




The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Njörðshof
Fourth Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

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Words from the Alsherjargothi



Victory never sleeps and neither does the AFA. In July we continued our evolution. We celebrated our first major event at Sigrheim and it was a powerful experience for all of us! We saw new apprentice Folkbuilders join our ranks, inspired to build and to achieve. We saw roots settle in for the beautiful community we will build from Sigrheim and we have seen the character of our members and our leadership refined.

Always, but especially now, we should never settle for stagnation but focus on moving, on building, on doing. The virility and energy of summer is all around us and we should use this time to be dynamic.

The summer and fall are full of AFA events, national, regional, and local. Get involved. Meet with other AFA members. Surround yourselves with our vibrant AFA family!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Matthew D. Flavel
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We Remember



Michael Lee Vaughn †12/05/86 - 7/17/23‡

Michael Lee Vaughn was born near the Yuletide of 1986, in the state of Georgia, not too far from the Florida line. He had a happy childhood, with loving parents and siblings, as well as his niece who he loved dearly. His hobbies included reading, travel, bodybuilding, and esoterica.

When Michael became an adult, he enlisted in the United States Army and joined the Infantry. Like many men of our faith, he wanted to be a capable warrior, and so he became one. He served his time, left the Army, and went to college. He graduated with a degree in marketing, and made a respectable career with it. He spent the next few years of his life working and traveling, seeing many beautiful parts of Midgard and living a life we would all be a bit envious of. In 2021, he attended the first ever Ostara at Þórshof, a national event, at the invitation of another member who was a personal friend of his. During high sumbel at that event, he shared a heartfelt speech on how touched he was by the Gods and our church.

His love for the Folk and the AFA was clear for all to see. He became an official member of our church the very next day.

In the two years since then, he made friends with many of the Folk in Texas, including Folkbuilders Justin Day and Jesse Parton. They shared many great events before Michael hit the road again, traveling through Europe and Asia for the last two years of his life.

Michael was a constant smiling face, font of knowledge, and teller of tales. Among our Folk, he will be cherished and remembered.

Hail Michael Lee Vaughn!

Words from the Witan

A Grateful Heart



This article was supposed to cover the third component of the Aryan Soul, but life dictated a slight shift in the regularly scheduled programming for Daniel.

This past Sunday i had a brush with death due to a serious health scare. I was mended quickly and will return ot my full faculties very soon. It was the fast action of my wife and medical professionals that made my being here at all possible. By the skin of my teeth.

Every day from then until my demise is a gift and is borrowed time. Time is our most precious commodity. It's quite literally the only finite commodity. I don't intend to waste any of mine on petty nonsense, and I ask that you all do the same. Every breath we are given is a gift, and the next one could be our last. Don't waste a minute of it on non-productive things or people. Build each other up, call your loved ones. We are all on borrowed time.

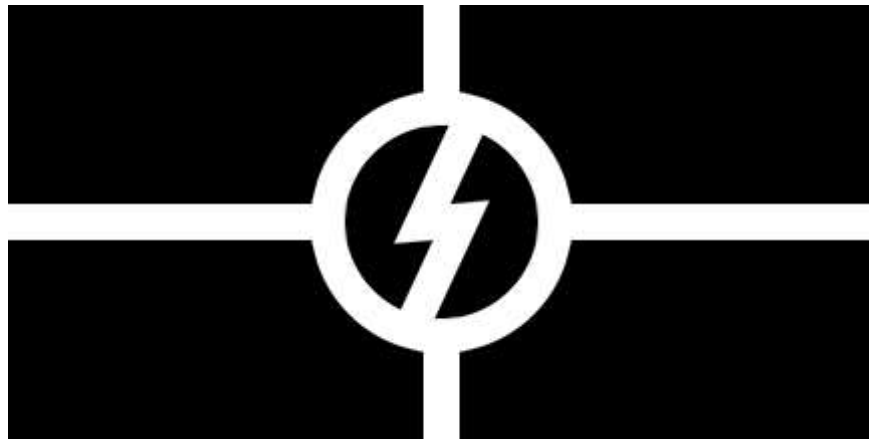
Thanks go out to all who comforted my wife and daughter, and sent up prayer to the Noble Aesir, the Loving Asynjur and to the ancestors.

I love you all, and am grateful that my story isn't over.



Witan Daniel Young
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Victory requires Loyalty; Divinity demands Piety



I have joked a few times this summer about how "it sure has been a hot summer for the AFA". We have had some people, inside and outside the AFA both, raise doubts about if the Asatru Folk Assembly is the Church of the Aesir in Midgard. Some of them have even left the Asatru Folk Assembly to start anew, creating democratic organizations that they think will empower them to have a greater say in "Asatru". The problem is these endeavors are doomed to fail. The most obvious reason is that they are founded against something instead of for something, and that they are founded by quitters instead of people who see things through. People that would quit their church over anything short of theological differences never really believed in that church to begin with, and when they do this the quality of our membership improves by the subtraction. In these mixed-up times our Folk deserves leadership who will make decisions for the greatest good over the longest run. There is no one ever who won by quitting. Trust and loyalty to the Asatru Folk Assembly and to our Alsherjargothi are not optional if we are to claim victory for our Folk Soul.

The Gothar of the Asatru Folk Assembly represent our Folk to the Aesir when they make Blot. Our Gods are real, they are alive, they exert their will in our world, and they can see us. When a Gothi or Gythia gives a gift, an offering, to the Gods and that gift is always in reciprocation for gifts the Gods already have given us. It is made of

the gifts they have given us, and it is made by the gifts they have given us. It is a thank-you, and we hope that in giving it that the Gods choose to continue the gift cycle with the Folk that the Gods started at the beginning of our world. The Gothi or Gythia is there to receive the gift on behalf of the Folk. This gift cycle is the basis of our faith, and our Gods and Goddesses are divine, and so piety is not optional even if we cannot be perfectly pious.



Witan Clifford Erickson
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Words from our Gothar

Folk Futhark- Part 3



GEBO- This is the rune of the gifting cycle, which is the foundation on which the AFA is built. The Gods have blessed us so abundantly, and even more so since Founder McNallen revived their worship here in Midgard, because of the gifting cycle. If there is a rune that symbolizes Blöt the best, it would be Gebo!

This stave is one of the most different from its Elder Futhark cognate, as it is borrowed from the Gibor rune of the Armanen Futhark. The shape looks to me as a connection between the upper and middle worlds, as if to symbolize the path that the gifts between us and the Gods travel upon.



WUNJO- The rune of joy and harmony! This one is simple, but also quite broad in the scope of its usage. You could use this for anything relating to hope, perfection, contentment, or positivity. For example, I have it carved on the inside of my wedding band, to remind me of the joy in marriage.

This stave is unchanged, it is the same as the one used in the Elder Futhark. Just a line version of the letter P.



HAGALAZ- There are no "bad runes", but there are ones that should be treated more cautiously than others. Hagalaz is one of them. The name translates directly to "hail," and can be associated with the "storms" in our lives. Chaos, struggle, challenges, anything that can be difficult for us but give us opportunity to grow. My Gothar Program mentor told me that this could symbolize the ancient Germanic custom of holmgang, where two men would battle to the death to prove who was right in some dispute. Hagalaz may make you feel like you're fighting for your life, but there's a reward on the other side!

This stave is also taken from the Armanen Futhark, from the Hagal rune, called the "Mother Rune" by many Armanists. I view this stave as the various lines being differing paths that could be taken to the center of the rune, which represents victory at the end of those paths. Victory through trial.



Gothi Trent East
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Lord of the Sea Shanty (Hail Njörð!)



Yo-Ho! Hail Njörð! Njörðr, lord of the sea;
Yo-Ho! Hail Njörðr! Grant us prosperity.

Down by the shore – in Nóatún lives;
a prince of Wanes, who wisdom gives.
Fair-winds our folk – on voyages wide;
you bless us by, and take our side.

Yo-Ho! Hail Njörð! Njörðr, lord of the sea;
Yo-Ho! Hail Njörðr! Grant us prosperity.

A temple we share – now sacred the ground,

a gift for gift, we are bound.
Reward noble deeds – to grow our wealth;
to heal our Folk, restore our health.

Yo-Ho! Hail Njörð! Njörðr, lord of the sea;
Yo-Ho! Hail Njörðr! Grant us prosperity.

At Njörðshof we join – together in grith;
the feasting table, feeds our Frith.
Fair-winds our folk – on voyages wide;
you bless us by, and take our side.

Yo-Ho! Hail Njörð! Njörðr, lord of the sea;
Yo-Ho! Hail Njörðr! Grant us prosperity.

Yo-Ho! Hail Njörð!

Yo-Ho! Hail Njörð!

Yo-Ho! Hail Njörð!

*sing-a-long at Njörðshof for Freyfaxi



Gothi Lane Ashby
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Being Relentless



Since my last entry for the *Runestone*, there has been a change in my life. As a lot of you already know, about two weeks ago at Sigrblot at Sigrheim, I was given the honor and privilege of swearing my Oath to take up the ring and stole and serve the folk as a Gothi. I am honored and grateful for the opportunity, and this month I want to take a few minutes of your time to tell you why.

Standing up on Tyr's Ridge, on the future site of his temple, speaking of victories past, present, and future, I was struck with the feeling of wholeness. Everything was going just the way it should, the rightness of it was palpable. Yes, myself and everyone else there were sweaty and some of us were a bit more gassed than others from the climb, but every face that I could see was smiling, every bit of conversation I overheard was positive and joyous.

As the Alsherjargothi dedicated the Sword of Týrshof, and gave it its name, Relentless, the holiness of those moments could not and cannot be described in mere words, but suffice it to say, that it was so moving that grown men prone to constant stoicism were moved to tears. But those tears were joyous, pious, and soul-mending. So glad and content were my heart and soul, that when I was asked if I wanted to take my Oath, it felt like this moment was always going to happen, that it was meant to be.

I was fortunate to share the honor of being the first two Oaths sworn on that holy relic with Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea, who has many times over demonstrated his relentless spirit to his Folk, his Ancestors, and his Gods. He is a great reminder of the level of devotion, piety, and will that we all should aspire to ourselves.

So, what does being relentless look like for me? What are the yardsticks that I'm measuring this quality by?

I will be relentless in my Oath to educate the Folk. There are few things here in Midgard that I love more than teaching people about our Lore and our history. Our story is so vast, varied, complex, unique, and amazing, that I want all of you to know as much as you want to learn. The more you learn of the immense body of knowledge and wisdom passed down to us, the more it sinks into your bones, and the more pious you become.

I will be relentless in my piety, as an example to the Folk. This is what separates us from those in the world today that merely put on the costume, those who are pious when it's convenient or for show. Asatru isn't a social club, and it isn't a hobby. This is the very real faith of our Ancestors and it should be treated as such. To that end, I will strive every day to cultivate, elevate, and maintain my understanding and connection to our Ancestors and the Gods. By doing so, I will be better equipped to lead the folk in finding their own relationship with the Holy Powers.

I will be relentless in my love for our Church and our Folk. I believe in what we're doing with all my heart and soul. I have and will continue to take every opportunity to celebrate us and everything about us. Love for ourselves as a folk must be at the center

of everything we do; it is normal and natural to love your Folk, no matter what the modern world tells you. I will do my best to encourage our Folk to do the same and continue to seek out that which is beautiful and good about us and share it often.

I will be steadfast in my Loyalty to our Church. What we have in the AFA is unique, it is Good, and it must endure for generations to come. An unfortunate fact of life is that as soon as Good begins to stack victories, evil in all its forms is out for blood. It is also unfortunate that our own worst enemy is often ourselves. To combat this, I will be loyal to our Gods, my Ancestors, and Our Church. By this example, I will empower my folk to continue to build on the bright fame we are winning every day in the AFA.

Lastly, I will give wise rede to my Folk. As one of your priests, it is my duty to stand by you, all of you, through thick and thin. I do not see this as a burdensome chore, but rather my calling in this life. I am always going to make time for you, to the best of my abilities, day and night. If I don't know the answer, I'm going to find someone who does.

As my dear friend Witan Young said up on Tyr's Ridge, I just exude joy when I'm around my Folk. I love our Church; I love my Folk.



Gothi Bodi Mayo
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Kenaz



Hails from Northern Idaho! This month we discussed the Rune Kenaz of the Elder futhark and KA from the Armanen runes.

Old English rune poem- (Torch) is to every living person known by its fire, it is clear and bright, it usually burns when the noblemen rest inside the hall.

Norwegian rune poem- Sore is the curse of children, grief makes a man pale.

Icelandic rune poem- Sore is the bale of children, and a scourge, and the house of rotten flesh.

Kenaz- Represents moments when awareness bursts through into consciousness. It is the element of fire under focused control. It represents technological Knowledge and the ability to shape. It is human ingenuity. Kenaz is inspiration, an idea to solve a problem, it is controlled energy to shape and transform. Regeneration to begin again, to give something more life or life anew. The will to generate and create.

I have found that this rune has two distinct energies, but we will concentrate only on the Old English poem. Meditation upon that poem brought me to the realization that Kenaz is the feeling you get when you have a great idea- your eyes widen and there is that spark of creativity, that is the vibration.

An experience I had with this rune was at work we were going to have a meeting to come up with new concepts to present to one of our customers. Several hours before the meeting, I meditated on the feeling of idea, inspiration and merged it with the subject matter of the upcoming meeting. Sure enough, a revolutionary concept arose within me that was perfect, and I impressed myself. In that meeting everything was crystal clear about what should be done.

The keys to unlocking these poems are inside of you, immerse yourself in all the material that you can find about that rune. Meditate upon it, draw the rune, stare at its shape, carve it in your mind and at some point, you will have a flash of inspiration from your higher self that will make perfect sense. The runes were given to us by Odin the All-father, he won them by sacrificing himself to himself, and they will allow you to work your will here in Midgard. Remember however, that your will must be in alignment with natural law and your purpose! Discovering your purpose and mastery over yourself should be your priority before manipulating the primordial energies of the universe, good luck!

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday August the 27th in CDA.

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



Gothi Joe Rozanek
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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.
 - The first of 2 loans have been paid off!
 - We now owe \$106,160.63 on our remaining loan.
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 4%.
 - This is membership dues/hoftollar plus other donations.
3. We need to locate a suitable property.
4. We need to find lenders and build a war chest.

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

Hail Freyr!

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Sigrheim: Home of Victory



Sigblot at Sigrheim I



Freyfaxi at Sigrheim

Friday, August 11th

w/ special guests
founder Steve and Cythia Sheila
McNallen

Contact Folkbuilder Nick Rice for more info / nrice@runestone.org



WINTER FINDING AT SIGRHEIM

SEPTEMBER 23RD

RSVP w/ [NRICE@RUNESTONE.ORG](mailto:nrice@runestone.org)



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Victory Never Sleeps

The Asatru Folk Assembly Presents

Victory Never Sleeps!

Wednesdays at 6PM Pacific / 8PM Central

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AFA Asatru Academy



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

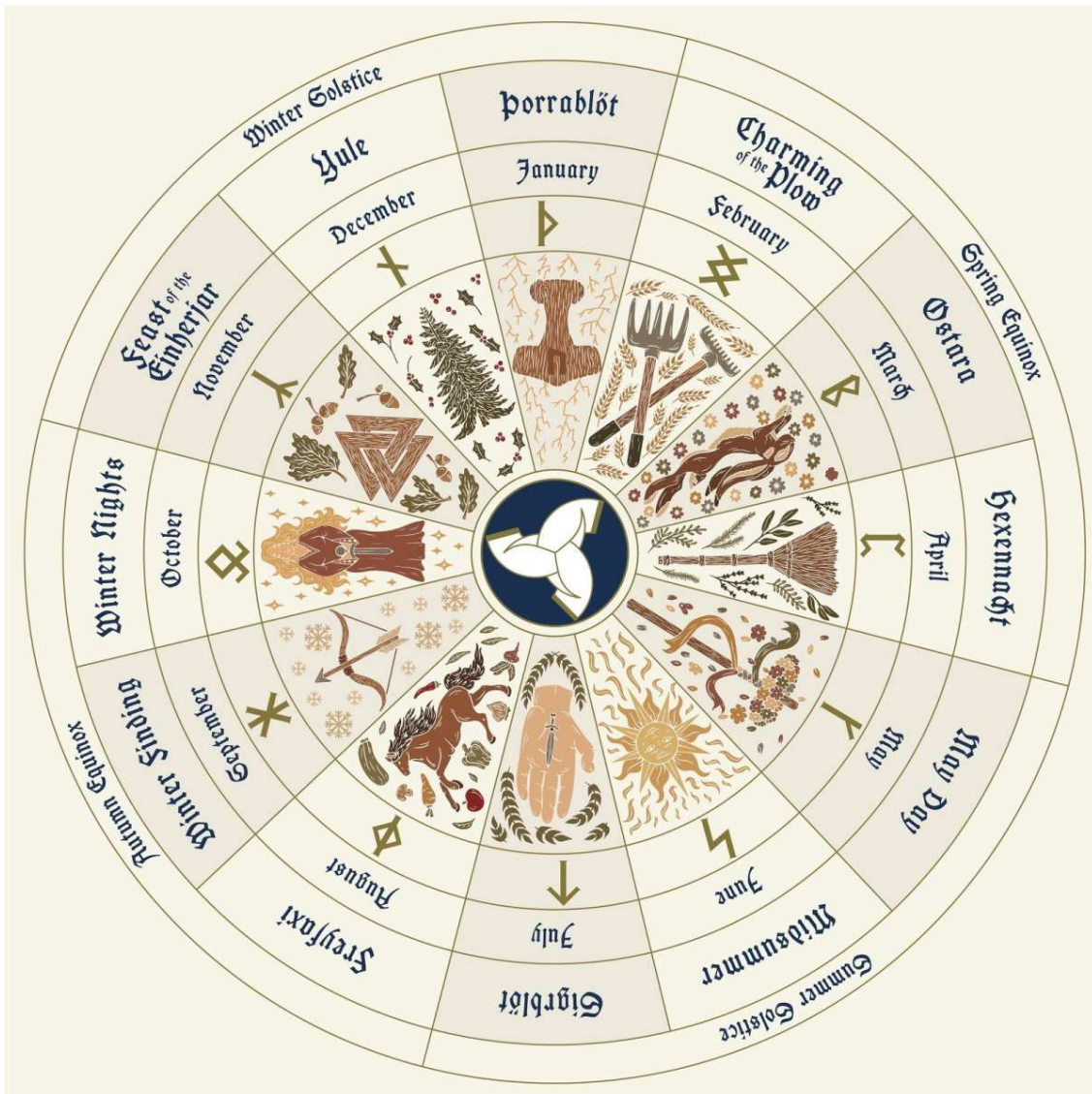
Hello parents and students. I'd like to take this time to welcome all our new students! We are very excited to have you as part of our academy. Rest assured our staff have been hard at work to bring you the very best homeschooling, the afa way, experience possible. If you have not watched Assistant Dean Rachel Johnson's orientation recording, I highly suggest you take time to watch it. We will also have plenty of opportunities to interact via video conference, throughout the year. We are so proud and excited for the upcoming year, and can't wait to see all our new kids! If you need anything at all, please reach out to myself, or any of our dedicated staff who're listed on the [Academy website](#).

Welcome to the AFA Asatru Academy!



Gothi Rob Stamm
Dean of AFA Academy
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Remembrance & Holy Days



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

Date	Observance
December 20-31 (observed on 16th)	Yuletide

Day of Remembrance

King Radbod of Frisia



Radbod, known as the greatest King of the Frisians, spent his life tirelessly fighting against the subjugation of the Franks. While his predecessor, Aldegisel, had accepted

Christian conversion easily, Radbod was unwilling to stray from his belief in the Gods of his people.

On the verge of accepting baptism, Radbod turned to the Priest presiding and asked if his ancestors would be waiting for him in the Kingdom of Heaven. Upon being told that his pagan ancestors were burning in Hell Radbod refused the baptism, expressing that he would rather burn in Hell with his pagan ancestors than live in Heaven with beggars.

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

What can we learn from this story?

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

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

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



Gythia Catie Erickson
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Holiday

Freyfaxi



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

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

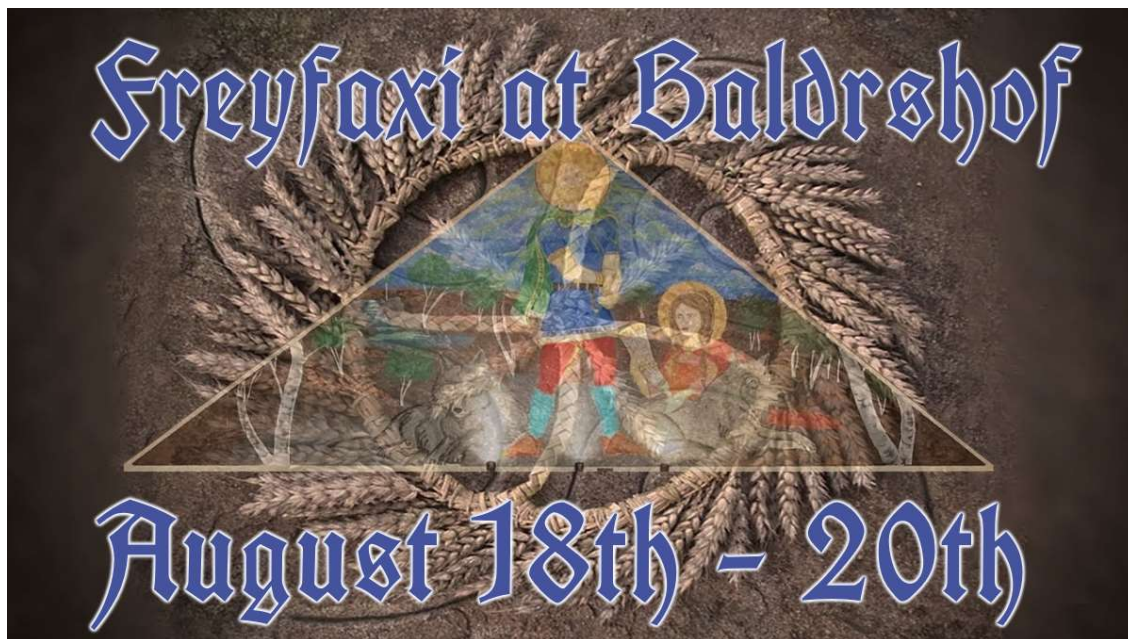
Those seeds that we planted after Mayday and tended so carefully for the last few months have grown and some of them should be bearing the fruit of all of that labor. Take some time in the garden, as you pick the first offerings of your plants, to thank Freyr. Share with him some of that first harvest, along with bread and ale. Celebrate the God of Vitality and abundance with your family and folk.



Gythia Catie Erickson
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Upcoming National Events

Freyfaxi at Baldrshof | August 18th-20th



> [Get your tickets HERE!](#) <

7 Meals * 4 Blots * 3 Morning Dedications * High Sumbel * Daily Fika * Multiple Educational Discussions and Classes * Childrens Activities and Sumbel * Merchandise Table * Live Auction and Silent Auction * Baldrsball * Meet your Folk and local and National Leadership.



Freyfaxi At Baldrshof 2023

Our national event!

Please check in at the table when you arrive



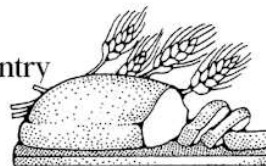
Friday 8/18:

- 8 am: Breakfast
- 9 am: Dedication -Baldr
- 10 am : Fika
- 11 am: Welcoming of the Gods
- 11:30 am: Water Wars
- Noon: Lunch
- 1 pm: Men's/Women's groups
- 3 pm: Class 1 (Virtue Recovery)
- 4 pm: Folk time / Crochet Class
- 5 pm: Dinner
- 6 pm: Baldrsblot and Children's activity
- 7 pm: Baldrball
- 10 pm: Hof closes



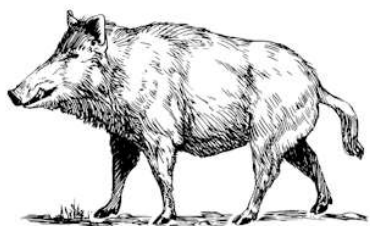
Saturday 8/19:

- 8 am: Breakfast
- 9 am: Dedication- Else
- 10 am: Fika and Food Pantry
- 11 am: Class 1 (Freyfaxi)
- Noon: Lunch
- 1 pm: Class 2 (Sigrheim)
- 2 pm: Folk Time / Crochet class
- 4 pm: Freyfaxi Blot, Children's Blot, and Ceremonies of the Folk
- 5 pm: Dinner
- 6 pm: Auction/ Complete silent auction
- 8 pm: Sumbel and Children's Sumbel
- 10 pm: Hof closes



Sunday 8/20:

- 8 am: Breakfast
- 9 am: Dedication -Ancestors
- 10 am: Fika
- 11 am: Wayfarer Blot
- Noon: Hof closes / Cleanup



Come celebrate with your Folk this Freyfaxi 2023 at the House of Baldr!

> [Get your tickets HERE!](#) <



Witan Brandy Callahan
bcallahan@runestone.org

Texas Harvestfest | August 25th-27th



> [Get your tickets HERE!](#) <

Texas Harvestfest is a celebration of labor, accomplishments, and triumphs of our Folk at the end of the harsh southern summer. The evening of August 25th through the morning of August 27th, we will gather to give honor and thanks to Freyr for the abundance and fertility that we have been blessed with over the growing season before we begin our preparations for winter.

Over the course of this weekend-long festival, we will enjoy games, participate in workshops, hold an auction, have great food, and hold Blot to our Gods. We will have a group hall to gather in, with multiple barracks that can house many people, all on a beautiful lakeside looking out upon the cliffs. Tickets will sell out quickly, so reserve your spot now to Texas Harvestfest 2023!

> [Get your tickets HERE!](#) <



Folkbuilder Justin Day
jday@runestone.org

Freyr's Harvest Feast in Montana | September 22nd-24th



> [Get your tickets HERE!](#) <

Freyr's Harvest Feast is the time to honor the Gods after a productive year's Harvest. On September 22nd through the 24th, we gather together for a weekend filled with activities that honor the three Vanir deities Njord, Freyr, and Freya.

During the course of the weekend, the folk gathers together for three blots using mead donated by Heinlein's Hollow Meadery.

In addition to blot, we see the display of Freyr's Proposal on stage (stage under construction), the viking games tournament with a prize to be revealed at the feast as well as access to the Drengir Dinner where all previous years' champions are invited out the day before the event.

In addition to brawn, the brain is tested in our Hnefatafl competition. While this competition is less fierce the bragging rights are still pretty good. Guests can also test their luck at a game of Orlog.

While there are plenty of contests, we still have plenty of time for several workshops, and speeches by guest speakers. Craftsmen will also bring their wares out to sell and authors to sign their books. An AFA benefiting auction will provide ample opportunities to walk away with a bag full of spoils.

The whole event is hosted on a private 20-acre ranch in a very low-population area. It's on the river and away from prying eyes. So not only do you get to enjoy a full event you can take in the beauty of rural Montana, enjoy the river and see what an AFA homestead looks like. An optional tour and sunbel will be held in the early morning for those wanting to see inside a proper meadery.

Lodging is straightforward as well. Bring an RV or tent and camp under the beautiful stars. Trust us when we say there's more of them visible than wherever you're coming from and on lucky nights the Northern Lights can be seen.

For those who want less rustic accommodations, there are numerous hotels and motels within a reasonable driving distance. In a few more years we will have cabins available too!

So that's lodging but everyone's got to eat right? Well, we got you covered as well. The meals are all plentiful and delicious, none more so than the feast itself. Last year we filled the dining hall with food and refreshments and this year we aim to provide just as much good fare. Five to ten gallons of mead will be provided for the feast according to turnout and the couples dance that follows is always great fun.

Remember to dress your best at the feast and dance but it won't all be formal. For the first blot, we go into the water to honor Njord. Ladies especially, make sure that you wear clothes that you're not only comfortable getting wet but are also modest when wet.

While the prospect of getting into the water in September might be daunting to some,

the month has a wonderful climate. It has a high of 70 and a low of 50 with a nice midday breeze.

The truth is unless you come out you won't know what you're missing so don't make that mistake and come out to Freyr's Harvest Feast.

Please feel free to reach out to Tyler Heinlein at theinlein@runestone.org with any questions.

> [Get your tickets HERE!](#) <



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein
theinlein@runestone.org

Winter Nights 12 at Sigrheim | October 27th-29th



> [Get your tickets HERE!](#) <

The Asatru Folk Assembly's Annual Winter Nights will be held from October 27th - 29th, at Sigrheim near Whitleyville, Jackson County, Tennessee!

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 fee includes all workshops, lectures, meals, tenting, 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!
- Meals are included with all passes.
- You will need to bring your own bedding and it can get chilly at night, so plan accordingly.
- Accommodations are on-site tenting. Campers welcome.
- Please contact Witan Clifford Erickson if you will attend.
- Guests, please include the name of the AFA member who is vouching for you.

Member Family - Weekend: \$120

Member - Weekend: \$80

Member - Daypass: \$40

Guest - Weekend: \$100

Guest - Daypass: \$50

Child - Weekend: Free

Child - Daypass: Free

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



Asatru - Winter nights & the Disir

Don't miss out! Visit the Home of Victory for Winter Nights!

> [Get your tickets HERE!](#) <



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Folkbuilder Spotlight

Folkbuilder Cormag Jaime Alainn



This month, I would like to take a moment to recognize a bright light in the Asatru Folk Assembly and in Baldrshof District, Folkbuilder Cormag Jaime Alainn.

Folkbuilder Alainn took his Folkbuilder oath in 2022 and has been a huge asset and pillar of support since he began his apprenticeship in North Dakota in 2021. He serves as the official Baldrshof Historian, keeping records of all of our victories in this district! He is currently serving as our oathed Folkbuilder in North Dakota, building Frith and the folk in his area.

Folkbuilder Alainn has been a driving force behind the beautification of Baldrshof, spending countless weekends on cleaning and grounds work, in addition to supporting our monthly food pantry and helping make each and every event memorable for all.

Known for his wisdom, quick wit, impeccable wardrobe, obsession with epic poetry, incredible culinary skills, and well-timed puns, he is a joy to us all.



“Mr. Cormag Álainn has been a staple at Baldrshof since before the time I joined. I remember meeting him 3 years ago in the basement of Baldrshof while renovations were underway, and I was impressed to see what a humble, chivalrous, and honorable gentleman he was and has continued to be. He has always been a great example of what it means to be Asatru and to myself personally and to live virtuously with honor and distinction. I am proud to count him among my closest friends.” – Apprentice

Folkbuilder Christian Penner, North Dakota

“Hail Jaime for all he does for our folk. He is a super respectful, witty man that I see as a role model to many here in the AFA.” – Apprentice Folkbuilder Bruce Perron, Wisconsin

“Jaime, brings such joy to Baldrshof with his infectious smile and witty dad jokes. He does so much at Baldrshof and is always there to lend a hand. He has become a close brother over the last few years. Hail Jaime!” -Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher, Minnesota

Thank you, Folkbuilder Alainn, for your support, loyalty, dedication and the love and commitment to your Folk!

Hail the doers!

Hail Jaime Alainn!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!



Witan Brandy Callahan
bcallahan@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:

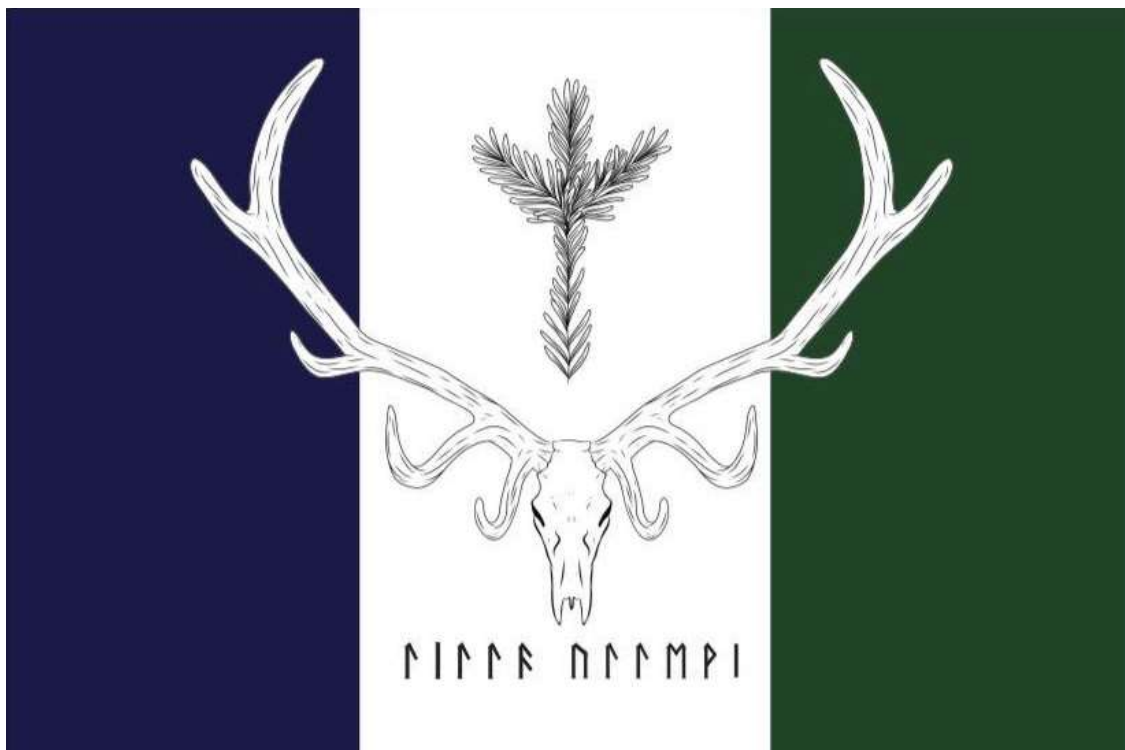
Allen Turnage
PO Box 16027
Tallahassee FL, 32317



Witan Allen Turnage
aturnage@runestone.org

Introducing the Newest AFA Kindreds

Lilla Ullevi Kindred of Montana



Please welcome the Lilla Ullevi Kindred of Montana as the newest Official Kindred of the Asatru Folk Assembly. Led by Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan, these folks have hosted several events already and continue to keep building up their area.

Hail the Lilla Ullevi Kindred!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!



Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher
jgallagher@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

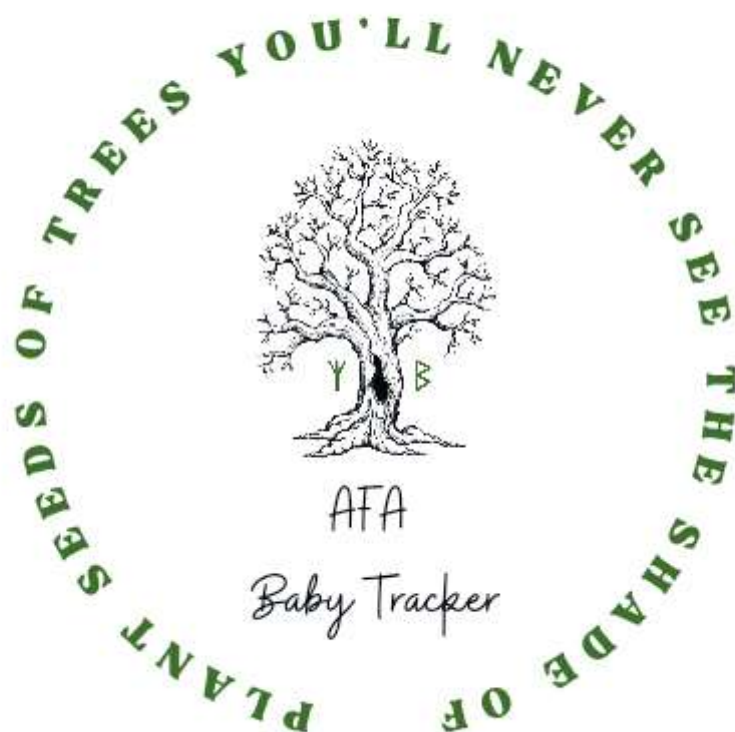
cookies from scratch...make them. Why not? Use the best ingredients you can afford (don't take out a second mortgage for this) but be proud to feed the folk.

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

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: 22

Virtue Recovery Group

A circular logo featuring a runestone design with various symbols and characters around the perimeter.

Virtue recovery
meeting

Thursdays at 7pm CST;
5 pm PST; 6 pm MST;
8 pm EST

With Ashley Mcstocker
amcstocker@runestone.org

Saturdays at 9 am CST;
7 am PST; 8 am MST;
10 am EST

A stylized illustration of a bird, possibly a crow or raven, in flight, positioned on the left side of the flyer.

With Jaclynn Duffy
jduffy@runestone.org

VIA ZOOM
MEETING ID: 885 2917 0746

PASSWORD: Virtue

PASSWORD: VIRTUE

Virtual Meetings and Events



Come join the Eldri Folk
and meet others on our Friday afternoon Teams meetings

Interesting Topics — Lively discussions
We've saved you a place!

A group for AFA members, born before 1973
Contact Gythia McNallen,
sheila@runestone.org or MeWe

Weekly! Sisters Sunday Chats

10 am central, every Sunday!

Contact Apprentice

Folkbuilders Ali Clausen

and Katie Joyner for more

details!



aclausen@runestone.org
kjoyner@runestone.org

Ladies Mysteries Podcast

August 27th @ 2:30 pm CST

Podcast link will be emailed and posted in
AFA Ladies Group on Mewe.
For more information please contact any of these
Ladies of Leadership.

Witan Brandy Callahan

Gythia Catie Erickson

Gythia Anna Plourde

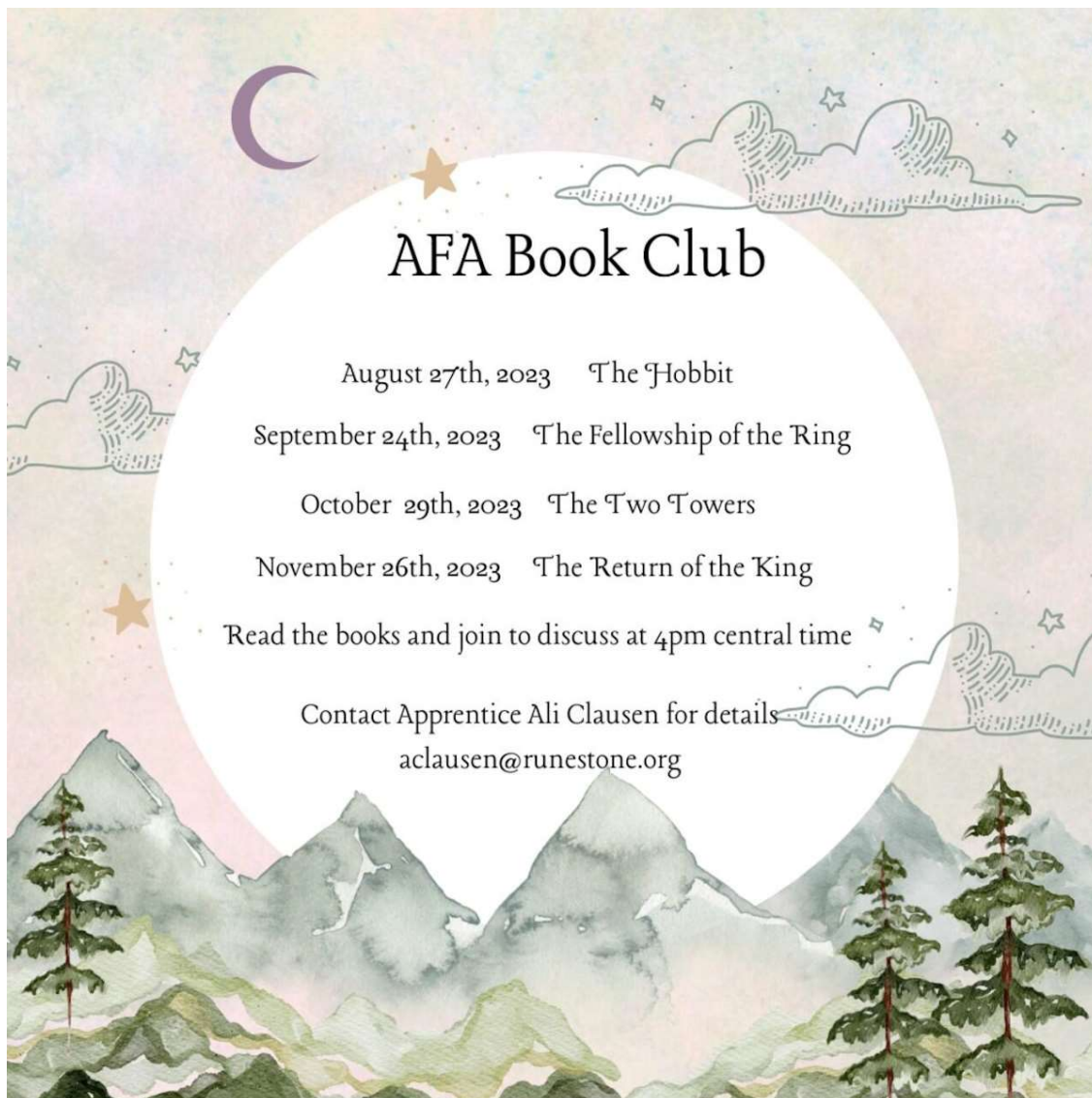
Folkbuilder Sara Ault

EIR



GEFJON





AFA Prison Ministry



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.

""No packed rooms in the prisons; in each institution I have only a few people; occasionally about a dozen, but 5-6 is more common. I certainly do not want the Fellowship to be a club for cons, or ex-cons; the advantage is that when in prison the inmates have time to discuss and digest what they read, a point that often is lost to people on the outside in the hubbub of daily concerns" - Else Christensen

By the example of our Folkmother, Else Christensen, we will also be going into prisons as we are able to. Some of our Gothar and other leadership, will be going into the prisons to hold study groups, lead blot, and encourage continued growth in the folk inside.

If you have a loved one who is incarcerated or know of someone who is Folkish and will benefit from this ministry, please contact us at prisonministry@runestone.org.



Or if you'd like to donate to this ministry, there's a donation earmark set up on our site [here](#). The donations will be used to get small ritual items and books into the prisons and the hands of our Folk inside.

James Ault
Prison Ministry Director
jault@runestone.org



The Folk Web



OPENINGS:

Northern Illinois (hiring nationwide)

You can reside and work interstate, no need to move

Job openings , high demand for barge deckhands , no experience required

Travel, lodging, meals covered

\$210/day starting pay + benefits packages, fluctuating schedules

Contact Folkbuilder Shane Duffy

sduffy@runestone.org

Northern Illinois, Rockford area

Labor and construction work, varying skills and jobs, negotiable pay

Contact Folkbuilder Jim Cummings

jcumings@runestone.org

Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico

Various departments hiring for a fortune 500 mining company, some require experience and others don't

Lodging is available for certain departments

Contact Apprentice Lou Nickerson

lnickerson@runestone.org

SERVICES:

North Dakota, Fargo area

Apprentice Stian Penner is offering Workshops, classes and is also open to hire for commissions and projects utilizing the following skills:

Welding (bachelors degree)

Woodworking

General construction

Cabinetry

Carving

Blacksmithing/bladesmithing/metalwork

Signmaking (day job rn)

Painting

Drums

Knotwork

Sculpture

cpenner@runestone.org

West Indiana (Remote, nationwide online courses)

People who currently work in the graphic design industry, or who work in metal fab industries as production artists or fabricators that want to step up their game by adding engineering to their resume would benefit from learning AutoCAD. There are a ton of other programs to use, but AutoCAD is the original one most all others have been based on and therefore the interface language across most of them is similar. If you know AutoCAD, it's a good stepping stone to other more advanced software. Generally speaking, 90% of engineering work that is done in the world CAN be done with AutoCAD so it's a good one to know.

1. General discussion on how AutoCAD engineering software is used in architecture, civil, and multiple engineering industries.
2. Blueprint reading for basic drafting layouts used in mechanical and architectural drafting
3. 2D vs 3D AutoCAD (Note: I can cover 2D AutoCAD but not 3D AutoCAD because I do not know 3D well enough to teach it.)
4. Internet sources I found useful for self education- these are mostly Youtube videos and the Autodesk website.

Contact John Kelly or Folkbuilder Shane Duffy for info

New Hampshire (Remote, nationwide Virtual Administrative Assisting)

- 20+ years of office administration & remote work.

- 20+ years web design (HTML, CSS & WordPress) , website hosting, and graphics.
- experienced with small businesses & entrepreneurs, particularly in pet care & construction industries.
- experienced in scheduling, customer/client service, data entry, transcription, writing, editing, graphic design, light bookkeeping, inventory management, and most common small business software/tech.
- experienced in newsletters, social media, and blogging for businesses and organizations.
- highly organized and able to work as a team as well as independently.

Business website: www.TygerLily.com

Email: lilyplasse@tygerlily.com

NEED OF SERVICES:

Montana (reaching out Nationwide)

Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein is looking for various skills building his homestead

-midwives who can be remote and travel when needed

Commission work:

-woodworker who can do knotwork and/or statue carving

-Mason who can handle stone arches

theinlein@runestone.org

FOLK IN THE MARKET:

Illinois, Ottawa area (Remote, nationwide editing and

-15 years of professional level videography and photography -

-photo and video editing experience

-experience recording live bands, filming weddings, photography of weddings, editing raw footage and transferring to many mediums

-photo editing studio able to meet all needs

-Experience as production assistant

-Owns all the professional equipment for a portrait studio, including microphones to do video and audio as well, and I have full editing capability with Adobe products.

contact Tilmon Yearwood or Folkbuilder Shane Duffy for info

FOLK
WEB
Skills &
Job Network

Submit info, resumes,
job openings, etc to

Folkbuilder Shane Duffy
sduffy@runestone.org

We're in this together!



Folkbuilder Shane Duffy
sduffy@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

Now Available in the AFA Store



Hi Friends and Folk! I'm so excited to announce that the Runestone store is almost back, and with new management, after our brief hiatus.

Thank you all for being so patient with us while we reorganized and made improvements. Existing orders will be filled and shipped starting August 10th, going out bi-weekly, then the store will be open to new orders shortly after. Expect us to be back to normal with orders as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your patience and support! If you have any questions about your order or products we offer, please reach out to store@runestone.org and we will get you the information you need.



Ali Clausen
Apprentice Folkbuilder
aclausen@runestone.org

Njörðshof

Food Pantry at Njörðshof



Njordshof folk gathered at our Hof bright and early on July 15th to help our community. Throughout the morning, food was given to anyone in need. We were able to feed 26 families this month.



Katie Joyner
Apprentice Folkbuilder
kjoyner@runestone.org

Sigrblót at Njörðshof



After a good turnout for the food pantry Njörðshof members feasted on beef stew served over mashed potatoes. The Hof was quickly reset to get ready for blot. Gothi Trent East performed the binding of the folk. Gothi Trent East and Gothi Jason Plourde did the blot. Witan Allen Turnage presided over Sumbel and the members dismissed after a full Frith filled day.

Folkbuilder Mike Joyner
mjoyner@runestone.org



Toasts & Boasts

Love is in the Air at Njörðshof



*you are cordially invited
to the wedding of*

*Rachel
MacDonald
and
Drac
Cameron*

*Friday the twenty-ninth of September
at three o'clock in the afternoon
dinner following*

Njörðshof
12562 Roberts St, White Springs, FL 32096

An oath is to be fulfilled!

Members Drac Cameron and Rachel MacDonald are to be wed at Njörðshof this September 29th at 3pm. This will be the first wedding at our newest Hof and all current Asatru Folk Assembly members are cordially invited.

The event will be officiated by our Lawspeaker Allen Turnage, with dinner being provided after the ceremony

While gifts are customary, the bride and groom have expressed that they are not necessary to attend.

We ask that all Folk attending to please keep our conversations respectful. As people from all walks of life will be there to celebrate this glorious day.

Please message me at jcameron@runestone.org if you plan to attend. As that helps us gauge set up and food portions.



Jace Cameron
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jcameron@runestone.org

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

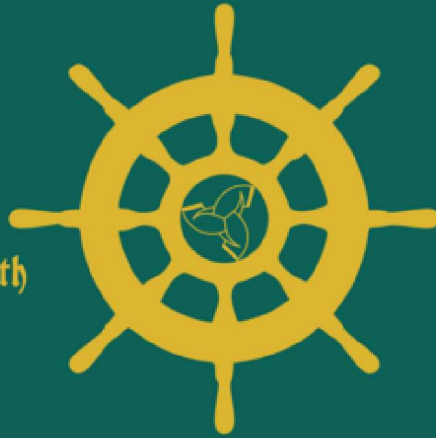
Freyfaxi
August 19th

Hexennacht
April 15th

Sigurblót
July 15th

Midsummer
June 17th - 18th

May Day
May 20th



The Harshest Winds Make the Strongest Wood

Arkansas

Housewarming Party



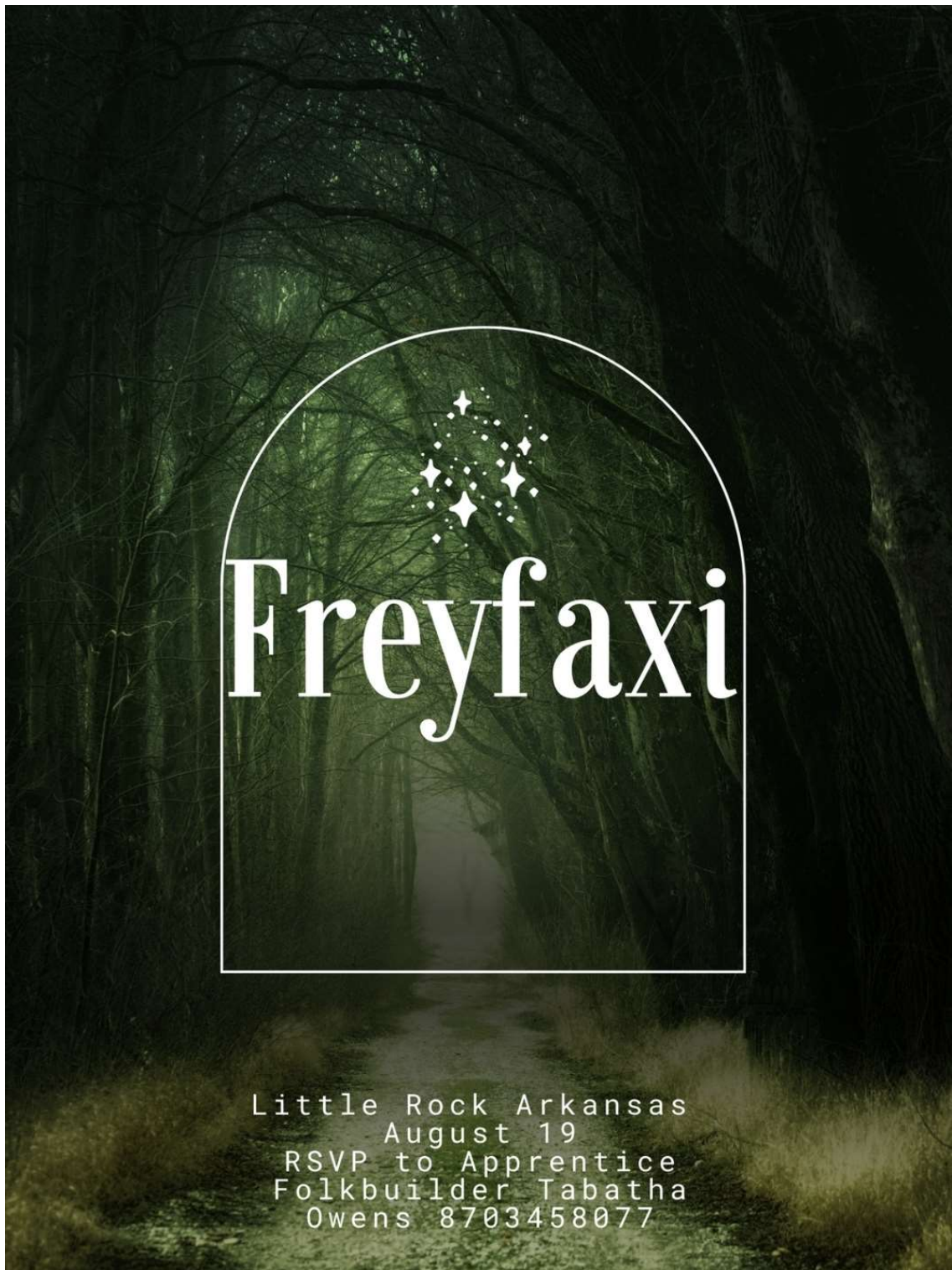
We went to Folkbuilder Jesse Parton's apartment to have a housewarming party for him. We had lunch and socialized. Jesse led us in a Blot to Njord.



Afterwards we socialized more and watched some cartoons, and I tried out virtual reality. Then we went to the pool and let the older kids swim. It was a great moot, and I can't wait to meet up with everyone again.

Upcoming Events





Little Rock Arkansas
August 19
RSVP to Apprentice
Folkbuilder Tabatha
Owens 8703458077

Tabatha Owens
Apprentice Folkbuilder
towens@runestone.org



Moot Bonanza



First, we got things started off with a Moot down in Hot Springs, Arkansas. We checked out the wax museum and then went to a nice restaurant. There were many children present, who enjoyed playing on the rocks.



Next up, I traveled to Leslie where I met a wonderful family. They have 5 children that have been homeschooled since day one. I cannot wait to better connect them into the folk.



Lastly for Arkansas, we had a 4th of July Moot and enjoyed good food and fireworks.



Then outside of Arkansas I also put together some moots in Missouri. There was a Moot in Kansas City, one in St. Joseph and also one in St.Louis

The Well



In Asatru, there is what is called Mímisbrunnr or Mimir's Well. In this well it is said to contain much wisdom and intelligence. Odin sacrificed his eye into the Well, to take a single drink from it. The Well is said to reside under one of the three roots of Yggdrasil. In the AFA when we pour a Horn full of mead, this is our Well. It is a representation of all our combined Wyrð for the Church.

We speak bright words Over the horn as it is passed from person to person in a clockwise fashion. We then take turns also partaking in a drink from the Well, just as the All-Father. Mead is placed upon the Altar or as its English name would be called, the Harrow, in respect and reverence for the Gods and Goddess also known as the Aesir.

Thus, the Gods are connected into and sharing with our well and Wyrð as well. This only makes sense, as they are our ancestors and our primordial deities. This way they too can partake within the Circle. The word circle or Kirke is where we derive the modern-day word Church from.

Now, today's science has shown us the power of thoughts and vibration, especially to the extent of what they do to water. Our thoughts and Words shape our Wyrð and drive every action we perform. Thoughts are what create the world and everything we see around us. As we harness our thoughts to be directed towards the positive, we can do

anything from heal our bodies in what is referred to as Placebo, we can create wealth, build relationships, and even empires and great revolutions of our past.

Our Ancestors did not waste their time on what today we call "Black Pills" or any such useless negativity. Instead, they called themselves the unconquerable, the Sun, the invincible. They decided what they wanted and set out to do it. And History is rife with our European ancestors creating and conquering everything they set their sights on to do.

Then with the coming of Christianity, they were taught to be slaves. The meek shall inherit the earth. Turn the other cheek. Consequently, our Folk has deteriorated to what we see today. They have been convinced that they are weak and in need of saving. The devastating implications of this are seen everywhere we look.

The AFA has taken it as its mission to revitalize the soul of our people. By spiritually uplifting our people, we will reawaken the lions within. We must remember the divinity and power that we possess. But how does one accomplish this?

The Ancestors laid out a formula known as ALU, ULA. From us to the Gods, from the Gods to us. This very simple blueprint is what we have set out to do. Reconnect the Folk with the Gods. So, we pour a Horn, and we put our thoughts, intentions, and words into it, we connect it to the Gods, and off we go. What have been the repercussions of these actions?

Immense success in the rebuilding of our people, the creation of 4 Hofs, many beautiful white families, and the promise that together we can attain whatever we set out to do. But just as there are positive forces, there are also Chaotic ones. Negative words and thoughts can seek to poison our Well. This is why Law speaker Allen Turnage has set out to challenge people to rise to higher levels, and to only speak what is elevating in nature, especially over the horn.

His message has struck deep within me, and I realize that what he says is true. The Vibrations that go into the water, from us and our Gods, is an energy that changes the very molecules of the water itself. When we drink from this well, this energy and molecules become a part of us. We are mostly water ourselves, and whatever is drank, will alter our course of action.

To cuss is simply a runic formula of negativity, which we have constructed to release a type of energy, that we wished to express. Is there a time for it? Certainly, if engaged in combat let's say, it may be very beneficial. But what about in our Temples, where we are constructing our well and putting out our intentions, hopes, dreams, and ideas? A Flamethrower may be a powerful weapon, but it is useless in the building of a House.

What we tell ourselves every day, is who we become. Hopefully, you tell yourself how amazing you are, because in truth you are and are deserving of happiness and the best that life has to offer.



Folkbuilder Jesse Parton
jparton@runestone.org

Florida

Panama City Beach Arcade Moot



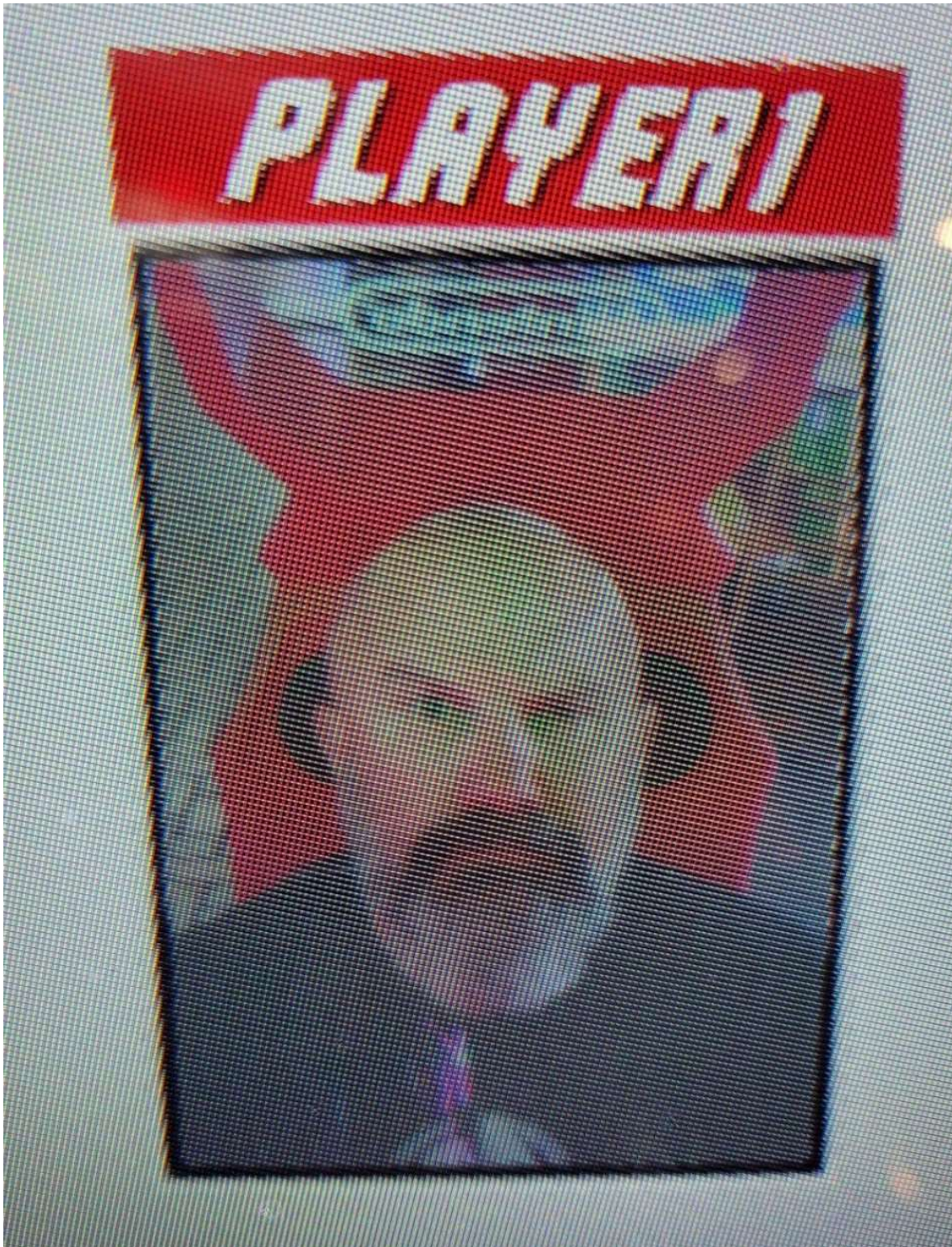
Our PCB Florida Funland moot was a nice break. Funland is nostalgic. It reminded me of my youth. When I was 13 years old, my friends and I regularly rode bikes to the arcade. My only worry at that time was if I had ample quarters for the day.



The folk enjoyed a day of racing, air hockey, killing dinosaurs, and Mandalorian pinball. I quickly realized I could improve at air hockey and not a great dinosaur slayer. What I can do well is laugh with and enjoy the folk.



After playing games, we had lunch at Funland's Diner. The diner looks like it came right out of the 50s, with red bar stools, milkshake blenders, and all. Surprisingly, their food was delicious.



The best part of the moot was enjoying each other's company. It was a great day of fun with the folk, a nice break from adulting. I cherish every bit of time we have together. Now we are back to work, striving to achieve Victory by building a solid future for our folk.





Hail the Folk!



Amy Stoddard
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Florida July Skating Moot



The coolest cats gathered at Skate World on July 6th in Tallahassee. We skated our hearts out to 90's jams. Some tumbles were had. Only minimal bruising though!



Matching brightly colored leg warmers were the best addition to our outfits. Drinks and revelry continued at the house. Overall, it was a great time had with even greater people.



Katie Joyner
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Wurst Moot Ever



By request to learn Tallahassee members got together to learn how to make sausage. As we dined on homemade Italian Sausage.



We made three types of sausage:

Honey Mustard Chicken – Dejon Mustard, Chicken Thighs, Honey, Pork Belly, Salt, Pepper

Traditional German Bratwurst – Pork Shoulder, Pork Belly, Beef London Broil, Egg Whites, Nutmeg, Ginger, Salt, Pepper, Ground Toasted Caraway Seeds

Tomato Sausage – Pork Shoulder, Pork Belly Homemade Crushed Tomatoes,
Homemade Breadcrumbs, Salt, Pepper, Fresh Thyme



By the end of the moot, we made over 35 lbs of fresh sausage. More cooking moots to come.



Folkbuilder Mike Joyner
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Georgia

Apprentice Introduction



Hello, my name is Jordan Wells, and I'm the newest Apprentice Folkbuilder for the Njörðshof district. I've been a proud member of the AFA for a year now. Some quick things about me are that I have been a guitarist for half a decade, so I am a huge music enjoyer. I also first found Asatru when I was 14 years old, about 9 years ago now. I look forward to meeting more people as I serve our folk.

A really heartwarming moment from our recent Sigrblot at Sigrheim I want to share is a dog we rescued from the woods on Saturday morning. This Australian Shepherd puppy wandered onto the property, rather tired and sick with ticks/infections. The folk present came together and made sure this dog was cared for by a local vet. She couldn't have picked a finer time or group of people to get help from.



Jordan Wells
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Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Moot



For our July 2023 moot, we hiked around Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park! Kennesaw Mountain is an over 2,000-acre National Battlefield that preserves a Civil War Battleground of the Atlanta Campaign. This mountain was the last landmark standing between William Sherman and Atlanta.



Amber Cameron
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South Africa

Re-Awakening the Hero Within



Heroes. We have never been more in need of them, but our society has also never been more unsure about what exactly a hero is.

Western civilization has shrugged off between 1,000 and 1,500 years of Christian culture, and with it the theological, philosophical, and psychological frameworks that contributed to defining what a hero is.

A new, secular society has been trying to create new heroes, but without much success. The media keeps telling us that parents who decide to have their children medically mutilated are heroes. During the pandemic, we were told that all nurses are heroes. Sometimes, they themselves told us that, often while twerking on TikTok. Most people, however, probably felt that merely doing the job you signed up for is not inherently heroic. We have a sense that while healthcare workers are of course making a valuable contribution that can involve self-sacrifice, that in most cases their actions don't rise to the level of what we would call heroic.

Then, there are superheroes that dominate so much of mainstream entertainment. While easy to dismiss, especially in their current-day incarnations, the superhero may actually help us get closer to a pre-Christian understanding of what the heroic truly is.

To understand why, we have to go back to the days before Christianity came to Europe.



Let's consider the example of the hero Perseus, the slayer of Medusa who also rescued Andromeda from a sea monster.

The way that his myth was told and retold in ancient times makes it clear that Perseus is a hero not for any special moral qualities that set him apart from others, in the manner that we often define a hero today - someone who puts others' well-being before his own, for example.

No, what makes him a hero is mainly his power and his exceptional skill at one thing in particular: defeating monsters. Perseus succeeds at what he intends to do and he is a hero because of who he is - he is a special person, with special skills, and he receives help from the Gods, who are in effect his extended family members.

We can consider the figure of Achilles in the same vein. This is not a hero in any Christian sense. He is motivated not by altruism or by any of the other values we have come to associate as heroic after centuries of Christian cultural hegemony. He is instead motivated by personal glory, and the desire to have his name remembered.

Achilles is a hero because he is exceptional at what he does. Achilles is the greatest of all the warriors in the Trojan war, and his superhuman abilities, his actions - not his motivation - are what sets him apart from others and makes him a hero.



And it's those superhuman abilities that brings us back to superheroes. On the most fundamental level, Superman is a hero not because he chooses to save damsels in distress, but because of his exceptional, superhuman abilities. Young boys like superheroes not because they choose to behave in a civic-minded manner, but because they can fly, lift tanks and punch holes in concrete.

Those boys' instincts are correct. Their idea of what constitutes the heroic is much closer to that of our ancient ancestors'.

In a healthy society, we should never dampen that instinct. We should not try to tame it and try to replace Superman with TwerkNurse-19.

Myths like that of Perseus may have served something of the same role as comic books used to do before the industry was gutted by wokeism, serving as coming-of-age tales. The ancient myths depicted the trials a youth would have to overcome to become a full man in the society of the time, one in which war with neighbouring city states was common and where bravery was one of the greatest possible virtues.

These young men did not suddenly change their values and their aspirations when they transitioned from boyhood to manhood. They may have developed a more mature understanding of the tale, they may have no longer played make-believe that they had impenetrable skin or superhuman strength, but they still believed in striving for excellence and glory. They retained the instinct, the spark, that has always been inside the Aryan people, sometimes a mere ember, sometimes blazing forth so brightly that others have to shield their eyes to not be blinded by it.

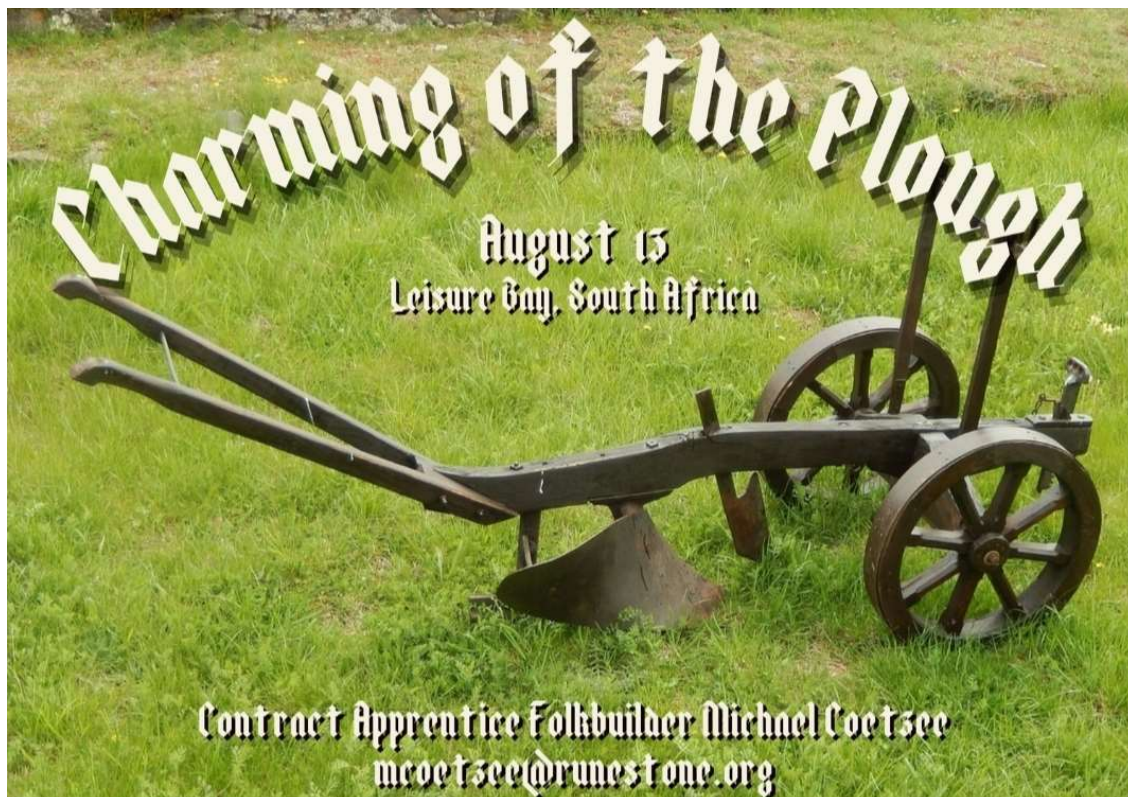
To build a better future, to build better communities, we have to reawaken to ancient ideals of heroism. We have to cast aside the self-denying, ascetic Christian “hero” and replace him with seekers after excellence and glory that we have always been meant to be.

Porrablót and Coffee Farm Rune Study Moot



On July 15, we celebrated Þorrablót in Leisure Bay, South Africa, followed by a Coffee Farm Rune Study Moot the next day.

Upcoming Events



We will celebrate Charming of the Plough on August 13 in Leisure Bay, followed by hosting our first moot in Johannesburg on August 26.

Coffee Moot

August 26, Johannesburg



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Texas

Sigrblot in Dallas



On Saturday July 15th, 2023, Fríðr Folk Kindred Texas held our 3rd annual Sigrblot on the shores of Lake Lavon in Farmersville. It was a beautiful location that offered a beautiful view of the water and plenty of space to roam. We enjoyed a good meal, discussed the story of Griminsmal from the Poetic Edda, held a Blot to Oðinn, and oathed our newest member into the kindred.



It was a fantastic time and we are looking forward to our very first regional event, Texas Harvestfest, August 25th through 27th, where we will honor Freyr and celebrate the abundant bounty he has graced us with. Tickets are selling fast so get yours now!

Upcoming Events



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