

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly





## Óðinshof

### First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

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# Words from the Alsherjargothi



Midsummer has always been a time of new beginnings for the AFA and this year is no exception. At one time Midsummer was the only "National" event the AFA hosted, and

in a way, it marked the beginning of each new AFA year. At Midsummer 2016, I was elevated to Alsherjargothi and Midsummer 2023 marked 7 years for me in this position and started my 8th Alsherjargothic year. Beginnings are a special time to think and to evaluate things, for me and I believe, for all of us. Whenever we take stock of things, it is valuable to focus on the fundamentals.

Asatru is the word that defines our faith. Asatru is the word that defines our lives. Asatru is the word that defines US. Asatru literally means "loyal to the Æsir". It should be obvious (but we all need to be reminded of it) that Asatru should be about the Æsir... not about what's cool, not about what our buddies think, and not about what is most comfortable. The question at the front of our mind should always be "What do the Gods think?". When our Gods see us, how we look, how we dress, how we present ourselves... are they proud? When the Gods hear us speak... are they proud? When the Gods evaluate our deeds... are they proud?

The AFA is our church, not a club. Asatru is a religion, not a political or social accessory. It is time to refocus. In all we do and all we are... we shall strive to make our Gods proud.

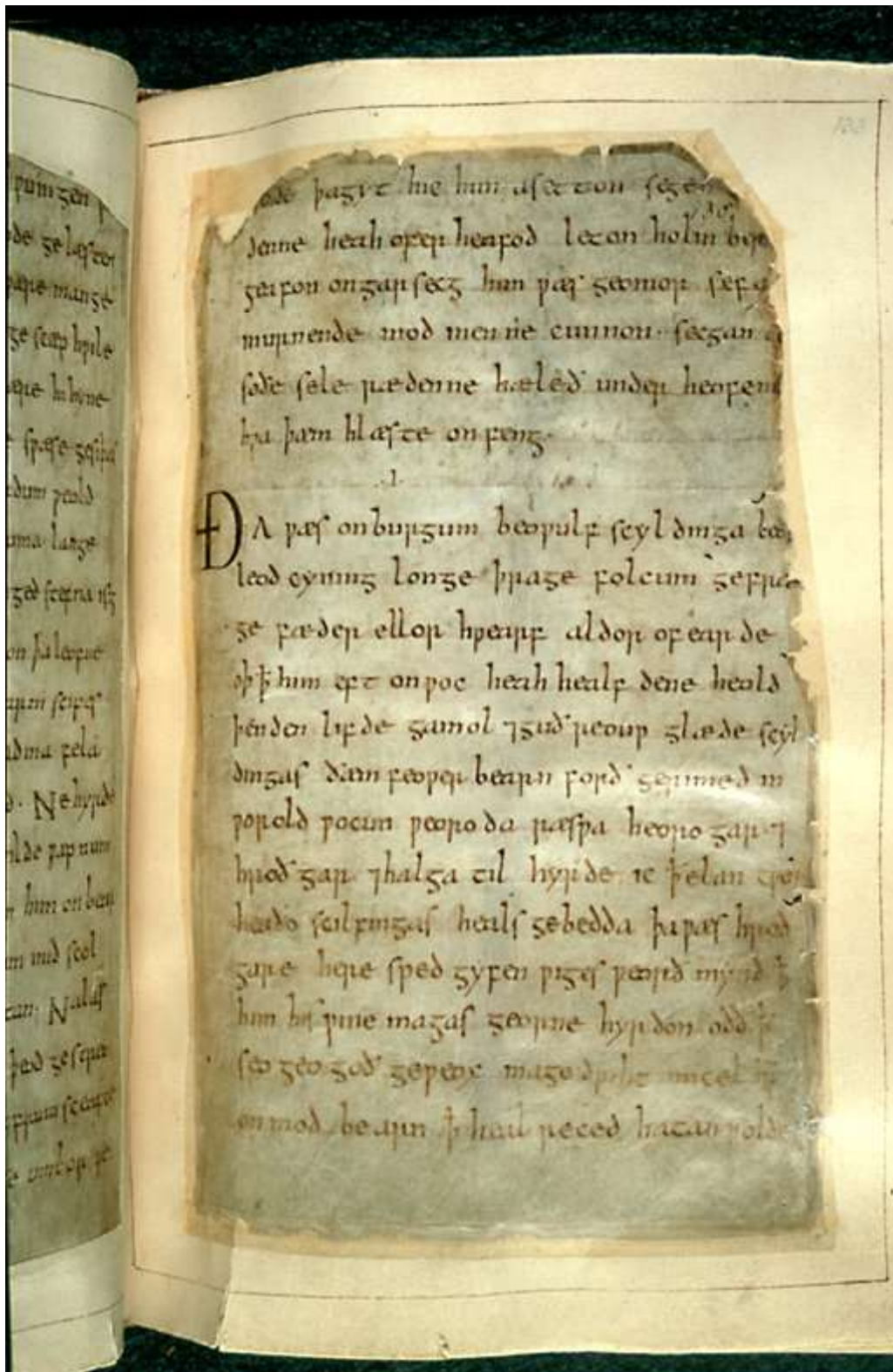
Hail the Æsir!



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## Words From Our Witan

*Beowulf, Introduction*



One of the very first recommendations I have when folk ask me for my "reading list" is Beowulf. Many of the more advanced and academic works often reference or cite Beowulf, so, in my opinion, it's one of the most important works to start with. It is the "Gateway Lore"...

Beowulf is one of the most translated (and debated) pieces of Old English literature. Although the original manuscript is believed to have been composed between 950-1000

during the conversion of our people to Christianity, it is argued that the story itself originated as an oratory tradition far earlier and that the pagan elements and themes can still be seen in throughout the poem.

The original manuscript used for translation is referred to as the Cotton Vitellius A XV. The manuscript was found in the library of Sir Robert Cotton, an antiquarian. Sir Cotton's library was lined with cases of manuscripts, and on the top of each case were busts of Roman Emperors. The bound manuscript containing Beowulf was found in the case with Emperor Vitellius' bust, on the first shelf (A) and the 15th tome in.

Although the manuscript was damaged by fire in the 1730s, modern technology has been utilized to read previously unseen text. The same technology has also been used to determine where the manuscript was changed from its (possible) original version.

Although heavily "Christianized", traditions and culture of our people are still relevant and play center stage in the poem. Courage, nobility, honor, fidelity, and reputation are only a handful of recognizable themes that we can appreciate.

A few things to know when starting your study of Beowulf:

- The story takes place in the late 5th to early 6th century in Scandinavia
- It is important to keep track of the genealogy as you go along (just trust me)
- The narrator is to be trusted. Unlike modern novels or scripts, the narrator does not have agenda.
- Try to apply what you "see" into Asatru themes: loyalty, hospitality, honor. Do not let the word "God" deter you from reading an outstanding preservation of Anglo-Saxon culture, ritual, and tradition.

Stay tuned for more Beowulf in upcoming articles in The Runestone.



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*The Soul Complex, Pt 2 – The Ek*



The Ek, or ego, is the second part of the soul complex listed in Founder Stephen McNallen's book, *Asatru, A Native European Spirituality*. In many modern religions, the Ego is seen as a bad thing, to be surrendered to God or a higher power in order to transcend. You'll see it spoken of as a bad thing in the mundane as well. Often bodybuilders and elite athletes will tell you to "leave your ego at the door" or "your ego is holding you back." In Asatru we reject this notion.

Ek, or Ego comes from the meaning "I" or "I, myself." The German word for "i" is "Ich" which is also from the Old Norse "ek."

It's what defines you as an individual, what makes you unique among the collective. It is what drives the desire for personal freedom, a rejection of submission, and encourages us each to stand out amongst the whole of our tribe or kindred, or Church. A poorly developed ego is part of the soul sickness that our Founder often speaks of. We are taught in the modern world that the smallest accomplishment should be rewarded, that participation is enough, and that standing out is poorly looked upon. In Asatru, what feeds your Ek, your ego, is accomplishment through Victory. That we each share in those victories, and that you should absolutely be proud of all you accomplish. In fact, I often encourage this amongst our folk, if you boast about any accomplishment, for example, buying your first home, getting a promotion at work, proposing to your sweetheart.. All these things can inspire others to take strides toward accomplishing something great. It's Not an inflated ego that makes us boast, it is a healthy one. Boasting about what you "are going to do" is the result of a poorly trained ego. "Planning to win" isn't the same as winning.

In the (Asatru) view, the ego or ek is only "bad" if it is limited by our small, superficial notion of who we are. Even then it is not evil, only incomplete- for even a restricted sense of self is better than "becoming one with God," Dissolving into the infinite sea,"

or “merging with the Oversoul.”

Stephen McNallen, Asatru, A Native European Spirituality.

In the above passage, Father McNallen is referring to the need by Modern society to just merge, or or be consumed by the flowing tide of modernity, that you are not special.

Be exceptional. Stand out among your peers. The pursuit of sameness, of equality, is the destruction of excellence. Train yourself, your ek, to be who you were born to be... a man or woman of exceptional character, with a well trained ego, who looks to climb higher and higher and stand tall among the world. This is your destiny, it is OUR destiny.

A caution; nothing here should be construed as advocating the narrow, deceptive and self-satisfied glorification of one’s self. There is all the difference in the world between egoism and egotism. One is puffery, and the other genuine development. Those who have come far are humbled by how far they have to go, and they will not belittle those who have accomplished less.

Stephen McNallen, Asatru, A Native European Spirituality



Witan Daniel Young

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## Words From Our Gothar

*“Warrior Mindset” in the Wolf Age*







In Asatru, we venerate all of our noble ancestors, whether they be farmers or preachers or schoolteachers. However, there is one class of Aryan who often stands tallest in our legends: the warrior.

The general view of our faith is plastered with pictures of warriors, from the Celtic rebels of Queen Boudicca to the Varangian Guard, from the united Germans under Prince Arminius to the Anglo-Danish huscarls of King Harold Godwinson. The list goes on and on, but we often venerate these distant heroes more than our less distant ancestors of the last few centuries. The picture and poetry of the martial archetype pervades the Aryan zeitgeist, and likely always will.



We treasure and hold high the warriors of old, as they put their very lives on the line for things that mattered. The warrior is timeless, because he fights for that which is timeless. The warrior is virtuous, because he fights for virtue. The warrior is immortal, because his deeds never die.

With all of this being said, allow me to bring us back into the present, hopefully with equally articulate wording!



How do we carry the warrior with us into our modern world? How do we strive for the things that matter in a productive way? How do we adopt that warrior mindset in the 21st century? After all, doesn't a warrior need a battle to fight?

That battle is life in the Wolf Age. We can speak on the woes of the world until Ragnarok, but I won't do that here. If you're reading this, you're aware of what challenges the modern world holds for our Folk. You're aware of all the obstacles facing you in your modern life. You know that you can't just smash through them with an axe like a Viking, or parry and slash at them with sword and shield like a knight. What you CAN do, however, is keep marching forward, like an Aryan.



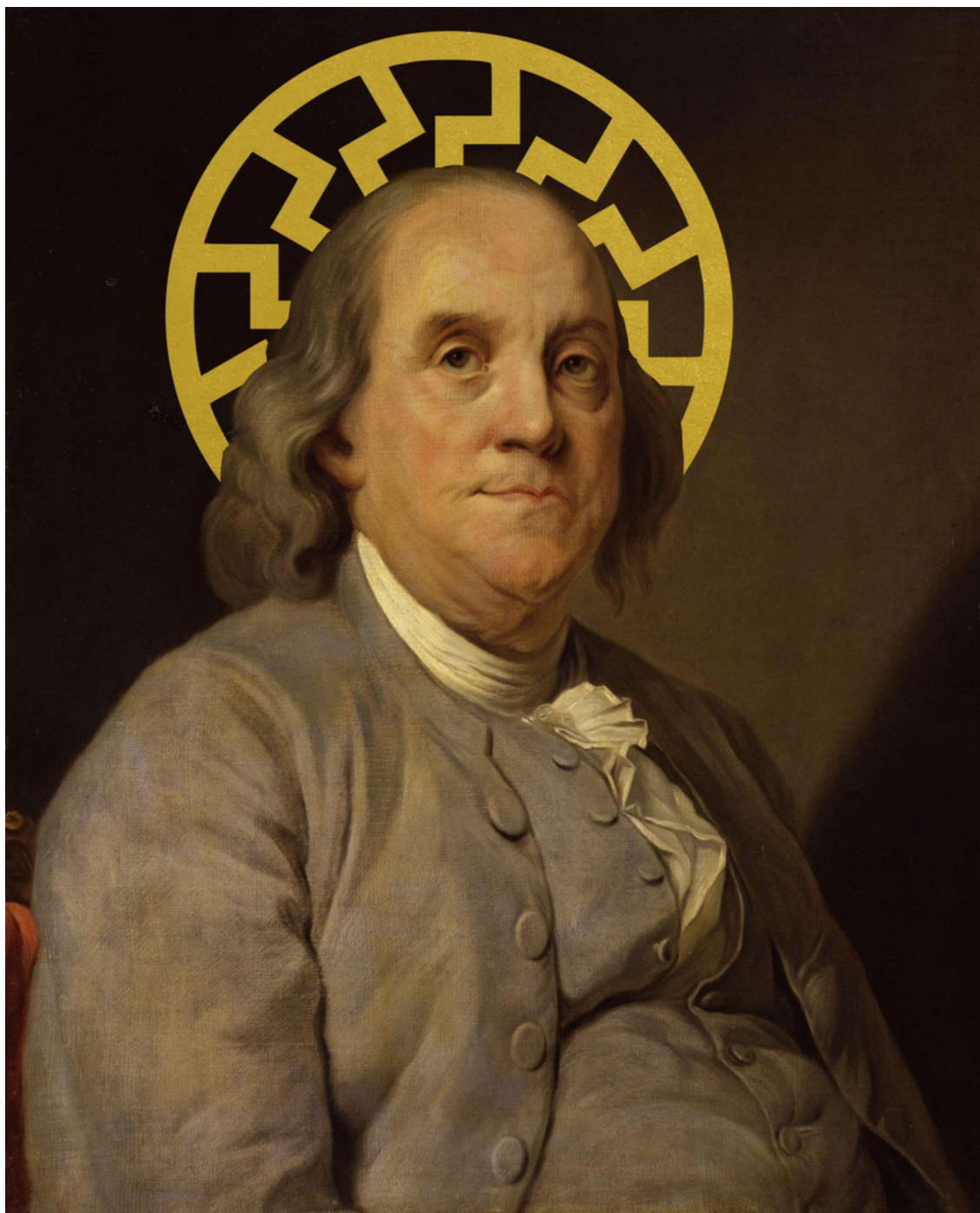
Keep marching forward; over the mountains of toil, across the valleys of sadness, through the forests of doubt, and over the rivers of emotion. Our ancestors, warriors or not, never gave up. They marched on, navigating whatever obstacles presented themselves. This was not always as glamorous as battle, but it was just as important. Obstacles are meant to be defeated, just as battles are meant to be won. That is the warrior mindset.

Remember who you are, and keep marching forward.



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*Our Germanic World-View in America's Founding*



Everyone has heard America referred to as a “Christian Nation”. Setting the etymology of the word ‘nation’ aside, most of our founding fathers considered themselves Deists.

While the majority of settlers certainly considered themselves Christians our Germanic world-view and folk traditions were still firmly in place in the 1700s. Focusing on Benjamin Franklin in particular we see our ancestral wisdom echoed in his writings and his life.

Until a split with his parent’s Puritan faith it was planned that he would attend Harvard to become a pastor.

In 1727 at 21 Franklin formed the Junto club, a form of männerbund. The founding members were craftsmen, printers, surveyors, cabinet makers, clerk, and a bartender... not top bankers and merchants in the colonies. Membership was based on a “spirit of inquiry when it came to politics, philosophy and a desire to better themselves and the community.”

“Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy wealthy, and wise.” is Franklin’s most famous quote. It’s similarity to verse 58 of the Havamal is striking.

He must early go forth | who fain the blood  
Or the goods of another would get,  
The wolf that lies idle | shall win little meat,  
Or the sleeping man success.

But this is not the only instance. In his Moral Improvement Project we see a sort of Nine Noble Virtues.

Temperance – “Eat not to dullness; drink not to elevation” combines both verses 19 and 20.

The greedy man | if his mind be vague,  
Will eat till sick he is...  
Shun not the mead | but drink in measure;  
Speak to the point or be still.

Silence – “Speak not but what might benefit others or yourself. Avoid trifling conversation” is touched on in verse 19 as well, but is even better expressed in verse 27.

A witless man | when he meets with men,  
Had best in silence abide;  
For no one shall find | that nothing he knows,  
If his mouth is not open too much.

Industry – “Lose no time, but always be employed in something useful; cut off all unnecessary actions” is literally one of our Noble Virtues, Industriousness we get from verse 59.

He must early go forth | whose workers are few,  
Himself his work to seek;



Much remains undone | for the morning-sleeper,  
For the swift is wealth half won.

This is not to say Benjamin Franklin was even aware of the lore, but that the ancestral memory still held these ideals. That as recently as the founding of America our gods were shining through the men who built this country.

Thomas Jefferson likewise recognized our ancestral world-view when he spoke of what guided our founding documents "...the common law existed while Anglo-Saxons were yet pagans, at a time when they had never yet heard the name of Christ pronounced or knew that such a character existed."

Moreover, he wanted the seal of these United States of America to be Hengist and Horsa, the Germanic brothers who is said to have led the Angels, Saxons, and Jutes in their invasion of Britain in the 5th century. According to the historian Bede, Hengist and Horsa were the sons of Wictgils, son of Witta, son of Wecta, son of Woden.

That's right, Jefferson wanted to make the seal of this nation the descendants of Woden!

So, on Independence Day; remember our ancestors, the founders of this nation, did not declare independence from our folk-ways or our faith.

Raise a horn to Woden!

Hail All-Father!

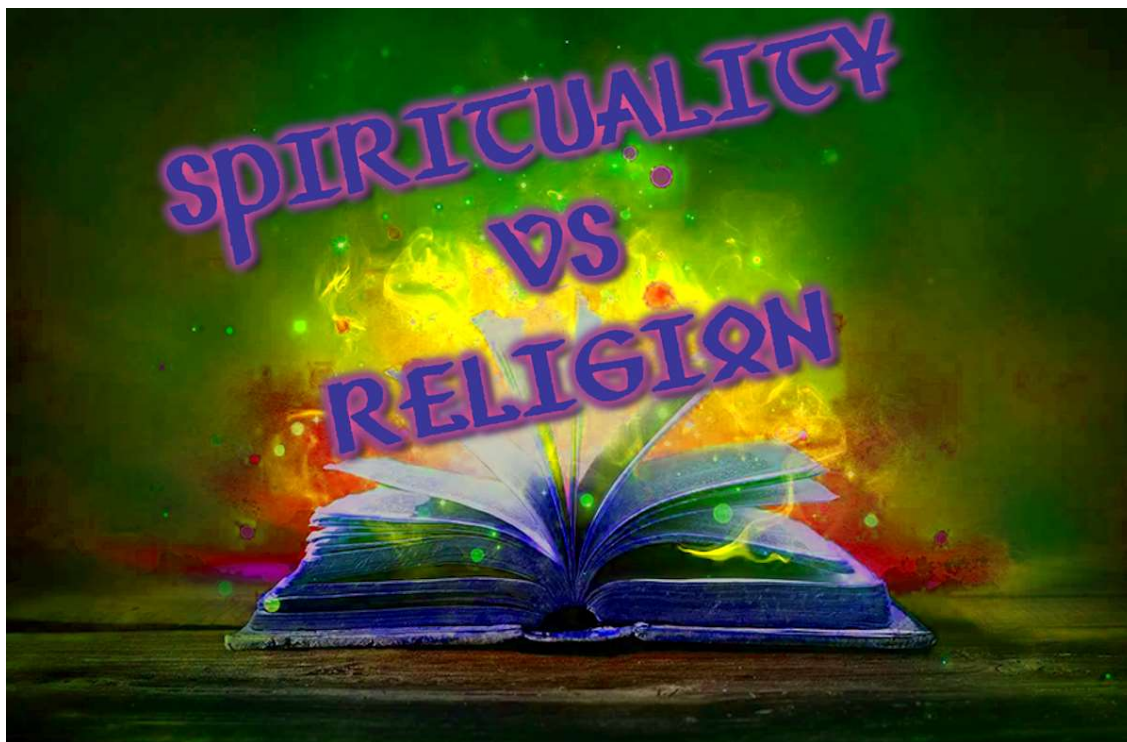
Hail the Founding Fathers!



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*Spirituality vs Religion*



Spirituality contrasts entirely the systems of anti-natural dogmatism, in which spirituality is separated from life and in permanent conflict with other parts to divide reality into which is intended to render people mentally confused, disturbed in order to make them easily controlled.

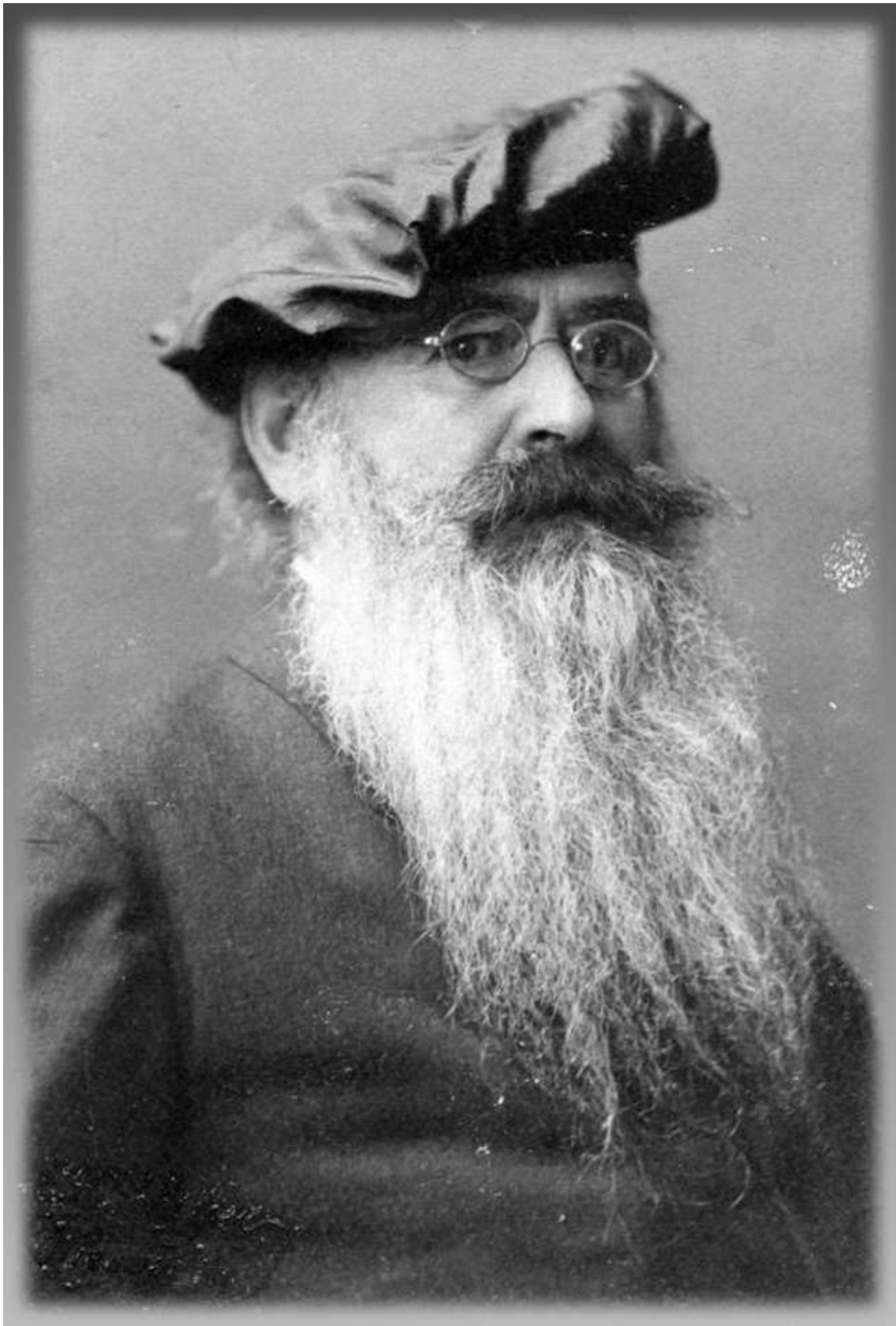
This is what Imperialist cults do when it's goal is to enslave humanity, make everyone join the flock or cult in the name of religion or as the case today the cult the religion of ultra liberalism a new religion.

The word holy as I see it, has been co-opted from our Elder Way, which the word holy meant wholeness of our Being, HAMR-the body, HUER-mind, will, intellect, and OND-/ANDI, soul, spirit, the vital breath. The bringing together of this reality, our Being, is the true meaning of Holy.



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*Guido and the Armanen Runes*

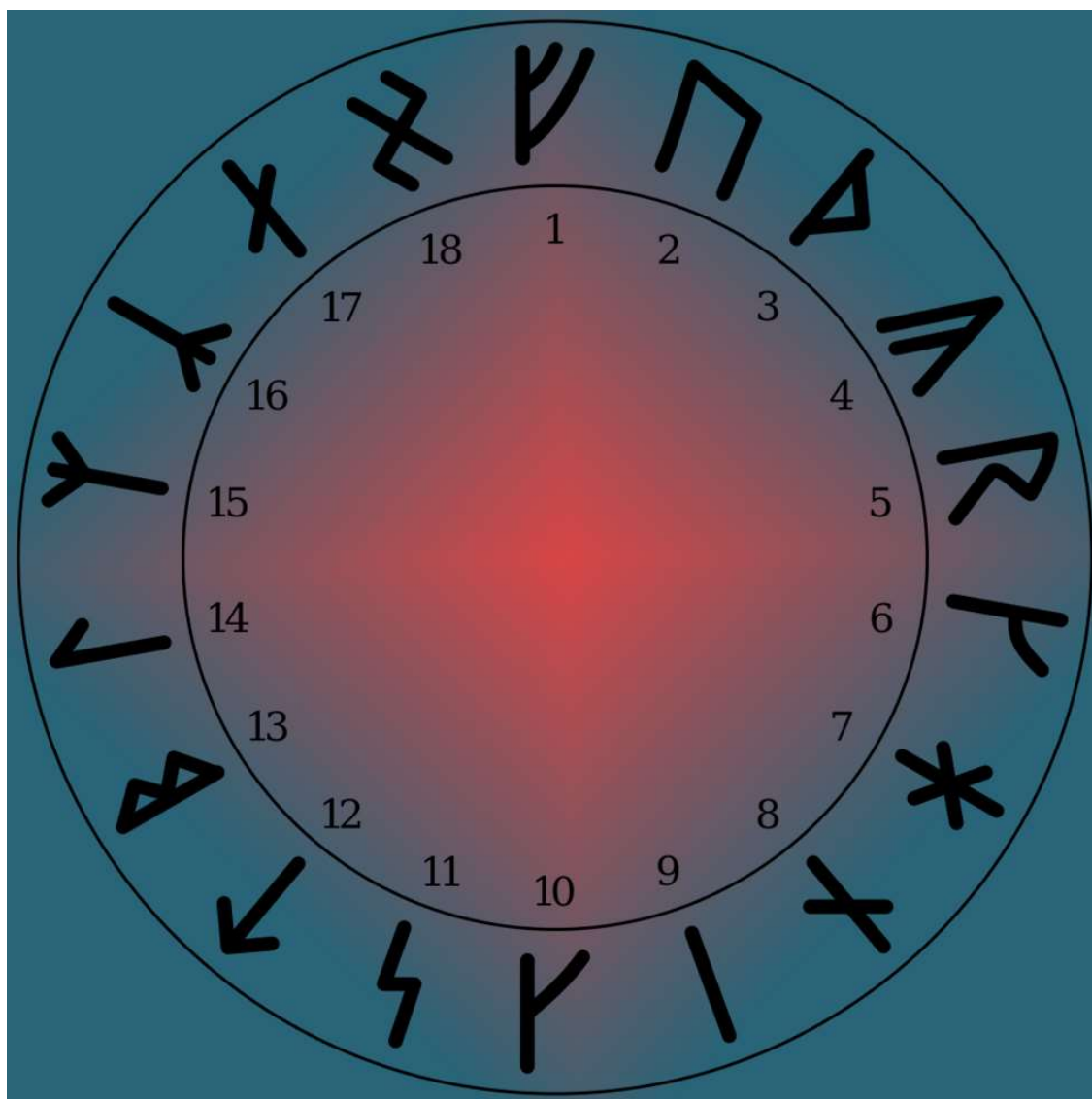


Hails from the Great Pacific Northwest! The Midsummer celebration at Odinshof this year was an amazing experience as always. The energy there has been evolving over time to become a family centered atmosphere which is great to see. The blots to Odin

and Baldr were stirring as led by the Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel and Gothi Trent East. This year Witan Brandy Callahan led the women in a special moving chant calling our folk home in old Norse, and I have to say that it was the magical moment during the midsummer celebration. I also had the honor of giving a presentation about the Armanen runes on Friday afternoon and I would like to speak about them here.

The Armanen Runes are Guido von Lists' divinely inspired interpretations of the spell songs of Odin. During an extended period of blindness following surgery on his eyes, he had an unverified personal gnosis of these poems' meaning, believing them to be the original language of the Aryan people. If one studies and meditates upon Guido von Lists' Armanen runes and their meanings it will lead that person to an enlightenment as to their own divine nature.

My own personal gnosis was with the Elder futhark. The Elder futhark runes each have poems associated with each separate character. Meditating upon these poems and their shapes have revealed to me that each of these rune staves have a vibrational frequency associated with it like the keys on a piano. This frequency is generated with intense feeling and emotion, which is then directed at the object of desire. For example, Fehu is the frequency of value. If you had \$10,000 in your hand what is the feeling that is generated? That feeling is that of value in that you can make things happen, you can cause change with it. If you take this feeling and encapsulated yourself in it without any distraction and with high intensity you are creating magic. You will without a doubt get a check in the mail, or a rise in social status, of course you must not have any doubt at all about what you are doing but accept it as a fact. If you think "this won't work", "or this is silly", it will destroy what you are trying to accomplish. You must correct those negative thoughts with positivity and the positive thoughts must outweigh the negative for your magic to work.



The difference between the Armanen runes and the Elder Futhark is for example the difference between a car and a tool. You can build things with tools including the car, but the already finished car will drive you around and you might not know how the car works, but it does.

The individual frequencies of the elder futhark runes allow you to micromanage when implementing your will here in the world of Midgard. The Armanen runes followed to enlightenment, allow the forces of the Nordic God to provide you the things you require in this world, as you have become a higher evolved being in that you are an instrument of the Nordic god.

It has been several years now since my spiritual rebirth here in Midgard, and I would like to say that I have become an instrument of divine consciousness, but it seems to be an almost impossible thing to accomplish. However, I have learned many things in the past 5 years and one of them is persistence. When things seem impossible in all reality they are not, all things are possible, and it depends where you place your energy. If you

stumble in your practice, get up and try again and at some point, a breakthrough will occur, or opportunities will present themselves and help with one's own evolution.

I will end this article with Meister Guido von List's Hagal rune – “introspective awareness, the consciousness to bear his Nordic God with all his qualities within himself, produces a high self confidence in the power of the personal spirit which bestows magical power, a magical power which dwells within all persons, and a power which can persuade a strong spirit to believe in it without any doubt. Borne by this consciousness which has no doubt inherent, the chosen one controls the physical and spiritual realms, which he contains comprehensively, and thereby he feels himself to be All Powerful. Therefore: Harbor the All in yourself, and you will control the All!

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



Gothi Joe Rozanek

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## The Quest for Freyshof

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

– Gylfaginning



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

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

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

1. We need to pay off Njörðshof.
  - The first of 2 loans have been paid off!
  - We now owe \$109,370 on our remaining loan.
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 4.2%.
  - 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!



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## Sigrheim: Home of Victory



We've got some awesome things happening at Sigrheim, including the first national event in Tennessee—Sigrblot! They'll be more information about it later in the article, but don't forget to get your [tickets](#) soon for Sigrblot at Sigrheim on July 22nd. Come celebrate with us!





In addition, we've got next month's Freyfaxi celebration with 2 very special guests.  
Come on out y'all!

Help Sigrheim get stocked  
and ready for our Folk!

Donate Supplies  
from our  
wishlist ✨ ✨ ✨  
**amazon**  
Thank You!

We've now gotten a couple generous packages from Folk that sent us some of the products off our Wishlist. A huge thank you to those two fine gentleman, and a future thanks to anyone else who takes the time to send us any of th items that we need to help Sigrheim function and grow.

> [Check out our Wishlist HERE](#) <



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# Victory Never Sleeps

The Asatru Folk Assembly Presents

odyssey.com/@AsatruFolkAssembly:e

vk.com/asatrufolkassembly

entropystream.live/app/MattFlavel

youtube.com/c/AsatruFolkAssembly

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**Victory Never Sleeps!**

Wednesdays at 6pm PST / 8pm EST



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## AFA Homeschool Program



Check out the Asatru Academy at [AsatruAcademy.org](https://AsatruAcademy.org)

*New Parent and Student Orientation*

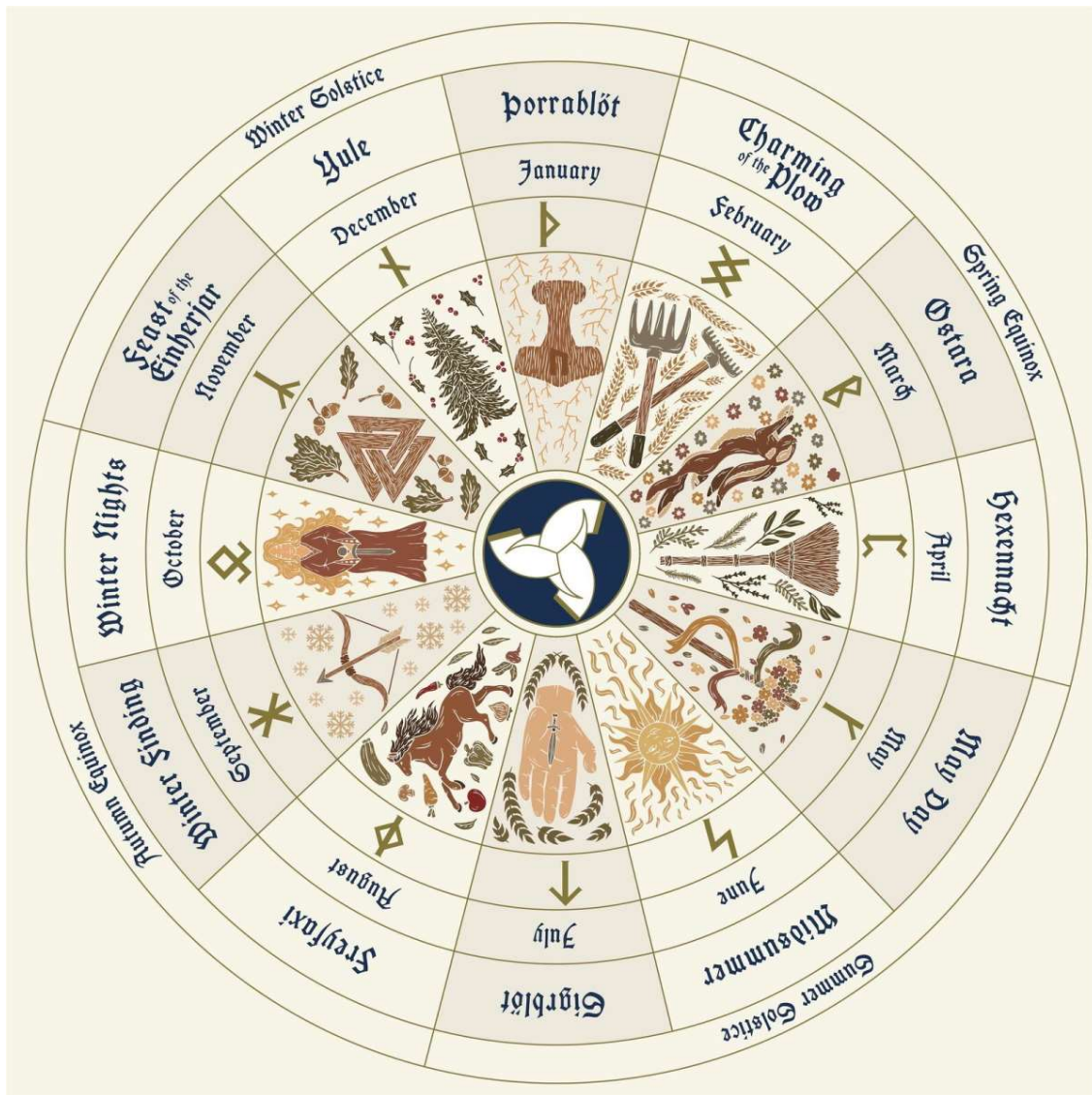


Assistant Dean Rachel Johnson will be giving a video class for parents and students on the INS and outs of our online learning platform . She will also be giving tips and tricks to successfully homeschool. Rachel is an expert in homeschooling, and knows our academic program inside and out. She has a wealth of experience and all our new parents, and even our returning parents, will benefit greatly by attending. The session will also be recorded and made available for parents who are unable to attend live. We look forward to seeing you!



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## Remembrance & Holy Days



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

2023

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

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

## Day of Remembrance

*Sveinbjorn Beinteinsson - July 4th*



*Alexander Rud Mills - July 9th*





Alexander Rud Mills was born in Forth, Tasmania, and lived from 1885-1964. He was the guiding light for the foundations of Asatru in Australia.

In 1933 Rud Mills began writing books about our faith and in 1936 he founded the Anglecyn Church of Odin. Mills was able to build a solid Asatru community, but during the turbulent times of the Second World war, Rud Mills was bitterly persecuted by his government, and the community that he built suppressed. With no evidence against him of illegal activity, Alexander Rud Mills was imprisoned. It was nearly a decade before Mills was released and despite all of his efforts, he was unable to revive his church to its former glory.

All was not lost, however. Alexander Rud Mills's many publications and his passion lived on and inspired a new generation. In the 1970s a group of Odinist Students at the University of Melbourne campaigned to have Odinism recognized as a formal religion in Australia, hoping to be able to protect the faith from the same persecution that Mills suffered. It took almost two decades, but by the early '90s, Odinism was granted religious status in Australia. Alexander Rud Mills's vision also, notably, inspired Else Christensen, who was a leading voice of Asatru in North America.

So, what can we learn from this story?

Alexander Rud Mills didn't live to see the culmination of all of his hard work. When he died Odinism and Asatru were still a repressed faith in his homeland. Even without reward and recognition, he worked until his death, to try and revive the ancient folkway. And he did succeed. Could he have ever imagined how far-reaching his influence would be while he lived? Despite being imprisoned and persecuted for his beliefs, Alexander continued. Even without knowing that his hard work would bear fruit, he continued. He didn't give up in the face of a thankless, and dauntless task. He didn't let his ego or his own self-importance stop him from doing what he believed he needed to do. There were no rewards. There were no praises. There was nothing in it for him except the knowledge and the belief that he was doing the right thing for his folk.

Take from this story the need to remember that the bigger picture, even when we can't see it, is so much more important than just ourselves. We do what we are doing for our children and for their children so that when we are gone they have a foundation strong enough to hold them up and help them build better and stronger.



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## Holiday

*Sigrblót - July 15th*



Sigrblót literally means ‘Victory Blot’ and was celebrated by our ancestors in the early summer months. On the one hand, our ancestors were celebrating their victory over the harsh winter. Life had won. On the other hand, our ancestors performed blot to ask for victory. With the warm weather and the completion of the planting time the men often

turned their minds to the duty of man. War. Practically speaking, summer was the better time to organize new campaigns and to set sail.

In our modern times, the vast majority of us are not familiar with war in a personal way. We do, however, all have our struggles. Sigrblót is a time to refocus. It is the time we can use to reorganize our priorities, to figure out the steps we need to take in order to reach our ultimate goals, and to break free from those that we struggle with.

One great way to celebrate Sigrblót is to offer a meal or some other item that you spent time making in thanks for the victory of life. Another option is to sacrifice a bladed weapon to the fire. A nice knife, for example, the blade dulled in battle so that it cannot be used against you (this is symbolic, of course), offered to the fire is a great way to ask our Gods for victory during the coming winter.

A gift for a gift.



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## Upcoming National Events

*Sigrblot at Sigrheim | July 22nd*



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

The first Sigrblot at the home of victory!

And no other place is it more righteous to celebrate the Victory Sacrifice!

This is the time we come together to honor both the summer and to make offering to Odin in hopes of his blessing for that which we are striving forth to conquer or acquire for us and our Folk! In times now passed, our Folk would be asking for Odins blessings

in battles and raids! And we ask now at this time for him to accept what we have to offer that he may lend his strength to see us victorious in our current endeavors!

Blot! Feasting! An auction with one-of-a-kind items! And,

The 1st ever Victory Tournament! Come test your skills on the field of honor! Tug o war! The Hammer throw! Jomsvikinger! Farm Walk! Race! Arm wrestling! And more!

Who shall taste defeat and who shall reign as The Supreme Victor?!

Camping is available on site. There are hotels within 20 to 30 min of Sigrheim as well and you will be responsible for your own camping gear or other accommodations off site. You are welcome to come and gather before or to stay after, but the event begins at 9 A.M. on Saturday July 22 and goes through the evening. Or you can choose to come and go throughout the weekend.

Notice: this is undeveloped land. We will have Port-a-potties and will make sure some water is available. However, it is imperative that you plan accordingly. There will be a couple large event tents to gather in. But no other public structure.

Please wear appropriate footwear and be prepared for a hike through the woods and up the ridge if you plan on participating in Blot. If you have any physical restrictions this particular part of the weekend may cause a challenge or an inability to participate on that particular event. If you have offroad vehicles such as 4 runners, atv's, etc., they would be a most welcome addition to the weekend and could mean the ability to get those who are otherwise restricted, up the ridge and safely back down again.

Bug spray, sunscreen, coolers, water, food, tents, blankets, appropriate clothing and footwear is advised.

The registration for this event is \$20 plus an auction item per person. OR \$50 per person. Children free.

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

Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

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



*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!



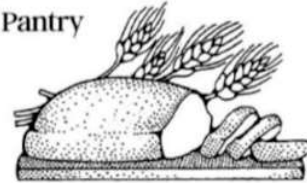
## Friday 8/18:

8 am: Breakfast  
 9 am: Dedication -Baldr  
 10 am : Fika  
 11 am: Welcoming of the Gods  
 Noon: Lunch  
 1 pm: Men's/Women's groups  
 3 pm: Class 1  
 4 pm: Folk time  
 5 pm: Dinner  
 6 pm: Baldrsblot  
 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  
 Noon: Lunch  
 1 pm: Class 2  
 2 pm: Folk Time  
 4 pm: Freyfaxi Blot and  
     Ceremonies of the Folk  
 5 pm: Dinner  
 6 pm: Auction/ Complete silent auction  
 8 pm: 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:theinlein@runestone.org) with any questions.

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



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein  
[theinlein@runestone.org](mailto:theinlein@runestone.org)

*Winter Nights 12 | October 27th-29th*



The Asatru Folk Assembly's Annual Winter Nights will be held from October 27th - 29th!

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

We look forward to seeing members and friends!

Your registration includes all workshops, lectures, meals, 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.

Register [HERE](#) today!

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.

- Tenting is available on-site.
- The location will be provided after registration as the event gets closer.
- Please contact Witan Clifford Erickson if you will attend.

Member Family – Weekend: \$120

Member – Weekend: \$80

Member – Day: \$40

Guest – Weekend: \$100

Guest – Day: \$50

Child – Weekend: Free

Child – Day: Free

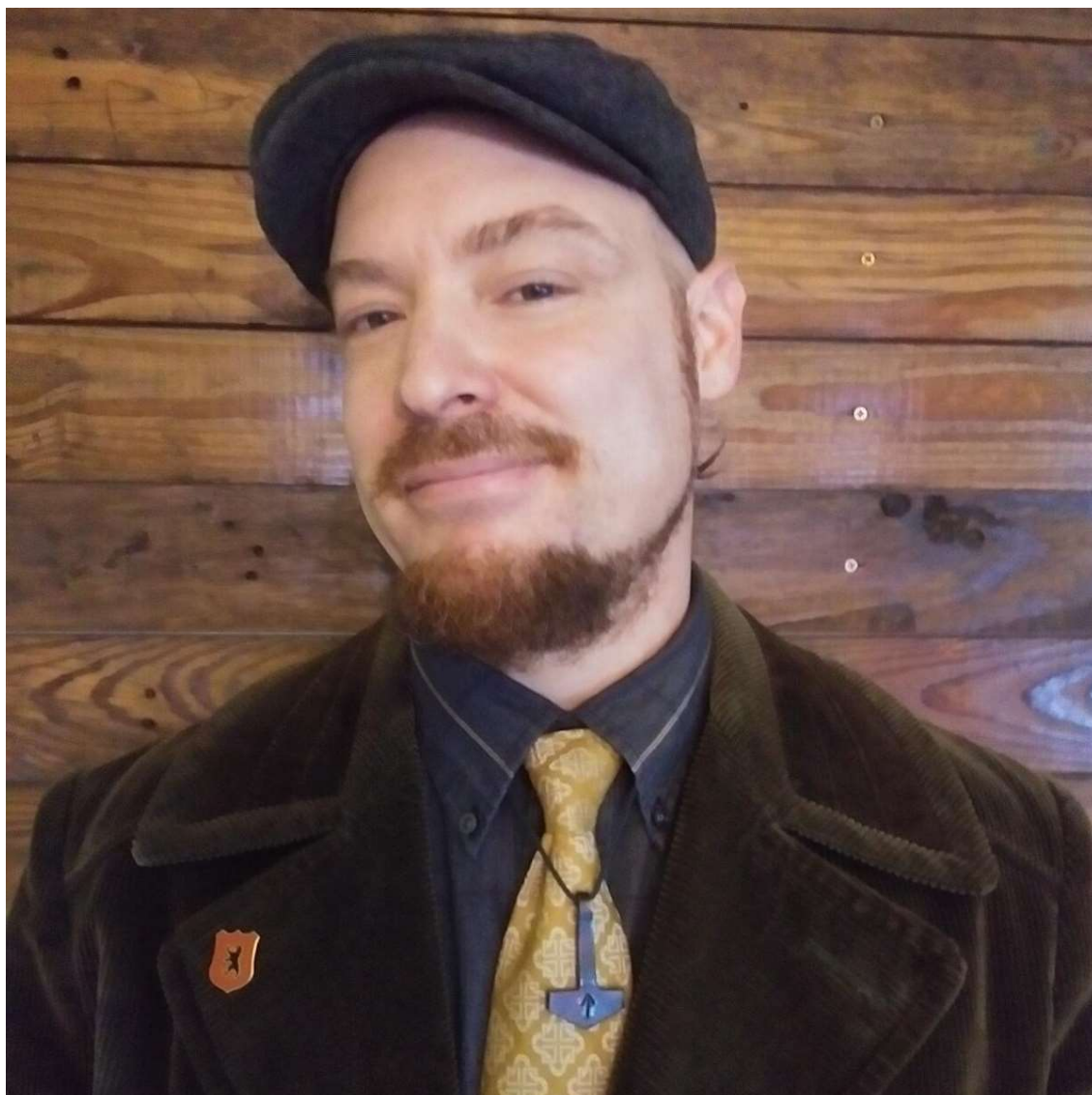
If you have any questions or concerns, please email [cerickson@runestone.org](mailto:cerickson@runestone.org).



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

## Folkbuilder Spotlight

*Michael Butler, Apprentice Folkbuilder, Indiana*



I hope everyone had a wonderful Midsummer. I want to highlight this month Apprentice Folkbuilder Michael Butler of Indiana. I first met Michael, his lovely wife Lisa, and their kids at Winter Nights 11 in Ohio. I was immediately struck by how well they fit the ideal of Aryan nobility.

Later, when I spoke to Michael about his interest in becoming an Apprentice Folkbuilder for the AFA I was struck by how levelheaded he is and how he understands the need for all of our Folk to come together to build the future, as he would put it.

Michael has been representing and organizing the AFA very well in Ohio, in Indiana and nearby. He has been responsive to a few shifts in focus given to him from both me and from Alsherjargothi Matt.

I am pleased to have Michael on the Þórshof North team, and I look forward to his continued success

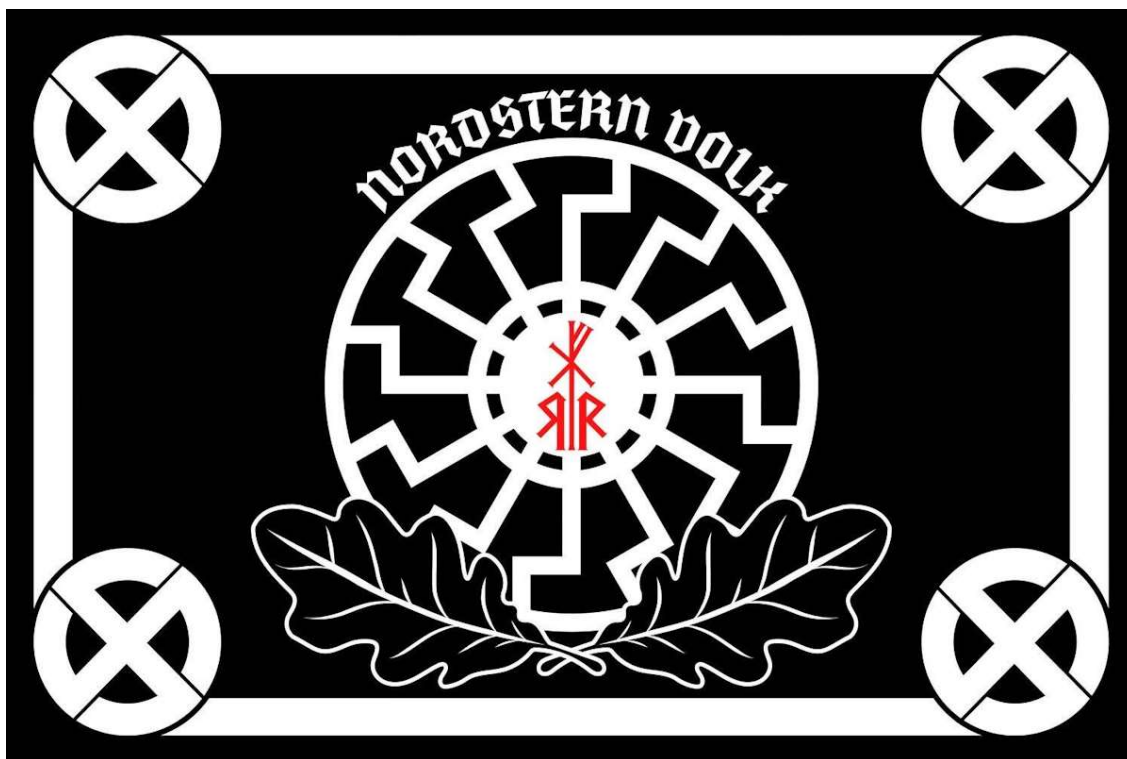
Hail Michael Butler!



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

## Introducing the newest AFA Kindreds

*Nordstern Volk Kindred, Colorado*



Please welcome the Nordstern Volk Kindred of Colorado as one of the newest Official Kindreds of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Led by Apprentices Nick Salo and Travis Bowdish in Nebraska, these Folk have hosted several moots and events in the last few months and are looking to continue to do big things!

Hail the Doers!



Hail the Nordstern Volk Kindred!!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!

*Snake River Volk, Idaho*



Please welcome the Snake River Volk Kindred of Colorado as one of the newest Official Kindreds of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Hail the Doers!

Hail the Snake River Volk Kindred!!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!



Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher

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

## Cooking for our Folk



# Calling all Chefs

We are looking for recipes for a cookbook. We ask that the recipes were served to the folk at a Hof or moot. Please include where and when it was served.

**cookbook@runestone.org**

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](mailto:cookbook@runestone.org) with details of when and where it was served (Hof/moot).



Folkbuilder Mike Joyner  
[mjoyner@runestone.org](mailto:mjoyner@runestone.org)

## Ancestral Food and Culture

### *Bread Pudding*





Growing up outside of New Orleans food speaks to me, probably more than it should. Certain flavors and dishes become a part of who you are. I wish I could remember ½ the recipes and lesson my grandmother taught me in the kitchen. When it comes to cooking, more specially the old/traditional recipes, it becomes more of a process than a recipe.

Hummus is a great example of this. It's an easy dish, right? Well, it's easy to make, BUT hard to perfect. Why? It is all about the process. These processes are passed down from one line to another. I remember when I was learned to make hummus, the Egyptian man told me his "way of making it" had been passed down over the generations. Note: if you want to learn my process on how to make hummus call or email me.



Now, my grandmother is not an Egyptian man, but she did teach me to make one of my favorite desserts....Bread Pudding. Bread pudding is easy to get good, but once you get

it perfect, you'll always chase perfect. Yes, bread pudding is a process driven recipe. Walking out of Midsummer at Njordshof on Saturday night knowing there was most of a basket of sliced, toasted, going stale bread in the kitchen, I was excited for the next morning. If you have never made bread pudding before. Start simple! Also don't fall for the gimmicky bread puddings, a simple, good, and well-balanced bread puddings tends to beat out all the gimmicky ones. Also, traditional speaking bread pudding contains alcohol in the liquid (all the alcohol cooks offs). Ok ill get off my soap box and get to the recipe/method.

### *Mead Bread Pudding*



Set oven to 350

Bread (you want the two-day old stale stuff that is dry. The dryer the bread the more cream mixture it will absorb but the longer it will take to absorb it. It is a trade off on texture as well. The fresher the bread will give you more of a custardy finished product; whereas, stale bread, if not soaked to death, will give you a really neat layering of textures with a great crust. Remember this dish was created to find a use for bread that was cooked and going stale, not for fresh bread or crazy "bread like items" such as donuts or cinnamon rolls. Crud, soap box again) Your bread can be sliced, hand torn, or cubed. (I suggest French bread or something like a Baggett or Italian loaf. Yes use the crust.)

Liquid amounts depend on how much bread you have. You want to make enough liquid for the bread to be able to absorb most of it.

Mix together until it starts to kinda thicken.

Start with three eggs

Maybe a cup or two of heavy cream

Pinch or two of salt

Pinch or two of cinnamon and/or nutmeg

Cup? Of sugar

Cup or two? of (your favorite that is available) mead. (I suggest sweet mead but you will want to adjust your sugar to accommodate. You can use any hard sweet alcohol or

liquor as long as it fits with the flavor you want.)

Yes, you can taste the liquid to see if it is to your liking.

Stir in the bread, wait a little bit, and stir the mixture again, wait a little bit and stir the mixture again. You are looking to make sure the bread absorbs most of the liquid. When you feel (not think) it is ready put it into a greased pan and bake it at 350. Baking time will differ based on the size of pans and amount. Pull when it is solid.

On the last stir I added in a small, chopped apple for pop of flavor and texture.

I was taught a valuable lesson years ago in regard to cooking: once you fully understand the rule, you will learn how to bend them. The more you cook and learn to create your own recipes like our ancestors did, the more you will learn that you can reuse recipes for similar things. This recipe can also be used to make French toast. You just wouldn't soak the bread, just dip it. You will want to favor egg over cream.

Any questions on this recipe/process feel free to call or email me.



Folkbuilder Mike Joyner  
[mjoyner@runestone.org](mailto:mjoyner@runestone.org)

## Folk Web





Here is an updated list of job openings for the Folk Web Skills and Job Network:

Nationwide roundup for Folk Web Skills and Job Network. Please share and keep inquiries incoming! This is proving a success and gaining traction. Let's keep it up!

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](mailto:sduffy@runestone.org)

Northern Illinois, Rockford area

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

Contact Folkbuilder Jim Cummings

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

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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 Folkbuilder Lou Nickerson

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

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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](mailto:cpenner@runestone.org)

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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

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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

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North Carolina, Hendersonville area

-Manufacturing Associate and/or installers

Position open for a leading provider of high-quality custom closets, Murphy beds,

home office cabinetry, and garage cabinetry. We have served the greater Western NC and Upstate SC area for 20+ years.

We are in search of a new employee to work in our production facility. This employee will play a vital role in our manufacturing process. Daily tasks include...

Preparing manufactured jobs to be sent out for install  
Assistance in loading outbound product and receiving inbound shipments  
Operation of materials handling equipment - forklifts and pallet jacks  
Cross training on large-scale panel processing machinery  
Shop cleaning and organization tasks  
Basic requirements...

- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation to work in Hendersonville everyday
- Proficiency with basic hand and power tools
- Willingness to work late on weeknights and work some Saturdays when the workload dictates
- Ability to communicate effectively with co-workers, and managers
- Productivity and quality-driven work ethic

Preferred experience...

- Previous employment in a production or factory environment
- Previous employment or experience in cabinet making, woodworking, or other manufacturing
- Experience in operating a forklift
- Experience working with large industrial equipment/machines

We're also hiring installers, the only difference is the preferred experience:

Contact Apprentice Tyler Bethea  
tbethea@runestone.org

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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

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Arkansas, Mountain View Area,

-Married Folk with a family newly moved to the state

Ian:

- 10 years retail and restaurant management and consulting.
- Managed crews with up to 50 staff.
- Negotiated with local food distributors.
- Consulted with opening new locations.

Catherine:

- 11 years of office administration in higher education.
- Strong customer/student service focus in person as well as via phone, email, and chat.
- High level data entry (attention to detail, 80+wpm typing).
- Remote work experience.

Contact the Folk if you have the means, otherwise contact Folkbuilder Shane Duffy or Apprentice Tabatha Owens

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

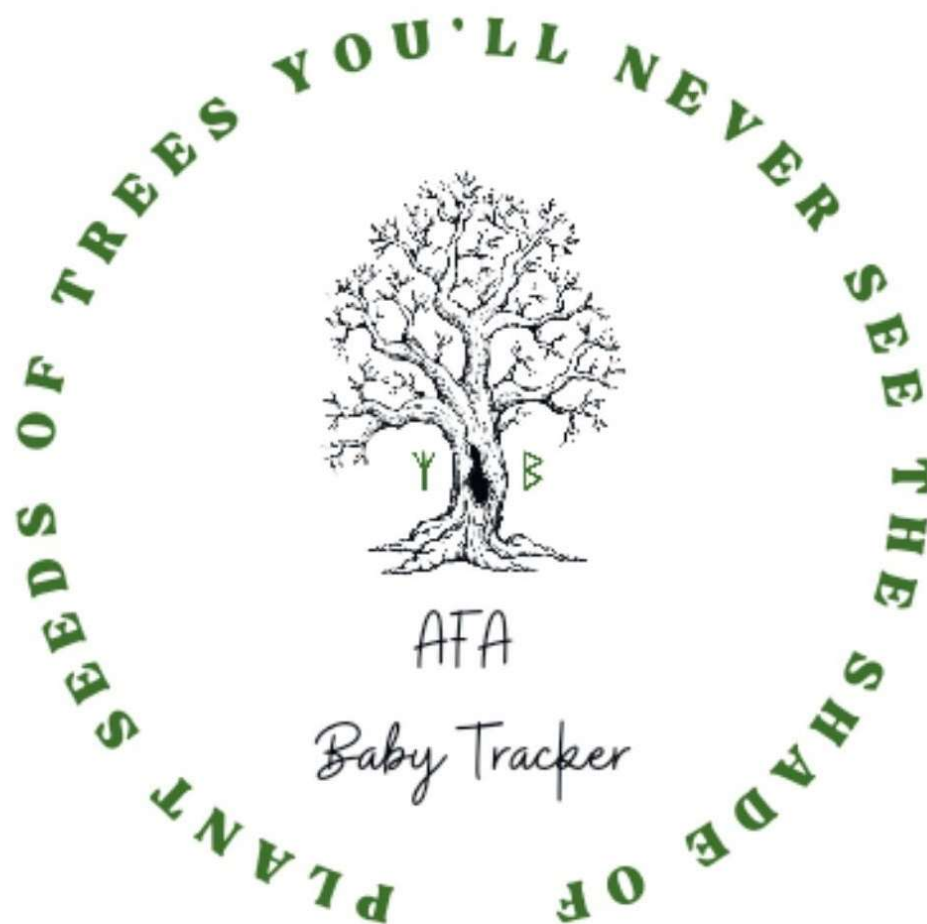
[towens@runestone.org](mailto:towens@runestone.org)



Folkbuilder Shane Duffy

[sduffy@runestone.org](mailto:sduffy@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: 18

## Saga's Literature Project



Saga needs your stories!

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

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

How do you celebrate our Holidays or Days of Remembrance?

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

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

The Asatru Folk Assembly wishes to create booklets, brochures, and pamphlets to have on hand in our Hof's and with membership Assembly-wide to give out to anyone with

curiosity, whether they are a member or not.

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

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

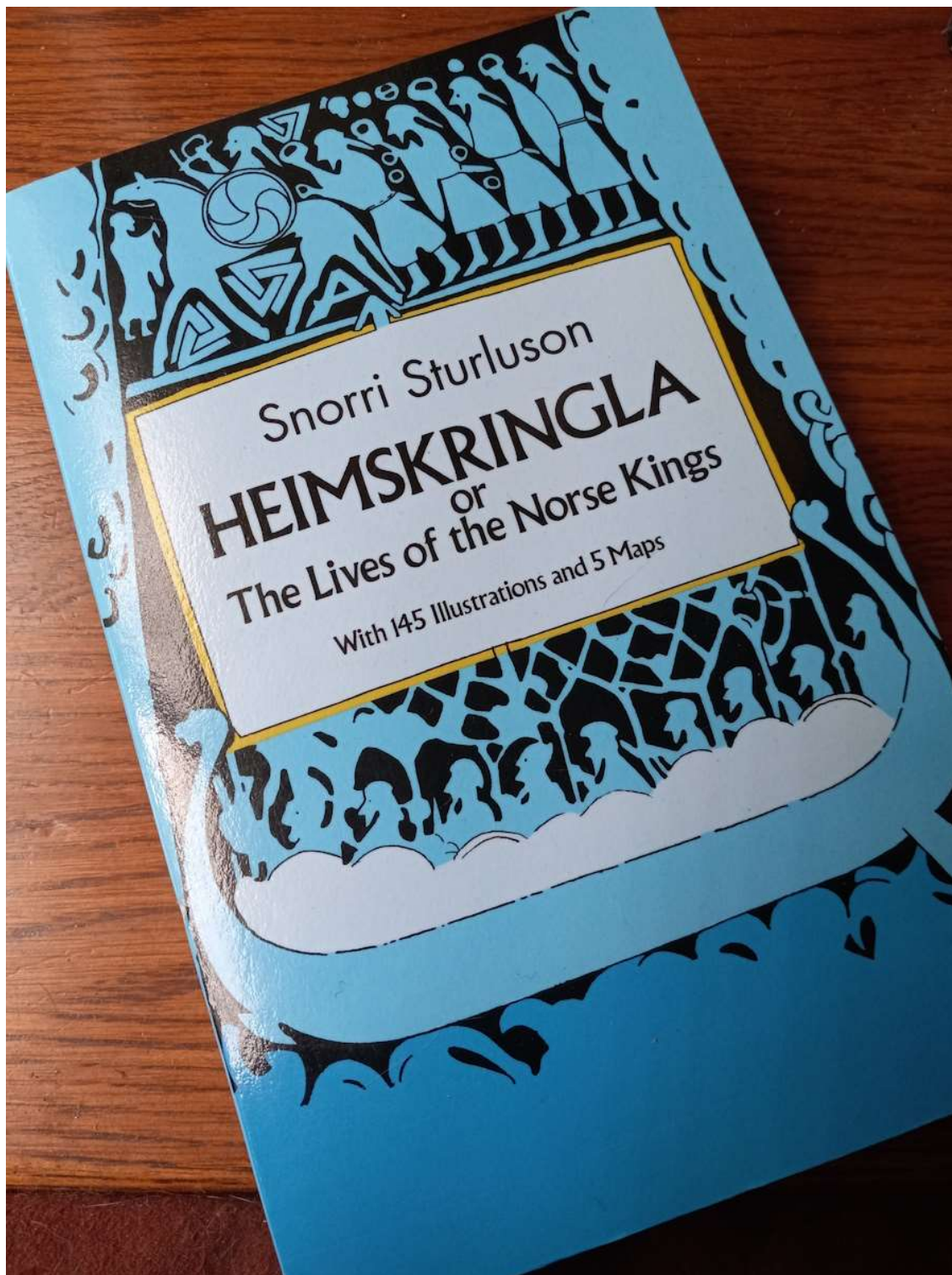
Note: All submissions are subject to review from myself and up the chain of command to the Alsherjargothi himself.



Folkbuilder Shane Duffy  
[sduffy@runestone.org](mailto:sduffy@runestone.org)

## The Study Goes On!





We will resume lore study 7/11/23, beginning anew with the Heimskringla! Please feel free to review the Prose and in Poetic Eddas on the origins of the gods & on Asagard, for some great discussion material! As always off topic questions & curiosities are also welcomed at the end of our readings. As the upcoming books are fairly large, we will be doing our best to begin reading promptly, and to keep it 30mins or less at a time, so we have time for questions afterwards. We look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday nights!



Gothi Jason Plourde

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

## Ladies Mysteries Podcast

### LADIES MYSTERIES PODCAST

July 23rd at 2:30 pm CST

Gythia Catie Erickson  
Writing Your Own History

Folkbuilder Sara Ault  
Building a Vaetter House

Folkbuilder Christine Dumas  
Ritual Runic Beads

Contact Christine Dumas for more information  
[cdumas@runestone.org](mailto:cdumas@runestone.org)

# 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**

## AFA Eldri: A Time and Place for Us!



Four fourteen weeks, a dedicated group of AFA members have gathered from the far corners of the country for our virtual Eldri meetings, hosted on Teams. The name is the Icelandic version for elders, which is our specific demographic. I created this MeWe group with associated chat to have our own place for topics pertinent to us.

They range from current news and cultural events to analysis of history, such as the War of Independence from England. Add in memories from our shared decades here in Midgard, and you'll see we find plenty to discuss.

I'm a strong supporter that EVERY member should have a MeWe account – especially for special interest groups like AFA Eldri. Our regular times are Fridays at 2:00 PT. It costs nothing -- and could bring great dividends to your life. If you're age fifty and older, we welcome you!

Gythia Shiela McNallen  
[shiela@runestone.org](mailto:shiela@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](mailto: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.



Folkbuilder James Ault  
[jault@runestone.org](mailto:jault@runestone.org)

## Updates to the AFA Store





Hi everyone!

Our AFA store at [runestone.org/store](https://runestone.org/store) is undergoing some improvements which aim to improve order processing time and the responsiveness to store inquiries. Merchandise is temporarily unavailable while we implement these changes and get our new store management trained. We look forward to launching new AFA merchandise later this year and to having some of the traditional stock available for sale in a few weeks.

In the meantime, the store is still processing orders for donations, fundraisers, and events. You can also get AFA merchandise by visiting our Hofs or events. If you have placed a merchandise order and need an update on it, please contact [store@runestone.org](mailto:store@runestone.org) for assistance.

Also, please know that if you need a new membership card because you have changed your membership level or have lost your membership card, please email [store@runestone.org](mailto:store@runestone.org) for a replacement card.



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

# Óðinshof

## Food Pantry at Odinshof



We had a line of cars out to the road 30 minutes early, even with the date-change to the second Saturday due to Midsummer. Coming to Oðinshof each month to say “hi” while picking up food is a special event in the lives of many locals. We were generous as always, and continued to offer \$25 gift cards if they’d help with a survey for our vendor -- the Interfaith Food Ministry.



With the twenty or so bags leftover from last month, and the forty that Steve and I filled Thursday, we met the needs of this struggling community. This month, we had 64 families. As always, our AFA volunteers were warm and gracious to our neighbors ... building the Hamingja of our noble Hof!



Gythia Sheila McNallen

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

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## Midsummer at Odinhof



Midsummer 2023 will be remembered for many things. If nothing else, it was the resilience of our Oðinshof community to handle the nature of Wyrð as obstacles were tossed in our way, exemplified by the runes Nauðiz and Perthro. In a few short days, we brought order out of chaos, with Wunjo prevailing all weekend.



And so the gathering began! Like so many good things, Friday started with hot coffee, a huge pan of scrambled eggs, and more on the way. We were off to a running start - greeting old friends and new, chasing toddlers, petting pooches, and talking with mouths full in our excitement



At the designated time, we formed up outside and had not one, but two Greetings to the Day... One led by Steve Ingle and his son Dawson, another by the McNallens. An hour later, sitting at the outside tables under the trees, Steve Ingle was giving us hints on tracing our family trees and answering eager questions. We were astounded to see the connections between many of our bloodlines... We are indeed a Folk!



Afterwards there was time for more visiting - latecomers had drifted in - and before we knew it, it was time to Greet the Gods! And so we did. Filing respectfully into the ritual circle, we called upon all the Holy Ones by name, invoking their presence with us this weekend.



It was soon time to call upon a more specific deity - Frigg, queen of Asgard, mother of Baldr, and our spiritual mother, she of many mysteries. None better to lead us than



Witan Brandy Callahan, and our own Gythia Sheila McNallen. This was followed by a special “Binding of the Folk” led by Witan Brandy. While winding yarn around a burnable sunwheel, she explained the importance of loyalty and support to our Hof and our leaders. She pointed out the ties that connect us - each of us, around the circle, to our right and our left. We are indeed FOLK...on the grand scale, and more immediately on this deep, personal level.



Later in the afternoon, Folkbuilder Lou Nickerson immersed us in Anglo-Saxon history, comparing them to the Norsemen and pointing out their common roots - and ours. Gothi Joe Rozanek spoke on the legacy of Guido von List, our Hof patron and head of the Armanen, largely responsible for the Germanic revival. Daniel Odom, our Hof Steward, built the shrine in honor of von List which graces our hall.



By then it was time for dinner - made possible by Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman, hands and heart in service to the Folk all weekend long.



A major talk was yet to come. Founder McNallen spoke how Oðinshof came to be: How we learned of what was then an empty grange hall, our first visit, our immediate decision to make it ours. We watched the video produced in the summer of 2015 to launch our fundraiser for “New Grange Hall” its first name in the saga of the Hof. With the lights turned back on, McNallen announced we were not yet through. He would lead the folk outside to the boulder which is now our horg-stone. All followed him and watched as he passionately re-created the pouring of mead over hands on the stone, and re-dedicating his own loyalty to Oðinshof.



Then came to blot to Odin. Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel presided - and the results were outstanding. The best description is “focused passion.” Founder McNallen, who has done a few Odin-blots in his time, spoke very highly of it, and photographs were spectacular; the flames seemed to be living entities...something we see more and more at Odinshof.



Saturday dawned and we greeted the climbing sun, as is our custom. Breakfast was hearty as always, and afterwards the women gathered to create flower crowns. A new tradition at Oðinshof is the Ladies' Tea at each event, where they share a bit about themselves and practice magical chants used in ritual. While they were doing this, the men gathered around the table outside and Founder McNallen led them in a long discussion of the role of men in the changing world around us. Participation was intense, and almost every man had something to say about the challenges of manhood in modern society.



Thence followed the Highland Games. Something for everyone, young and old, the brutally strong and the quick and nimble. Huge stones were carried up and down a course, ropes with pulled by men and women and children, boxing gloves were donned and used, with impromptu lessons given on the side to the younger set, boys and girls alike. Good sportsmanship prevailed.



Throughout the drama and delight of the games, Witan Brandy Callahan and Folkbuilder Angelina Stone quietly walked around the grounds, offering each person a sip of welcome from a horn of mead. This small act added greatly to the significance of this Midsummer.

After a rest, all were ushered inside for Gothi East's presentation on the Folk Futhark, a unique AFA composite of runic staves representing historic Futharks. Gothi East's class was followed by a talk by our esteemed visitor, Folkbuilder Otto Rafuse from Florida. Based on his experiences as a Family Law attorney, his talk "Family Law and You" was an especially practical class for people who were divorced and sharing the custody of children. Parent visitation rights, religious rights, and more were explained, and questions from the audience answered.



In the late afternoon, the Blot to Balder - the core of Midsummer - was offered up by Gothi Trent East who came all the way from Georgia. The vital nature of Baldr – words of life, death, rebirth and transcendence were passionately extolled by the Gothi. The sunwheel-- created and blessed at the Frigg blot was placed in the ritual fire. The women all dressed in white created an inner circle. They gradually raised their voices louder and louder in chant, “calling the Folk home” in one of our native tongues as the men did a runic galdr of Raido. We were all united in the soul of the Folk, feeling in our innermost beings the significance of the holy day that we were honoring.





Afterwards we gathered on the front steps for the group photograph. A fresh AFA flag was hoisted aloft, and a brass plaque was dedicated to the original officers of the AFA who helped bring Oðinshof into being. The plaque will be permanently and prominently posted in the alcove just outside the main doors.



The meal blessing included filling an Ancestor's Plate, remembering those who came before us – with thanks and an invitation to partake in our feast. A deep sense of peace filled the hall that night.



There was one official Ceremony of the Folk at this event. Before the magnificent mural of Odin, Folkbuilder Lou Nickerson made his oath to the Aesir, the Alsherjargothi, the AFA, and the Folk. Oathed leaders stood on either side of him, offering their praises for his clear commitment to the well-being of our Folk. As an example, Lou made a 17-hour trip to and from Arizona, where he offered transportation to a disabled member from the Santa Cruz mountains.



With such a perfect evening, the annual auction was moved outdoors to the picnic tables. Brandy Callahan, in her no-nonsense way, auctioned the items with a big dose of humor. We are thankful for those who gave the items, and those who bid on them. The generosity of the Folk was classic. Well done, all!

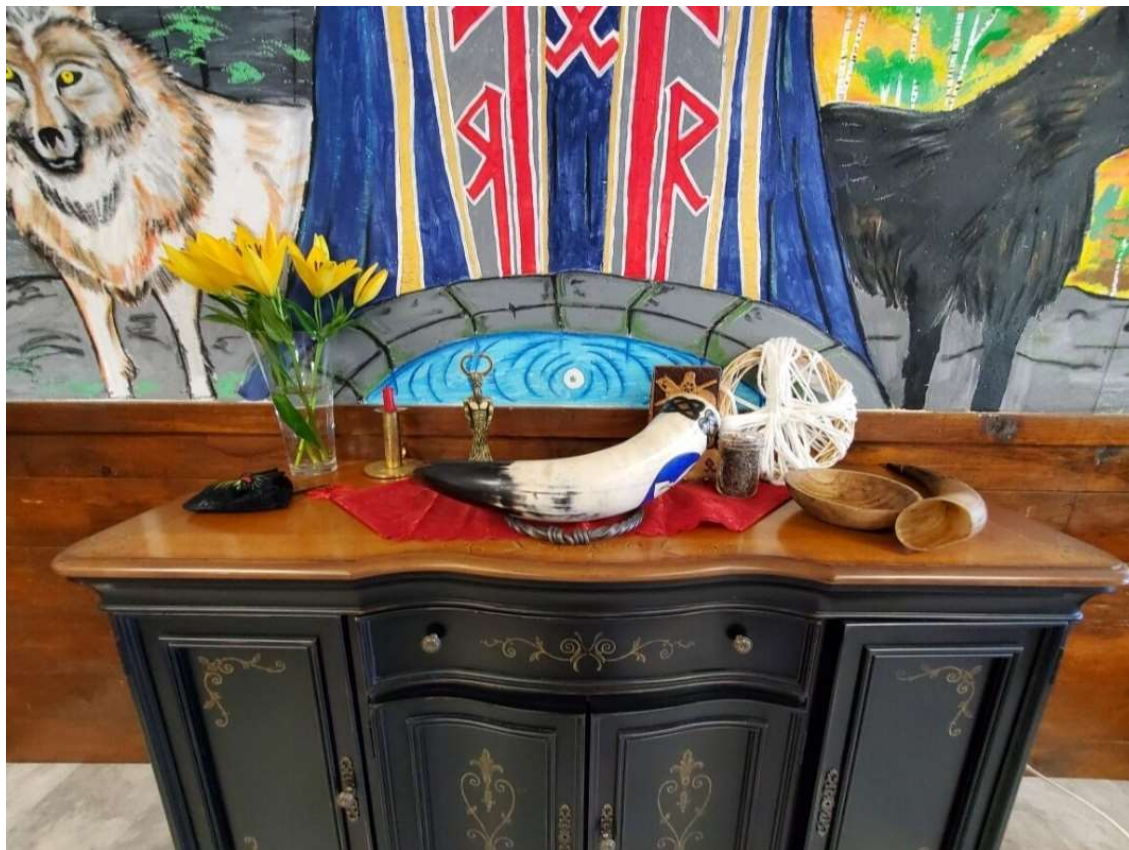


But the evening was not over! The Alsherjargothi led us in a formal Sumbel inside the darkened hall, where heroes and heroines were honored, where tears and laughter were

shared as surely as the fine mead which made the rounds. If Blot is the soul of an event, the Sumbel is its heart.



Sunday dawned -- our last day together this event. We Greeted the Day, ate our breakfasts, learned some more genealogy... all of us aware that we would be leaving, and soon parting, for now.



Wayfarer's Blot was at about 10:00 due to early afternoon flights for some. It was dawning on us that this very special time was almost over. Witan Callahan led us in the most unusual Wayfarer's Blot. She said what most of us were feeling - we had all met interesting people that we had not known before this event, and we had bonded with them. Following her instructions, the ritual closed with each offering a handshake to everyone else who was there. Heartfelt sentiments were traded, hugs given, contact information shared.



Whatever we were before we came here...we were Folk.



Gythia Sheila McNallen  
[sheila@runestone.org](mailto:sheila@runestone.org)

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## Upcoming Events at Odinshof

*Family Camp at Oðinshof! Why? How? Who?*

August 4-6, 2023

# Family Camp at Oðinshof



Kid-focused –  
Parents as teachers

3 days of learning and fun!

A spiritual adventure for all.

Camping & meals together



August 4-6, 2023, Odinshof, 8408 LaPorte Road, Brownsville, CA 95919

Back in the mists of time, or so it seems now, my husband Founder Stephen McNallen and I coordinated week-long field trips to the coast for 7th grade science classes. Those memories have stayed close to my heart, with a hope we could someday recreate the joy of adventure and discovery with our own Folk. This is the time.

## WHY?

In the hustle and bustle of a monthly gathering, it's difficult to get a coordinated program for our kids where they feel immersed in the connections with Gods and Folk. Family Camp changes that.

This event will be structured with experiences for our children steeped in the five senses, with fun and games over the three days. Friday will begin with lunch and swimming at a high mountain lake. Back at the Hof, we'll head into mini-classes and activities led by parents and other adults. The Nine Noble Virtues, plus "responsibility and respect" will be discussed.

## HOW?

Each adult can propose experiences they'd like to teach. Subject areas: fine arts, wood crafting, nature studies, cooking, camping skills, music, gardening, storytelling & poetry, drama, hiking, astronomy, ... Asatru studies of mythology, the Gods, and the basics of ritual will be taught in age-level classes.



## WHO?

We will stay focused on the children all weekend. This is not about “us.”

If you’d like to come join us and dedicate your time to making this an exciting weekend for our kids, I invite you to contact me.

Can we do this all? No, but it is the foundation for Family Camp next year, and the years to follow.

Camping is available on-site. Families have the option of the Brownsville Motel or other lodging of their choice. All meals are provided. There is no cost for children. We’re asking adults for a \$25 donation each, and will gratefully accept additional food or funds to help cover expenses.

## IMPORTANT:

Parents must stay in attendance with their own children all weekend. Children are expected to behave in accordance with Odinhof-standards.

## REQUEST A REGISTRATION FORM

Confirm by August 1st, if you’re coming and who will be with you. (Adults, children’s names & ages) [sheila@runestone.org](mailto:sheila@runestone.org), 530-575-8692 (text), MeWe

Adult guests who are not members must be vetted before coming. We make exception for spouses.

Do not show up at the door unannounced.



Gythia Sheila McNallen  
[sheila@runestone.org](mailto:sheila@runestone.org)

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## Leadership

**Oðinshof Leadership**

**CLERGY**  
 Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel [mattflavel@runestone.org](mailto:mattflavel@runestone.org)  
 Gythia Sheila McNallen [sheila@runestone.org](mailto:sheila@runestone.org)  
 Gothi Joseph Rozanek [jrozanek@runestone.org](mailto:jrozanek@runestone.org)  
 Gothi Thorgrun Odden [todden@runestone.org](mailto:todden@runestone.org)

**OATHED FOLKBUILDERS**  
 Sierra Chapman (CA) [schapman@runestone.org](mailto:schapman@runestone.org)  
 Ryan Harlan (MT) [rharlan@runestone.org](mailto:rharlan@runestone.org)  
 Tyler Heinlein (MT) [theinlein@runestone.org](mailto:theinlein@runestone.org)  
 Lou Nickerson (AZ) [lnickerson@runestone.org](mailto:lnickerson@runestone.org)

**APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDERS**  
 Nicholas Salo (CO) [nsalo@runestone.org](mailto:nsalo@runestone.org)  
 Travis Bowdish (CO) [tbowdish@runestone.org](mailto:tbowdish@runestone.org)  
 Angelina Stone (CA) [astone@runestone.org](mailto:astone@runestone.org)  
 Olivia Sutgherland (CA) [osutherland@runestone.org](mailto:osutherland@runestone.org)  
 Kyler Reader (ID) [kreader@runestone.org](mailto:kreader@runestone.org)

**HOF STEWARD**  
 Daniel Odom [dodom@runestone.org](mailto:dodom@runestone.org)

**Arizona**

*From Discovering Oðin to Oðinshof - My Personal Journey*



This past June, I was lucky enough to get to experience Oðinshof. After taking in the joy of the moment while Galdring Wunjo with the rest of our Folk, I went to stand in front of the Guido von List shrine, and felt an immense amount of pride to be able to be part of the realization of von List's vision of a "temple to Wotan" he had while underneath the catacombs of St. Stephen's Cathedral in 1862. The moment made me realize the deep connections that run back for centuries, to those of our Folk who came before us, laying the groundwork for the revival of our ancestral spirituality. Standing in front of the shrine, I felt so proud and at the same time so in debt to people like Guido von List, Alexander Rud Mills, Else Christensen, and everyone else who had come before me, rekindling the flames of worship and devotion to our Gods and Goddesses.



The entire episode made me think back to when I first discovered for myself that Oðin was real, and I wanted to relate that experience in detail. I was 18 years old, and the year was 2007. I had just finished reading all about the Gods and was challenging my previously-held belief in atheism. I was beginning to realize that religion and spirituality was not tied to being Christian, something I had always known but had never fully internalized until then. After I read a paragraph about Oðin, and how he hung for 9 nights from Yggdrasil, and sacrificed an eye for infinite wisdom, I went outside and looked at a tall pine tree, which must have been quite old. The tree was about the height of a four-story building. I distinctly remember thinking, "is Oðin real? Do I need to follow the path of my ancient ancestors?" And at that moment, the wind blew past the tree, shaking the branches, and I thought about Oðin hanging from the world tree. I knew, not merely from the wind but from a feeling deep within that is almost indescribable, but it felt like someone lifting a weight from off my chest, and it felt like something deep inside my chest in my heart area opened up. I knew from that point on that the Gods were real, and not only in the world around me, but somewhere deep within.



From that point, I started looking into Asatru, and discovered the AFA, and was really excited and happy that the AFA was out there. Because I was still too unsure of myself, I didn't pull the trigger on joining until years later, but once I did, I knew that I had found something that would be a part of me until the day I die. At the time I joined, in 2013, I never knew that having a Hof would ever be a reality. I never knew what it would be like to walk into a place of our own. I remember the AFA having to take down the cross in the main hall at the Catholic camp at our Midsummer events in 2014 and 2015. When I finally did walk into Oðinshof, it was almost unbelievable. I am proud to be part of our AFA family and proud to be creating a world where my children will never be able to say they lived in a world without a hof dedicated to our Gods. If anyone ever needs anything, please don't hesitate to reach out by email, MeWe, Telegram, phone, or any other means. I want to always be there for anyone and everyone in the AFA.



Folkbuilder Lou Nickerson  
[lnickerson@runestone.org](mailto:lnickerson@runestone.org)

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## California

*Greetings! A Letter of Introduction*



For several years now, our family has been attending events at Odinhof. Like most of you, it's quite a drive from home to the Hof, and for us it is with three children, but we make that trip each month to be part of something greater than ourselves. Every time we drive back, we talk of how spiritually uplifting and wonderful it was and how we can't wait for the next event. Over the years, we have had two of our children's Ausa Vatnis held at Odinhof-both were beautiful and meaningful ceremonies where our loving Gothar introduced our sweet new babies to our gods and folk. We love Odinhof and have shared joyous occasions there with many of you!

I was asked awhile back if I would like to become a Folkbuilder. Wanting to help the AFA and our hof more was a no-brainer. While I needed to tend to a personal matter first, getting through that has freed up precious time and energy for me and my family to now better be able to serve our folk. I look forward to knowing you more and helping anyone I can.



Sharing a little about me, I was raised in a Unitarian Universalist household in rural Arkansas, where the seasons were recognized along with a healthy emphasis on seeking

knowledge and truth. I went through my younger years knowing that I must help people and sought opportunities to do so. My experiences and upbringing brought me to obtain a bachelor's degree in Religious Studies and a master's degree in Religious Leadership for Social Change. My career path has spanned from bedside healthcare, to education-including opening and directing a nonprofit preschool, and to hospital administration. Over the past two years, I have concentrated on my family as an active at-home parent/credentialed homeschooling teacher. My life would not be whole without my husband, Brodie. To know him is to love him. I am so lucky and grateful every day to have three healthy babies and a husband who loves us more than anything.

Brodie introduced me to the AFA, and I am forever grateful he did. I remember feeling somewhat naïve to and also very eager to learn more about this ancient religion of our folk. There is so much to learn! I came in with an open mind and heart and was quickly embraced by the hospitable community and peaceful environment of the AFA. While I have always felt a connection to my ancestors, it's been incredible to experience these connections strengthening within our family. Our children love going to the hof to engage in meaningful activities, play, and socialize with their friends. The AFA has been a continual source of happiness in our lives.

The AFA has recently been going through some growing pains. Many of us have felt it in some way. If we could take a moment to remember the growing pains we had as children (or that our children have had), we know that these pains are horrible, temporary, and a result of inevitable changes. The development of a successful organization, just like that of a human being, doesn't happen over night. This is an intricate process, and things will fall into place. So many great things are happening in the AFA, and I believe there is no greater time like the present to be involved. When times get tough, our people face it, find and carry out solutions, and in the end become tougher and wiser having endured those times.

I hope to see you all at upcoming events, the food pantry, and/or a moot! I may not be the loudest member, but I'm a good listener and problem-solver, and I look forward to being there with you and for you as the AFA continues to grow brighter and mightier than ever! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you ever need anything or want to talk.

May my words and this issue of The Runestone find you well!

***Brunch Moot***





On a lovely Sunday, we held a brunch moot in the quaint downtown of Martinez, California. We met up at the Copper Skillet Courtyard, a family-owned restaurant, for their delicious chicken-fried-steak and eggs, hash-browns, and mimosas. Conversations focused around the lives of our grandparents and great-grandparents. After sharing these stories and a delicious meal together, we set off on a breezy walk to the town's Farmer's Market, sampling fresh fruit and checking out some antique furniture along the way. We passed by the old train station and continued our hike down to the marina. The weather was perfectly clear to look out across the water and see the various fishing boats and ships pass by. At the end of our time together, children played at the marina playground. A fun time was had by all!

### *Hot Springs Moot*



The month of July started out with fireworks and new friendships. While visiting family in Arkansas, I reached out to Folkbuilder Jesse Parton to see if we might be able to meet. Amazingly, 16 of our folk came out to explore the historic town of Hot Springs, Arkansas together. It was a pleasure meeting Arkansas members including Folkbuilder Jesse Parton and Apprentice Folkbuilder Tabatha Owens! We started off with a tour of the Josephine Tussaud Wax Museum and then took a stroll down Bathhouse Row. Each of us had the opportunity to feel the naturally occurring hot springs water, which is known for its magical healing powers. The children played by the springs and climbed Tufa Rock. We ended our time together with a delicious lunch at a local restaurant. It was a lovely day and so fantastic to branch out and get to know folk from a different area!

### *Upcoming Events*

**BEACH**

**MOOT**

**BENICIA BEACH  
ALVAREZ 9TH ST.  
BENICIA, CA  
SATURDAY, JULY 22  
12PM- 3PM**

**BBQ LUNCH &  
SWIMMING**

**RSVP: OLIVIA SUTHERLAND (925) 532-5298  
OSUTHERLAND@RUNESTONE.ORG**



Olivia Sutherland  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[osutherland@runestone.org](mailto:osutherland@runestone.org)

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**Colorado**

*Colorado Midsummer*



The Nordstern Volk celebrated our first event as an official AFA kindred. We camped for 3 days, spending time with each other, sharing stories, great meals, and a delicious BBQ meals.

We had a woodworking class where rune sets were made, bones were carved into Mjollnirs. We tried our hands at blacksmithing on a forge but soon learned it much more difficult than assumed. However, we did manage to cast a few Mjollnirs out of aluminum.



We held Blot and Sumbel and performed a land taking ritual for a member of the Kindred's newly purchased home.

*Upcoming Events*

# Colorado / Nebraska

## SIGRBLOT

SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA

JULY 14-16TH

BRING CAMPING EQUIPMENT AND SOMETHING TO SHARE FOR POTLUCK MEALS  
PLEASE BRING CLOTHES TO DRESS WELL FOR BLOT  
SHOWERS, RESTROOM, KITCHEN WILL BE AVAILABLE

### ÓÐINSHOF RSVP

APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDER TRAVIS BOWDISH  
TBOWDISH@RUNESTONE.ORG  
APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDER NICHOLAS SALO  
NSALD@RUNESTONE.ORG



### BALDRSHOF RSVP

APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDER CODY CLAUSEN  
CCLAUSEN@RUNESTONE.ORG  
APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDER ALLISON CLAUSEN  
ACLAUSEN@RUNESTONE.ORG



July 14-16th, we will be hosting Sigrblot with collaboration from Nebraska Folk at a member's property in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. If you can make it please reach out to [tbowdish@runestone.org](mailto:tbowdish@runestone.org)

Travis Bowdish



Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[tbowdish@runestone.org](mailto:tbowdish@runestone.org)

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## Idaho

### *Introduction*



Being the newest Apprentice Folkbuilder to our great state of Idaho I would love to take a minute and introduce myself. My name is Kyle Reader and I live in Idaho Falls. I have been married to my wonderful wife Alexis for 11 years and we have 3 wonderful



boys together, Zakk who is 13, Taryn who is 10, and Kailim who is 5. I am huge into competitive sports and compete in powerlifting events whenever I have the chance. I also enjoy helping anyone with there weight training goals.

Asatru found me 12 years ago and I found my way home to the AFA May 2020. I say Asatru found me because when I came across it, I wasn't really looking for it, but it was exactly what I needed. I had just left Christianity behind and started going to local pagan gatherings held by a wiccan druid priest. He could tell " love all equally and accept everyone" didn't quite fit who I was and suggested that I start looking into my ancestry and find where my spiritual roots came from. I left his house that night, went home and straight to bed.

That night I had a dream I will never forget. I was lost in the woods running in circles, panicking that I would never find my way home and would be lost forever. Out of nowhere two giant ravens appeared and I decided to chase them thinking they would lead me home. As soon as I started chasing them I was woken up by a crazy thunderstorm that shook my house.

Morning came and I decided to get on Google and look up what seeing two ravens in a dream might mean and before I could finish typing out "two ravens in a dream" Google auto-suggested "two ravens Odin". Out of curiosity I decided to click on that suggestion and spend the next month reading online about the Norse God's and Goddesses, where there stories came from, and how there modern day religion was practiced. The more I read, the more I felt the pull of this is where I belong, this is the spiritual path I am meant to take. I have never looked back sense that day and continually look for new information to better understand our faith and ways we honor our God's.

I came across the AFA in my search for knowledge not just for myself but for my children as well. I knew there had to be a community out there that had the same cultural ideas and beliefs that I do, and I wanted to show my children that we weren't alone. One quick Google search later for "Folkish Asatru Group" popped up runestone.org the home of the Asatru Folk Assembly. After reading through the page over and over again for the course of probably three months I decided it join. My first AFA even was 2021 Charming of the Plow in Washington and I loved every second of it. The next event I would attend was this year's Midsummer at Odinhof. It's because of this event, all the wonderful people I meet, talked with, and the spiritual joy I felt there, I decided to step up and help my folk by volunteering to be an Apprentice Folkbuilder.



Kyle Reader  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[kreader@runestone.org](mailto:kreader@runestone.org)

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## Montana

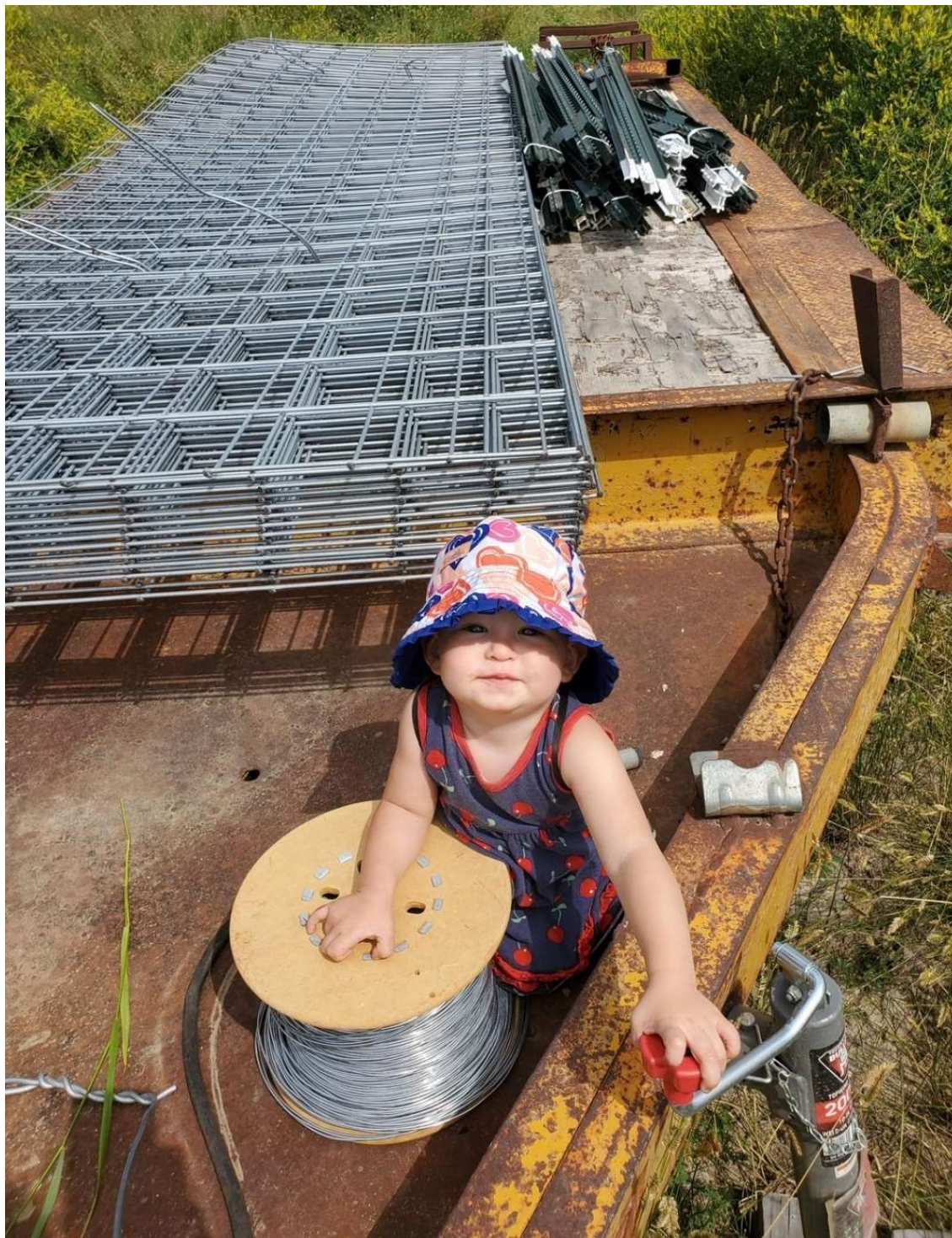
### *Unity*



June, like most months, was a busy month for us.



Our dedication to building up our land to one day be a functional community is starting to pay off. Fólkvangr will have additional families moving out in the next few years as they prepare themselves for the journey. It requires more than just finances and timing however as there are strict requirements to joining. If interested in living in Eastern Montana in our community reach out or come see it during Freyr's Harvest Feast in September.



The Feast will take place September 22nd through the 24th and includes 3 blots, workshops, competitive Vikings games, performance of Freyr's Proposal, the Feast and much more. Hosted by my family and Kindred, it takes place on our 20 acre homestead nestled in a river valley right on the water. The weather will be perfect for camping around 50 to 70 degrees and the location isn't too far from motels for those not keen to set up tents or bring their RVs out. It's an excellent opportunity to get together with the folk with the added bonus of seeing a growing and functional homestead.



Speaking of the homestead, we've recently added sheep to our pasture. Two Icelandic ewes and a ram are more than enough to build up a sizeable flock over the next few years. They will provide meat, fleece, wool and milk for cheeses for our folk. My daughter absolutely adores them and it's one of our better pick ups. We managed to barter with a member of the Northern Bastion Kindred out in Idaho when we joined them for their annual Kindred oathing gathering.



It took place outside of Harrison, Idaho in a nice secluded spot one of our local guys knew about. We gathered 14 men and women of the area plus the swarm of children who in coming years will soon outnumber us. Blot was profound and our hosts exemplified hospitality. It was a perfect example of why I am in the AFA and work tirelessly to promote Unity amongst our folk



Unity itself should be a given but sadly with the chaotic nature of this world we live in and the opportunistic nature of bad actors, malcontents sow discord and isolation. For those of us far from one another this can prove difficult which is why for the last few months I've hosted a weekly teams call where our highly motivated members have gathered together to focus on self improvement. While the group is tight nit and has grown to trust one another to the point where we may be developing our own shorthand, there is plenty of room for more to join us. We talk about various important topics ranging from practical self sufficiency to spiritual matters and have homework to complete every week. We discuss last weeks and together come up with the following

weeks projects as well. If you want to see yet another example of order being instilled against the tide of chaos, join our unity calls weekly Sunday at 6pm pst links posted on MeWe.



Hail the Gods  
Hail the Folk  
Hail Fólkvangr  
Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly





Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein  
[theinlein@runestone.org](mailto:theinlein@runestone.org)

### *Montana Midsummer Campout*



The Montana Midsummer Campout was held on the Lolo National Forest, June 17th-19th. Four families made the trek and came together near the Welcome Creek Wilderness. Our plan didn't quite go as planned, as our original camp site was filled to the brim. Luckily, we're an adaptable bunch up here, and another site was found in short order.



We were also hit with quite a bit of wet weather which made things interesting. The sun did come out though, and allowed us to dry out a bit, and take a little walk across an awesome foot bridge spanning the river, and into the wilderness area. Beautiful scenery, clean air, fine food cooked over the campfire, the sound of the river, a bit of Mead which we made back at Yule, and fantastic company made the event amazing.



Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan  
[rharlan@runestone.org](mailto:rharlan@runestone.org)

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## Nevada

*Midsummer Blessings*



Midsummer at Óðinshof 2023

Nothing to report for June as the focus was all on Midsummer at Óðinshof...

*Upcoming Events*



Please join Mandy and I for the Alsherjargothic Dinner on Saturday 7/29. Drinks at 1 pm, dinner at 3 pm...bring stuff!



Matthew D. Flavel  
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly  
[mattflavel@runestone.org](mailto:mattflavel@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!

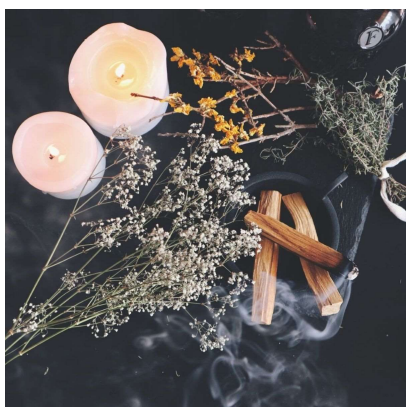
## Photo Donations

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)





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