

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly





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First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

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Words from the Alsherjargothi



In October we celebrated Winter Nights at Sigrheim for the very first time. What an amazing event it was! This was the biggest event yet at Sigrheim and it felt amazing to have so many of our Folk there together in the Home of Victory!

It is very hard to explain to those that weren't there, but this was one of the most powerful gatherings the AFA has ever hosted. I have spoken many times of that moment when this faith becomes "real" to someone. The greatest thing as a Gothi is to see this moment happen in the eyes of one of the Folk better yet to feel like you were a part of facilitating such a moment. There were many of these moments from at Winter Nights.

There will be much more written about the event, but I have to share something really special that I got to do this year. As many of you know, there is a very old cemetery at Sigrheim with graves from as far back as the 1850s. You may also remember that I

interred my mother's remains in this cemetery in July. We all invite our Dísir to be with us in the Dísir blot, our Dísir are always with us... but this year I was able to stand with one of my Dísir in very different and very special way. We made our circle in such a way that to incorporate my mom's grave in the circle with us and I was able to stand in Blot by her side. I can't do it justice and I can't share the feeling, but I do want to share that it was extremely special for me, and my soul is better for it.

Lots of us had "the magic" happen at Winter Nights this year.

Hail the Ericksons!

Hail the Dísir!

Hail Týr!



Matthew D. Flavel
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly
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Words From Our Witan

Picking up the Torch



Picking up the TorchWe have been blessed with a divine spark. It was handed down from Heimdall to our ancestors and from them to us. It is your sacred birthrite. It is also our duty to kindle that spark into a flame that burns ever bright upon the altar of your heart. Let that flame burn as a beacon to those who are lost. May it be a beacon of beauty, of strength, of piety, and let it burn away all weakness and fear.

That torch is passed from your fathers to their sons to guide the Folk toward Victory. Our path is illuminated by our forebears, but it is our sacred duty to carry our torches past the safety and comfort of that path. To push into the dark and wilderness, to plant torches and clear obstacles for those who follow in our path. Our lives will be viewed through a mythic lens in the generations to come. The pioneers of Modern Asatru, and we must live up to that mythic status. Will you bear that torch? Will you prepare the next generations to do the same?

We are the Alfar of the future, our Alfar guide and protect the Disir beyond the veil. It is a sacred rite that begins in this life and carries on into the next. Will you be ready?

The flames of candles and scared needfires all go out eventually, but this sacred flame that burns in our heart must never extinguish. Others who carry the flame will recognize it in you, and those who are lost may follow the light that burns inside us all. We are recognized by our deeds and those deeds are what makes us Asatru.

Words are wind, deeds are iron.



Witan Daniel Young
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Words From Our Gothar

Drawing Inward for the Winter Holy Tides



This morning, I woke up to a brisk temperature of 40 Fahrenheit- quite a marked change from the 90 degrees of two weeks ago! As I breathed in the cold air, I reflected on my ancestors. How did those noble Saxons feel when they felt the first cold morning of their winter? Did they welcome it, or did they feel a sense of dread?

Whatever the case may have been for our forebears, we know that the winter months are the time to look inwards: to our own hearth, to our ancestors on the other side of that thinning veil, to our own strengths and weaknesses.



My people at Njörðshof are familiar with this, as I have proverbially beaten them over the head with it for over a year now, but to borrow some imagery from John Steinbeck, any “long discontent” should be treated the same as these winter months.

If you are in pain, or mourning a loss, or simply feeling lower than usual due to the change in weather, please do not wander out into the cold. Look inwards, to your AFA family, and come sit by the flame of the Folk. We are here for you, and we will suffer through any winter right by your side. Keep attending events, keep our Gods and Heroes in mind, and reach out to your Gothar if you need us. We are here to serve you, and we will do so no matter what.



Gothi Trent East
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Mothers All!

Halloween is one night, but Winter Nights is -- always. That sense of high expectation as a child has now flowed from Halloween into Winter Nights. With the rich colors of autumn with its sights and smells, it's easier to dip into our ancestral past and imagine the lives of our forebears. Our Gythias play a special role in this as they lead us in blot to our Mothers at Winter Nights. We enter the circle where we stand shoulder to shoulder. And yet the goal of the Disablot is the thread that connects us to the other side. With eyes closed, we call the name of one of our Mothers. We sense the veil just

beyond us and feel it quiver to our words.

Mothers All! We sing to you. We sing to your sons. We kuln among the women, calling to our Folk. We honor all the Holy Powers and give our gifts. Then it is our turn to receive our gifts from you.

Excitement grew, like the anticipation of a child at Yule. At Óðinshof, each murmured-message to a Mother was answered with a rune drawn from a box... Something to guide, to comfort, to teach -- all given by the Mothers with a touch of love. My own rune, taken last in the darkness, was Ingwaz.

Ingwaz? Such a small and simple rune. And yet, I came home with a sense of fulfillment and energy I haven't experienced in a long while.



Ingwaz? Since then, it has been like an egg cracked open. New ideas and creativity are helping me fulfill my obligations as a Gythia to the Aesir and my role in Asatru Academy and our Óðinshof District. I will make the most of this gift which arrived at a time of need.

The veil is thin, for sure, but our Ancestors are forever. We grow closer to them every day. Did you take or seek a rune at Winter Nights that has led you in the right direction? What will be your next step?



Gythia Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org

We Remember You



Alan Wittenberg

Y 7/2/1949 - 10/28/2023 ♀

Alan Wittenberg was a long-time member of the Asatru Folk Assembly and a good friend. He was born in Missoula, Montana on July 2nd in the year 1949.

His father was a stone mason and scholar, preserving a tradition of his family that went back to Scandinavia. His mother lovingly cared for the hearth and raised him to be a kind and caring man.



For a time, Alan worked with his father and his Uncle Stanley Hendrickson, learning the family trade. His work, and that of his family's, can be seen throughout Missoula.

Alan was part of two rock bands during his life. He played with Intripid and the Klassics.

He was a green thumb, and had a very healthy garden where he grew vegetables and flowers alike.

But Alan's true calling was the family occupation of scholar. Alan was witty and a brilliant writer. His sense of humor and the joy he found in this world filled volumes of his work as he studied the mysteries of the Runes.



Alan can be best described as a seeker. His thirst for knowledge set him on the Odinic path decades ago and his work primarily focused on runic knowledge and mysteries.

His work is being cataloged and preserved by the Odinic Order of the Ulfhednar, of which he was involved with as the Hall's Patron Hero. Now in his passing, the Hall remembers him and honors him by preserving his legacy.



More important than his involvement with the Hall, he was a long time AFA member and once told me that his favorite part of the month was getting *The Runestone*. Alan was far too remote to be able to make it to the hofs but his constant support dated back to the Asatru Free Assembly days. In later years, thanks to technological improvements, he became much more involved. I will never forget that we held his first group Blot together or the joy he professed during his first Sumbel.

Alan received last rites in the form of the final Wayfarer's Blot surrounded by his loving family and afa members. Alan was perfectly lucid for the blot where he was honored by those who loved him and where he was presented with beautiful grave goods.

Alan passed with a smile on his face listening to Hemkomst ready to meet his ancestors.



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein

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Thank You for Folk Services



I want to thank everyone for their help. I know it's a rough time for everyone and a lot of people are in the same boat as my family. This year has been a struggle for my family. From not getting paid for a month by an unscrupulous employer to taking a pay

cut and having to resign from my second job to start my Union Apprenticeship, we ended up getting behind on bills. With your help we were able to keep our electricity on. As winter approaches, I am so thankful to have the Folk give my family a helping hand when we needed it the most. Knowing we'll have heat this winter is a huge relief for our growing family. And we have all of you to thank for that.

Hail the Gods

Hail the Folk

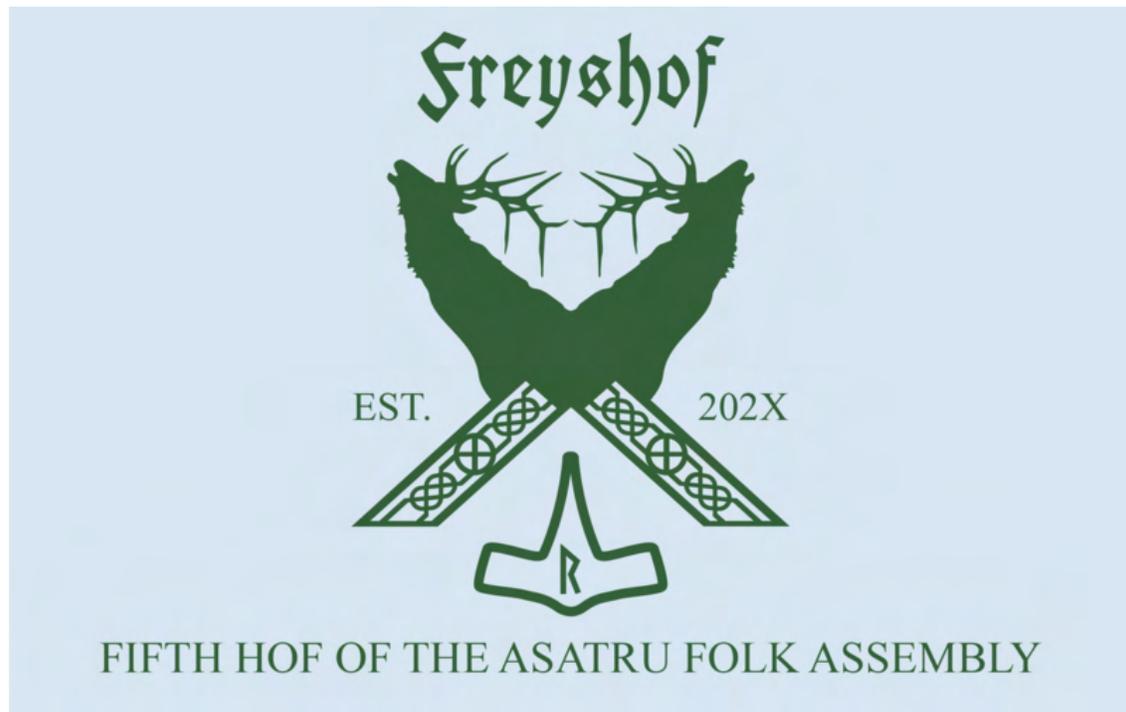
Hail the AFA

— Asatru Folk Assembly & Keystone Tru Folk member David Green

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 \$102,699.60 on our remaining loan.
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 6.2%.
 - 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!

Hail Freyr!



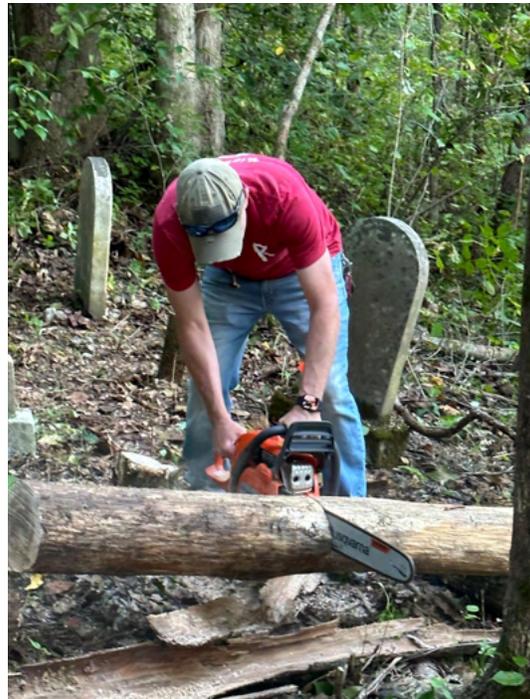
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Sigrheim: Home of Victory

Preparing for Winter Nights



This month, members from three states converged on Sigrheim to help ready the land for our second national event on the property this year. There was a lot of work to be done, but we were willing and eager to pitch in and do our part. Most of the work consisted of cutting up the many fallen trees in order to clear the path to the top of the mountain, and to fell a dead tree and clear the cemetery.



We worked pretty efficiently, with a team cutting and hauling, more Folk stacking wood and clearing debris, all while Folkbuilder Nick Rice steadily cut the seemingly never-ending grass on the lower fields.



As the light faded, we finished marking what graves we could find with orange engineering flags and made plans to head into Gainesboro for dinner before we all headed home. We settled on the Pie Peddler and were not disappointed by either the food or the entertaining locals. Every time we head to Sigrheim, it's like going home.



I think anyone who has visited Sigrheim multiple times will take note of how much the property improves with each visit. We were just down there earlier in the month for a workday, and the property was already more cleared and improved by the time Winter Nights rolled around, thanks to the hard work of the Ericksons and other dedicated Folk. It may seem like a literal mountain of work, and it is, but with more of us pitching in, we'll see those improvements stack on top of each other as we continue to make Sigrheim ours and shape the Home of Victory in a fashion that will make lord Tyr proud of us.



Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea

tbethea@runestone.org

Helping to Build Sigrheim



Help Sigrheim get stocked
and ready for our Folk!

Donate Supplies
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wishlist ✨ ✨ ✨
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Thank You!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Upcoming Events





Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
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Victory Never Sleeps

The Asatru Folk Assembly Presents

Victory Never Sleeps!

Wednesdays at 6PM Pacific / 8PM Central

vk.com/AsatruFolkAssembly

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entropystream.live/app/MattFlavel

rumble.com/AsatruFolkAssembly

youtube.com/@AsatruFolkAssembly

twitter.com/FolkAsatru

Victory Never Sleeps

Here's the latest episode!



Matthew D. Flavel
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly
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AFA Asatru Academy



Check out the Asatru Academy at AsatruAcademy.org

Greetings Parents and Students!



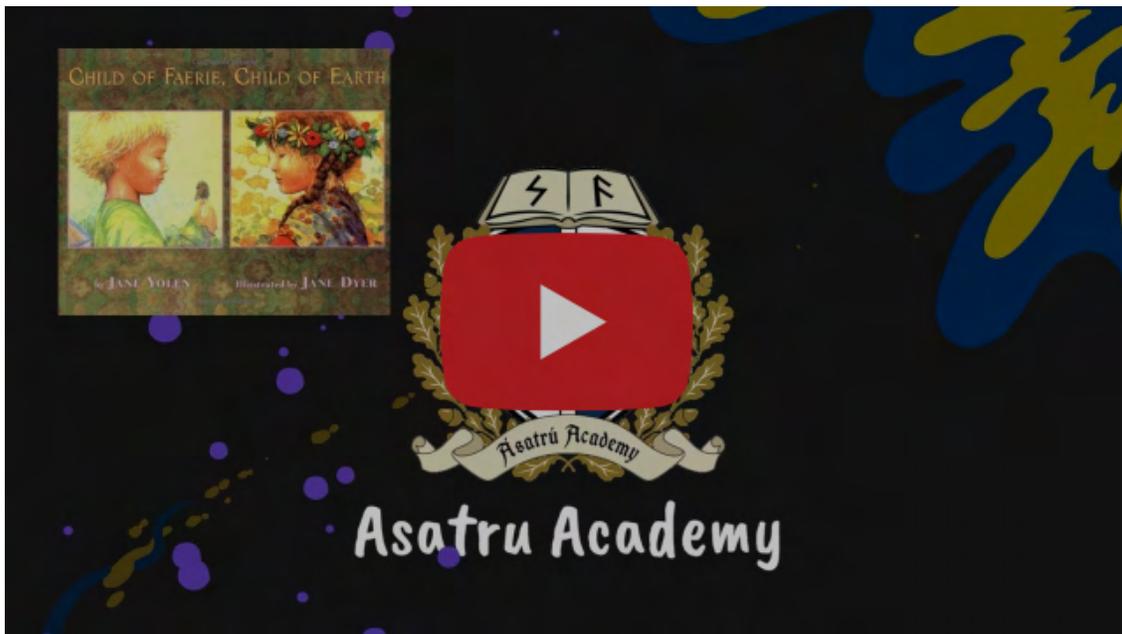
Hard to believe that we are nearing Yule, and halfway through our school year. We are all very proud of you and the entire Assembly cheers you on!



Parents, every Friday we have a parents, students, and teachers meeting. Check the parent's group in MeWe, or your email for the link to these meetings. I can't begin to tell you how helpful these meetings are. We have a live story telling for the kids, and also, we have Gythia Mcnallen often on the calls who is a very experienced teacher and can offer some tips and tricks to help you on your educational journey.



Our fantastic staff is always here to help and guide in any way we can! The meetings also help our parents to get to know each other, share our triumphs, and our troubles, and support each other. Experienced homeschoolers are there to offer good advice to those who are brand new to homeschooling. And we also have a lot of fun! We really hope to see you all on the calls on Fridays!

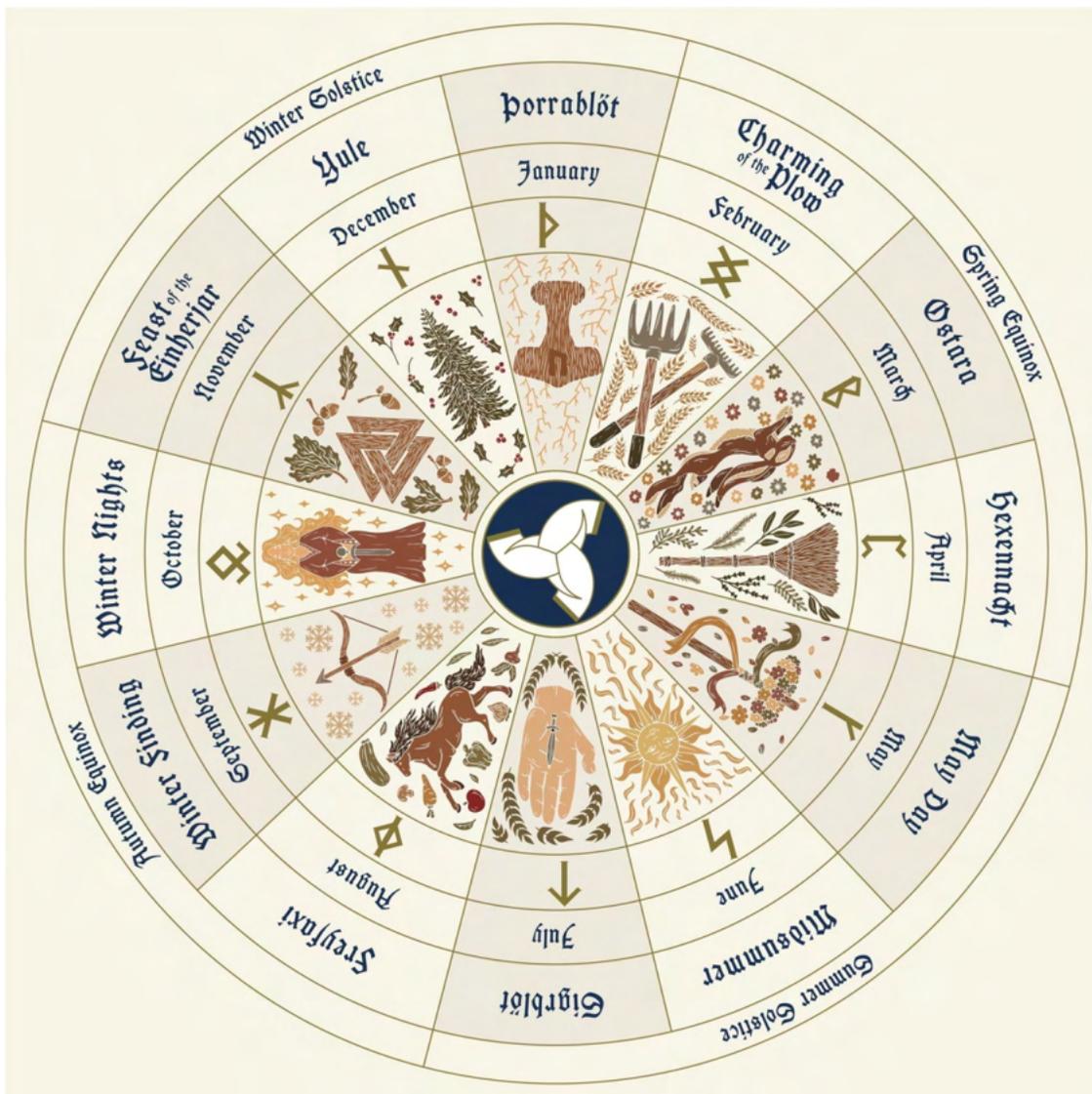


A lot of the story tellings are being put up on the AFA YT, along with many other story-time videos, so make sure to check those out! We're having so much fun helping to put out solid content for our kids!



Gothi Rob Stamm
Dean of AFA Academy
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Remembrance & Holy Days



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

2023

Date	Observance
January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 21	Þorrablót
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 10	Day of Remembrance for John Yeowell “Stubba”
April 28 (observed on 15th)	Hexennacht
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
May 1 (observed on 20th)	May Day
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric of the Goths
June 21 (observed on 17th)	Midsummer
July 4	Day of Remembrance for Sveinbjorn Beinteinsson
July 9	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills
July 15	Sigrblót
August 9	Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia
August 19	Freyfaxi
September 9	Day of Remembrance for Prince Hermann of the Cherusci
September 22 (observed on 16th)	Winter Finding
October 1	Day of Remembrance for John Gibbs-Bailey “Hoskuld”
October 9	Day of Remembrance for Meister Guido von List
October 15	Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen
October 21	Winter Nights
November 9	Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigríð of Sweden
November 11 (observed on 18th)	Feast of the Einherjar
December 9	Day of Remembrance for Egill Skallagrímsson
December 20	Mother's Night

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

Day of Remembrance

Queen Sigríð of Sweden | November 9



Though little information of Sigríð, Queen of Sweden, exists in a historical text, the stories abound. Born a Swedish noblewoman Sigríð married Erik the Victorious and together they had one son. She became the Regent after the king's death, and it wasn't long before her vast wealth drew out all of the suitors, one of whom was her own foster brother.

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

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

What can we learn from this story?

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

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



Gythia Catie Erickson
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Holiday

Feast of the Einherjar | November 11 (Observed November 18)



One of the most recognizable motifs in Asatru is that of the Viking warrior. Helm, sword, beard, and blood: boys and girls have long been mesmerized by the stories of Valkyries and the eternal feasting and fighting of the Einherjar in Odin's Hall, Valhalla. Pop culture has taken the Berserker and the Valkyrie and remade them hundreds of times.

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

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

You don't have to have any veterans in your immediate family. It is a guarantee that somewhere down your ancestral lines you have family who fought in war, and most as

likely, that some of them didn't return from the front lines. It is in your blood. So, raise that horn, and raise it high. Remember our fallen.

Hail the Einherjar!



Gythia Catie Erickson
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Winter Nights XII at Sigrheim

Winter Nights XII



Hail to you, Folk!

On the last weekend of October our Folk gathered from near and far at Sigrheim to celebrate the 12th annual AFA Winter Nights. From as far California and as near as Jackson County, Tennessee we came together.



On Friday afternoon, we began with a Procession of the Nine Noble Virtues led by Witan Erickson, who boasted the virtues of the Folk as they announced themselves loudly and upward to greet our Gods, Ancestors, and the Landvaettir. Later that evening, Alsherjargothi Flavel lead the Folk up to the top of Sigrheim where he made Blot to Tyr and hailed our Tenth Virtue, Victory! Gythia Catie and many helpers prepared a hearty vegetable and chicken soup for supper.



On Saturday, we had eggs and sausage for breakfast followed by children's crafts, ladies' discussion with Witan Brandy, osteomancy with Gythia Catie, and a Halloween costume parade of the children. After a Q&A with our Gothar, the Folk helped the Asatru Folk Assembly raise \$4600 in our benefit auction and raffle.



Supper on Saturday was a delicious beef stroganoff over buttered egg noodles, with squash soup and salad on the side. During supper, Katie Joyner took her Oath as an AFA Folkbuilder! We then headed up to the Sigrheim cemetery for Alfar Blot and Disir Blots from Witan Young and Gythia Catie. Our ancestors were called, and the present Folk felt their presence, and as Witan Young told me after some of us “left something up on that hill”. Sumbel was heartfelt and powerful, but you must have been there to know the words poured into the Well.



On Sunday morning after sausage and cheese grits prepared Folkbuilder Joyner, Witan Brandy led the Folk in a Wayfarer's Blot to Frigga reminding us to bring home the energy we built on this holy weekend.



I can't name everyone who made this event so successful, but special thanks to all our Gothar and Folkbuilders who ran this event, to all the auction donors and bidders, to Sarah Dye for donating the coffee and summer squash used all weekend, and to Gilbert Page for donating so many beautiful wood carvings. Thank you most of all to Nick Rice, the Youngs, the Betheas, and to my wife for the many days spent at Sigrheim making it ready.



Hail the Gods!
Hail the Ancestors!
Hail the Folk!



Witan Clifford Erickson
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A Winter Nights Reflection



This past weekend we celebrated the 12 Annual Winter Nights at Sigheim, and what a great weekend it was. As wonderful a weekend as it was, however, doubt plagued us for months before the event.

Facility cancellations, lack of any utilities like running water and electricity, overgrown fields, and fallen tree's blocking the path to Tyr's Ridge- we knew we were going to have a lot to contend with this year.



There are a few Folk who turned out for hours, days, weekends, to make sure that Sigrheim would be ready for all of us to take over. Nick Rice, Tyler Bethea, Kevin Flynn, The Young Family, and Riley Cox, all of you showed up to do the hard, but necessary work in the grueling summer sun and without you we could not have gotten it all done. Thank you so much! And a shout out to our Folkbuilders who worked their tails off during the event, too! It takes teamwork to make the dream work and we have a great team.



For myself, Winter Nights is one of the highlights of my year. It was the first big event I performed an AFA blot at, and I have been doing it ever since. My husband proposed to me during sumbel at a Winter Nights. We announced that we were having our daughter at a Winter Nights. We have watched our children grow alongside the other children of the AFA at Winter Nights.



For all that Winter Nights is my favorite, however, it is the one event I attend that I spend the very least amount of time socializing with our Folk at. This year, for example, I don't think I had a single conversation with anyone outside of car time while I helped drive people to and from Airbnb's. So much of my time is spent running around, no doubt appearing like a chicken with its head cut off.

Here's the thing, though. What I see while I'm rushing around the tent to clean up the tables before the "next thing"? Groups of people getting to know each other and building bonds. What I hear while I'm rushing up the hill to prepare the ritual space? The buzz of conversations filling the valley. When I'm in the kitchen getting the next meal ready? The laughter of our feral pack of children as they build lasting friendships with children they will know forever.



And in the few moments, here and there, when I let myself take a few moments break? Smiles. Everywhere. I saw our strong, noble Aryan men, women, and children building the Asatru community that we have all, at some point, longed for. A community that, though separated by miles and miles, still manages to feel perfectly natural whenever it gathers together.



To everyone who came to Winter Nights at Sigrheim, thank you for helping to build the future for our children!

I look forward to seeing all of you again next year, and Hopefully I'll have a chance to chat with all of you before then!



Gythia Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org

Winter Nights at Sigrheim



Thank you to Thorshof District for your incredible show of hospitality at Winter Nights 2023 at Sigrheim! I am amazed at each and every event that I attend at the Frith, friendship, and devotion to Folk and Gods, but Sigrheim had an extra special impact.

For those who have not yet made their trek to Sigrheim, please do. There is something magical and powerful about stepping on to the land the first time.

The cemetery is both solemn and sacred, surrounded by beauty and serenity. Seeing the headstones and understanding the amount of love and work that had gone into clearing and fixing this special place is still moving to think about.



The hike to the top of the location of the future Hof is beautiful. While it does take effort, the experience itself as a lead up to a sacred ritual prepares you in a very powerful way.



The fields that will hold our future homes and halls hums with energy and the emotion of the Folk who have been so diligently maintaining it.

The mountains literally echo with the devotion of our Folk in ritual!



Sigrheim is an experience all Folk should have. Thank you to the Folk and to the leadership who are paving the way for Victory!!

Witan Brandy Callahan
bcallahan@runestone.org



Upcoming National Events

Feast of the Einherjar in South Dakota | November 9th-12th

FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR

GET YOUR TICKETS AT [RUNESTONE.ORG](https://runestone.org)

 An illustration of a large group of Vikings sitting at long tables covered with white cloths, feasting outdoors. The setting is a cliffside overlooking a blue sea under a bright sky. The Vikings are dressed in traditional attire, and the scene is filled with food, drink, and a festive atmosphere.

SPECIAL GUESTS:
FOUNDERS ELDER STEPHEN AND GYTHIA SHEILA MCNALLEN

SOUTH DAKOTA
Nov. 9-12

Contact Goði Nathan Erlandson or Folkbuilder Ashley
McStocker for more info nerlandson@runestone.org
amcstocker@runestone.org

> [Get your tickets HERE!](https://runestone.org) <

Join your Folk in honoring our warrior ancestors and those that still fight for the folk today! Veterans Day weekend in South Dakota November 9-12.



Ticket includes all meals, lodging, Folk activities, and ceremonies. Tickets \$100 for individual, \$125 for family.

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

Gothi Nathan Erlandson
nerlandson@runestone.org



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2023

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"Gothic Runes is the Das Rheingold of runic books."

Cooking for our Folk



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

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

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

So, what does this mean for the folk? Plan and simply don't take shortcuts. Whenever I

pick up the knife and began cooking for the folk, I think of it as channeling the ancestors. Cooking reminds me of that age-old musing “I don’t measure seasoning; I wait for the tap on the shoulder from the ancestors to tell me that’s enough.”

When you cook from the heart, people can tell. Don’t cook out of spite or obligation. Cook for the folk because you want to! Find new recipes. Test them. Make them better. And when your heart tells you it is right...time to serve. If you have never made cookies from scratch...make them. Why not? Use the best ingredients you can afford (don’t take out a second mortgage for this) but be proud to feed the folk.

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



Folkbuilder Mike Joyner
mjoyner@runestone.org

AFA Prison Ministry



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

We are compiling letters from prisoners that are Educational, Empowering, and Encouraging along with special spiritual writings from our Gothar to create a quarterly newsletter to be distributed to inmates, institutions, and jails. Our mission is not about providing free books or literature to bored prisoners who simply want free stuff. We intend on making real-world change for the better of our folk.

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

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

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



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



James Ault
Prison Ministry Director
jault@runestone.org

Ancestral Food and Culture

Apfelkucken Recipe



An Autumn treat enjoyed with coffee breakfast, after supper for dessert, or even for a nice snack. Perfect for the leftover apple pickings. Enjoy this classic traditional German dish with your family and friends.

Apfelkucken
8 Granny Smith apples

4 thinly sliced
4 chopped
2 c granulated sugar
5 tbl granulated sugar
2 tsp ground cinnamon
3 c all purpose flour
1 1/2 tsp salt
1 1/2 baking soda
1 1/2 baking powder
6 eggs
1 c applesauce
2 tsp vanilla extract
1/3 c orange juice

Glaze:

1 1/2 c powdered sugar
2 tbl butter
1 tbl water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter to round cake pans, dust with flour, tap out excess flour.

Peel, core, and slice apples then place in bowl. Mix sugar and cinnamon toss evenly.

In a large mixing bowl combine flour, 2 c sugar, salt, baking soda and powder. Add eggs, applesauce, vanilla extract, and orange juice.

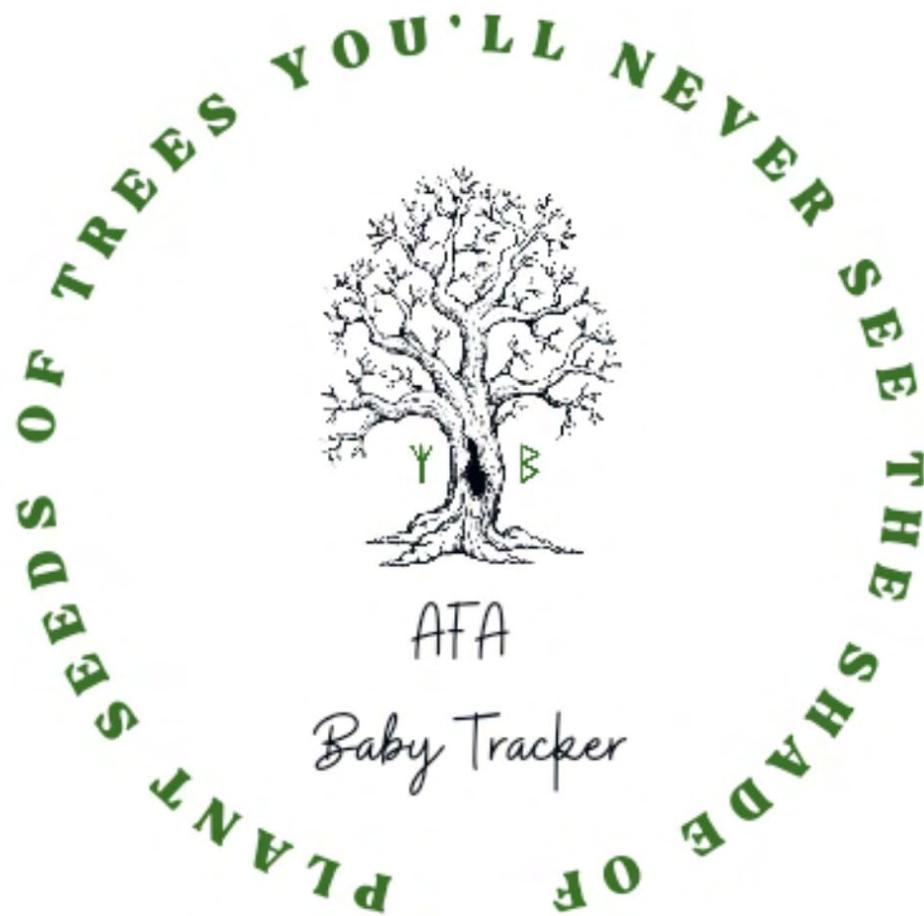
Fill bottom of each pan with batter, then layer with apple slices and chopped apples, and add remaining batter on top.

Bake for 1 hour, prick with toothpick to ensure its fully baked.

Mix glaze ingredients until smooth. Drizzle over cakes. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream on top or coffee.

— Timmy, Member, Ohio

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: 26

Online Events and Meetings



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



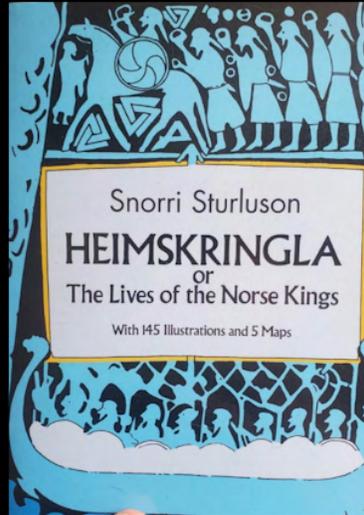
With Jaclynn Duffy
jduffy@runestone.org

VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID: 885 2917 0746

PASSWORD: Virtue

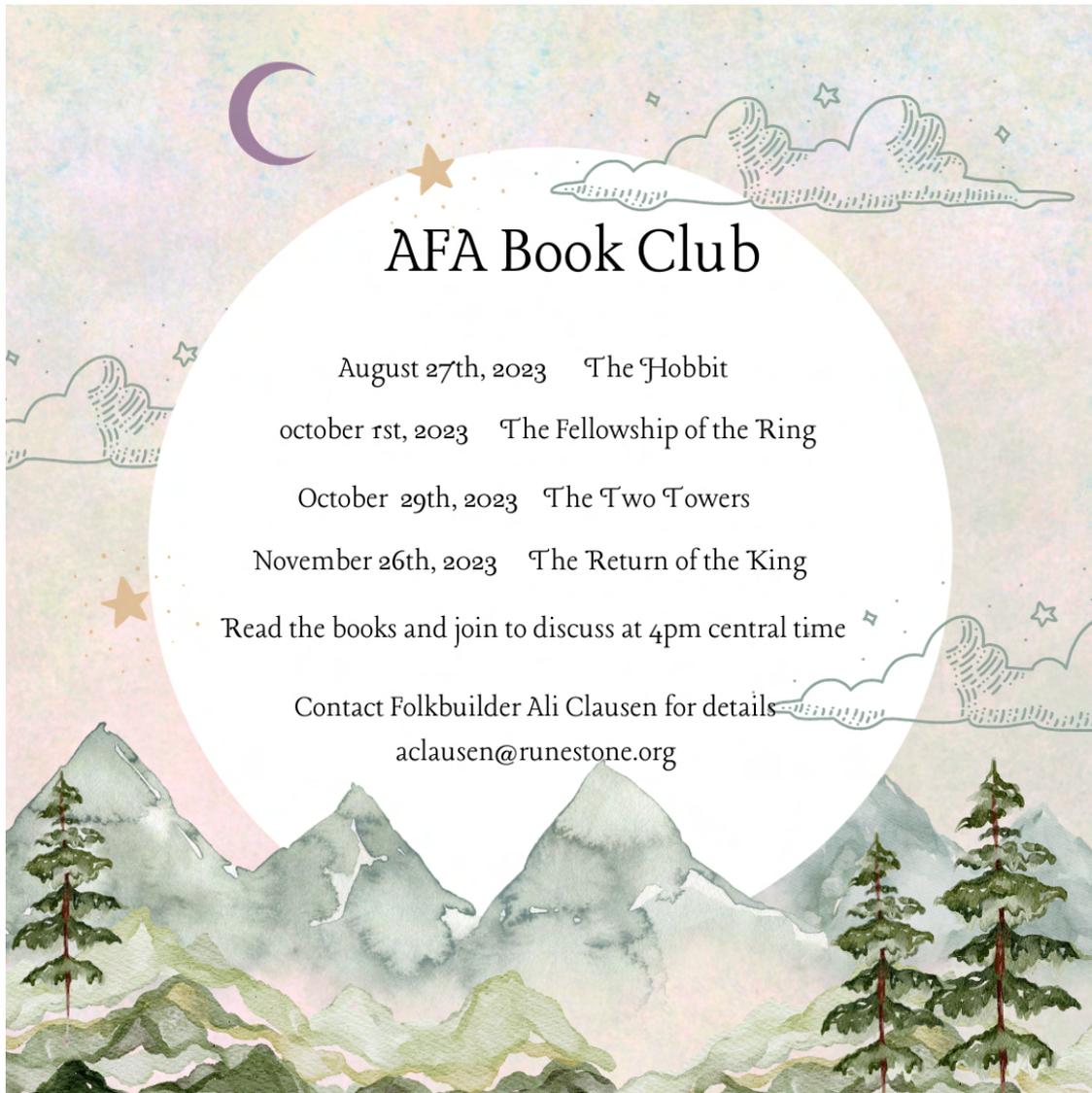
Lore Study with Gothi Jason Plourde



**Join us every Tuesday night
at 8:30 pm EST**

**The link can be found in the AFA
Spiritual Excellence Group on Mewe.**

**For more information
reach out to Gothi Plourde
jplourde@runestone.org**



AFA Book Club

August 27th, 2023 The Hobbit

October 1st, 2023 The Fellowship of the Ring

October 29th, 2023 The Two Towers

November 26th, 2023 The Return of the King

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

Contact Folkbuilder Ali Clausen for details

aclausen@runestone.org

Ladies Book Study

Thursday Nights at

7 pm CST

Link for Teams meeting will be posted in
the AFA Ladies group on MeWe

For more information contact:

Gythia Brandy Callahan

bcallahan@runestone.org

or

Folkbuilder Sara Ault

sault@runestone.org



Ladies Mysteries Podcast

Yule Traditions

Sunday, November 26th

at

2:30 pm CST

Witan Brandy Callahan

Gythia Anna Plourde

Gythia Catie Erickson

Folkbuilder Sara Ault

Folkbuilder Heather Young

Folkbuilder Ali Clausen

***Link will be emailed to all AFA
Ladies the week before and posted
in the AFA Ladies Group on Mewe***



Sisters' Fitness Challenge



*Introducing the all new
AFA Sisters
Fitness Challenge*

NOVEMBER '23

*\$5 to join
Prize money and keychain
for the champion!*

Contact Folkbuilder Ali
Clausen for details and to
join on MeWe, by email
aclausen@runestone.org,
or text 402-853-4246

Introducing the new and improved Sisters Fitness Challenge! We invite all our AFA ladies to join us on this monthly challenge to improve our health and strive for Physical Excellence. We ask you to set three realistic daily health goals for yourself and we'll help to support you to Victory throughout the month! This is not a weight loss challenge; this is a challenge to build new and healthier habits, to build the areas of our life that need improvement, and to get out and get active! The woman who hits her goals the most consistently throughout the month will be awarded the prize money, as well as a small prize declaring her the Sister's Fitness Champion for the month! \$5 to join, please contact me for details and to join the fitness challenge!

Folkbuilder Alison Clausen
aclausen@runestone.org



Just For Fun

Now Available in the AFA Store



Tis' the season for decorating, hosting, feasting, and staying cozy indoors. Show your Hof pride to all your guests with a flag! Spark conversation, maybe even interest, among those who find themselves in your Hall this Fall, and bring the Folk home to Asatru!



[Check out the selection and fly your flag high!](#)



Folkbuilder Ali Clausen
aclausen@runestone.org

Óðinshof

Food Pantry at Óðinshof



Caring and Sharing at Winter Nights. We've developed a standard routine for our Oðinshof Food Pantry throughout the year. For October, bags of groceries for neighbors -- near and far -- were filled by Thursday, ready to haul out to the tables Saturday morning. As part of our Friday evening activities, we gathered for a candlelit Oðinn Blót led by Founder Stephen McNallen in front of our Hof's magnificent mural. It was a powerful experience to begin Winter Nights weekend in this special way.



No surprise, we awoke to a stunning Fall day. It came with a mellow feeling—no big rush needed. The families who drove in for food remarked on it as well. Stephen McNallen did his friendly saunter around to all the cars saying “Good Morning!” and checking in with each. Everyone also received a personal invitation to attend Oðinshof’s movie matinee the next afternoon. We all worked so well together. In the end, we gave food to 45 families, representing 110 individuals.



What comes next? We’re now hitting the busy months of the year. In November, we bring out turkeys with “sides” for our food pantry families. With our numbers up, year

over year, Hof Steward Daniel will bring his pickup to the IFM for a load of frozen turkeys. Our neighbors are thrilled to get a pound of ground meat each month. Imagine when they're offered 12-pound turkeys!



And then, December means YULE! We will have extra food, toys and more movies for the community. I promise you'll be hearing lots more about this!

Many thanks to all who support our work and our efforts to build our reputation in this community.

Hail the Doers!

Hail the Folk!



Gythia Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org

Winter Nights at Óðinshof



This month at Óðinshof we celebrated Winter Nights. It was my first event back--after a few months hiatus due to family reasons. When I walked into the Hof, the changes to the Hall (thanks to hardworking volunteers on our Hof Work Weekends) were extremely apparent. It felt much more functional and like a home, as opposed to an event hall.



We started Friday night with the first ever Oðinn Blót in front of his mural and altar. It was a magical feeling to hear Elder McNallen speak from his heart and allow the words to flow with no previous days of preparation.

We ate dinner, cleaned up, and headed off to bed as we knew the next morning was bound to be busy!

Saturday morning started off bright and early with breakfast being made the smell of cinnamon and nutmeg filling the air. Gythia McNallen and I decided that, with the cold snap we were having, it would be nice to offer our community some hot coffee while they waited for their turn to collect food. A coffee cart was put together and much appreciated by the community. The food pantry was a big success as usual, and lunch was prepared and ready to serve.



In honor of our Ancestors, lunch was "Marge's Midgard Chili"-- Miss Katie's mom's recipe! Us ladies gathered together and Kulned to call our folk in for lunch, a new tradition we are implementing for meals and blots.



Founder McNallen blessed the meal. The chili and cornbread were delicious. After lunch, we had our Greeting to the Gods, led Gythia McNallen.



We then gathered inside the Hall, where Elder McNallen recited his poem "October Women". After a few general AFA updates, the men went outside and contemplated their goals. They wrote down their blessings, the things they need to focus on, and the steps they will take to achieve two of them.



Inside, the women had their ladies' chat and "tea time", where they painted small treasure boxes and completed the same blessings exercise as the men.



Children spent the afternoon engaged in various games including Mummy Wrap, Archery, Chess, and Monopoly. They also did some pumpkin painting and made adorable mummy lanterns with googly eyes.



After a delicious dinner, we headed outside for Blot. Gythia McNallen put on a beautiful Disirblót that was bound to touch many, myself included, when I felt my grandmother embrace me in a hug and fill me with warmth. My daughter began kicking

up a storm as I felt the embrace overtake me. It was impossible to hold back tears. Blot ended and everyone pulled a rune as a message from their ancestors.



The rest of the night was spent exchanging stories about loved ones who've passed beyond the veil, discussing the meaning behind their runes, and considering what message their mother may have for them from this rune and Sumbel.

Everyone turned in for the night and got ready for the Movie Matinée on Sunday!



Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman
schapman@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Odinshof





ODINSHOF WANTS
YOU!

Work Weekend

Nov 11 - 12

Cabinets - Flooring - Paint
Inventory - inside/outside maintenance

PLEASE RSVP FOR A HEAD COUNT
DODOM@RUNESTONE.ORG
TEXT: 209-688-2598

**ÓÐINSHOF
MOVIE MATINÉE**

**BRING YOUR
FAMILY &
FRIENDS!**

**POPCORN
&
HOT DOGS**

BRAVEHEART

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19
11AM**

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT!

- FOOD & DRINKS
- CHILDREN'S MOVIE & PLAY AREA
- \$ DONATIONS BENEFIT FOOD PANTRY

CONTACT: OSUTHERLAND@RUNESTONE.ORG
LOCATION: 8408 LA PORTE RD. BROWNSVILLE, CA

Óðinshof Leaders



Leaders of Oðinshof District

GOTHAR

Matt Flavel	mattflavel@runestone.org
Brandy Callahan	bcallahan@runestone.org
Sheila McNallen	sheila@runestone.org
Thorgrun Odden	todden@runestone.org

FOLKBUILDERS

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

APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDERS

Angelina Stone (CA)	astone@runestone.org
Olivia Sutherland (CA)	osutherland@runestone.org
Kyle Reader (ID)	kreader@runestone.org
Aaron Simbeck (WA)	asimbeck@runestone.org

HOF STEWARD

Daniel Odom	dodom@runestone.org
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FOUNDER

Stephen McNallen	wolfagemedia@gmail.com
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Pumpkin Cooking Challenge



We're coming up on another Odinshof district-wide event on November 9th. Last month we hiked and held blot to Odin at the summit. We are still inviting you to carry this on every night, but November's primary activity is going to be held at the hearth.

We're inviting all of you to bake or cook using a recipe that's primary ingredient is pumpkin. There's lots of great options for you to try at out from the comfort of your own home, or, if you're lucky enough to have members nearby, go ahead and get together locally.

The important part is that when we do this on the same day, we transcend geographic boundaries. No matter where you are in the Odinshof District, you'll be with all the members who participate.

Please take pictures of the final results, and keep a copy of the recipes as well. You'll send them my way so we can put together an AFA pumpkin cookbook and showcase all the fun we had too!

As always, for any questions on the Odinshof 9th activity or the hikes being done throughout the district, feel free to contact me.



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein
theinlein@runestone.org

Boasts and Toasts

A Valentine Message



At the end of October, on a snowy and frosty day in beautiful Montana, we had the great joy of meeting the newest member of our clan -- Thorfinn Valentine. Big, strong, 11 pound boy, son of Vincent and Felicity.

Arizona

Arizona Pumpkin Patch



In October, the Arizona AFA family met at a pumpkin patch for some family fun. We met some new friends who drove for hours to spend time with us and had a great time catching up with longtime AFA loyalists too. It's amazing to see how fast our kids are growing up. We rode a miniature train, saw some farm animals, and a couple of the kids played with miniature power shovels and dug in the sand. Kathleen, my 11-month-old daughter, was so excited by the pumpkin patch itself that she looked fascinated the entire time. Every time she saw a pumpkin, she said "Ball!" I only wish we could have spent even more time together.

Coming up this month, we are going to the Pima Air and Space Museum to see some vintage aircraft, including some massive B-52s. It will be Sunday, November 19th. I hope to see you there!



Folkbuilder Lou Nickerson
lnickerson@runestone.org

California

Adopt-a-Highway



Over the weekend of October 6-8th, I came out to help with Hof renovations and our monthly California Adopt-a-Highway cleanup. With the combined forces of Hof Steward Daniel Odom, AFA Founder Stephen McNallen, and Yours Truly, we

successfully knocked out cleaning up our stretch of the highway in no time! Great company, good jokes, and devotion to our High Gods kept us going.

I highly recommend members come out and volunteer at the next one! If you're looking for a good time, look no further!

Contact your Folkbuilder for more info.



Brodin Sutherland
Member

Wotan on the Peaks



It's been a whirlwind of events in California! At the beginning of the month, we hosted a hike up Mt. Wanda for Wotan on the Peaks. The sky was grey and full of dark clouds. It was the first real “Fall-feeling” day for us, and luckily we came prepared with jackets and sweaters for our chilly hike.

Along the way, our children created hair wreaths and a sunwheel out of the dried grasses. We stopped to observe the woodpeckers and read about the more than 100 species of birds that live on Mt. Wanda.

At the top of the mountain, our oldest daughter read aloud about the names of the mountains. We learned that John Muir named Mt. Wanda after his eldest daughter. He named the peak to the north Mt. Helen after his youngest daughter. We're fortunate that John Muir had the foresight to secure natural beauty for future generations.



Before hiking back down, we did a Blót to Óðinn and Hof Hero Meister Guido Von List, incorporating the dried grass sunwheel that the kids made.



I'll leave you with this quote by John Muir, "Let children walk in Nature, let them see the beautiful blendings and communions of death and life, their joyous inseparable unity, as taught in woods and meadows, plains and mountains and streams..."

Oktoberfests!



A few weeks later, we gathered at an Oktoberfest in Walnut Creek. Folk came from all over the state, with one couple driving up all the way from Los Angeles (a 7 hour drive)! It was so nice just spending time with everyone.



We listened to musical performances, ate pretzels, sipped seasonal beer, and enjoyed catching up with one another. This was the day before Founder Steve McNallen's 75th birthday, and he was looking forward to going skydiving!



Another Oktoberfest was attended by our California Folk, a little farther North of us on the same day. It was hosted by the AFA's Hagvirkr Kindred, and I heard they also had a fantastic day.



Wish we could've been in two places at once!

Monthly Movie Matinée



Winter Nights at Óðinshof was so warm and bright, bringing in new faces and familiar Folk alike! On the Sunday following the main event, we hosted the first Monthly Movie Matinée at Óðinshof. These are free events for the community, though donations are welcomed. After Gythia Sheila McNallen shared a brief history of our Hof, we turned off all the lights.



Our Hof was lit up by candles, making it warm and cozy on this rainy day—perfect for our classic 1947 ghost movie! Attendees enjoyed buttery popcorn and drinks.



We also had a little children's theater set up separately in the other room. Fun for all! The best part was that we made someone's day—a lady who'd never visited before came to watch the movie, and it just happened to be her birthday! She expressed a need for some friends during this time in her life, and she certainly made some.

For the next Movie Matinée, we will be showing Braveheart on Sunday, November 19th at 11AM! If you can come out for the Feast of the Einherjar, consider staying over to help out and enjoy a great film with your beloved Folk!

Virtual Connections - Daughters of Frigg



Our Daughters of Frigg group meets both in-person and virtually these days! While some of us live close enough to make regular trips to Óðinshof and moots in-person, many of us do not. Our district is very widespread, spanning multiple states and countries. Even for those of us who have feasible drives to the Hof and to moots, it's certainly nice to have ways to stay connected to Folk for the times in between. Luckily, we live in very "techy" times.



Ladies throughout our district have been taking part in a monthly ritual “First Fridays for Frigg”. This is a special time where we collectively connect, from the comfort of our own homes, by beginning each month honoring the Goddess Frigg.



Daughters of Frigg gather special objects and photographs, light candles or raise horns, and speak bright words honoring Frigg. We then share our photos of doing this activity. In a way, this helps unify our women as we worship together.

Remember that you are never alone, even on the coldest and darkest of these winter's nights. Our ancestors are always with you. Your Gothar and Folkbuilders are just a call or a text message away. Reach out!

Upcoming Events

Annual Óðinshof Tree Cutting on the Mountain- Not for the faint
of heart or those lacking in 4-wheel-drive!

Yule Tree Moot

MT. SHASTA
California
NOVEMBER 21
CONTACT OSUTHERLAND@RUNESTONE.ORG

It's been our family tradition (for multiple generations) to go up Mt. Shasta around Thanksgiving time to cut down a Yule Tree. For the past few years, we've been bringing a Yule Tree to Óðinshof as well, and this time we're making it an official moot! We'd like to invite you to our annual Tree Cutting! The more the merrier, but please let me know you're coming so we can coordinate going up the mountain safely together and so we will bring plenty of cocoa and noodle soup!

First Fridays For Frigg



December 1st

Contact
osutherland@runestone.org

Daughters of Frigg
in-person & on MeWe!

The next Daughters of Frigg "First Fridays For Frigg" is December 1st. If you don't know what to do but want to participate, please reach out!



As schedules get hectic around this time, please save the date for December 21st, as we will be baking Yule Cookies! Yum!

Bless all our Folk this November--this wonderous season of reflection, peace, and gratitude as the world around us slows down in time and space. May it be a warm and merry time leading up to Yule for you and yours.



Olivia Sutherland
Apprentice Folkbuilder
osutherland@runestone.org

Service Before Self



In August of 2010, I was shipped off to San Antonio, Texas to begin what would be my military career. I enlisted in the United States Air Force, and though I scored a 77 on my ASVAB, I had unlimited opportunities. I chose to become a member of Security Forces. I had friends who did the job, and they even warned me not to do it, but my mind was set as a young 21-year-old, who thought they knew everything. Only a few people in my family supported my decision-- my grandfather on my mother's side, and reluctantly, my own father. I had wasted a year of college doing things I did not enjoy, and, after a lot of thought, I decided it was my time to do something for my country. I

actually was seeing a guy at the time (for the past 3 years), and he told me that if I enlisted, he would leave me. Cutting that fat was easy.



Basic Training was an 8 tough weeks of transformation. It changed a lot of perspectives for me, and for a time, I felt as though the word "female" was a slur with the way the male Military Training Instructors spoke it. My family came to see me at my graduation, and I could not have been more proud of myself. I spent the next 13 weeks, still at Lackland, but now doing Technical Training. I was learning everything beneath the umbrella of Security Forces, from law enforcement, domestics, traffic stops, vehicle inspections, and signs of duress. The day that orders for our first duty station were given, I was shocked to find that I had landed Misawa AB, Japan. Now 22 years old, I was a world traveler.

Everything about Japan was so different from America, from the way the people treat one another, their environment, and anything else they hold sacred. I visited onsens, mom and pop's ramen shops, karaoke bars, and so much more. Being the smallest in my squad, they decided I needed to carry the largest gun, the M249 machine gun. Luckily, a few months later, the Air Force instructions would change and the weapon would be removed from normal posting regulations.

The most notable thing to happen within my military career was the 9.0 earthquake that happened in Japan! It was insane to watch the sidewalks rolling like waves of the

ocean, and the buildings on rollers swayed so much that one might think they would collide into each other. But that was not the case. We went without power for 5 days in "non-essential" buildings and consumed MREs for 5 days. Civilians were sent home on Uncle Sam's dollar, and military units from other nations came to help with the relief. It was amazing to see all the different uniforms, hear the different languages, and see how they all came to Japan's aid. I did my part in helping a local farm get their land cleaned up. Unfortunately, they were swine farmers and they lost their whole stock.



After two years in Japan, I was sent to McConnell AFB in Wichita, Kansas. Although McConnell was not a fighter jet base as Misawa was, they had the freight planes. Misawa had the F-15s and McConnell had the C-17s. Working the flightline was probably the worst and best part of the job. Working gates was the worst, and I really hated traffic violations. In 2014, I ended my military career with an Honorable Discharge. In June of 2021, I began my education really cracking down and utilizing my Post 9/11 GI Bill. In October of next year, I will graduate with my Bachelor's Degree in Cybersecurity.

I learned a lot, changed a lot, and grew under my enlistment, and that will always be apart of who I am - from now until forever.



Angelina Stone
Apprentice Folkbuilder
astone@runestone.org

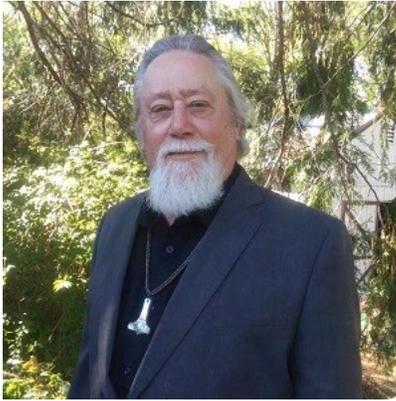
Óðinshof Renovations - New Kitchen



Our Hof Steward, Daniel Odom, Paul Stevens, Bob Stanley, Brodie Sutherland, and other volunteers have been steadily working since September on renovating the old primitive kitchen, which was constructed back in the 1930's. It is in the process of becoming a functional modern kitchen and dining space. The first steps were relocating the new oven and range and creating a wall to separate the kitchen from the multi-use area. The work crew has put up drywall, fresh paint, and installed a lot of new plumbing and electrical work. The kitchen is now a lot more work-friendly for our cook and kitchen staff.

All of this work has been volunteer; done in spare time from other duties and jobs. Thank you for all of the sweat and dedication!

Óðinshof is a great old building and in need of care--adding new life to the old "girl".



Gothi Thorgrun Odden
todden@runestone.org

A "Rune Nest" in the Park



One of our AFA brothers, while walking through the park, decided to build a sort of "rune nest" beside the trail. A few sticks and it was done - an Algiz rune, artfully framed and calling to the curiosity of passers-by. Some few will recognize the rune and be inspired by this symbol of our ancestral culture; they may go home and seek to learn

more. Others will experience Mystery and, for a moment, break the deadly trance of daily life... Either way, the rune will have affected the consciousness of the beholder.



Gythia Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

Idaho

What's Going on in South East Idaho?



Hey Everyone! I hope your October was amazing and that you were able to get out and spend some time with your Folk. My October was spent mostly in the mountains taking my 10-year-old son on his first deer hunt, but that didn't stop us from getting together with Folk in the area for an awesome pumpkin carving moot, dinner, and Blot to the Disir.

Upcoming Events



This month, we will be doing a Movie Night Moot on November 18th at my home. I would love for anyone in the area to come over and spend time with your Folk. If having to find somewhere to stay overnight, due to how spread out we all are, is the only thing stopping you from coming--please don't let it! My home is open to anyone coming to a moot to stay the night. Just let me know ahead of time so I can plan accordingly.



Kyle Reader
Apprentice Folkbuilder
kreader@runestone.org

Montana

October in Montana



We began October with an Odin Blot atop the Continental Divide on the 9th. The Divide is an interesting and special place. It not only creates a dividing mountain range North to South, but rain that falls, or snow that melts on its slopes and flows West, goes out to the Pacific.



That which flows East, makes its way to the Atlantic. We give Blot to the Allfather from this mountain range, so that our words and deeds flow both towards our origins,

Eastward from the states, and also Westward, much as our ancestors made their way West, colonizing and creating.



On October 14th, we gathered together at the Queen City Oktoberfest in Helena MT. Beer, food, music, competitions and great company were had. We got the chance to dress up a bit, but I still don't own Lederhosen... Because of our attire, we were approached by a few people who asked about it.



This gave us the chance to do a bit of community education, and those who thought that Oktoberfest was just about drinking beer and eating Pretzels, learned the significance of the cultural garb, which side a woman ties her Dirndl on based on age and marital status, that the celebration traditionally begins in September and ends the first weekend of October, and that it began as a celebration of the marriage of Prince Ludwig to Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen. Whether they appreciated it or not, people walked away with a new appreciation of a Volkish festival.



We closed out the month with Winter Nights at the Greaney residence and were joined by three new friends!



Of course we feasted, but we also carved Turnips as our ancestors in the Isles would have, as Pumpkins are a new world crop.





We threw axes, and were warmed by comradery as the temperature dipped. A full month to be sure!



Our plans for November include:

Odin Blot on Nov 9th

Feast of the Einherjar on Nov 25th.

Other events may occur, but are dependent on the weather.



Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan
rharlan@runestone.org

Nevada

Alsherjargothic Dinner



Thank you to folks who joined us for our monthly meal! By the time this issue is released, our November meal will have happened but as always, Mandy and I invite any of our members in the area to join us at our table for a meal and fellowship in December.



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

Washington

A PNW Introduction



Hi Folks,

My name is Aaron Simbeck, and I'll be Folkbuilding in Washington. I figured I'd introduce myself so y'all know I'm around to help. I love everything outdoors, from fishing and hunting to skiing and backpacking. I've been with the AFA for 2 years, and I'm excited to see what I can do as a Folkbuilder in my state. Feel free to reach out if you need anything, I'm available most of the time.



Aaron Simbeck
Apprentice Folkbuilder
asimbeck@runestone.org

Be a Doer



We need you to volunteer for the AFA!

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

Please email volunteer@runestone.org to help us make a difference in our world.

Baby Blanket Project

The Women of the AFA are proud to be continuing this fine and noble work we call the Baby Blanket Project! We're committed to ensuring all new babies born within the AFA are gifted a handmade — knit, crocheted, or woven — baby blanket! It's just our little way of celebrating each new addition to our folk!

This project has been going strong for nearly a year now, and has been a rousing success! The Ladies of the AFA have knitted, crocheted, and sewn beautiful baby blankets for over 20 of our littlest folk, with more on the way. They've been delivered everywhere from Alaska to Florida, California to Sweden!

If you are a member of the AFA who is expecting a baby, please let your Folkbuilder know so we can get a blanket to you. If you would like to contribute, either financially or by volunteering as a baby blanket crafter, let your Folkbuilder know about that as well, so he can get you in touch with the right people. It's so rewarding to see your handicraft being loved by our little heathens!



Would you like a blanket for your newborn, or to donate and help with yarn costs (yarn is expensive!)? Please email babyblanket@runestone.org today!

Folk Services



For some, it may be a natural disaster. For others an unexpected change in health, and for some just an unforeseen chain of events. Whatever the case may be sometimes we find ourselves in a sticky situation, and although we try and to work and do our best to pull ourselves out, sometimes we may need the help of our Folk community to give us a hand up...

That's when our folks Services Program comes in. We give one-time monetary grants to those members in need. These folks are so grateful and we know that once they get back on track they will contribute to this fund. For those that are able, we are in need of funds so we can be prepared for when these situations arise in our community. If you're able please place a donation today. Even a small donation adds up in the grand scheme of things and even \$5 or \$10 can help if enough people pitch in. If even a fraction of the folks who like the page did that each month, imagine the possibilities!

AFA Folk Services is intended to provide modest, one-time monetary grants to AFA members in dire need of basic services. It is also to be a source for referrals and information to help members get help beyond what the AFA can directly provide. For

more information, please email folkservices@runestone.org.

Your contributions are earnestly solicited and of course, are tax-deductible! Please donate to Folk Services or one of our other AFA Fundraisers at <http://www.runestone.org/donate/>.

Thanks in advance!

Photo Donations

We have a real need for hi-res photographs of our members' gathering, being active in their kindreds, and showing what it means to live Asatru!



If you are willing to donate some hi-res photos for use in promotions such as the AFA Calendar, the AFA website, our publications, and more please email them to the AFA at photos@runestone.org. The larger the resolution the better, so please email them from the device where the photo was taken.

Eir's Blessings



Everybody needs a little extra help sometimes.

Women, being the frithy creatures that we are, are uniquely suited to the task of manipulating energy for the purpose of healing. Magic, you could say.

Do you have a health concern and need a little extra energy? Are you battling with a mental illness like depression or PTSD? Is your baby having a hard time with teething? If you've answered yes at all, reach out to us. Once a month women of the AFA will get together to perform healing rituals all across the globe. If you would like to be included, please send a message to let us know!

At the same time, Women of the AFA! If you are interested in helping to create a frithful, healing magic, let us know! It's easy, but it makes a huge difference to those in our community who need our help!

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

Last Will and Testament

Recently, several members of our AFA family have passed beyond the veil. One was an old man in ill health, two were young men in the prime of life... all died with no legal will on record. Sadly, in two of these cases, our dead AFA members did not have their wishes respected regarding their funerals nor the final resting places of their remains.



We never know when tragedy will strike. We have a responsibility to our loved ones, we have a responsibility to our own legacies, to plan for our passing, and to make our wishes known. Planning for and contemplating our death is uncomfortable. Hopefully, we all have plenty of time for that down the road, but we can't count on that. Maybe we worry about expenses or hiring a lawyer. We all have excuses to put things off until later, unfortunately, sometimes the clock runs out before "later" happens.

We have found an amazing resource for our U.S. members to make legally binding wills in minutes online for **free**. This site also has resources to make Advanced Medical Directives and Powers of Attorney. It takes only **minutes** at <https://www.doyourownwill.com/>.

Please make your will **today**.

The AFA would like to collect signed original copies of wills for all our members and store them. We want to ensure that when members of our AFA family die, their wishes are honored. Please send these to:

Allen Turnage
PO Box 16027
Tallahassee FL, 32317



Witan Allen Turnage
aturnage@runestone.org



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