

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly



Njörðshof
Fourth Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

<http://www.njordshof.org/>

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Words from the Alsherjargothi



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

mentioning, nonetheless.

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

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

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



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Words from our Witan

Hexennacht Ritual



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

Items needed:

Horn

Mead

Bowl

Cauldron

A stick to suspend the cauldron

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

Charcoal

Lighter

Lavender

Rosemary

Mugwort

Assistants:

3 ladies of the folk

Gather your folk and have the women bless the mead. Enter the ritual space in a

sunwise motion, forming a circle around the central altar.

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

Hail the Æsir!

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

Hail the Ancestors!

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

Hail the Vaetter!”

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

We give gifts of ourselves to you!

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

Hail to you, Freyja!

The daughter of Njord,

The wife of Odr,

The sister of Frey,

The mother of Hnoss and Gersemi,

You show us the power of love,

The power of strength,

The power of endurance.

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

You teach us to be better women!

You inspire us to be better men!

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

Ask your hornbearer to collect the gifts of the Folk

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

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

Hold the horn high and await the acceptance of Freyja.

Pour the gifts into the bowl.

Refill the horn.

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

We ask you to bless us with strength and will,

The ability to find our own power within,

To overcome and to achieve our goals.

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

Hail Freyja!”

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

Pour remaining mead from the horn in the bowl.

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

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

A time of transition and of magic.

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

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

Fires were tended, celebration made, and prayers spoken.

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

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

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

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

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

“The first woman approaches,

With the devotion of a daughter,

With the love of a sister,

And with the compassion of a friend,

She lends herself to the Folk.

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

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

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

charcoal.

“The second woman approaches,
With the support of a wife,
With the protection of a mother,
And with the strength of an aunt,
She lends herself to the Folk.

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

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

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

“The third woman approaches,
With the wisdom of the grandmother,
With the memories of the great-grandmother,
And with the ancient knowledge of the Disir.
She lends herself to the Folk,
To bless you and to remind you of your own immortality”

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

“May the Gods and the Ancestors bless you with strength!
With love!
With protection!
With victory!”

After the blessing is completed, close the blot.

“This blot has ended.
We have given our gifts and received gifts in return.
Take the blessings of Freyja and the blessings of your women.
Go forward with passion, with strength, and achieve the victory that awaits you!
Hail the Gods!
Hail the Folk!!
Hail the AFA!!!”



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Words from our Gothar

Individualism and the Clan



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

If personal sympathies and antipathies can never stand up to the authority of Frith, how did this ideal of individualism come to take such a grip on our Folk? Particularly in America, where it was even further aggrandized to a “rugged individualism”. What

causes someone to want to distance themselves from their people, their clan, or even their immediate family in extreme cases?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Of all the baggage those of us raised Christian carry, this hyper-individualism is the most detrimental and hardest to shake. Some may even mistakenly come to Asatru for their individual bona fides (being Asatru to distance oneself from Christianity is not pious) and will either embrace the natural order of tribe over the individual, as is our folkway, or they will withdraw to their solitary practices, free of the obligations required by Frith. Individualism is the easy path, but it is not the right path. Freed from that limitation of individualism they grow stronger and make our folk stronger as a whole.

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



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Orthodoxy in Asatru



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

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

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



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

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

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

Asatru is a REAL faith, with REAL rules, where our people connect with our REAL

Gods. Anyone who says otherwise is not seriously interested in this faith.

Gods be praised.



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Walk the Pious Path, for Upon Victory Lies



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

"Hail, day! | Hail, sons of day!"

And night and her daughter now!
Look on us here | with loving eyes,
That waiting we victory win.
"Hail to the gods! | Ye goddesses, hail,
And all the generous earth!
Give to us wisdom | and goodly speech,
And healing hands, life-long."

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

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



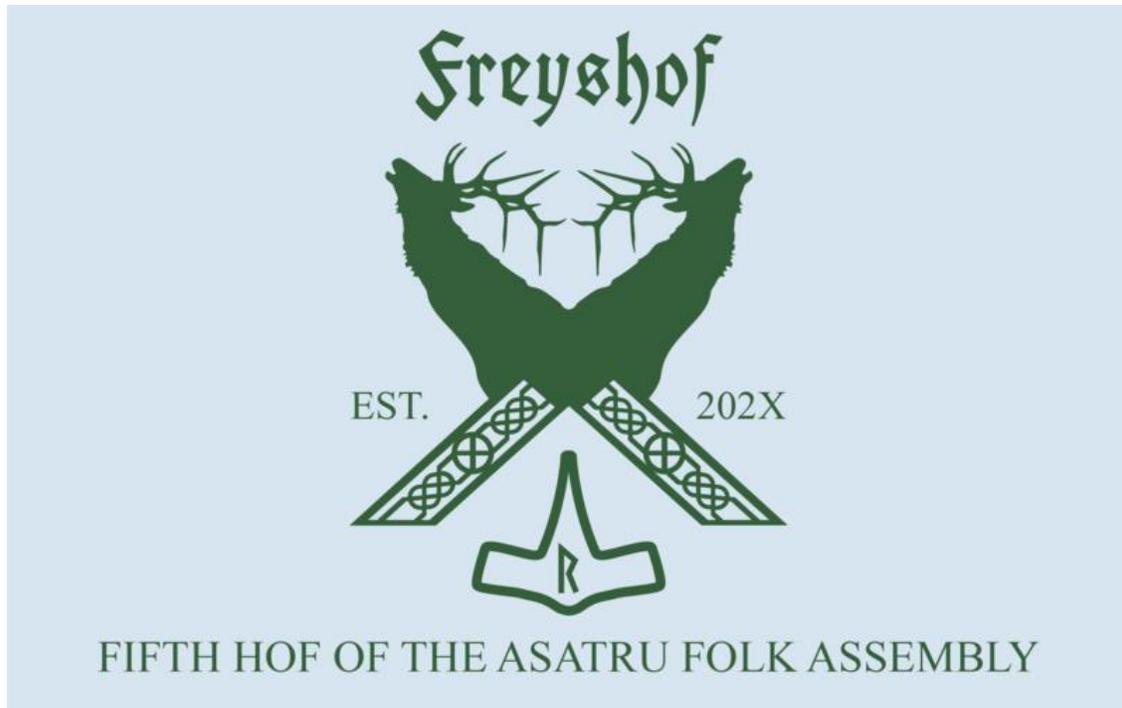
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The Quest for Freyshof

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

prosperity of men.”

– Gylfaginning



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

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

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

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

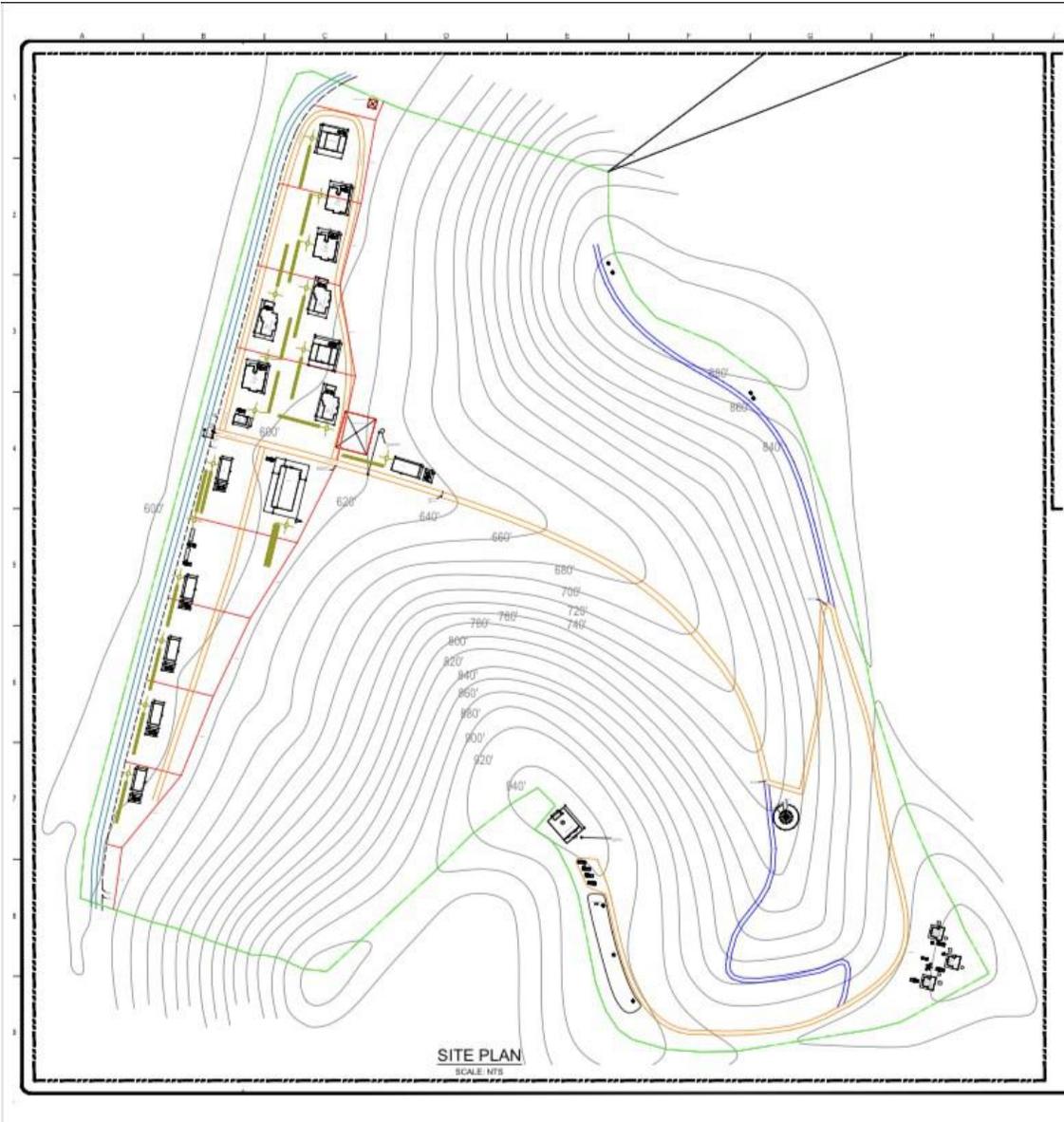
This is not a "quick" process so stay patient and resolute. As we progress, I will keep you all updated on our progress!

Hail Freyr!



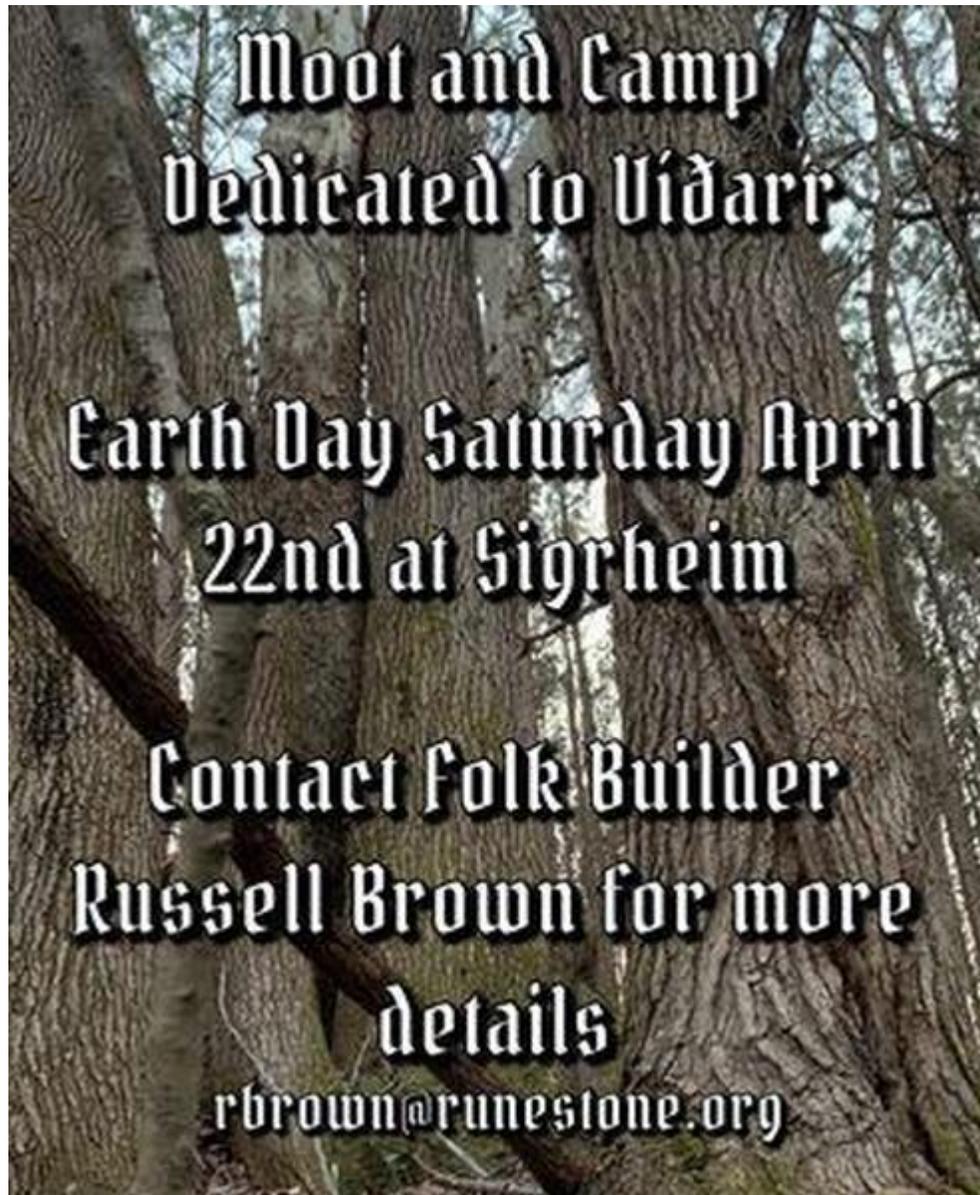
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Sigrheim: Home of Victory



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

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



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

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



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



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Victory Never Sleeps

The Asatru Folk Assembly Presents

Victory Never Sleeps!

Wednesdays at 6pm PST / 8pm EST

vk.com/asatrufolkassembly

entropystream.live/app/MattFlavel

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odyssey.com/@AsatruFolkAssembly:e

twitter.com/FolkAsatru



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AFA Homeschool Program



For More Info: [Welcome | Asatru Academy](#)

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

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

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

Please email me at rstamm@runestone.org with your entry.

If we choose your entry, the winner will receive a t-shirt of your choice from the AFA

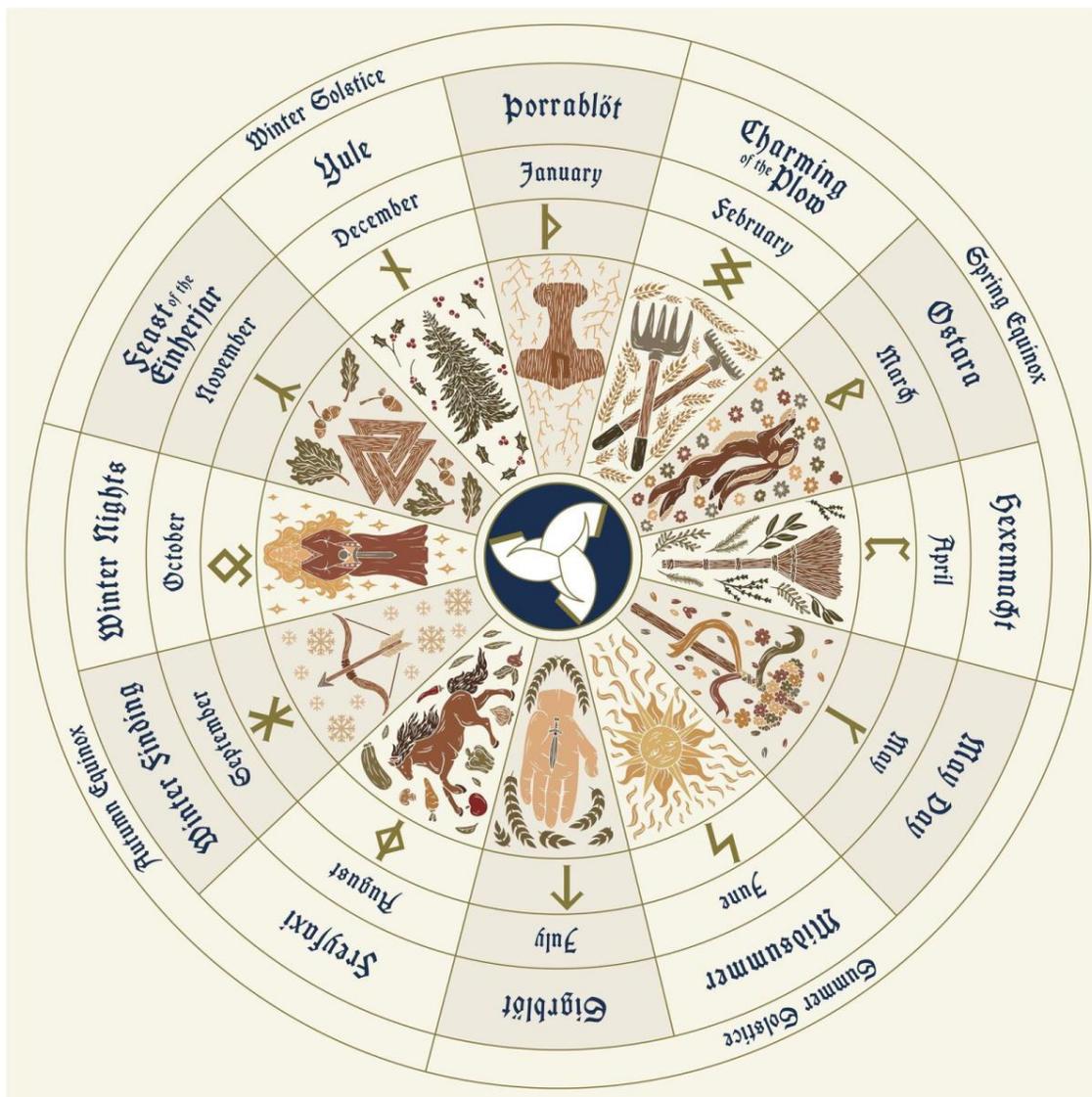
store! And be announced in next month's Runestone!

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



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Remembrance & Holy Days



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

2023

Date	Observance
January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 21	Porrablót
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 18	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olvir of Egg
March 21 (observed on 18th)	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 22	Day of Remembrance for John Gibbs-Bailey “Hoskuld”
April 28 (observed on 15th)	Hexennacht

Date	Observance
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
May 1 (observed on 20th)	May Day
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric of the Goths
June 21 (observed on 17th)	Midsummer
July 4	Day of Remembrance for Sveinbjorn Beinteinsson
July 9	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills
July 15	Sigrblót
August 9	Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia
August 19	Freyfaxi
September 9	Day of Remembrance for Prince Hermann of the Cherusci
September 22 (observed on 16th)	Winter Finding
October 4	Day of Remembrance for John Yeowell “Stubba”
October 9	Day of Remembrance for Meister Guido von List
October 15	Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen
October 21	Winter Nights
November 9	Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigríð of Sweden
November 11 (observed on 18th)	Feast of the Einherjar
December 9	Day of Remembrance for Egill Skallagrímsson
December 20	Mother's Night
December 20-31 (observed on 16th)	Yuletide

Day of Remembrance

Jarl Haakon



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

Though forced into baptism Haakon's faith in his gods was so strong that he was not only able to revolt against Bluetooth's efforts to Christianize Norway for a time, but also to spread and expand his faith in his lands. In the end, powers that he could not control began to sway the attitudes of his men and he was killed by one of his own retainers.

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

So, what can we learn from this story?

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

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

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

Hávamál 54:

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



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John Gibbs-Bailey "Hoskuld"



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

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

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

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

of the Odinic Rite.

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

Hail Hoskuld!

Hail the Gods!



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Holiday

Hexennacht



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

Hexennacht, traditionally, was a festival celebrating this very thing. The main focus of the holiday was the bonfire. The men would all gather and build the large need-fire.

They would then walk the cattle through the smoke to bless them before rehoming them for the warm months. Often the men would call on Frey during Hexennacht, asking for fertility and abundance.

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

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

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

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



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Upcoming National Events

Midsummer at Óðinshof - June 16th-18th



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

Get your tickets [HERE](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Midsummer at Óðinshof

June 16-18 2023
Brownsville, Ca

Three transformational days with leaders and members across the globe!

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

BE HERE FOR IT ALL!

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707.800.5333

Michael Sessumes
Msessumes@runestone.org

Sierra Chapman
Schapman@runestone.org

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

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

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

Children are free!

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Event and Workshop Tickets [HERE](#)



Folkbuilder Ashley Stockton
astockton@runestone.org

Winter Nights 12 in Ohio



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

Since 2012, this long-running AFA festival has been dedicated to our ancestral mothers, the Disir. When the harvest is in, the summer plants have died off, and the winter is quickly approaching the veil between the living and dead is said to be at its thinnest. Again, we will gather to worship our Gods, Goddesses, and Ancestral Mothers. We build upon the success of the Asatru Folk Assembly by making new friends and renewing old friendships.

We look forward to seeing members and friends!

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

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

Things to know:

- Children 17 and under attend for free!
- You will need to bring your own bedding and it can get chilly at night, so plan accordingly.
- Tenting is limited; you must contact Witan Clifford Erickson if you intend to tent.
- The camp address will be provided after registration as the event gets closer. Travel plans can be made for Clinton County, Ohio.
- We are pleased to announce lower ticket prices this year, due to a change of venue to features a commercial kitchen and other amenities we had come to expect since the first event in the Poconos of Pennsylvania.

Member Family – Weekend: \$120

Member – Weekend: \$80

Member – Day: \$40

Guest – Weekend: \$100

Guest – Day: \$50

Child – Weekend: Free

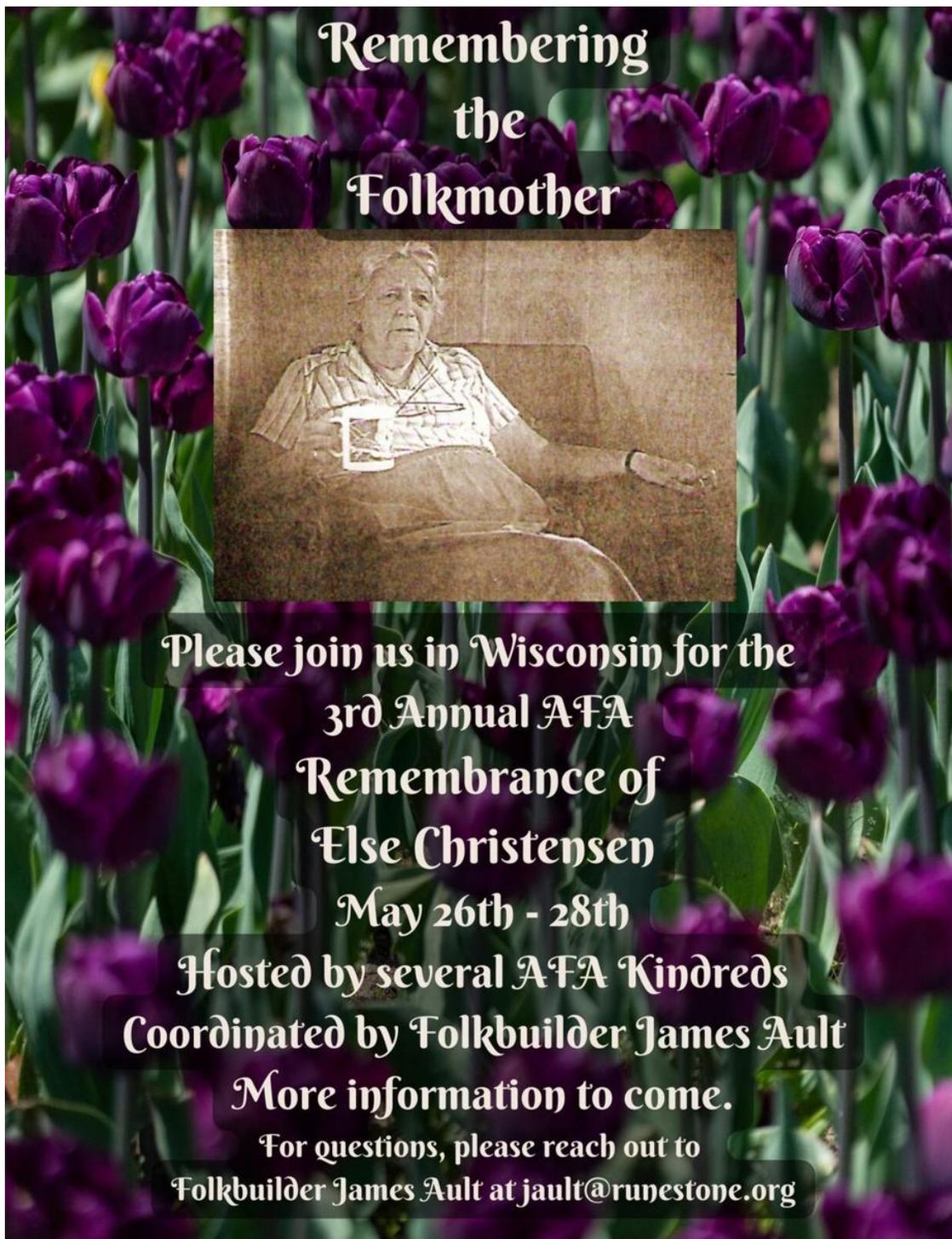
Child – Day: Free

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



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Upcoming Regional Events



Remembering the Folkmother

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



Folkbuilder James Ault

jault@runestone.org

Be a Doer



We need you to volunteer for the AFA!

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

Please email volunteer@runestone.org 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



Witan Allen Turnage

aturnage@runestone.org

The Artisans of the AFA Support Our Folk

211 Tattoo Parlor and Art Gallery – Green Bay, WI



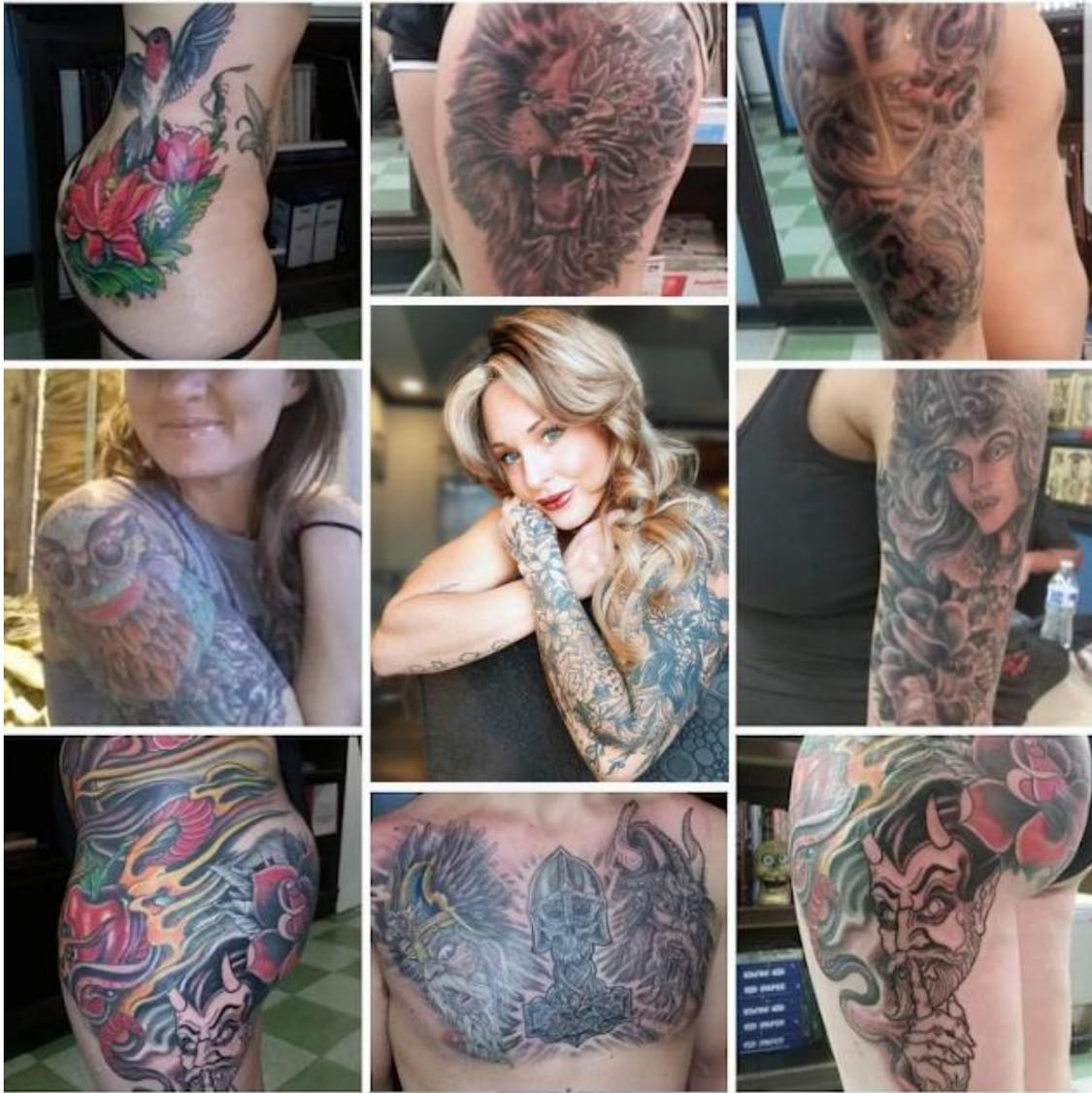
211 Custom Tattoo Parlor and Art Gallery has stood proudly Folk-owned for 16yrs in downtown Green Bay, Wisconsin. It has gone through life with its artists and stood unmoved in its traditional roots as well as maintaining its top-notch reputation for stellar craftsmanship and partnerships to provide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



For fourteen years, until his passing, it was run by a wonderful artist named Corey Lee McAlister. It was an honor to be his friend, as well as maintain a booth in his studio. He was an incredibly talented man in many realms, and always a loving family a devoted

to his Folk and Family. I learned a good deal from him about many things. Hail Corey Lee McAlister!







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



Folkbuilder Josh Rapin
jrapin@runestone.org

Cooking for our Folk



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Folkbuilder Mike Joyner
mjoyner@runestone.org

Ancestral Food and Culture

Ostara Stew



A unique stew.

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

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

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

“Oh just going to throw them away?”

“Can I have them?!?”

“ok.....”

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

5 Rabbits, cleaned/boiled/picked

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

2lbs Carrots sliced

5 sm Turnups, peeled/quartered/sliced

5 lg white onions, sliced

1 head of celery, sliced

6qts stock (ham or chicken will work)

2 sticks butter

fresh thyme, removed from stem

Fresh rosemary, destemmed and chopped

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



Folkbuilder Mike Joyner
mjoyner@runestone.org

Shepherd's Pie



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

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



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

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

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

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

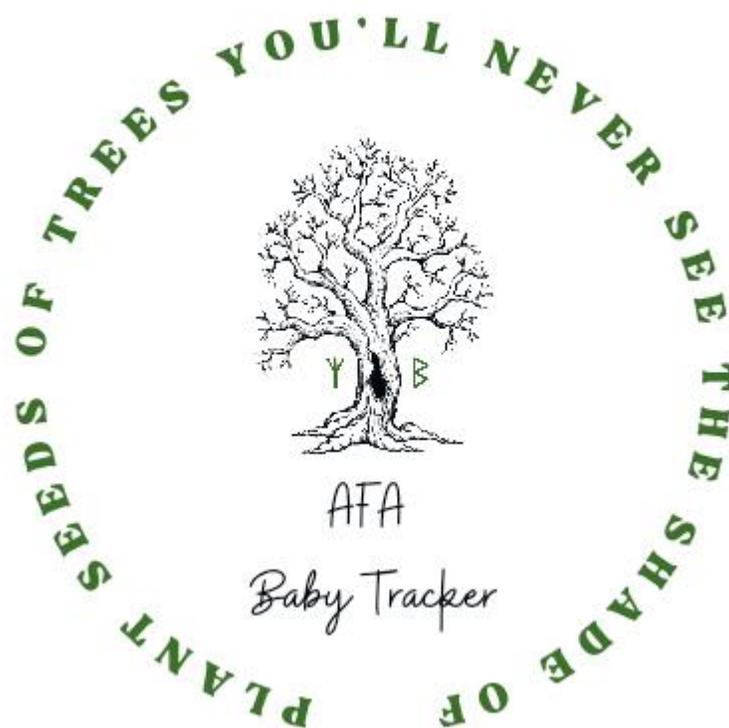
Bake covered at 350 for 45 minutes, then uncovered for an additional 15 minutes.

Remove from oven, let cool, enjoy!



Christian Penner
Apprentice Folkbuilder
cspencer@runestone.org

Baby Tracker



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

Total babies born in 2023: 8



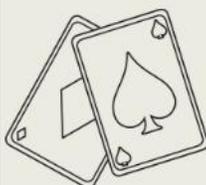
Jessica Keller
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jkeller@runestone.org

Ladies Mysteries Podcast

LADIES MYSTERIES PODCAST

April 30th at 1:30 pm CST

DIVINATION



Witan Brandy Callahan: Cartomancy

Gythia Catie Erickson: Tasseography and Pendulum

Gythia Anna Plourde: Armanen Runes

Folkbuilder Sara Ault: Ogham

Folkbuilder Christine Dumas: Tarot



Contact Christine Dumas for more
information
cdumas@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Christine Dumas
cdumas@runestone.org

Sisters Sunday Chat

A colorful graphic for 'Sisters Sunday Chat'. It features a central text area with 'Sisters' in blue, 'Sunday Chat' in a larger blue font, and the dates 'Sunday April 2nd and Sunday April 23rd' and time '10 Am Central'. Below this is the contact information: 'Contact Apprentice Folkbuilder Ali Clausen for details'. The graphic is decorated with illustrations of clouds, bees, and flowers. One cloud has a smiling face and is raining. There are four bees, each with a blue heart on its back. At the bottom, there is a row of colorful flowers in shades of yellow, pink, and red.

Sisters

Sunday Chat

Sunday April 2nd
and Sunday April 23rd
10 Am Central

Contact Apprentice
Folkbuilder Ali Clausen for
details

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

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

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



Alison Clausen
Apprentice Folkbuilder
aclausen@runestone.org

Saga's Literature Project



Saga needs your stories!

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

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

How do you celebrate our Holidays or Days of Remembrance?

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

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

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

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

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

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



Folkbuilder Shane Duffy
sduffy@runestone.org

Prison Ministry



Greetings kinsfolk,

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

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

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

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



Folkbuilder James Ault
jault@runestone.org

Lore Trivia



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

[*Play Here!*](#)

Rules:

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

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



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

May the odds be ever in your favor!

[Play Here!](#)



Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

mmills@runestone.org

AFA Eldri ~ New Group for Seniors



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

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

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

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

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

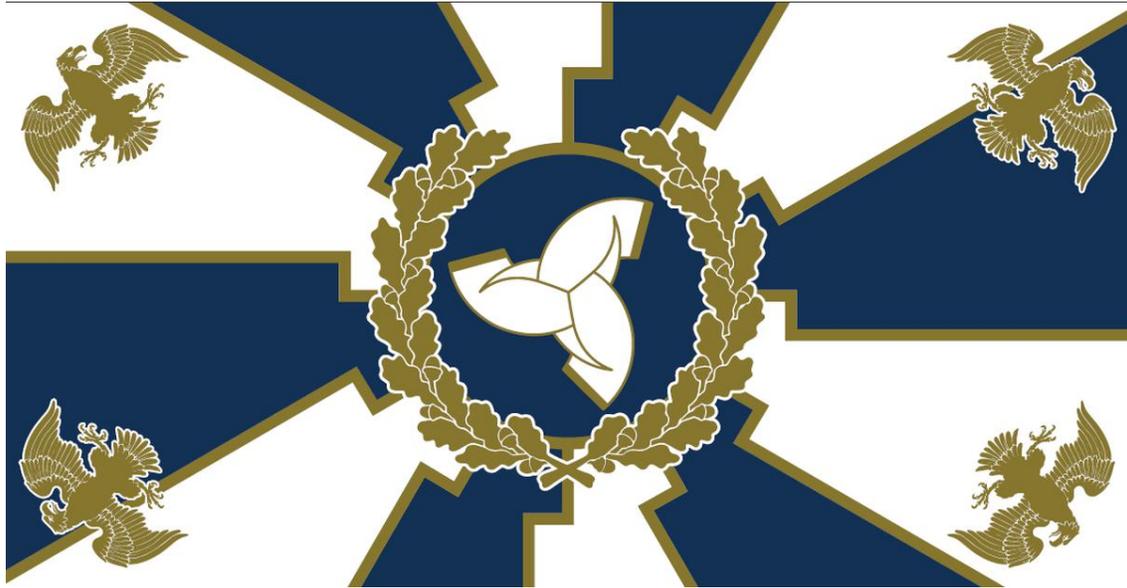


Gythia Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

Now Available in the AFA Store



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



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



Folkbuilder Melisa Mills
mmills@runestone.org

Njörðshof

Food Pantry at Njörðshof



43 families were fed with the help of multiple folk this month at our celebration of Ostara. All hands were on deck for this event.

Holiday at Njörðshof



Ostara is a time to celebrate Spring, new beginnings and the awakening of the earth after the cold seasons. This is a time of fertility, birth and renewal. Our family at Njordshof definitely did it right, this year, for our first Ostara in our hof. To start things off, we had a wonderfully meaningful meal composed by Folkbuilder Mike Joyner; rabbit stew made with love and with stock he created from very special ingredients; the entire meal was composed as a ritual. All of the accompanying side dishes were

extremely delicious. We were very fortunate to have many desserts as well, brought to us by our loving friends and family. When we were finished with our lunch, we had an amazing blot to Ostara by our Gythia Anna Plourde. This blot was very impactful and was a perfect ceremony to precede our next loving event of the day. The ladies of Njordshof made a very special tribute to our Gythia to help welcome her little one into Midgard. We shared a very special, meaningful time together as women. After that the women rejoined the men. Our loving vibes at Njordshof extended to Sumbel, where many of our members raised a horn to their spouses. The residual joy and delight that continues to exist in our hearts will serve as momentum to begin new and exciting things at our hof this year.



Folkbuilder Tracy Adler
tadler@runestone.org

Gythia Plourde's Baby Shower at Njörðshof



The ladies of Njordshof gathered in celebration of Gythia Anna Plourde and her new addition to their family. After a wonderful celebration blot on Ostara, the area was cleared for a ladies' only ritual. I was honored to led the blot honoring the goddesses Frigga, Eir, and Freya to bring healthy and safe birth of their new baby. The strength and love in the room was undeniable.



After the blot, the ladies took a seat to allow Anna to open her gifts. Among the many generous gifts she received, there was a blanket. This blanket was stitched by the ladies that gathered at Njordshof for Charming of the Plow. The individual squares of love, Frith, and joy were stitched together to imbue those gifts given from each and every participant.



Tracy Adler and Katie Joyner concluded the baby shower with a fun game of “guess the number” in the layered diaper cake! Carrie Dent was the closest (without going over!) at 70 diapers. She was awarded a beautiful wreath that coordinated with Anna’s.

Upcoming Events at Njörðshof

Njörðshof



2023



Yule

Feast of the Einherjar
November 18th

December 16th - 17th

Þórrablót
January 21st

Winter Nights
October 21st

Charming of the Plow
February 3rd - 5th

Winter Finding
September 16th - 17th

Ostara
March 18th

Freyfaxi
August 19th

Hexennacht
April 15th

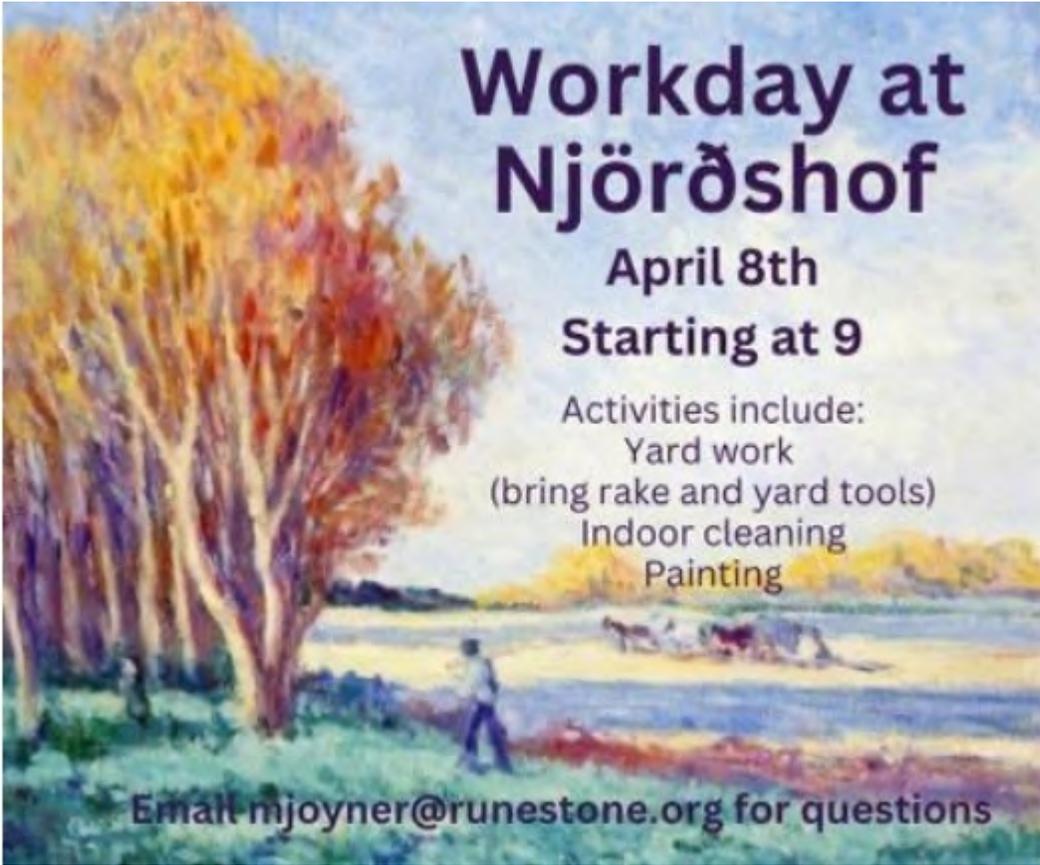
Sigurblót
July 15th

Midsummer
June 17th - 18th

May Day
May 20th



The Harshest Winds Make the Strongest Wood

A painting of a landscape with trees in autumn colors (yellow, orange, red) on the left. A person is walking in the middle ground. In the background, there are more trees and a body of water. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Workday at Njörðshof
April 8th
Starting at 9

Activities include:
Yard work
(bring rake and yard tools)
Indoor cleaning
Painting

Email mjoyner@runestone.org for questions

A painting of Highland cattle on a rocky shore. The cattle are in the foreground, with some standing and some grazing. The background shows a rocky coastline and the sea under a cloudy sky.

Hexennacht
at Njörðshof
April 15

Food Pantry 10 Lunch 12 Blot 1 Sumbel 2

Arkansas

Ostara in Arkansas



We celebrated Ostara in Little Rock, Arkansas On April 1st, I led a blot to Ostara. We had an egg hunt for the children.



We did a little project with boiled eggs. You wrap a silk tie around a boiled egg with the shell still on and then wrap a plain white cloth around it and tie it with a rubber band then put the eggs in a pot and boil for 20 minutes. Then you turn it off and let it cool. After it's cooled off, you unwrap them.



We also had a great time socializing and spending time with each other.



I wanted to give a big thanks to Steve Ingle for letting us have Ostara in his home and being such a great host.

Upcoming Events



Hiking moot

UMPIRE ARKANSAS
APRIL 15 1PM
RSVP TO APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDER
TABATHA OWENS AT 8703458077

AFA Diamond Dig



Saturday
03 June 23

Crater of Diamonds
State Park
Murfreesboro, AR

AFA Diamond Dig and family campout. Campout is Friday and Saturday nights on the 2nd and 3rd. Diamond Dig is on Saturday the 3rd of June. Come and have some fun with your folk digging for diamonds and other gemstones and join us around a campfire for sumble.



We have rented a nice cabin in a country setting for this event. We should be able to squeeze in 12 people. This will be a fun family event. There are other accomadations available nearby also. Please RSVP to:

Steve Ingle - Asatru@omail.ai
or
Tabitha Owens - Towens@runestone.org



Waterfall Moot



June 24
Davis
West
Virginia

RSVP TO
APPRENTICE
FOLKBUILDER
TABATHA OWENS AT
8703458077



Tabitha Owens

Apprentice Folkbuilder
towens@runestone.org

Florida

New Apprentice in Njordshof



Hail Folk!!

I am Amy Jo Stoddard, new Apprentice Folkbuilder of Njordshof.

After traveling the United States as an Air Force brat, I call Panama City, Florida home.

Florida is an exciting place to live. It should be a country of its own. If you have ever been here, you know what I mean!

I was a Cosmetologist for 24 years, before eventually getting an accounting degree in 2015. I currently work for a property management company, primarily with mortgages and escrows.

I have five children; my oldest has given me three grandbabies. I am proud of them and their accomplishments. I could tell you about them for hours, but I will save that for another time.

When I met my husband in 2010, he introduced me to the Asatru faith. I was agnostic when I met him, but after discovering our faith I quickly came to realize that it was our Gods whom I had been unknowingly talking to all my life.

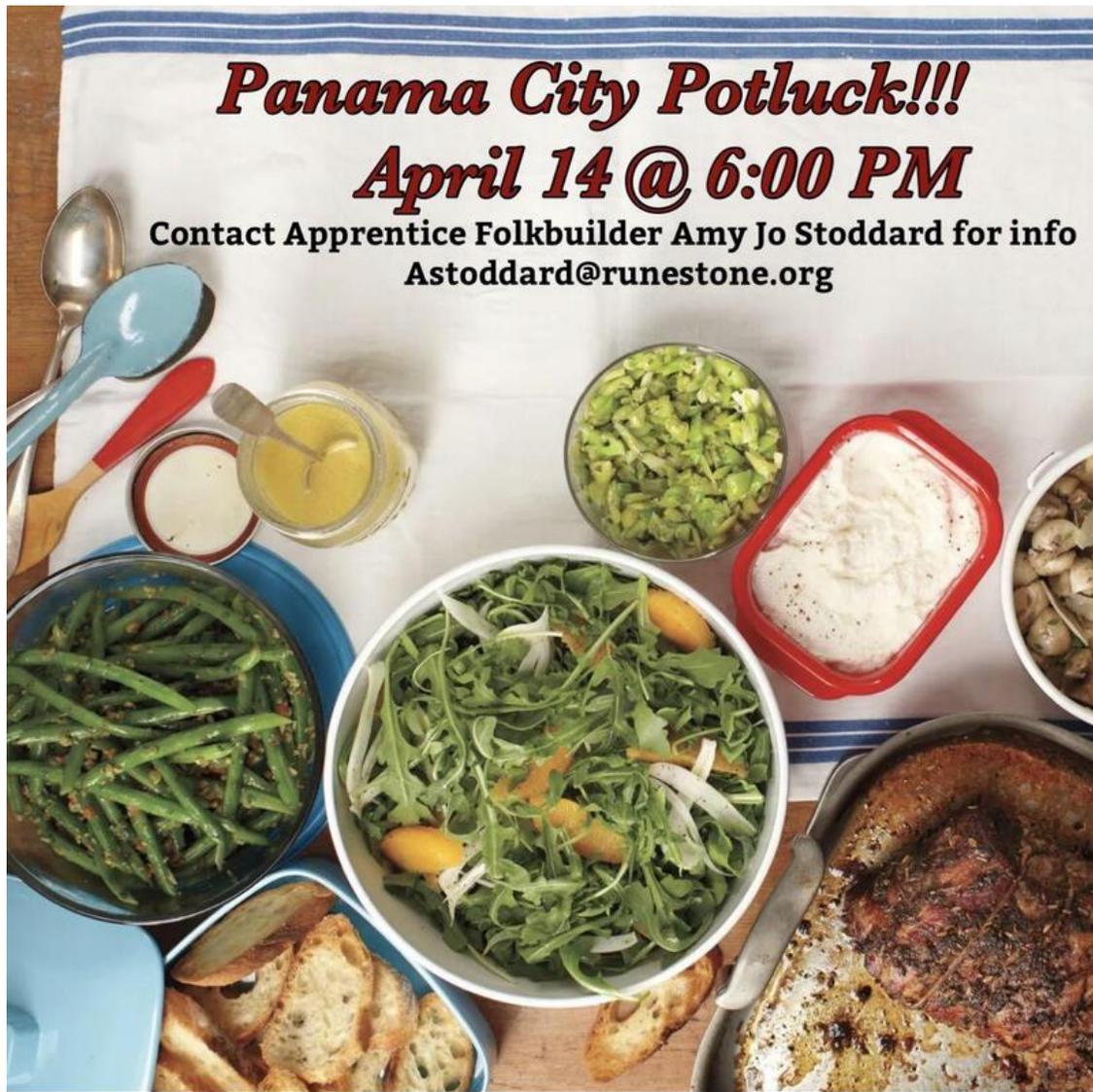
My husband and I were introduced to the AFA a few years before he passed in 2021. I was lost for a little over a year in self-pity and devastation.

Fortunately, I was lucky enough to be taken under the wings of my dear friends Mike and Katie Joyner. With their help, I came home to the AFA in January of 2023.

A whole new world has opened to me spiritually, and I am hungry to share the knowledge I am learning. It is my goal to guide our folk home to the AFA.

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

Upcoming Events



Panama City Potluck!!!
April 14 @ 6:00 PM

Contact Apprentice Folkbuilder Amy Jo Stoddard for info
Astoddard@runestone.org



Amy Stoddard
Apprentice Folkbuilder
astoddard@runestone.org

Jazz and Blues Fest in Tallahassee



We gathered at the Tallahassee Museum (formally Tallahassee Children's Museum) for a day full of jazz and blues. The acts ranged from folky, single acoustic guitar to married duos that rang out. Fun and Frith were had. Could not have spent a better day getting sunburned than with Mike Joyner.

The full gambit of talent was on display that did Tallahassee proud.

Katie Joyner
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Fainting Goat



My self and several members of Njordshof had the pleasure to attend Ostara at Thorshof. While we were there, we had a moot at the Fainting Goat Brewery. The Fainting Goat Brewery is located in Benson, NC. It is a pleasant little homey place and the ale was decent.

While we were there, something occurred that has occurred before. We started a

conversation with the bartender which eventually led to “where are you from?” I assume she picked up on our Yankee (Florida) accents. With this simple question, it gave us an opportunity to tell her about where Thorshof was located, but also about Asatru and the AFA. She pulled up a chair and attentively engaged with us. She explained how she was in a class about the bible. We explained to her that Asatru was the faith of her ancestors. We told her about the AFA. It seemed that her curiosity was peaked. I can only hope that she will investigate and come home.

We have also been at a moot where we met a nice Muslim couple. They asked the question as to what our group was about. Their curiosity may have been peaked by the Njordshof shirt I was wearing, or by the subjects we were talking about. It gave us an opportunity to tell them about Asatru. I hope that by their interaction with us, they gained a positive perception of Asatru and the AFA.

We think that moots are where we only socialize and bond with our brothers and sisters, which is true, but it is also a place where we can spread the word about Asatru and the AFA. We may not bring anyone home in that one meeting, but we may start them down the path of seeking the way home. We may meet people that are not of and may never be a part of Asatru, but by talking to them about Asatru and the AFA, we give them a true picture of who we are versus what the media would like people to believe we are. I believe it is these small victories that will bring our brothers and sisters home and will change world’s perception of Asatru and the AFA.



Folkbuilder Otto Rafuse
orafuse@runestone.org

Saga Moots of Central Florida



We love to moot here in Florida. We can't get enough of each other and therefore we like to schedule many different opportunities to meet up. These past few months, I've been scheduling moots based off of what the local membership wants to do. This month the Dent family wanted to open their home and invite us over for dinner, mead and everything else. We had fantastic conversations because we always do. This was a fabulous night with some of our Hof family that were able to make it. We missed those that could not come out.



An additional moot was suggested to me by Kayleigh. This was the Highland Games and Festival in Dunedin. We had a great time out there and we all got some sun! I'm still sore from it actually. One of my favorite things about going out to those types of festivals is all of the shopping you can do at the vendor booths. We all left with a few souvenirs. Some of our friends were unable to attend due to illness and we missed them dearly.

All things considered, the moots this month were great. I'm excited for more in the near future.



Folkbuilder Tracy Adler
tadler@runestone.org

Battle of Natural Bridge Moot





Every year, reenactors gather to celebrate and recreate the Battle of Natural Bridge. The battle was fought on March 6, 1865 and was the battle that kept Tallahassee, FL from being taken by Union. Note: Tallahassee, FL was the only Confederate capital not to be taken by the Union.

A group from Njörðshof gathered for a remembrance ceremony. After the ceremony the group toured the battle site and both encampments. A great time was had by all.



Folkbuilder Mike Joyner
mjoyner@runestone.org

Georgia

Welcoming a New Apprentice Folkbuilder



Please welcome Bodi Mayo of Georgia as one of our newest apprentice Folkbuilders for the Njörðshof District! We are excited to see the success Bodi will achieve in the coming months and years.

Hail Bodi Mayo!
Hail the AFA!
Hail Njörðr!

Upcoming Events

HIKING MOOT

PROVIDENCE CANYON STATE PARK



APR 22ND-11AM

COME PARTAKE IN GLORIOUS NATURE
WITH YOUR AFA FAMILY!
LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW!

Contact
bmayo@runestone.org



Bodi Mayo

Apprentice Folkbuilder
bmayo@runestone.org

South Africa

Upcoming Events:



**Teams Call for European and South African
AFA membership**

First Sunday of every month

Hosted by Apprentice Erik Lugnet

elugnet@runestone.org



Erik Lugnet
Apprentice Folkbuilder
elugnet@runestone.org



Texas

Celtic Festival and Eluveitie Concert Moot



On Saturday March 25th, 2023 members of Fríðr Folk Kindred attended the Sherman Celtic Festival in Sherman, TX for a full day of Celtic shenanigans. We enjoyed learning about the various clans of Scotland, learned about and sampled some small batch scotch whiskeys and scones, perused the various vendors, and enjoyed Viking Age warfare demonstrations in the Viking Corner.

After the festival was over, we traveled to Amplified Live in Dallas to enjoy a show presented by a Gallic folk metal band named Eluveitie, who came all the way from

Switzerland to tour North America, along with opening acts like the American metal band Seven Spires and another heavy metal band called Omnium Gatherum from Finland. Despite Eluveitie's male lead singer being unable to come on the North American tour due to poor health, they pulled through and had the singers from the other two bands fill in for his parts, and it made for a truly unique performance.

Ostara 2023 in Houston, Texas



On April 1st, Fríðr Folk Kindred hosted our third annual Ostara celebration! We had an egg hunt for the kids, cooked out, discussed the story of Hyndluljoð, and held a blot to Ostara the goddess of the spring. A great time was had by all and we look forward to seeing the fruits of our springtime seedlings blossom in the future!

Upcoming Events

Fríðr Folk Kindred's 3rd Annual Hexenacht

Join us as we discuss the prophecy of Ragnarok, learn about divination, enjoy food and drink, and hold Blot and Sumbell!

Saturday April 29th in Dallas, TX

Adults: \$30,
Guests: \$15, Kids 10 and under: Free!
Includes dinner and camping



Folkbuilder Justin Day
jday@runestone.org



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