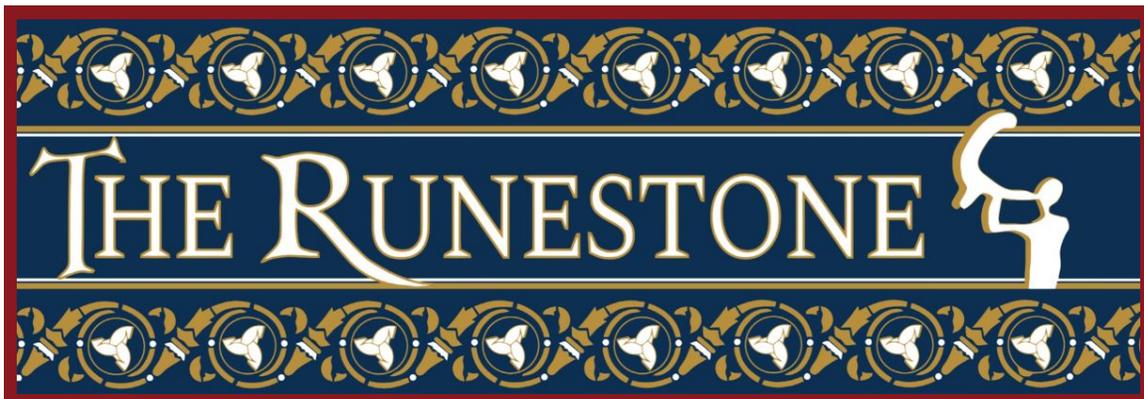


Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly

[View this email in your browser](#)





Óðinshof

First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.odinshof.org

- [!\[\]\(039cd6b2e7148ba5690aa619b922c426_img.jpg\) Runestone.org](http://Runestone.org)
- [!\[\]\(8b9db310e3bd56ffa44f3d5130ea99e2_img.jpg\) Email the Witan](mailto:Email the Witan)
- [!\[\]\(49f66b396e80c47181c1b6b90370748d_img.jpg\) YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)
- [!\[\]\(f186cdc5336a7be142e8eda07f4bdfc8_img.jpg\) VK](https://vk.com)
- [!\[\]\(8d86d9d4a1b60f6ddfe06edafff75620_img.jpg\) Twitter](https://twitter.com)
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- [!\[\]\(c1a9572a7eeba557c14c1c05e082e77e_img.jpg\) Instagram](https://www.instagram.com)

Donate to the AFA



August 13th was the official dedication of Njörðshof, Fourth Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

What a tremendous honor it was to be there and to dedicate this beautiful hof to Njörðr! There could not be a more gracious and worthy group of people to make up the core of this hof's congregation. Walking the property and experiencing this place was very powerful. Svan's mural is truly magnificent!

We are living in a very special time. I say this a lot but that is because it is important. As we establish each new hof, we build a special relationship with our Gods. We build this relationship in a way that no one has for millennia, worshiping at these altars, we build a powerful bond with and understanding of the great Gods of our folk. I am honored to be part of this amazing journey with each and every one of you.

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

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



The Quest for Freyshof

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

– Gylfaginning



[Freyshof Fund – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](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. (We have paid off 38%)

3. We need to locate a suitable property.
4. We need to find lenders and build a war chest.

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

Hail Freyr!



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

AFA Homeschool Program



[Welcome | Asatru Academy](#)

We are very excited that the first ever AFA Ásatrú Academy class has started! I want to welcome all our parents and students. Our excellent staff (which can be reached [here](#)) is here to assist you with any questions you may have and to make all our students have a great learning experience! We have a lot of awesome things in store for you this year! Parents, please join the MeWe parents group, and watch your email (check the spam folder) and Parent Portal: curriculum and videos will be posted in QuickSchools, but the MeWe group is your place to quickly interact with other parents and Academy staff. Our Assistant Dean of Curriculum, Gythia Sheila McNallen, is also hard at work putting her many years of professional teaching experience into creating top-notch material for you, above and beyond the material we have already posted.

We are so happy and excited for the school year, and hope you are too!

Gothi Robert Stamm
Dean of AFA Asatru Academy
rstamm@runestone.org



Day of Remembrance



German Cherusci Tribe, Segimer in 16 BCE. Segimer was a Roman sympathizer and both of his sons, Hermann and Flavus, were raised in the Roman empire under Roman “guardianship”. Hermann proved to be equal to the task and it did not take him long to excel as a soldier in the Roman Legions. He earned both Roman citizenship and the rank of a Roman Knight before distinguishing himself in his exploits in the Great Illyrian Revolt, after which he was sent to Germania to aid in finishing the conquest of the Germanic Tribes.

Once in Germania again, Hermann was able to quietly unite five Germanic tribes with the intention of overthrowing the Roman occupation of his land. His deep knowledge of Roman warfare and his sharp tactical mind led to the historic Battle of Teutoburg Forest, and Rome’s most devastating defeat. Despite backlash from his Roman sympathizing father and brother and the loss of his wife and then-unborn son, Hermann continued to fight against the Romans and their retaliatory attacks.

Ultimately, Hermann was assassinated by tribal leaders who were frightened of his great power, in 21 CE. Even so, it was his crucial victory in the Teutoburg Forest that forever changed the face of Germania and the Roman empire.

So, what can we learn from this story?

We no longer have the ancestral homeland to fight for as our ancestors did. We live too scattered and the countries of our ancestors are not what they once were. However, we still have families, we have ideals and we have Asatru. Every day is a battle to hang onto those ideals that no longer have a proper place in our modern society. Every day is a battle to make our world a little better, a little stronger for those who we leave behind when we die. Patience and fortitude will get us far. So will the knowledge of how to best fight for what we want. With the knowledge of how to do things the right way, it might take that one decisive victory to reshape the future of our Folk.



Gythia Catie Erickson

cm.erickson@runestone.org



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

2022

Date	Observance
January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 15	Þorrablót
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 19	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olvir of Egg
March 20 (observed on 21st)	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 31 (observed on 16th)	Hexennacht
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
May 1 (observed on 21st)	May Day

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

Winter Finding



Winter Finding is sort of the winter prequel of feasts. This feast happens on the Fall Equinox and is the second harvest feast of the year (the first is Freyfaxi in August). Winter Finding is the beginning of autumn complete with foods harvested from around this time. Traditionally, it was a celebration of putting up crops for the winter and preparing for the cold winter months ahead. This was the time when people prepared to stay indoors, farmers moved their primary livestock inside or into their barns, and extraneous animals were slaughtered and preserved for winter.

Winter Finding was often celebrated with bonfires, feasting, dancing, and blots. In preindustrial times, this was a crucial period because if the harvest was poor, it meant possible death by starvation in the winter months.

In most cases, we don't have to worry about having enough to eat during the winter

That being said, it helps to have a farmer's market in your area (or better yet, have a backyard garden of your own) because you will get a better feel for the season and the types of food being produced in your area. Eating a feast made with foods from that season is a sure way to connect with our ancestors and the types of foods they ate. Although many foods we eat nowadays weren't available to our Northern ancestors, due to the fact that a number of fruits and vegetables we eat come from the Western Hemisphere, eating seasonal foods puts us in touch with the seasons and the wights.

- So, how do you stay in tune with the season? Check out these ideas and see if any resonate.
- Weather and fire laws permitting, have a bonfire (or light some wood in your fire pit).
- Create a Heathen feast with foods from local farmers that are in season.
- Spend time gathering wild edibles — just be sure you know what you have.
- Preserve food for the winter: canning, dehydrating, and freezing.
- Make sure your pets and/or livestock are ready for the winter. Vaccinations, nail, and hoof trims warm bedding, enough food, etc.
- Offer a blot to the gods of the harvest: Freyr, Gerðr, Freyja, Thor, Sif, and others.
- Start making your mead for Yule.
- Make sure your hunting gear is ready to go for hunting season.
- Get your house clean for winter.

What do you do for Winter Finding?

Upcoming National Events

Winter Nights 11
October 14th-16th



The Eleventh Annual Winter Nights will be held in Scioto County, Ohio from October 14- 16! 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, our Goddesses, and our Ancestral Mothers. We build upon the success of the Asatru Folk Assembly by making new friends and renewing old friendships. We look forward to seeing members and friends!

Your registration fee includes all workshops, lectures, meals, tent camping, and of course our holy rituals. Only AFA members and vouched-for guests will be admitted to this event. If you are not an AFA Member you should confirm with the member who is vouching for you that they will do so when asked about your registration.

Things to know:

- Children 17 and under attend for free!
- You will need to bring your own bedding and it can get chilly at night, so plan accordingly.
- Tenting is encouraged! There are also hotels within 20 minutes of the camp.
- Dogs are welcome but must be leashed at all times and are not permitted in common indoor areas such as the dining hall.
- The camp location will be provided upon registration.



Winter Nights XI

October 14 - 16, 2022

Friday, October 14

	Adults	Children
12:00 noon	Arrival & Check-in	*Coloring pages and a bounce house will be available all day*
2:00 pm	Welcoming the Gods	
4:00 pm	Daily Spirituality w/ Folkbuilder Adam Hudak	Children Vs. Adult Battle
5:30 pm	Dinner	
7:00 pm	Gothic Q&A Panel	*Coloring pages and a bounce house will be available all day*
8:30 pm	Odin Blot w/ Alsherjargothi Flavel	
10:00 pm	Oktoberfest Dance	

Saturday, October 15

	Adults	Children
8:00 am	Physical Fitness	*Fall-themed sensory bins for youngsters during each period*
9:00 am	Breakfast	
10:00 am	Men's Group w/ Ap. Folkbuilder John Rock Women's Group w/ Gythia Catie Erickson	<u>Craft</u> : Make your own noise <u>Game</u> : Pumpkin Ring Toss <u>Teens</u> : Assemble Yggdrasil
12:00 noon	Lunch	
1:30 pm	Disir Presentation w/ Witan Svan Herul	<u>Craft</u> : Scandinavian Yarn Dolls <u>Teens</u> : Finish Yggdrasil
3:00 pm	Rites of Initiation	Singing and Dancing <u>Teens</u> : Rune Rock Painting
4:30 pm	Raffle Drawing & Auction	Halloween Parade to story time and snacks
6:30 pm	Dinner	
8:30 pm	Disir Blot w/ Gythia Erickson	
10:00 pm	Sumbel	

Sunday, October 16

	Adults	Children
9:00 am	Breakfast	
10:30 am	Wayfarers Blot w/ Folkbuilder Adam Hudak	
11:15 am		Children's Blot w/ Witan Cliff Erickson
12:00 noon	Departure/ Clean Up	

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

Member Family – Weekend: \$150

Member – Weekend: \$100

Member – Daypass: \$50

Guest – Weekend: \$125

Guest – Daypass: \$60

Child – Weekend: Free

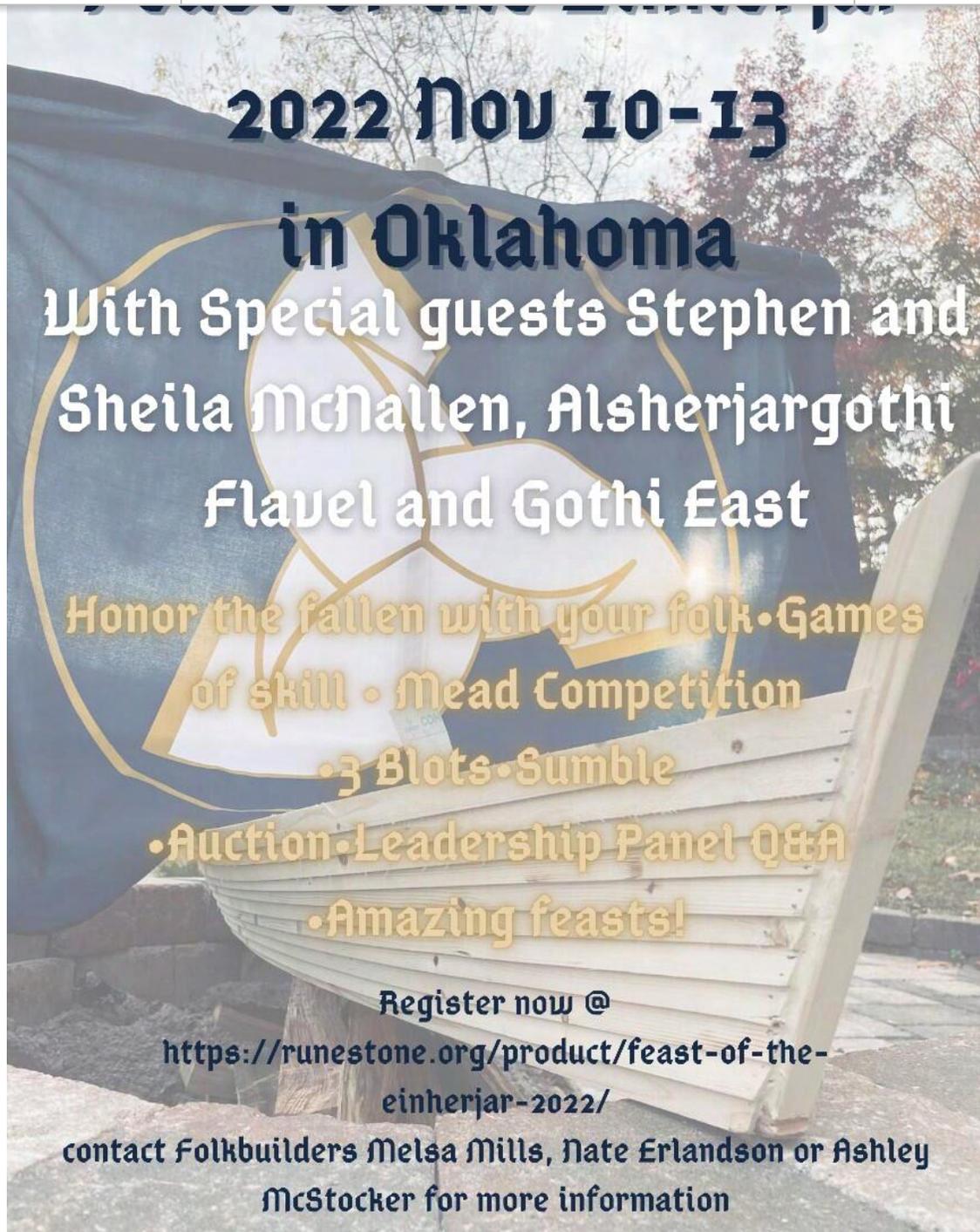
Child – Daypass: Free

Registration is open now at <https://runestone.org/product/winter-nights-11/>.



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Feast of the Einherjar
November 10th-13th



2022 Nov 10-13
in Oklahoma
With Special guests Stephen and Sheila McNallen, Alsherjargothi Flavel and Gothi East

Honor the fallen with your folk • Games of skill • Mead Competition
• 3 Blots • Sumble
• Auction • Leadership Panel Q&A
• Amazing feasts!

Register now @
<https://runestone.org/product/feast-of-the-einherjar-2022/>
contact Folkbuilders Melsa Mills, Nate Erlandson or Ashley McStocker for more information

Register Here: [Feast of the Einherjar 2022 Nov. 10th-13th](https://runestone.org/product/feast-of-the-einherjar-2022/)

Come and honor the fallen with your Folk.

The event concludes on Sunday at 11 am, but you are cordially invited to stay for the wedding of Terry Clark and Rebekah Brussel on Sunday and check out Monday morning after the wedding festivities.

Let us know if you are entering the mead competition!

To each of our Service Men and Women, thank you for your service. We would like to invite each and every one of you to join us this weekend.

Member Family – \$150

Member – \$100

Guest – \$120

Child – Free

Child – Free

Registration is open now at <https://www.runestone.org/product/feast-of-the-einherjar-2022/>



Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

mmills@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!

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

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!

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

The Artisans of the AFA
Support Our Folk



I have created Elder Futhark Birthing Affirmation Cards for our women folk to utilize during their labor and delivery journey. These would also be good to utilize prior to labor to help get your mind, body, and spirit in a good place for you and your baby.

What are birthing affirmation cards? They are cards that have images and words specific to each rune stave, drawing on the energy of each one but geared towards labor, delivery, and motherhood. These can be hung up or arranged around your labor and

If you are interested in these, I am asking for donations of \$10 or more to be given to the Freyshof fund. Upon receipt of the donation, I will send you a PDF file with printing instructions. Or if you prefer, for a small charge to cover supplies and shipping, I can print and mail them to you.

Freyr being a fertility god, the brother of Freya, I thought these would be a good way to honor them for the gift of fertility. The more we raise, the closer we get to honoring him in his own Hof, and honoring a fertility god means more beautiful white babies.

My good friend, Christine Dumas, also has done a voice-over with a guided meditation for these cards as some folk needs that extra auditory sensation. This will also be included with your cards, but they come as a packaged deal together, not one without the other.



The top picture here is 4 snippets of the 24 cards with watermarks on them, and the second is the full spread. Watermarks will be removed upon order.

Please contact me for more details or if you are interested!



Jessica Keller
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jkeller@runestone.org

Piparkokur (Icelandic Pepper Cookies)



I recently made these for a Moot and people enjoyed the unique spice taste of the cookies. Traditionally they are cut with a 2" round cookie cutter, but I had some cookie cutters that were gifted to me by my husband that I wanted to try. Keep in mind while making them that it is a soft dough and will spread while baking.

Piparkokur (Icelandic Pepper Cookies)

1 cup sugar

¾ cup light corn syrup (or golden syrup)

2 eggs

3 ½ cups flour

1 ½ teaspoons baking powder

½ teaspoon baking soda

2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

2 teaspoon ground cloves

1 teaspoon ground ginger

¼ teaspoon ground black pepper

1. Cream the butter and sugar together in a large bowl with an electric mixer, or vigorously by hand, then mix in the syrup and eggs and beat well.
2. Sift in the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and spices and mix until combined. Wrap dough and refrigerate overnight.
3. Preheat the oven to 350 F and line two baking sheets with baking paper.
4. Roll the dough out on a lightly floured surface to about ¼ inch thickness. This is quite a soft dough, but if it's not manageable to roll and cut, then lightly knead in a little more flour.
5. Cut into rounds with a 2" cookie cutter and place onto the prepared baking sheet, an inch apart. Keep in mind that they will spread.
6. Bake for 7 min. Let cool on the tray for a couple of minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool. They will firm as they cool.

Enjoy!



Folkbuilder Sara Ault
sault@runestone.org

Bread Horse



The recipe which I have found most effective for making large bread animals for blessings and feasts is actually a biscuit recipe. This is better than yeast bread because the dough does not swell up so much while rising, and thus there is less distortion of the animal's shape and so more detail is possible.

2 cups sifted all-purpose flour 4 teaspoons baking powder $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon cream of tartar 2 teaspoons sugar $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter $\frac{2}{3}$ cup milk Sift together flour, baking powder, salt, cream of tartar, and sugar; cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add milk; stir until dough follows fork around bowl. Turn out on a lightly floured surface and shape into your beast.

The less kneading the dough gets, the lighter and flakier the end product will be. Bake in preheated oven at 350 degrees Fahrenheit until brown. If you are making a boar, a "bristled" effect can be achieved by making short snips along its back and side with a pair of clean scissors. The same technique can be used for texturing a horse's mane. A raisin or nut can be stuck into the dough to make the animal's eye.



Witan Svan Herul
sherul@runestone.org

Baby Tracker



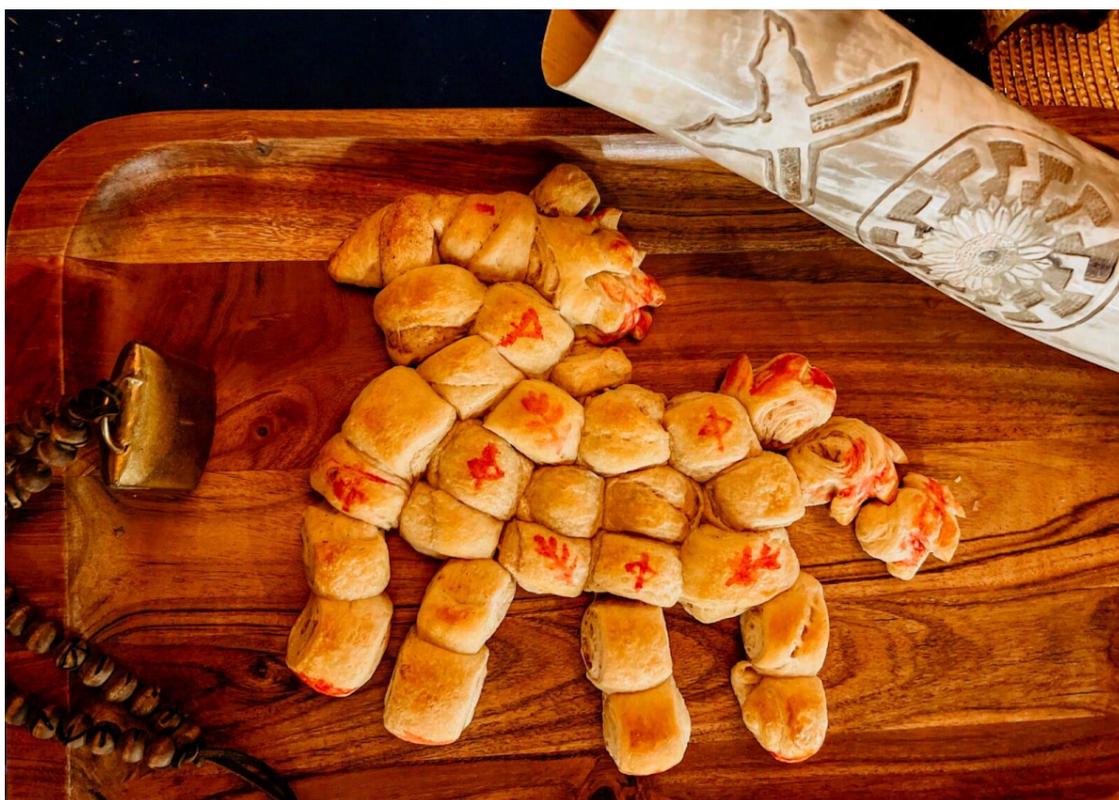
Members, please be sure to let your local leadership know if you've given birth to a child recently to ensure that we get your new baby added to our baby tracker, as well as to help get you more information about other children-related programs and benefits that the AFA offers!

Total babies born in 2022: 30
(up 6 from last month!)



Jessica Keller
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jkeller@runestone.org

Calling All Cooks!



We are putting together an AFA cookbook!

We are looking for your recipes with notes for foods served at Hof's and Moots. Please submit your recipes to cookbook@runestone.org. When submitting a recipe, please include a photo of the meal as well as info about the event and the date the meal was served.

Mike Joyner



Now Available in the AFA Store

AFA Hoodies

\$45.00



Buy Now: [AFA Zippered and nonzippered hoodies](#)

Warm weather apparel is falling into the Runstone.org store!
Hoodies! Zippered Hoodies! Long sleeve shirts!

Look for new items for each Hof over the next week!



Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

mmills@runestone.org

Food Pantry at Odinshof



I've memorized so many names of our regular recipients. For example, Miss Mello and Miss Amaya, are two sweet, old gals who could have been characters in *The Waltons*. The Hunt brothers, local old timers who know all of the local food charities, say we're by far "the best." These goodhearted elders understand and appreciate the value we bring to the community.



This month, the line of cars was already down to the road while we were setting up. That was totally unexpected as there was also a community festival going on that drew away many people last year. It's clear that people from all walks of life are feeling the need to find new sources of food for their families. Over the past few months, we've had anywhere from eight to eleven new families each month. For August it was twenty-two! We served a total of 52 families, representing 192 individuals. Two families had eleven members each due to adult children returning home to avoid homelessness.



I want to commend our stalwart member, Zac Gable, who sets up traffic cones, tables, and anything else to make it all go smoothly. The good energy is almost palpable as we



Call it magic. We call it Asatru.



Gythia Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org

Freyfaxi at Odinshof



pleasure to see.

We had the biggest turnout for our food pantry which was unexpected as the Mountain Faire was in town the same weekend. It was amazing seeing so many grateful and cheerful faces. The amount of thanks we receive from the community for doing this makes it completely worthwhile.

We had wonderful talks given by Apprentice Folkbuilder Lou Nickerson, Founder Stephan McNallen, and Gothi Thorgrun Odden. While the gentleman was giving their talks, Gythia Sheila McNallen did story time with the children and had wonderful arts and crafts activities pertaining to Freyfaxi.

Once Arts and Crafts were over, I took the children outside and had them race to see who could make homemade butter the fastest! It was such a pleasure to see the friendly competitiveness come out in the kids and how excited they were to have everyone taste their butter. We took the children's butter and strained off the buttermilk and had them help prepare biscuits for dinner using their own buttermilk and placing their butter out during dinner to be used.

Thank you to everyone who worked hard to help ensure this event ran smoothly and thank you to those who continue to show up and show your support.

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



Sierra Chapman
Apprentice Folkbuilder
schapman@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Odinshof

Events at Oðinshof

2022

- Sep 17 Winter Finding (Ullr Blot)
- Oct 15 Winter Nights (Disablot)
- Nov 19 Feast of the Einherjar
- Dec 17 Yuletide Celebration

2023

- Jan 21 Thorrablot
- Feb 18 Charming of the Plow
- Mar 18 Ostara
- Apr 15 Hexxenacht
- May 20 May Day
- June 17 Midsummer
- July 15 Sigurblot
- Aug 19 Freyfaxi
- Sep 16 Winter Finding
- Oct 21 Winter Nights
- Nov 18 Feast of the Einherjar
- Dec 16 Yuletide



All dates begin with the
Oðinshof Food Pantry
in the morning.



WINTER FINDING AT ODINSHOF
Saturday, September 17, 2022
11 am - 9 pm

For more information , contact:
Ashley Stockton - astockton@runestone.org
Sierra Chapman - schapman@runestone.org

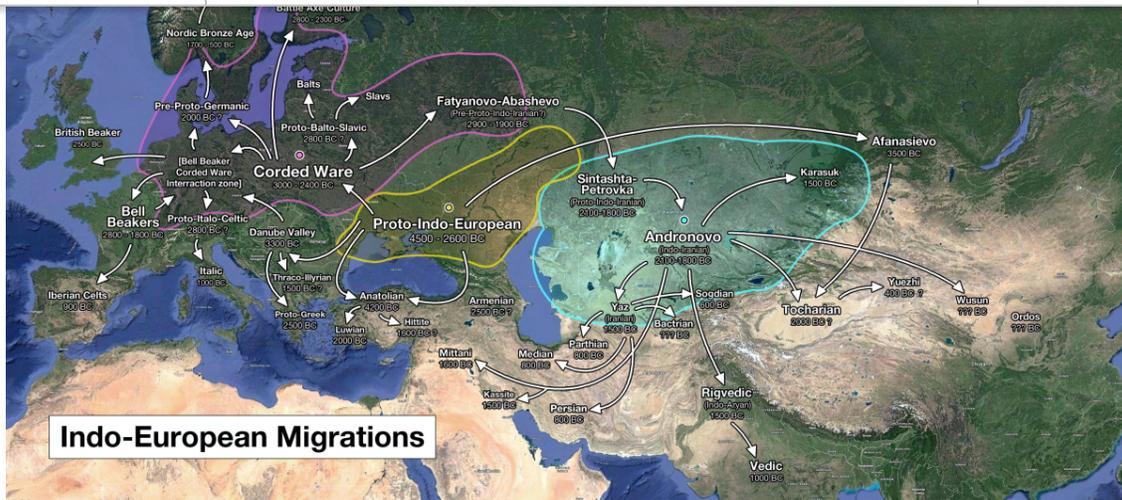
Find your way home to Odinshof for this memorable autumn event. We have plenty of room for trailers and tents if you want to stay overnight. The temps will be 85/47. Couldn't be better!

Arizona

Our Aryan Ancestors



Five thousand years ago, a European people called the Aryans lived on the steppes of Eastern Europe. They mastered the art of stockbreeding, and gradually amassed large herds of cattle, as well as sheep, goats, and most importantly, horses. The Aryans invented horseback riding, which became essential for the management of the vast herds, and once wheeled wagons came into being in Europe, they became a people of unprecedented mobility. The Aryans practiced metallurgy and were skilled at mining and smelting, and created a form of bronze using copper and arsenic even before they had experimented with tin or even knew where to get it. The Aryans were master woodworkers, gradually creating more complex wagons, the first spoked wheels, the first plank-built ships, and later, crucially, the chariot, a fast vehicle of war that swept across the landscape, and was much later copied from Egypt to China. The Aryans were not simply another culture making up a part of Europe, but as we will very briefly explore, the Aryans defined Europe, and form a very important part of our DNA and our ancestry even today. Linguistically, almost all languages spoken in Europe and the Americas today are descendants of the common Aryan language spoken by our ancestors 5000 years ago.



With the advent of the wagon, the Aryans, who had already pushed into the Danube Valley, Anatolia, and modern Kazakhstan, and, from their homes on the steppes, discovered a new way to manage herds, and moved their herds and wagons into open plains in the summer, and into marshes or woodlands with good cover for wintering. Using the new methods, the herds of the Aryans greatly expanded, and so did the Aryan folk themselves. In what archaeologists call the Corded Ware culture from their pottery, Aryans established a massive base of power in Northern Europe and interbred with indigenous Northern Europeans, even sometimes taking on indigenous males as members of their patriarchal and patrilineal society. This can be seen today by Y-haplogroup studies. While R1b and R1a are classic Aryan Y-haplogroups, often haplogroup I is found in Aryan graves as well, and this represents the indigenous Northern Europeans present before the Aryan expansion. As Goði Thorgrun Odden put it during my lecture on the Aryans at Odinshof during our Freyfaxi celebration, the R1a and R1b haplogroups might represent the descendants of the mighty, proud Aesir (ancestors of the conquering Aryans), and the I haplogroup might represent the descendants of the fertile, prosperous Vanir (ancestors of the indigenous Northern European hunter-gatherers that the Aryans eventually accepted as kin).



From Northern Europe, the Aryans continued to expand, and by building the world's first plank-built ships, they reached Scandinavia and the British Isles. In Britain, the Aryans almost completely replaced the pre-existing population about 4000 years ago and formed what archaeologists refer to as the "Bell Beaker culture" or "Beaker folk" for their pottery. Modern descendants of Britain have a large proportion of Aryan DNA that dates back to this critical event. The Aryans were not content with Europe alone, and a group of Corded Ware-descended folk went east, establishing powerful societies in modern Russia, Iran, India, and elsewhere in Asia. The persistent core of the beliefs of the different European ethnicities (such as Germanic, Celtic, Slavic, Baltic, Italic, etc.), that would be passed down to us over the millennia, was originally established by the Aryans. The primary, overarching tenet of the Aryans was that human beings on earth needed to establish everlasting fame before they died, and immortality would be found in the remembered deeds of great men and women.



Unfortunately, though the Aryans are still an important subject of study for modern scholars, the word Aryan has been demonized by the media and academia to the point that anybody who says it is almost an outcast. The word Aryan or very similar words are found in both the Celtic and the Indo-Iranian branches, and later concepts such as the Greek aristocratic are undoubtedly descended from the same word. Originally, the word was an endonym, a word that people use to refer to themselves. The Aryans called themselves "Aryans". Following the political changes forced upon scholars following 1945, the word Aryan was considered taboo, and scholars were forced to use the politically correct term "Indo-European" instead of "Aryan", which had been used by scholars and everyone else to refer to the Aryans prior to 1945. There is nothing wrong with using the term Aryans to refer to what people today usually call "the Indo-Europeans", and if anyone tries to tell you there is, you now can educate them. The next time you call on your ancestors and remember their deeds at sumbel, you can remember that 5000 years ago, your Aryan ancestors were doing the same thing, and hoping that you, their descendants, wouldn't forget them.

Moots and Meet-Ups



This month, the Tucson-area AFA folk enjoyed each other's company at the local Polish restaurant. We enjoyed eating authentic Eastern European food together, which reminded me of my grandmother's cooking, and it was good to hear from both some long-time AFA members and some of the newer folk.



Also, two of our Phoenix folk came down to Tucson one night, and I drove up to meet them, and we had a good time together at a local brewery. It always feels good to spend some time with our AFA folk, no matter how big or small the occasion.



Lou Nickerson
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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California



As part of my ongoing study of the Hávamál, presented here are stanzas 1-9 and my accompanying notes.

At every doorway,
ere one enters,
one should spy round,
one should pry round
for uncertain is the witting
that there be no foeman sitting,
within, before one on the floor.
Hávamál 1

potential dangers," or even beyond, consider what events may be beyond your present view.

Hail, ye Givers! a guest is come;
say! where shall he sit within?
Much pressed is he who fain on the hearth
would seek for warmth and weal.
Hávamál 2

This highlights the importance of hospitality in Germanic custom, offering a stranger a seat at the table.

He hath need of fire, who now is come,
numbed with cold to the knee;
food and clothing the wanderer craves
who has fared o'er the rimy fell.
Hávamál 3

This is mostly a narrative passage, although of note is the mention of the "need of fire" which is encapsulated in the Naudiz (†) rune.

He craves for water, who comes for refreshment,
drying and friendly bidding,
marks of good will, fair fame if 'tis won,
and welcome once and again.
Hávamál 4

This stanza emphasizes the importance of good behavior on the guest's part. The Thrope translation has it as:

Water to him is needful
Who for refection comes,
A towel and hospitable invitation,
A good reception;
If he can get it,
Discourse and answer.
That last part seems to suggest the trading of knowledge.

He hath need of his wits who wanders wide,
aught simple will serve at home;
but a gazing-stock is the fool who sits
mid the wise, and nothing knows.

The need to possess some level of wisdom at the dinner table is expressed here. Essentially "You can get away with being an idiot at home, but when you're at a table with intelligent people, you're going to look like a fool". Further stanzas go on to recommend silence for those less adept at discourse.

Let no man glory in the greatness of his mind,
but rather keep watch o'er his wits.

Cautious and silent let him enter a dwelling;
to the heedful comes seldom harm,
for none can find a more faithful friend
than the wealth of mother wit.

Hávamál 6

A continuation of the advice from the previous stanza. Don't act like a know-it-all and speak too much when you're a guest.

Let the wary stranger who seeks refreshment
keep silent with sharpened hearing;
with his ears let him listen, and look with his eyes;
thus each wise man spies out the way.

Hávamál 7

Bellow's translation has the last line as "Thus wary are wise men all" which simplifies the meaning. Thorpe's translation includes the line "Wit is needful to him who travels far: Harm seldom befalls the wary". Clearly one couldn't place all his trust in the custom of Norse hospitality, as even a guest could be in danger. This maxim seems particularly relevant to kings I feel; it gives off an air of intrigue.

Happy is he who wins for himself
fair fame and kindly words;
but uneasy is that which a man doth own
while it lies in another's breast.

Hávamál 8

Fame and praise are good, but it isn't worth much if it's never spoken of. This is really an encouragement for you to speak well of your friends and allies. Don't keep back your praise, share it, and hopefully praise will be shared with you.

Happy is he who hath in himself
praise and wisdom in life;
for oft doth a man ill counsel get
when 'tis born in another's breast.

Relying on another's wisdom is a bad idea. You should strive to be wise yourself rather than require the advice of others because you're leaving yourself vulnerable to being manipulated.



Folkbuilder Connor Norris

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Update on Folkish Family Camp Out

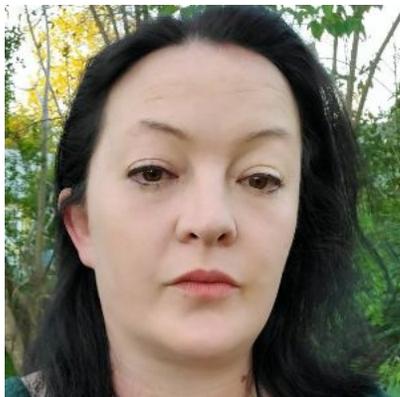


Hagvirkr Kindred was planning to hold our camp out Labor Day weekend. Folks did not get an invite because the lakes were booked. We are looking to get reservations for Lake Amador later this month. I will be reaching out as soon as we have the details. Lesson learned on trying to book holiday weekends!

At the last event, our kindred also had the honor of Oathing in Cody Breeze. Cody has put so much work into Odinshof, especially overseeing the painting project. Cody is always volunteering for whatever help is needed and makes us proud. Hail Cody!

See you all at the next event!

Hail the Doers!



Folkbuilder Krystal Podbreger

kpodbreger@runestone.org

Baby Naming of Keegan Stone ~ August 20, 2022



One of the most poignant ceremonies of the Folk is the AUSA Vatni, or Baby Naming ritual. On Freyfaxi afternoon, we gathered in the hall to welcome the newborn son of



It was my honor to offer blessings and welcome this young child, Keegan Bradford Stone, into our AFA family. The Norns blessed this baby with three auspicious runes, with Urd's already manifested, according to Angelina.



founder Stephen McNallen, Gouin Thorgrun Odden, and Folkbuilder Ashley Stockton.

Young Keegan spent the rest of the weekend camping at the hof with his parents and siblings, Ellie and Orion. Though adventures await him, may Keegan always find his way home to Odinshof.

Hail, Keegan Bradford Stone!

Gettin' Around and Meeting Folks



If you plan to take a vacation, a business trip, or simply go out exploring, consider meeting up with other AFA members. Roy White did that a while ago, making the drive from Salt Lake City to Odinshof. His arrival was a delightful surprise for the rest of us.

Move ahead a few months. My husband, Steve, and I were in Texas this past weekend for his brother's funeral. Supporting family out there in Possum Hollow was our main focus, of course, but it also gave us the opportunity to meet up with Apprentice Folkbuilder Justin Day and others in the DFW area. Justin quickly pulled a meetup together at a place known for its "brats and beer." We didn't have much time before our flight home, but it was enough to say, "Howdy. Glad to meet you all." The conversation was rushed, but fun and lively with this great group of guys. I expect we'll be back in their area before long. Thanks for fulfilling this wish of mine, Justin Day.

Lesson: Your Folkbuilders can help you get in touch with other members. Each Hof district has a contact list of leadership on their web pages (under Contact Us). Reach out to any of those Folkbuilders. We can even advise you about hosting your own meetup if there is no Folkbuilder nearby. And if in doubt, write to me.

There's also a calendar of events on all the Hof sites (under Our Events) that proves there's always something happening on Midgard with the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Benches of Remembrance at Odinhof



Would you like to have one of these park benches dedicated to one of your loved ones?

A member who recently passed away had intended to have his ashes interred in our Odinhof Cemetery. To our knowledge, he never put that in writing so his widow made other plans for his remains.

Our Odinhof Cemetery is there for our families who want a permanent resting spot for their loved ones. We provide a standard burial-sized space. Families need to arrange for a headstone or marker. But if a loved one is buried elsewhere, what can you do?

An alternative could include a park bench, a tree, a fountain, a pond, a picnic table, or children's play equipment – with a personalized plaque including the person's name and dates.

As we continue the beautification of Odinhof, we ask our members to consider making

there for you and your family as well.

If you like this idea, write to me at sheila@runestone.org. Remembering Dad, Grandma, or Uncle Jim with a memorial at Odinhof is similar to sharing stories of our loved ones during Sumbel.

On this same topic, don't put off making your own will! Encourage your family members as well. Learn from the story of the member whose wishes weren't acknowledged by his wife. It takes just a few minutes.

Doyourownwill.com. Send a notarized copy to Lawspeaker Allen Turnage at Asatru Folk Assembly, PO Box 16027, Tallahassee FL 32317.



Gythia Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

Colorado

Garden of the Gods Hike and The Great British Food Company Breakfast



I started the day at the Garden of the Gods Visitor Center. The hike began at 0800. Early morning is the best time to visit the park before tourists starts arriving. The sky promised rain, so I brought a poncho just in case.



However, the rain didn't come until the hike was over. The lack of sun and cool morning provided pleasant conditions for the hike. Much of the hike was spent in meditation and contemplation.



After the hike, I went to one of my favorite places, The Great British Food Company. I was fortunate enough to visit the United Kingdom many times when I was in the military. During those trips, I developed an appreciation for the food, drink, and aesthetics. Therefore, I really like The Great British Food Company. I had the Proper Full English Breakfast. The Proper Full English Breakfast includes the following. Winston's Irish back bacon, black pudding, pork sausage, two egg, baked beans, tomatoes, mushrooms, and British Chips served with fried bread. My favorite part of this breakfast is the black pudding and I usually save it for last. Black pudding is a distinct regional type of blood sausage originating in the United Kingdom and Ireland. It is made from pork or beef blood, with pork fat or beef suet, and a cereal, usually oatmeal, oat groats, barely groats. The high proportion of cereal, along with the use of certain herbs such as pennyroyal, serves to distinguish black pudding from blood sausages eaten in other parts of the world.



This morning I decided to forego the beer and stick to teetotaling. I enjoyed a pot of the Bohemian Raspberry. This delicious beverage is a green tea with raspberry. I made sure to follow etiquette and keep the pinky finger up.



I am always slow to leave The Great British Food Company. However, what makes it easier is knowing I will be back to enjoy my little taste of the U.K.



Andrew Stutts
Apprentice Folkbuilder
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Idaho

Northern Bastion Kindred



This month, the Northern Bastion Kindred gathered at the home of one of our members to enjoy frith, food, and mead. A new member was introduced and many conversations were had among brothers. We also held Blöt to Freyr in honor of Freyfaxi and had Sumbel. Powerful stories were told, our ancestors were venerated, and the Gods were honored all around a fire with the clear sky and sun as our witnesses. Every day our kindred grows and the bonds between us are strengthened. Hail our Folk! Hail the AFA!

Upcoming Events



Contact Apprentice Folkbuilder Derek Wright for more details.
dwright@runestone.org



Derek Wright
Apprentice Folkbuilder
dwright@runestone.org

Frith, the AFA, and Growth



Briefly: we must begin with the kin, the race or family; a gathering of individuals so joined up into one unit that they appear incapable of independent action. As to the feeling which so unites them, this we must leave till later; the point here is, that the individual cannot act without all acting with and through him; no single individual can suffer without affecting the whole circle. So absolute is the connection that the individual simply cannot exist by himself; a slight loosening of the bond, and he slips down, the most helpless of all creatures...The Hellene exists as an individual, a separate person within a community. The Germanic individual exists only as the representative, nay, as the personification of a whole. One might imagine that a supreme convulsion of the soul must tear the individual out from that whole, and let him feel him-self, speak as for himself. But actually, it is the opposite that takes place; the more the soul is moved, the more the individual personality is lost in the kin. At the very moment when man most passionately and unreservedly gives way to his own feelings, the clan takes possession of the individual fully and completely...We are driven to ask: what is the hidden force that makes kinsmen inseparable? First we learn that they call each other "friend" (frændi in Icelandic, freond in Anglo-Saxon), and a linguistic analysis of this word will teach us, that it means those who love (each other); but this brings us no farther, for etymology tells us nothing of what it is to love. We can perhaps get a little nearer by noting the etymological connection between the word "friend" and two others that play a great part in the social life of those days: "free" and "frith". In "frith", peace, we have the old kinsmen's own definition of the fundamental idea in their inter-relationship. By frith they mean something in themselves, a power that makes them "friends" one towards another, and "free men" towards the rest of the world.

As much as we are bombarded every single moment during the day with all things that go against the laws of Nature, the Gods of our ancestors cannot be removed from our being. I was a Christian until the age of 16 when I began to investigate, instead of just believing, what was being told to me. The answers I found made me become an atheist, and I lived my life consumed with obtaining the pleasures of this world, just as we are programmed to do, for the next 31 years. Quite by accident through Yoga, calorie restriction, and fasting, I was awakened from this dream we live in and began to see the true nature of our existence. It was as if the Universe grabbed me and violently shook me from my slumber. I have come to believe that at some point you will be given an opportunity to grasp your fate and live with it, to become who you are supposed to be.

Synchronicity is the web of Wyrð connecting the dots to create the story that the Norns have written for you in the stars at the moment of your first breath. After my awakening and connection with the Allfather, I was surprised to find that I was not alone. Others had felt the stirring in their souls from Odin, and through synchronistic events, I was led to the AFA and the Frith that exists there. The Frith that we feel in the AFA is the

warred upon by the world for a thousand years. This Folksoul cannot be erased and, in times as these when the world is upside down, it is stirred: Men and women are brought together to find their place in the web of Wyrð and to do what they were born to do.

The Frith of our growing community must extend to actively helping one another, we must make that effort which in our busy daily lives may be hard to do, but we are the sum of our parts. When one of our AFA kin is in need, we should support them. We must help them up when they fall down. We should spend our hard-earned money among our folk, we should connect in business and share knowledge in order to raise ourselves and create the World in which we will live. Not to say we should give money away freely for nothing, as every man needs to do their part, but give an honest man an opportunity to work if you have the means.

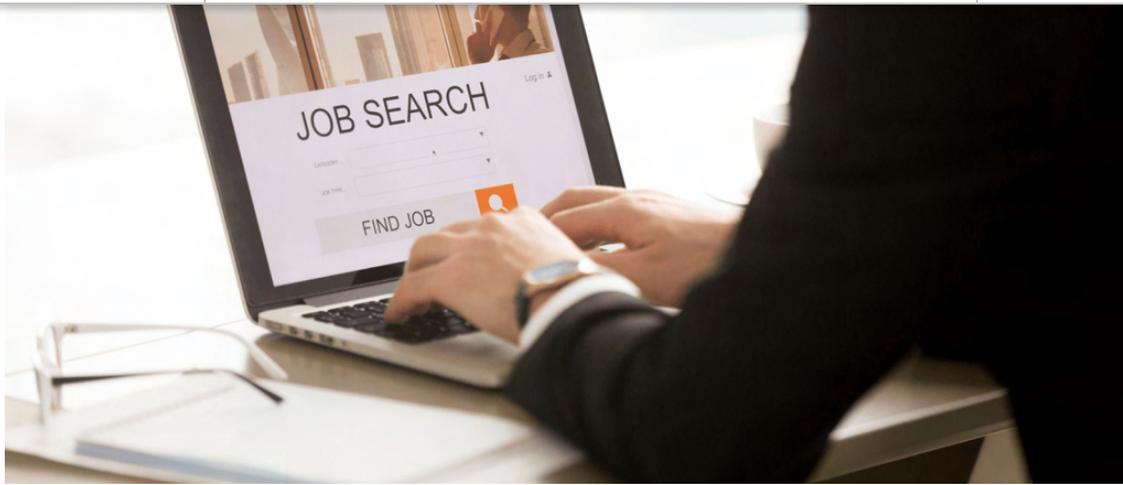
Frith is the energy that binds us together and lets us strengthen our growing AFA community by making strides to become self-sufficient and independent in this World. We will do it, I know it!

Herman of the Cherusci and the Coeurd'Alene Idaho Oktoberfest



This month of September we make remembrance for one of Germany's greatest heroes – Hermann of the Cherusci aka Arminius – whose Teutonic forces defeated three Roman legions and kept Germany free from imperial subjugation by Rome. We will be raising a horn in his honor and donning our Lederhosen at the Coeur d'Alene Idaho Oktoberfest, located downtown there on September 17th. There will be plenty of German music, dancing, food and of course Bier – so bring your family and celebrate this great tradition!

A Brother in Need



Lastly: our AFA fellow & friend Jeffrey Hull is distressingly under-employed at this time, despite his best efforts, and so he seeks immediate work to prevail instead of fail. He has done massive amounts of editing and writing and has experience with both AI-driven web-search evaluation and photographic production. He is located in Ellensburg, Washington, about halfway between Seattle and Spokane. Telecommute / remote work might be ideal, for which he is fully ready & capable of handling professionally. He can provide a copy of his résumé & references to anyone with serious work offers. Please reach him if you can, even just part-time or on project: Jeffrey Hull + 503-915-8314 + enquiries.jh@gmail.com



Gothi Joe Rozanek

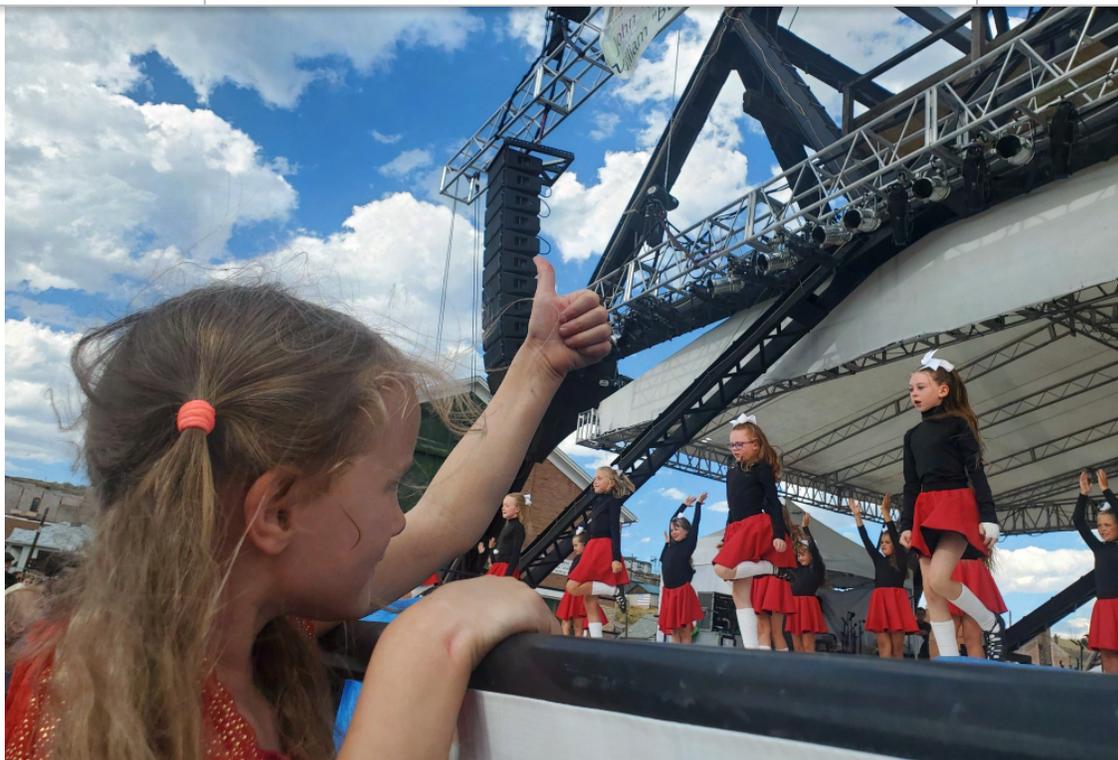
jrozanek@runestone.org

Montana

Montana Gaelic Cultural Society



Here in Montana, the ladies of the Harlan and Greaney families took a trip down to Butte on August 13, for An Ri Ra, the Montana Gaelic Cultural Society's annual festival, and a visit with Ron McVan. Food, drink, art, live music, and dancing were among the attractions. Butte, like many areas of the country, is proud of its Celtic heritage. Much of which, came to the area in hopes of striking it rich among the many Gold, Silver, and Copper mines in Western Montana. Throughout this part of the state, remnants of this past are visible in the landscape. In Butte, this can be seen in the numerous headframes which still stand. These huge metal structures acted as the hoist which both took men into the depths of the mines, and hauled ore back out.



"The Original" mine as it was called, was Butte's first Copper mine. In operation for close to 100 years, it is now a local landmark, and beneath its headframe, a stage goes up every year. On this stage, above the down shaft of the mine, Celtic music, poetry, and dancing take place.



On Wednesday, August 24, our families got together again on Mt Belmont and gave Blot to the Allfather. Under darkening skies, the horn was raised, and our gifts poured



Thunderstorms built, and clapped in the distance, signaling it was time to leave our position on the peak, and as we made our way back down the mountain, we were greeted with a spectacular show of lightning.



Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan
rharlan@runestone.org

Nevada

Alsherjargothic Dinner



Great turnout for our August dinner. We were joined by one of our Southern Nevada members for the first time!

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 24th for Cider-Maple Old Fashions, Pretzels with Beer cheese, and Jager Schnitzel!

Upcoming Events

9/24/2022

Alshergothic Dinner

BRING STUFF!





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

Oregon

Oregon Moot-Klamath Falls



Had an awesome Moot with the Kvasir's Blood Kindred along with some new guests!
Pizza was eaten, words were spoken, and mugs clashed!!!

Drums



The sway of the drum is immense and surprisingly—not everyone gets to experience it. When I began the journey down the Asatruic path I went years without witnessing the power that emits from the beat of the moment.

Everything we do has a purpose, especially when it comes to ritualistic practice. Through my travels, I have witnessed many rituals, and while attending these great gatherings, I have never failed to bring back something that resonated with me, something that would benefit my Kindred. One such thing was the Beat of the Drum. My first experience was riveting. I had goosebumps from head to toe. The beat was right, the moment was right. The power of music has been utilized throughout the ages! But to feel such energy on top of words equally impactful makes for an awesome experience.

Ingrid Kincaid elaborates on the importance of drums, by saying:

“The ancestors show us the direction of the cold.
They show us the direction of the warmth.
They show us how the heavens turn above us as we watch the stars circle in the night sky.

decay and that all things breath, even the stones.

They remind us that the past and future exist in the present moment, in the center, in the earth below our feet and on the horizon we can never reach.

They show us that there is no top or bottom to the earth.

It hangs in the darkness of the great void.

It too is the center, for all space extends outward from it, no ending, no beginning.

And the sun is the center, and each star is the center and each person and each moment.

All this and more has come to pass through the drum in the voices of the ancestors.”

I absolutely believe every word of this passage, for I have felt it and know it to be true.

If you haven't had the opportunity to hear the beat of the drum while performing blot, I highly suggest you add it to the list. Like me, you may never want to lose that added power!

Upcoming Events



you are invited

WINTER FINDING

"Eve of the Hunt"

Beatty Oregon

*Sep 24th
12pm-9pm*

This Event is Hosted
by the
Kvasir's Blood Kindred

RSVP-Steven Mundy
Smundy@runestone.org



KVASIR'S MOOT
Hang and chat about our future

**SIDE LINES
PIZZERIA**

Friday, September 26 at 6:30 pm
722 Main St, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Post Below or Contact Steven Mundy



Steven Mundy
Apprentice Folkbuilder
smundy@runestone.org

Washington

August Fun



We had Iron Club per usual Tuesday and Thursday. Where we challenge our strength and our courage. We increase our frith with conversations on books, creating our culture, and having kids' activities. The kids continue to have small workouts that they do to help them become healthier and stronger. In three of the Iron clubs, we celebrated birthdays. They were joyous occasions.

birthday girl. Though the birthday girl was delighted, our youngest members under 3 were absolutely terrified.



Another birthday was for one of our youngest kinder members turning 1. It was a fun

the little one felt about it.

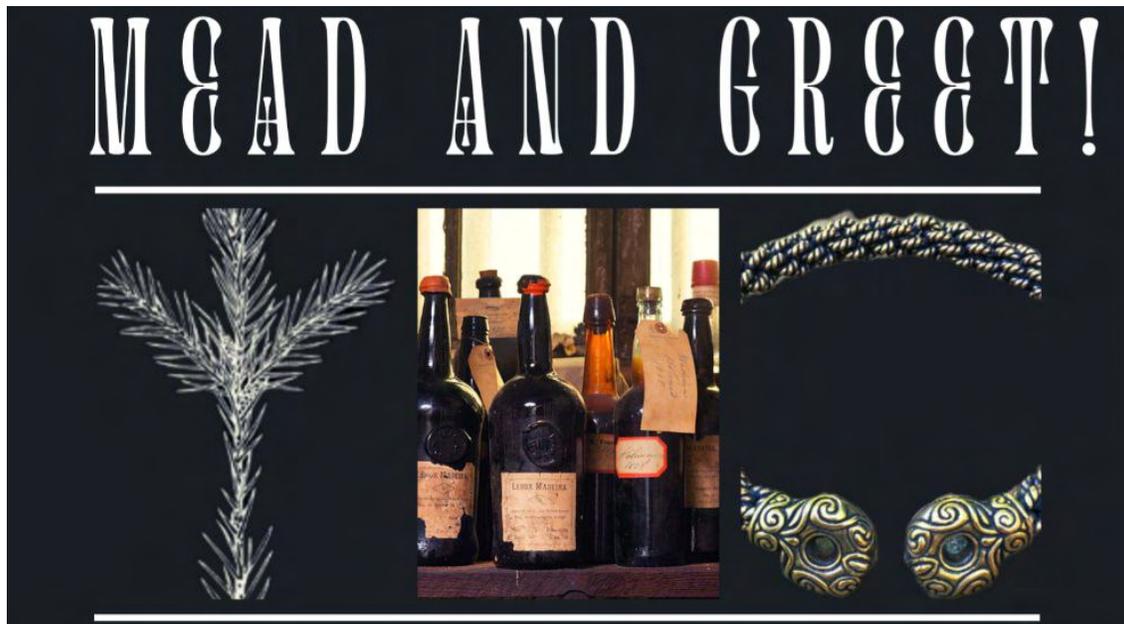


If ever you find yourself out this way, please drop us a line and come hang out with us.

Rachel Johnson



Mead and Greet



This month we hosted our very first Mead and Greet, and it was a huge success!

At this event, we started with a lovely spaghetti dinner and socialization while everyone arrived and got settled. Once the food was gone, everyone was separated into groups and assigned a table.

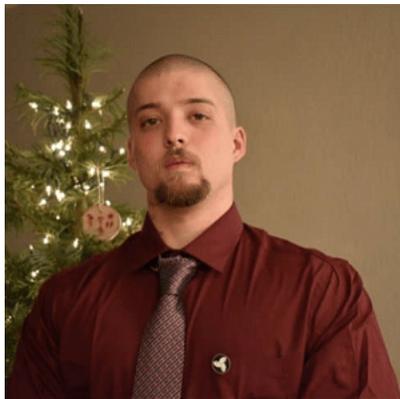
For fifteen minutes, everyone discussed two of the twelve questions. Once the time was up, there was a different game for each transition, ensuring everyone had a chance to meet and pick each other's brains.

This event provided a much-needed opportunity to introduce local folk-minded individuals to our ancestral folkways as practiced within the AFA.

Many new friends and lasting impressions were made, and we look forward to hosting variations of this event soon.

Along with the opportunity to "mead" and greet, this event served equal parts as a fundraiser in which we raised enough money to pay for nine tables and forty-five college desks. This allows us to add seminars, fundraisers, ritual workshops, and many

Here in the Northwest, we are always looking for the next step to grow and develop our local activity, and we thank all those members and vetted friends that came out to make this possible. If you are an AFA member and interested in coming out to the PNW for any one of our events, please feel free to reach out and start planning your trip.



Folkbuilder Mason Johnson

mjohnson@runestone.org



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