

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly





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Donate to the AFA

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 Sigheim 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 Sigheim 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
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly
mattflavel@runestone.org

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 Our 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.

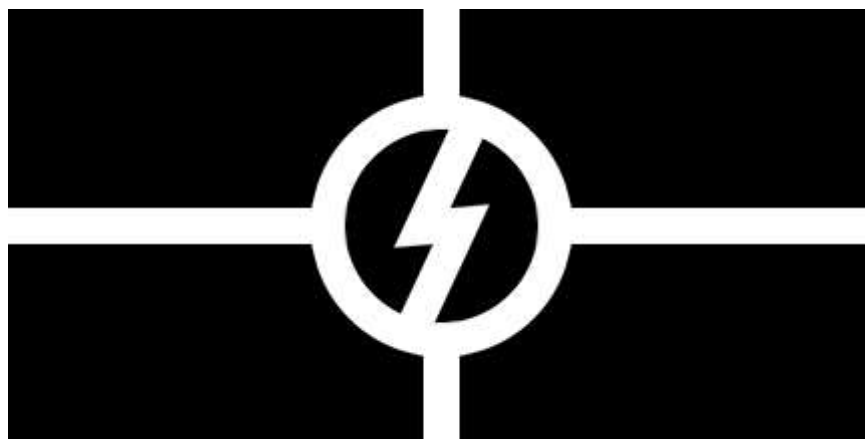
I love you all, and am grateful that my story isn't over.



Witan Daniel Young

dyoung@runestone.org

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
cerickson@runestone.org

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

teast@runestone.org



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
lashby@runestone.org

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

bmayo@runestone.org

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
jrozanek@runestone.org

The Quest for Freyshof

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

– Gylfaginning



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

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!

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



Sigrheim: Home of Victory



Sigrblot 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)



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

Victory Never Sleeps

The Asatru Folk Assembly Presents

Victory Never Sleeps!

Wednesdays at 6PM Pacific / 8PM Central

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

AFA Asatru Academy



Check out the Asatru Academy at AsatruAcademy.org

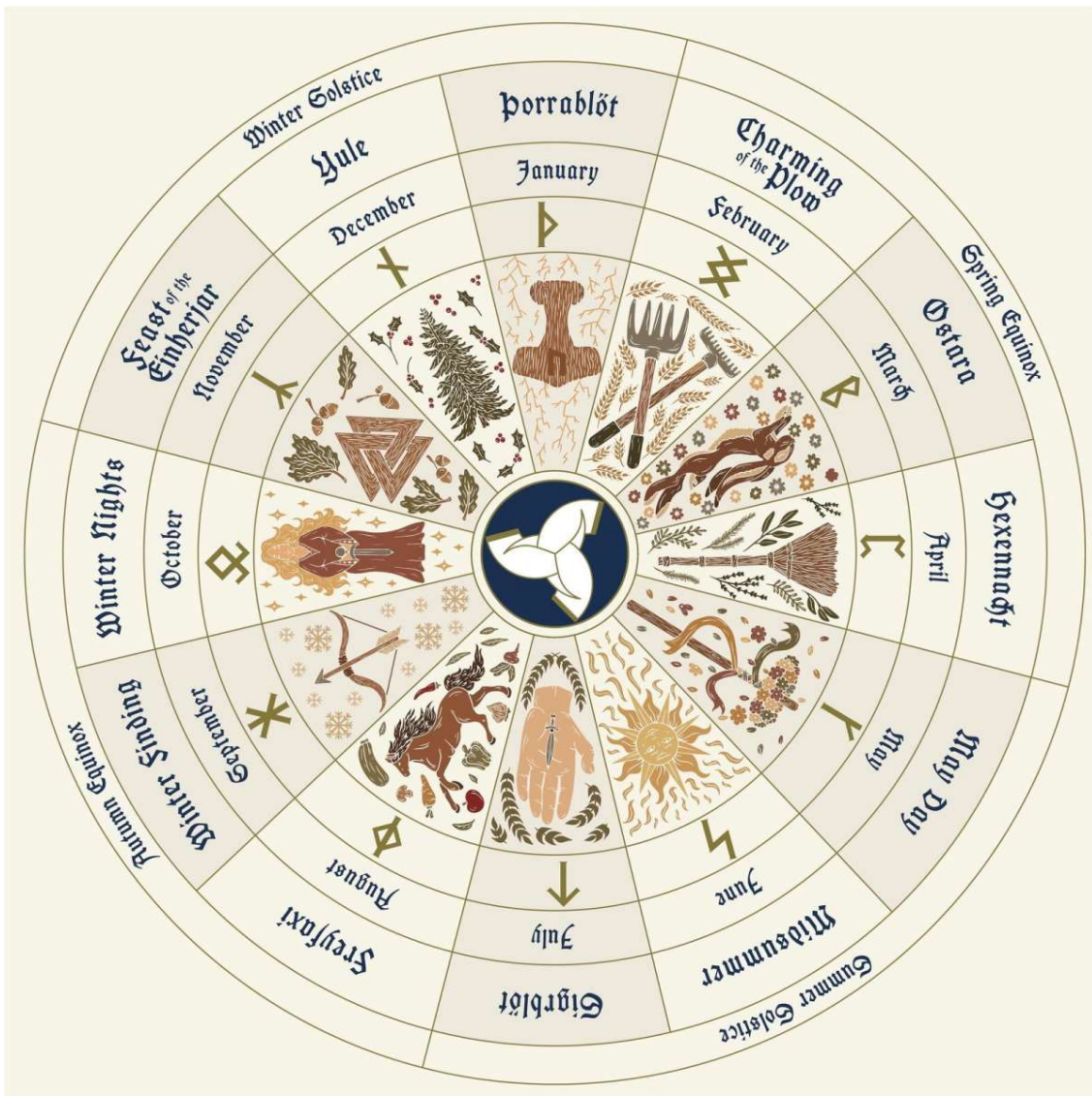
Hello parents and students. I'd like to take this time to welcome all our new students! We are very excited to have you as part of our academy. Rest assured our staff have been hard at work to bring you the very best homeschooling, the afa way, experience possible. If you have not watched Assistant Dean 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
rstamm@runestone.org

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
cm.erickson@runestone.org



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
cm.erickson@runestone.org

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



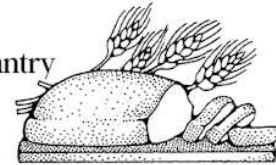
Friday 8/18:

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



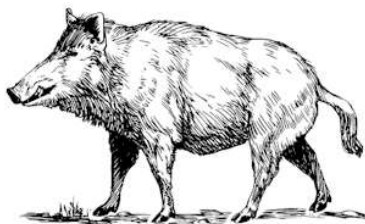
Saturday 8/19:

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!

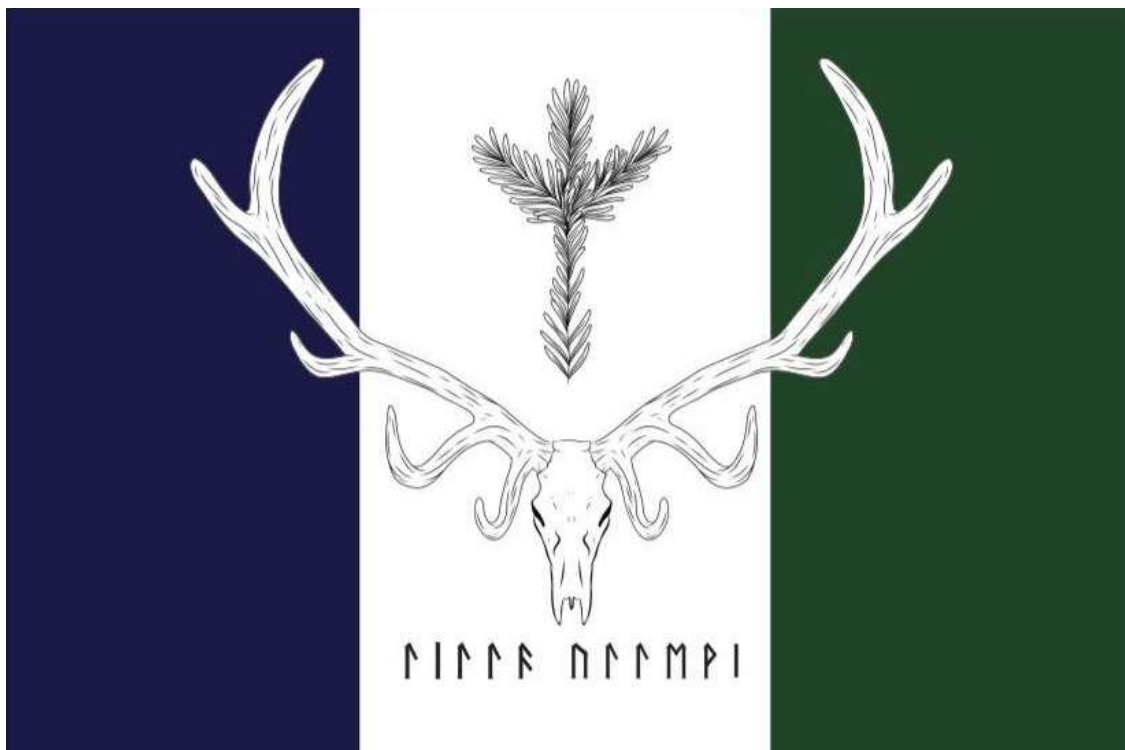
Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!



Witan Brandy Callahan
bcallahan@runestone.org

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 are you 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 simply 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

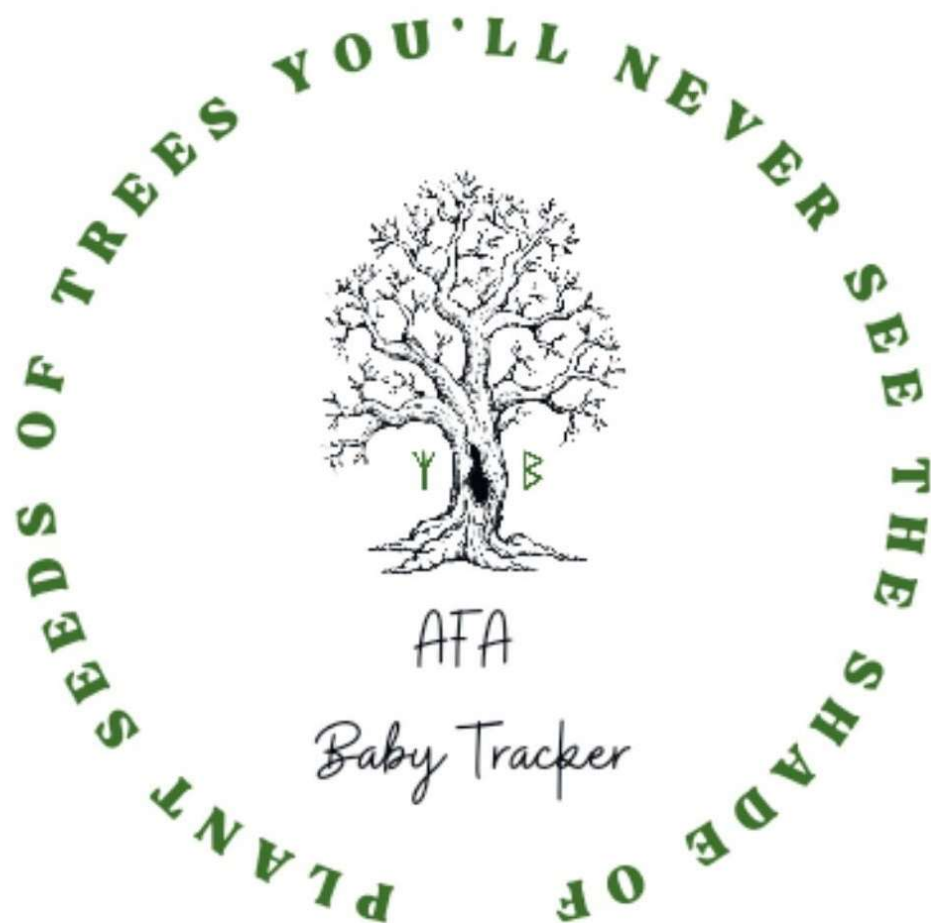
cookies from scratch...make them. Why not? Use the best ingredients you can afford (don't take out a second mortgage for this) but be proud to feed the folk.

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



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

With Jaclynn Duffy
jduffy@runestone.org

VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID: 885 2917 0746

PASSWORD: Virtue

PASSWORD: VIRTUE

Virtual Events and Meetings



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

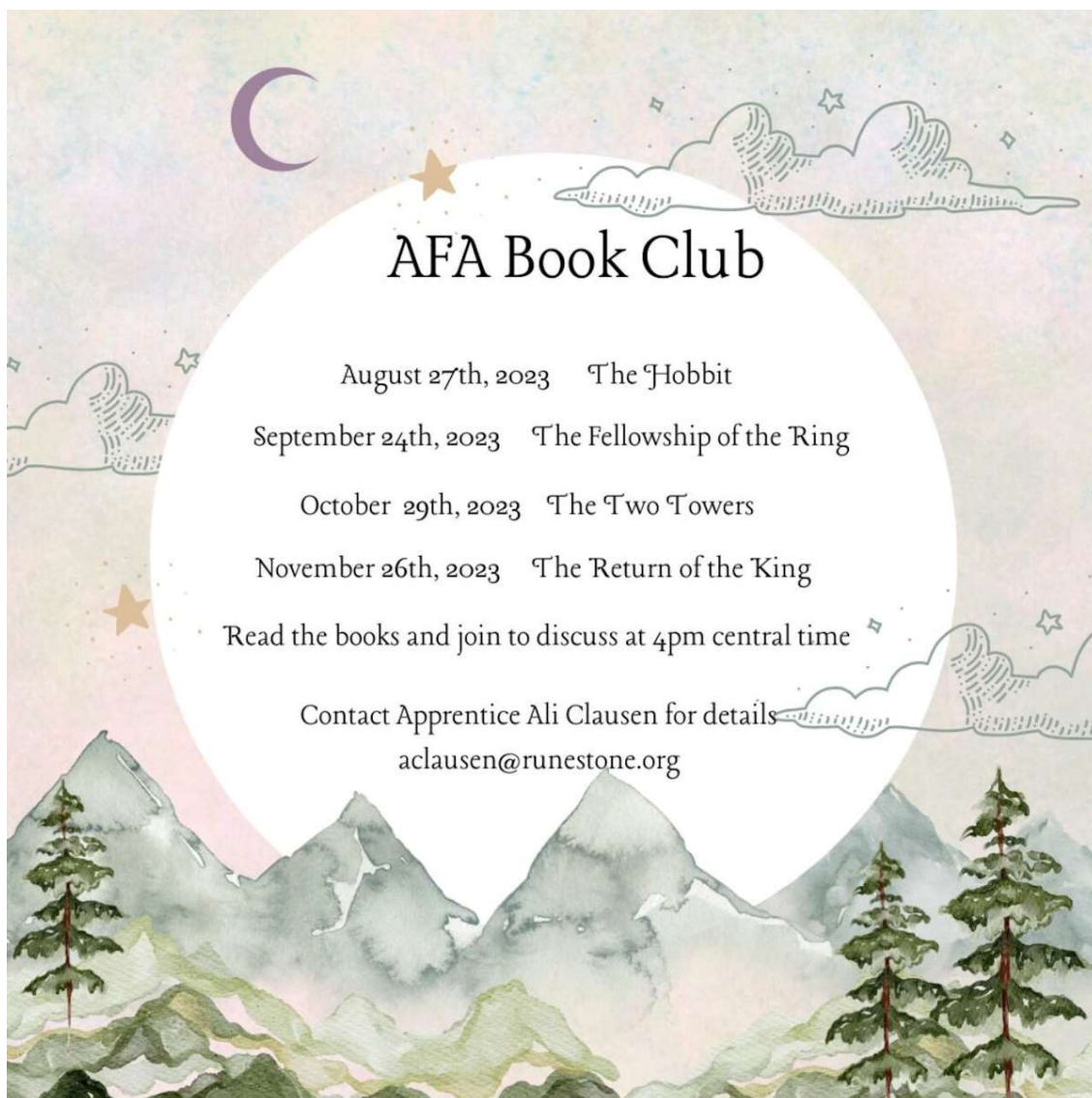
Folkbuilder Sara Ault

EIR



GEFJON





AFA Book Club

August 27th, 2023 The Hobbit

September 24th, 2023 The Fellowship of the Ring

October 29th, 2023 The Two Towers

November 26th, 2023 The Return of the King

Read the books and join to discuss at 4pm central time

Contact Apprentice Ali Clausen for details

aclausen@runestone.org

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

jcummings@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

Inickerson@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 Hofs 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, 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

Óðinshof

Food Pantry at Óðinshof

Like Clockwork!



Since our means for outreach is the local Facebook page plus word-of-mouth, there are always some locals who are delighted to hear of our community service. Our July distribution had a solid turnout with 13 new families. Since April 2021, we've offered food to 371 different families in the greater Brownsville area. We consider that a huge achievement.



Our offerings can be a bit scanty some months due to warehousing and transportation issues. We're fortunate that our food source, the Interfaith Food Ministry, has never turned us away. Our Brownsville neighbors always drive off with bags of staple goods and perishables, given with a true sense of caring.



Hail our volunteers!



Gythia Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

Sigrblot at Óðinshof



Every third weekend of the month, the members of Oðinshof gather for the event designed to thank or honor a specific God or Goddess. August is to Tyr--God of Victory, Bravest of the Gods, Son of Oðinn. The folk started to gather on Friday, preparing food for the Food Pantry and getting ready for the weekend. Saturday began with helping multiple families get food from the food pantry. Then, we had a women's tea while the men gathered for their own meeting. Communicating with the folk in this way is more intimate and encouraging, giving us a stronger connection to one another. The women have been having tea at every event for the past few months.

Sigrblot was a very empowering experience. As we entered the circle, four men stood at the entrance, holding swords over our heads. When they entered the circle after everyone, they stood by all of the totems within the circle, holding their swords with pride. As the Alsherjargothi pointed to each one, they lifted their swords as he honored a chosen God. When the folk exited the circle, the men held the swords over their heads once more. All entered the hall of Oðinn and stood before his altar with arms spread wide. "Hail Oðinn!" could be heard by each member of the folk.

Dinner was a special time as we had a special member of our folk join us. She is the mother of Adam, one of the first to be laid to rest within Oðinshof cemetery. A special seat in the hall was placed for Adam. He was served first, before the women and children. A beer was poured to him as well, sitting beside his meal. As the folk ate their meal, the hall was filled with beautiful music by Paul.

On Sunday morning, the folk were served a delicious breakfast made by Sierra. After breakfast, Paul, Daniel, Sierra, and Sheila dressed in their "highway cleaning best" and got to work cleaning our designated area of the highway. A few other members stayed behind to make sure that dishes were washed, the hall was swept, and everything was cleaned up. All in all, it was a blessed weekend to spend with the folk and to honor Tyr!



Angelina Stone
Apprentice Folkbuilder
astone@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Óðinshof



**ODINSHOF WANTS
YOU!**

WORK WEEKEND

AUG 12/13

DEMO, REMODEL, DUMP RUNS


-DINNER SATURDAY NIGHT-

-THE STEWARDS HOUSE IS OPEN, OR CAMP AT THE HOF-

PLEASE RSVP FOR A HEAD COUNT

DODOM@RUNESTONE.ORG

TEXT: 209-688-2598



Our Óðinshof harvest celebration

Freyfaxi

August 19, 2023

At this height of summer, the day will be full of activities for all. Ladies will have their TEA and men will muse in the GROVE. Children will frolic in water and dilly-dally all day. We will begin with our Food Pantry at 9:00.

Gothi Thorgrun Odden will lead us in blot to Freyr, the god of fecundity, prosperity, and pleasure. May we be worthy of Freyr's gifts! Sumbel will take place right after dinner, so all can participate before their journeys home.

We'll need side-dishes & desserts, plus mead for our rituals. If you plan to stay over either Friday or Saturday, please confirm with Sheila.

Would you like to bring a guest to Freyfaxi? Sounds good, but let us know in advance so we can go through our approval process.

Questions or Suggestions?

Gythia Sheila McNallen; sheila@runestone.org,
Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman; schapman@runestone.org,

Leadership of Óðinshof



Óðinshof Leadership

CLERGY

Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel	mattflavel@runestone.org
Witan Brandy Callahan	bcallahan@runestone.org
Gythia Sheila McNallen	sheila@runestone.org
Gothi Joseph Rozanek	jrozanek@runestone.org
Gothi Thorgrun Odden	todden@runestone.org

OATHED FOLKBUILDERS

Sierra Chapman (CA)	schapman@runestone.org
Ryan Harlan (MT)	rharlan@runestone.org
Tyler Heinlein (MT)	theinlein@runestone.org
Lou Nickerson (AZ)	lnickerson@runestone.org

APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDERS

Olivia Sutherland (CA)	osutherland@runestone.org
Angelina Stone (CA)	astone@runestone.org
Mason Howells (WA)	mhowells@runestone.org
Kyle Reader (ID)	kreader@runestone.org

HOF STEWARD: Daniel Odom dodom@runestone.org

Arizona

Axes and Animals



Our Folk came together in the summer heat in the month of July. We had two axe throwing sessions, which I had never done before. We had a lot of fun hurling our weapons at the wall!



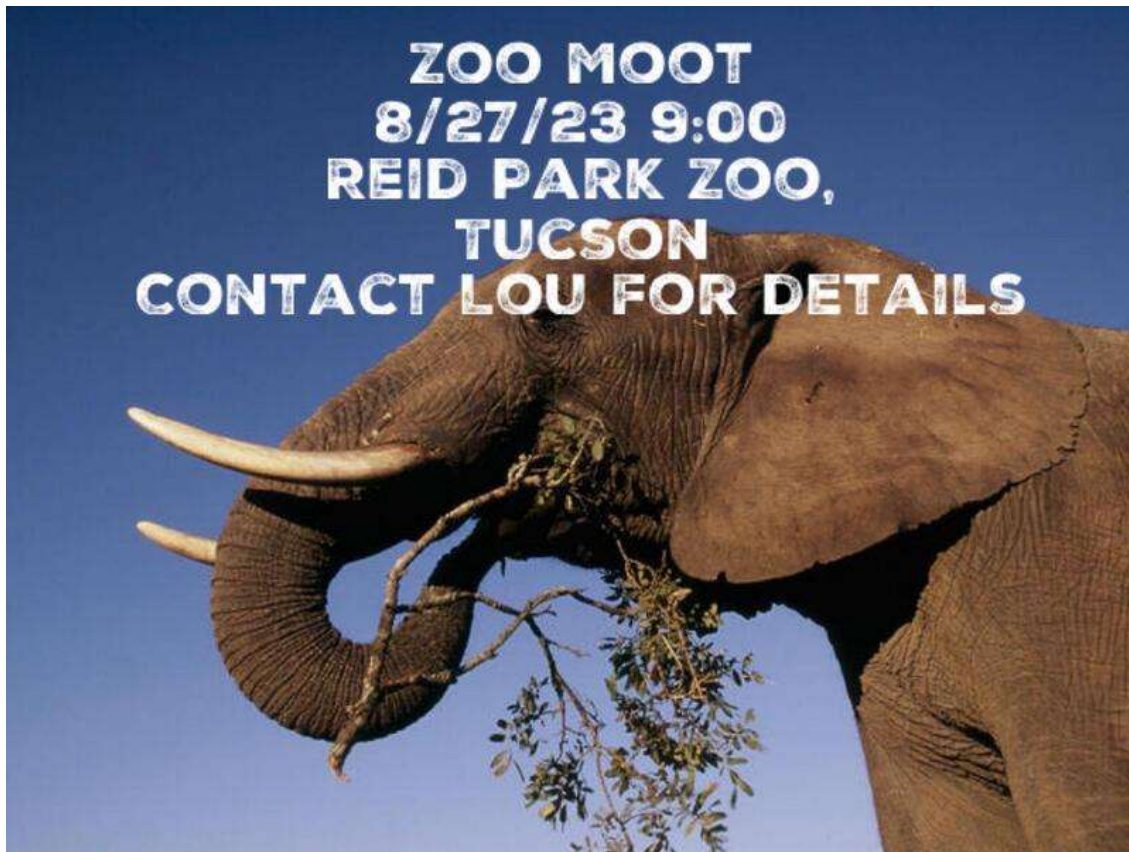
We also had a fireworks moot where everyone met at my house to enjoy some food and refreshments, then we walked over to watch a fireworks show. Despite the outdoor heat, everyone had a great time, and it was wonderful to see so many people show up at our door.



I hope to extend hospitality to our Folk again very soon.

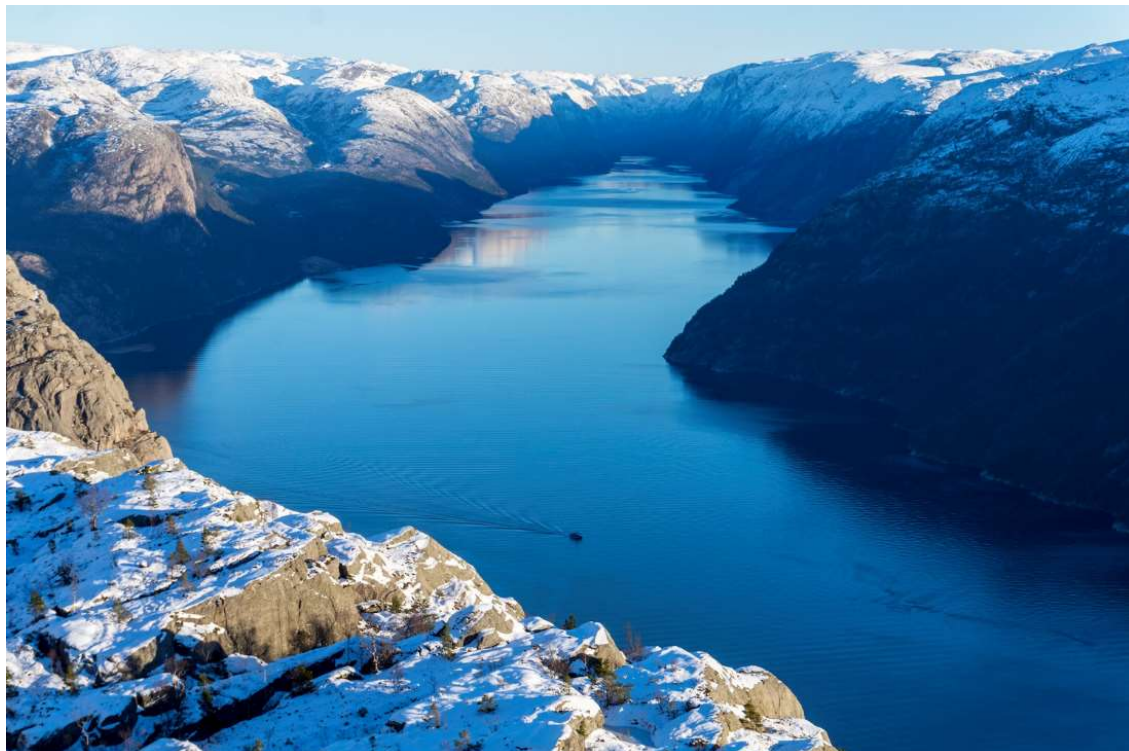
Also, we are going to be establishing a ritual spot for our future AFA kindred. If anyone is interested in helping out with this, please email lnickerson@runestone.org, PM me on MeWe or Telegram, or just text me.

Upcoming Events



We are going to meet at Reid Park Zoo in Tucson on August 27 at 9:00am for anyone interested.

Clash at Stiklestad



Toward the end of July of 1030, an important fight occurred between believers in Asatru, and followers of the Christian king Olaf II of Norway, often called Olaf the Lawbreaker in his own day. Before we discuss the battle, we need to set the stage. When we last looked at Norway, the year was 999, and King Olaf I Tryggvason of Norway threw himself into the sea during his defeat at the Battle of Svolder, and the sons of Håkon, Jarl of Lade ruled Norway in all but name. Håkon's sons owed some of their power and influence to Harald Bluetooth of Denmark, and immediately following the battle, his sons Erik and Sweyn (in Old Norse: Eiríkr and Sveinn) nominally converted to Christianity to appease Harald and other Christian realms to the south, but allowed Asatru to flourish throughout Norway. According to the text Fagrskinna, "everything was heathen" throughout Norway during their reign, excepting a few areas on the coast.

After a long period of peace and prosperity under the sons of Håkon according to Fagrskinna, in the mid-1010s the situation changed. In 1014, Erik left with a good part of his military strength to England, where he joined King Cnut's invasion force and became one of Cnut's most trusted advisors. He stayed in England after Cnut's victory and ruled over a fief in Northern England. Erik's son, Håkon, stayed behind to rule as the Jarl of Lade and support Sweyn's continued dominance in Norway. However, the vacuum of power left when Erik did would cause trouble for the sons of Håkon. A military leader named Olaf Haraldsson, who claimed descent from King Harald Fairhair, the first king of a unified Norway (r. 872-930), arrived on the scene. He had previously gained notoriety by fighting in Finland and assisting the Anglo-Saxon king, Aethelred, in his unsuccessful efforts to drive out Cnut and halt the Danish invasion. Olaf gathered the support of many local southern Norwegian leaders, and by the time Sweyn finally moved in to drive out Olaf, both sides found themselves surrounded by powerful allies.



On 25 March 1016, the ships of the opposing sides came together and fought in Frierfjord near modern Oslo at what became known as the Battle of Nesjar. Both sides inflicted heavy losses on their opponent, but in the end, Sweyn was defeated and fled to Sweden. He died there of an illness not long after the battle while trying to raise an invasion force to retake Norway. For the next decade, Olaf ruled Norway as King Olaf II, and despite no close familial relationship with Olaf Tryggvason, Olaf Haraldsson ruled in much the same way, suppressing Asatru, which was still practiced by the majority of the population of Norway at the time, and refusing to compromise or accept any return to the old ways. Much like Olaf I, Olaf II used Christianity as a way to centralize power around himself, rather than being a pious follower of the new religion.

During the late 1020s, Norway was dragged into conflict with Olaf's old enemy Cnut, who fought a battle with Olaf at Helgeå (a holy river somewhere in modern Sweden). Finally, in 1029, the Norwegian nobility was tired of Olaf's reign, and invited in Cnut and his forces to depose Olaf, and Håkon Eiriksson replaced him as the de facto ruler of Norway. After a brief period in exile, Olaf returned after Håkon died at sea, but still had to contend with Cnut's naval superiority, and devised a plan to take Nidaros (Trondheim) in central Norway and set himself up as king once again via a difficult land route.



After traversing the mountains of Jämtland, Olaf Haraldsson's forces marched down into the valley of Verdal in Trøndelag, only 50 miles from Nidaros. Remarkably, the farmers and free landholders of the valley mobilized to stop Olaf from his return to power. Led by Hårek of Tjøtta and Thorir Hund of Bjarkøy, two powerful chieftains from Hålogaland in Northern Norway, and both devout practitioners of Asatru, the army of common folk engaged Olaf in a desperate battle on 29 July 1030. Though Snorri relates in the *Heimskringla* that the battle was massive, this can't really be proven one way or the other with any corroborating evidence, but his claim that Olaf was probably outnumbered seems correct, though Olaf probably had better-equipped and more experienced troops. The turning point of the battle, which was the final test of the *hamingja* of Olaf in the eyes of the participants, was when Olaf was locked in a hand-to-hand fight with his enemies Thorir Hund, Kalv Arnesson, and Torstein Knarresmed. As the dust settled, Olaf lay on the ground, defeated with a grievous wound to his knee, and Thorir Hund drove his spear hard into Olaf, while Kalv Arnesson cut his throat. Torstein Knarresmed, a simple shipwright and landholder in central Norway fell in the fight too, and was cut down by one of Olaf's loyalists, who was himself killed.

As Vilhelm Grønbech related in his book *Culture of the Teutons*, the courage needed to stand against the *hamingja* of a king was considerable on the part of Olaf's opponents. Very rarely in the history of the Germanic people did anyone test their own *hamingja* against that of a king. But not only did common people come together to stand against Olaf and fight for their Gods and ancestors, they were victorious, and forever etched their own names in history as men who would not accept subjugation, and who proudly

wore the Mjölfnir. Like Thor himself, the victors at Stiklestad defended their homes from an outside force with unmatched courage and strength. Hail Hårek! Hail Thorir! Hail Kalv! Hail Torstein! May the rest of your summer be productive and bring you prosperity and Victory.



Folkbuilder Lou Nickerson
lnickerson@runestone.org

California

Summer Swimming and BBQs--Two Weekends in a Row!



In July, we beat the heat at the beach in Benicia, California! We couldn't have asked for a more perfect day to cool off and splash around! Our Folk bonded over upbeat

discussions and swimming challenges.



Children explored the shore hunting for treasures and played together in the sand and surf. One member brought a cool glider to fly around. After some swimming and chit-chat, we grilled a delicious lunch right by the water.



The following weekend, another swimming moot took place, at Thermalito Bay in Oroville, hosted by the Hagvrikr Kindred. We had a fun potluck, complete with a sampling of Krystal's delicious homemade mustards! Folk swam and fished all afternoon.



Founder McNallen gave us a peek at his new book and shared joy (in form of chocolate chip cookies) with all our toddlers!



After our meal, we had a meaningful Sumbel. We shared memories, laughs, and cheers! There was so much beauty in this special day together.

August is here now! For my family, that means attending the first ever Family Camp weekend at Oðinshof followed by a Hof work weekend. We are also navigating all the back-to-school preparations for our big 4th grader. Hard to believe summer days are dwindling...but we're surely making the most of them!

“This is My Will”



Recently, my grandmother, Nina Lee Fields, passed away. She was 88 years old. She raised 6 children and several grandchildren, along with a few neighborhood kids. Nina was a very caring and hospitable woman who always helped the down-and-out. She was the first to lend someone a hand, a shoulder, a meal, or her couch to stay the night. To support the family, Nina worked at a shoe factory for many years. Though she never drank alcohol, at one point she took on a second job as a bartender, just to make ends meet. On her first day behind the bar, a customer asked for a screwdriver--so she handed him the tool!

While Nina was in hospice care, my mom asked her if she'd had many visitors. To her surprise, Nina answered that she had been visited by her father, her sister, and one of her sons--all of whom had already passed beyond the veil. Nina also shared that she had a conversation with her husband, and that he was holding their baby girl, Reena Mae. Reena Mae had died of heart failure when she was only 3 years old, after suffering with hypocalcemia (failure to grow). My mom just listened as Nina smiled.

Nina eventually lost sight of this world and lay silently with her eyes closed. She seemed to be mostly somewhere else. Everyone assumed Nina had no formal will, so there was the usual discussion of dividing up her belongings.

Sitting there next to his mother, my stepdad felt compelled to open Nina's bedside table drawer, later saying, "I just felt like mom wanted me to open that drawer." He opened it. Inside was a little note. In Nina's own cursive handwriting, the note read "This is my will," along with the date 7-4-99.

After stating how she wanted her assets divided, Nina wrote, most importantly, what she wanted to see was for her children to help, pray for, and love one another. There was a time of silence, a clearing of the air in the room. Nina was soon able to completely pass beyond the veil.

I am sharing this story, not just because I love family ghost stories, but because it illuminates several themes in Asatru. Death and life are processes, not single events. Nina gradually left this world. She showed us that the distance between us in Midgard and our ancestors is very close. Relationships are important and continue even after death. Certainly, the ancestors who visited Nina seemed to be a source of comfort to her during her transition to join them. Another interesting occurrence was the way Nina's soul interacted. A part of Nina's soul (Hamr), which extends beyond the physical (Lik), directed her son to find her will.

Will someone think to open your bedside drawer just in time? One of the services offered to members in the Asatru Folk Assembly is the safeguarding of our wills. My husband and I took the time this month to finish up our own wills and send them off to the AFA Lawspeaker, Witan Allen Turnage. We hope more members do the same!



Here is a picture of the little shoes that belonged to Reena Mae--one of the priceless possessions Nina had kept with her all these years.

Hail Reena Mae Fields!

Hail Grandma Nina Lee Fields!

Upcoming Events

Sunday August 20th After Freyfaxi-
Camping Available at Odinshof!

MOUNTAIN FAIR BROWNSVILLE, CA

**PLEASE
JOIN US!**

**FAIR OPENS AT 10AM- LET'S
SUPPORT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY
AS PROUD AFA MEMBERS! WEAR
YOUR FAVORITE ODINSHOF SHIRT
OR HAT!**

FAIR
ENTRANCE
\$10 Adults (12+)
\$5 Children 6-11
Free Under 6

SUPPORT THE LOCAL FAIR FOLK! OSUTHERLAND@RUNESTONE.ORG

On Sunday, August 20th, we will attend Brownsville's Mountain Fair! This is a fantastic opportunity for the AFA to be more visible and supportive to the local community where Oðinshof is located! (When you come to Freyfaxi at Oðinshof on August 19th, plan on staying overnight. You're welcome to camp at Oðinshof, and there are hot showers onsite! The local motel is nice too, if you prefer.)



Here is the schedule for the event.. *Let's go to the Fair!*



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3RD 11AM

ORINDA, CALIFORNIA

Tilden Steam Train & Little Farm

Happy Birthday to
RUSSELL AND VADA
(NO GIFTS PLEASE)

RSVP Olivia Sutherland (925)532-5298
osutherland@runestone.org



Choo Choo! For our next Bay Area moot, please join our folk on September 3rd for a train ride through the redwoods! After our train excursion, we will check out a nearby farm (bring some veggies if you wish to feed the goats and cows). In addition to these fun activities, we will be celebrating the 1st and 3rd birthdays of my two Labor Day babies. Hope you can come!



Olivia Sutherland
Apprentice Folkbuilder
osutherland@runestone.org

Hagvirkr Kindred Moot - Thermalito Forebay



On July 29th, many members of the Folk gathered in Oroville at the Thermalito Forebay Aquatic Center. Hagvirkr Kindred is ran by our very own Krystal and Victor Podbreger. Their whole kindred was present and hosted the Folk for a wonderful barbeque. Victor made homemade pickles and mustard, which had a very satisfying taste! Other members brought various snacks like fruit platters, vegetable trays, homegrown vegetables from their own gardens, cobbler, and so much more. There was a lake that the children could safely swim in, and the dragonflies seemed to love the area as well. The weather was on the hotter side of things, but with the well- shaded seating area, it was very pleasant. It is hard to be upset in such a happy setting with

great Folk. Many members of our Folk drove from far distances to make it to the event. Fun was had by all. The children ate an endless amount of grapes, chips, and cookies. Even Stephen McNallen had to sample a cookie or two.

If you would like more information on Hagvirkr Kindred, please contact Krystal at HagvirkrKindred@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events



We are going to the zoo! And you can too!

The Oakland Zoo does not require reservations or purchasing tickets in advance. Oakland residents get a 25% discount on admission. Adult tickets cost \$24, Child tickets cost \$20, and Children 2 and under are free.



Angelina Stone
Apprentice Folkbuilder
astone@runestone.org

Adopt A Highway



This month at Oðinshof, following our Sigrblot, we did an "Adopt-A-Highway" clean up. Usually, it is just Gythia Sheila McNallen and me, but this month we were joined by Hof Steward Daniel Odom and his Right-Hand-Man Paul Stevens. The weather was less than desirable, as it was 100 degrees by 11am, but we went out to serve our community anyway. We took turns tackling different sides of the road and were able to complete the clean-up in record time! Lots of laughter was shared as we talked about the bizarre items we were finding. Dan even came across a whole deer! We cleaned up a total of 6 large bags of trash and hurried out of there before it had a chance to get any hotter!

Hail the Doers!



Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman
schapman@runestone.org

Sue Szloch: A Mother's Journey



Genealogists worldwide use a well-known website called www.findagrave.com. Our very own Oðinshof Cemetery is listed there because of two burials that have taken place. At Sigrblot, the mothers of those two met at the graves of their children and were able to share their personal stories of life, love, and children lost.

Sue Szloch, the mother of Adam Hart, had come down from Seattle for the trial of Adam's ex-wife. In a fit of rage, the wife shot and killed him at Thanksgiving 2020. It was one of the worst tragedies imaginable.

Taking care of Sue's needs while she was here included bringing her to the hof for some closure on the whole episode. Gothi Thorgrun Odden's wife, Katie, who plants flowers year-round on the site of her daughter's grave, offered Sue some support she needed. The two women stood at the gravesites where our AFA family and friends had honored their children in poignant memorial services some years back.

For our Sigrblot dinner on July 15th, Gythia McNallen set up a special dining table set

with candle, flower, and a blessed stone -- in remembrance of Adam Hart. After the traditional food blessing, Sue filled a plate for her son in the most motherly-way, and placed it on the small table. Calls of “Hail, Adam Hart; Hail the Fallen” resounded in the room. Adam, were you listening?

Wikipedia—We’ll Take Good Advertising Where We Can Get It

The image is a screenshot of a Facebook post. On the left, a browser window shows the Wikipedia page for "Brownsville, California". The article text reads: "Challenge—Brownsville is a census-designated place (CDP) in Yuba County, California, United States. The population was 1,161 according to the 2020 Census. Brownsville is the home of Odinshof which was dedicated to the god Odin in 2015, making it the first public hof to Odin ever dedicated in the Western Hemisphere." On the right, a Facebook comment from Lizzie Murphy says: "Finding Norcal as a member of our clergy, I'm happy to answer questions. Just PM me or visit Odinshof.org. Our independent Odinshof Food Pantry has been distributing food to anyone in need for over two years. Our giveaway is the third Saturday of the month." Below the comment is a logo for "Odinshof" with the text "ODINSHOF.ORG Welcome Home |..." and "EST. 2015".

Sometimes we have to make it ourselves.

Did you know that there is a Wikipedia entry that says, “Brownsville is the home of Óðinshof which was dedicated to the god Óðin in 2015, making it the first public hof to Óðin ever dedicated in the Western Hemisphere.”?

Last week, there was a bit of a storm on the Brownsville Community Facebook group when this was reposted for our local public to see, but AFA members rushed in to affirm this information is absolutely true. To go back to the Wikipedia page, the insert about Óðinshof was done by our own intensely-busy, Folkbuilder Lou Nickerson. We need more Wikipedia experts! Write to volunteer@runestone.org if you have this knowledge as a Wikipedia editor or are keen to learn it.

For those of you who are not in AFA leadership, know that you can help guide people our direction. Share our links; promote VNS; mention us on other social media platforms; give us ideas for moots in your region and help us find folks who can benefit from being part of our AFA family. We offer plenty of room for people to grow in spiritual might and a meaningful life.

(Note: Gythia Sheila McNallen uses the profile “Lizzie Murphy” on Facebook.)



Gythia Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

Colorado

Pizza Moot

AUGUST 12 @ 2PM

Aurora, Colorado



RSVP: Apprentice Folkbuilder Travis Bowdish
tbowdish@runestone.org



Travis Bowdish
Apprentice Folkbuilder
tbowdish@runestone.org

Idaho

Camping with Odin



Hail from southeast Idaho. July was a good month. I was able to reach out to all our folk in Idaho and Utah. We are working on getting the folk in Boise reconnected and meeting up with each other again.

The 21st - 23rd we had a camping moot in our beautiful mountains. It ended up being just my family, but we still made the most of it. The weather was a perfect 80° during the day and 60° at night, with the sun shining and not a cloud in the sky. We hiked and explored through the day and read stories of the gods around the fire at night. Saturday night, we held a blot to Odin. After sitting around the fire telling stories, my middle boy looked up at the night sky and saw a silver streak running the length of it as far as we could see. It wasn't there the night before, and my son told us that this was a sign that Odin heard us. It brought a giant grin to my face that he would connect the two.

Upcoming Events



DINNER MOOT

location: Reader Home

Date & Time

August 12th @ 7pm

*RSVP: Apprentice Folkbuilder Kyle Reader
email: kreader@runestone.org
call/text: 208-497-8712*

In August, we will be holding two different moots. The first will be on August 12th, which will be dinner and blot at my home.

On August 19th, we will have a fun day at a classic car show. Everyone is welcome!



I understand that our Folk in this area area spread pretty far apart, but please do not let that stop you from coming. I will gladly let any of our folk stay the night at my home, if need be, so you can come and enjoy the company and Frith of your fellow folk!



Kyle Reader
Apprentice Folkbuilder
kreader@runestone.org

Montana

Unity is Victory



Lately, we have been consumed with preparations for Freyr's Harvest Feast. Planning and delegation have been a lot of it, but our time has also gone toward tangible ventures.

This month, Asatru Folk Assembly members from Idaho came out to Montana to help me gather resources for the feast. We gathered nice oak pews for seating. They were 9 ft. long, so the construction trailer I picked up came in handy.



The task itself isn't all that noteworthy. However, the fact that we have men willing to come out to help Fólkvangr succeed at the drop of the hat is incredible. These men are loyal and dedicated. They organized a work crew, drove through the night, and helped load and unload these heavy beasts--all with very little warning.

When this opportunity arose, I wasn't sure if I could pull it off and gather those resources for folkish events. If it had just been me, I couldn't. It is our collective labor

and drive for victory that pushes us onward. By banding together, we can do great things.



Unity is the word that comes to mind. Unity is how we have hofs for our Gods. Unity is how we have a homeschooling program. Unity is how we have Sigrheim developing. Unity is how my own homestead will turn into a small community along this beautiful river.



This is because our strengths are best used alongside each other. We as a people are very good at fracturing and becoming insular, but this doesn't accomplish greatness. Only Unity can. When our exceptional individuals band together, they create an exceptional whole. Through that, we will see victory. I encourage every one of you to take time to be part of that whole and to work towards Unity.



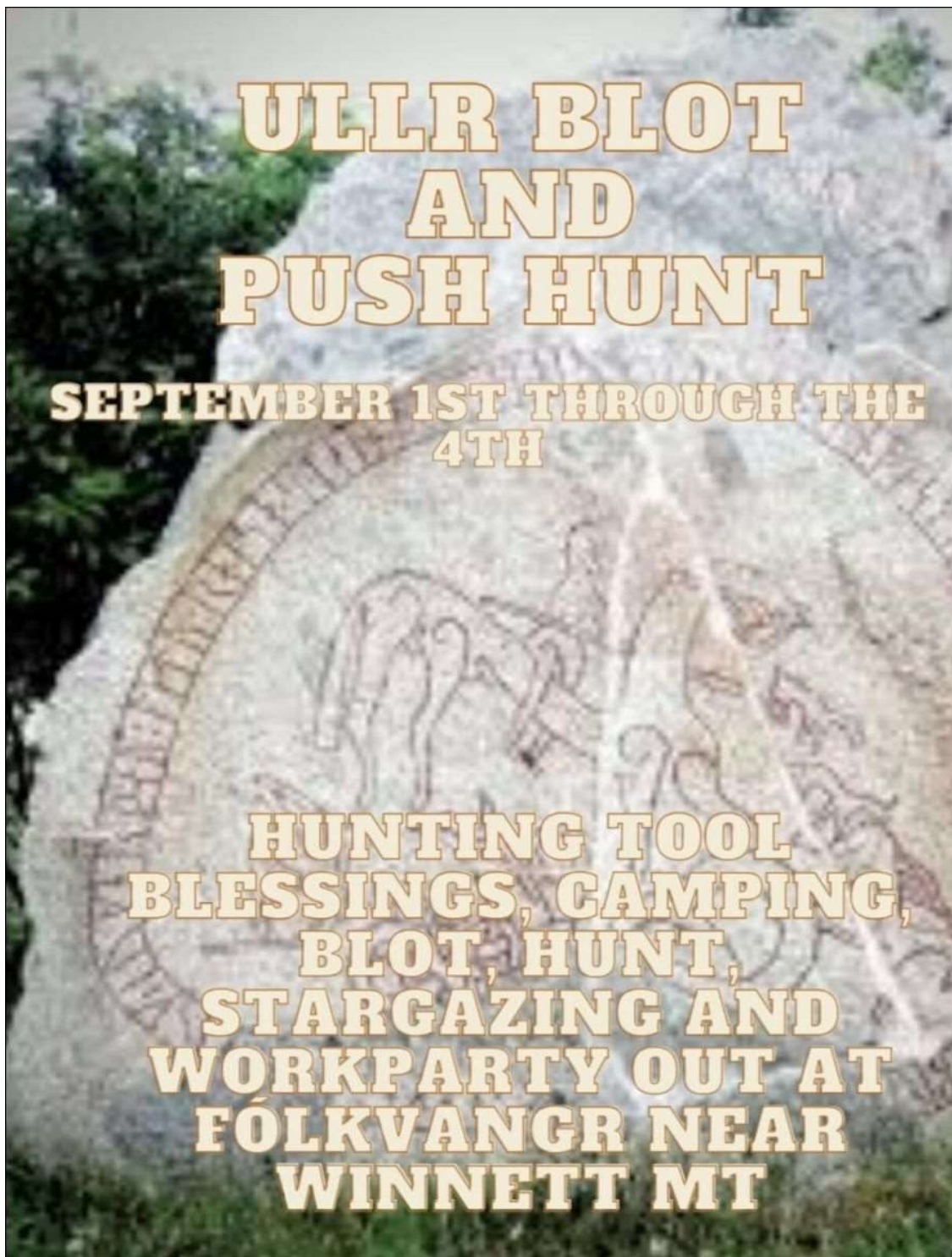
You can join us on our Unity Calls on Sunday at 6pm PST via Teams. You can link up with your local folkbuilders and see what's going on in your area. You can join our various groups on MeWe.

There really are so many opportunities for uniting the folk, and one way I encourage most is by joining us in the celebration of the harvest, our gods, our people and our victories. This is what Freyr's Harvest Feast is all about. At this time, we gather to celebrate the successful preparations for winter and all the springtime goals achieved.



I like to think of Freyr's Harvest Feast as being the answer to Charming of the Plow's question: "How will your year go, and will you be successful?" We ask ourselves this every year, farmers more so than most, and every year we receive our answer based on our efforts and will power to achieve our goals. This year we have received our answer, and we see all that we've accomplished. We should share these things with one another. So at the feast we will boast our victories, enjoy the fruits of our labor, reconnect with friends and trade our goods. This embodies the feast itself, but for an overview you may go to <https://www.runestone.org/product/freyrs-harvest-feast/> to or contact me, and I will gladly answer any and all questions about this wonderful event!

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein
theinlein@runestone.org

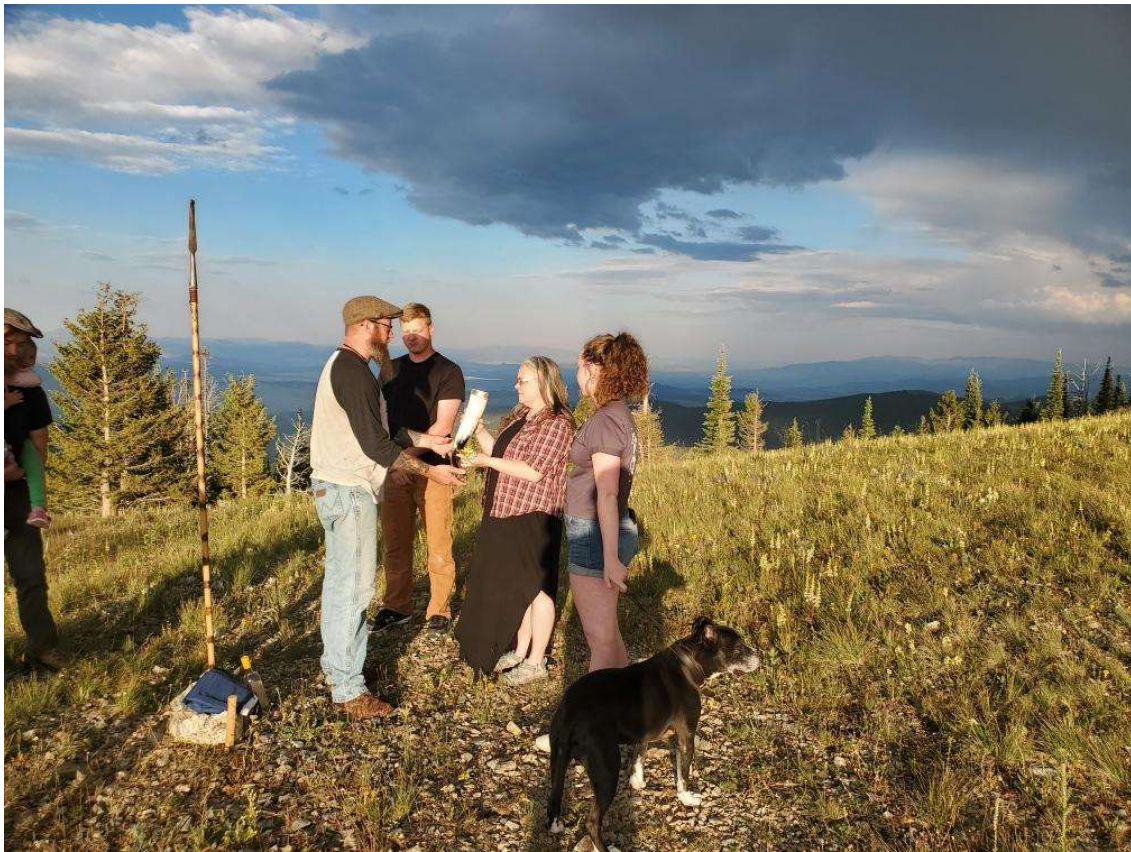
Signs in the Sky



July has come and gone. It went by fast. In its wake, the weather has gotten hot, fire season is in full swing, and August is looking busy.



On July 9th, we held our monthly Wotan on the Peaks/Wotan blot. Up atop the Continental Divide, we again gave blot to the Allfather. Circled around a Spear, with thunderstorms fast approaching, the sky grew gray, and Þunor boomed around us. For a moment, I thought it better to head down, and out of harm's way, but the storm held off just enough.



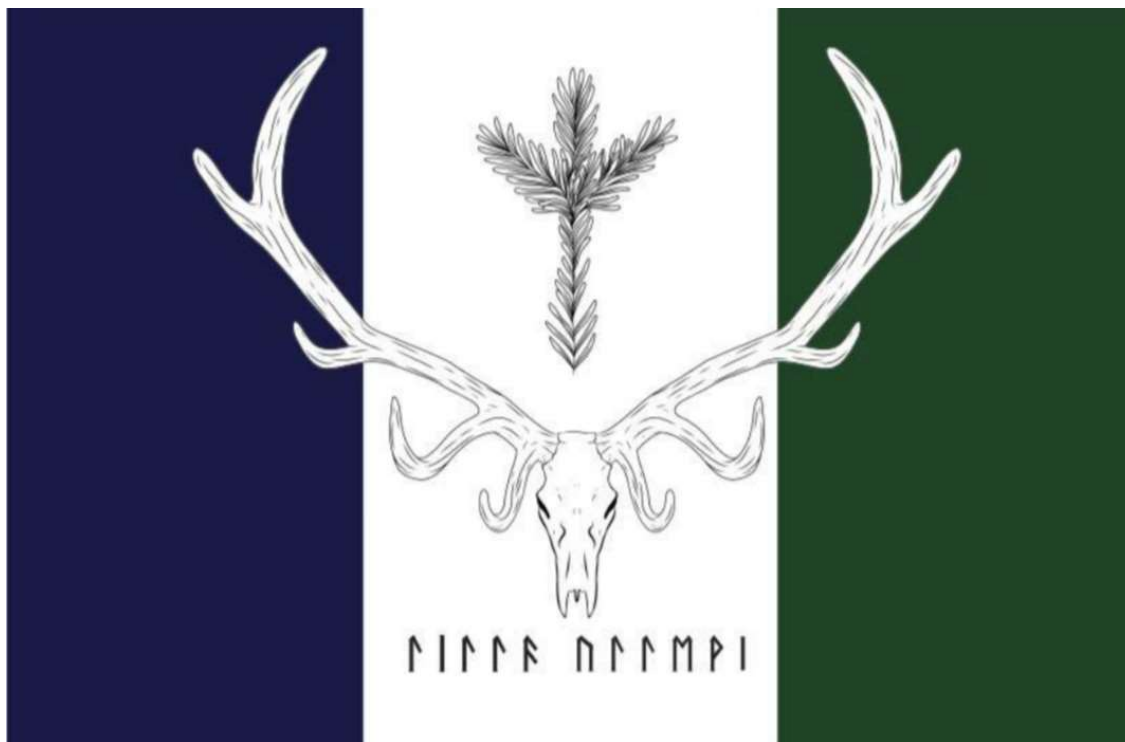
We chanted to the one eyed one, and the horn made its way around the Circle, thunder still cracked in the distance, and a light rain fell. Just as we closed our ritual, the storm seemed to move again, bringing a bit more rain, but the sky opened up just enough for Sunna to shine through, and provide us with a beautiful rainbow. Our little place on top of the Divide has become quite special, and each time we blot to Odinn, we feel like he provides us with some little sign to let us know he sees us.

Helena Valley Highland Gathering



On July 15th, the first annual Helena Highland games were held. One of our members and his family helped to make this a reality. Not only was this event an opportunity for the public to experience Scottish culture and traditions, but it was a smashing success as well! The expected attendance exceeded expectations, food vendors sold out, everyone behaved themselves, and the location wasn't trashed. A huge congrats to all involved in bringing another much-needed European Folk experience to the local area!

Mighty Montana Welcomes Lilla Ullevi Kindred!



On July 31st, our kindred, Lilla Ullevi, was announced as the newest official AFA kindred. Named in honor of Ullr, and his place of worship in Sweden, we are proud to be recognized! Montana is a place of long cold winters and filled with opportunities for winter sports. It's also synonymous with hunting, fishing, and exploring the wilds. Ullr is a God which suits Montana. The way of life, the weather, the forests and mountains, the abundance of game. I will always be an Odinn's man at heart. We reside within the Odinshof district, and I frequented Odinshof. But the one who was trusted enough to preside in Odinn's stead, is also deserving of honor!

Hail Ullr!



Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan
rharlan@runestone.org

Nevada

Alsherjargothic Dinner



We were able to resume the Alsherjargothic dinners this month! Just a few of us attended, but we had a nice time and ate some delicious food! The chicken that Dan and Marta brought was great, my pasta was a flop, but the watermelon sangria was a hit!

Upcoming Events



Please join us on August 26th! This time Dan and Marta are hosting.



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

Washington

NordVestri Kindred Update



July was a great month for us in Washington. It was my first month back as a Folkbuilder since I focused on school, work, and family issues. I was able to hit the ground running with the help of my fellow folkbuilders and kindred members. We held multiple small meetups and a larger meetup at the Enumclaw Highland Games. This event was amazing with good folk, delicious food, and plenty of awesome things to see and buy. I recommend that everyone go experience their local games and/or come up to Washington next year to hang out with us!



Besides the meetups, Washington AFA members have been busy with many projects including homesteading, business ventures, physical excellence, and spiritual development. All of our members have been working hard to make themselves and the folk better. August will be more of this great work, and I personally will be working hard to get our Folk together for bigger and better events.



Mason Howells
Apprentice Folkbuilder
mhowells@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



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