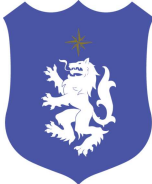


The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly



Baldershof
Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.baldershof.org

 Runestone.org

 [Parler](#)

[Email the Witan](#)[Odysee](#)[YouTube](#)[Bitchute](#)[VK](#)[Rumble](#)[Twitter](#)[Instagram](#)

Donate to the AFA

Words from the Alsherjargothi



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

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

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

Summer is always a time for activity, a time for doing and I would encourage you all to

get out and make the most of this special time of year.

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

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Matthew D. Flavel

Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly

mattflavel@runestone.org

Remembering Martin Rojas 1992-2022



It is with heavy hearts that the Asatru Folk Assembly announces the unexpected loss of one of our Folk, Martin Christopher Rojas.

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

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

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

Hail Martin Rojas!

Asatru is Our Birthright

“Asatru is the religion with homework”

“You have to earn your hammer”

“The Gods call who they will”

These are all misleading.

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

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

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

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

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

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

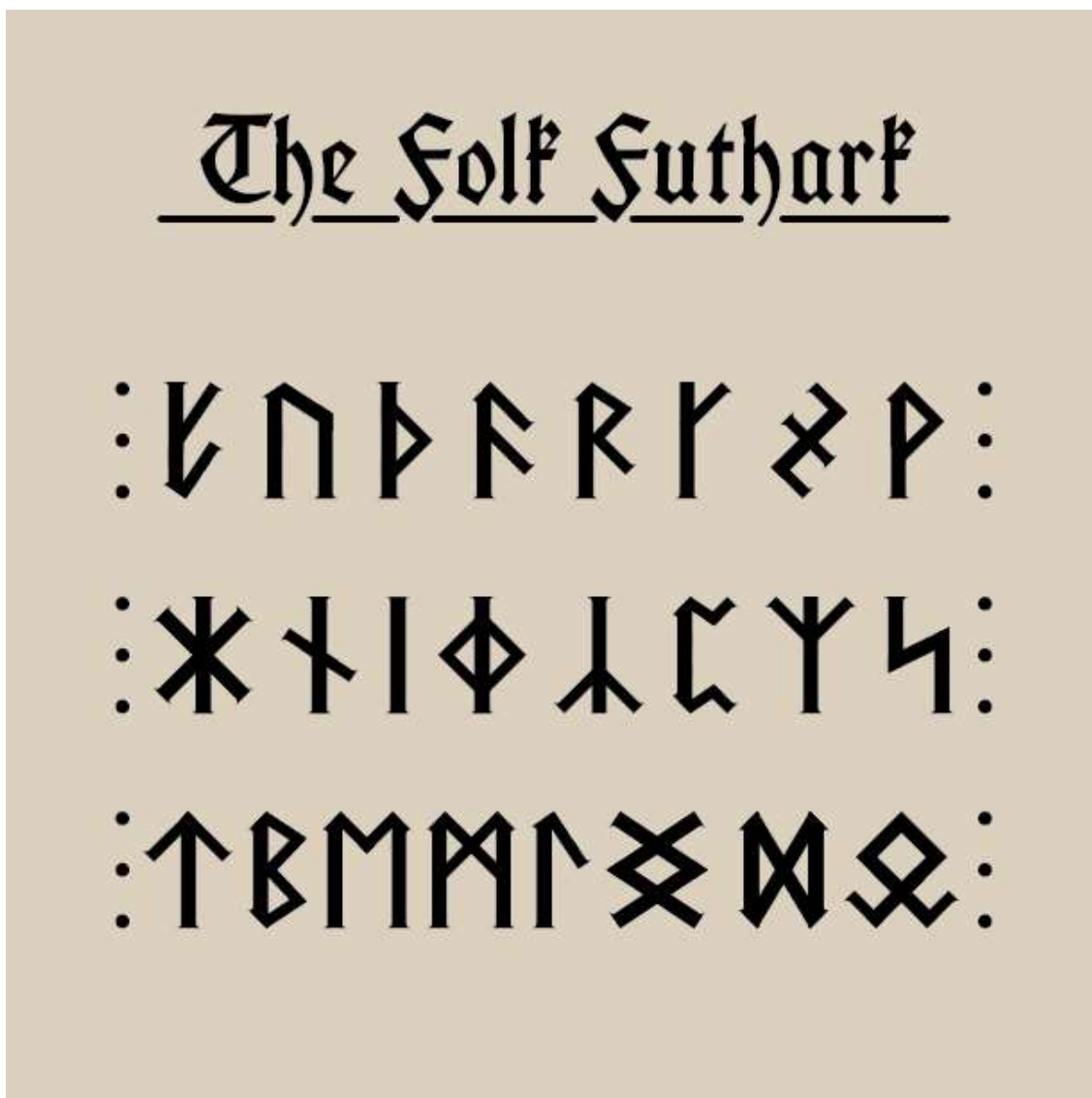
The Aesir created the world and gave us life, wit, and vigor. Every Blot we make to the Aesir is a return on this gift, made from the world created for us by the Aesir. Our faith is to continue this gift cycle perpetually. We should always be mindful that the Aesir started the gift cycle and our ancestors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

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



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Folk Futhark



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

This is THE rune set of the Asatru Folk Assembly and our Hofs! If you've seen any of

Witan Svan's murals, you may have noticed that he uses runes from all four of the main futharks: Elder, Younger, English, & Armanen. The purpose of this, and of the Folk Futhark in general, was to create a living tradition of runes for our modern Folk.

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

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



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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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



Gothi Trent East

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



[Freyshof Fund – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](https://runestone.org/freyshof-fund)

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

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

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

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

Hail Freyr!



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

AFA Homeschool Program

Calling all Musicians!



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

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

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

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



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

Day of Remembrance

Alexander Rud Mills



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

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

his church to its former glory.

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

So, what can we learn from this story?

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

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



Gythia Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org

Remembrance & Holy Days



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

2022

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

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

Sigurblot



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

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

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

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

A gift for a gift.

Upcoming National Events

Fallfest at Baldrshof



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

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

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

Winternights in Ohio



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

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

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

Things to know:

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

- The camp location will be provided upon registration.

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

Member Family - Weekend: \$150

Member - Weekend: \$100

Member - Daypass: \$50

Guest - Weekend: \$125

Guest - Daypass: \$60

Child - Weekend: Free

Child - Daypass: Free



Witan Clifford Erickson

cerickson@runestone.org

Know Your Gothar



Gythia Sheila McNallen, Odinshof District

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

administration as the Secretary and Treasurer, while still working as a full-time teacher before retiring in 2016.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Gothi Daniel Young
dyoung@runestone.org

Be a Doer



We need you to volunteer for the AFA!

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

to help our Folk.

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

Baby Blanket Project

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

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



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

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

Folk Services

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



hand up...

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

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

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

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

Thanks in advance!

Photo Donations

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



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

Eir's Blessings



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

Do you have a health concern and need a little extra energy? Are you battling with a mental illness like depression or PTSD? Is your baby having a hard time with teething? If you've answered yes at all, reach out

to us. Once a month women of the AFA will get together to perform healing rituals all across the globe. If you would like to be included, please send a message to let us know!

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

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

Last Will and Testament

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

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



We never know when tragedy will strike. We have a responsibility to our loved ones, we have a responsibility to our own legacies, to plan for our passing, and to make our wishes known. Planning for and contemplating our death is uncomfortable. Hopefully, we all have plenty of time for that down the road, but we can't count on that. Maybe we worry about expenses or hiring a lawyer. We all have excuses to put things off until later, unfortunately, sometimes the clock runs out before "later" happens.

We have found an amazing resource for our U.S. members to make legally binding wills in minutes online for free. This site also has resources to make Advanced Medical Directives and Powers of Attorney. It takes only minutes at <https://www.doyourownwill.com/>.

The AFA would like to collect signed original copies of wills for all our members and store them. We want to ensure that when members of our AFA family die, their wishes are honored. Please send these to:

Allen Turnage
PO Box 16027
Tallahassee FL, 32317

Introducing the newest AFA Kindreds



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

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

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

Gaining Kindred recognition is not an easy thing, it takes hard work and dedication. Standing with our church at all costs.

All new Kindreds go through a six-month probationary period before joining our family

as an official Kindred.

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

Hail the Folc Irminsul Kindred!

Hail the Kindreds of the AFA!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!



Gothi Daniel Young

dyoung@runestone.org

The Artisans of the AFA Support Our Folk

RavenWing Customs



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

Etsy: [RavenWingCustom - Etsy](#)

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

Email: RavenWingCustoms@gmail.com

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



Folkbuilder Jessica Lambert

jlambert@runestone.org

Ancestral Food and Culture

Callahann Colcannon



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

The Callahan family saves colcannon for special holidays or events and is served at funerals, Winternights, and Yule.

Ingredients

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

Instructions:

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

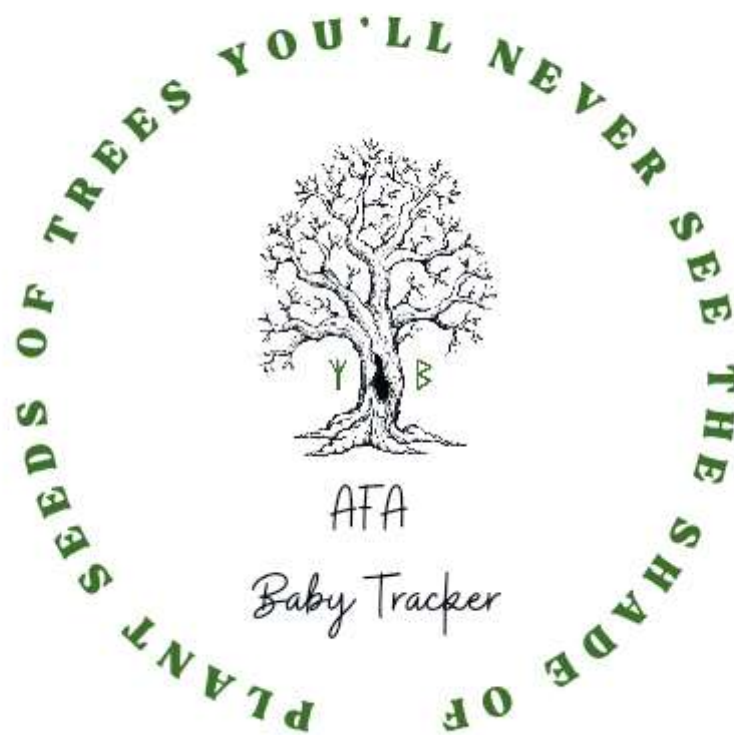
Serves 6

Folkbuilder Timothy Dumas

tdumas@runestone.org



Baby Tracker



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

Total babies born in 2022: 19



Jessica Keller
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jkeller@runestone.org

Now Available in the AFA Store

Asatru Academy Tshirt



\$23.00 – \$27.00

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

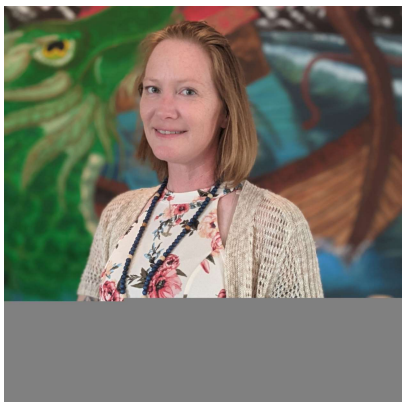
Food Pantry at Baldrshof



The Baldrshof June Pantry was held on the third weekend of the month and was one of our most successful to date. Over 14 families received two bags of dried goods, one bag of beverages, and one bag of frozen meat and goods.



We also had two separate monetary donations for the food pantry from local residents who stopped by to help support the food shelf. We also had our usual visitors who stopped by to chat or say hello and ask questions about the renovations. Talk mostly centered around the recent storms to hit Murdock and the damage left in its aftermath. Fortunately, Baldrshof has been spared in all the storms so far!



Witan Brandy Callahan
bcallahan@runestone.org

Midsummer at Baldrshof



This year at Baldrshof we were delighted to celebrate Midsummer in the company of good frith and a shining sun. Folk came from states away to attend the Hof of Baldr and share in the glory of the Legacy being built there, a Legacy of good friendship, family, and a deep love of our Gods and our Folk.

An excellent talk was given by Folkbuilder James Ault on the subject of Midsummer and Baldr himself. A talk was also given on the concept of Honour and Chivalry by Apprentice Folkbuilder Jaime Àlainn. These were followed by yard games including Kubb, Yard Dice, and a game involving the tossing of washers which was quite fun! Children swung from the trees and played in the yard while the bonds of fellowship were strengthened among all. Later in the day we assembled downstairs where we enjoyed some dancing before being treated to a delicious meal of Ham and sides prepared mainly by Apprentice Folkbuilder Sara Ault.

Blót and Symbol were powerful, as always. The interaction of spirit that comes between the Folk and the Gods during ritual always carries with it an air of importance and

invigoration. Just as we visit our Kin to maintain and strengthen the bonds between us, Blót keeps us near to the Gods. As we honor them through our piety, so they also honor us with good gifts given in return and our connection with them grows deeper. Perhaps the most important work we do spiritually lies in the participation in Blót and the hard work done by our Gothar to guide us and represent us.

Thank you to everyone who came and for all the hard work put in to make this, and other events, happen!

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



Cormag Àlainn
Apprentice Folkbuilder
calainn@runestone.org

Work Day at Baldrshof



We have a handful of smaller projects in the works for the third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly. Central Minnesota has had quite the storm season, resulting in some very minor flooding in the basement (astoundingly small considering the state of the rest of the community) as well as some downed fencing. We spoke with our surrounding neighbors and have come to an agreement, planting lilacs and other flowers instead of rebuilding the fence. Thanks to some great personal friends and supporters of our church, we were able to get 15 lilac bushes donated! (This is a HUGE relief to what the cost of shrubbery would cost) They have been transplanted, and a milder beginning to the summer has assisted in their thriving.

We have a work weekend Friday & Saturday, July 15 & 16, 8 am to 8 pm.

Meals will be provided, blots held Friday morning and Saturday evening.

List of items we wish to have completed before or during the work weekend.

*Paint feast hall, deep cleaning of floors and windows. Finish trim.

- *Finish men's and women's bathrooms, including trim, removal of old flooring, putty and texture, and paint. Deep cleaning.
- *Hanging shelving in food pantry storage. Deep cleaning and organizing of area.
- *Kitchen shelving and rework of cupboards. Deep cleaning of appliances and floors. Paint. Organization to utilize space.
- *Landscaping. Continue removal and redistribution of rocks. Mowing, weed eating, and edging. Power wash outside of the church.
- *Remove carpet at the altar and replace it with new flooring
- *Refinish sanctuary entrance stairs. Mural.
- *Deep clean feast hall entry. Mural.
- *Refinish sitting area floors
- *Deep clean and organize children's room
- *Deep clean mother's room
- *Prep "gift shop". Deep clean, remove carpet, paint, and hang shelving.
- *Hang gold drapes under the mural

Our food shelf will be Saturday morning from 10 am to noon on Saturday, July 15th (the second day of the work weekend) We have come leaps and bounds with our community! Our food distribution is now featured in the monthly local newsletter put out by the city of Murdock. We have such great time meeting members of the community who love to stop and have a good ole midwestern chat while in line. Please RSVP to the work weekend to me, Folkbuilder Nathan Erlandson at nerlandson@runestone.org or Folkbuilder Ashley McStocker at AMcStocker@runestone.org to assure a headcount for meals. Hail the doers!



Folkbuilder Nathan Erlandson
nerlandson@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Baldrshof



Sigrblot at Baldrshof

Saturday, July 23 from 10-6

Join your Folk for the celebration of Sigrblot and Victory!

Blot, Sumbel, outdoor games, feasts, Fika, and discussions!



Workday at Baldrshof Friday, July 15 - Sunday, July 17!

Join your Folk to prepare Baldrshof for Fallfest! Folk from all over the district will be attending! Food will be provided for all three days.



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

Illinois

Hail from Illinois!



We have reached the middle of the year, the Midsummer. Our Kindred was amazing, as you'll see per Folkbuilder Jim Cummings. We celebrated the longest day and the recognition of the Soul on its cyclical journey. This soul, for us, is Baldur. He is our Folk Soul, and we should always look up to emulate the Solar. We should shine brightest, even when we enter the darkest of times. Because, as we know, Baldur did not pass away, he created a blissful realm when he traveled to Hel. He is a guide, just as much as his father, Odin. Even our Gods pass on, but they know of the transcendence of the cycle of Time, Moon, and seasons. Each Spring, I believe Baldur hopes some of his Folk travel with him to the Beyond and awaken to something above cyclical "Fate".

I hope everyone has/had a great Independence Day weekend and we all look forward to Sigrblót celebrations. Reflect upon all the victories we have had, as well as your personal triumphs.

Hail to you all and Hail the Gods!



Shane Duffy
Apprentice Folkbuilder
sduffy@runestone.org

From the Indoors to the Outdoors



Southern Illinois, and really the AFA in general, have been having a great time lately welcoming the return of Summer, and we're thrilled to be transitioning our activities outdoors. Last month we met up for some indoor sporting fun, and the fun definitely doesn't stop this season, we're just moving it outdoors.

Upcoming Events



We'll be doing a simple gathering for Alexander Rud Mill's Day of Remembrance this weekend on July 9th at the Comlara County Park, located alongside Evergreen Lake, just north of Normal, IL. We'll meet up around Noon to hang out, swim and kick back for some grilling and a picnic. We'll have a brief presentation/discussion on holiday as well as give Blòt to Alexander Rud Mills as he is certainly a hero and one of the progenitors of modern Asatru.

This will be a potluck and we'd appreciate any food, snacks, and drinks you'd want to bring. No hard liquor, please. I'll have the burgers, dogs, plates, napkins, and silverware, so bring a side and drink, maybe something sweet, and we should be good to go.

If you can make it out, that'd be great. It's over a three-hour drive for me so let's see if anyone can beat that. No excuses now.

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

Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org



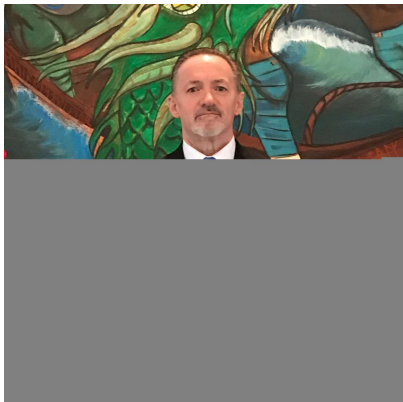
Illinois Midsummer



Hrafnagud Kindred sponsored a Midsummer celebration in Illinois on June 13. AFA Folk and friends from Wisconsin also joined us. We enjoyed a BBQ feast, and fellowship, and observed a Baldur Blot. As Midsummer is the period when the sun's time in the sky reaches its peak, and darkness incrementally encroaches, we commemorated the death of Baldur, with a burning of a symbolic longship.



Upcoming activities for July include a Potluck Picnic Moot in Central Illinois on July 9 (contact Nick Rice for details), and a hike, picnic, and Blot in Northern Illinois on July 23 (contact Shane Duffy for details).



Folkbuilder James Cummings
jcumings@runestone.org

Minnesota

Recent Events in Minnesota

Midsummer sparks the bonfire season in my home. The kids chip in their part to build the fire and we all enjoy the stories and dancing throughout the night. I try and think of fond memories I had growing up and it seems most are family-oriented and in nature or outside. My parents moved to Washington as a young couple, and I only saw my kin a handful of times growing up. Their stories still live through me with the little bit my brain chose to remember. I find ways to pass it down to my kids.



Sometimes it's Grandma Gladys' favorite recipe for "glorified rice" or a battle story from their Grandpa Ed's time in the war on a bomber plane. Nine times out of ten, they listen, and it helps them to know a little about someone they never had the opportunity to meet. We had an impromptu Midsummer's Eve celebration at home this year. The men gathered wood while the ladies crafted. "Thor was busy" (as my son would say) that evening with a great Midwest thunderstorm. We were unable to keep the bonfire stoked all night due to the downpour and light show. The veil was thin, and the day will come when the children can celebrate in customary ways, until then, we improvise. We "bathed" in the river at sunset for divination and fertility to invoke and invigorate the powers of the water. At that time, we sent off "vessels" with flowers and candles and spoke of our ancestors and future ancestors. Once home we lit the fire, and the fun began. No fire wheel, no bonfire jumping, and no insomnia this year. Keeping the traditions alive...

Many trips were made to Baldrshof this month. Lots of outside work & sacrifice, food shelf for the locals, and Midsummer weekend! Our Hof manager and assistant manager Nathan Erlandson and Ashley McStocker, as well as our Gythia Brandy Callahan, do such a great job and sacrifice so much for us to be able to gather in the halls of our Shining One and build Frith amongst our folk. TUSEN TAKK!!



Birth to death, and in between-
the Spinners weave- in and out our dreams
Some are harsh, and others gleam-
The Norns will call- one day for thee
Some say too soon, Skuld knows for you-
Your deeds will shine- your bonds be true



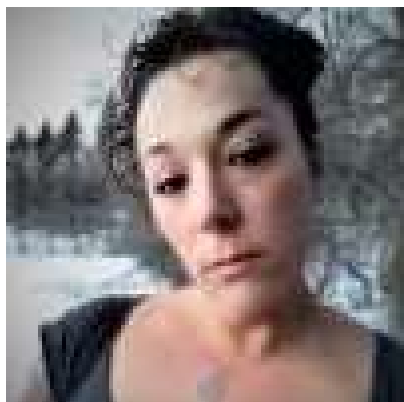
Hail Christopher Martin Rojas!!

Upcoming Events



Aberdeen, South Dakota MOOT July 29-31st

jshaffer@runestone.org for details



Jessie Shaffer
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jshaffer@runestone.org

Virtue Recovery Meeting is Going Strong!



We are very excited about the VRM MeWe page! We have a great chat going through this page, which is most certainly a highlight of my day. This page is unique in the AFA official pages as it is reserved for those struggling with any (and all) substances and are looking for folk with like-minded ideals on living a life of recovery. If you are interested in being a part of this group on MeWe as a support system, please reach out to your local leadership to get added! If you are unsure who to contact, feel free to message apprentice Folkbuilder Justin Day at JDay@runestone.org or me Folkbuilder Ashley McStocker at AMcStocker@runestone.org to get you on board.

I have dedicated the last 9 months to focus on one of each of our 9 steps as a part of the Virtue Recovery Meeting. This month, I will do an overview of what we are about and what we are trying to do. As always, we give so much respect and honor to any 12 step program (mainly AA and NA) they are pioneers of meeting-based support philosophy to battle addictions. That being said, we are a separate entity. Though it is universally accepted that any faith can adhere to the guidelines of a 12-step program, that is simply not the case for Asatruar. We very specifically do not believe that there is

any divine will that we are meant to blindly fall into. All that is decided is our death day and we weave the tapestry of our own Web along the way. Another aspect that does not fall in line is asking any of our Gods to remove any shortcoming, simply because it is cumbersome. We, as Asatruar, see this as almost a laughable request and find the determination in ourselves to adjust and revamp said shortcomings. Thus, the 9 steps, which do reflect some of the ideals of the other programs yet stay within the beliefs and virtues that we hold so dearly.

We are in the very early stages of an established meeting, we are continuously improving and finding better ways to reach our folk. We have the luxury with today's technology to be a hybrid meeting. Meaning, that those who are able to meet in person can, while we simultaneously hold a zoom meeting, so as to reach all corners of our membership map. We start each meeting with yours truly reciting a brief introduction.

“We are a group of like-minded individuals that are seeking to be our best selves and are committed to living a life of recovery. We, as a whole, follow the Asatru faith and are continuously improving ourselves for our families, our Gods, and our folk. Though similar to 12-step meetings, we are an independent entity that recognizes a 9-step program, adhering to the steps that fall in line with our beliefs and values. This meeting continuously goes through the 9 steps, focusing on one per week, after we read on each topic each person is encouraged to share their thoughts with no interruption. After everyone has shared, we open it up to a meaningful conversation based on the things we have shared.”

This has created an environment where each person is assured their time to contribute, but then also opens up for some great conversation between folk that is specific to the day/topic/person. One aspect that I also like to point out is that we do not focus on one single kind of recovery, nor do we dwell on any specific substance or act that one has used. We are more about what is/has been missing from one's core substance, what is lacking in someone's life that has resulted in a failed attempt to fill with drugs, alcohol, sex, gambling, etc. We want to support each other in whatever recovery looks like for each of our folk and focus on building that substance back up to be descendants of our Gods that all can be proud of.

If you would like to check out our meeting, you can say as much or as little as you like! You don't even have to turn on your camera, come listen to us chat and encourage greatness, every Thursday Evening at 7 pm CST

Zoom ID: 497 370 4791 Password: Virtue



Folkbuilder Ashley Mcstocker

amcstocker@runestone.org

Northern Blood MN



Wow, Summer is here in Minnesota! On June 5th Northern Blood Kindred hosted our crafting day and we did a Tyrblot.



NBK member Bo Bransford led us in a powerful Blót to Tyr. It had been a while since we were in the backyard. This is where our roots are and where we came from.

Upcoming Events



On August 14th we will host our 6th annual Folkish Family Freyfaxi celebration. Fallfest is less than two months away. Please let me know if you plan to fly in for Fallfest and need a ride. I look forward to Fallfest all year long and look forward to meeting the new folks that will be attending this year.

jgallagher@runestone.org or 612-280-0392

8/14 Folkish Family Freyfaxi

8/19-8/21 AFA Fallfest at Baldrshof



Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher

jgallagher@runestone.org

Missouri

Men's Health Awareness

It's hard being a man in the modern world these days, so many expectations and when things get rough, you really only have yourself to rely on. We struggle every day to go

out into a world that is anti-masculine so that way we can make a living in these hard times. They say strong men make hard times, but when strong men get canceled; I can only see harder times on our horizon. Our women are being indoctrinated into being Anti-men, our boys are being taught to be more feminine and the nuclear family has been erased. The #metoo movement taught people to believe the accuser instead of providing proof and left men labeled and shunned without justice. Our abuse goes on deaf ears and so our lips remain silent, and when we speak out about our abusive relationships, we are mocked for it, if we are raped; we are told that we must have enjoyed it. As a man, our mental health goes ignored by society. When we receive trauma, we get to suck it up and shoulder our pain. If we show emotions then we are weak, annoying, and not attractive. Men are the cornerstone of society and yet often we do not get the appreciation that we deserve. We work the most laborious and dangerous jobs and do so without thanks, we fight in wars and come back with hatred and disregard. I could go into statistics about suicide or how many men end up homeless or in prison, but if we could appreciate the men in our lives and check up on them now and then I think it could make a difference. Do something kind on Father's Day or show your male partner that you love them and reassure them. We are all human, after all, Don't be afraid to check up on your husbands, your brothers, or your friends. Ask them how they are doing and be there for them in their time of need because I can certainly say that they would be there for you.



Kevin Ceder
Apprentice Folkbuilder
kceder@runestone.org

Branson Missouri Moot



We met up and had lunch. Good to see some of the northern Missouri folk again. Also had a great time at Midsummer hosted by Michael Sessumes.

Jesse Parton

Apprentice Folkbuilder

jparton@runestone.org



Fylgja



Our ancestors did not believe themselves to possess a soul in the way that the Christians do. There are many parts to our essence, what makes us, well, us.

One of those parts is the Fylgja.

Fylgja means "one that accompanies" it is thought by many to be the spirit of a female ancestor. One of your Disir. Not everyone agrees on this but it is fairly widely accepted as truth.

The Fylgja sometimes presents itself as a woman, but more often as an animal. An animal that embodies an aspect or the characteristics of the family line or the individual.

A Fylgja is tied to one's hamingja and is passed down through your family line. If you are honorable and your deeds bring your family bright fame, your Fylgja will work to help you multiply it. However, if you are not doing great and honorable deeds your Fylgja may depart from you. Taking luck with it. It may even choose to bring about death and/or ruin to you.

A Fylgja is often able to allow her person to see through her eyes and travel ahead and help their person be aware and prepared for what is coming. They may appear in and communicate through dreams and attempt to assist their person that way. Fylgja exists

in spirit. And are seen to some in the practice of Seidre. While some believe seeing your own Fylgja is a bad omen, portending death and ill luck.

Fylgjur are mentioned in our Sagas. One would be the Njad saga, and another would be the Ljosvetninga saga.

I encourage you to learn and read more. This is the tip of the iceberg here. These articles are meant to inspire further learning in those interested in the contents. By no means is it a comprehensive accounting.

Next month we will look at another part of the soul complex, Hugr.

From the Heart of the Country



It's warm, the growing things are flourishing, and our Folk are thriving in the summer sun!

May saw us gathered in Kansas in the Swedish town of Lindsborg! We took part in the Midsummer festival and greeted new folk and formed new friendships. You should join us next year if you were unable this year and return with us if you made it this time!



We really enjoyed the traditional folk dancing and the very cold beer at Ul Stugga. Great town! Great folk! A great festival of Midsummer!

Members from Wisconsin, KS, AR, OK, and MO gathered for a Midsummer celebration in Harrison AR. Michael Sessumes led an amazing Blot to Odin and I was honored to lead us all in Blot to Baldr. A weekend no one wanted to depart from!

Come and join us again!

Upcoming Events







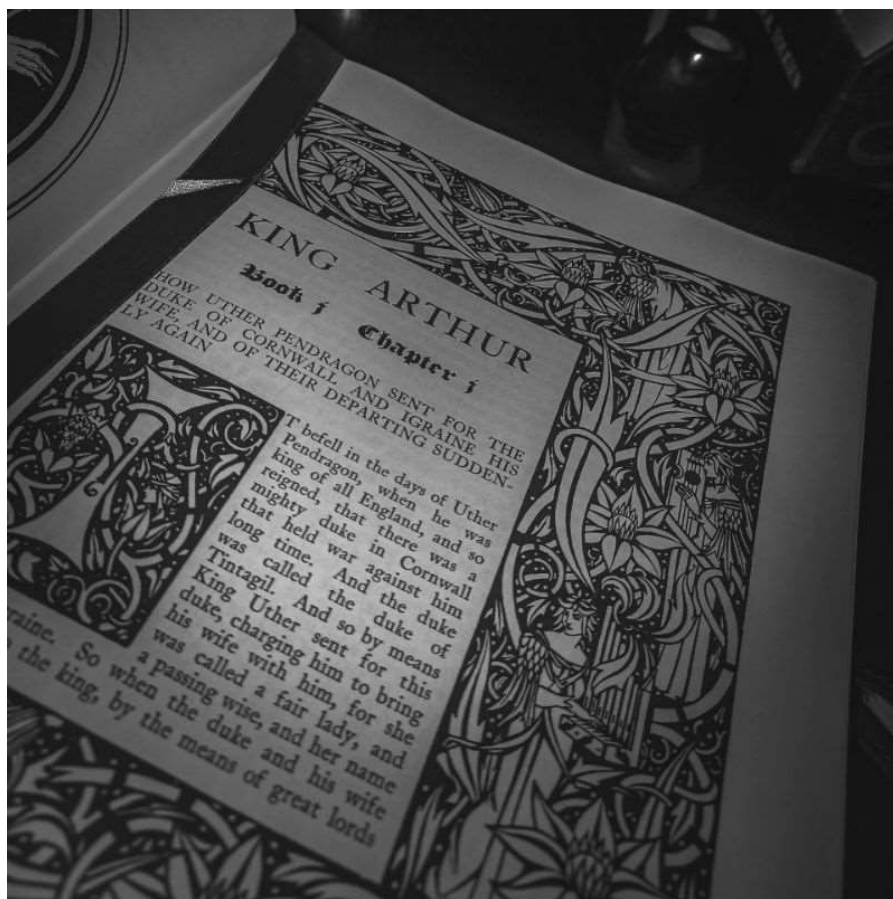
Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

mmills@runestone.org



North Dakota

Honorbound



To begin with one question seems unanswerable to so many these days, particularly of the younger generations; What is Honour?

Is it something as simple as being the metric for good behavior by which we judge ourselves and others? Is honor merely some antiquated concept best relegated to videogames and fantasy stories? Modern society certainly seems to think so.

Our ancestors had a very different view, however. To them, Honour was often as important as life itself. From accounts as old as Tacitus' Germania, we can see that the Germanic and Celtic peoples have always, perhaps more so than any other peoples, had an obsession with Honour. A man with great honor was held in high esteem, whereas those without were seen as wretches oft regarded in shame if not cast out altogether.

Honor was the reputation one had acquired with the world around them. Through integrity, good nature, strength, determination and many other virtuous attributes one gained Honour and through it the love of their people. For many young men, life was defined by a desire for Honour and a never-ending work to gain and protect it.

Honor was not only for warriors and glory-seekers though. There was also honor in the scholar, priestess, healer, poet, mother, and more. Honour was not that war-bound attribute we so often see it depicted as in popular media, though it did have an important place on the battlefield.

By way of good deeds and hard work honor of all kinds was won and maintained. Yet, it could also be lost. As easily as it may be won a man could lose his honor by way of treachery, betrayal, weakness, submission, gossip, flakiness, and oath-breaking. Some of these offenses would deal an injury to one's honor which would be unrecoverable.

Some wounds, however, could be righted. For example, I think we have all heard of Holmgang. It was common even in the early years of the USA for men to seek retribution for besmirched honor through the drawing of blood, though not necessarily the taking of life.

What does all this mean? I imagine it evidences the concept that Honour could be seen as something akin to a form of currency. Similar to money, but of a more spiritual sort.

If we imagine that our Honour accumulates as water in a cup the picture becomes clearer. Every action, every word we speak, every word spoken of us either adds or removes drops from that cup.

So, with that in mind what of responsibility?

Our honor is not entirely our own. It is partly given to us in legacy by our forebears and so we must protect it. Furthermore, it is a large part of the legacy we leave to our descendants.

We all know the famous quote from Hávámál:

“Cattle die, Kinsmen die,
But I know that which will not die,
The good name a man has won for himself.”

It also spreads from us, influencing and interacting with all those connected to us.

I imagine my own Honour as being a sphere around me. It spreads forth to add or subtract, from the honor of my family. Further along, it does the same with my Kindred. As my honor grows or declines so too does the honor of each individual in my kindred. Likewise, as their honor grows, so does my own to an extent. Thus, I have a personal responsibility to safeguard my honor, as well as the honor of my brothers and sisters should they be given to misdeeds.

Further than that the Honour of each individual and each kindred impacts the Honour of the AFA as a whole. With this in mind, it becomes clear the true depth of responsibility that comes with Honour.

If Honour is a currency then how do we spend it?

Plato once said, “When men speak ill of thee, live so as nobody may believe it.”

I see this as our earned honor protecting us from ill gossip. Furthermore, I am sure we can all think of many benefits a good name might bring a man. For me, the most important method of spending Honour lay in the spiritual.

When we Blót what are we doing? Are we merely performing some act of theatre? No. I should think it obvious that by assembling for Blót we are giving the Gods a gift of sacred energy. We are also giving them our Honour. This is why we call it “honoring the Gods.”

When we hail them we gift them all the honor we have accumulated in our lives and they, in turn, are giving us theirs in equal measure. A gift for a gift. This is why we seek to have as much to offer as possible, and why we must protect our honor and the honor of our community from any loss incurred by ill deeds or ill words on our part.

Through integrity, chivalry, and all virtuous pursuits each of us has all we need to become truly worthy of the attention of the Gods.

In a world so rampant with degeneracy and dishonor the call for honorable men and

women to stand above the din of chaos has, perhaps, never been greater. Our ancestors have left us a beautiful Legacy of European Honour. Let us preserve what we were given and grow it that we might have a greater gift to give our children.



Cormag Àlainn
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Oklahoma

The AFA has been growing by leaps and bounds. Our increasing membership numbers reflect the momentum carrying forth the upcoming dedication of Njördshof.

With the days as long as they get, our growing season is in full swing. So many hours of daylight can extend the outside work later than intended. And then the dawn breaks early, giving ample opportunity to “make hay”, as it were. It’s not like our schedules are empty for these haymaking endeavors. An abundance of planned events, fill the calendar in an attempt to bring about successful communion towards a cause. Each of us can participate in this perpetuation of the cycles and grow well. Time invested in expanding life to its fullest may have rewards that pay dividends for years to come.

Be encouraged to excel. There’s still plenty of season to fail and get back up again. Still, may we sustain an achievable pace for the long haul.

For more information about Oklahoma happenings, check out the events calendar at [njordshof.org](http://www.njordshof.org) for the latest happenings in Njördshof district.

<http://www.njordshof.org/our-events>

Shea McCurdy



Apprentice Folkbuilder
smccurdy@runestone.org

Texas

Midsummer in Texas



Members and friends of Fridr Folk Kindred of the Asatru Folk Assembly traveled far, and wide to Galveston Texas to celebrate the beginning of summer. We did some fishing where Justin Day and I caught our first sharks, releasing them was almost as thrilling as the catch. We held Blot honoring the mighty Njord. Then held Sumble around a fire with stars burning clear and brilliant above.

Texas Racetrack Moot



We held a get-together sharing Frith and fun with friends at a local racetrack, one of the drivers allowed us access to the pits and was patient with thousands of questions. Overall, the experience was exciting and created new bonds.



Thomas Gleason
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric of the Visigoths



On Saturday, June 18th members of Fridr Folk Kindred invaded the Texas Viking Festival in Paige, TX. We camped, held Sumbel, made lots of new friends, and handed out AFA cards to everyone we spoke to. Looking forward to attending again for Yule!

Archery Moot



Members of Fridr Folk Kindred met for an archery moot on Wednesday, June 29th in

Plano, Texas. We learned the basics of archery and began to train our archery skills in preparation for both hunting and competition. We finished the night out with dinner and drinks at B&J's Brewhouse.



Justin Day
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jday@runestone.org

Wisconsin

THE IMPORTANCE OF COMING HOME



There is something very special that is moving throughout your body. If you listen closely, you can hear it calling your name. It's your blood memory. It's your ancestors calling you to come back to the path of your destiny. It starts as a whisper of love as you look around this world that you live in and realize you don't feel a part of it. It becomes a gentle pulling to learn more about your heritage and where it all started for your bloodline. It moves to a comfortable feeling, as you use what you have learned to repeat the traditions that your own family has put in place for many, many generations. It becomes a peacefulness, as you start to recognize, respect, and worship the old gods and goddesses of our ancestors. Then as your journey would have it, you learn of the Asatru Folk Assembly either through meeting members, hearing talk of the AFA successes, or research of Asatru. This is when your blood memory lets you know that you have found home, and these are your people.

I had felt the call of the blood memory very early in my life. Searching for something that I knew was connected to me led to a very deep spiritual journey. There was such an intense draw to the lore of my ancestors and the traditions of my family, yet still an emptiness I was trying to fill with faith in a desert god. I wandered aimlessly through books and different versions of a religion that was never for me. This led to exploring different pagan beliefs and having many experiences that I can't explain in words but brought me along my path. As I got more focused on my DNA and where I come from, Asatru came into my life. The fateful day in Minnesota, when I was welcomed into the house of Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher for a gathering with Northern Blood Kindred of the AFA was the changing point. I had already been intrigued by photos from Odinshof that showed multigeneration of families gathered to worship the old gods. I was happy that my other half had found his place within the AFA already, it was very natural to bring the rest of the family home.

It is hard to put into words the feeling of primal energy that pulses through an AFA Odin's blot. The wisdom that reaches out to you during a talk from one of our many elders. The emotion that moves through you during a Sumbel. Come and experience for yourself. Hear the call. Come home.

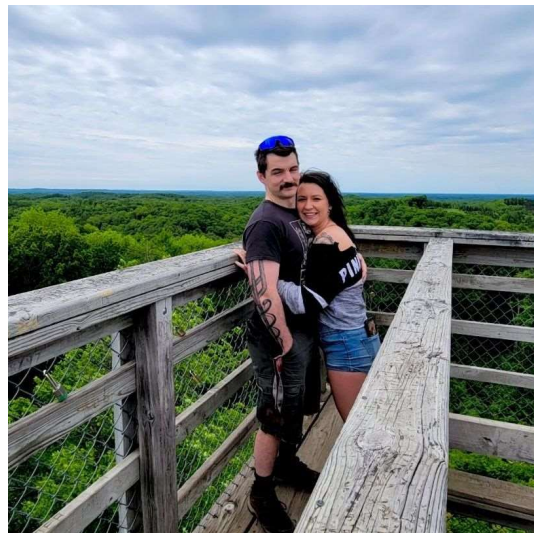


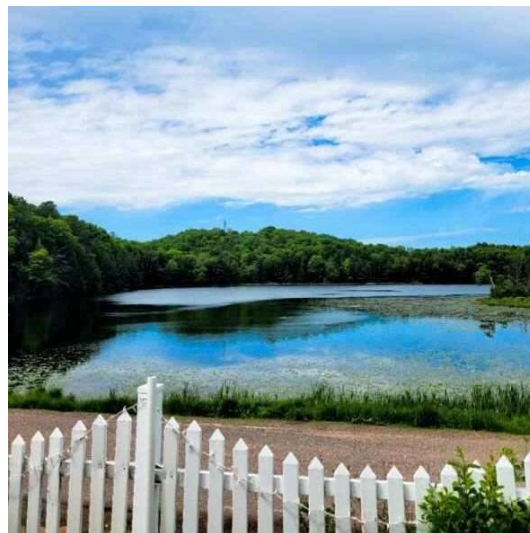
Sara Ault
Apprentice Folkbuilder
sault@runestone.org

Midsummer's Memories in Wisconsin



Post Midsummer's greetings to you all, Wisconsin had a fun June that saw us together all over the state. We had a great time celebrating Kirsten's birthday together with Folk at a little BBQ before our June moot where we offered a horn to Odin at the highest elevation in Wisconsin!





Timm's Hill was beautiful, and we found a nice little cafe for lunch on the other side of the tiny lake there. We had a great time thank you to everyone for coming out and making it a wonderful day!!



As we all look forward to Freyfaxi and Fallfest and weekends at the Hof I'm taking just a moment in writing this to appreciate what a privilege it is to be able to spend time honoring the Gods and sharing Frith with these beautiful Folk! Thank you all for pitching in to make a wonderful time always!



Hail the Gods, Hail the Folk, Hail the AFA and Hail the Vatnafölk.

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Josh Rapin
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Does Feminism work with Asatru?



This question was one I wasn't too sure I wanted to weigh in on being a man but I think some things need to be said that hasn't been. Let's start by dropping loaded terms, which "feminist" is because it has come to mean many things. Now, let's look at the roles of women in Asatru.

First off, we need to acknowledge that there's a reason for the long-standing joke that our women are just as fierce (maybe moreso) than our men. I know some women that can and have, taken their own wild game for dinner from everything from hundreds of yards shot all the way down to spear hunting. In short, it is fair to say that we believe our women are capable of being strong, assertive, dominant individuals who are fully capable of taking care of themselves. We reached this position not because of politics, however, but because Asatru teaches people to be strong, independent, and hard-working. There isn't a moral code for men and a moral code for women. We hold the same values all the way around. The Nine Noble Virtues apply to us "ALL".

Here's the sticking point: traditional gender roles. It is far more common to find men and women fitting into traditional gender roles within Asatru. This is what gets a lot of people worked up and is where the whole mess with political ideology gets in the way. Some groups may reinforce traditional gender roles more strictly than others while some might not give a thought to it because people just sort of naturally fill them. This is also one of those areas where our folkish behavior often comes into conflict with more "egalitarian" New Age religions such as Wiccan or those who engage in

Universalist Asatru appropriationism.

Returning to semantics and definitions, we need to look at what is meant by "feminism", a phrase coined by Charles Fourier, a French "Utopian Thinker", titled by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels who he influenced greatly. Fourier believed that women should be emancipated from men and also was a proponent of gay rights. [1] If the idea is that feminism is the belief that woman are social and legal equals to a man, and has the right to determine for themselves what she wants to do with her life (be it a homemaker or corporate lawyer), and doesn't need anyone's permission to be who she is, then it's fair to say that Asatru can be viewed as being aligned with feminist ideals. If feminism means any of the other ever-evolving things out there, including the eradication of traditional gender roles, the superiority of the feminine over the masculine, and so on, then the answer is no, Asatru probably isn't going to fit well with a person holding these kinds of ideals.

We do not embrace the Abrahamic religious stances of our womenfolk being lesser in importance to our menfolk.

We have equal importance and as men, we embrace our womenfolk and their femininity. As far back as the Rig Veda, traditional gender roles have been established with equal respect and responsibilities that were shared within a society. We may live in the modern world that cannot be emancipated from technology but we have chosen to reclaim our ancestral religion and follow that path.

In modern society, there is much concern with who's in charge of whom. In Asatru the Patriarchy does not exist only in men. The force of patriarchy is the water that we all swim in and we're the fish. Women can be just as patriarchal as men by holding those same types of values and biases.

It is my conclusion that with Asatru there is no need for adherence to the beliefs of the feminist movement because we all share in mutual respect and adoration for the masculine and feminine parts of our womenfolk. They are powerful, have a voice, and have agency in the highest circles that hold much-deserved titles within our leadership.

Hail the Gods

Hail the folk

Hail the AFA

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