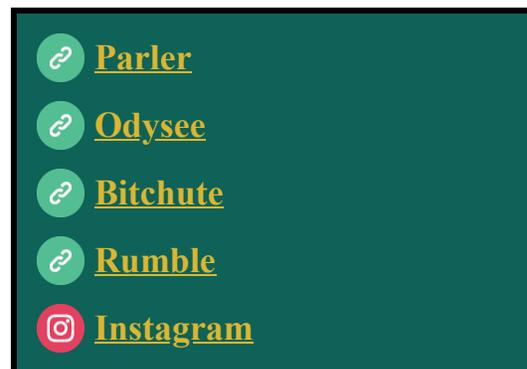


<http://www.njordshof.org/>



Donate to the AFA

## Words from the Alsherjargothi



Winter Nights in Ohio was a huge success! Thank you to the Ericksons for hosting an amazing event and special thanks to Cole Distel and his family for all their hard work at the event! These yearly events are natural times to take stock of how far we have come

from previous years. At this year's Winter Nights, I had the pleasure and honor of performing 3 Baby Naming Ceremonies. I huge advance in the AFA has been the massive increase in healthy and thriving families. I am so proud to see all the AFA babies being born. And for the first time, this year, we have a homeschooling program in place to educate these new children in a healthy and safe way with truth and good character.

Another thing of note from Winter Nights is just how much the AFA membership has grown, overall, and East of the Mississippi specifically. Once upon a time, the AFA was heavily weighted in California and on the West Coast. For a long time that West Coast perception was dominant. In the 11 years since the first Winter Nights in the Poconos, the AFA has spread thickly across the country, and we have members now in 14 countries!

We are winning! We are blessed by our amazing Gods!

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



Matthew D. Flavel  
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly  
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## Words from our Witan

*Lawspeaker's Challenge: Stay Hungry*



Before I set up this month’s challenge, a brief word about the origin of this series. As I see it, the purpose of any spiritual practice is self-improvement. Moralistic practices seek this goal with proscriptions, a list of “thou-shalt-nots,” which, if followed closely, can be a guide for simple behavioral improvements.

Our faith is more subtle and complex, and we must look to the examples of our elders – the Gods and ancestors – as instructive. This “middle path” of right discernment is difficult, requiring constant analysis and self-critique. “Wotan expects me to man up,” as one phrasing has it.

Thus, the challenge to stay hungry. Certainly, a part of this idea is to stay hungry in the spiritual sense, to constantly read, learn, and grow in understanding and camaraderie, but the challenge this month is strictly in the mundane sense of physical hunger.

Most of us (not you, Witan Callahan!) could stand to lose a few pounds, and yes leaving some food on the plate occasionally can further that goal, but my intent here is not to encourage us to lose weight but to maintain more situational awareness. Satiety – that feeling of a full stomach that most of us carry all day every day– dulls the senses and general awareness. Yale University researchers found that mice that were induced to feel hunger not only had sharper physical senses but increased memory and learning capacity as well.

Stay sharp; stay hungry.



Witan Allen Turnage  
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## Words from our Gothar

*Creation (Creatio Ex Materia or Creatio ex Nihilo)*



All peoples have a creation myth.

Whether it's the African bush people who believed their people and animals lived

together underground until Kaang dug a hole for them to climb out of to live on in the world he created for them; the Indios of the Americas that emerged from their sacred caves, or lived on a great island that floated in the ocean attached to four thick ropes from the sky; The Chinese Hundun and Hawaiian Kumulipo whose cosmogonic myths describe creation from chaos with the dismembered corpse of a primordial being (Pangu and Mesopotamian Tiamat), world parent siblings (Fuxi and Nuwa and Japanese Izanagi and Izanami) or the Zoroastrian Ahura Mazda, they believed the basic element was qi ("breath; air; life force"); while other cultures like Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Greece believed a primeval water was the single element that existed in the beginning.

That brings us to the Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. They all believe in the beginning Yaweh created heaven and earth. The only exception being the Mormons who believe the world was created from existing matter. But this can be attributed to the exception that proves the rule, and it can also speak to the ancestral memory of the European descendants who broke from Christian doctrine.

There are many differences between the native faiths of the former, many of which will have a familiar ring to anyone who has studied Indo-European religions, and the latter Abrahamic faiths. The most obvious is polytheism vs monotheism. Then there is the idea of redemption for past dishonorable acts with noble deeds to improve our wyrd vs individual salvation from an external omnipotent being for the asking. But it all starts with the irreconcilable polarity found in their respective ideas of Creation.

Creatio ex materia or ex nihilo?

In Latin creatio ex materia means "creation out of preexisting material". All Pre-Abrahamic creation stories share this idea, including Asatru, that the universe was created from preexisting matter by their divine powers. Only the Abrahamic faiths, teach the idea of creatio ex nihilo, or "creation out of nothing".

Why is this important?

Our creation stories are central to who we are as a people. Our worldview is rooted in creation. For us, the act of creation, of beating back chaos and bringing order to the world is replayed in every blot. Do we start from a world-accepting belief, that we exist within and are a part of the world, or from a soteriological and eschatological one that is world-rejecting? Not only is this difference important, but we see how creatio ex materia is healthier and more instinctual for our Folk.

After all, Indo-Europeans held the value of Truth above all others.



Since this topic centers around what happened in the beginning, let's begin there with our own creation story and the similarities to those above. Before anything there was the great abyss Ginungagap, and Fimbultyr moved upon the face of the deep that flowed from Niflhem (the primeval waters; laguz) freezing them before meeting the flames of Muspelheim. The melted drops of vapor formed the giant Ymir (the primordial being), the father of the race of giants that were Chaos. To the Proto-Indo-Europeans in the beginning EVERYTHING was water. And EVERYTHING was Chaos, beyond understanding.

Óðinn and his brothers, the sons of Bor, slayed Ymir and from his body, they made the universe. They created order. Then the Gods formed Ask and Embla with Óðinn giving them önd or the breath of life, Vili giving them óðr or wit/spirit/soul, and Vé giving them goodly hue or their form and senses ("breath; air; life force" above). For the PIE there were Yemos and Mannus (the twins) who also brought order to the world with Yemos' sacrifice.

What all these creation stories have in common is that the world was formed out of matter that already existed. Because matter cannot be destroyed, it must have always existed. If the water boils away, it still exists in the form of vapor. If a tree burns, the heat, smoke, and ash are carried away by the winds. Rain falls, the plants grow, and animals eat the plants and grow in turn. The matter is transformed (kenaz), but it is not gone. This is the natural reasoning for creatio ex materia. It is a demonstrable truth.

Our ancestors possessed this knowledge and it had to be wrested from them by the imposition of the wholly foreign idea that something can come from nothing. This is

the faulty foundation on which the idea of salvation is built. That paradise can be bestowed just for the asking. Our ancestors understood the need to make deposits into the well of urðr to earn your ørlög. Our deeds are the material from which our fate is created, it does not come from nothing any more than the cosmos could.

Furthermore, the native faiths of not only our people, but all people, bound them to this world. We live in the world, not upon it. Ours is a world-accepting religion. It is a symbiotic existence, aligned with the cosmos; what to our PIE ancestors would form the Xartus. To live in right action (raido) in accordance with the cosmos, allows our spirit to resonate. This is how our people, and all people, can live a healthy life. The dissonance we experience from living in discord with the Xartus, ignoring the primal laws, harms the spirit and it spreads through the soul complex manifesting in mental as well as physical illnesses.

With creatio ex nihilo we are disconnected from the act of creation. It is handed to us, with no effort, no sacrifice. Just like the idea of an individual mentioned earlier, it is an ørlög unearned. That is not how we interact with the world around us, so a dissonance is created in the spirit of our people that is growing hard to ignore. Many of our Folk cannot identify what that uneasy feeling they have deep inside of them is, but they know it is there. It's like playing piano that is out of tune. No matter how skilled you are, it will not make beautiful music until it is in tune.

Asatru is our tuning fork.



Gothi Lane Ashby

[lashby@runestone.org](mailto:lashby@runestone.org)

**Sigrheim: Home of the  
Ašatru Folk Assembly**



Progress has moved swiftly on this amazing dream. We have scouted property in Tennessee. We are ready to make our purchase. Thus far, we have raised 9.8% of the down payment! Please help us make this dream a reality. As always, donations of \$500 and over get a nameplate on the donor plaque that will go up in the hall. Thank you all for your generosity.

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



[Sigrheim Fund – Asatru Folk Assembly](#)

Sigrheim will be our AFA home and capital. Sigrheim will be an intentional community with AFA members living on site, a glorious hof to Týr, a grand hall, lodging for guests and so much more.

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



Matthew D. Flavel

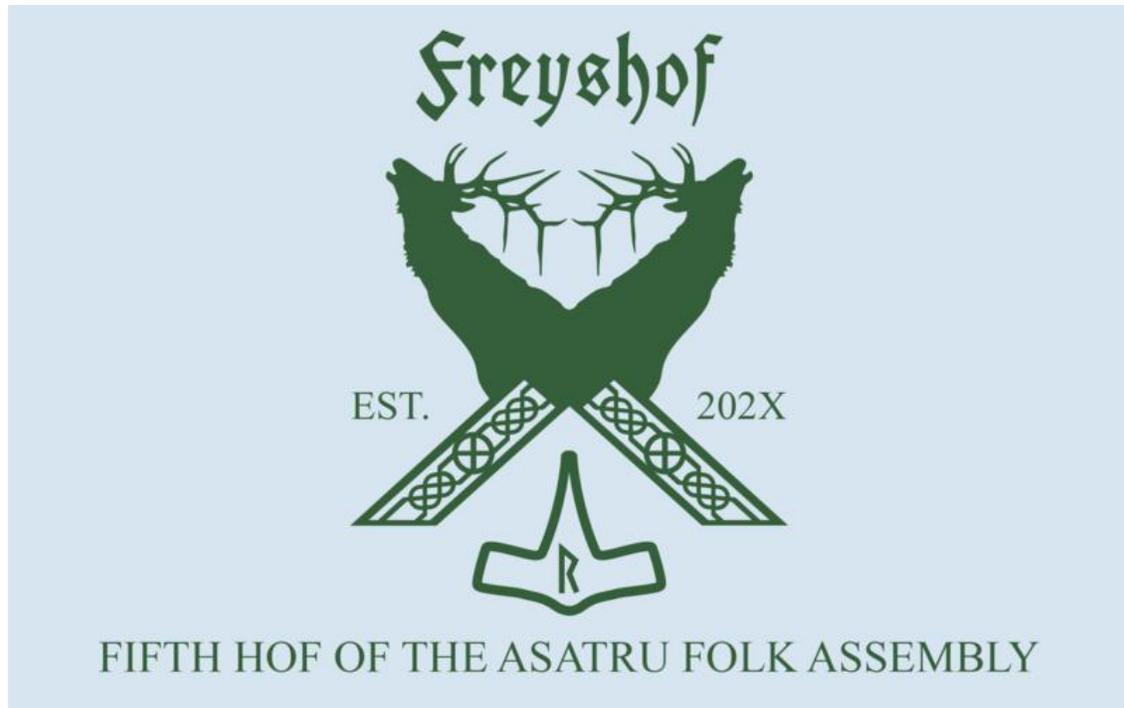
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly

[mattflavel@runestone.org](mailto:mattflavel@runestone.org)

**The Quest for Freyshof**

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

– Gylfaginning



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

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

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

1. We need to pay off Njörðshof. (We have paid off 40.2% so far)
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 15%. (This is membership dues/hoftollar plus other donations)
3. We need to locate a suitable property.
4. We need to find lenders and build a war chest.

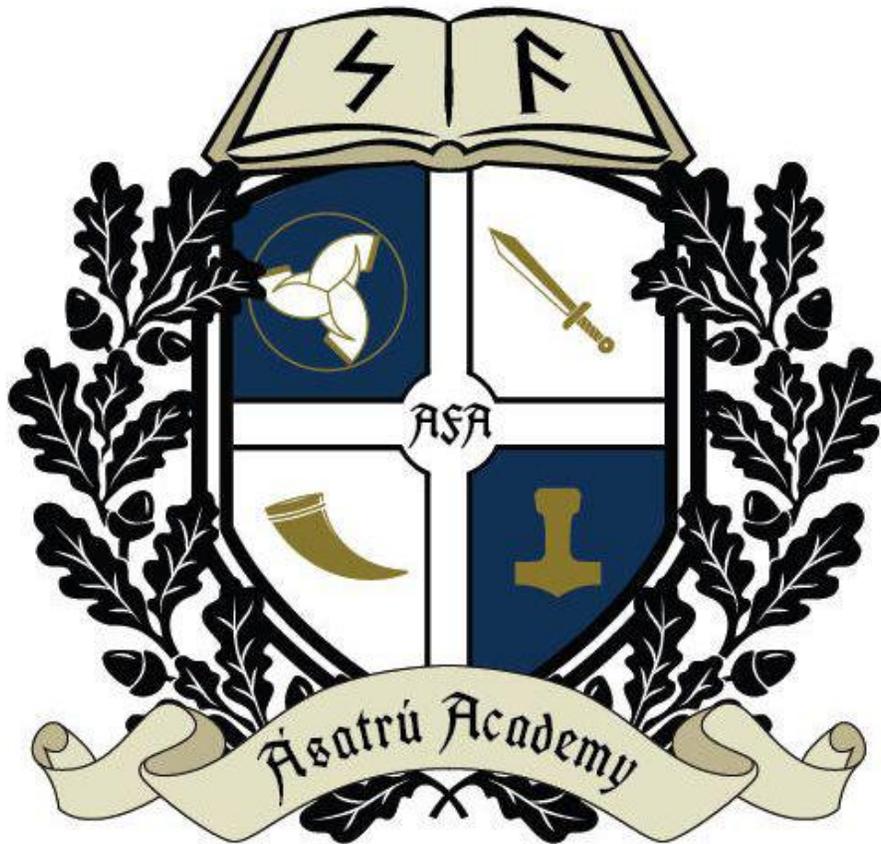
This is not a "quick" process so stay the patient and resolute. As we progress, I will keep you all updated on our progress!

Hail Freyr!



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## AFA Homeschool Program



[AsatruAcademy.org](http://AsatruAcademy.org)

Greetings AFA Academy families!

We hope everyone had a wonderful winter nights. It warmed my heart to see so many

smiling children on winter nights in Ohio!

Now that winter nights have passed, the wild hunt begins! As we get ever closer to yule. In the month of December, much of our concentration will be on the yuletide festivities, and I'll write some great wild hunt ideas and yuletide traditions from Europe that can be used as part of our school time.

As we gear up, let's not forget about Thanksgiving! Many of our gods and kindreds will be celebrating a folks giving. We would love to see your pictures and your artwork!

Please submit to [rstamm@runestone.org](mailto:rstamm@runestone.org) or any of our academy staff.



Gothi Rob Stamm  
Dean of AFA Academy  
[rstamm@runestone.org](mailto:rstamm@runestone.org)

## Day of Remembrance

### Queen Sigríð of Sweden



Though little information about Sigrid, Queen of Sweden, exists in a historical text, the stories abound. Born a Swedish noblewoman Sigrid married Erik the Victorious and together they had one son. She became the Regent after the king's death, and it wasn't

long before her vast wealth drew out all of the suitors, one of whom was her foster brother.

Tired of the constant suitors, and very aware of poor manners, it is said that Sigríð invited her foster brother and another suitor to a feast only to light the building on fire and lock them inside. This didn't scare away the Christian Tyrant, Olaf Tryggvason. She might have entertained his proposal, but when he demanded that she convert to Christianity to wed him, Sigríð immediately turned him away. This enraged Tryggvason so much that he first insulted her age and beauty, and then slapped her. The story says she then told him that his behavior very well might lead to his death.

It was not long before Sigríð united Sweden with Denmark by marrying King Sweyn Forkbeard. Already feuding with Olaf, it didn't take much for Sigríð to convince her new husband to go to war. This led to one of the largest ancient maritime battles, the Battle of Swold, in which Olaf Tryggvason was killed.

What can we learn from this story?

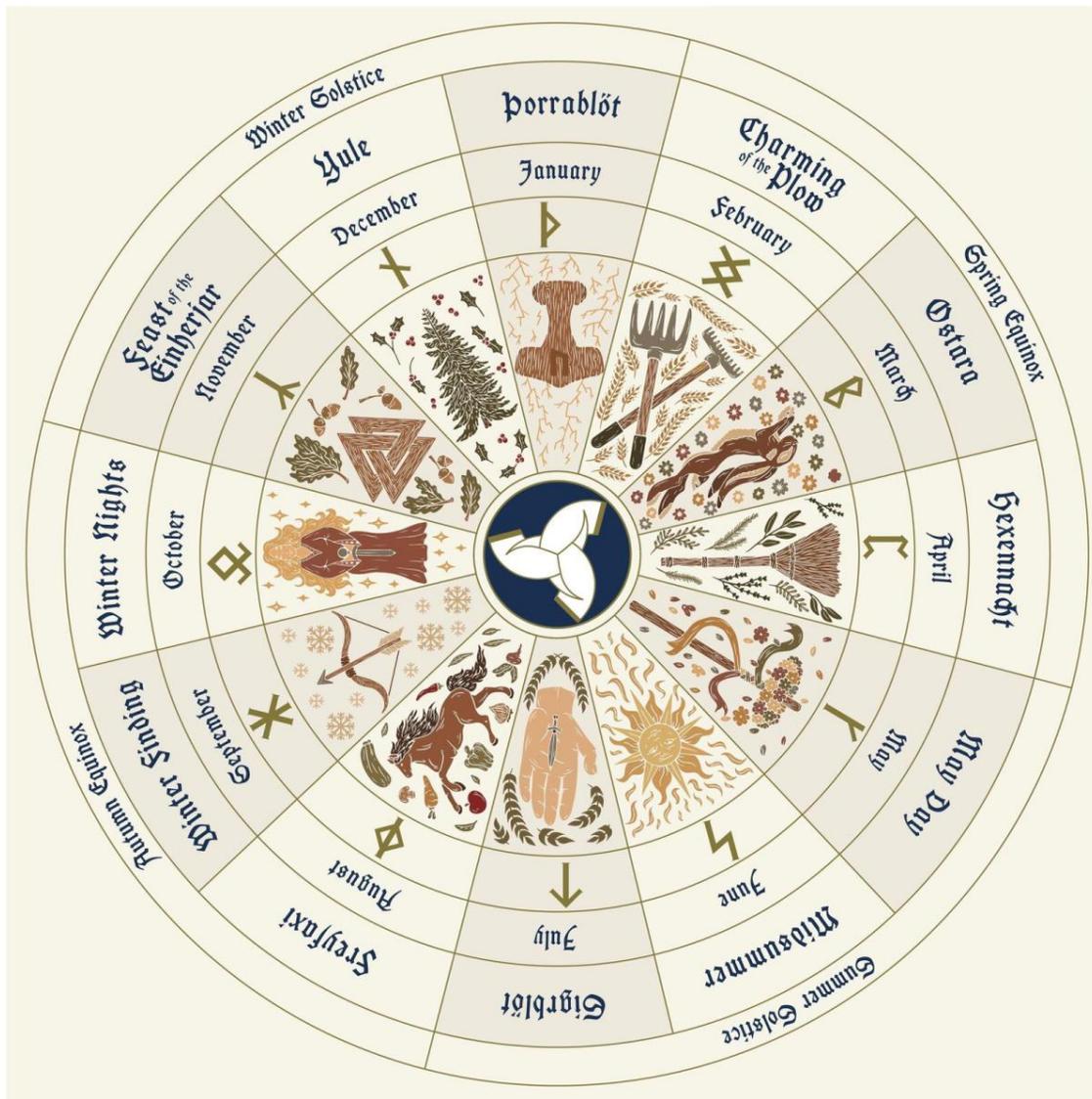
While we can't run around burning to death the people that annoy us, we can take a stand for ourselves and our Folk. We have the right to defend ourselves and our dignity from those who would try to diminish us. And when we all work together as a cohesive group, much can be done to defend and raise our Folk up.

It is never in our best interest to play it nice just for the sake of being polite. Honesty and hard truths are rarely looked at with fondness, but they are so important. Be honest, be truthful, defend and build your dignity. We are our deeds.



Gythia Catie Erickson  
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**Remembrance & Holy Days**



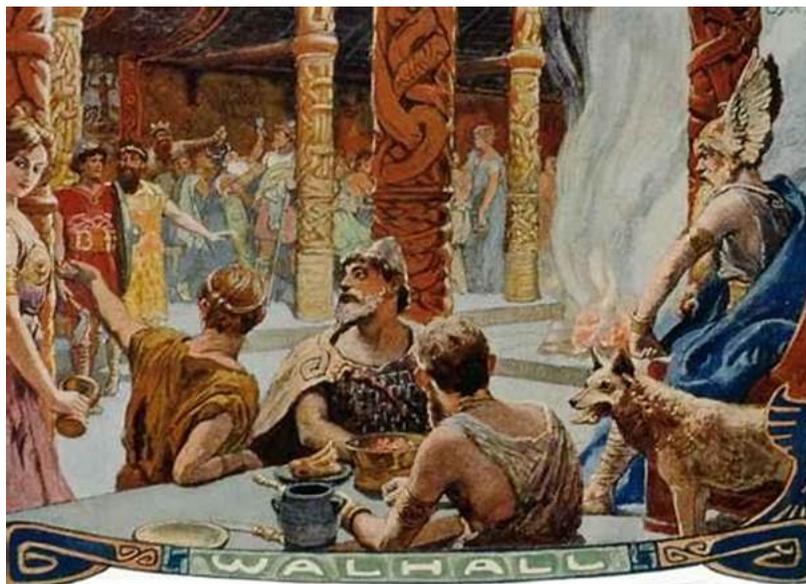
[Calendar – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)

2022

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

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

## Feast of the Einherjar



One of the most recognizable motifs in Asatru is that of the Viking warrior. Helm, sword, beard, and blood: boys and girls have long been mesmerized by the stories of

Valkyries and the eternal feasting and fighting of the Einherjar in Odin's hall, Valhalla. Pop culture has taken the Berserker and the Valkyrie and remade them hundreds of times.

Our ancestors lived in a different time when fighting wars and general "viking" was necessary for survival. For a warrior, to die in battle was the greatest honor. Today, war is not necessary for the same way. Most people scoff at war, and urge their children to "do better" or "be better". For those of us who practice Asatru, however, we recognize the importance and the value of the warrior. More important still, is the importance and the value of those who have fallen, the Einherjar.

Once a year we set aside a day specifically to honor the Einherjar. We raise a horn to the fallen warriors to thank them for fighting for our people and our freedom. One way to celebrate is to set a place at the table for the Einherjar. Serve them the same food you are eating for dinner. Pour them a glass of wine or beer. When you are done, leave the plate outside under a special tree in offering. Another way to celebrate would be to visit the graves of veterans at a local cemetery and help to clean them up. Leave some decorations or a small flag.

You don't have to have any veterans in your immediate family. It is a guarantee that somewhere down your ancestral lines you have family who fought in a war, and most likely, that some of them didn't return from the front lines. It is in your blood. So raise that horn, and raise it high. Remember our fallen.

Hail the Einherjar!



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**Recap on Winter Nights XI in Ohio**



When I was informed this spring by Camp Netimus that the camp would not be doing group rentals going forward, I was disappointed and a bit uneasy. That place in the Poconos was home AFA Winter Nights for as long as I had been an AFA member and it was difficult to imagine it being held anywhere else. I put the call out to our Folkbuilders to help find a place to make sure Winter Nights was held on schedule. Not long after Folkbuilder Timmy Dumas let me know that long-time AFA member Cole Distel, who in years past has himself put in some time as a Folkbuilder, had a family

camp that might be suitable. The camp didn't have everything finished that we were used to, but Cole, his wife Tiff, and Cole's mom went out of their way to make everyone comfortable. A big thank you to the Distel family!



AFA Winter Nights 11 in Ohio was amazing. The Folk showed up in force, with more people attending, with more children attending, than any previous Winter Nights.



We were blessed to witness three families present their babies to be named, and three of our best AFA leaders took their Oaths as AFA Folkbuilders. Congratulations to Christine Dumas, Joe Drotos, and Jon Rock and Hail to the babies!



Our lovely Jessicas helped the children with crafts including a paper Yggdrasil tree. Apprentice Jonathan Montgomery did a great job as our auctioneer, and with the help of those who donated items to the auction and those who bid on these items the AFA raised almost \$4000 for the AFA Hof fundraiser.



Witan Svan shared with the children the story of how the world came to be, and of the theft and recovery of Thor's hammer. I had the honor of sitting as Thule during the High Sumbel and I am grateful to our Folk who spoke nobly and rightly. Gythia Erickson led our Folk in communing with our Disir. Alsherjargothi Flavel led the Folk in a powerful Odin blot.



And so much more...

So many AFA families have started at Winter Nights, including my own, and I hope that this year lifelong bonds were forged again.



Witan Clifford Erickson  
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## Upcoming National Events

**Feast of the Einherjar 2022 Nov. 10th-13th**



Honor the fallen  
with your folk  
in Oklahoma  
Nov 10-13

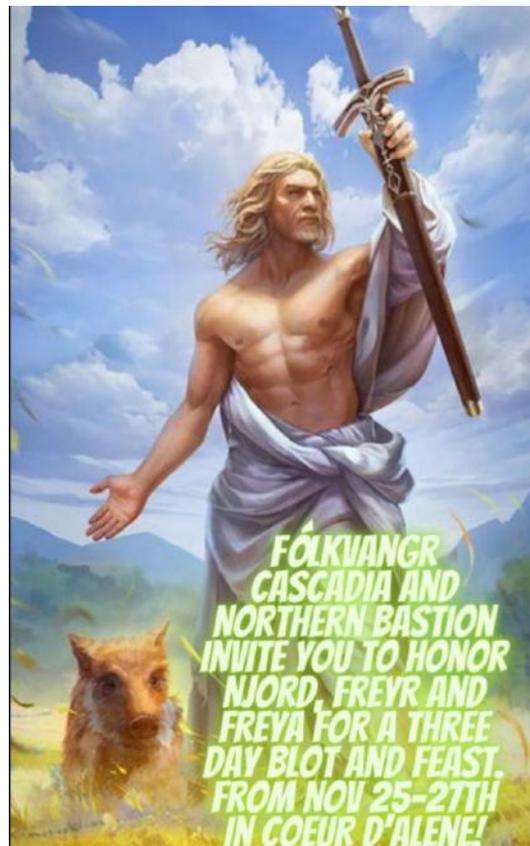
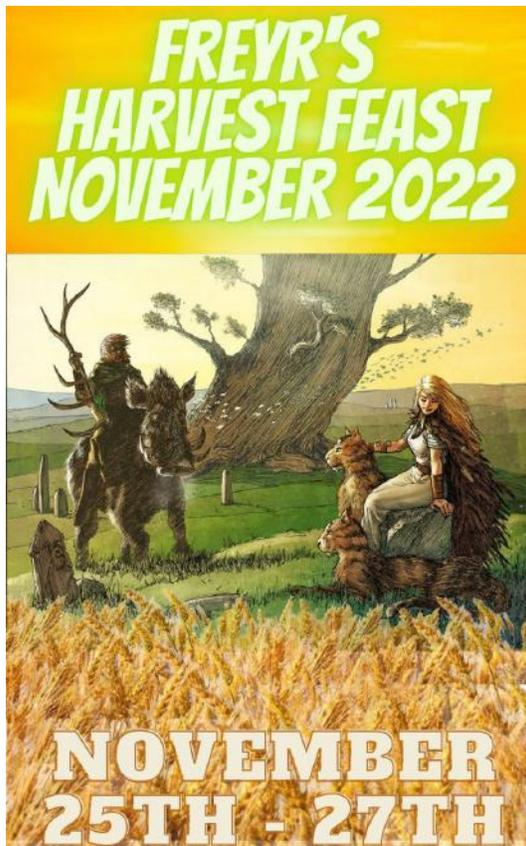
With Special  
guests Stephen  
and Sheila  
McNallen, and  
Alsherjargothi  
Matt Flavel

# Feast of the Einherjar 2022

[Register Here](#)

Come and join your Folk for a weekend-long celebration as we Honor the Einherjar.  
Presentations, Games, feasting, and Blots!

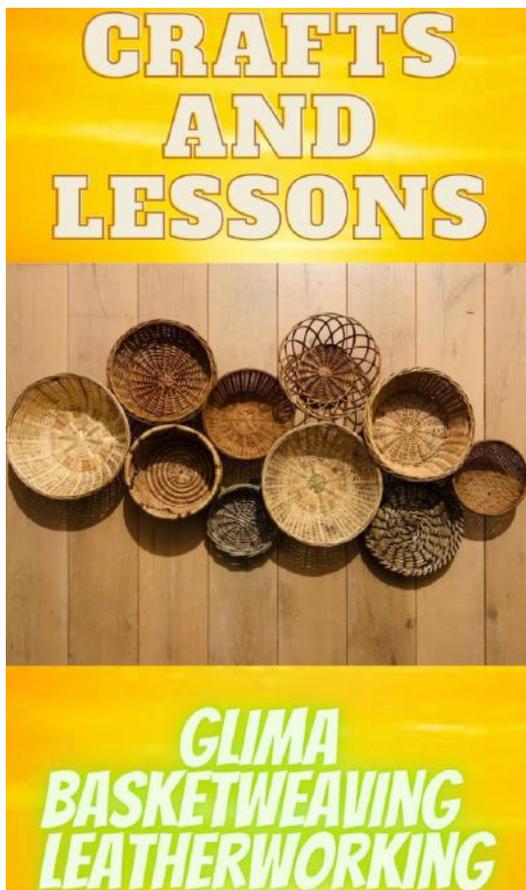
**Freyr's Harvest Feast in Idaho Nov. 25th-27th**



[Register Here](#)

We're still gearing up for Freyrs Harvest Feast and with just a few more weeks to go, it's more important than ever to get your tickets.

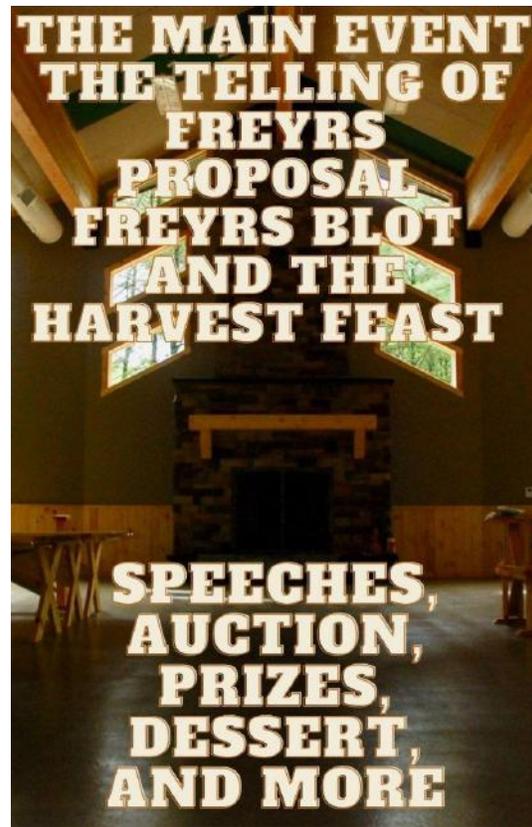
The event is a three-day gathering of our folk to celebrate the harvest season, our gods and goddesses, and the frith we share.



Each day is dedicated to a member of the Vanir. That Friday is dedicated to Njord who oversees our safe travel. Saturday is for Freyr and will have the viking games and harvest feast. Sunday wraps up our festivities as we learn about the runes and develop tighter family bonds dedicating the day to Freya.

I hope to see all of you there to participate in the various crafts and hear the speeches prepared.

It is the perfect opportunity to bring family who does not yet share in our faith out to be a part of the folkish community we cherish. With the added bonus of not doing Thanksgiving dishes there's no excuse. Looking forward to seeing you all there!



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

**THANKSGIVING  
DISHES SUCK**



**SO INSTEAD HAVE US  
HANDLE IT AT  
FREYRS HARVEST  
FEAST**

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

**Charming of the Plow at Njordshof**



We are excited to announce the 2023 National Event for Njörðshof will be Charming of the Plow!

More info coming soon.

See you there!



Witan Clifford Erickson  
[cerickson@runestone.org](mailto:cerickson@runestone.org)

## Be a Doer



**We need you to volunteer for the AFA!**

Yes, you. We have work to do and need folk who are artists, editors, writers, accountants, lawyers, publicists, reputation managers, professionals of all manner, technical support, web developers,

system admins, tradesmen, craftswomen, and more. See the list of amazing projects we have below. We will find a way for you to help our Folk.

Please email [volunteer@runestone.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:aturnage@runestone.org)

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



Wyrd Weaver - I'm a fiber artist in Texas and a solitary AFA member.



I spin all my own wool yarns on my spinning wheel, then turn those yarns into woven and nålbinded garments.



My Facebook page is <https://m.facebook.com/wyrdweaversca>



Folkbuilder Jessica Lambert

[jlambert@runestone.org](mailto:jlambert@runestone.org)

## Ancestral Food and Culture



My mother came to visit us last week and to celebrate she made fun and tasty bread for us all to enjoy.

Barmbrack also known as báirín breac (speckled loaf in Irish Gaelic), is a tasty cake made with dried fruit and spices like cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves. The cake gets its name from its appearance, as the fruit is dotted throughout the loaf, and more scarce compared to other types of fruit loaves. It has a similar flavor to fruitcake or a fruit loaf but is less rich. With its warming baking spices, you can make barmbrack all year round, even if it is traditionally served on Halloween. This tradition would date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. This would coincide precisely with the harvest season when the fruits were collected and stored to make sweets during the Christmas

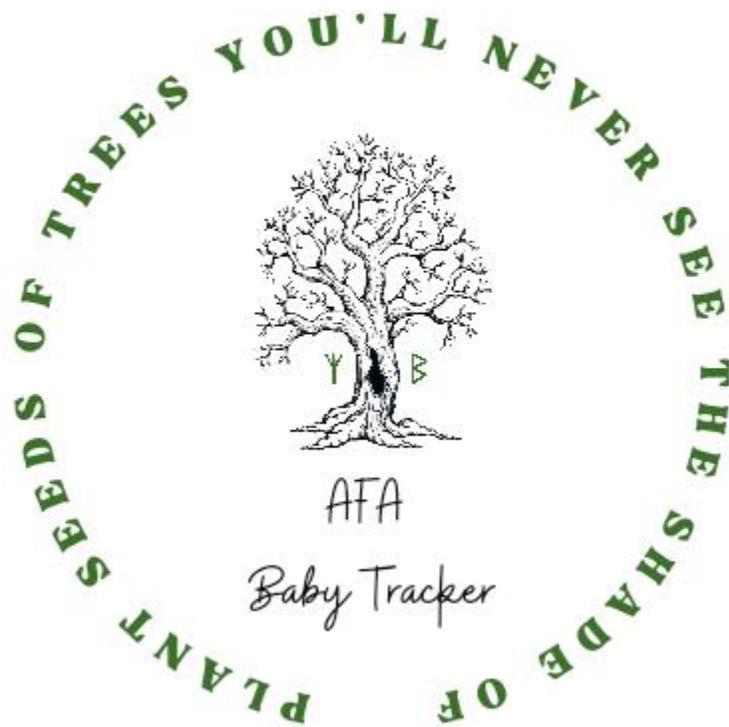
holidays.

Mix the raisins, sultanas, lemon zest, orange zest, and sugar in a bowl. Whisk the hot tea into the sugar mixture, then cover it and leave it overnight so the flavors can meld together. The next day, combine the flour, baking powder, and spice mix in a large bowl. Add the raisin mixture and the eggs to the flour mixture, making sure to alternate between the two. Beat until the batter is well-combined. Bake the barmbrack for 1 hour 20 minutes to 1 ½ hours at 325°F. Let it cool for 20 minutes, then take the cake out of the pan and let it cool completely on a rack.



Folkbuilder Timothy Dumas  
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## Baby Tracker



We are tracking the growth of our Folk by presenting to you an ongoing baby tracker. We will be keeping track of how many children have been and are born within the AFA from 2022 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!

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

Total babies born in 2022: 40 (Up 5 from September!)

Jessica Keller  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[jkeller@runestone.org](mailto:jkeller@runestone.org)



## Yule Card Fundraiser



# AFA YULE CARD FUNDRAISER

*Let the Competition  
Begin!!!*



*Card Artwork created by Reign Kinsler*

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

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



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

Njordshof is in the lead currently! Who's going to win?



Jessica Keller  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[jkeller@runestone.org](mailto:jkeller@runestone.org)

**Now Available in the AFA Store**

## The Usatru Folk Assembly



## 2023 Calendar

**Now available! For a limited time only!**

Pre-order your Official AFA keepsake calendar now!



Order now through Dec 5th and your calendar will arrive in time for Yule!

[Order Here!](#)



Folkbuilder Melisa Mills  
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**Njörðshof**

**Njörðshof News Bulletin**



On October 17th, 2022, the delivery and installation of the new sign at Njordshof commenced. This signage replaced the sign of the previous owners and gave us the ability to remove the temporary signage we had in place since the weekend of Njordshof dedication. Additional changes to the frame of the sign are forthcoming.

Njordshof is hosting our monthly food pantry and Folkgiving on November 19th. We will be taking donations of children's toys for a holiday toy drive for the community of White Springs, which will be distributed at our Yule event. If you are able to donate, it would be greatly appreciated.

Njordshof is going to begin hosting a virtual District Call for all members of Njordshof district, beginning in the month of November. The call will normally fall in the last week of the month going forward. We would love to see all of our members join the call and participate. We plan to have announcements, district news, and some short discussions. This month, the call is scheduled for Monday, November 21st at 9:00 pm EST.



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Apprentice Folkbuilder  
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## Winter Nights at Njörðshof



In October we celebrated Winter Nights at Njörðshof and had an amazing time. This is definitely one of our favorite events and it was great to be together at our favorite place. The morning consisted of a successful Food Pantry where we served families large bags of canned goods and meat. We had 25 families attend and we continue to serve more families monthly. Gothi Lane Ashby lead the group in a lesson of Galdr and we carved candles individually for our Disir blot, led by Gythia Anna Plourde. For lunch we had a delicious traditional "Octoberfest" themed handcrafted menu with Mike's fantastic brats as the main event. Everyone was full from the food and the amazing atmosphere we shared with each other and our Disir. We also had cake and sang Happy Birthday in honor of founder McNallen's birthday. Following the feast, we had the great honor of participating in sumbel with Lawspeaker Turnage, a profound experience for us all. Winter Nights is a holy time which Halloween traditions stem from and so we saw fit to have activities for the children including crafts, Trick or Treating, and costumes. It was

apparent that the children of Njordshof were completely overwhelmed with delight- and sugar- as they got to spend much-needed time with their best friends from across Njordshof district. We can't wait to get everyone together again for Folksgiving in November. We hope to see you there.



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### Upcoming Events at Njörðshof

2022

Seast of the Einherjar  
November 19th

Winter Nights  
October 15th

Winter Finding  
September 17th

Freyfaxi  
August 27th

Sigurblót  
July 17th

Yule  
December 17th - 18th

Þórrablót

Charming of the Plow  
February 27th

Ostara  
March 26th

Hexennacht  
April 16th

Midsummer  
June 18th

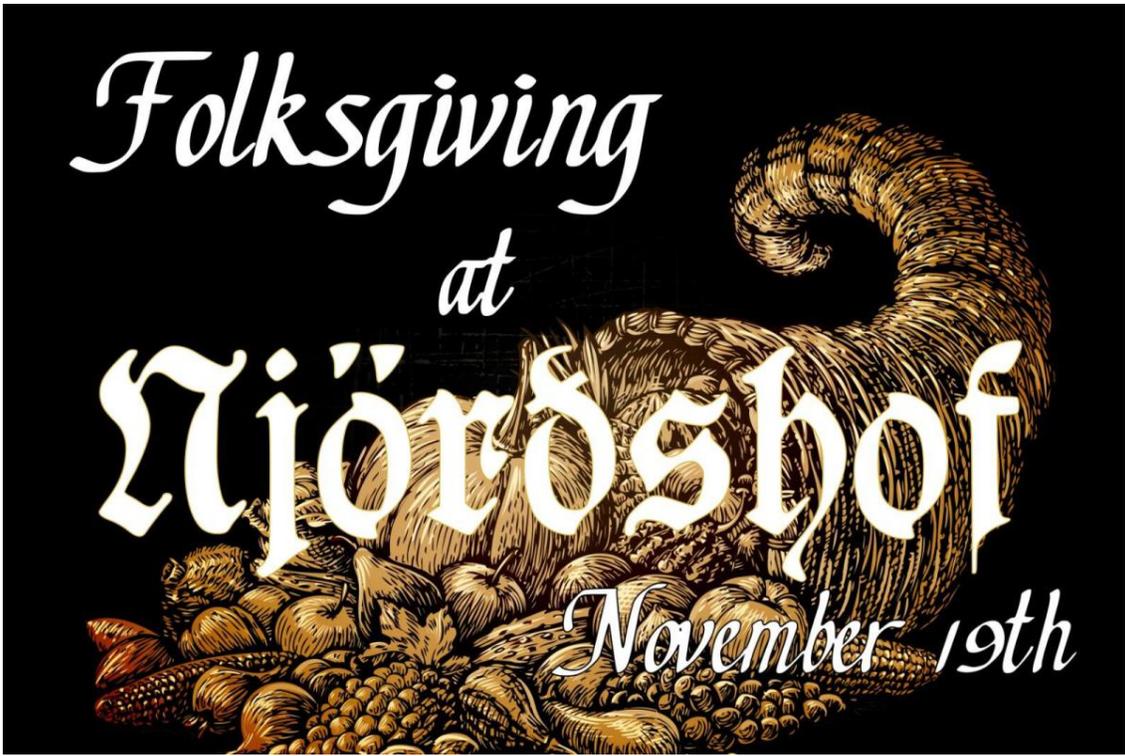
May Day -  
Beach Blót  
May 7th

*Folksgiving*

*at*

**Njörðshof**

*November 19th*





Njörðshof

Toy Drive

Donations will be accepted  
at

Folksgiving

(or contact [lashby@runestone.org](mailto:lashby@runestone.org))

for distribution

at

Yule

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Arkansas

*Change of Season*



As we leave October, and the Season begins to change, cooler weather starts to come in, the Folk in Arkansas look forward to the coming Holidays, a time to spend with Friends and Family and celebrate another great year full of victory.

*Upcoming Event*

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

# FOLKS GIVING DINNER

Saturday November 26th  
Little Rock Arkansas

Hosted by Folkbuilder Jesse Parton



Join us this November for Folks Giving.

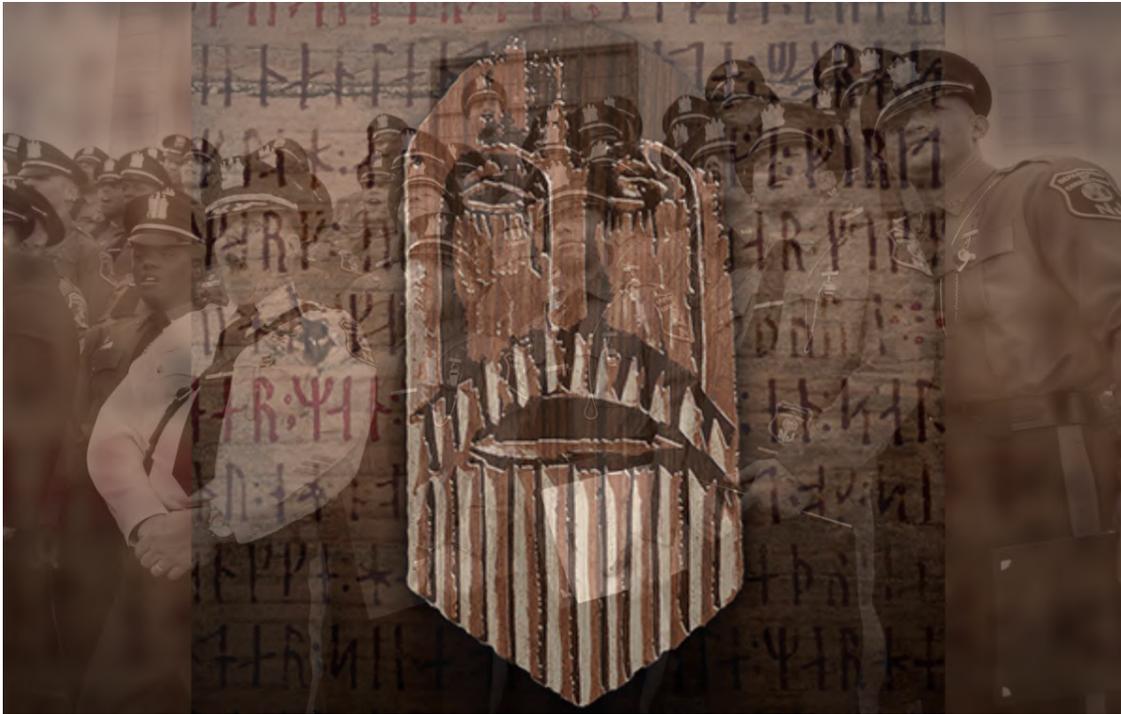


Folkbuilder Jesse Parton  
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**Florida**

*I'm in a Gang...and I didn't even know it*



In the Florida Department of Corrections, and I assume in other departments of corrections, an Asatru/Odinist practitioner is considered a gang member by the correctional institution staff. Asatru/Odinist that hail in the day on the rec yard has been accused of having a gang meeting and those without a gang file are threatened with having a gang file created on them. Asatru/Odinists inmates in the department of corrections are viewed the same way the AFA is viewed by the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Anti-Defamation League. The difference is that the inmates' welfare is under the direct control of the correctional institution's staff.

On November 4, 2022, I was given the opportunity to address the gang task force for Region 2 of the Florida Department of Corrections. The meeting was attended by sergeants, lieutenants, captains, majors, colonels and directors from Tallahassee. I sat there listening to different presenters provide information about their processes in defeating the gangs. When I was introduced as the Odinist chapel volunteer, I could see some hard looks as if an enemy had infiltrated their confidential meeting. I explained to them that I was a father, grand-father and had worked in my profession for over 20 years. A normal person like them.

I brought copies of founder McNallen's book "Asatru: A Native European Spirituality", the Aesrian Code of Nine and the Nine Noble Virtues. I brought copies of contact emails for Matt Flavel, Brandy Callahan and myself.

In the beginning of the meeting, I was given a handout that had a pledge that was later recited by the FDC officers there. It basically was a pledge to be honorable and not

abuse their position of power. It even mentioned the virtue of fidelity. I explained that like them, the Asatru/Odinists believed in virtues and codes. I gave a brief explanation about how we practiced our faith. I explained and gave anecdotal stories to show that we were a legitimate religion and not a white supremacist group.

In the end, the hard looks faded and I received an energetic ovation. Every copy of founder McNallen's book was taken and I started a list of people requesting a copy for themselves. Two of those requesting a book were directors. Several officers came up to me to talk, including two officers that were Odinists. They thanked me because even they had received

adverse reactions from other officers because they were Odinists. They also indicated that they didn't have a group in that they could participate in their faith. I talked about the success of the AFA in promoting our faith and the quality of the people in it. I invited them to Njordshof for blot and I suggested they join the AFA.

Hopefully, I have planted a seed that will bring these officers home, or at least help our brothers in the Florida Department of Corrections be treated fairly



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*Kayak / Canoe Moot*



The clouds were gray and the wind was gusty, but a couple of members of NjordsHof braved the conditions for an amazing 3-mile kayak/canoe moot. Prayers were said over a 50' deep blue water spring name Big Blue. We visited 2 springs, and introduce a member to kayaking and what really looks like North Florida. Jumps off the end of a pier and Yes, we did see a couple of alligators.



Mike Joyner  
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### *Howl-o-scream Moot*



Wanting to do something a little different, my moot was held at Busch Gardens in Tampa, for their frightening event- Howl-o-scream. For one of the people who attended, this was their first-ever experience at a haunted house. The theme park had 5 haunted houses and we were able to get through 3 of them, considering the lines, and we closed the park down. The effort of the staff was certainly apparent and we all got startled many times throughout the night. We spent our downtime discussing runes and

our plans for Njordshof. This was definitely one of the more exciting moots in a long time.

### *Vargr: A Brief History*



Vargr—an Old Norse term meaning, "wolf," commonly used in law phrases as a metaphor for an outlaw or niding. This label has an Anglo-Saxon cognate in the term wearg, meaning, "1. accursed one, outlaw, felon, criminal 2. wicked, cursed, wretched," according to *A Concise Dictionary of Anglo-Saxon* by Hall. Such a label was not thrown around lightly in ancient times and was typically reserved for those who committed crimes in holy places, making them, "vargr I veum" (wolf in a sanctuary/holy place). Another frequent application of this term went to those who broke troth, whether through adultery, fratricide, or treason. Interestingly this term comes from the same root as our modern English, "worry" and is a forerunner to "werewolf," embodying much of what good folks loathe: the possibility of being violated by an unholy criminal (niding) whose rightful place is outside the world of the living. In *The Culture of the Teutons* by Vilhelm Gronbech there is an entire chapter

dealing with the niding, but to quote a brief passage for perspective:

"... when the curse has been uttered, and the clan has renounced the condemned man by taking part in the oath whereby the law-thing swears him out, or the thing-men by clash of arms have assumed obligations among themselves against him, the outlaw is dead. He is flung out from the life of men, and may be hunted, "as far as men hunt wolves," because he is a wolf, vargr, "void of luck and pleasure." As an outlaw and a niding he bears the "wolf's head " that is to say, originally, he is transformed into a wolf, running wild on the heath and rending carrion... "

### *Vargald: Wolf-Age*

In the epic Icelandic poem "Voluspa" we can find the framework for the cycle of Norse mythology. The Vargald is the age leading up to Ragnarok and is described as such:

"Brothers shall fight and be as murderers  
Sisters' children shall stain their kinship.  
Tis ill with the world comes fearful whoredom,  
A sword age, Axe age, -shields are cloven,  
A wind age, Wolf age, ere the world sinks.  
Never shall men then spare each other."

This age is defined by a proliferation of moral decay and crimes against what is most holy- frith, the sacred bond of unity, honor and love among family, friends and kinsmen. When we look into our sources, we find that horrible terrors await nidings in the next life, including a second death of the spiritual gifts from the gods, the parts of the soul that would normally be born again. This second death would take place after the Helthing, where the dead would be sentenced. Their path to the places of punishment would take them through the realms of bliss so they could see what they had forfeited, then they would be condemned to punishment that doesn't cease for as long as they are sensitive to it. After that, they would be sorted into specific caves of punishment according to the types of crimes they committed. To once again cite "Voluspa":

"I saw there wading the whelming streams  
wolf-like murderers, men forsworn,  
and those who another's love-whisperer had wiled  
the dragon, Fierce-Stinger, fed on corpses,  
a wolf tore men. -would ye know further, and what?"

The plight of the niding is an unpleasant one, as malevolent vengeance awaits their souls, and only recompense can spare their lot. To once again quote Professor Gronbech:

"...And yet he can, by one step across a threshold, enter into life again, if only he can find a circle willing to receive him into its own life and regenerate him into a brother. The moment he is greeted in a house and offered a seat, the bestial nature falls from him and he is once more a man."

***Ulfhedinn:***

Another category of "wolf-man" we may mention is the ulfhedinn, or wolf-skin. The ulfhednar were warriors who wore wolf skins, sometimes as part of an initiatory process where youths who had reached the age of maturity and would go off to war as a means of proving themselves worthy of a place in the tribe, with the shedding of the blood of an enemy being the equivalent of having repaid their birth and securing their status as an eligible man. This topic is treated definitively in *The One-Eyed God: Odin and the Indo-Germanic Mannerbunde* by Kris Kershaw. Perhaps the most famous example of the ulfhednar can be found in the legendary *Volsungasaga*, where Sigmund and his son Sinfjotli don the wolf skins in what many scholars recognize as a literary depiction of a rite of initiation.

This writing is intended to provide some food for thought and offer a bit of insight into how our oldest records described outlaws in their day.



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**Georgia**

*Winter Nights at Þórshof*



This month, I decided to visit my old friends at Þórshof to honor our ancestors! Although Njörðshof is my "home Hof" now, Þórshof was my first, and it will always hold a special place in my heart.

First, Witan Svan and I and a few members ran our monthly food pantry. We only had a couple of families fed this month, but they were very thankful!



Next, Folkbuilder Cody Raynard gave a presentation on the Shield Marks program while Witan Svan worked on masks for our Battle of Winter tradition. I jumped in at various times to discuss heraldry and genealogy. This was followed by a delicious potluck dinner, where we enjoyed many fine foods, such as Lauren's homemade bread, Katherine's apple crumble, and Natalie's taco soup.



After dinner, Witan Svan kindly informed me at the last minute that I would have the honor of leading the ancestors' blöt. I changed into my suit and stoll, we processed into the Vé, and the ritual began. We galdered the rune of Othala, and passed the horn around to honor individual Disir and Alfar during the "heart-to-hand-to-horn" portion of the rite. Once the blöt was over, Witan Svan needed volunteers for his Battle of Winter.

Now, let me preface this by saying I normally don't abide grown men putting on costumes and beating each other with sticks... But we needed five volunteers for each team, and nobody would volunteer for number five on the side of Winter, so I was forced to raise my hand. We processed outside for the Battle of Winter and took our places. Folkbuilder Raynard and I were the leaders of our respective teams, so we faced off in the first round, and I immediately defeated him with a single strike. I then took out two more of his team, and my team was overwhelmingly victorious.



Since my Winter folks won, the tradition states that this means that we will have a dark winter. However, all this really means is that our Folk should pull together and stay strong through the Winter, just as our ancestors did! Don't let the cold darkness make you stray from your AFA family- we are always here for you.

Lastly, I had a special gift for Philip Bethea at the end of the event. When I went to pour out some of the ritual mead, I brought two of Philip's descendants with me- Tyler and Tristan Bethea, two proud AFA members! Not only has Philip not been forgotten by us, but he is now remembered and honored by his own blood.

Happy Winter Nights, everyone!



## Oklahoma

*Where in the Njordshof District is Fawn Marie Gordon?*



I kicked off my first full month as an Apprentice Folkbuilder by texting, emailing and/or calling all the members of Njordshof District. It is my goal to eventually meet up with every one. I want to truly get to know every single member build bonds and Frith.



I started the month of October with a talk to my oldest son who is now 18. We discussed his future in the AFA as he no longer falls under my membership. He said of course he wanted to become a member himself. So he applied and was very warmly accepted and welcomed as a new AFA member.



I also had the great joy of speaking with a member's wife. She told me a few of her desires. I suggested the best way for her to start is to apply for her own membership. Her and her husband could both be members and be set up on a family Hoftollar. This would give her the runestone email directly to her and leadership would have her number to contact about events in her area. So she applied and was also accepted as a new member. I got her set up in all of our MeWe groups and now she can be better connected with all of us, her Folk!



It's very important for all of us to feel connected to our Folk. Where we can all encourage and support each other through the good and hard times. To be good examples to each other and strengthen our bonds.



My first trip was to Texas to meet up with Apprentice Folkbuilder Justin Day. This was a very emotional time for me as it was the 3rd year since the passing of my beautiful daughter, Marissa Marie Gordon Evans! Justin helped comfort me. He also showed me around his town. I got to try new foods and even a no-alcohol bar, a kava bar. Also while in Texas we met up with another AFA member, also known to my kids as "daddy." Charles Evans and I took the kids exploring and learning about some of the history of the town he is working in. Then we celebrated Gwenhwyfar's second birthday at a neat zoo/aquarium!



In the middle of the month my family and Apprentice Folkbuilder Justin Day made a journey to what I consider my second home, Njordshof!!



I am so proud to be a part of Njordshof District! This is what it's all about. We are family! The bonds we share are something so precious to me.



Hail Njord!! Njord and I are building a relationship and I'm being taught so much by him. It's true the murals we have at the Hof's do really give our Gods their place to embody. They can and do really speak to each of us if we take the time to listen. Hail Njordshof District!! Hail the AFA!!



We had such an amazing bunch of beautiful children! They are the future of the AFA! I love seeing how well they all play together. My kids cherish their friends so much that they never want to leave but when we do they can't wait till the next time they can see them again.



And our ladies of Njordshof District really are amazing. The connection we all share. Through our good and bad times, our happy and sad tears... we really feel it all for each other. It's hard to explain but it's a thing!



After returning from Njordshof it was time to start preparing for my first official moot. I had previously sent out texts to everyone in Oklahoma and a few members in close by States. I had had a few conversations with a member in Arkansas who isn't able to go to many moots, meetups, or events. I asked if he could meet up with me in his town and he agreed. My family and I went to meet him at an Anime Cafe. We had great conversation over boba teas and boba sodas.



Next it was finally time for my first official Moot as an Apprentice Folkbuilder. My family and I traveled to Tulsa Oklahoma's Oktoberfest!! This was fun for all of us. We met up with another member and enjoyed great food, great Bier, great music, and fun competitions.



I have plans to meet up with Folkbuilder Jesse Parton in Arkansas. As I said I want to meet everyone in Njordshof District. Of course it would be so wonderful to see everyone at events but if you can not attend any for whatever reason but would still like to meet up please reach out to me. I travel from Oklahoma all the way to Njordshof often so stopping by any of our members towns is very easy and well worth it for my family and I to do.



I also know I share my sentiment and desire of meeting with all Njordshof District Members with Folkbuilder Jesse Parton and Apprentice Folkbuilder Justin Day! Reach out to any of us at any time! We have the mindset of making things happen. Please if you are in an area that isn't as active or for what ever reason maybe you can't be as active but would like to meet your Folk or just need someone to talk to we are only a phone call, text or email away. Reach out please.

*Honoring my Daughter at Winter Nights*



My daughter Marissa Gordon was my best friend and my helper. She was the most caring person I have ever met. She had a heart of gold. Her friends and family were more important to her than herself. For most of her life, she gave all of herself to helping others and brightening the day of anyone she met. The last six months of her life she battled with depression; unfortunately, it overcame her and took her. But she is not gone. She is still guiding me and all who she loved from the other side of the veil.



I believe the more we honor our loved ones the more present they can and will be in our lives, even from the other side. This is why having a home altar or wall specifically for our Ancestors is extremely important. Where we greet them every day in the morning, go to them throughout our day or in the evening and just speak to them like they were in front of us, because they are. We don't even have to have known our Ancestors to give them space in our homes. As I said, we can honor them and that will give them the ability to be even more present to us, where we can learn about them more with time.



Winter Nights was always going to be the time I would eventually be able to Hail my daughter Marissa. It took me 3 years to do it but I always knew I had to do it starting at Winter Nights. For many reasons. First Winter Nights is about our Disir (female Ancestors) Marissa has now joined our Ancestors and is definitely guiding me and helping me grow. Also Winter Nights is very close in date to her passing. Then also because it's at this time of year when the veil thins and our ancestors are closest.

I had planned to do this at our National Winter Nights but I decided instead on Winter Nights for Njordshof District. My favorite ladies would be there and we just have a special connection that I can't explain with words.

So first during Blot we were able to Hail our Disir. The ladies knew I was going to Hail Marissa and when I did they cried right along with me. We also had candles with a name of one of our Disir carved into them. Marissa was carved on mine. I handed mine to my momma Pam to light and set on the Altar.



Then later during Sumble the first round I had a whole speech about Gefjon because the previous Gothi in my area who was there for me after my daughter's passing told me about how he had meditated on my daughter before her memorial services and he saw Gefjon welcoming my daughter as she passed through the veil.

But as I stood up when it was my turn to Hail a God or Goddess all I could do was say Hail Gefjon. Because as soon as I stood up I could smell my daughter, Marissa's scent. I hadn't really smelled her that strong in 2 and a half years. But there she was! She joined us. I was overtaken with emotions. I could no longer control all that I hold inside on most days.

My momma Pam and I sat and cried together. She told me it would be fine if I went and

grabbed a tissue and splashed my face with cold water. So I did. Marissa went with me to the ladies room I know because I could feel her and smell her. I spoke to her briefly and came back to Sumble with the strength I needed for the next round which was to Hail Marissa and share some of her amazing qualities over the Horn. I heard her voice tell me it was ok and that she's got me when I stood up. I had more to say but I am very proud of myself for what I was able to say. More will happen with time. But this was a start for me.



The loss of a child is something I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy. But Marissa now has this much older, wiser feel to her now that she is among our Ancestors. She has been guiding me all along. But now that I am able to Honor her it's like she is that much

closer.

The third round was a Toast to my Momma Pam of course! I looked at her and said I love you and I'm sorry. She then knew what I was about to do.

Oh and at some point, Gythia Anna came from the other side of the circle and wrapped her arms around Pam and me. That meant the world to me. I'm serious when I say our bond and connection with each other is so strong and powerful that you just don't understand till you experience it. But we literally feel what each other is feeling.

I feel blessed to be able to feel everything from our ladies and support them through everything as they do for me.

### *Upcoming Events*



## *Spaghetti & Sumbel*

*December 10th  
Grove Oklahoma*

*Contact Apprentice  
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### *EnCOURAGEment*



Finding our way home is the beginning of another journey.

We have standards that we met to be among this exclusive Asatru Folk Assembly. Most certainly the threshold for entry must be kept high. Some wish for an even higher bar for entry. Our vetting process has continued to learn as it goes.

Living up to our potential ought to be a revelation that we seek whether we are reminded of it through failure or success.

While I felt confident that I would be accepted as a member, becoming an apprentice Folkbuilder has tested areas of myself that need work. We all have talents and shortcomings. Strengthening our resilience has benefits to us personally and as a whole. With the achievements we can revel in are bittersweet when we think of where we will be once all cylinders are firing.

Effort deserves energy. Accomplishments are their own reward, but to recognize someone else's grinding to become something more or to be recognized each have momentum.

One thing that we all have a limited supply of is time. Since we have passed muster to be here, why not take advantage of the special situation we have and build upon the strengths and talents of those in our circle? Constructive criticism has its place, but an "atta boy!" or "that's the way!" can be significantly better at perpetuating flow.

Courage has been a recent topic of note on our Victory Never Sleeps livestream/podcast where Gothi Stamm shared his story of courage. It is worth noting that having the AFA membership and leadership supporting your stance in the midst of chaos is a significant factor. We will be brave with you.

Encouragement goes a long way in filling our kinfolk with the notions of what makes a house a home. Let us fill this organization with the same notions that make it home. Hospitality has a way of forging lasting bonds.

Chain as links or mail?

Often it is said that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. With the AFA it is chainmail and a weak link is multiplied in strength by its neighboring links. When we use the framework provided to us by the AFA, we can build on its solid foundations a launch pad for our descendants and create our ongoing legacy.



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## South Africa

*New Folkbuilder in South Africa*



Our Folk in South Africa face challenges that may seem unique. But what sets our plight apart is not so much the nature of the forces arrayed against us, but only the degree to which those forces have been able to advance the same agenda they are pursuing in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere.

One of these goals is demoralization, which is easy to achieve when a people are politically and economically disenfranchised – denied jobs based on the color of their skin, their children taught that their culture is uniquely and inherently evil.

The demoralized become easy targets for the charlatans, the misled and the depraved, who are only too happy to sell them atheism and materialism, unfettered hedonism, an escape into narcotics, or a repackaged version of the same universalist religious dogmas that helped bring about the current situation.

There is only one way for our Folk to lift themselves back up, one way to ensure that when that happens, we stand firm in the face of the onslaught that will inevitably come. That way is through reconnecting with our ethnic European faith.

The strength and the Faustian spirit that led our Ancestors to cross vast oceans to build communities, farms, cities, and countries in every corner of the world still live within us. Our Ancestors are alive within us. Our Gods await our return. The only way forward is to first go back.

I believe there is nothing more essential to ensuring the survival and the thriving of our Folk than a return to the pre-Christian ways of our people. And I also believe that there

is no church or organization out there that has done more to make this a reality than the Asatru Folk Assembly.

This is why I wanted to become an Apprentice Folkbuilder in the AFA. Our people are suffering, physically and spiritually, and I want to help them.

As an Apprentice Folkbuilder I will be focusing on getting our Folk together for blots and moots – there is a vast geographical distance between many of our South African members, but this is a challenge that we will overcome. At the same time, I will be making use of the digital tools that can help us stay in touch and build frith when it is not possible to be together physically. And I want to reach out, especially to the Afrikaner community, who perhaps more than any other group in this country have been let down by the embrace of alien beliefs.

As I am sure is the case for many of us, it has been a long and twisty road that has brought me here. The path home is often not an easy one, but the struggle makes the arrival all the sweeter. Now that I am home, I hope I can help guide others here as well. Hail the Gods! Hail the Ancestors! Hail the AFA!

### *Blot to Njörðr*





On October 23, we held a Blot to Njörðr on the beach in Leisure Bay, on the lower south coast of KwaZulu-Natal. A great location for Blot and one we will definitely be returning to. Hail Njörðr!

### *Upcoming Events*



# **KZN Coffee Farm Moot**

**November 12, 9.30am  
Beaver Creek Coffee Estate**

**Contact Apprentice Folkbuilder Michael Coetzee  
MCOETZEE@RUNESTONE.ORG**



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

**First Sunday of every  
month**

**20:00 SAST**

**19:00 CET**

**18:00 GMT**

**Hosted by Apprentice Folkbuilder Erik Lugnet and  
Apprentice Folkbuilder Michael Coetzee**

**[elugnet@runestone.org](mailto:elugnet@runestone.org)**

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Michael Coetzee

Apprentice Folkbuilder

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## Texas

*Exploring Clifton, The Norwegian Capitol of Texas*





On Sunday, October 23rd, following our Blot for Winter Nights the previous evening, we set out to explore the nearby City of Clifton. The story of this town begins on October 9th, 1825, when a boat named Restauration arrived in New York Harbor from Stavanger, Norway. This was the very first boat of Norwegian settlers to the United States and marked the beginning of a tidal wave of Norwegian immigration to America.

My great great great grandparents, Lars Syverson and Oliv Pedersdatter, were two of the many immigrants seeking a better life for their family in America. With the promise of good farmland, they migrated from New York to Clifton and made a home for themselves. They had five children and became influential in the establishment of the community.

Many great men and women like them put their blood sweat and tears into building this historic town, and we learned more about them at The Bosque County Museum. It was incredible to see the many artifacts left over from the times, from traditional handmade dresses to toys and various other items.



In the end, I made a very personal pilgrimage to the Clifton Cemetery to visit the graves of my ancestors. It was a confusing cemetery to navigate for someone who had never been there before, and I ended up spending several hours wandering around. Whenever I spotted a gravestone covered by grass or dirt, I took the time to clear it, as a show of respect for the lives of our fallen Folk.

As I was about to give up, I began calling out the names of my ancestors, letting them know I was there to honor them, asking them to show me the way, to what seemed like no avail. As I began to walk back to my car I stopped to clear away the mud from one last grave and lo and behold, next to that grave was the two tiny ground-level plaques

honoring the life and times of my great great grandparents, Borre Larsen and his wife Annie Jorgensdatter, as though the spirit of my Folk and Ancestors had seen the reverence and esteem I had shown them and were so moved as to guide me to my destination.

It was one of the most moving spiritual experiences of my life. I left flowers at their graves, said a prayer to them, and was on my way. I would like to return there to galdr one day when I have more time and find even more of my ancestors' graves...and our family is currently discussing pooling our money together to get a bigger headstone for their plot, to make it easier for our descendants to find, and so that their names may never be forgotten.

*Winter Nights in Texas*



On Saturday, October 22nd Friðr Folk Kindred held Blot on Lake Whitney to celebrate Winter Nights. We practiced archery, ate barbecue, held a lore discussion on how the walls of Asgard were built, and held Blot, in particular, honoring our female goddesses and ancestors...and don't forget a home-cooked breakfast in the morning! Looking forward to the Feast of the Einherjar in Oklahoma in early November as well as our local Feast of the Einherjar event here in Texas later in the month!

*Cooling Climate, Fiery Folkish Fervor*



October has been an absolutely jam-packed month for Texas! Every weekend had folkish activities in store as Dallas was visited by the lovely new Apprentice Folkbuilder for Oklahoma, Fawn Gordon. We held moot every week with activities like rune readings, nature walks, attending the Day of the Dead Festival on the Denton square, and even a pilgrimage to Florida to hold Blot for Winter Nights at Njordshof and commune with Njord, the mighty god of water, wealth, and abundance. It was an absolutely fantastic time and we are looking forward to many more Folkish adventures together in the near future!



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