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Baldershof

Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.baldershof.org

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Donate to the AFA

Words from the Alsherjargothi



September was a big month for the AFA and I made a very important announcement last week that I want to make again here for our Runestone audience and for posterity. That announcement is Sigheim!:



"Sigrheim

Home of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Established 202X

"IV. The restoration of community, the banishment of alienation, and the establishment of natural and just relations among our Folk:

Our ancestors had religious and social folkways that gave them a feeling of continuity and community while jealously preserving individual rights; we can and will re-establish this natural order among our Folk. Asatru encourages sound, traditional families while providing an extended family or tribe to support the basic family unit. We help each other materially, socially, and religiously while respecting the privacy of individuals and families. Society would work better if families and communities cared for each other, rather than relying on coercive, intrusive "help" from outside sources such as government"

– AFA Declaration of Purpose

When I first became actively involved in the AFA, around 2009, there was talk of the AFA Hof and Land Fund. The vision was, a hof of course, but also land for an intentional community of AFA members. The more I studied our roots and spoke with other members, the more the theme of intentional communities was talked about as the dream. Not only is this the dream of so many when they join, this has been a dream of Asatruar since the reforging of our faith in the 1960s. We have certainly all seen and been part of the dream of hofs, our current 4 hofs are a testament to our ability to accomplish and manifest dreams into realities. The time has come for the next stage in the Asatru dream to take shape-Sigrheim.

Sigrheim means "Home of Victory." Sigrheim will not only be the home of victory but the home of the Asatru Folk Assembly. As with all dreams, the form changes and shifts as the dream becomes real. This is the vision as it stands now. An AFA neighborhood will be built with several members constructing their homes on a common parcel of AFA land. On this land, there will be a magnificent hof. On this land, there will be guest lodging. On this land, there will be a common meeting/cooking/dining area. This land will serve as the corporate and ecclesiastical headquarters for the Asatru Folk Assembly.

After my first AFA national event (Midsummer in the Sierras 2010), I was hooked, and I have tried to make it to all that I could from that time on. It occurred to me after the first few years that I was living my "mundane" life for 350 days so that I could live my real life for 15 (at AFA gatherings). I have tried ever since to make every day like those beautiful event days. I want that for myself, I want that for my family, I want that for us. This will be a home for our AFA family. Those who have the commitment and desire will be welcome to move here (or to an area close by), whether or not you make your permanent home on the grounds, you will be welcome here always because this is HOME.

In faith and as a church, we have grown. Our mission and scope have grown by leaps and bounds! We have AFA membership in 14 countries! This is amazing and it makes the case for a headquarters from which to manage and coordinate all the glorious things we have going on. We have long wanted a place to host AFA national events. Up until now, we have had to rent venues and camps (I am confident we will still do this in the future). Our hofs are a great place to host events and we love that, but the lack of on-site lodging is problematic. A place of our own, with facilities and accommodation for large gatherings, will be a useful and fantastic thing. The whole project will be focused around a hof to Týr and a grand gathering hall, in this way it will have all the functionality of our current hofs but so very much more.

There is an additional need that has weighed heavily on me for some time now. Our elders often find themselves impoverished and with no family willing or able to care for them. Our members living with disabilities have trouble living on their own with dignity and with their spiritual needs fulfilled. We have families who find themselves without safe places to live and stay. Sometimes this is due to a natural disaster, sometimes due to loss of employment, and sometimes to the dissolution of an unhealthy relationship. We can, we should, and we will do better with this. Sigrheim will increasingly be a place where these folk can come and be cared for by family, our AFA family. We can't promise luxury and are not equipped to provide medical care, but we will provide food, shelter, and love for our elders, disabled, and folk going through hard times.

As this dream grows, we also envision facilities to do homeschooling, summer camps, community craft fairs, and athletic training. As with all dreams, there is no end to the possibilities."

As with any of these endeavors, success hinges upon the generosity of our amazing AFA Family. The first step is securing the land, we are working on that, but it will take a significant down payment. If you are able, please consider contributing to this project and do remember that your contribution is tax-deductible.



<https://www.runestone.org/product/sigrheim/>



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Words from Our Witan

Lawspeaker's Challenge - Speaking with Intent



NOBILITY

This begins a series of challenges that I will present to all members of the AFA, including myself, so that we may continue to improve ourselves. The goal is to be our highest and best selves and live in a way that demonstrates our nobility and honors our ancestors and gods. The first challenge: Speaking with Intent.

As many of you already know, I have been on a crusade (okay, maybe just a campaign) to eliminate profanity at the Hofs. Our Hofs are sacred grounds, dedicated to the protection and preservation of our Gods and our Ancestors. Are those goals served by speech littered with profanity and vulgarity? If you went to a church or temple of different faith and heard that sort of language, would you be impressed with their nobility?

Profanity is defined as “showing contempt or disrespect for sacred things.” Vulgarity is “lacking culture or taste; crude, boorish.” Is this how we want to present ourselves to the world? Would your great-grandparents be impressed with your command of Low speech?

This ideal is especially true for our Folk. Our knowledge that galdr changes ourselves and our world for the better necessarily means that Low or idle speech changes the world for the worse. Every ill-intentioned swear or curse coarsens our part of the multiverse.

In addition, vulgarity has always been shunned by those of a higher mindset. Not long ago, critics noted that certain comics could not work in large venues because their language was too vulgar; the change in the culture since then, only 40 or 50 years ago, represents a decay in thought and attitude. I also confirmed with a scholar of Anglo-Saxon history that the tribal Folk would not have sworn at inanimate objects, as they took their words more seriously than that.

The attack on our families, our faith, our culture, and our civilization continues with the attack on our noble ideals of self-expression. We should decide not to participate in the degradation of our Folk by speaking in a way that honors our ancestors and our Gods: with high ideals, with nobility, with intent.



Lawspeaker Allen Turnage
aturnage@runestone.org

Words from Our Gothar

ALU, Wodanaz, & the Gifting Cycle



What does the runic formula ALU mean? Why did our ancestors call Odin “ALU-God”? What does all this have to do with the gifting cycle?

In the Gylfaginning, King Gylfi of Sweden is asked questions about the Gods and the cosmos by “three men”, who are all most certainly Odin.

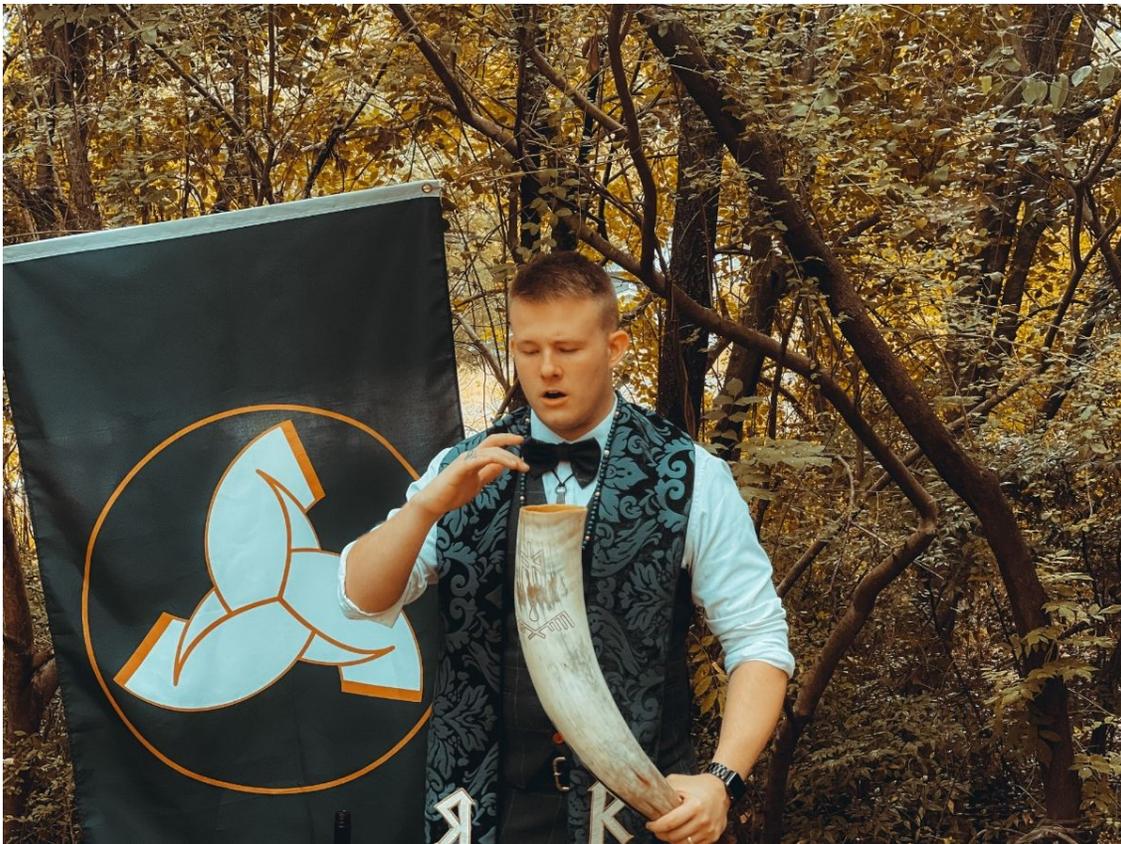


The three men give their names as High, Just-As-High, and Most High. These are thought to represent different forms that Odin takes. Let's discuss those three forms, and how they relate to ALU:

“High” is the human form of Odin, often called Grimnir. He is credited with being the progenitor of many lines of Germanic royal dynasties, as well as a wanderer and wizard. This is URUZ, the rune of primordial power, ethonic while still sacred.

“Just-As-High” is the disembodied form of Odin, the “divine ecstasy” that he is known for. Pure Oðr, fury, ecstasy, inspiration. This is LAGUZ, the intermediary flowing force between Aryan and Æsir, between Uruz and Ansuz.

“Most High” is the God form of Odin, King of the Æsir, the All-Father, the High One who discovered the runes. This is ANSUZ, the rune of the Æsir and their king, representing the Gods as a single concept.



Now, when we analyze how Odin won the runes, we can identify it not only as an example of the gifting cycle, but as a representation of ALU and what it means. Odin's "human" form, representing Uruz, stabs himself with his spear and hangs himself from a branch of Yggdrasil. He does this as a sacrifice, a gift(Laguz) to his higher self, which is Odin the God(Ansuz). He sends this gift of his lower self to his Higher Self, from "High" to "Most High". From here, the gifting cycle is completed, and Odin's gift is returned in the form of grasping the runes!

Uruz gives the gift, Laguz, to Ansuz, and Ansuz returns the gift in kind!

Our ancestors called Wodanaz the "ALU-God", as he himself embodies the entirety of the gifting cycle that is found in the runic formula of ALU.

From Aryan, into the well, to Æsir- from Æsir, into the well, to Aryan. A gift for a gift.



Gothi Trent East
teast@runestone.org

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

– Gylfaginning



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

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

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

1. We need to pay off Njörðshof. (We have paid off 39% so far)
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 17%. (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 the patient and resolute. As we progress, I will keep you all updated on our progress!

Hail Freyr!

Matthew D. Flavel



Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly

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AFA Homeschool Program



Welcome to October! All our kids have been hard at work and doing great in their studies!

This month I would like all our students to complete an art project that is outlined in the Waldorf book OR complete a coloring sheet from the posted options on quickschools. Parents, please upload a good picture of the project either to quickschools or you can email me directly. We will feature the artwork in this section in the next runestone!

We would also love to see your Halloween costumes!

We sure hope to see as many of our students as possible at winternights in Ohio this month! Extra bonus, you'll get to meet the man with the story himself, Uncle Timmy!

Feel free to contact me or any member of our academy staff at any time, and have a great October!

We need your help, too:

**AFA ACADEMY
Wants YOUR Artwork!**



**Please send any drawings of
Gods, Goddesses,
or
Asatru themed art
to
Rstamm@runestone.org**

Gothi Rob Stamm

Dean of AFA Academy

rstamm@runestone.org



Victory Never Sleeps



The AFA is thrilled to be continuing to host Victory Never Sleeps as a weekly live stream and podcast. I have always loved doing my monthly Live chats and this is the continuing evolution of that. Each week I 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. We promise you an hour every week and keep over-delivering.

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

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

<https://twitter.com/FolkAsatru>

<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>



Matthew D. Flavel

Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly

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Day of Remembrance

Meister Guido von List



Born in October of 1848 in Vienna, Guido Karl Anton List was the son of a prosperous middle-class family who traded and worked in the Leather goods industry. Raised a Roman Catholic, List found his love of mythology and history early in life, often acknowledging that his belief in the Germanic Gods, and Wotan in particular, developed during these young years. A scholar, painter, and writer, his big ambition was to live his life doing the things he loved. His father, however, pressured him strongly into taking over the family business.

In his spare time, he continued to write and paint. He also took part in several leisure sports clubs, such as rowing and mountaineering. During one of his many trips List purportedly left his group to spend a solitary midsummer atop Geiselberg hillfort. Here, it is said, he reaffirmed his belief in Wotan. Upon the death of his father in 1877 List abandoned his family business in favor of pursuing his writing passion.

Despite being an avid believer of Wotan, he married his second wife in a Protestant ceremony in 1899. This didn't hamper his writing or his influence, however, and by 1902 when his writings took on a different direction, he was a prolific and well-known voice in the nationalist and volkish movements.

It was in 1902 that von List had his great epiphany. After a cataract surgery left him blind for eleven months, List was left with much time for reflection and meditation. During this time he discovered the Armanen runes. He called this set of runes the Proto-language of the Aryan race. It was through these runes that von Lists occult ideas and writings evolved.

The popularity of his ideas exploded amongst the wealthy, middle class of Austria and Germany at the time and the Guido-von-Gesellschaft was born. The von-List society further evolved and on the Midsummer of 1911, the inner group called the High Armanist Order was created. While the main group focused on his occult and political ideologies, the inner group was dedicated to the worship of Wotan through his writings and sacred pilgrimages.

With food shortages after the war and old age creeping up on him, von List's health deteriorated and in May of 1919 he passed away at the age of 71. His body was cremated and buried in an urn in the Vienna central cemetery, Zentralfriedhof.

Among his many novels, plays, and political manuscripts it was his first dedicated occult manuscript, "Das Geheimnis der Runen" or "The Secret of the Runes," that really sets Guido von List up as a forefather of modern Asatru, influencing many including the Asatru Folk Assembly's hero Alexander Rud Mills.

What can we learn from this story?

We can never anticipate when the spark of inspiration will lead to the flame of an idea. It's easy to look at that inspiration and say that it isn't real, or it's just the imagination going crazy. With faith, however, our limitations can be cast off. Have faith in our Gods. Have faith in our Ancestors and in our Folk soul. Most importantly, have faith in yourself. each one of us can accomplish great things if we work hard enough and maintain our faith.



Gythia Catie Erickson
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Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday Founder Stephen McNallen



“Anyone who has raised a horn in honor of our ancestral Gods, has done so because of, or in spite of Stephen McNallen.” – Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel. Ostara In the South, March 2020

This month we celebrate the birth of our Founder, Stephen McNallen. Before he became the Father of Modern Asatru, before he started a religious movement on his own, before the Kennewick Man, he was born in a small rural town in Texas in 1948.

“On a more intimate level, I chose my parents well: My father was a hard-working, Irish Catholic oil hand who had come to Texas for the oil boom some years earlier, and my mother was a loving, kind, and intelligent woman who –

significantly – bought me the books I wanted and read them to me.”

Founder McNallen developed an interest in pre-Christian religion in college after reading the book *The Viking*, by Edison Marshall. In 1968 or 69, he dedicated himself to worship the Gods of Europe. In 1969-70, he founded the first Asatru church in the new world, The Viking Brotherhood, which gained tax exempt status in 1972. He began writing and distributing *The Runestone* which was hand typed and copied on a mimeograph machine.

“At first it was a private thing, but then I began quietly promoting the religion – which at that point I simply called “Norse paganism,” as I had no name for it. I really was starting from scratch. About the time of my graduation from college, I started a minuscule publication called *The Runestone*. I cranked it out on a mimeograph machine (!) – the first run was eleven copies. Within a year or so – August 29, 1972 – I had received recognition of the Viking Brotherhood as a tax-exempt religious organization.”

After reading Magnus Magnusson's book, *Hammer of the North*, where first heard the word Asatru, Founder McNallen began to use and promote his religious ideal as Asatru, rather than Odinism.

At some point during his time in the US Army, Founder McNallen began to adopt the belief that Asatru was a religion of the peoples of Europe, rather than being a religion for all, thus adopting Folkism. In 1976, after being discharged from the Army, he renamed the Viking Brotherhood to the Asatru Free Assembly. In 1987, Steve dissolved the Free Assembly.

After seeing what American Asatru had developed into, which denied that Asatru was a uniquely ethnic faith, Mr. McNallen stepped back into the Asatru scene. Establishing the Asatru Folk Assembly. The emphasis on Folk to differentiate from the universalist lie that threatened to take hold of our ancestral faith.

“It flourished. Over the years it grew, and I wrote *Asatru: A Native European Spirituality*, which defines my convictions and purpose. We purchased a permanent building which became Odinshof – our first temple to the Gods. The AFA has since expanded to include four Hofs in the USA and continues to grow. In 2016, after leading the Asatru Folk Assembly for 20 years, I turned it over to a younger generation and started the next phase of my service to my Gods and to my Folk.”

In the years since Mr. McNallen retired, he has remained an active participant at Odinshof with charitable giving and contributing in any way possible.

It is often said that we stand on the shoulders of giants, and none are more giant than that of our Founder, the First Alsherjargothi. Thank you, and Happy Birthday, Mr. McNallen, from all of us in the Asatru Folk Assembly.



Gothi Daniel Young
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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	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
April 31 (observed on 16th)	Hexennacht

Date	Observance
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

Winter Nights



Autumn has officially started. The days are noticeably shorter. The nights are noticeably cooler. The trees are ablaze with the colors of Fall and the crunching of the fallen leaves underfoot has begun. All around us the world is dying. This was a time of drawing in close, of hearth and home and family. For our ancestors, this was not an Autumn festival, but a quiet Winter rite in which the female spirits were honored in a rite called Disirblót.

Today, Winter Nights is often seen as a death of the physical world, the world we can see, and the reawakening of the intangible. It is the world of high energy, of spirits. It is that deeper feeling and connection to the things we know to be there. This is the time we honor our Disir—our female ancestors. We remember that without our ancient mothers we could not be. They cared for the home and the hearth fires. They cared for their families. Our ancient mothers, with strength and determination, raised the next generation against odds we cannot really begin to fathom.

With the harvests finished, there is a quiet lull before we turn our minds to the hectic holiday season. Now is a good time to turn inward in introspection, and to self-improvement. It is also the time to meditate on things of a more spiritual nature. Connect to the energy that is always there.



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Upcoming National Events

Winter Nights 11
October 14th-16th



Register Here: [Winter Nights 11 – Asatru Folk Assembly](#)

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.



Winter Nights XI

October 14 – 16, 2022

Friday, October 14

	Adults	Children
12:00 noon	Arrival & Check-in	*Coloring pages and a bounce house will be available all day*
2:00 pm	Welcoming the Gods	
4:00 pm	Daily Spirituality w/ Folkbuilder Adam Hudak	Children Vs. Adult Battle
5:30 pm	Dinner	
7:00 pm	Gothic Q&A Panel	*Coloring pages and a bounce house will be available all day*
8:30 pm	Odin Blot w/ Alsherjargothi Flavel	
10:00 pm	Oktoberfest Dance	

Saturday, October 15

	Adults	Children
8:00 am	Physical Fitness	*Fall-themed sensory bins for youngsters during each period*
9:00 am	Breakfast	
10:00 am	Men's Group w/ Ap. Folkbuilder John Rock Women's Group w/ Gythia Catie Erickson	<u>Craft</u> : Make your own noise <u>Game</u> : Pumpkin Ring Toss <u>Teens</u> : Assemble Yggdrasil
12:00 noon	Lunch	
1:30 pm	Disir Presentation w/ Witan Svan Herul	<u>Craft</u> : Scandinavian Yarn Dolls <u>Teens</u> : Finish Yggdrasil
3:00 pm	Rites of Initiation	Singing and Dancing <u>Teens</u> : Rune Rock Painting
4:30 pm	Raffle Drawing & Auction	Halloween Parade to story time and snacks
6:30 pm	Dinner	
8:30 pm	Disir Blot w/ Gythia Erickson	
10:00 pm	Sumbel	

Sunday, October 16

	Adults	Children
9:00 am	Breakfast	
10:30 am	Wayfarers Blot w/ Folkbuilder Adam Hudak	
11:15 am		Children's Blot w/ Witan Cliff Erickson
12:00 noon	Departure/ Clean Up	

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

Registration is open now at <https://runestone.org/product/winter-nights-11/>.



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Feast of the Einherjar
November 10th-13th



Feast of the Einherjar

2022 Nov 10-13

in Oklahoma

**With Special guests Stephen and
Sheila McAllen, Alsherjargothi
Flavel and Gothi East**

- Honor the fallen with your folk • Games
of skill • Mead Competition**
- 3 Blots • Sumble**
- Auction • Leadership Panel Q&A**
- Amazing feasts!**

Register now @

<https://runestone.org/product/feast-of-the-einherjar-2022/>

**contact Folkbuilders Melsa Mills, Nate Erlandson or Ashley
McStocker for more information**

Register Here: [Feast of the Einherjar 2022 Nov. 10th-13th](#)

Come and honor the fallen with your Folk.

The event concludes on Sunday at 11 am, but you are cordially invited to stay for the wedding of Terry Clark and Rebekah Brussel on Sunday and check out Monday morning after the wedding festivities.

FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR

**THURSDAY
11/10/2022**

11am check in
12pm - lunch
1:30pm - Welcoming of the Gods (Nathan)
5:30pm - Dinner
6:30pm - Freya blot (Sheila)

FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR

FRIDAY 11/11/2022

7am - brisk morning swim
8am - Breakfast
12:30pm - lunch
(games)
5:30pm - dinner
6:30pm - Odin Blot (Steve)
7:30pm scripted stories
8:30pm - ~~Sumbel~~

SATURDAY 11/12/2022

8am - Breakfast
12:30pm - ~~lunch~~
(games)
5:30pm - Einherjar Blot (Nate & Trent)
6:30pm - Feast
7:30pm - auction

Let us know if you are entering the mead competition!

To each of our Service Men and Women, thank you for your service. We would like to invite each and every one of you to join us this weekend.

FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR

SUNDAY 11/13/2022

8am - Breakfast
10am - Wayfarer Blot (Mike)
11am - checkout

CLARKE WEDDING

12:30pm

**ALL EVENT ATTENDEES ARE WELCOME AND
ENCOURAGED TO STAY FOR WEDDING
CEREMONY AND CHECK OUT MONDAY WITH
OTHER WEDDING GUESTS**

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

Member Family – \$150

Member – \$100

Guest – \$120

Child – Free

Child – Free

Registration is open now at <https://www.runestone.org/product/feast-of-the-einherjar-2022/>



Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

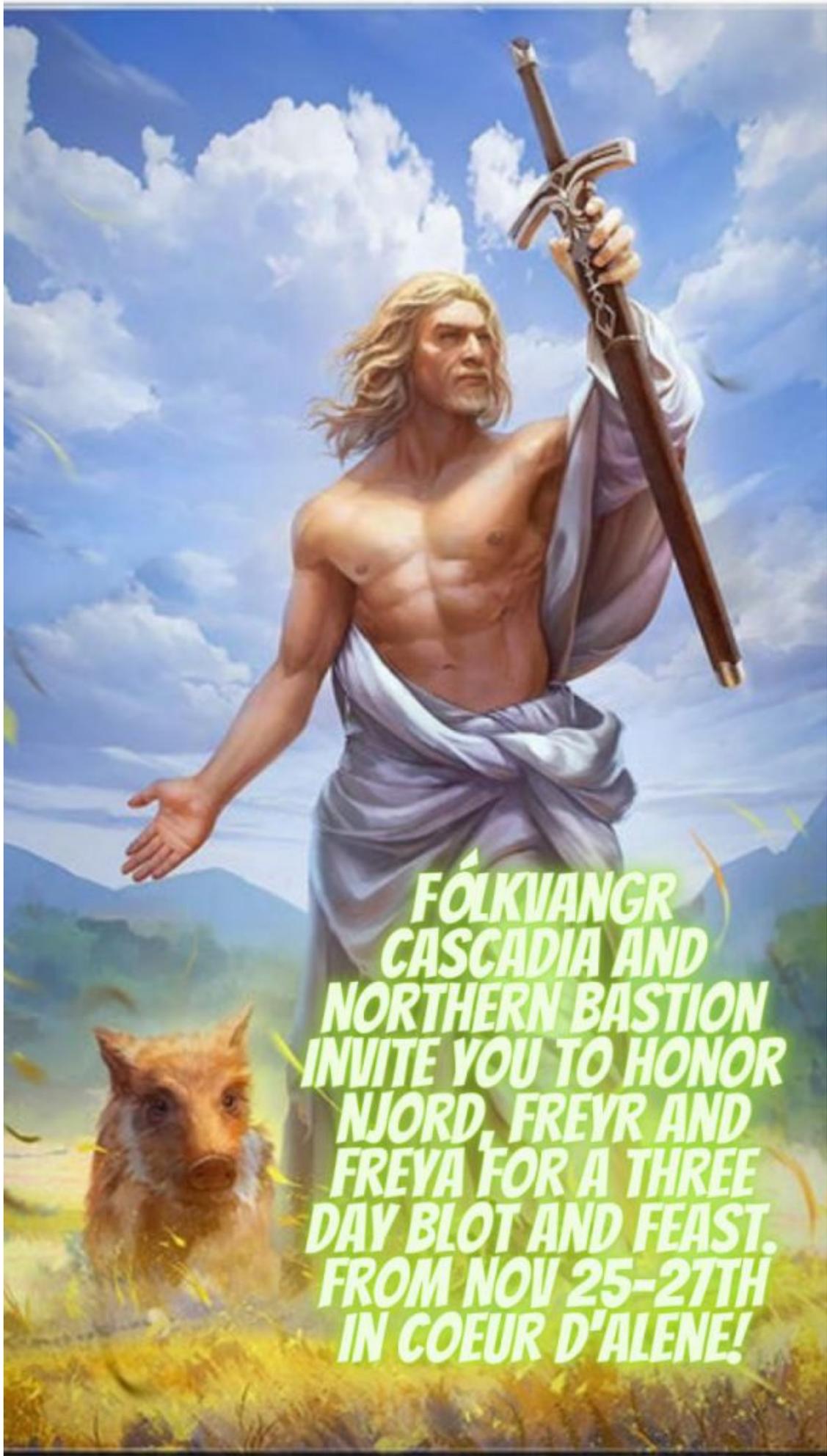
mmills@runestone.org

Freyr's Harvest Feast in Idaho

FREYR'S HARVEST FEAST NOVEMBER 2022



Fólkvangr Cascadia and Northern Bastion invite you to honor Njord, Freyr, and Freya for a three-day Blot and Feast on the banks of Lake Couer D'Alene where we will gather in frith enjoying good food and even better company. An AFA blacksmith will be working the forge for all to see and our instructors will teach Glima (historical Viking wrestling) leatherworking and basketweaving. Compete in events for prizes, see the telling of Freyr's Proposal on stage and give thanks to the gods. With events, speeches, a big auction, and vendor tables there's too much to do to be put into words and it's definitely something you don't want to miss.



**FÓLKVANGR
CASCADIA AND
NORTHERN BASTION
INVITE YOU TO HONOR
NJORD, FREYR AND
FREYA FOR A THREE
DAY BLOT AND FEAST.
FROM NOV 25-27TH
IN COEUR D'ALENE!**

Join us from Nov 25-27th in Coeur D'Alene greater area. The event kicks off Friday afternoon and ends Sunday. Lodgings include cabins, bunkhouses, auxiliary buildings, and campsites. The feast will be in the great hall and festivities range from the forge, throughout the site, and even on the stage. Email Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein (theinlein@runestone.org) for more details!



Tyler Heinlein
Apprentice Folkbuilder
theinlein@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, several members of our AFA family have passed beyond the veil. One was an old man in ill health, two were young men in the prime of life... all died with no legal will on record. Sadly, in two of these cases, our dead AFA members did not have their wishes respected regarding their funerals nor the final resting places of their remains.

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



later, unfortunately, sometimes the clock runs out before "later" happens.

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

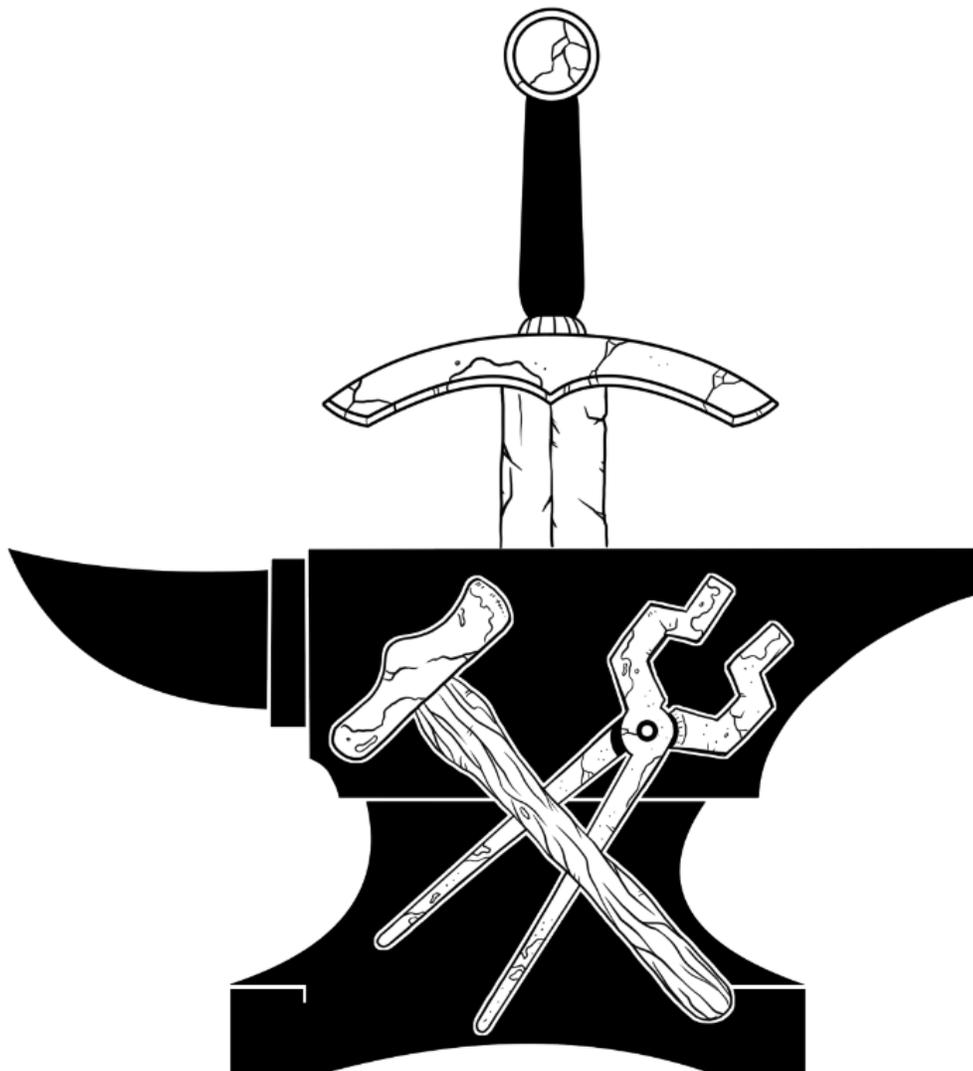
Please make your will **today**.

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

Allen Turnage
PO Box 16027
Tallahassee FL, 32317

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

Stalvind's Forge



At Stalvind's Forge, we craft blades and some tools. We offer sharpening, cleaning, and repair! Veteran Owned and operated.



Contact us today at stalvindsforge@gmail.com or reach out at 270-293-8690



Folkbuilder Jessica Lambert

jlambert@runestone.org

Ancestral Food and Culture

Pierogi



My name is Maya, and we just moved to PA from Washington, but my family came to PA in the late 1800s/early 1900s from Czechoslovakia and Prussia. My grandma tells us stories about her dad, Pa, who I remember only as a little kid when he had severe dementia. There wasn't much we kept from the culture because they tried hard to Americanize but we did keep halupki and pierogi.

Pa and his family worked in the coal mines so all the women in the family would get together and make large batches of pierogi and wrap them up in the newspaper as a way for the men to transport them with them to eat for lunch at work.

Here is the recipe for pierogi:

For the dough

- 4 cups flour
- 2 egg
- 1 tsp salt
- 3 tbsp oil
- Add flour/water as needed*
 - (you must learn to feel Baba's Slav Power in your fingertips and just know when a dough is a dough and not a rock or a soup)

For the filling:

- (We only had potato and onion because we were poor but here are some add-ons)
- A decent amount of potatoes, as many as you like but not less than 4 preferably
- 1-2 onions, minced
- As much garlic as you like
- Ricotta/farmer's cheese/tvarog
- A handful of shredded cheddar
- 3-4 spoonfuls of cream cheese or sour cream
- Salt
- Garlic powder if desired
- Pepper
- a Good deal of milk
- 1 stick of Butter

Recipe:

- *For the filling:*
- Boil the potatoes in a large pot.
- Sautee onions and garlic if desired in a pan with butter or oil.
- Mash the potatoes and salt to taste, add garlic powder, and pepper if you want.
- Add milk, butter, cottage cheese/sour cream, ricotta(or other option), cheddar, etc. to the potatoes.
- Add the onion to the potatoes.

For the dough:

- Mix the ingredients for the dough together in a large mixing bowl, and add water or flour as you need to make it more wet/dry until it is a dough consistency.
- Knead just a bit.
- Cover and let rest for an hour.

Roll out to a thin, but not too thin thickness on a floured surface- if you stretch it and it tears, it is too thin.

Take the bottom of a glass and make circles with the dough.

Take some filling and put it in the center of the dough circle. Fold over the circle so it becomes a crescent dumpling shape and pinch the edges with your fingers. Not required, but if you want to make it look better, take 1 egg and a fork and lightly egg wash the edges and press the tines of the fork into the edges.

Do this until all your dough or filling is used up.

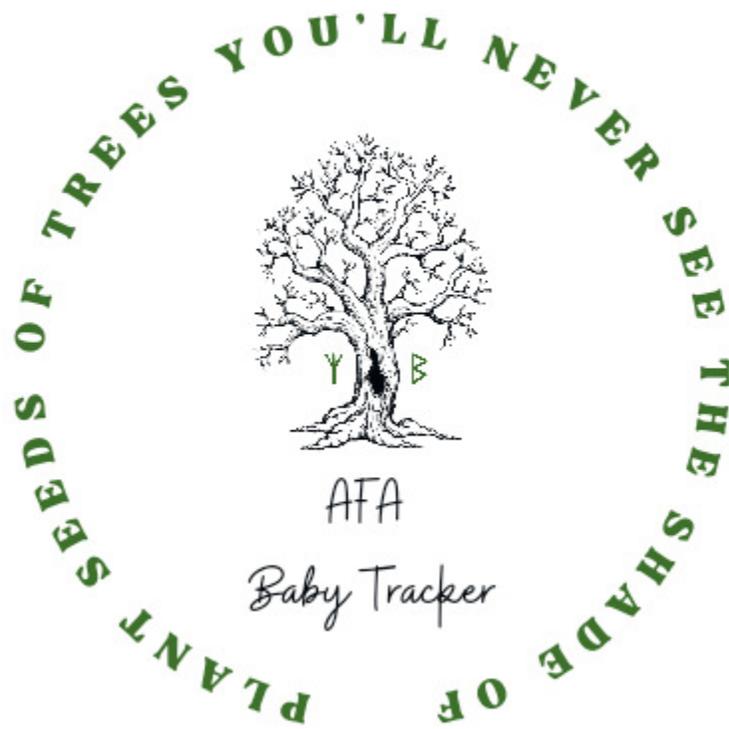
Boil the pierogi in very hot water until they float to the surface, then take them out.

You can leave them boiled like this and put onion on top or sour cream or sauerkraut or whatever you like, OR you can fry them in hot oil/butter in a pan and they will become crispy.



Folkbuilder Timothy Dumas
tdumas@runestone.org

Baby Tracker



Members, please be sure to let your local leadership know if you've given birth to a child recently to ensure that we get your new baby added to our baby tracker count, as well as getting you more information about other children related programs and benefits that the AFA offers!

Total babies born in 2022: 35 (*up 6 from Aug!*)



Jessica Keller
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jkeller@runestone.org

Women's Mysteries Podcast

AFA Ladies' Mysteries Podcast

OCTOBER 9TH, 1:30 PM CST

Mark your calendar for our new monthly ladies' Teams call. An invite link will be provided to join.

Themes and Topics

SACRED SPACES

By Witan Brandy Callahan

WINTERNIGHTS AND DISIR

By Gythia Catie Erickson

ALTERS AND OFFERINGS

By Gythia Anna Plourde

FRITH WEAVING AMONG WOMEN

By Folkbuilder Sara Ault

OFFERINGS WITH YOUR CHILDREN

By Apprentice Folkbuilder Christine Dumas

Contact Christine Dumas,
cdumas@runestone.org
with any question.



The women in AFA Leadership have something new, just for womenfolk! Check out the Ladies' Mystery Podcast on Teams 10/9/22 at 1:30 pm CST.

Christine Dumas
Apprentice Folkbuilder
cdumas@runestone.org



Odinshof's Online Raffle

AFA FUNDRAISER

ARTISANS NEEDED

Woodworking | Sculptors | Blacksmiths
Leatherworkers | Painters | Jewelers | Weavers

Details on raffle and drawing dates to
come soon

We are asking all artisans for donations of something handcrafted for an online AFA fundraising raffle. Have a hand in raising money for Óðinshof repairs and get your name out there as a crafts person. We will purchase your item or donations are greatly appreciated!

To get involved contact Ashley Stockton
707.800.5333

ASTOCKTON@RUNESTONE.ORG



ÓÐINSHOF
FUNDRAISER

AFA VIRTUAL RAFFLE!

\$10.00 A SQUARE

**We are delighted to announce the first annual AFA Virtual Raffle!
Help restore Óðinshof first hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly, buy a
numbered square and get a chance to win this beautiful one-of-a-
kind, high quality, limited edition AFA scarf!**

The winning number will be drawn on Nov 6th at 6pm

Limited squares available!

Contact Folkbuilder Ashley Stockton to participate and good luck!!

BUY A SQUARE NOW!



ASTOCKTON@RUNESTONE.ORG

707.800.5333

[HTTPS://MEWE.COM/1/ASHLEYSTOCKTON3](https://MEWE.COM/1/ASHLEYSTOCKTON3)



Ashley Stockton

Apprentice Folkbuilder

astockton@runestone.org

Just in Time for the Holidays



AFA YULE CARD FUNDRAISER

*Let the Competition
Begin!!!*



Card Artwork created by Reign Kinsler

Odinshof & Baldrshof Districts
contact Ashley Stockton
astockton@runestone.org

Thorshof & Njordshof Districts
contact Jessica Keller
@jkeller@runestone.org



\$20+ shipping
Per pack of 10
All proceeds go to the Hof
with the most orders

Yule Card Fundraiser/ Competition Announcement!!

As much as we loved our folk-created poems from last year, we listened to your feedback and made changes to the card designs this year.

Competition: The district with the most orders, will receive all donations to that districts Hof fund!! Last year we raised \$600!!!

Ashley Stockton will be in charge of Odinshof and Baldrshof orders, and Jessica Keller will be in charge of Thorshof and Njordshof orders!

The artwork was originally painted by Reign Kinsler, the daughter of one of our AFA folk sisters, Rachel Kinsler.



Jessica Keller
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jkeller@runestone.org

Calling All Chefs!



We are putting together an AFA cookbook!

We are looking for your recipes with notes for foods served at Hofs and Moots. Please submit your recipes to cookbook@runestone.org. When submitting a recipe, please include a photo of the meal as well as info about the event and the date the meal was served.



Mike Joyner
Apprentice Folkbuilder
mjoyner@runestone.org

Now Available in the AFA Store



Stay warm this season with your new Zip and Non-Zip hoodies! Get yours today!

<https://runestone.org/product/afa-zippered-and-non-zippered-hoodies/>

<https://runestone.org/product/odinshof-zippered-and-non-zippered-hoodies/>

<https://runestone.org/product/thorshof-zippered-and-non-zip-hoodies/>

<https://runestone.org/product/baldrshof-zip-and-nonzip-hoodies/>

<https://runestone.org/product/njordshof-zip-and-nonzip-hoodie/>



Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

mmills@runestone.org

Baldrshof

Ancestor Altar



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

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

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



Folkbuilder Jessie Shaffer
jshaffer@runestone.org

Winter Finding at Baldrshof



September at Baldrshof brought with it the beginning of fall and the hunting season. As the trees began their change into beautiful shades of orange it seemed apropos to reflect on the importance of the Hunt, and to honor Ullr.

In times past, the hunt would often be a family's lifeline against starvation during hard winter months. The bounty gained at the point of an arrow went well beyond a simple ham from a store and into the realm of life or death. It also served as a test of a man's fortitude and skill.

Though in the modern world we rely less heavily on the hunt to survive it is still important to remember that struggle and to honor Ullr through Blót; as we did at the Hof during Winter Finding.

We also fed many families during our monthly food drive, which remains a success. Through the tireless endeavors of those who organize it our food drive continues to make a positive impact on the local community.

May the hunters out there enjoy the blessings of safe and successful hunts!



Folkbuilder Cormag Àlainn
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 / Winter Finding
- 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



Baldershof
Women's Book
Study

Friday, October 7

7 pm central

Deep Ancestors by Ceisiwr Serith

Contact Witan Brandy Callahan

bcallahan@runestone.org

AFA LADIES COFFEE & CROCHET

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23

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





Yule at Baldrshof

Friday December 9 thru
Sunday December 11

Join your Folk for a 3 day celebration of Yule!

*4 Blots * Sumbel * Feasting * Gift Giving
Tree Lighting * Yule crafts for kids & adults
Educational Discussions * Frith with the Folk*

Contact Witan Brandy Callahan or

Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher to RSVP

bcallahan@runestone.org

jgallagher@runestone.org

Witan Brandy Callahan

bcallahan@runestone.org



Illinois

Njördic Earnings





Hail from Illinois!

Even though I was away and being very "Njördic" earning my bounty on the river almost all of September, things still kept going for Illinois Asatruar.

My wife, Jaclynn, celebrating 3 months sober, began taking more of a role in the Virtue Recovery Program. The online group now also meets on Saturday mornings. I believe this group is more important than many might realize, and I implore our ever-growing membership to take it into account and see what they're about.

Earlier in the month, my wife and I also traveled to a Moot hosted by the Aults and Wisconsin Folk to be present for their vow renewals. I was glad to have led the ceremony for them. James and Sara both took part in our Wedding, and we share an anniversary with them. This is a very strong bond in our Wyrð.

I look forward to an exciting and very busy October!

Upcoming Events



Shane Duffy
Apprentice Folkbuilder
sduffy@runestone.org

Hrafnagud Pub Moot



Hrafnagud Kindred hosted a pub/restaurant moot on Saturday, September 17 in the Chicagoland area. We enjoyed great German food and good conversation with our Folk. Folkbuilders James and Sara Ault made the trip down from the Land of Cheese to join us.

Plans were made for a busy October, with a Landtaking and Winter Nights celebration scheduled.



Folkbuilder James Cummings
jcummins@runestone.org

What is Asatru?



Upcoming Events

INDOOR SPORTING EVENT MOOT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH ♦ 2PM

ALTON, ILLINOIS

CONTACT FOLKBUILDER NICK RICE FOR MORE INFO AND TO RSVP

770.709.1959 | NRICE@RUNESTONE.ORG

The image shows an indoor sporting facility with several lanes of curling stones. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, stylized font. The background shows the interior of a curling rink with various equipment and a large stone in the distance.



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Iowa

All There is to Do in Iowa is Throw Axes



For September the Iowa AFA members met in Davenport, Iowa. We participated in axe throwing and met with Robert. Robert is originally an AFA member from the East Coast that transplanted to Iowa. After axe throwing, we had dinner and discussed plans for carpooling to Baldrshof for upcoming events as well as plans for what the Iowa members wanted to work toward in the near future.

Clayton Von Kepner



Apprentice Folkbuilder
cvonkepner@runestone.org

Minnesota

Coming Home



I had in mind to start a series of articles focusing on one aspect of Ásatru as it might apply to secular life, but as this is my first article I thought I might start with an introduction.

Hello, I'm Glen. There are people who call me GC, since that's an element of all of my online accounts here, there, and everywhere. Those accounts mostly predate my coming to Ásatru so I'll leave them be for now. As of last weekend, I am an apprenticed Folkbuilder for the AFA.

I came to the AFA by a very circuitous route. I was mostly raised a Southern Baptist by my dad. In reality, this was his experimentation with "coming home," so to speak, after a long rambling foray into various alternatives, some of which were run by some rather recognizable, infamous characters. At least one even gave him his bedside phone number. About twenty years ago he joined the Jehova's Witnesses before eventually, and I might be led to believe

somewhat inevitably, falling out with them. They labeled him apostate in 2015, I think. After all, the groups he was involved with didn't particularly relish a man of his ethnic background standing out in their congregations. Before the recent end of his life, he had begun to understand and accept certain truths of that realm.

All of his ramblings kept me from setting permanent roots. In a way, I feel I must be grateful for this. Most people would prefer to have laid their roots young. I can completely understand this. But I believe this inability to become set in my ways left me with the flexibility to observe things on my own as if outside the goings on of belief. It left me with the desire to plant those roots in a place grounded in reality.

I didn't feel correct when in the houses of Abraham. As I grew to adulthood in the 1990s I toyed with this idea and that, never truly settling on anything. All I knew was that when I imagined my spiritual leaning what I saw in my mind was a strong wind rustling tree leaves.

Two decades later, a year after a nerve-racking divorce, the girl who became my second wife came to move in with me. I'll spare the reader the details, but the day I decided to ask her to marry me a dragonfly flew into my car on my way to work – I was driving close to 45 miles per hour – and landed on my shirt. I thought that was simply some cool thing at the time.

Fast forward to 2014, and I'm leaving another job, and it happens again. This time I had looked up at a stop light and made a very conscious decision. I spoke to myself that I'd never been so stable before, I was as ready as I was going to get, so now was the time to bring a child into the world. Soon after, my wife was pregnant.

I felt that these two things could not have been coincidences. Why would this same thing happen twice, and each time mere moments after I'd made a decision that would change my life? It was then that I began to think hard about how I felt about the spirit. I soon decided that I must be an animist. After all, had the spirits not spoken to me and given me the very things I'd asked for?

There at that level, I stood for a few years more. All around I understood spirits to be. I never made any offerings though until I learned the story of how Óstara saved the baby bird by changing it into a hare. At that time my second marriage was falling apart and as many do, I was looking for something to help fill the void. I had read of how she was somehow conflated with Freya, and how amber was said to be the tears of Freya in one story and of Eostra/ Óstara in another. On a Friday I decided to leave an offering of apples for the rabbits near to the apartment building I lived in at the time. As I carefully peeled off the stickers, pulled out the stems, and washed them, I had someone I used to know on my mind. I wondered how she was doing. I had her phone number but since we hadn't spoken in something like seven years it wasn't likely worth the effort to call her up. I set the apples out and carefully stacked. They were gone the next morning. This was my first gift cycle with the Dísir. I had no idea what I was doing.

But less than two weeks later, she called me out of the blue. She said she'd run into someone we both knew at a store and he'd asked if she still talked to me. We had a series of interesting phone calls. Nothing came of them, but I was glad they'd come to pass.

At this time I was slowly realizing that there was something to this. I began to read. I started with the Elder Edda. I read the words of Óðin, stories of Þór, about the building of the wall surrounding Ásgard. As I read I tried my best to understand what the gist of the stories were. Myth is often life, encoded in a way that isn't so easily forgotten, as if a riddle. I was changing the way I thought about things.

I'd heard about the AFA through an interview with Stephen McNallen on an online show that tends to be popular in certain circles. The interviewers often speak of our gods outside this interview and while I was tempted to look further into it, I kept it on a back burner until this last May.

I crossed my fingers and put in my application. I wasn't sure what this process would look like, how I would come across, or even if I would fit in with the organization. Jessie Shaffer contacted me in what seemed like only a couple of hours. I drove out to a moot at the statue of Hermann of the Cherusci roughly two hours drive away a weekend or two later. I put in my application upon returning home.

And now here I am. I've been out to Baldrshof for a great FallFest and met members from all over the country. I've taken blót with my kin. I can't describe how happy I felt when I returned home, and that carried on for days afterward. I feel I've finally found the tribe I needed and that I can stop looking. I've finally come home.



Glen Canaday
Apprentice Folkbuilder
gcanady@runestone.org

Autumn Findings



September brings Winter Finding and the Autumn Equinox. It is also the start of school in our home and a month full of birthdays! Ullr and the hunt have helped me integrate a passion for the outdoors in many youths during our firearm safety training. Having the children's bow and guns blessed during Ullr's blot at Winter Findings will contribute to a successful hunting season- whether it fills our freezers with meat or our minds with memories, it's a win-win.



6 different parks and over 300 miles later—



Herman the German has become a regular pit stop after our park-hopping shindig on his day of remembrance.



I have no problem with that. Full of piss and vinegar on the way there and lights out on the ride home-



Baldrshof was reset and decorated a bit for Autumn and the change of season. My kids picked pumpkins to decorate the Hof and managed to save a few for home. This is one of our favorite times of the year!



My son, Odin started kindergarten with the Asatru Academy and he still wants me to play Uncle Timmy's storytime. Priceless. The ease and support our leadership has offered through this homeschooling experience have been spot on. Hail the Asatru Academy! I can't wait til all my kids can partake.



Sara Ault, Jaime Alann, and I will be spearheading Winter Nights at Baldrshof while Gythia Brandy Callahan will be leading the Disir blot. Hope to see you there!!

Folkbuilder Jessie Shaffer
jshaffer@runestone.org



Honor



Honor is acting with the right intent and selflessly. Honor is the result of the long-lasting right action of an individual while being true to oneself and people. It is acting with nobility rather than baseness with our internal standard held high in our hearts. Having honor, or being an honorable person is also based on the strength of one's word. When we say “words are wind, deeds are iron” can we ensure that our words become the strength of iron in that our actions reflect our words and others can trust without question that what we say will be reflected in what we do? This is how someone can gain the Virtue of Honor. Not only by their actions but that their words can be trusted as well. Honor is the soul might (meign) gained when your words uphold your deeds and your deeds uphold your words. It is gained when oaths are sworn and kept and treated like we are bound by our oaths as if they were truly iron bonds. Give your word sparingly and adhere to it like iron. Your first trust and responsibility should be to your own people. Yet, be kind and proper to others whenever possible. Pass on to others only those words you have personally verified. When you gain power, use it carefully and use it well. Pledge friendship and your services to those who are worthy. Strengthen others of your people and they will strengthen you. In all that you do, consider its benefit or harm upon yourself, your children, and your people.

We do not determine if we have honor or not if we are honorable or not. We cannot rightfully say, “I am an honorable person”. It is determined by others that can attest to the strength of our words, and the rightness of our actions. What

people say about us, our reputations will long outlive us good or bad. So it is on us to conduct ourselves in ways so that we are trusted to do right and our words ring true to others, while we live and long after we are gone.



Folkbuilder Nathan Erlandson
nerlandson@runestone.org

Northern Blood MN Monthly Update



On the last weekend of the month, Northern Blood Kindred, and our friends the True North Folk Kindred co-hosted a Ren Fair Folk moot at the Minnesota Renaissance festival.



This was our second year here. There were a dozen members there and several children. Really was a great day and the weather was just right. It's never a bad time when you spend time with your folk.

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!

This was our second year here. There were a dozen members there and several children. Really was a great day and the weather was just right. It's never a bad time when you spend time with your folk.

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!

Upcoming Events



It's back folks! Our famous Folkish Family Pizza Moot. This is where we hosted our very first one in January 2017. Hope to see ya there. Bring the whole family. Pizza Ranch in Shakopee, MN, 3-5 pm. This is a Folkish Family friendly event. Hail the Doers! Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!



Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher
jgallagher@runestone.org

Missouri

Finally, it feels like the harvest time!



Lots of activity as the harvest begins to roll in through the Heart of Midgard!

Shout outs to:



Lutisha Wilson - Happy Birthday!



Jessie Parton - Congratulations on the new Career!



Bekah and Terry - Congrats in your upcoming nuptials!



C.J. Low - We may be a little afraid, but good job passing your test and getting your permit buddy!



Zoey Mills - We are also a little afraid here as well but congrats on getting your permit as too!

Good job!

Upcoming Events

We have plenty of fantastic events and opportunities to get together with your Folk coming up!

AFA MEMBERS ONLY

LORE STUDY *night*



*Trivia nights
include prizes!!*

Tell your AFA friends to join you
and pit your knowledge against
each other in friendly
competition!

Every Tuesday @7pm CST
Join the Mewe Lore Study
Group for links and
information.

We read 2 weeks out of the
month then do review with
TRIVIA NIGHT!

Then we learn about our
modern Lore and Sagas within
the AFA One tuesday a month!
And have a second round of
trivia!!

Contact Folkbuilder Sara
Ault or Folkbuilder Melisa
Mills to get in on the fun!



JOIN YOUR FOLK
AT THE PUMPKIN PATCH



CAROLYN'S PUMPKIN PATCH

OCTOBER 9TH 11AM
17607 N.E. 52ND STREET
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SUN 16TH OCTOBER

**HAUNTED
HUZZAH**

AT THE KC RENFEST

Family fun!

ENTERTAINMENT | FOOD | MUSIC

MEET AT 10AM
FOR DISCOUNTED TICKETS PURCHASE
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PLEASE RSVP TO FOLKBUILDER MELISA MILLS OR ASPEN
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YOU ARE COORDIALLY INVITED TO

Cocktails



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A DINNER PARTY FULL OF MURDER,
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October
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To RSVP,
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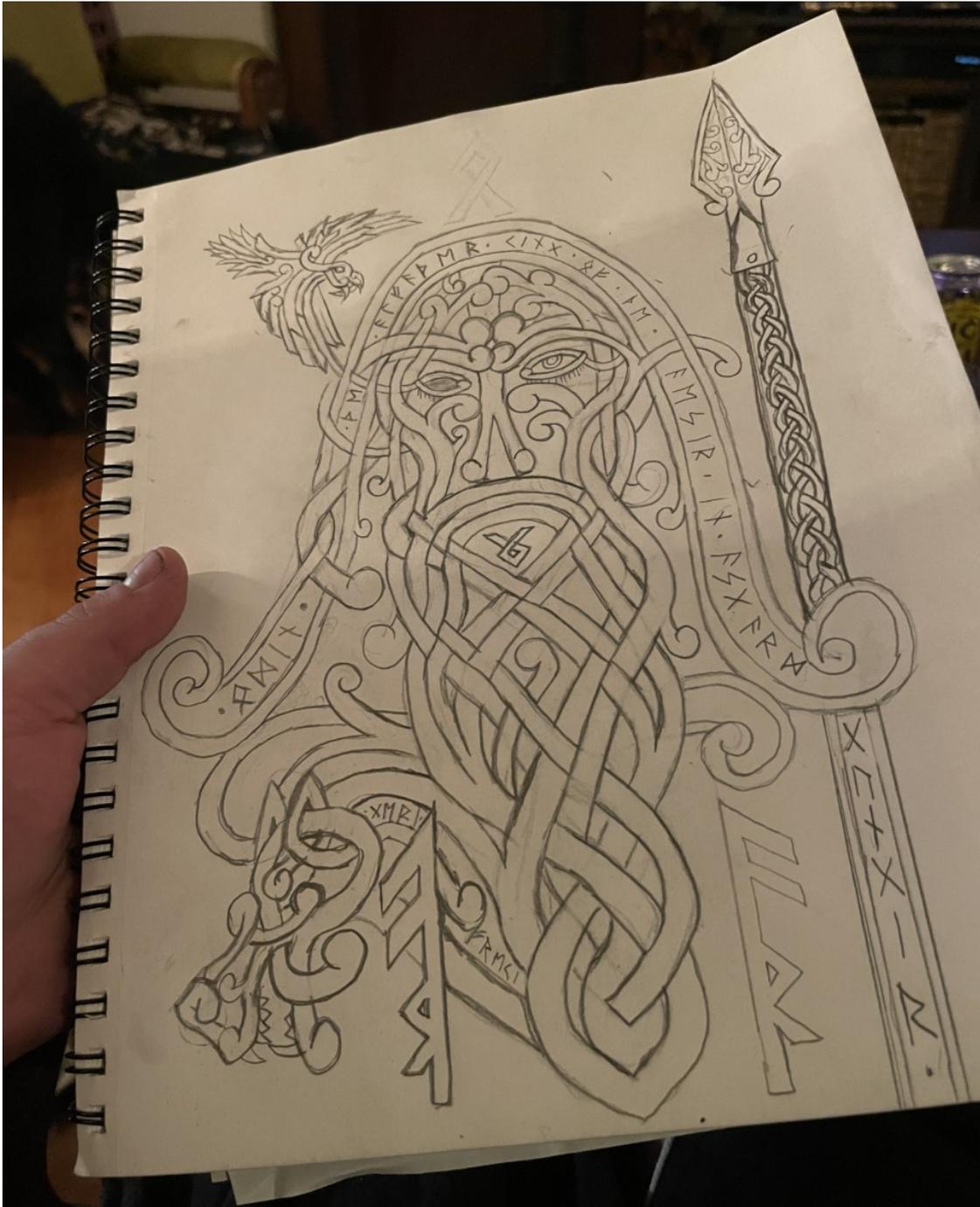


Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

mmills@runestone.org

North Dakota

Hail!



Hello all! I'm Christian Penner (I go by Stian, it means something different in Norwegian) and I am one of the newest Apprentice Folkbuilders from Fargo, ND, and a member of the True North Kindred. I'll be working with the team at Baldrshof and I feel very honored to be able to serve my folk.



I'm an artist specializing in traditional Norsk Knotwork. Our Ancestral artwork is what brought me to Asatru. I make all sorts of things by hand from bone, drinking horns for ritual and fun, altarpieces, knives, and drawings. I like to gift them to my friends or donate them to the Hof's auctions as my way of giving back a little of what I've received from our Gods and our Ancestors.



I've attached a piece, and the iterative process I went through, that I started while on an awesome 6-hour-long Virtual Moot that another folkbuilder set up. This piece is a knotwork of Odin and is the first in a series I will be framing and sending to each Hof. Any of our members please feel more than free to reach out and ask if you have an idea for an art project at any time. Until I meet you all in person, Hail the Gods, Hail the Folk, and Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Christian Spencer
Apprentice Folkbuilder
cspencer@runestone.org



Money and Gifting



What is money?

It is much more than simply a piece of paper or a digital number we can use to buy things. Money is life, it is time made physical.

If you work for \$20 an hour, let's say, then \$20 to you is literally one hour of your life you can hold in your hand and trade. Obviously, this has many implications from the importance of budgeting, to the value of a dinner date.

I want to talk about its spiritual implications though.

We speak of the cycle of gifting: as we give to the Gods, they then give to us. We give gifts to our loved ones and friends to express our affection. We gift when we sacrifice and we ask for blessing in return.

As it applies to money I see it as a gift of life. I am not gifting Baldr \$20... I am literally giving him one hour of my life that was spent in labor and that I can never get back as my time here is finite. What better gift might I give him than a piece of my life?

I also see Hoftollar in this way.

It is not a subscription fee vis a vis some streaming service or a gym membership. Rather, it is a gift of life given to a God. It is a sign of devotion and generosity. It is a tangible gift given regularly and used to honor the Gods. I see it not as an inconvenient membership fee or something, but rather as a privilege. A chance to sacrifice to the Gods even if I cannot make it to Blót one day.

All too often our society sees "Money" as a dirty word. What a shame it is that our people have so forgotten what our ancestors knew to be true: money is far more than it seems. Hoftollar is an excellent opportunity given to us to directly support and gift to our Hofs and our Gods.

I'll leave you with a question: What's an hour of your life worth spending on?



Folkbuilder Cormag Àlainn

calainn@runestone.org

Wisconsin

September seasons, Baldrsfolk reasons...



Hail to the Folk! September saw us all catch our breath after Fallfest, In the beginning, enjoying some time making plans for celebrations as well as adventures to come and enjoying an Oktoberfest Moot at the legendary Old Heidelberg Park in Milwaukee WI!

It's home to countless Oktoberfests past and the grand traditions of German culture and brewing that founded our fair state!



To close out the month, Joel, Kirsten, and I drove out to Montana to spend the weekend honored to be guests of Elder Ron McVan. It's such an honor and experience to once again be fortunate enough to speak candidly and hold company with such an interesting, intelligent, and dynamic man, who's boundless hospitality is overwhelming!

In many ways I believe he has shared a good deal of himself with all of those who have ever appreciated his prowess as an author, artist, or spiritual leader—he has reached many. I encourage you all to check out his beautiful works!



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

Upcoming Events

VATNAFÖLK KINDRED MEN'S
TENTING CAMP OUT
TWIN VALLEY CAMP GROUND
3PM FRIDAY OCTOBER 21ST -
3PM SUNDAY OCTOBER 23RD.

SAT. BLOT/BLESSING
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RUSTIC MEALS PROVIDED AS
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PLEASE RSVP OR REACH OUT
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RAPIN FOR DETAILS

[JRAPIN@RUNESTONE.ORG](mailto:jrapin@runestone.org)

920-288-9710



Folkbuilder Josh Rapin
jrapin@runestone.org

"Let us love our folk and provide a path for our future"



Winter Nights with Ritual. Celebrated in mid to late October, this is a time to remember the women's ancestors also known as the Disir as well as the goddess Freya and her beauty and love for us.

We believe that our ancestors are still here with us, divided only by a thin veil between life and death, that they watch over us and send us good intentions.

Ritual:

This day we will light a candle at our altar (sacred space) or sit photos of our ancestors on our dining room table, prepare a plate for them and raise a horn of mead for Freya (or a glass of your chosen libation, to and for) the Disir.

We will also read a poem by our beloved Elder Stephen McNallen. This is a tradition of the AFA, by our beloved founder and is a tradition that I encourage those who are followers of our ways to incorporate into your family traditions. As my Captain and past and always original Alsherjargothi, (Stephen McNallen).

The originator of the AFA in every capacity as we know it today, his reading has touched my heart. Make this poem a part of your family's life traditions From this day forward...



As McNallen says, this is his tribute to Freya, the Disir, and Ray Bradbury, their “special bard.”

"October Women," by Stephen McNallen

Can you hear her? Can you hear THEM?
Shut your eyes and listen through the dark.
Rustle, crackle, crunch on the leaves
Once green, now brown, like Freya's cloak.
Green cloaks are for growing things,
And for tossing on the grass for a love bed.
Brown cloaks, like fallen leaves and bare earth
Are for covering and concealing...for October.
Ray Bradbury knows about October.
But he doesn't know about her
Or it wouldn't be his thumbs that prickle
When frost circles the moon like her necklace,
And it's too cold to make love on the stark ground.
Maybe he hears the ones behind her and fears

The Disir – creaking bones? Dried up skin bags?
Wrinkles like old apples in the straw?
But Bradbury’s got October right,
At least as far as he goes.
Summer’s end, no more long days
To run in the sun and play in fields like children
It’s adult time now – indoors, school books open, turn pages.
Turn inward, and keep the fire lit all night.
Falling leaves turn to falling snow
But the ancient ladies ignore the chill.
Out in the paddock stand the burial mounds,
Stones all icy, but the Disir don’t care.
They cackle and call as though the air was warm
And flowers bedecked the barrow in the sun.
You can hear them better this time of year
Without the humming of the insects
Or the sighs of lovers moving over the grass.
The Disir, those ancient women, call to you.
Mothers, grandmothers, cousins and kin of old
They hail and halloo, as though they’d never left the fireside.
Remember to feed the animals, the Disir say
And brew the fine beer that will keep you cheery.
It’s not too cold to take off your clothes under the cover,
Especially if you’ve someone to snuggle with.
Keep a log on the family’s honor
And know that summer lies beyond the snow.
Creaking bones and leathery skin?
Wrinkles, cracked voices, age-dulled eyes?
Mr. Bradbury should know Freya better than that.
October is now, but springtime is forever
And the Disir calls us from verdant vistas.
Their eyes shine brightly and their supple bodies
Twist and weave as they dance in the sun.
“You can make it!” they say, and as usual, they’re right.

Hail the Gods,
Hail our Folk,
Hail our Alsherjargothi Matthew Flavel!!!
Hail our Elder and most venerated Founder Stephen McNallen!!!!



Folkbuilder James Ault
jault@runestone.org

Thankful Heart



If you find a friend you fully trust
And wish for his good-will,
exchange thoughts,
exchange gifts,
Go often to his house.....Hávamál 44



A thankful heart for all the AFA members of Wisconsin. Thankful to the families that bring their children to Moots. Thankful for the friends who travel to gather for an hour or two. Thankful for the bonds and memories made. Thankful to be a part of the Asatru Folk Assembly and grow together.



Get out of your comfort zone and join us. You won't regret it.

Come Home!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Daily Asatru - Morning Ritual



Our Folk often ask how to make sure they are practicing Asatru in their daily lives. One way is to get into the habit of doing rituals within your own home. Whether it's a ritual to honor a God or Goddess that corresponds to that day of the week, a ritual to remember one of the Folk heroes on their remembrance day, or a ritual in honor of one of your ancestors; it is a good way to incorporate Asatru into daily life. Make these times special and personal to you. Don't concentrate so much on what is the right or wrong way. Speak from your heart. The following is an example of a woman's morning ritual before a personal altar.

After waking up, stretch and take a deep breath. As you light the candles on the altar, express thanks for waking up to another day of limitless possibilities. Quiet yourself in front of your altar. Place your hand over your heart and tap out the rhythm on your chest while remembering that your own heartbeat is just one in a long line of your ancestors that

stand with you. As you do this concentrate on a female ancestor and speak their name if known. She will be there. Ask for guidance. Stop tapping and listen with not only your head but your heart as well. Thank and hail them. If you have a rune set, now is the time to pull one, set it on your altar, and concentrate on it. Say the name of the rune out loud and repeat it over and over. Think about what you know about the rune, what it could mean to you, and picture that in your head. Take a deep breath and blow out the candles. Now you are ready to face whatever your day may bring.

You will start to notice that making these personal rituals a daily part of your life will bring about a renewed focus in your life, help you deal more soundly with problems that pop up in life, and keep you growing on your path in Asatru!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the AFA!



Folkbuilder Sara Ault
sault@runestone.org



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