if for just a moment. 'What if?' Take that breath and reaffirm your faith. It isn't always going to be easy, but nothing that is worth anything ever is.

With dedication can come reward. We might not be able to make everyone understand our values and our beliefs, but for every person who turns away, there is a person somewhere whose mind can be opened by our words. There is that person whose soul longs to 'come home'. They just don't know it yet. Perhaps your words, your dedication, your belief will be the thing that helps someone else find their way, and what better reward could there be for standing strong?

We must also take a moment to remember to curb our arrogance. When we become too sure of ourselves and our ability to stand tall against everything that would fight us, we can become blinded by the reality of the situation around us. Always remember to take time to take the measure of the situation. Take the time to know if it is a good time to talk or to hold your tongue.

Hávamál 54:

*Wise in measure let each man be, but let him not wax too wise;  
for never the happiest of men is he who knows much of many things*



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***John Gibbs-Bailey "Hoskuld"***



This year, on April 22, the AFA marks the first official celebration of a Day of Remembrance for John Gibbs-Bailey, known as “Hoskuld”.

Hoskuld was one of the two founders of the Odinic Rite (along with John Yeowell, “Stubba”). Although writings on that organization’s website indicate his efforts were integral to the foundation of the OR, only limited information about him is available. There are no books or articles to be found that he authored, no pictures of him publicly available. Even in the Odinic Rite eulogy for him, it is stated that they did not know when he was born, or even when he passed away.

Gibbs-Bailey embraced Asatru in the 1930’s. He was a member of a number of smaller Asatru organizations from that time. While working with the different groups with which he was affiliated, Hoskuld developed the “Eight Charges and Virtues” of Asatru. These would later be expanded to Nine, in the 1970’s, and promulgated by the Odinic Rite as the well-known “Nine Noble Virtues”.

Hoskuld met John Yeowell, Stubba, in the 1950’s. Gibbs-Bailey’s influence played a strong role in Stubba’s conversion to Asatru. In 1973, Stubba and Hoskuld formed The Committee for the Restoration of the Odinic Rite, changed to the Odinic Rite in 1979 (at that point they felt the rite had been restored). Hoskuld served as the first Treasurer

of the Odinic Rite.

It is important that we honor and remember not only the heroes of the distant past, but those in more recent days whose efforts have contributed to the renewal of our Faith.

Hail Hoskuld!

Hail the Gods!



Folkbuilder James Cummings

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## Holiday

### *Hexennacht*



When the ground was thawed, and the colder weather was beginning to give way to it became necessary to move the cattle from the winter fields to the summer ones.

Hexennacht, traditionally, was a festival celebrating this very thing. The main focus of

the holiday was the bonfire. The men would all gather and build the large need-fire. They would then walk the cattle through the smoke to bless them before rehoming them for the warm months. Often the men would call on Frey during Hexennacht, asking for fertility and abundance.

While the men were off blessing the cattle the women gathered together for their own festivities. They had their own bonfires, and it was during this time that the women often burned herbs and practiced their local magic or Seidr. As the men called on Frey, the woman would often call on Freyja.

After the separate celebrations, men and women would come together and continue the festivities.

We in the AFA celebrate this day as Hexennacht instead of the more common “Walpurgisnacht”. Walpurgisnacht is named such because it is the night before the Christian feast day honoring Saint Walpurga, who was credited with healing and repelling witches.

Men and women celebrating separately and then coming together are one of the main features of Hexennacht, as well as the bonfire. A good way to celebrate the holiday might include the men building the bonfire while the women practice communal Seidr. When they are finished the men and woman can join together around the bonfire. The women can throw herbs into the fire, and, asking for the blessings of Frey and Freyja, the men, women, and children can each take turns walking through the smoke.



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## Upcoming National Events

*Midsummer at Óðinshof - June 16th-18th*



Come and tread the hallowed hall of the high one! Come celebrate Midsummer at Odinhof!

Get your tickets [HERE](#)

Midsummer approaches!! And how exciting! For at this year's Midsummer, we present several educational and fun workshops, exhilarating highland games, fascinating talks, moving rituals, and family-friendly activities throughout the entire weekend.

Midsummer is the premier event of the year at Odinhof! We have pulled out all the stops this year to bring you great speakers! New and exciting workshops! Bountiful feasts! And as always, you can expect to feel the very heartbeat of the Asatru Folk Assembly when you walk the grounds, step inside the ritual circle of and enter the Hall of Odin! There is no better place to gather with your Folk and celebrate Midsummer this year! Come home to the heart of the Asatru Folk Assembly for a Midsummer you won't forget!

Have a look at the amazing itinerary planned over on our [ticket page](#)!

Ticket costs include meals, camping, on-site showers, bathrooms, and all events occurring throughout. There are a few workshops that do require pre-registration, so make sure to sign-up for those that interest you and reserve your spot as space will be limited.

We will be having a raffle, auction, and several vendors, so don't forget to bring your cash or cards, and if you have a unique item you would like to donate towards the raffle, bring it along as well!

Lodging: Odinshof has free on-site camping and if coming from afar, we can assist with tents, bedding, etc. If dirt camping isn't your thing, there is also the Brownsville Motel nearby and several Airbnb's, as well as a casino in the area. For help with booking or any information, please contact [Sierra Chapman](#).

Weather: Even though clear skies and warm weather are expected, please keep an eye on the weather before arriving as it can be unpredictable at times.

Volunteer: If you would like to volunteer during the event and become an Odinshof Doer, please contact [Ashley Stockton](#) at your earliest convenience. It takes us all working together to make big events run smoothly, and those that volunteer receive an Odinshof Doers T-shirt!

\*Side note\* This time of year is also California's fifth season: FIRE SEASON! So, we ask you to please be very conscious if you are a smoker and stick to designated smoking areas and always place your butts in a can.



**Midsummer  
at Óðinshof**

**June 16-18 2023  
Brownsville, Ca**

Three transformational days with  
leaders and members across the globe!

- + Rituals of all sorts
- + Memorable Workshops & Presentations
- + Outdoor fun & games
- + Children's activities
- + Vendors
- + Auction
- + Music & culture
- + Delicious meals

**BE HERE FOR IT ALL!**

**Event Contacts:**

**Sheila McNallen**  
Sheila@runestone.org

**Ashley Stockton**  
Astockton@runestone.org  
707.800.5333

**Michael Sessumes**  
Msessumes@runestone.org

**Sierra Chapman**  
Schapman@runestone.org

+ Artisans consider becoming a vendor!  
+ Non-AFA guests must be vouched for

Purchase tickets through the website & register for workshops before all spots fill up!!  
<https://runestone.org/product/midsummer-at-odinshof-2/>

+ Óðinshof has a large camping area & offers hot showers. There is also a nearby motel, casino and local Air bnb's  
+ If traveling from afar and camping we are able to assist with bedding and tents

Children are free!

Want to get more involved?  
Consider volunteering and help make Midsummer great!

All well-behaved dogs are welcome but must be leashed at all times and cleaned up after  
Hard alcohol is discouraged & to respect families and our neighbors the noise curfew is midnight



Midsummer is Óðinshof's big fundraising event of the year so if you are unable to attend and would still like to donate, please feel free to do so.

As of right now, we are still working toward many repairs including a new roof that will cost us around 35k! This roof is needed before the next rainy season in order to keep Óðinshof up and running. The structure damage due to water could be slowly growing and repairing it is a must! For more information on this please keep an eye out for the soon to be added Óðinshof Restoration Project page on the [Odinshof.org](http://Odinshof.org)

website and pick up merch, participate in any active raffles, or just donate!

We can't wait to see you around the campfire!

Don't wait! Get registered today! Some workshops have nominal fees to help cover the cost of supplies. And they will also have limited available spots. Those workshops are listed under registration.

Event and Workshop Tickets [HERE](#)



Folkbuilder Ashley Stockton  
[astockton@runestone.org](mailto:astockton@runestone.org)

### *Winter Nights 12 in Ohio*



The Asatru Folk Assembly's Annual Winter Nights will be held between the Greater Dayton & Greater Cincinnati area in Clinton County, Ohio from October 27th – 29th!

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

Register at <https://runestone.org/product/winternights/> today!

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 limited; you must contact Witan Clifford Erickson if you intend to tent.
- The camp address will be provided after registration as the event gets closer. Travel plans can be made for Clinton County, Ohio.
- We are pleased to announce lower ticket prices this year, due to a change of venue to features a commercial kitchen and other amenities we had come to expect since the first event in the Poconos of Pennsylvania.

Member Family – Weekend: \$120

Member – Weekend: \$80

Member – Day: \$40

Guest – Weekend: \$100

Guest – Day: \$50

Child – Weekend: Free

Child – Day: Free

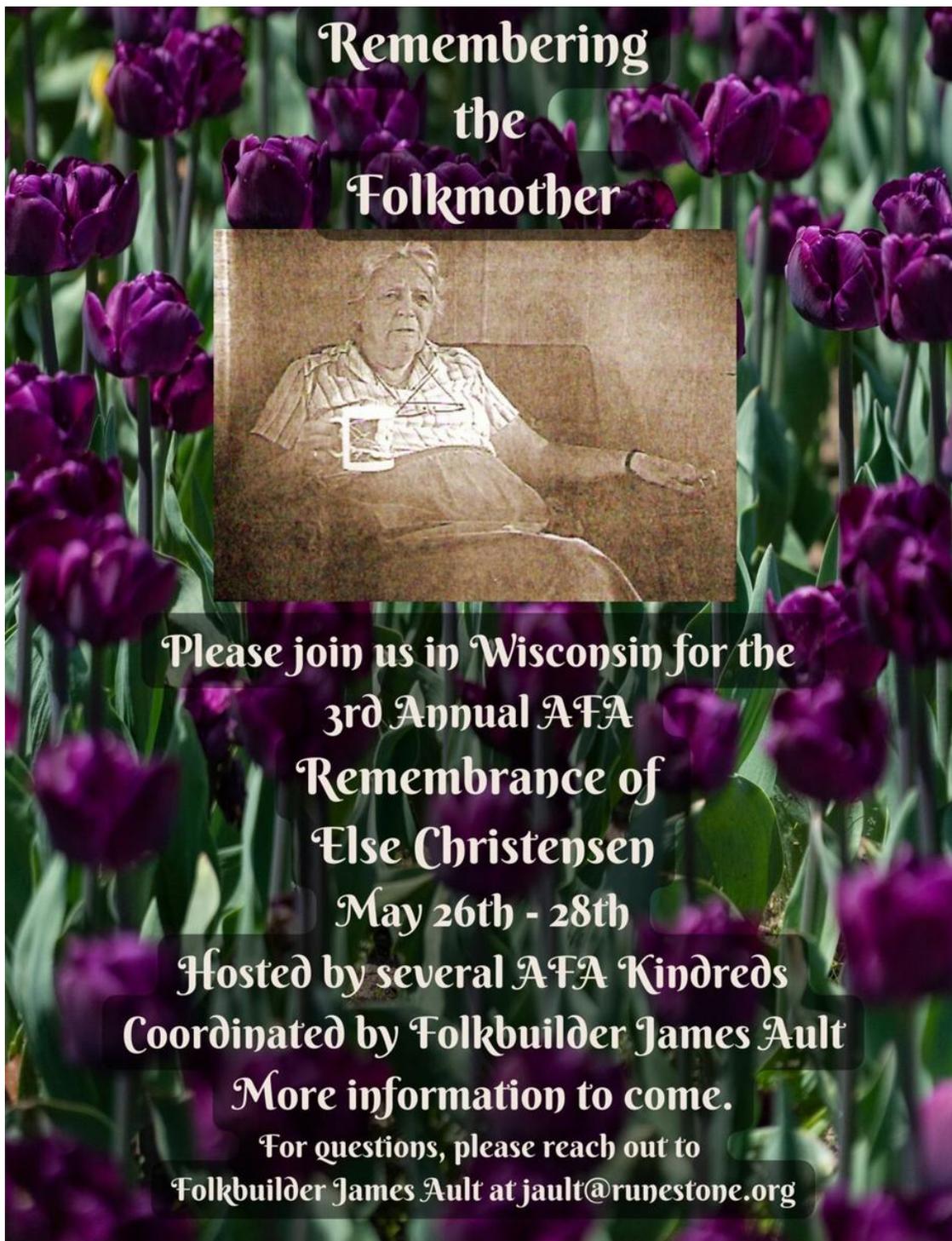
If you have any questions or concerns, please email [cerickson@runestone.org](mailto:cerickson@runestone.org).



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

## Upcoming Regional Events

*ElseFest 3 in Wisconsin*



# Remembering the Folkmother



Please join us in Wisconsin for the  
3rd Annual AFA  
Remembrance of  
Else Christensen  
May 26th - 28th  
Hosted by several AFA Kindreds  
Coordinated by Folkbuilder James Ault  
More information to come.  
For questions, please reach out to  
Folkbuilder James Ault at [jault@runestone.org](mailto:jault@runestone.org)



Folkbuilder James Ault

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

## Be A Doer



### **We need you to volunteer for the AFA!**

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

Please email [volunteer@runestone.org](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!

## 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



Witan Allen Turnage  
[aturnage@runestone.org](mailto:aturnage@runestone.org)

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

*211 Tattoo Parlor and Art Gallery – Green Bay, WI*

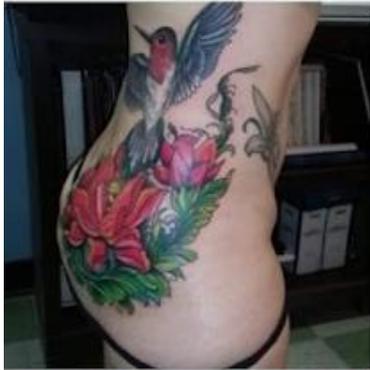


211 Custom Tattoo Parlor and Art Gallery has stood proudly Folk-owned for 16yrs in downtown Green Bay, Wisconsin. It has gone through life with its artists and stood unmoved in its traditional roots as well as maintaining its top-notch reputation for stellar craftsmanship and partnerships to provide extra education to help health officials keep fresh and our craft at its best in the area. We have hosted many artists.





For fourteen years, until his passing, it was run by a wonderful artist named Corey Lee McAlister. It was an honor to be his friend, as well as maintain a booth in his studio. He was an incredibly talented man in many realms, and always a loving family a devoted to his Folk and Family. I learned a good deal from him about many things. Hail Corey Lee McAlister!





Now these days, I have carried the flame forward for some time now, requested by the wonderful young lady my friend left in his legacy with the hope that I keep it what it always was because we never have ever had customers or clients here!!! Only friends! If you're ever in town, come look us up @ 211 S. Broadway, Downtown Green Bay, Wild Wild Wisco, USA!



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

## Cooking for our Folk



# Calling all Chefs

We are looking for recipes for a cookbook. We ask that the recipes were served to the folk at a Hof or moot. Please include where and when it was served.

**cookbook@runestone.org**

Cooking from the Heart. One of the first chefs I worked for told me that there are two main rules to cooking.

1. ALWAYS cook from the heart!
2. You must know the why of the rule before you can think about breaking it.

To this day, I still believe that number one is the most important; but two is the most valuable lesson. So, for example: why would you add flour to the mix when are you making Fried Potato balls? It doesn't add anything to the dish overall and in fact, it takes away flavor and disrupts texture. The reason is that what flour takes away: is moisture. It adds to the binder and liquid consumption.

So, what does this mean for the folk? Plan and simply don't take shortcuts. Whenever I pick up the knife and began cooking for the folk, I think of it as channeling the ancestors. Cooking reminds me of that age-old musing "I don't measure seasoning; I wait for the tap on the shoulder from the ancestors to tell me that's enough."

When you cook from the heart, people can tell. Don't cook out of spite or obligation. Cook for the folk because you want to! Find new recipes. Test them. Make them better. And when your heart tells you it is right...time to serve. If you have never made

cookies from scratch...make them. Why not? Use the best ingredients you can afford (don't take out a second mortgage for this) but be proud to feed the folk.

When the recipe is right and you feed the folk, please send the recipe to [cookbook@runestone.org](mailto:cookbook@runestone.org) with details of when and where it was served (Hof/moot).



Folkbuilder Mike Joyner  
[mjoyner@runestone.org](mailto:mjoyner@runestone.org)

## Ancestral Food and Culture

*Ostara Stew*



A unique stew.

I love cooking for the Hof's. Every so often I get to cook something really special. Oddly enough this year my cooking was served at three of the four Hof's for Ostara. I know kinda cool right. Homemade bratwurst that I had made and brought with me when I visited Baldrshof for Yule was served on Saturday's lunch at Baldrshof. To help The Chef of Thorshof I fixed a Cajun Grits Scramble for Thorshof breakfast on Saturday. For Njordshof I got to make a very special stew.

While visiting Thorshof I helped with the pulled pork dinner. So naturally as any southern cook would ask,

“hey what are y'all doing with the pork bones?”

“Oh just going to throw them away?”

“Can I have them?!?”

“ok.....”

So they made there way back to Florida and were cooked down into thick bone stock. That stock became the base for Njordshof’s Ostara Rabbit Stew.

5 Rabbits, cleaned/boiled/picked

2lbs Chicken breast, cut into chunks to bulk up stew if needed

2lbs Carrots sliced

5 sm Turnups, peeled/quartered/sliced

5 lg white onions, sliced

1 head of celery, sliced

6qts stock (ham or chicken will work)

2 sticks butter

fresh thyme, removed from stem

Fresh rosemary, destemmed and chopped

Add butter and onions to very large pot. Cook on medium for 10 minutes. Add the rest of the vegetables and cook for 10 minutes stirring often. add the stock, thyme and rosemary (pending volume might need to also add water). Cook for 1hr+ at mid-high. 45 minutes before serving add meat. S&P to taste. Don’t forget to enjoy.



Folkbuilder Mike Joyner

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

### *Shepherd's Pie*



- 5lbs russet or Yukon gold potatoes
- 2 sticks salted butter
- 1 cup milk
- 1 pound ground lamb, or beef lamb preferred
- 1 yellow onion
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 cup carrot, diced
- 1 cup of peas
- 1 cup green beans, chopped
- 1/2 cup red wine, Cabernet or Shiraz
- 1/2 cup beef stock

Seasonings: rosemary, thyme, salt, & pepper. Bay leaf if desired



Bring potatoes to boil and mash with butter and milk until smooth, then preheat oven to 350 degrees.

In a cast iron skillet, fry ground meat and season until cooked and remove from pan when done. Then, add onion, finely chopped and fry in fat until tender and then deglaze with red wine.

Add back meat, and vegetables until they are soft and tender, and most of the moisture has cooked off. Add stock and crushed and chopped garlic.

Then, either pipette the mashed potato or smooth with a spoon on top of the mixture to make a topping for the fillings. Feel free to decorate as you wish.

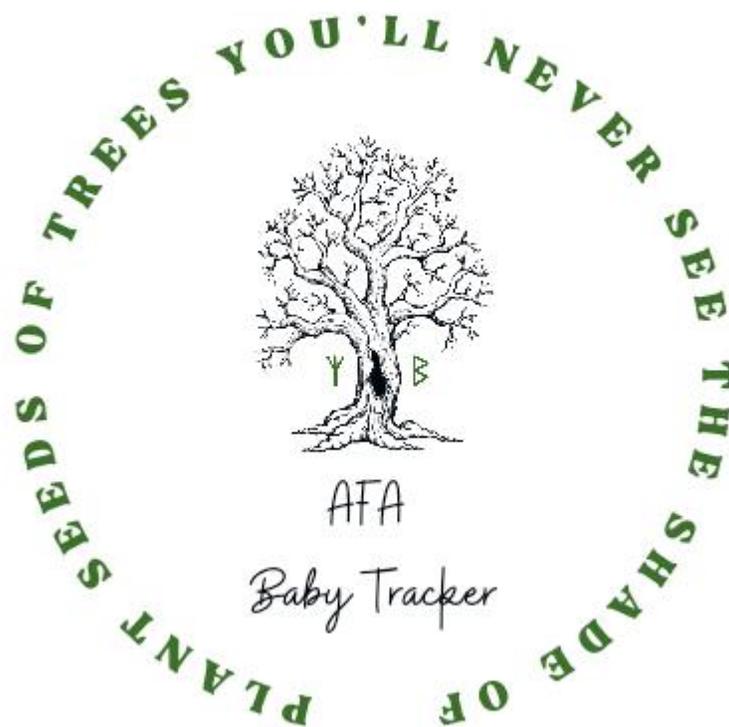
Bake covered at 350 for 45 minutes, then uncovered for an additional 15 minutes.

Remove from oven, let cool, enjoy!



Christian Penner  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[cspencer@runestone.org](mailto:cspencer@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 are!

Total babies born in 2023: 8



Jessica Keller  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[jkeller@runestone.org](mailto:jkeller@runestone.org)

## Ladies Mysteries Podcast

LADIES MYSTERIES PODCAST

April 30th at 1:30 pm CST

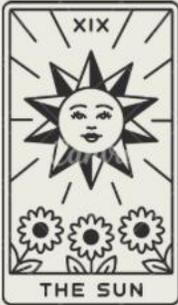
**DIVINATION**



Witan Brandy Callahan: Cartomancy  
 Gythia Catie Erickson: Tasseography and Pendulum  
 Gythia Anna Plourde: Armanen Runes  
 Folkbuilder Sara Ault: Ogham  
 Folkbuilder Christine Dumas: Tarot



Contact Christine Dumas for more information  
[cdumas@runestone.org](mailto:cdumas@runestone.org)





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

## Sister's Sunday Chats



For the last several months, I've been running a bimonthly Sunday chat for the women of the AFA. It's been incredible! We have had turn out from every Hof district including

women far afield as Sweden and South Africa. We've had chats about our current crafting projects, books, motherhood, family, Asatru, our day to day lives and more.

The ability of the internet to bring our women together in Frith and friendship is an amazing thing. I would like to invite all our AFA womenfolk to join us on our Frithweaving sisterly chats. 10 am central time, dates posted monthly!



Alison Clausen  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[aclausen@runestone.org](mailto:aclausen@runestone.org)

## Saga's Literature Project



Saga needs your stories!

Do you have thoughts throughout your day or your studies that you ponder about our Gods, Goddesses, Heroes, or our Faith?

Do you and your family or Kindred have ways you like to venerate the Gods that are special to your own traditions?

How do you celebrate our Holidays or Days of Remembrance?

Do you have advice for those who have finally come home and wish you could have it handy to give to them?

Are you enrolled in Asatru Academy or partake in Lore Study or the Virtue Recovery Group?

The Asatru Folk Assembly wishes to create booklets, brochures, and pamphlets to have on hand in our Hofs and with membership Assembly-wide to give out to anyone with curiosity, whether they are a member or not.

This will be key in our studies as experienced practitioners, and should serve as a more efficient way than directing those with questions to our websites alone.

Saga needs your help! Submit any ideas or write-ups you have on the topics listed above to me, Apprentice Folkbuilder Shane Duffy at [sduffy@runestone.org](mailto:sduffy@runestone.org)!

Note: All submissions are subject to review from myself and up the chain of command to the Alsherjargothi himself.



Folkbuilder Shane Duffy

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

## Prison Ministry



Greetings kinsfolk,

The importance of this AFA Prison Ministry is so much more than just for those who are actually incarcerated, it benefits not only them as followers of Asatru but their families and loved ones on the outside as they will see the noticeable change in their demeanor and demand that our faith commands for them to lead a noble life. We all are future ancestors and will help them be examples of our faith and not be a burden or a product of recidivism.

We are compiling letters from prisoners that are Educational, Empowering, and Encouraging along with special spiritual writings from our Gothar to create a quarterly newsletter to be distributed to inmates, institutions, and jails. Our mission is not about providing free books or literature to bored prisoners who simply want free stuff. We

intend on making real-world change for the better of our folk.

If you have a loved one who is incarcerated or know of someone who is Folkish and will benefit from this ministry, please contact me at [jault@runestone.org](mailto:jault@runestone.org). Or if you'd like to donate to this ministry, you can donate to the AFA general fund on the Runestone website with an earmark "AFA Prison Ministry" in the comments section.



Folkbuilder James Ault

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

## Lore Trivia



Get 10 Bonus Points for Lore Study Review Night (last Tuesday of each month at 730PM CST—link in Spiritual Excellence) when you hit 95% or higher!

[Play Here!](#)

### Rules:

1. No google, brave or other browser searches. The answers are in the book we are using or can be found in the posted videos from each week we meet up in the AFA Spiritual Excellence page. (This is the Honor System. We trust you to keep it fair.)
2. If you get 95% or higher, you get 10 Bonus points towards our next Lore Study Review Trivia Night!

Don't worry, if you don't get it the 1st time, use the book or the videos that are shared in Spiritual Excellence from our Tuesday night get-togethers and try again! We want you to know these things. That's the point of Lore Study. We just want you to have fun and a little friendly competition whilst doing it!



Once you finish your trivia questions, I will get a notification so we can track those that took them and award the bonus points for the next trivia night!

May the odds be ever in your favor!

[Play Here!](#)



Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

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

## AFA Eldri ~ New Group for Seniors



From the Icelandic for "elders," I created this group as a gathering place for our older AFA folk to share their thoughts, their memories, and dreams. Yes! We still have dreams. Every age group needs "a place of their own." This is ours.

This is primarily a MeWe group, but meeting in person is ideal. At Odinhof, we'll make time at our larger events to sit aside as AFA Eldri and enjoy each other's company.

Currently, we have a Teams meeting every Friday at 1:00 PST. A recent topic was Wills and end-of-life planning – as we've ALL been advised to do. Lawspeaker Allen Turnage and Folkbuilder Otto Rafuse, both attorneys, have offered to share their knowledge on this subject at a special AFA Eldri meeting, date to be determined.

We've barely begun to explore our common interests: hobbies, travels, genealogy, spiritual practices, childhood memories ... I expect we'll learn much about each other in the months and years ahead.

Over age 50 and interested? You can email either Sara Ault or me, or find us on MeWe.  
sault@runestone.org; sheila@runestone.org

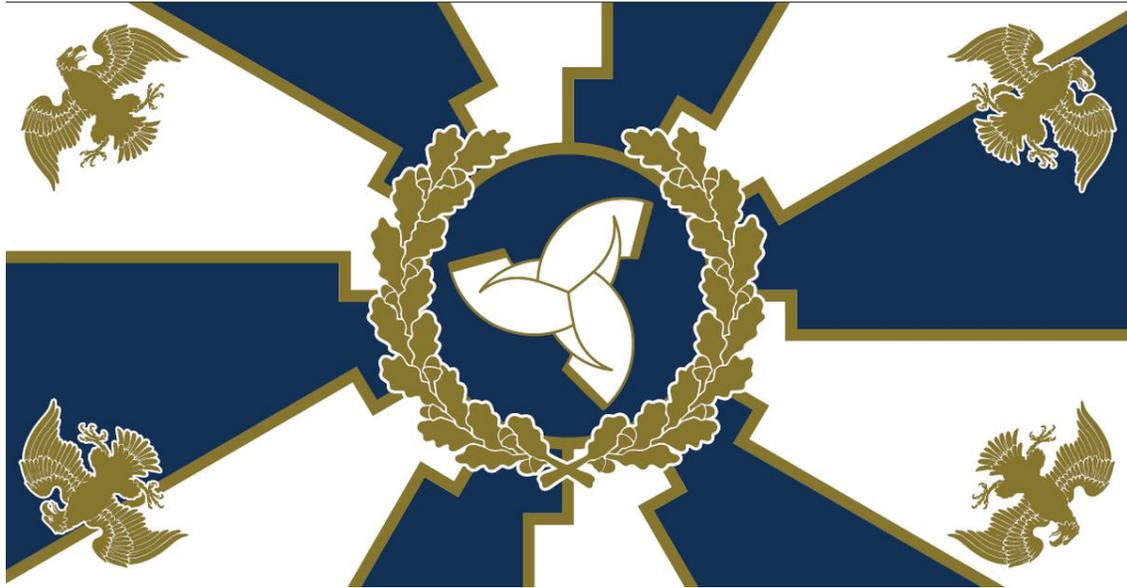


Gythia Sheila McNallen  
[sheila@runestone.org](mailto:sheila@runestone.org)

## Now Available in the AFA Store



AFA Lapel Pins are back in stock! Get your set [HERE!](#)



And Sigheim Flags are now available! Buy yours [HERE!](#)



Folkbuilder Melisa Mills  
[mmills@runestone.org](mailto:mmills@runestone.org)

## Baldrshof

### Ancestor Altar



All folk are welcome to bring framed photos of their deceased loved ones to be placed on the ancestor altar at Baldrshof!

If you are unable to bring the photo, you are welcome to email a digital copy which will be printed, framed, and hung on the ancestor wall. We also ask that you provide your name, the name of your ancestors, birth and death dates of they are available, as well as a memory, story, or dedication about them. This information will be printed and placed into our book of ancestors kept next to the ancestor altar. Of course, the ancestor can

remain anonymous, but remember that our immortality is in our names and stories being spoken by the folk!

Please contact Folkbuilder Jessie Shaffer for more info or to submit your ancestor pictures and information.



Folkbuilder Jessie Shaffer  
[jshaffer@runestone.org](mailto:jshaffer@runestone.org)

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### Food Pantry (in the Artic Tundra)



We had a frigid yet very successful food distribution last month at Baldrshof. We helped 15 families with dry goods, beverages, copious amounts of meat and other frozen goods. We also were able to add some new items this month with cleaning and household supplies! This included paper towels, toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting cleaning wipes. It is awesome to see that even in -20 wind chill weather, we have members of the community that make it out to see us, and we are very much providing a resource that some have come to count on. Hail the Doers!



Folkbuilder Ashley Mcstocker  
[amcstocker@runestone.org](mailto:amcstocker@runestone.org)

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### Ostara at Baldrshof



March in Baldrshof brought with it the awakening of Spring within our Folk. Indeed, renewal seemed to be the theme.

Ostara is a time to celebrate having survived the winter and to welcome the rebirth of the world as warmth begins to return to us. Still, those icy days did linger.

As the Folk gathered at the Hof it was not without challenge. Not once, but three times rescue parties had to be dispatched to assist our travelling Folk who had become stuck in ice and snow along the road. It seemed the weather had another idea besides the

sunny day we may have hoped for. Extreme blizzard conditions even descended in the area south of the Hof and added additional perils.

Yet, the piety of our Folk won out. Despite any challenges, we gathered still and honoured our Gods and Ancestors. By this point I think it is also fair to say that no weather can shut down the Baldrshof food drive, nor diminish the kind and generous spirit of our Folk.

Local families were given bountiful donations secured by the hard work of our Folk. What better way to celebrate the happy spirit of Ostara than with service to the community which we have grown to respect so much?

Powerful Blóts were held, and honour given to the Gods. The sanctuary of the Hof filled and echoed with the resonant voices of our passionate Folk as we lifted our words to the Gods and engaged in the sacred cycle of gifting once more.

Food and merriment were also had as we embraced the spirit of Ostara. It is fitting that the day celebrating a Goddess who is known for her joviality and mirth should have been filled with friendship and Frith between many people from far and wide.

The icy roads also could not prevent our Folk from meeting for Sumbel after ritual was concluded.

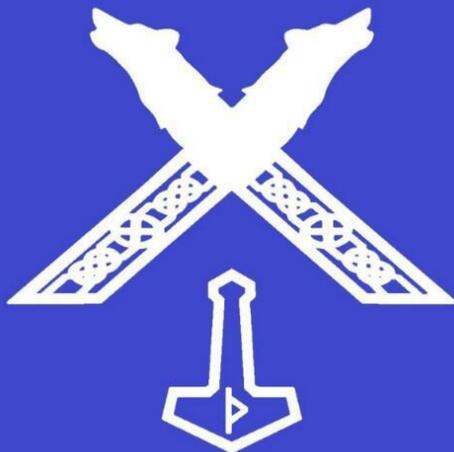
As Ostara marks the change in the world toward renewal may it also bring good tidings for all of our Folk.

Our next event at the Hof will be Hexennacht taking place on the 15th of April. We hope to see you there!



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

# Upcoming Events at Baldrshof



# Baldrshof Calendar

## 2023

January 21st  
Thorrablot

May 20th  
May Day

September 16th  
Winter Finding

February 18th  
Charming of  
the Plow

June 16th - 18th  
Midsummer

October 21st  
Winternights

March 17th - 19th  
Ostara

July 15th  
Sigrblot

November 18th  
Folksgiving &  
Feast of the Einherjar

April 15th  
Hexennacht

August 18th - 20th  
Freyfaxi

December 15th - 17th  
Yule

# BALDRSHOF PRESENTS: RUNE STUDY



## Featuring Gythia Catie Erickson

Sunday, April 9th, 2023  
2pm Central



For more details contact Folkbuilder Josh  
Rapin or Apprentice Folkbuilders Ali and  
Cody Clausen



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## Illinois

*March's Beautiful Blessings*



March was a beautiful folk filled month. The Duffy clan made a trek up to Baldrshof for Ostara weekend. Just missing an intense winter storm. Luckily, our new vehicle was a champ and got us to and from our lodging and Hof with safety and ease. Sadly, the storm kept a good chunk of folk from being able to join us.



First day of Ostara weekend also landed on my 32nd birthday. The Hof was the perfect place to ring in this new year of my life. To celebrate Ostara and my birthday we indulged on corned beef and cabbage and so many sweet treats. My wonderful folk sister Jessie Shaffer made an egg-shaped cake that the children decorated. I was serenaded with the birthday song and got to make a wish before blowing out my candles. The folk always can make you feel special.



So many big things coming for me in this 32nd go around. My new apprenticeship as well as being a mother to a newborn again. Witan Callahan and my folk sisters put on a mini blot. Offering gifts to Freya Frigga and Eir and asking for them to gift me in return. The ladies also put into the horn their own personal gifts they wished to share with me like stubbornness, patience, and wisdom for this new chapter in motherhood. This blot truly meant so much to me. The women of our folk are all amazing and I'm so very grateful to have them and their wisdom, strength, and friendship. I'll be entering my third trimester and I will be channeling all those gifts to get me to the best part, meeting our beautiful baby boy Cullen Kenneth Duffy.

*Upcoming Events*



Jaclynn Duffy  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
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*The Mead of Poetry*



Odin in eagle form obtaining the mead of poetry from Gunnlod, with Suttung in the background (detail of the Stora Hammars III runestone, c. 700 CE)

This is the story of how Odin came to possess the Mead of Poetry (Old Norse *Óðrærir*, “Stirrer of Inspiration”).

At the conclusion of the Aesir-Vanir War, the Aesir and Vanir gods and goddesses sealed their truce by spitting into a great vat. From their spittle they formed a being whom they named Kvasir (“Fermented Berry Juice”<sup>[1]</sup>). Kvasir was the wisest human that had ever lived; none were able to present him with a question for which he didn’t have a satisfying answer. He became famous and traveled throughout the world giving counsel.

Kvasir was invited to the home of two dwarves, Fjalar (“Deceiver”<sup>[2]</sup>) and Galar (“Screamer”<sup>[3]</sup>). Upon his arrival, the dwarves slew Kvasir and brewed mead with his blood. This mead contained Kvasir’s ability to dispense wisdom, and was appropriately named *Óðrærir* (“Stirrer of Inspiration”). Any who drank of it would become a poet or a scholar.

When the gods questioned them about Kvasir’s disappearance, Fjalar and Galar told them that Kvasir had choked on his wisdom.

The two dwarves apparently delighted in murder. Soon after this incident, they took the giant Gilling out to sea and drowned him for sport. The sounds of Gilling’s weeping wife irritated them, so they killed her as well, this time by dropping a millstone on her head as she passed under the doorway of their house.

But this last mischief got the dwarves into trouble. When Gilling’s son, Suttung (“Heavy with Drink”<sup>[4]</sup>), learned of his father’s murder, he seized the dwarves and, at

low tide, carried them out to a reef that would soon be covered by the waves. The dwarves pleaded for their lives, and Suttung granted their request only when they agreed to give him the mead they had brewed with Kvasir's blood. Suttung hid the vats of mead in a chamber beneath the mountain Hnitbjorg ("Pulsing Rock"<sup>[5]</sup>), where he appointed his daughter Gunnlod ("Invitation to Battle"<sup>[6]</sup>) to watch over them.

Now Odin, the chief of the gods, who is restless and unstoppable in his pursuit of wisdom, was displeased with the precious mead's being hoarded away beneath a mountain. He bent his will toward acquiring it for himself and those he deemed worthy of its powers.

Disguised as a wandering farmhand, Odin went to the farm of Suttung's brother, Baugi. There he found nine servants mowing hay. He approached them, took out a whetstone from under his cloak, and offered to sharpen their scythes. They eagerly agreed, and afterwards marveled at how well their scythes cut the hay. They all declared this to be the finest whetstone they had ever seen, and each asked to purchase it. Odin consented to sell it, "but," he warned them, "you must pay a high price." He then threw the stone into the air, and, in their scramble to catch it, the nine killed each other with their scythes.

Odin then went to Baugi's door and introduced himself as "Bölverkr" ("Worker of Misfortune"). He offered to do the work of the nine servants who had, as he told it, so basely killed each other in a dispute in the field earlier that day. As his reward, he demanded a sip of Suttung's mead.

Baugi responded that he had no control of the mead and that Suttung guarded it jealously, but that if Bölverkr could truly perform the work of nine men, he would help the apparent farmhand to obtain his desire.

At the end of the growing season, Odin had fulfilled his promise to the giant, who agreed to accompany him to Suttung to inquire about the mead. Suttung, however, angrily refused. The disguised god, reminding Baugi of their bargain, convinced the giant to aid him in gaining access to Gunnlod's dwelling. The two went to a part of the mountain that Baugi knew to be nearest to the underground chamber. Odin took an auger out from his cloak and handed it to Baugi for him to drill through the rock. The giant did so, and after much work announced that the hole was finished. Odin blew into the hole to verify Baugi's claim, and when the rock-dust blew back into his face, he knew that his companion had lied to him. The suspicious god then bade the giant to finish what he had started. When Baugi proclaimed the hole to be complete for a second time, Odin once again blew into the hole. This time the debris were blown through the

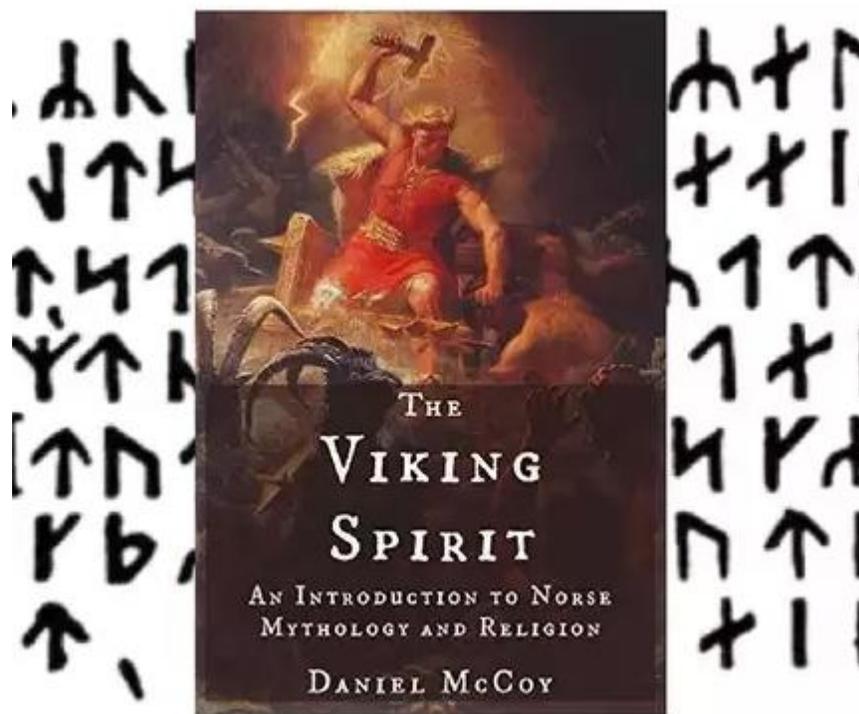
hole.

Odin thanked Baugi for his help, shifted his shape into that of a snake, and crawled into the hole. Baugi stabbed after him with the auger, but Odin made it through just in time.

Once inside, he assumed the form of a charming young man and made his way to where Gunnlod guarded the mead. He won her favor and secured a promise from her that, if he would sleep with her for three nights, she would grant him three sips of the mead. After the third night, Odin went to the mead, which was in three vats, and consumed the contents of each vat in a single draught.

Odin then changed his shape yet again, this time into that of an eagle, and flew off toward Asgard, the gods' celestial stronghold, with his prize in his throat. Suttung soon discovered this trickery, took on the form of another eagle, and flew off in pursuit of Odin.

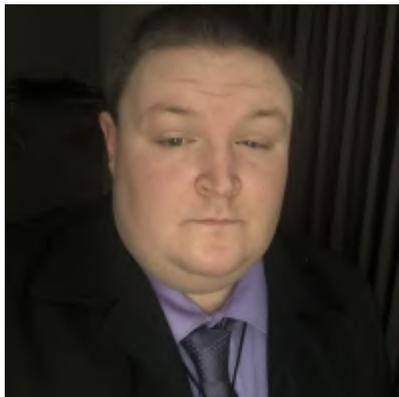
When the gods spied their leader approaching with Suttung close behind him, they set out several vessels at the rim of their fortress. Odin reached the abode of his fellow gods before Suttung could catch him, and the giant retreated in anguish. As Odin came to the containers, he regurgitated the mead into them. As he did so, however, a few drops fell from his beak to Midgard, the world of humankind, below. These drops are the source of the abilities of all bad and mediocre poets and scholars. But the true poets and scholars are those to whom Odin dispenses his mead personally and with care.<sup>[7][8]</sup>



## References:

- [1] Simek, Rudolf. 1993. Dictionary of Northern Mythology. Translated by Angela Hall. p. 184.
- [2] Ibid. p. 84.
- [3] Ibid. p. 97.
- [4] Ibid. p. 304.
- [5] Ibid. p. 154.
- [6] Ibid. p. 124-125.
- [7] The Poetic Edda. Hávamál, stanzas 104-110.
- [8] Snorri Sturluson. The Prose Edda. Skálskaparmál.

This article was obtained @ <https://norse-mythology.org/tales/the-mead-of-poetry/>

*Upcoming Events*

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 Apprentice Folkbuilder  
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## *Happy Hrethmonath*



Winter is in its death-throws, but it has still been interesting here in the Midwest. As Sky and Earth wed after Frey's tilling of soils, we see Mighty Thor is beating back Ice Etins and not just protecting the Folk but helping nourish us with his rains. We celebrate the coming of the victorious dawn, Ostara, the embodiment of this wedding!

March, the month of Mars, the month of Hreth, has been busy for my family and I as we prepare the nest for our son, Cullen Kenneth Duffy. What triumph we feel to be sharing our family with our Folk and our Gods!



Speaking of birthdays, my wife and I celebrated ours alongside another friend and member, Brad, who shares a March birthday. Other friends and allies made it out for a small Birthday Moot potluck dinner. We enjoyed roast stew, hash brown casserole, salad, and tiramisu cake.

We closed out the month with a trip to Baldrshof where my wife and I co-hosted Ostara with Witan Callahan and the wonderful Minnesota Folk. Unfortunately, due to rather harsh weather and road closings, many from out of state had to bow out. We thank

Folkbuilder Melisa Mills and her crew for braving the blizzard and dealing with most unideal circumstances in attempts to make it. Though you had to turn back, you were there in spirit and your organization helped us stay on track.



Ostara did, however, indeed carry onwards with 2 days and 3 nights of Blots, dedications, egg hunts and coloring activities, and cozy Sumbel at our rented lake house. The cooks like Stian Penner, my wife Jaclynn, Brad , and Witan Callahan filled our bellies like the sunlight of Ostara. The cooks and children also helped in baking and decorating an Easter Egg cake for Jaclynn! She will elaborate on this more as well as her Mama-To-Be ceremony by the Womenfolk!

For myself personally, I made a continuation, of sorts, of Folkbuilder Alain's presentation on Ostara with my own discussion circle. I presented a macrocosmic concept for our Ostara Blót and posited that we should also look at this time of year as Baldr (our Soul) is returning now that Ragnarök is over and the body (the Earth) is renewed.



I look forward now to April, to Hexennacht, and to my discussion at the end of next month's District Call.



Folkbuilder Shane Duffy  
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*Fear is Good*



This isn't the most thought out or erudite post that I've ever written, but there's some merit to it. Fear is good. I've got some big changes coming to my life, but they're a big step in the right direction. One of those one small step, one big step things we heard about some 60-some-odd years ago. The first step of many to help accomplish major things. I hope to not only be able to give some more details soon, but also be able to write this article from a whole other location. Yep, I'm moving. Let's see where it goes and how it goes. I had a good moot this month with some Folk, and I'm gonna keep that momentum moving forward. It's a scary-exciting thing. Wish me luck!

### *Upcoming Events*

**Sunday, April 16th at 5:30PM**

*Gabby*  *Goat*

**AMERICAN PUB & GRILL**

**Contact Folkbuilder Nick Rice**  
**to RSVP via**  
**[NRice@runestone.org](mailto:NRice@runestone.org)**



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

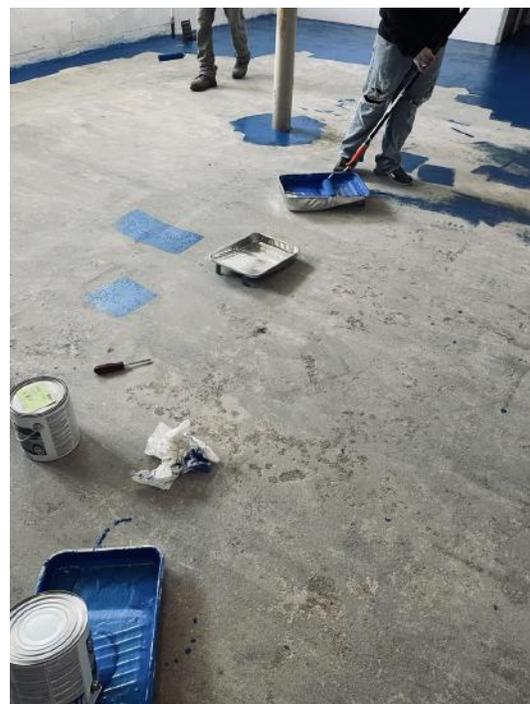
[nrice@runestone.org](mailto:nrice@runestone.org)

# Minnesota

## *Beautify Baldrshof*



Hail the do'ers! March brought the completion of a significant project by putting an epoxy coating on the basement floor/dining hall. This project from start to finish took approximately two months to complete and. This couldn't have been done without dedication from a handful of local Folk, but more notably Folkbuilder Josh and Kirsten Rapin. Because of Folk like these two, Baldrshof is yet another big step further from the dilapidated state it was in when we found it.



Ostara was one for the books this year as Minnesota experienced a major winter storm the week of and unfortunately out an end to travel plans for a number of folk to join us for Ostara. This included vehicles getting stuck in deep snow and some having to hold up in an emergency shelter and overall, a snapshot of what winter can bring for our Northern Folk. With all of our technological advancements, these cold dark months of the North still serve to remind us of the importance of community and Frith among the folk. Remember that without community we wither and die. Build your Folk, support your Folk, and abandon the selfishness and contempt.



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



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

*MN Monthly Update NBK*



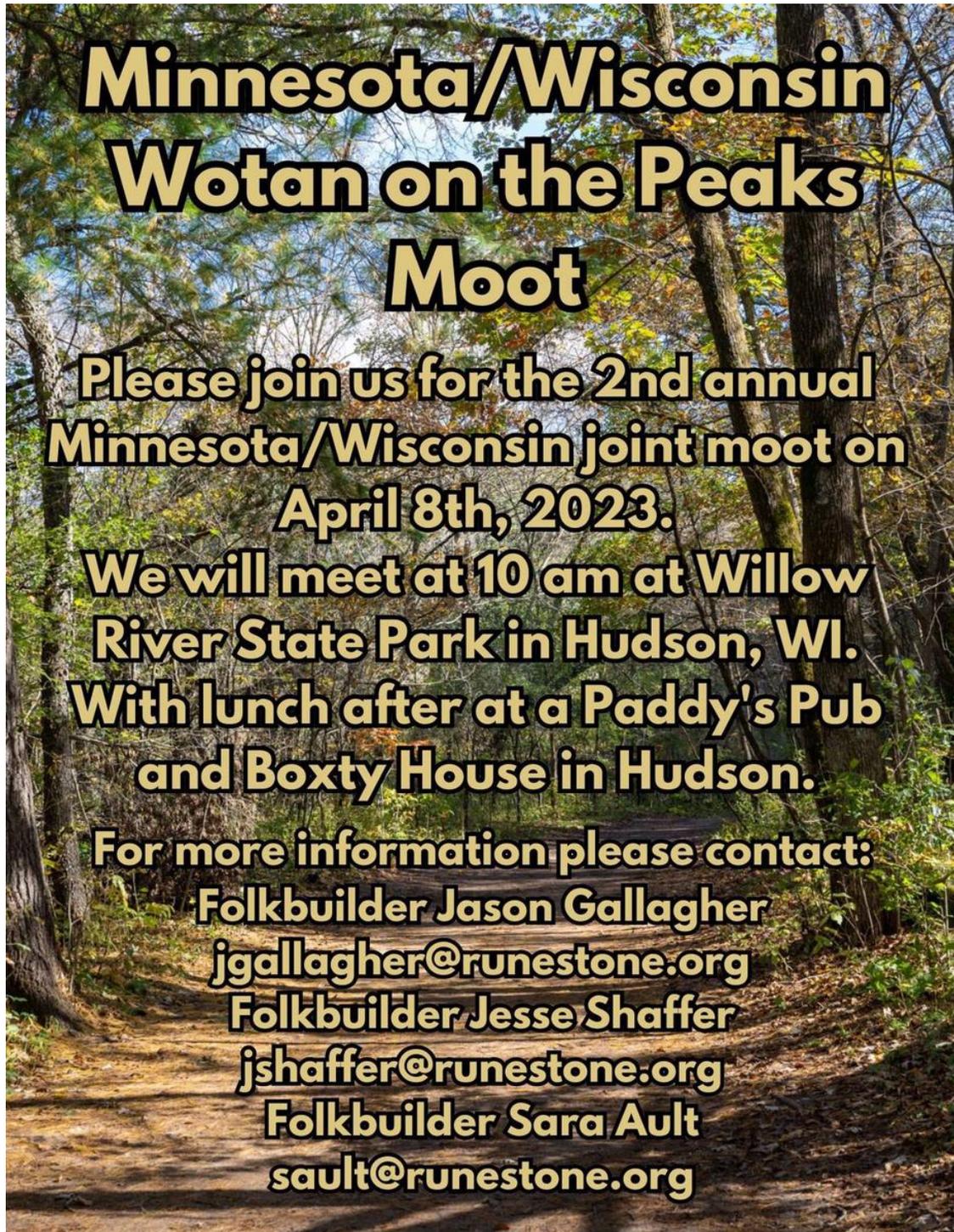
Spring is here even though it may not look like it where I live in Minnesota. Seems like this year is flying by fast! Second annual Ostara at Baldrshof was amazing and can't wait till next year! Always love seeing my folk and meeting new ones who travel distances.



Join us on April 8th for our second annual Minnesota/Wisconsin Wotan on the peaks at Willow River state Park by Hudson, Wi. Followed by lunch at a local pub in Hudson.

Looking forward to doing more hikes and picnic events now that the weather is warming up and snow melting.

*Upcoming Events*



**Minnesota/Wisconsin  
Wotan on the Peaks  
Moot**

**Please join us for the 2nd annual  
Minnesota/Wisconsin joint moot on  
April 8th, 2023.**

**We will meet at 10 am at Willow  
River State Park in Hudson, WI.  
With lunch after at a Paddy's Pub  
and Boxy House in Hudson.**

**For more information please contact:**

**Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher  
jgallagher@runestone.org**

**Folkbuilder Jesse Shaffer  
jshaffer@runestone.org**

**Folkbuilder Sara Ault  
sault@runestone.org**



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

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## Missouri

### *Missouri Happenings*



We hope everyone has a fantastic Ostara! As we move into April remember we have several opportunities coming up to get together.

And Hexennacht/may-day-celebration is coming up in a couple short weeks. Get registered if you have not yet!

Sigrblot at Sigrheim in Tennessee is also quickly approaching on July 22! Mark your calendars.

*Upcoming Events*

*April 14-16*  

**Hexennacht and  
Mayday Celebration!**

- \*Seidre workshop
- \*Womens botanicals for ritual workshop
- \*Mens masculinity workshop
- \*maypole dancing!
- \*Crowning of the May Queen!
- \*Dancing, singing, and so much more!

**In Eastern Nebraska just north of  
Omaha details to come!**

DINNER AT GRÜNAUER

ENJOY AUSTRIAN CUISINE!

04.30 • 04.30

BEER • FOLK • Fun

IN KANSAS CITY MO

Contact Folkbuilder Melisa Mills  
mmills@runestone.org for details



**Come out and join your  
Folk for a fun filled  
excursion at the  
St. Louis MO  
Scottish Games!  
Saturday May 6th 2023**

*There will a vacation house rental option for those  
interested.  
please RSVP as soon as possible to take advantage of  
that!*

For details please contact:  
Folkbuilder Nick Rice [nrice@runestone.org](mailto:nrice@runestone.org)  
Folkbuilder Melisa Mills [mmills@runestone.org](mailto:mmills@runestone.org)  
Apprentice Folkbuilder Vic Palazzo  
[upalazzo@runestone.org](mailto:upalazzo@runestone.org)



Folkbuilder Melisa Mills  
[mmills@runestone.org](mailto:mmills@runestone.org)

## Nebraska

### *Upcoming Events*

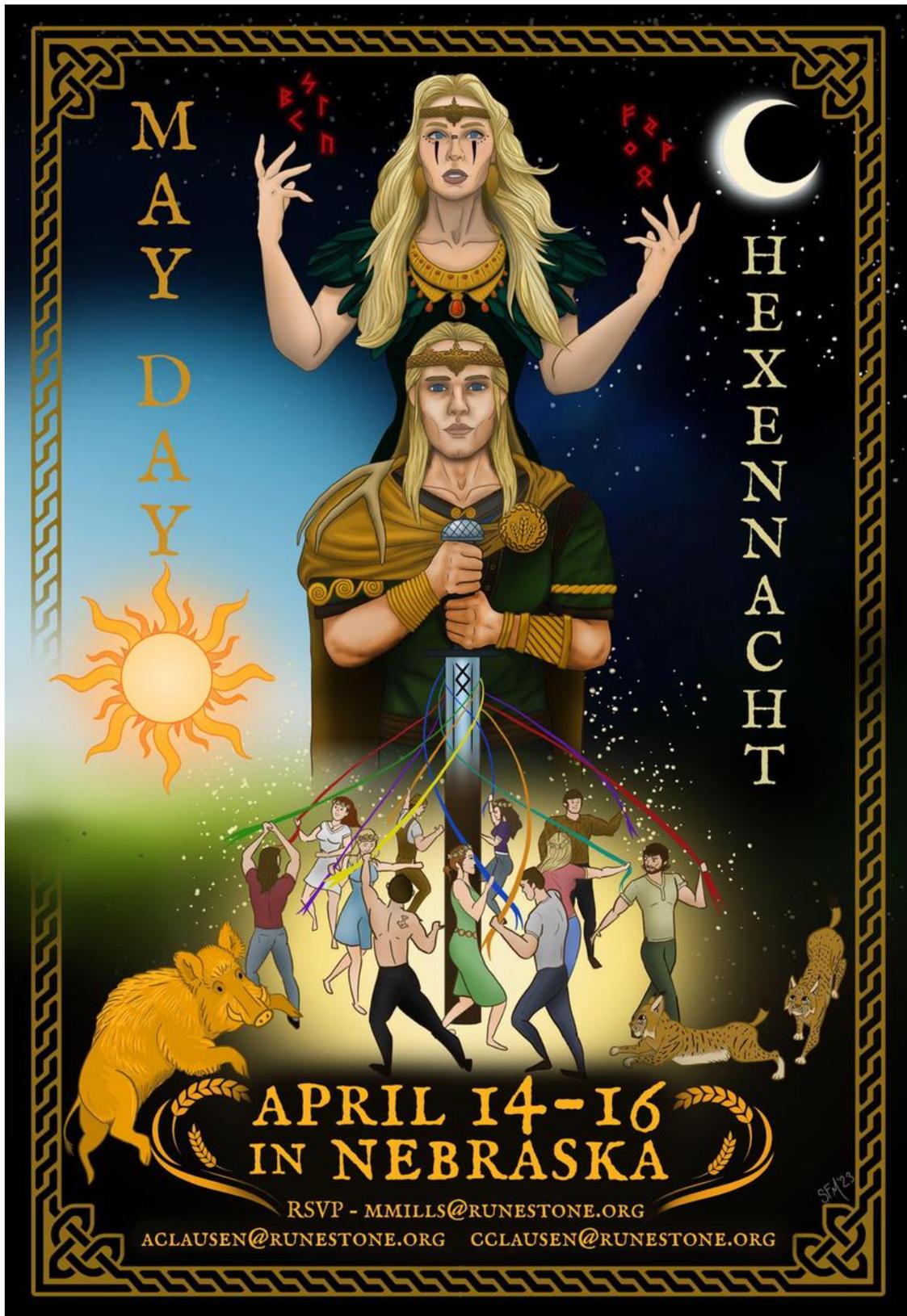


# Fontenelle forest walking moot

- ▶ Omaha, Nebraska
- ▶ 4/23/2023
- ▶ 2pm

Contact apprentice Folkbuilders Cody and Ali Clausen for details

[aclausen@runestone.org](mailto:aclausen@runestone.org)  
[cclausen@runestone.org](mailto:cclausen@runestone.org)



# Colorado / Nebraska

## SIGRBLOT

SCOTTSBLUFF, NB

JULY 14-16TH

BRING CAMPING EQUIPMENT AND SOMETHING TO SHARE FOR POTLUCK MEALS  
PLEASE BRING CLOTHES TO DRESS WELL FOR BLOT  
SHOWERS, RESTROOM, KITCHEN WILL BE AVAILABLE

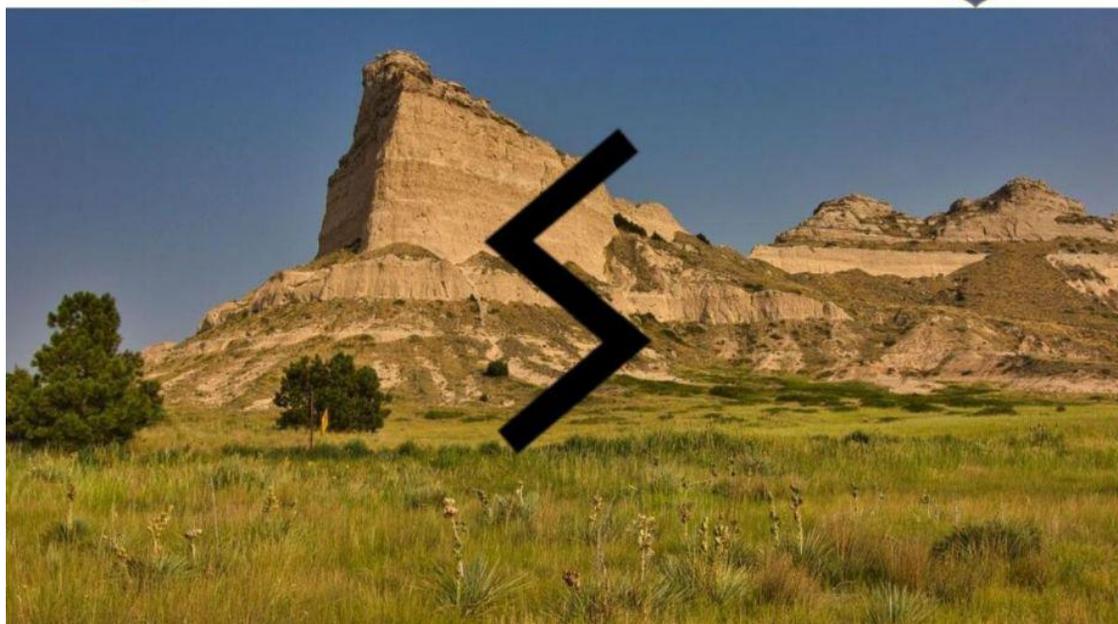
### ÓÐINSHOF RSVP

APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDER TRAVIS BOWDISH  
TBOWDISH@RUNESTONE.ORG  
APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDER NICHOLAS SALD  
NSALD@RUNESTONE.ORG



### BALDRSHOF RSVP

APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDER CODY CLAUSEN  
CCLAUSEN@RUNESTONE.ORG  
APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDER ALLISON CLAUSEN  
ACLAUSEN@RUNESTONE.ORG



Alison Clausen  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[aclausen@runestone.org](mailto:aclausen@runestone.org)

## Rock Show Moot



This month, we decided to go to a different kind of rock show! Our Nebraska folk got together for a rock and mineral show. There were some very interesting rocks and gems from all over the world, a few large geodes, jewelry, and some really nice, handcrafted bolo ties and belt buckles. We all walked away with some rocks and the kids got to watch their geode crack open! Afterwards, we all met up for burgers and enjoyed the warm weather on the restaurant's patio. This moot sure did rock!



Cody Clausen  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
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## North Dakota

### *Artwork & the Folk*



As many of you already know, I am an artist and art is what brought me Home to Asatru and the AFA. I have designed all my own tattoos and many pieces of art including the carved horns I make. As I sit typing this now, I am designing a piece on

and for our Holy God Tyr. Every time I lay out a piece of knotwork it is with intention and foresight, the way the lines and knots speak to me are significant and meaningful, and they show through in my artwork. Our Ancestral traditions flow through my hands and manifest themselves by themselves and speak a very clear message to me and to the recipient of the gift I am making in the present time. Art is Sacred. I tell folk all the time how significant our Folk art is to me and how it speaks to me in real time as it's being created. When we as a Folk interact with our Ancestry and Folkish Art, there is something special there, especially for me. I would like to encourage every member of the AFA to interact and practice our Folkish Art, no matter one's skill level. Even a simple act of artistic devotion is in my opinion significant and noteworthy. When a piece of art is done with intention, devotion and in piety, there is something special that happens in the act of creation. So, Get After It! Go out and honor the Gods and your Ancestors with Art! I'm sure you'll do great!



Christian Penner  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
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*Ostara*



Ostara, like many of our Gods, is one of whom we know little. Much of the lore regarding her was lost to time. Though some scholars have debated about her for years, even amongst Christians such as Bede, We do know that she played a pivotal role in the yearly cycle. We also know that she was often seen as a youthful maiden with a joyous demeanor, frequently dancing happily and making merry in the light of the spring sun.

Though her lore is shrouded in mystery, we do know much of her Holy Day as well as the things associated with it. Even as worship of the Goddess herself declined as the culture and faith of the people changed, her Holiday was so prolific that some form of it survived the centuries with many of its traditions intact.

The Holy Tide of Ostara is a time of renewal as the ice and snow of winter diminishes and the warmth of spring ushers in new life. The grass is rejuvenated, new flowers bloom, the leaves return to the trees, and the once-frozen waters flow freely again.

An important aspect of this Holy Tide is the association with purity and youthful innocence. In fact, a common theme in the tradition of Ostara is that of innocence. This is fitting as springtime brings with it new life, which is characterized by innocence. This is why, I believe, we see a great focus on the celebration of childhood and youth.

In keeping with the theme of renewal and youth it is said that during this time Holy Water would be collected from the dew or from brooks wherein young maidens would bathe. This water was said to restore the youth of those who washed with it. By this we can see a connection between Ostara and youthful vitality; we can also see a connection with renewal of life and energy. As the hardships of winter begin to fade and spring sets in, we are met not only with the relief the new season brings but also with the joy of experiencing new growth.

Maidens in white were also said to be commonly seen playing in the fields in historical times. This further strengthens the connection with youth. I believe this also implies an association with youthful, and pure, femininity. In this way, and through the activities of young women, we see a celebration of the evolution of the feminine throughout the lifetime. It was common for people to observe rituals, dances, or other celebrations of feminine fertility, beauty, and grace.

The expression of gentle femininity continues with the more matronly activities. We can see this manifest in traditions often led by our women such as egg painting, baking, and organizing games for the children just to name a few. This maternal interaction forms an essential part of the celebration of the cycle of a woman's life, as well as the innocence of childhood and the beauty of Motherhood.

In keeping with the theme of fertility, men's fertility was also commonly celebrated. In England, it was not uncommon for Maypoles to be erected and the dances to take place. This tradition directly references masculine fertility. Furthermore, the masculine may have been celebrated and expressed through dances of their own. Indeed, dancing seems to have been an integral part of the celebrations observed on Ostara. In fact, some sources say that Ostara herself can commonly be seen dancing.

The time of Ostara has also been long associated with love and romance. As the fertility of the land returns so is the pure love of man and woman reflected in this renewal of life. As this time is so often a celebration of fertility it is logical to see this as a time to celebrate also the beauty inherent in those relationships which may themselves create new life.

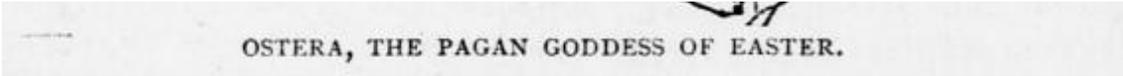
In celebrating this holiday, there are customs which have evolved over time. We are all

aware of the association with the Egg and Hare, which represent fertility. There is debate as to whether the egg was actually a part of Asatru tradition, or it was added to the holiday by later Christian revelers. I believe the significance of the egg could be argued to lay in the laying cycles of hens who cease laying during winter months and resume during spring, further highlighting the return of fertility to the land.

It was also common to hold bonfires and vigils, meant to create and protect purity. Indeed, many of the activities associated with May Day seem to have commonly been practiced on Ostara as well. This makes sense as if May Day serves often to celebrate fertility, it is Ostara which originally ushered it in.

# THE ORIGIN OF EASTER.





## OSTERA, THE PAGAN GODDESS OF EASTER.

Another custom observed is the cooking of Hot Cross Buns. Again, there are those who have suggested this is a custom done by later Christians, however I believe it was merely adapted. These buns could be seen as representing the Solar Cross and harken to Ostara who was known as the “*Goddess of the growing light of spring.*” -Jakob Grimm, Teutonic Mythology.

Grimm speculates on the nature of Ostara and some of the customs which survived in Folk Tradition:

*“Ostara, Eástre seems therefore to have been the divinity of the radiant dawn, of upspringing light, a spectacle that brings joy and blessing .... Bonfires were lighted at Easter and according to popular belief of long standing, the moment the sun rises on Easter Sunday morning, she gives three joyful leaps, she dances for joy ... Water drawn on the Easter morning is, like that at Yule, holy and healing ... Maidens clothed in white, who at Easter, at the season of returning spring, show themselves in clefts of the rock and on mountains, are suggestive of the ancient goddess.*

*But if we admit, goddesses, then, in addition to Nerthus, Ostara has the strongest claim to consideration. To what we said on p. 290 I can add some significant facts. The heathen Easter had much in common with May-feast and the reception of spring, particularly in the matter of bonfires. Then, through long ages there seem to have lingered among the people Easter-games so-called, which the church itself had to tolerate: I allude especially to the custom of Easter eggs, and to the Easter tale....”*

–Jakob Grimm, Teutonic Mythology Vol I. & II.

Spring is also a celebration of victory. Victory over the hardships of winter.

In ancient times winter was a far more difficult affair. Survival was by no means guaranteed, and without very careful planning and stockpiling throughout the year one could easily fall victim to the many dangers of a frozen tundra, not the least of which being starvation.

Today we have things much easier, yet winter is not without its challenges. From the common Seasonal Affective Disorder, to the difficulties of getting around, and worse, winter still presents a time of greater challenge for people around the world.

I also like to look at the metaphor of the winter of the soul. As we pass through difficult and challenging phases of our lives it can be easy to get lost in the metaphorical ice. Ostara, therefore, is a time that I believe we should all look upon the difficulties we

have overcome and to celebrate the renewal we have experienced and created for ourselves.

Just as new life springs up in the world around us, so too can it be nurtured within one's own soul.



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

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## Wisconsin

### *Polar Plunge*



This month in Wisconsin, Team AFA raised \$453 to support the Wisconsin Special Olympics! On March 4th, myself, James Ault, and Jessie Shaffer's family met up in Eau Claire to participate in their annual Polar Plunge!



Unfortunately James wasn't able to jump that day, but Jessie gladly took his place next to me. Shortly after the jump, we stopped off at the local Irish pub for some lunch and conversation before making the journey back home. I really appreciate the fact that our members are so willing to make these long drives to support each other, and I'm looking forward to start doing more things like this in the future.

### *Upcoming Events*



Bruce Perron  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[bperron@runestone.org](mailto:bperron@runestone.org)



*Wisconsin is Warming Up!*



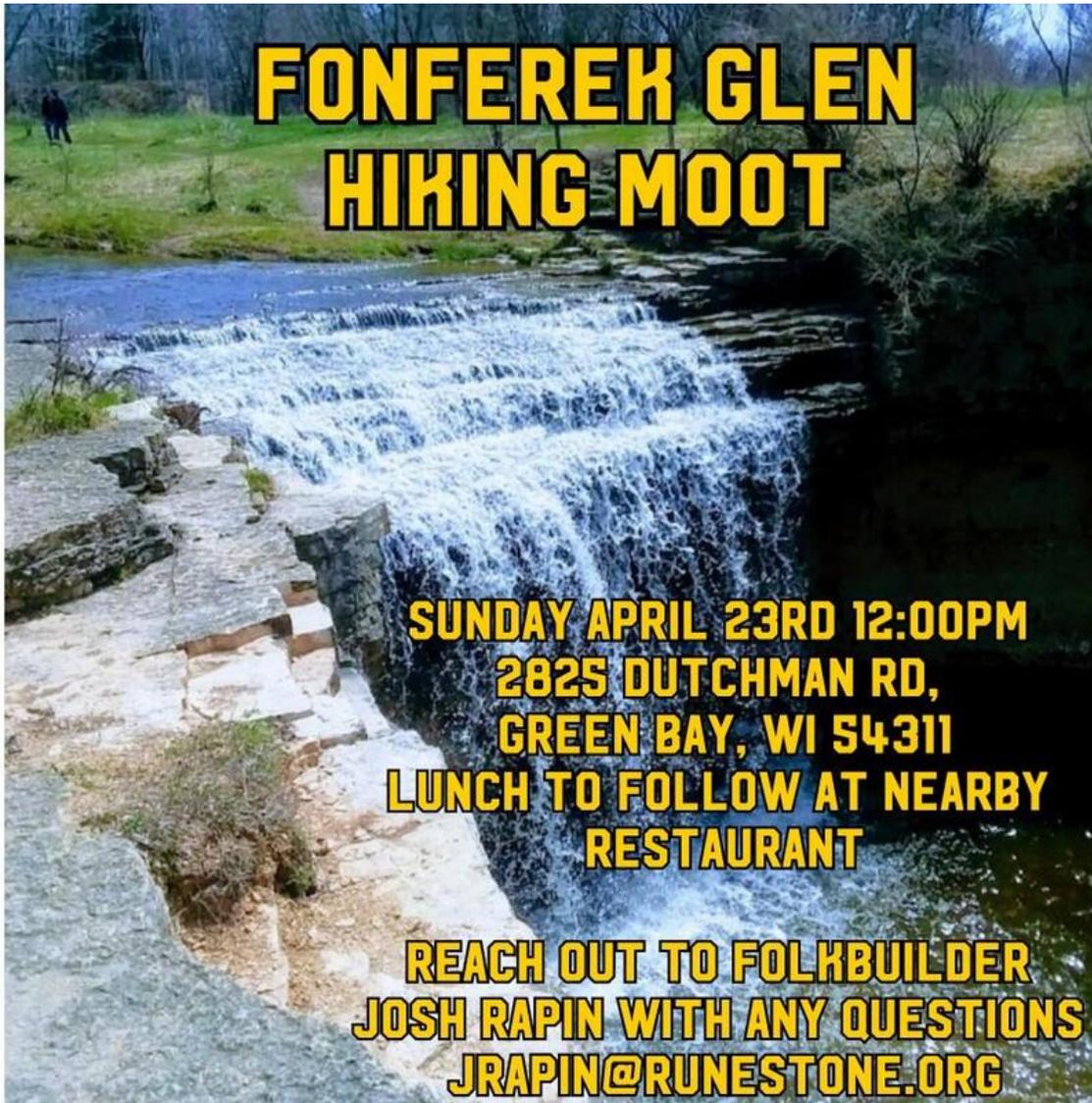
It's time again to share our fun Folk adventures from the Month! This month's Moot took us to a giant arcade and pizza place in Oshkosh WI! We had a great time seeing familiar faces and making new friends, eating way too much pizza & poutine myself it was so good! The kids all had a blast cleaning out all the claw machines with Kirsten! Lol. Check out these super fun pictures!





Until next month,  
Hail the Folk!  
Hail the Gods!  
Hail the AFA!

*Upcoming Events*



# FONFEREK GLEN HIKING MOOT

**SUNDAY APRIL 23RD 12:00PM  
2825 DUTCHMAN RD,  
GREEN BAY, WI 54311  
LUNCH TO FOLLOW AT NEARBY  
RESTAURANT**

**REACH OUT TO FOLKBUILDER  
JOSH RAPIN WITH ANY QUESTIONS  
JRAPIN@RUNESTONE.ORG**



Folkbuilder Josh Rapin

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

*Being Real*



The Right side of History may arc towards order but will fall into the hands of chaos if we are not willing to stand unapologetically strong. Fight for order and instill that into our future generations, in the form of Frith building and extending Grith with those who share our beliefs.

We alone will be responsible for our future, having to face our children and the children left behind from broken homes once they're adults who will reach out to us for guidance and we will have to explain how we allowed our present time to fall into such chaos. A return of normalcy (order) on our watch looks like, building Frith, extending Grith, building a family within the whole of the AFA.

When we say, "Welcome Home" as the AFA, it is so much more than just a saying, it is a culmination of our past, present, and future. In some religions it is known as being a "revert", not a "Convert" because you are returning to that which your blood memory drives you towards. You in fact are a future ancestor, make a bright and shining future and ensure that a horn be raised in your honor. Do not allow for personal fears or complacency, always expecting others to have our best interests at heart.

Be a doer such as Else Christiansen, known as our "Folkmother", who embraced our gods and goddesses, she was the first to reclaim our beliefs and make it acceptable as normal in the prison systems as a legitimate spiritual path because it is. This May 2023, there will be the 3rd annual AFA gathering to honor the Folkmother Else Christiansen. There will be a book and free access for all of her publications made available for our Folk soon.

In closing I would like to say that I encourage you to stand strong and love our folk. The AFA is leading the way for the future of Asatru, This is not a political thing, nor a leaflet drop or sticker thing that has never yielded anything positive. Being accountable, please get back to your roots and be a part of what's real... the AFA.

We are our deeds, We are future ancestors, Do Right, Fear No One!

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



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*For What It's Worth by Ron McVan*



There are two poems I switch between reading during the 3rd round of sumbel. "We Have This Day" by Christina Finlayson Taylor and this one by Ron McVan.

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For What it's Worth  
by Ron McVan

If you were to make your ancestors happy, show them by deeds, what your heart does hold. If you had only one living tomorrow, what would you value, more precious than gold? What is the urge, that awakes you each morning?

What purpose is a will, without honor and pride? What is the point and value of existing, if the goals which drive you, are empty inside?

You may chase worldly pleasures, live out life till it's done, and the moon will still rise,

and so will the sun. All the stars will still sparkle, the rivers they will flow, but the point of this poem, by now you must know.

Without roots from your heritage, without culture and pride, without love of your forebears and your gods by your side; without knowing through your blood, all the treasures therein, life's point, and its purpose... did not even begin!

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We are the future Ancestors, act accordingly!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



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