

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly

[View this email in your browser](#)



Baldrshof
Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.baldrshof.org



Donate to the AFA

Words from the Alsherjargothi



In July we celebrated Victory! Across the country and around the world, our AFA family celebrated the victories of the past year with our Gods. We also made commitments and asked for blessings on victories to come. At Óðinshof, in the sight of the Victory Father, I swore on the AFA's behalf, that this time next year, our Gods would be even prouder of us, and that our victories would increase. I need your help to fulfill this commitment!



July was the first month of our Victory Never Sleeps weekly live stream and podcast. I have always loved doing my monthly Live chats and this is the evolution of that. Each week I will bring on an AFA leader to answer all your questions and discuss Asatru. So far, this has been well received and we have had a great time doing them. A huge "thank you" goes to Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice who produces the show each week.

Please join us for these each week at 6 pm Pacific. You can participate on YouTube and Entropy. On Entropy we are able to take tips and super chats.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/asatrufolkassembly>

<http://EntropyStream.live/app/MattFlavel>

And if you can't listen live, you can always listen to the podcast at any time.

<https://open.spotify.com/show/0CULujeOav980SZbAMGk4f>

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

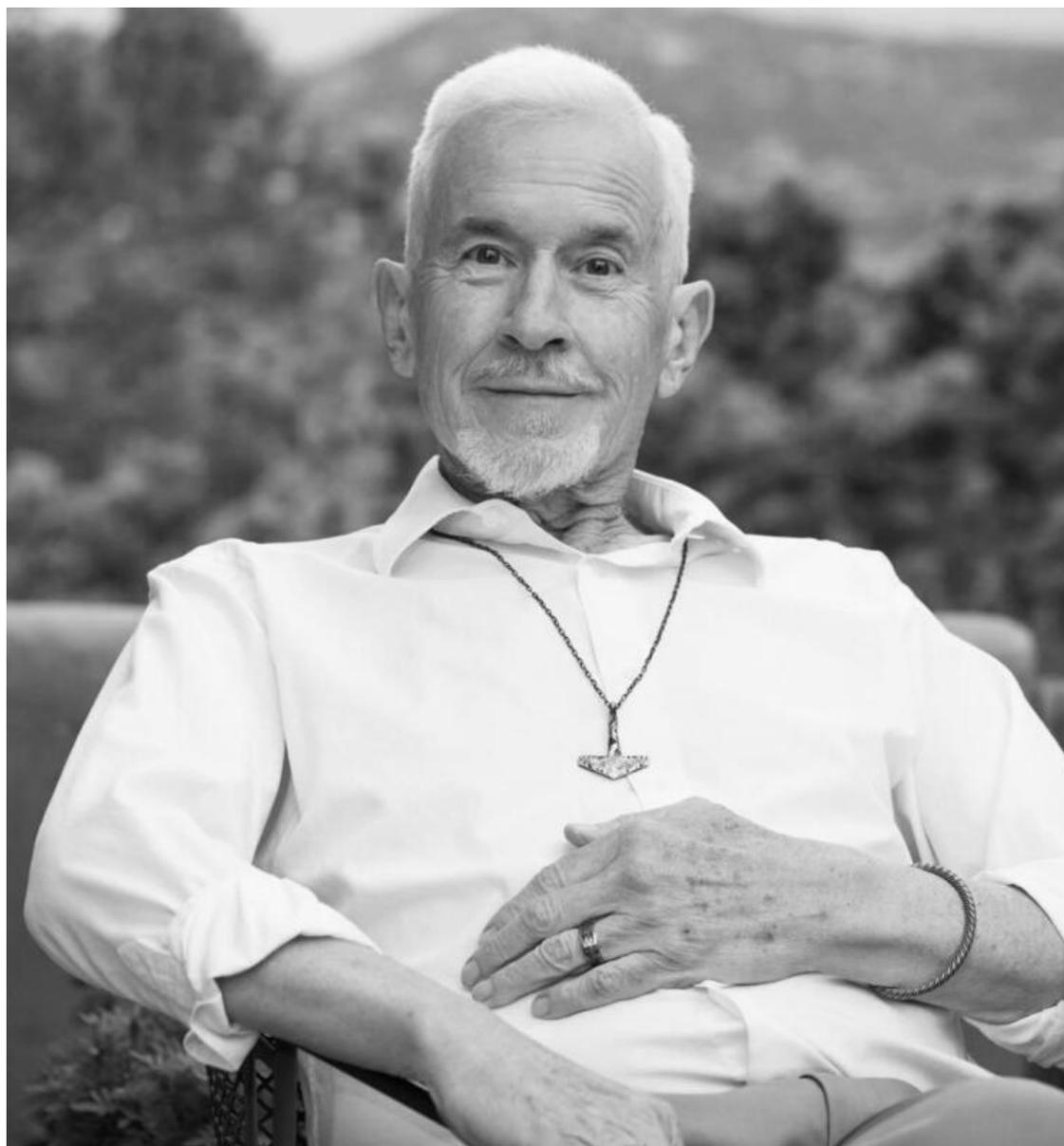
Hail the AFA!



mattflavel@runestone.org

Remembering Steve Chappelle

5/02/52 - 7/27/22



I am very sad to report that Steve passed away on Wednesday from pancreatic cancer. Steve has been an AFA member, on and off, for many years. We are honored that he

years, he will be deeply missed and remembered.

Hail Steve Chappelle!

Folk Futhark Part 2



ANSUZ- This is the rune of Odin and the Æsir in general. It relates to communication and connection with the Gods, as well as the gifts given to us by Odin and his brothers

The stave of this rune is the same as it is in the Elder Futhark, as you'll see below. One way to remember the meaning of Ansuz is to look at the shape and think of the vertical "spine" of the rune as representing Yggdrasil. From there, it has two arms reaching downward from the top this can be viewed as the Gods connecting with our Folk from their seat at the top of the World Tree.



RAIDHO- The rune of the ride, the ritual, and the right action. On top of these concepts, Raidho also represents natural law and the proper turning of the wheel in regard to life's various cycles. Additionally, our Gothar wears this rune on our rings,

This rune's stave is the Armanen rune called Rit, but it is very similar to the Elder Futhark stave. The only difference is that the 45-degree angle leg is shorter than the vertical 90-degree angle leg.



KENAZ- This rune translates roughly to "torch", which is fitting as it is a rune of traditions and passing from generation to generation. Kenaz is closely tied to Heimdall, Heaven's Ward, the Watchman of the Gods, born on the waves at the edge of the world.

The Folk Futhark stave for this rune is borrowed from the Younger and English Futharks. As you can see, it looks similar to a torch seated in a wall sconce, whereas the Elder Futhark stave looked more like the letter "C" made out of two sticks.



Gothi Trent East

teast@runestone.org

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



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

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

1. We need to pay off Njörðshof. (We have paid off 35%)
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 18%. (This is membership dues/hoftollar plus other donations)
3. We need to locate a suitable property.
4. We need to find lenders and build a war chest.

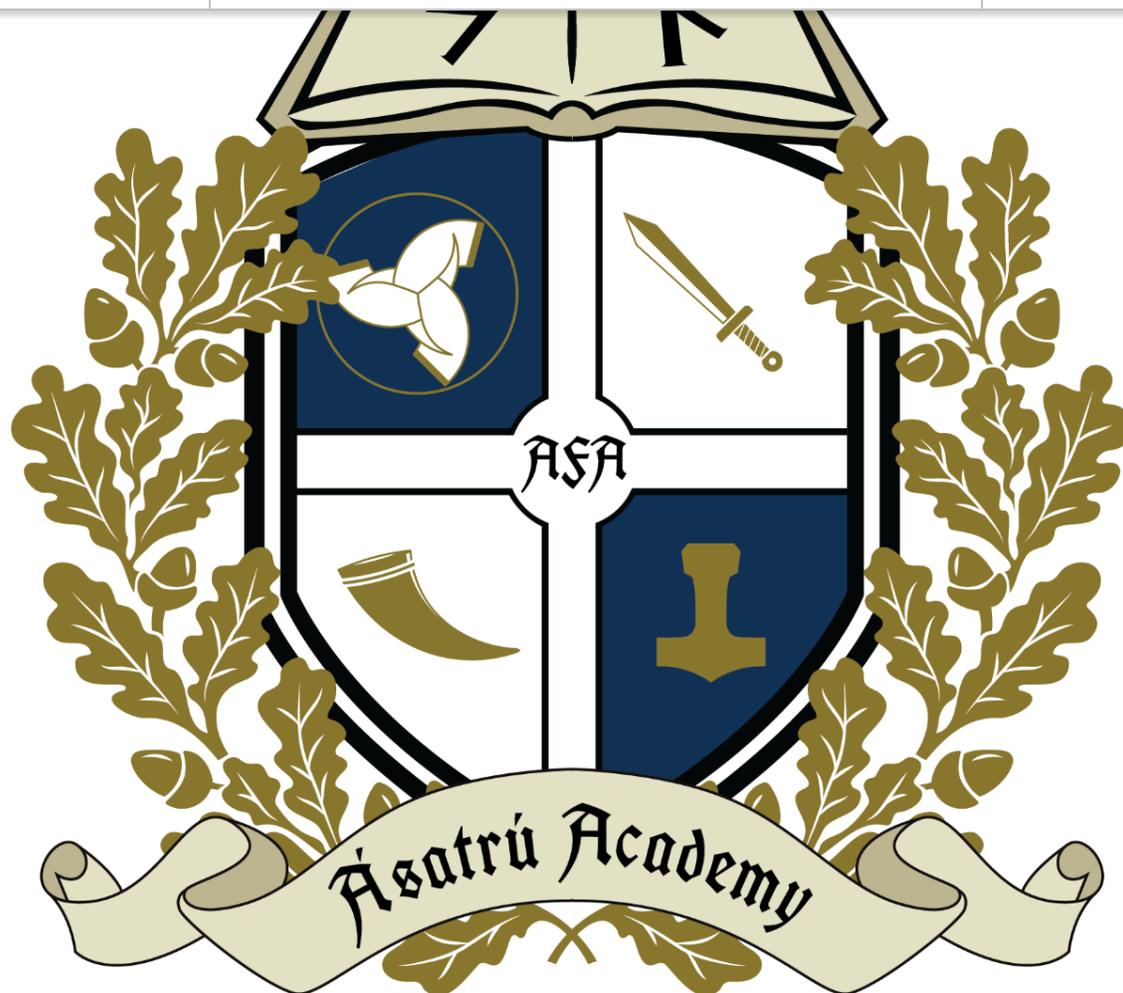
This is not a "quick" process so stay patient and resolute. As we progress, I will keep you all updated on our progress!

Hail Freyr!



Matthew D. Flavel
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly
mattflavel@runestone.org

AFA Homeschool Program



Register Here: [Welcome | Asatru Academy](#)

Greetings parents and students! Our school year begins on September 6th! Please look out for an email that will detail your specific state requirements and includes a letter of intent, if your state requires it. The email will be sent through our school's management system, QuickSchools. Please check your spam folders. You'll also receive an invite to our parent and student portal. It is absolutely vital you have access to these portals.

I'd also like to introduce you to your Academy Staff. Gythia Sheila McNallen is an experienced, licensed teacher, and will be your Assistant Dean of the curriculum. Folkbuilder Heather Young is your Assistant Dean of Students. Heather will be reaching out to all our parents, and is your asset to make sure your little Aryan is successful! Folkbuilder Ashley Stockton is our Admissions Director. Folkbuilder Rachel Johnson is our State Compliance Coordinator; she will make sure we are meeting all of your state's requirements. She brings a wealth of knowledge about homeschooling. Folkbuilders Sara Ault and Nick Rice are your Admin Secretaries. And Gythia Catie Erickson will also be assisting with the curriculum.

We have a wealth of volunteers outside leadership as well, who brings a lot of skills and experience. We are very proud to offer you a unique ásatrú-based education, steeped in AFA values.



Gothi Rob Stamm
Dean of AFA Academy
rstamm@runestone.org

Freyfaxi



Though Freyfaxi is, in name, a modern holiday the celebration around which it is centered is much older. Dedicated to Freyr, our ancestors celebrated the first harvest of the season. The most common offerings during Freyfaxi included sheaves of wheat, or other grains, and freshly baked loaves of bread. Less common was the sacrifice of a horse in honor of Freyr.

The beginning of the harvest season marked the beginning of hard work and dedication. Every harvest of the season was necessary to the survival of each family, of the community. This hard work ensured that there would be food to see them through the long winter months.

Take some time in the garden, as you pick the first offerings of your plants, to thank Freyr. Share with him some of that first harvest, along with bread and ale. Celebrate the God of Vitality and abundance with your family and folk.

Day of Remembrance

King Radbod of Frisia



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

his ancestors would be waiting for him in the Kingdom of Heaven. Upon being told that his pagan ancestors were burning in Hell Radbod refused the baptism, expressing that he would rather burn in Hell with his pagan ancestors than live in Heaven with beggars.

His rule, 680 – 719 CE, was spent fighting against the Frankish rule and banishing Christianity from his land. Despite losing to Pepin of Hertal on several occasions Radbod never gave up. While never successful in his lifetime, his successors continued the battle for many years after his death.

What can we learn from this story?

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

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

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



Gythia Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org

Remembrance and Holy Days



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

2022

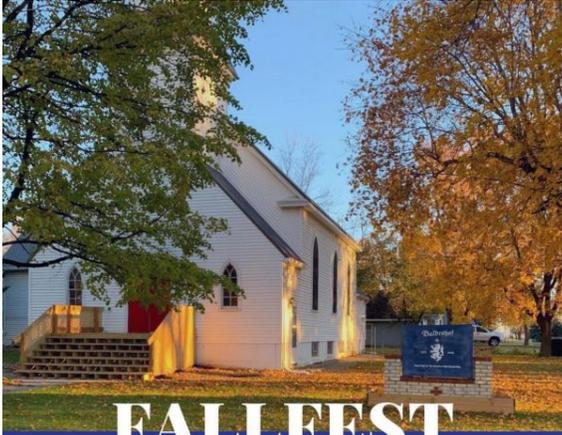
Date	Observance
January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 15	Porrablót
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 19	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olvir of Egg
March 20 (observed on 21st)	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 31 (observed on 16th)	Hexennacht
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
May 1 (observed on 21st)	May Day
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric of the Goths

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

Upcoming National Events

Fallfest at Baldrshof 2022

August 19th-21st



FALLFEST
At Baldrshof

Friday, August 19 – Sunday, August 21

TICKETS REQUIRED AND
AVAILABLE AT
WWW.RUNESTONE.ORG

CONTACT FOLKBUILDER
JASON GALLAGHER
FOR MORE INFO

JGALLAGHER@RUNESTONE.ORG

Fallfest is nearly here!

Tickets are still available on runestone.org and can be found in the store under the events section.

Pricing is as follows:

Single Member \$75

Member Family \$125

Non-Member Guest \$100

All guests must be vouched for!

If you need a ride from the airport or a recommendation on where to stay, please contact Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher at jgallagher@runestone.org

There are several hotels in the area. A few local folks have rooms available if needed. Members have also rented several bed and breakfasts and some still have beds available. There is also a site to camp not far away.

Fallfest Itinerary

Friday

8 am - Breakfast (True North Folk)

10 am - Else Dedication (Sara Ault/Brandy Callahan) followed by Fika (True North Folk)

11 am - Jaime Alaiinn Presentation

Noon - Lunch (Sygtyr Kindred)

1 pm - Nicholas Rice Presentation

3 pm - Welcoming of the Gods Blot (Nathan Erlandson) followed by afternoon tea (True North Folk) ***Children's Activity available downstairs (Sara Ault)

4 pm - Brandy Callahan Presentation

5 pm - Dinner (Joel Eastman)

6 pm - Nathan Erlandson Presentation

8 pm - Baldrsblot (Lawspeaker Allen Turnage) followed by Baldrsball

***Children's activity available downstairs

10 pm - Hof Closing

Saturday

8 am - Breakfast (Nick Rice / Jim Cummings / Josh Rapin)

10 am - Ancestor Dedication (Brandy Callahan) followed by Fika (True North Folk)

11 am - Leadership Q&A (Alsherjargothi, Lawspeaker, Witan)

Noon - Lunch (Northern Blood Kindred)

1 pm - Men's Group (Nathan Erlandson) / Women's Group (Brandy Callahan)

McStocker, Brandy Callahan)

3 pm - Afternoon Tea (True North Folk)

4 pm - Jim Cummings Presentation

4:30 pm - Freyfaxi Blot (Alsherjargothi Matthew Flavel)

5 pm - Dinner (James Ault / Shane Duffy)

6 pm - Auction (James Ault / Melisa Mills)

8 pm - Sumbel

***Children's activity available downstairs (Jessie Shaffer)

10 pm - Hof Closing

Sunday

8 am - Breakfast (True North Folk)

10 am - Wayfarer Blot (Witan Brandy Callahan)

***Children's Sumbel (Sara Ault)

12 pm - Hof close

Fallfest is the largest fundraiser of the year for Baldrshof. The monies raised at our auction and donation by the folk helping to pay for needed repairs, remodeling, and events at the Hof throughout the year.

Winter Nights 11 October 14th-16th



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

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

Your registration fee includes all workshops, lectures, meals, tent camping, and of

vouching for you that they will do so when asked about your registration.

Things to know:

Children 17 and under attend for free!

You will need to bring your own bedding and it can get chilly at night, so plan accordingly.

Tenting is encouraged! There are also hotels within 20 minutes of the camp.

Dogs are welcome but must be leashed at all times and are not permitted in common indoor areas such as the dining hall.

The camp location will be provided upon registration.

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

Member Family – Weekend: \$150

Member – Weekend: \$100

Member – Daypass: \$50

Guest – Weekend: \$125

Guest – Daypass: \$60

Child – Weekend: Free

Child – Daypass: Free

Feast of the Einherjar 2022

November 10th-13th



Register Here: [Feast of the Einherjar 2022 Nov. 10th-13th – Asatru Folk Assembly](https://runestone.org/feast-of-the-einherjar-2022)
(runestone.org)

Presentations, Games, feasting, and Blots!



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Be A Doer



We need you to volunteer for the AFA!

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

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

Baby Blanket Project

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

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

If you are a member of the AFA who is expecting a baby, please let your Folkbuilder know so we can get a blanket to you. If you would like to contribute, either financially or by volunteering as a baby blanket crafter, let your Folkbuilder know about that as

being loved by our little heathens!

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



Folk Services



For some, it may be a natural disaster. For others an unexpected change in health, and for some just an unforeseen chain of events. Whatever the case may be sometimes we find ourselves in a sticky situation, and although we try and to work and do our best to pull ourselves out, sometimes we may need the help of our Folk community to give us a hand up...

That's when our folks Services Program comes in. We give one-time monetary grants to those members in need. These folks are so grateful and we know that once they get back on track they will contribute to this fund. For those that are able, we are in need of funds so we can be prepared for when these situations arise in our community. If you're able please place a donation today. Even a small donation adds up in the grand scheme of things and even \$5 or \$10 can help if enough people pitch in. If even a fraction of the folks who like the page did that each month, imagine the possibilities!

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

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

Photo Donations

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



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

Eir's Blessings



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

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

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

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

Last Will and Testament

Recently, several members of our AFA family have passed beyond the veil. One was

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

Ancestral Food and Culture



Cook the meat (beef or lamb) with diced onions and mushrooms. Drain the grease. Boil potatoes and then mash. Add butter, milk, salt, and pepper. Take a can of regular corn and a can of creamed corn and mix them. Put the meat mix in a 9x3 pan or casserole dish. Spread the corn over the meat mix and after spreading the mashed potatoes on top. Cut up some butter and dot it and sprinkle paprika. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes or until it's golden on top. Enjoy!



Folkbuilder Timothy Dumas
tdumas@runestone.org



In case you missed it last month, we are tracking the growth of our Folk by presenting 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 in and a place where they can feel proud of who they are!

Total babies born in 2022: 24



Jessica Keller
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jkeller@runestone.org

Now Available in the AFA Store

\$25.00 - \$28.00



Buy Now: [Njordshof Tank Top – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](https://runestone.org/njordshof-tank-top)

We will gather this month on Aug 12-13 to dedicate the Hall of Njord! We are happy to give him a home with his folk in Midgard.

In honor of that, our store spotlight is on Njordshof and the new Njordshof tank top!

Get over to Runestone.org and get one! (Or 2...or 3..)



Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

mmills@runestone.org



This month at Baldrshof, we have again been so fortunate to have FANTASTIC donators. Each month, we have an abundance of frozen goods, dry goods, beverages, and toiletries. This month, alongside our work weekend (during which we were honored to host Gothi Stamm to work on some outdoor wood carvings), we were able to assist 12 families in the community with enough goods for at least 9 meals. Need I remind everyone that we are home to a community of just over 200 people, so this is a huge percentage of the town.



The Murdock city manager continues to post our monthly food pantry in the city newsletter. The local (and only) gas station allows us to advertise via flyers as well as brings us up to their regulars in chit-chat. Additionally, we have continuously heard that the Baptist church in Benson announces our food pantry each week at the end of their service on Sundays.



THIS is what progress looks (and sounds) like and we are only looking to grow and grow to build up the community we travel to, to hail our beloved Baldr and Nanna. Hail the Doers!!



Folkbuilder Ashley Mcstocker
amcstocker@runestone.org

Sigrblot at Baldrshof



Sigrblót in Baldrshof took place during a blessedly cool day amidst the unusually hot weather this summer has brought. Despite setbacks, the Folk overcame the challenges presented by the unexpected to assemble.

Blót was made and the gathered Folk spoke to personal victories before Honour was given to the Allfather with resounding energy. Afterwards, the young ones were treated to rides on a miniature vehicle to their great enjoyment.

This Blót calls to mind the importance of always striving to overcome whatever challenges are set forth and seek victory in all things. It also points out the importance of recognizing our own victories and praising ourselves for them.

Against the many challenges presented, good Folk are still making it out regularly to work and build in honour of the Shining One. Additionally, the Hof has received many donations from generous Folk who have given much.

Thank you to all who attended Blót and to those who work and donate so much for the good of the Hof!

We very much look forward to the next event, Fallfest! Make sure to get in touch with Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher if you would like to know more. He can be contacted at jgallagher@runestone.org.



Cormag Àlainn
Apprentice Folkbuilder
calainn@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Baldrshof



Baldershof Calendar 2022

- 1/15 - Food Shelf
- 1/22 - Thorrablot
- 2/19 - Charming of the Plow / Food Shelf
- 3/18 - 3/20 - Ostara
- 3/19 - Food Shelf
- 4/16 - Food Shelf
- 4/30 - May Day
- 5/21 - Food Shelf
- 6/18 - Food Shelf
- 6/24 - 6/26 - Midsummer
- 7/16 - Food Shelf
- 7/23 - Sigrblot
- 8/19 - 8/21 - Fallfest
- 9/17 - Food Shelf
- 10/15 - Food Shelf
- 10/29 - Winternights
- 11/19 - Food Shelf
- 11/26 - Folksgiving & Feast of the Einherjar
- 12/9 - 12/11 - Yule
- 12/17 - Food Shelf



Baldrshof District Meeting

ALL BALDRSHOF DISTRICT MEMBERS OF THE AFA
ARE INVITED TO JOIN THEIR FOLK ON
A DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP CALL.

Thursday, August 25
8 pm central

Presentations by:

WITAN
CLIFFORD
ERICKSON

PRINCE HERMANN
OF THE CHERUSCI

WITAN
SVAN HERUL

FOLK FUTHARK

LAWSPEAKER
ALLEN TURNAGE

WINTER
FINDING

OUR MEMBERSHIP CALL WILL TAKE PLACE VIA TEAMS
THROUGH AN INVITATION LINK.
CONTACT WITAN BRANDY CALLAHAN FOR DETAILS
OR FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ON BALDRSHOF MEWE EVENT



Baldrshof
Women's Book
Study

Friday, August 26

7 pm central

Deep Ancestors by Ceisiwr Serith

Contact Witan Brandy Callahan

bcallahan@runestone.org

AFA LADIES COFFEE & CROCHET

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

10 AM CENTRAL

MEET WITH YOUR AFA SISTERS &
FRIENDS FOR CONVERSATION AND
FIBER ARTS!

CONTACT WITAN BRANDY CALLAHAN
[BCALLAHAN@RUNESTONE.ORG](mailto:bcallahan@runestone.org)
VIRTUAL MEETING IS VIA TEAMS.
MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE
IN THE AFA LADIES GROUP
IN THE EVENTS SECTION



Illinois

Hail from Illinois!



We are officially into the second half of the year, and what a bountiful harvest it has been!

Northern Illinois held a hike and cookout to venerate Sigrblót. Part of this was introducing a newer member to our circle and having him take part in a Blót for the first time. We all discussed the year passed since last July, and the trials and rewards we saw. Besides meeting a member who joined earlier this year, we also had a brand new member join this month. This is on top of victories as an Assembly, and personal victories within our families or at our jobs.



With that energy, we projected from our hearts into the mead horn, we offered them to the flame, purified by Westya and Ing, and delivered to the Sigtyr, All-Father Odin.



Through Blòt, I am reminded of the importance of the Hearth and Home. This, of course, can be any gathering space for public or domestic rituals. That is our home at that moment. It is our Mitgart, drawing in from the corners of Utgart. We draw inward, focus inward as a Kindred, Folk, or Church. We bring "impurities" with us... This of course can be as simple as the distractions life brings us. Pride in our duties and accomplishments is fine and natural, but always remember where it falls in the grand scheme. Always bring a piece of yourself and your harvest back home to offer up. Always purify your gifts, hence the importance of the home and hearth. It gives us a safe, warm place and a flame to deliver our gifts.

Upcoming Events



August will be another month to remember with a joint effort with Wisconsin Folk for Freyfaxi, as well as traveling to Baldrshof for FallFest!



Please make sure to join us for Winter Nights with the Hrafnagud Kindred! It's poised to be even bigger and better than last year!



Wotan by the Water



July was an amazing month, and we were thrilled to kick it by traveling to the northern part of the state to meet up for a moot at a park for good times filled with conversation and comradery and food that was halfway decent (I'll take the blame on that, haha). We watched a really good video from Alsherjargothi Flavel on Alexander Rud Mills and had quite a bit of discussion on his life, works, and honorable actions.



We were lucky to have the Aults come down from Wisconsin to join us in the revelry.



Folkbuilder James was kind enough to lead us in an amazing blot empowering the victories of our kith and kin, imploring Odin to awaken the Folksoul, and honoring Rud Mills for his impact on people.

Southern Illinois is poised to make a push north in mid-month to join with Hrafnagud Kindred in celebration of FreyFaxi, and then a couple of us will be following that up the week after with a trip to Baldrshof for FallFest.



A Tale of Two Sacrifices



Since Shane organized the hike moot this month for Hrafnagud Kindred in Illinois, I will let him comment on that and share some reflections on the nature of the Allfather's sacrifices...



A Tale of Two Sacrifices

*I wot that I hung on the wind-tossed tree
 All of nights nine,
 Wounded by spear,
 A sacrifice to Odin,
 A sacrifice of Myself to Myself,
 Upon that tree of which none will tell
 From which roots it doth rise.
 Neither horn they upheld nor handed me bread;
 I looked below me –
 Aloud I cried –
 Caught up the runes, caught them up wailing,
 Thence to the ground fell again
 Havamal 138-139*

Any spirituality, at its core, is defined by its most important myths. These will impact not only the adherent's belief system but how they live their lives and view the world around them – their Weltanschauung. The core myth of Christianity is the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Some of the most important parts of our Lore concern the sacrifices made by Odin, and what was gained by them. Let's review and contrast these two stories, and consider the potential psycho-spiritual impact on believers in both faiths.

“I Did It for You, Man!” – Jesus' Sacrifice

One of the most well-known, and oft-quoted, passages of the Christian bible is John, 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” At face value, this sounds nice. God loves you and killed his only son for your benefit. However, the real heart of the

Why did Jesus need to be sacrificed? – Because each and every human is born in “sin”, stained and irredeemable. Destined, without the sacrifice of Christ, not just to “perish”, but to spend eternity in everlasting torment (in Hell, which the omniscient God so full of love had the foresight to prepare for them). There is no way that any individual can save themselves – no achievement, no personal sacrifice, no level of piety is sufficient, saving by the “grace” they receive through Christ’s torment and crucifixion.

Why was Jesus the sacrifice, rather than someone/something else? – According to Christian theology, Jesus, as part of the holy trinity, “consubstantial” with his father and the holy ghost, was perfect – an unblemished offering. The sacrifice of some human, or an animal, wouldn’t do. Only the suffering and death of the “best” could expiate all the sins from us dirty, dirty sinners.

Now, let’s extrapolate what the implications of the acceptance of this myth will be on a Christian’s psyche and way of engaging with the world. Whether consciously or subconsciously the impressions this belief imbues on the Christian’s mind include:

Ultimately, you are worthless in and of yourself. You were conceived in sin, and born tainted by original sin. Like everyone else on Earth, you deserve to be cast into a pit of flames. Only “grace” provides an escape route for your unworthy hide.

You should emulate Jesus, and sacrifice yourself for the most wretched. “Take up your cross” and follow Jesus’ example. Since you have no real value, renounce pride and embrace altruism ‘til it hurts. Do everything you can for those who can’t or won’t do for themselves. And don’t forget to forgive them, no matter what, even if they kill someone you love.

These are just two of the many ways the roots of Christian theology/philosophy impact people’s minds, their lives, and the way society functions. All the other moral precepts associated with that faith, that have seeped into the collective unconscious of our people for centuries – for millennia! – rotate around these core beliefs. Friedrich Nietzsche commented on the results of this in [Beyond Good and Evil](#):

“How much more did they (the “spiritual” men of Christianity) have to do besides to worsen the European race? ...Stand all evaluations on their head – that is what they had to do! And smash the strong, sickly o’er great hopes, cast suspicion on the joy in beauty, bend everything haughty, manly, conquering, domineering, all the instincts characteristic of the highest and best turned out type of “man”, into unsureness, agony of conscience, self-destruction, indeed invert the whole love of the earthly and of dominion over the earth and the earthly – that is the task the church posed for itself...”

The Allfather's sacrifices were twofold – himself, on Yggdrasil, as described in the Havamal, as well as his eye, in the Well of Mimir. Since the former is more comparable to the crucifixion myth, we will focus on that here.

Odin is on a perpetual quest “for more wisdom, knowledge, and power; self-transformation, self-evolution.” The runes contain within them mysteries of power and wisdom. Understanding and mastery of them at the level the Allfather sought allows not just greater potency in dealing with externals (the Cosmos, the forces of chaos and order, etc), but also opens the doors to a higher ability to mold, or intentionally evolve, the Self.

The ordered universe is hierarchical. The higher in the hierarchy a being is, the greater his or her potential. Mortals such as ourselves can certainly use the runes, meditate on their secrets, and let them serve as a tool in our own self-evolution. However, the immortal Gods have access, by their very nature, to utilize the runes at a higher level, with greater results. But Odin sought, even more, to know and utilize the runes beyond the ability of even other Gods – beyond the capability of any living being. The God that approached Yggdrasil preparing to sacrifice himself knew that he would need to “die” in order to reach the plane of existence required to fully “own” the runes.

So, when Odin hung himself from the Tree of Life, pierced by Gungnir, did he actually die, and come back to life? Yes, and no. Keep in mind we are speaking of an entity much different than a man, despite those characteristics He might share with us. Hanging from Yggdrasil, Allfather “killed” his Lower Self as a sacrifice to his Higher Self. This metamorphosized him into something more, something greater than he was before. The Higher Self Odin shed of the vestiges of chaos in his Lower Self, was able to “catch up the runes” in all their mystery and power.

Once this “new and improved” Odin “to the ground fell again”, he was not only more powerful but had greater potential to evolve yet further. We can glean this from the following verses of the Havamal, where He tells us:

*Then I learned to make myself fruitful
And to be well-informed
To grow and thrive as well;
Words from me sought words,
Deeds from me sought deeds.
Havamal 141*

Above, we extrapolated on what the crucifixion myth, and its philosophical baggage, meant to the psyche and spirit of the Christian adherent. Now, let's consider what the psycho-spiritual influence of Odin's example might be on the practicing Asatruar:

and Ve formed Ask and Embla (*formed*, not created *ex nihilo*), imbuing them with a portion of their divine spirit and intelligence, they did so with the knowledge that these spiritual children were inherently *good* – and with an expectation that our race would “grow and thrive” as well, as partners in maintaining the Cosmic Order.

The Allfather has no fear, as Yahweh did in regard to Adam and Eve, that his children will somehow threaten him by becoming more than they were. He wants, indeed demands, that we become wiser, stronger, and greater – spiritually and temporally – than we were before. Here the example of Odin’s sacrifice is instructional. We are to diminish and destroy our *Lower Self* – those chaotic traits and impulses inside us – in order that a new *Higher Self* may be born.

No, we certainly should not do this by hanging or impaling ourselves. Remember, while we share some of the Gods divine intelligence and spirit, we are lesser beings in the Cosmic hierarchy, and the physical and moral laws that apply to them do not apply equally to us.

Rather, our self-sacrifice (*Lower Self* sacrifice) must be done through a focused realization of our weaknesses and faults, followed by determined, planned actions impacting every aspect of our being – spiritual, mental, and physical. This is not motivated by the hyper altruism of the Christian, but for ourselves, our Gods, and our people.

Such a path is a hard and demanding one.

But the Allfather is a hard and demanding God.



Folkbuilder James Cummings

jcumings@runestone.org

Minnesota

So Much to Do



July was filled with hard work and tears of sadness and joy. Food shelf pick-up, Baldrshof work weekend & meeting Godi Rob Stamm, the funeral of Martin Rojas, victories of Sigrblot at Baldrshof, and an amazing moot at Storybook Land in South Dakota that will have lasting memories for our children and folk.

Storybook Land was an amazing weekend. The weather was great, parks were awesome(and free), lake-floaties-kubb were so much fun, and food, fires, and evening blot were a great way to end the enjoyment of the night. There was a great sense of community and Frith built amongst the men, women, and children. I can't wait to do it again!

Back to School Supply Drive

Asatru Folk Assembly Presents

BACK to School

SUPPLY DRIVE

What We Need:
Pencils, pens, paper, folders, binders, back-packs, highlighters, crayons, markers, glue, tape, calculators, notebooks, erasers, rulers, sharpies, composition books, gift cards, scissors, etc.

If you are able to contribute or can use some supplies
Contact
amcstocker@runestone.org
or
Jshaffer@runestone.org

Made with PosterMyWall.com

August is Fallfest at Baldrshof, and this year, we will be filling backpacks for the food pantry recipients and locals. You can bring donations to Fallfest or contact us for other options.

We encourage any folk in need of any school supplies for their children to reach out to Ashley McStocker (amcstocker@runestone.org), Jessie Shaffer (jshaffer@runestone.org), or your local folkbuilder with your needs. Your AFA Family is here to help!



jshaffer@runestone.org

Remembering Martin Rojas, 10/20/92-6/24/22



On July 23rd, several local members from Baldrshof attended the funeral for our beloved brother Martin Rojas. Martin wasn't with us for very long, but he made a huge impact on us in the little time we knew him. Over the years, I have met many people and have never seen anyone make an impact as he did. We met his sister, and she said that his last few months with the AFA were some of the happiest times of his life. The hardest part of Folkbuilding for me is losing people, whether in death or by choice to move on.

Baldr's Godpole



Gothi Rob Stamm flew in From Virginia to carve the Baldr God pole at Baldrshof during the July work day.



Thank you Gothi Stamm for all your hard work! It turned out amazing and will stand until the end of time.



Folkish Family Freyfaxi



Northern Blood is proud to host our sixth annual Folkish Family Freyfaxi and Crafting Day on August 14th. We have come a long way in the last 6 years and I want to thank everyone who helped build our area up from nothing.

Hail the Doers!

AFA Fallfest 7



The Summer has flown by fast! AFA Fallfest 7 at Baldrshof is only two weeks away.

Please register if you have not yet, [Fallfest at Baldrshof 2022 Aug19-21 – Asatru Folk Assembly](#).

If you are flying in and need a ride to and from the airport, please email me at jgallagher@runestone.org. This year is going to be the best Fallfest ever!



Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher
jgallagher@runestone.org



The year is swiftly picking up pace as it usually does at this time! The rest of the year sees us all coming together for monthly holidays and national events. And it's the most exciting time of the year!

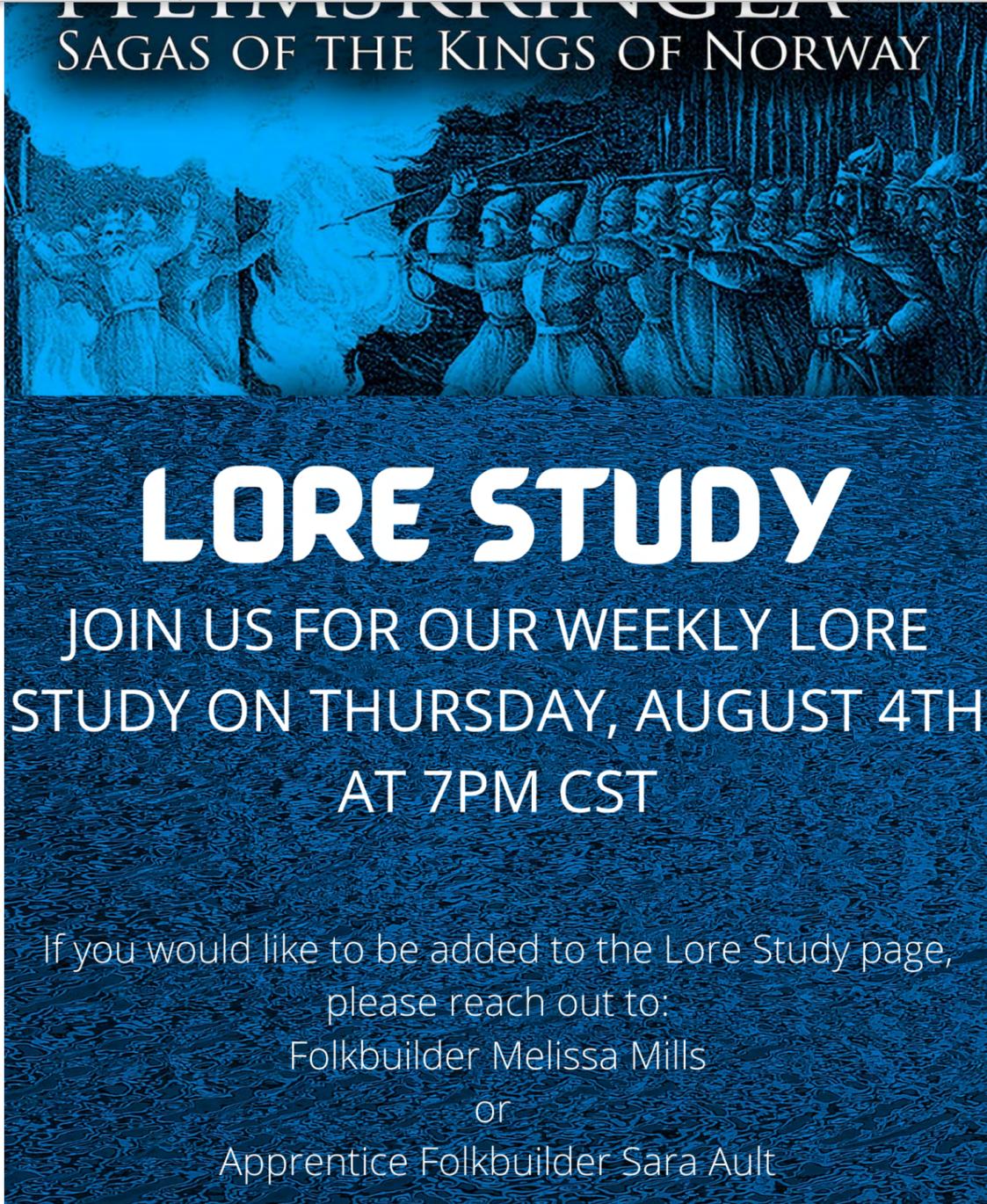
This month we have met up with our folk across state lines and are gearing up for travel to Fallfest and the much anticipated Njordshof dedication!

In July, we also got together with our Folk from Indiana and Arkansas to welcome a new member home here in eastern MO. Remember, if an event is not planned in your area, invite us! We will make it happen! "If you invite us, we will come." 😊

Also, don't wait for "official" get-togethers. If something is happening that you think our folk would enjoy, reach out! I would be happy to help you create events and get the word out so that we can all get together!

Upcoming Events

THE FOLKBOUILDER SAGAS OF THE KINGS OF NORWAY



LORE STUDY

JOIN US FOR OUR WEEKLY LORE
STUDY ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 4TH
AT 7PM CST

If you would like to be added to the Lore Study page,
please reach out to:

Folkbuilder Melissa Mills

or

Apprentice Folkbuilder Sara Ault

We have a lore study every Thursday evening at 7 pm CST. Open to all AFA members! The last meet-up of the month is review/trivia night WITH PRIZES! Contact me or Apprentice Folkbuilder Sara Ault to be added to the MeWe group so you can get the links to participate and the links to our free resources!

If you're in AFA leadership and interested in reading and discussing books on leadership, PR, goal setting, and time management, reach out to me to join the Leadership Excellence group.

And we have a lot coming up!

Here are some of our upcoming events!

FREYFAXI

SPRINGFIELD MO



SEPTEMBER 3RD 1PM TILL ?

Contact Folkbuilders Melisa Mills, Jesse Parton or Michael Sessumes for details!



IRISH FEST

Kansas City MO

4th SEPT	Live Music, whiskey, great folk & Good Food	TIME 1pm
--------------------	---	--------------------

Crown Center Kansas City MO
Get tickets @ kcirishfest.com

RSVP Contact Folk Builder Melisa Mills or Brook McCormick and Aspen Lyra

A promotional graphic for Oktoberfest. The background is a dark, textured surface. In the top left, there is a glass of beer with a thick head of foam, a dark beer bottle, and several golden-brown pretzels. A blue and white checkered cloth is partially visible behind the bottle and pretzels. The text is centered and reads: "Let's Celebrate !", "OKTOBER", "FEST", "September 17, 2022", "Abilene KS @2pm", and "Contact Folkbuilder Melisa Mills or Aspen Lyra For more details".

Let's Celebrate !

OKTOBER FEST

September 17, 2022

Abilene KS @2pm

Contact Folkbuilder Melisa Mills or Aspen
Lyra For more details



SUN 16TH OCTOBER

HAUNTED HUZZAH

AT THE KC RENFEST

Family fun!

ENTERTAINMENT | FOOD | MUSIC

MEET AT 10AM
FOR DISCOUNTED TICKETS PURCHASE
IN ADVANCE AT KCRENFEST.COM
PLEASE RSVP TO FOLKBUILDER MELISA MILLS OR ASPEN
LYRA OR BROOK MCCORMICK



Folkbuilder Melisa Mills
mmills@runestone.org





Members from Wisconsin attended the 43rd annual Pulaski Polka Days. It is one of the biggest polka festivals in America. Polka Days is an annual festival that lasts for four days and brings thousands of visitors from all over the world to hear some of the very best polka bands in the world. Polka is the official state dance of Wisconsin and this small Polish town does it right.

Our small group gathered on a rather hot and humid day to listen to over 20 bands in three different tents play some of the liveliest polka music that it was hard not to smile at all the couples giving it their all on the dance floor. Early in the day, they even had instructors teaching the basic steps of the polka and how not to overdo your steps, so you can easily polka the night away. We learned that the correct dance is either a 2-2 or 4-4 step and not the 1-2-3 that some people see it as. It was wonderful to see all the happy faces of the dancers from the elder couples to the little children. It was also exciting to see bands comprised of younger people. It is always a good thing to see the traditions of our Folk passed on to the next generation.

lots of happiness!

Hail the Polish people!

Hail the AFA!

Wisconsin Sigrblot



On an incredibly beautiful day, members in Wisconsin attempted to meet up at one of Wisconsin's most famous state parks. The park has many famous rock formations and waterfalls. Apparently, everyone else in the state had the same idea as the park was swarming with hundreds of attendees, making it impossible to park anywhere near the

We found a beautiful park by a kayaking river and a picnic table in the shade. Everyone relaxed and settled in as lunch was set up. Having a brand-new member, the conversation turned to how each of us had found our way home. Over hours of conversation, bonds were made and reaffirmed. Folkbuilder James Ault explained what Sigrblot was and means to us today. He talked about how important striving for Victory is in our lives. We walked down to the river for Blot. He started by explaining the different components of the Blot for those who had never participated in one before. As he was talking with the menfolk on this, I took the mead and horn to imbue with positive feminine energy and the hope for healthy babies. Folkbuilder Ault then led Blot. The smiling, happy faces afterward showed how wonderful and bonding the day turned out to be. One member even mentioned, on leaving, that he had completely forgotten the early problems of the day and used that to give an example of how important it is to come together as Folk to Blot. We left with happy hearts, renewed bonds, and new friendships.

Hail Victory!

Hail the AFA!

Upcoming Events



**GOING BACK TO
WHERE IT ALL STARTED.
PLEASE JOIN US
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 AT 11 AM
FOR A CELEBRATION
OF
LOVE AND LIFE**

**THE AULT FAMILY INVITES YOU TO JOIN
THEM AT MENOMINEE PARK IN OSHKOSH WI
TO CELEBRATE THE GROWTH OF THE AFA
AND THEIR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.**

**THERE WILL BE A FEAST SERVED, A RENEWING OF
DEDICATION, A WALK THROUGH THE ZOO, AND GOOD
COMPANY.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
FOLKBUILDER JAMES AULT
JAULT@RUNESTONE.ORG
OR
APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDER SARA AULT
SAULT@RUNESTONE.ORG**



**IN WISCONSIN TO CELEBRATE A
REMEMBRANCE DAY
FOR
PRINCE HERMANN
OF
THE CHERUSCISI**

**SEPTEMBER 10 AT 11AM
WE WILL MEET AT CHEROKEE PARK
IN COLBY WI.
A PICNIC LUNCH WILL BE
PROVIDED.**

CONTACT APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDER SARA AULT
FOR MORE INFORMATION.
[SAULT@RUNESTONE.ORG](mailto:sault@runestone.org)



Sara Ault
Apprentice Folkbuilder
sault@runestone.org

Vatnafolk in the Sand!



As we count down our ever-shortening days till Fallfest and wonderful times with our folk there, it's extremely fortunate that I have been able to spend time with some of our wonderful Folk here at home in Wisconsin as well!

We had a moot earlier this month at the beautiful Seven Bridges Park outside of Milwaukee WI! Thankfully on the very hot day, the Sprecher Family, a notable Wisconsin brewer and soda maker, was putting on a Beer Garden, so a cool drink was enjoyed by all before heading out on our hiking Adventure.

Our mission was clear: to find the spot which we would Hail the High One from, We set out down to the Lake Michigan shoreline!!! A wonderful place found we raised a horn to Odin to offer our gifts to him!

The kids enjoyed playing along the shoreline with the dog and collecting rocks before we head back for the playground and a delicious picnic lunch made by Kirsten!!! A very beautiful day!

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

Folkbuilder Josh Rapin
jrapin@runestone.org



The Young Tree



Reflecting on the growth of a young tree reminds me of the failed Biosphere projects; The trees grew tall but suffered from etiolation, a process where they don't get enough light and causes weak and yellowing of leaves. Also, the soil within the biospheres became overrun with harmful bacteria.

In nature, the tree is subjected to all sorts of weather which are stressful to the tree.

These stressful factors are used as encouragement for the tree to dig its roots deep and far and strengthen its branches.

It can be seen in most countries that have adopted today's mainstream societal views that an artificial environment has been developed and demands that we raise our

This model has led to a generation of unrighteous self-entitled frail men and women who meltdown over a social media post or not getting their way and will continue to evolve or rather devolve as it has already to the point that many adults have rejoined the workforce because these generations will go down in history as being the ones who are proud of doing nothing.

Our families are our trees.

We are responsible and will benefit or suffer from what environment we grow our children in.

It is not too late for those who were grown in a biosphere, we can break the glass and free them.

Set an example for our youth, set expectations, hold them accountable, praise their achievement, and do not helicopter parent. Teach them discipline and how to defend their beliefs as well as themselves physically and when to do so.

We are known by our deeds.

Our youth is our charge. Allow them to experience some of the natural stress factors of life or raise weak trees that will uproot easily at the first hard wind.

I'm not saying that we shouldn't protect them from some factors until they are strong enough to survive on their own;

Like when we put a cage around trees to keep predatory animals from eating their foliage and protect them, know that when the little one gets punched in the face in school or the playground it's not the end of the world, children often self-regulate, again, this is where we lead by example.

Grow strong trees that will be able to weather life's stresses.

Those who have swords and know how to use them and when to keep them sheathed will inherit the earth.

Upcoming Events



GEMEUTLICHKEIT DAYS

Please join us in Jefferson, WI to
celebrate German Heritage on
September 17 at 10 am.

This community festival has been going on for over 50 years to share the beautiful culture the German settlers brought to Wisconsin. Enjoy music, a classic car show, dancing, cultural demonstrations, and amazing food.

For more information contact:

Folkbuilder James Ault jault@runestone.org

ADOPT A HIGHWAY CLEAN UP.

Please join us in Wisconsin on
September 25 at 10 am to clean up the
AFA's 2 mile stretch of highway.

A picnic lunch will be provided after. Due to
highway department rules, no one under 13 may
participate in the clean up. There is a park at our
meeting place where the parents can sit with
their children or feel free to come closer to noon
to enjoy your Folk's company and a delicious
lunch.

For more information contact:

James Ault

jault@runestone.org



Folkbuilder James Ault

jault@runestone.org



Copyright © *2022* Asatru Folk Assembly, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Grow your business with  mailchimp