

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly





Þórshof

Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.thorshof.com

March 2024

- Runestone.org
- Email the Witan
- [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)

- [Parler](#)
- [Odysee](#)
- [Bitchute](#)



[Donate to the AFA](#)

Words from the Alsherjargothi



Thank you to the amazing Folk at Njörðshof! Charming of the Plow was a wonderful event and I am certain you all will read more about it in this issue.

Ostara is coming up this month and I hope to see each and every one of you there... better yet bring friends and family!

Spring is here and life will soon be in bloom all around us! Now is the time to get active. We are the folk who build. One of the hallmarks of the AFA is that we are

building the future we want, every day, and through hard work. This is a call to everyone reading this to go out, get involved, and build our AFA! I encourage you all, go to the nearest moot, even if it is a little bit of a drive, make the effort and see the results. Go to your district hof and worship our Gods there, in their temples. The Hof's are a great distance from many of you but actively attending and supporting them is exactly what will make a hof happen closer to you. We all have friends and family who should be part of our AFA Family.... have you invited them to join us? If there are not moots near you and you want more activity in your area, are you willing to host something? Better yet, are you interested in becoming an apprentice Folkbuilder and making this that we all love to succeed at a higher level?

What future do you want?

What are you willing to do to BUILD that future?

If you are interested in Folkbuilding, please contact Folkbuilder Coordinator, Gothi Nathan Erlandson nerlandson@runestone.org

Let's build our dreams together... for our Folk, for our Gods, for our children!



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

Words from our Gothar

Embracing the Fight



Witan Young recently wrote a great article, "Rejecting the Black Pill." I highly recommend reading it if you have not already. In case you haven't read it, I'll give a brief summary.

The world our ancestors knew has been twisted and corrupted, but we are still standing.

Our ancestors live here through us, and our noble Gods see our good deeds. Not all is lost, but spending all of your time wallowing in doom and gloom will certainly push your mind, body, and spirit to feel the effects of that negativity. Our world is not a fairytale, but it is OUR world, and it is beautiful. Our Folk can still be industrious, and courageous, and strong, and free.



Witan Young's message is not that life is perfect and that we should completely close ourselves off from reality, but rather that we should go gladly into this reality and use our will to shape it in a way that will provide for our Folk and honor our Gods.

As expected from any Goði or Gythia of the Asatru Folk Assembly, Witan Young's words convey one of the most important messages found in the Havamal:

"The noble man is thoughtful, silent and bold in battle. But every man should be

cheerful and happy until the day of his death." — Stanza 15

We absolutely should be aware of the various dangers and issues of our world, and we should be ever-ready to stand against chaos when it threatens our Gods and our Folk. We should train to be strong, we should practice courage, we should teach our children to be steadfast in every endeavor.

All of that being said, we do ourselves a profound disservice when we live this life by ourselves in an echo chamber of negativity. There are "battles" to be fought, yes, but there is no reason to fight them sad and alone.



To borrow from Witan Young again, our Folk have a community to be a part of, with four Hofs and another 70 acres of land. There has never been a better time to be Asatru in the last thousand years, as the AFA is making unprecedented strides in building a world for ourselves and our descendants. We should be rejoicing at the realization of this, no matter the state of the outside world.

Let's take stock- of our blessings, our victories, our strength as a united Folk- and go forth gladly into this world. We will continue to bring glory to our Gods, with smiles on our faces and courage in our hearts.

Hail the AFA!



Gothi Trent East
teast@runestone.org

From Preparation into Action



If you were at Charming of the Plow at Njörðshof, then you heard me say during the Freyr Blot that now was the time of the year to prepare for what lies ahead. I reminded you all that preparation is the hallmark of success, and that laying the proper foundation for Victory is stacking the deck in your favor. So now what?

Now, we're moving into the time of the year where the rubber meets the road, when we have to begin implementing those plans and putting in the work in order to reap the success and glory that we are honor-bound to always seek. As Aryan men and women, that internal drive to work our will on this 'middle enclosure' is strong and when honed and aimed properly it is unstoppable. So how do we do that?

As always, when confronted with such a question, my first thought is "what did my

ancestors do?" They did all the things that I implored all of you to do at Charming of the Plow: they devised a plan, they gathered all they needed to carry out the plan, and then they worked the plan. They also turned to their folk when there were setbacks, when the plan seemed in danger of failing, or when it was plainly obvious that they needed help. How can we be more like them?



We can best emulate our ancestors by looking back on their best practices and incorporating them into our own daily lives. Best practices like discipline, consistency, and courage. The best among them never sat around and waited for the world to come to them or for things to be handed to them, they put in the work and reaped the reward. They didn't wait for a Golden Age to come along due to someone else's toil and struggle, just so they could set back and enjoy the fruits of another's labor, and neither should we. So how do we do all of this?

It takes courage to get off the couch, to commit to making yourself better. It takes discipline to do the right thing or the thing that needs to be done, which if done often enough, becomes consistency. As Witan Young reminds us, we are on the precipice of our Golden Age, and it will take all of us being courageous, disciplined and consistent to usher it in. WE are in control of this, no one else.

So, as we move from the time of preparation for the year into the time of action, let us all look towards the dawning of our Golden Age. Let us all rise to the occasion, whatever that may be in our lives, just as Ostara, Goddess of the Dawn, raises her warming light upon the world every Spring. Let us all have the courage to return fully

to the Folk, the discipline to do the work necessary no matter what obstacles may come, and the consistency needed for each of us to do our part for our future.

Hail Ostara!

Hail Victory!

Hail the AFA!



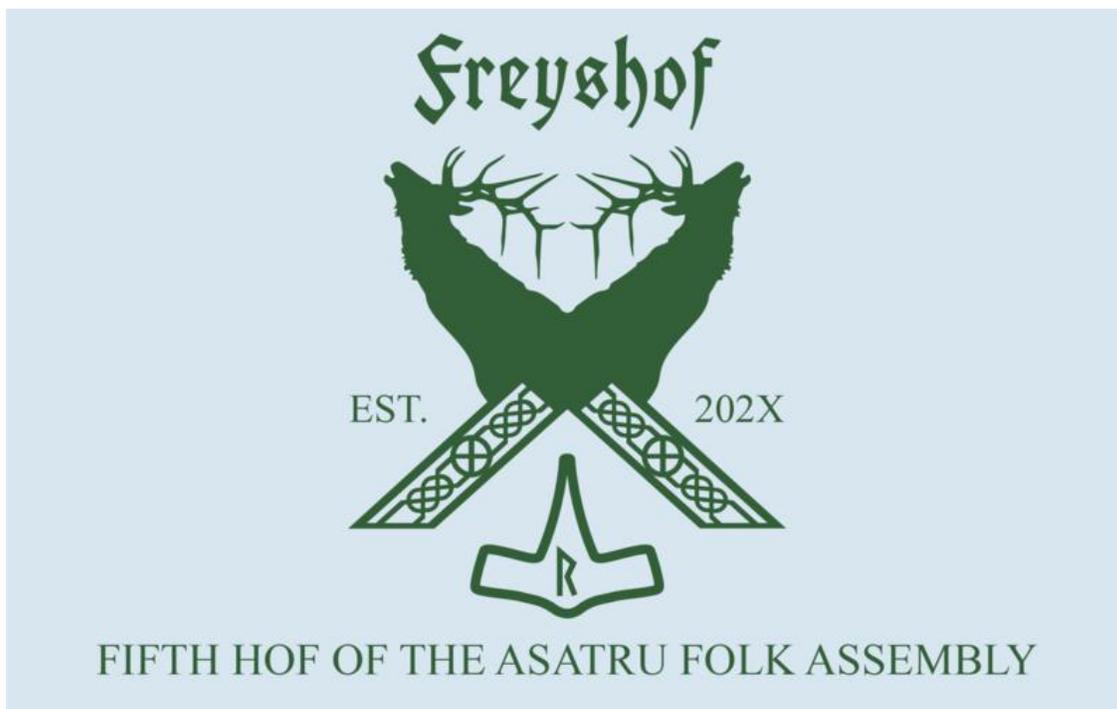
Gothi Bodi Mayo

bmayo@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.
 - o The first of 2 loans have been paid off!
 - o We now owe \$92,935.77 on our remaining loan.
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 14.48%.
 - o This is membership dues/Hoftollar plus other donations.
3. We need to locate a suitable property.
4. We need to find lenders and build a war chest.

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

Hail Freyr!

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



Sigrheim: Home of Victory

Hard Work Pays Off



February marked Charming of the Plow and a month to get some work done. We didn't have any land needing plowed, but what we did have was a shed needing built. Over the last year, we've acquired a number of tools, supplies, and the like to aid the work at Sigrheim, and it was time a couple weren't enough to keep everything tidy. I went and bought us a shed for the AFA to use while we need it, and we set to work putting it together.



Here's a tip: don't schedule things around the completion timeline listed on the instructions. It took us about 3x that amount, but with a perseverance and a few weekends of work, we got it up, and we got the supplies moved in out of the weather. It's a tiny thing, but it's cute, and it'll serve its job.

Come on out and see us for Ostara. It's gonna be good.

Support the Home of Victory



Help Sigrheim get stocked
and ready for our Folk!

Donate Supplies
from our
wishlist ✨ ✨ ✨
amazon

Thank You!

[CLICK HERE](#)

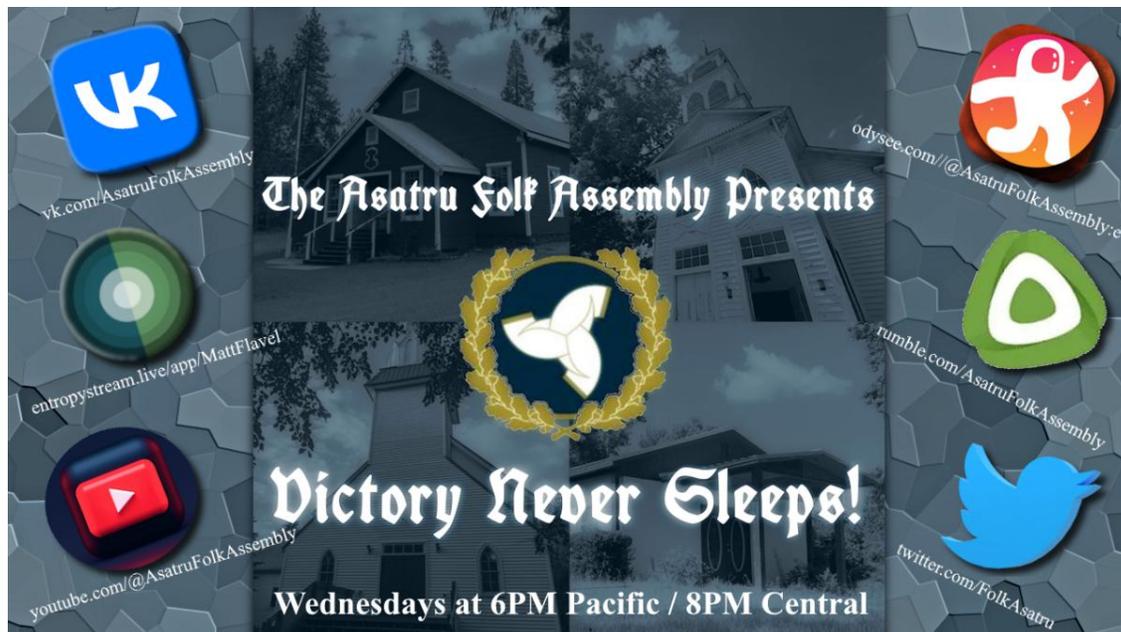
Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

nrice@runestone.org

Victory Never Sleeps



Victory Never Sleeps, a weekly podcast produced by the Asatru Folk Assembly, hosted by Alsherjargothi Matthew Flavel alongside weekly guests. The show doesn't stop until the questions stop rolling in. Come listen and learn about a variety of topics and truths relevant to our modern Asatru Folk.

Aesir. Virtues. Heroes. Doctrine. Beliefs. Cosmology. Runes. Holidays. Literature. Lore.

Help [support](#) the stream and keep the cameras rolling!

Catch us LIVE with new episodes on Wednesdays at 8pm Central / 6pm Pacific on YouTube, Twitter, Entropy, Odyssee, VK, Rumble, and Twitch. Audio versions drop on Spotify the Friday after the new episodes air.

Check out the full playlist with 100's of hours of previous recordings on our [YouTube](#).

Matthew D. Flavel

Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly

mattflavel@runestone.org



AFA Asatru Academy



Check out the Asatru Academy at AsatruAcademy.org

Entering Spring with the Asatru Academy



Our AFA Asatru Academy is humming right along and looking forward to the spring season! Currently we have 33 students attending our academy, and we look forward to adding even more students as we prepare to offer K-6th grade this fall. When we began

the academy last year, we made a commitment that we would always have the next grade ready, so we could follow our students as they progress and they would always have the next grade level ready for them. I'm very proud that the Academy staff has worked very hard to not just meet this commitment, but far exceed it. For the next school year, we will have kindergarten through 6th grade ready for students! We are very proud of all our students and families, and we are very proud of all your successes! We celebrate victory together!

The AFA Academy is so Much More Than Just Story Times

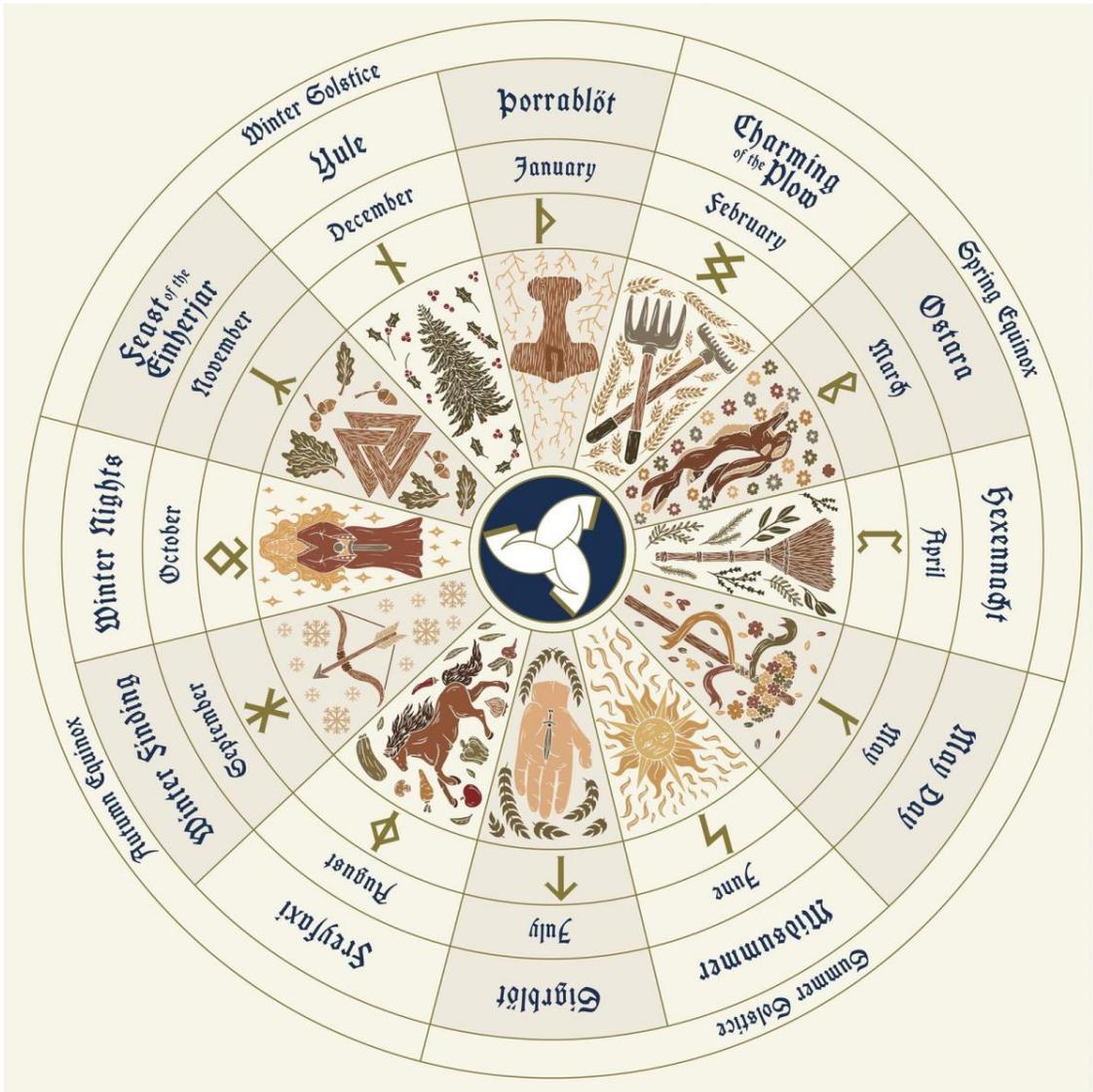


Many of our parents and students enjoy our story times and recorded lore lessons, etc. and you should! They are a wonderful part of our program. But I really want to bring your attention to the rest of our program. We provide everything you need to successfully home school. We chose as our academic anchor a tried-and-true method and material called Waldorf. Normally Waldorf material would cost you hundreds of dollars, it is free to our students in our program. Waldorf is a traditional schooling program, developmentally based, and has been around a long time. Many cities even have regular private Waldorf schools. You really should be taking advantage of this exceptional service we offer to our students, at no cost. All our Waldorf material is accessible to you by logging into quick schools. We really hope you'll take advantage of our full program. And please join us on our parents' and students' meetings that happen twice a month! We often have guest readers, and story tellers, as well as academy staff to answer questions. and the kids get to interact with each other. We hope to see you!



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

Remembrance & Holy Days



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

Date	Observance
January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 20	Þorrablót
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 17	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olvir of Egg
March 19 (observed on 16th)	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 10	Day of Remembrance for John Yeowell "Stubba"
April 30 (observed on 20th)	Hexennacht
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
May 1 (observed on 18th)	May Day
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric of the Goths
June 20 (observed on 15th)	Midsummer
July 4	Day of Remembrance for Sveinbjorn Beinteinsson
July 9	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills
July 20	Sigrblót
August 9	Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia
August 17	Freyfaxi
September 9	Day of Remembrance for Prince Hermann of the Cherusci
September 22 (observed on 21st)	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 19	Winter Nights
November 9	Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigríð of Sweden
November 11 (observed on 16th)	Feast of the Einherjar
December 9	Day of Remembrance for Egill Skallagrímsson
December 20	Mother's Night
December 20-31 (observed on 21st)	Yuletide

March



Asatru Holidays - March 2024 - Olvir of Egg | Ostara

Day of Remembrance

Olvir of Egg | March 9th



Sometime between 1020 and 1021 CE, the Christianization of Pagan Europe was well underway. King Olaf II was ensconced on the throne of Norway. Much of the country had been baptized under threat of torture and death. Such things, however, were not enough to deter the faithful, and eventually, word reached the ears of King Olaf II of gatherings in and around Trondheim of a very pagan nature.

Olvir of Egg, a leader and a Gothi of his people, was elected by his people to speak to the King on their behalf and to defend their religious activities. An intelligent man, Olvir was called before the King on two separate occasions to defend the stories of Pagan festivals and feasts. On both occasions, Olvir of Egg humbly described not Pagan gatherings, but communal gatherings, in which neighbors drank and feasted as friends.

Both times Olvir left behind an unconvinced King and when spies told him a third time of an Eostre festival being arranged for the people, Olaf decided that he had heard enough. Five ships and over three hundred men were gathered and set out to ambush Olvir and the men and women who worshipped with him. Arriving under the cover of darkness, Olaf's men ambushed Olvir and his pagan community. Olvir was killed and many of his people were tortured, mutilated, or killed. Once a great stronghold of the Pagan faith, Trondheim had been taken.

And what can we learn from this story?

Many of these stories are not happy stories. On the surface, they are stories of death and defeat, but we have to look past the surface of all of these stories. Here, with Olvir, we see a man who loved his Gods and, despite all of the pressures of his ancient world, did his best to worship them. Not only did he do his best for himself, but he also did the best he could for his people. In the face of adversity, Olvir did his best to provide and protect his people from the angry, outside force that was the King.

Our world is not the same world that Olvir lived in. We have the right to choose our faith, but there will always be obstacles. In these times, when our native faith is still so small, and our heritage is being challenged by the multicultural whirlwind, remember Olvir. Provide a safe place for your folk to be away from the harm of the "societal norm". Remember that sometimes smart words are required instead of rash ones.

Be there for your folk. Provide for your folk.

The Gods and the Ancestors are watching.



Gythia Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org

Holiday

Ostara | March 19 (Observed March 16)



Hail Ostara, conquering Goddess of the Dawn, radiant Lady of Spring! You ride boldly out of the east, conquering all before you! May your light chase away the darkness! May your warmth banish the cold!

Ostara is the celebration marking the beginning of Spring. The cold, dreary days of winter are finally coming to an end. The sun is warming the frozen soil. Life is once stirring from the depths. Ostara is a celebration in every way. Our ancestors celebrated life and the survival of another long winter. They celebrated the birth of lambs, calves, and horses. They celebrated the blossoming fertility of the world around them.

In today's fast and hectic world now is a good time to stop and take a deep breath. Let the sun warm your face and take the time to thank the Gods and the Ancestors for seeing you through another cold winter. Shake off the influences of the winter blues. Now is the time to get your hands dirty.

The small plot of the garden that you planned for during the Charming of the Plow is almost ready for planting. Keep that soil turned and soft. Keep fertilizing it. It is too cold to plant seeds directly into the ground, but this is a good time to begin your seeds inside. Plant them and keep them warm. Set yourself up for success. If you are not working on a garden, then you should be moving from the planning stages of your

Charming of the Plow project into the beginning of the active stages. The winter months are stationary by nature, but winter is over. Now it is time to leave the introspection in favor of action. With industriousness, we can change the world. Start small and move always onward.



Gythia Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org

Upcoming National Event

Ostara at Þórshof | March 22nd - 24th



It's that time again! Pretty soon, the grass in Dixie will awaken from its slumber, bees will be buzzing, flowers will begin to bud again. Our national event at Þórshof, Ostara. Folks are coming from all over the country to celebrate the Dawn, the Spring. Ostara

has been among my favorite events since I joined AFA in 2018. Join us to worship, to fellowship, to give birth to the community and to the Gods and Folk.

We will have VIPs such as Alsherjargothi Matthew Flavel, and the AFA Witan, along with Gothar from all over the country! Expect Blót, Sumbl, games, and talks on various Asatru subjects.

Ostara at Þórshof



Ostara at Þórshof, an Asatru Folk Assembly national event, is scheduled for March 22 - 24 at our very own Þórshof in Linden, North Carolina! [Click here for Tickets](#)

Registration is already underway, please make sure to include children's tickets (even though they are free) so we can have an accurate headcount to plan meals.

Also, if you have items for our auction, whether it's handmade Asatru items, or homemade jam, whatever you wish to donate, it's greatly appreciated.

Þorshof Shirts Available at Ostara



Hoodies \$45



Event Tees \$25



Hof Tees \$15

We'll have a merch table at Ostara featuring flags, pins, books, and more. We'll have some awesome event shirts up for sale, as well as last year's Hof shirts (at a discount) and Þorshof hoodies.

Contact your local Folkbuilder for details.

Get your tickets [HERE](#)



Witan Daniel Young
dyoung@runestone.org

Charming of the Plow 2024



Charming of the Plow at Njördshof 2024

Gothar Spotlight

Gothi Nathan Erlandson | Minnesota



AFA Folkbuilder Coordinator
Gothar Class of 2023
Ordained August 19, 2023
Mentored by Witan Daniel Young

Nathan Erlandson is a powerhouse of a man. A force of nature. It has been my pleasure getting to know him over the past few years. I was first introduced to Nathan at Winter Nights 2020, at the insistence of Witan Brandy Callahan. I had just been ordained, and he had just started his own journey into the Gothar Program. He and I hit it off immediately.

It wasn't long after that Gythia Catie Erickson asked if I would mentor him in the

Program, to which I said yes. We started off a little rough, but over the following months we began to crack the ice, so to speak. Once we had broken through a few barriers, Nathan began to open up, and for that, I am grateful. Along the way he and I became friends. I am glad to say that he is one of my closest friends. He learned quickly, and what was most enjoyable was that I got to learn from him as well.

Nathan is a leader. He was almost born with it. What separates Nathan is that he leads from the front. Not one to shy away from work, he is often the first one to volunteer and put in the dirty work. From major repairs at Baldrshof, to cutting lawn, to preparing for and planning events at the Hof.

Nathan felt the calling to the Aesir in 2013 and committed to it 2017. Despite being raised Catholic, Nathan had always felt a calling to something more. He served in the US Army from 1998 to 2005, first as a firefighter than as an infantryman. This tells you a lot about what motivates him in life. His willingness to put himself out front to protect and guide those he holds dear.



Nathan joined the Asatru Folk Assembly in 2020, while he was searching for a community to further his own practice, and like most of us, to find fellowship with like-minded Folk. Nearly immediately, he volunteered to Folkbuild for the AFA. At Odinshof in June of 2021, Nathan took his Folkbuilder Oath at Midsummer, and was immediately accepted in the Gothar Program.

At his ordination at Baldrshof during Freyfaxi, Nathan took his Gothar Oath before performing the Freyfaxi Blot. I was unable to be there, but thanks to Witan Brandy I got to see it all through video call. Nathan is also responsible for hosting the AFA's annual

Feast of the Einherjar, which he has for the past 3 years.

Recently, he was named the Folkbuilder Coordinator for the AFA. When the idea of naming a coordinator came up, Nathan's name was the only one that came up. We have many amazing Folkbuilders in the AFA, however Nathan was the clear choice. The AFA is better with Nathan in it.



“Gothi Erlandson has been a driving force in Baldrshof District and in the Asatru Folk Assembly. His passion, diligence, and steadfastness are an anchor for his friends, his family, his Folk, and his Church. Thank you, Nathan for all you do to protect and support the people and Folk that you love.”

– Witan Brandy Callahan

“Gothi Nathan Erlandson is a great example of many of our Asatru Virtues. He’s certainly hard-working and industrious, forthright and perseverant. He’s the embodiment of self-reliance—and quite literally such, he was the selected by his peers to be the chosen guest on Victory Never Sleeps on the episode all about it. Gothi

Erlandson is a catalyst for right action and forward progress, helping to lead the AFA's team of Folkbuilders. He's a strong man, a proud man, and I'm proud to be able to work with him daily."

– Folkbuilder Nick Rice

"Goði Erlandsson has always been an inspirational person to me, the conduct of his character and strength of his resolve is absolutely something to aspire to. His dedication and steadfast commitment to the AFA is truly remarkable, and the faith he displays in the Aesir marks him as a true leader. The example he sets at Baldrshof makes all of our leadership team very proud to meet the high standards of excellence that he has set for us. Not only is he a great leader, he is also someone who cares deeply about our folk, providing exceptional counsel and advice for those in need. He is organized, coordinated and extremely professional and exemplary Goði."

– Folkbuilder Stian Penner

"Goði Nate Erlandson is someone who steps into a position 110%, and I can say this because I have personally witnessed it on multiple occasions- helping revive Baldrshof, Folkbuilding, becoming a Goði, being the Folkbuilder Coordinator- just to name a few. As a former US Army Infantryman, he chases his goals with the spirit of a warrior and a dogged determination that reminds us how our Folk shaped the world so many times in our history."

– Gothi Trent East



Witan Daniel Young
dyoung@runestone.org

Folkbuilder Spotlight

Folkbuilder Heather Young | South Carolina



For those of you that don't know Heather Young, she is a shining beacon for our Folk. She is who one thinks of when someone says Folkbuilder or Frithweaver for our Church. Heather is directly involved with the management of Thorshof which includes the beautification project, National Event planning and execution for Ostara, she works seamlessly across the AFA as a whole bringing our Folk community, local community work such as a food pantry, coat drives, and toy drives. As if her days weren't filled already, Heather is also studying to become a Gythia for the Church.

"Folkbuilder Young is an outstanding example of a Frithweaver. She spends countless hours reaching out to our folk to help them with their needs, large and small. She is an

outstanding Folkbuilder, amazing woman, and one of my dearest friends. Thank you, Heather for all you do!”

– Witan Brandy Callahan

“Heather is one of the most caring and industrious people I know, both traits that certainly make her an awesome Folkbuilder. She is hard-working, always willing to lend a helping hand, and more than happy to lend an ear as well. She works very hard in a variety of areas with the Church, acting to maintain Thorshof and its leadership.”

– Folkbuilder Nick Rice

“Working with Folkbuilder Heather Young is always a joy. She attacks any problem thrown at her head-on and with a smile. The passion she has for our Church and the love she has for our folk shines through in every interaction. Whether she is spearheading the food pantry, serving meals to our folk, or weaving frith amongst our membership, no task is too great or too small. Her grace and piety bring a light that we couldn’t do without. She is a role model for our women and our Folkbuilders.”

– Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea

“Heather Young exemplifies the ideal Folkbuilder, demonstrating unwavering dedication and commitment to both the folk and her spiritual beliefs in the Gods. She always works to ensure that everyone enjoys themselves, and she spares no effort in supporting the folk in any way she can, from planning events and cooking meals, to outreach amongst AFA members around the country. Heather’s genuine kindness and compassion shine through in every interaction, making her one of the most pleasant individuals I’ve had the pleasure of knowing.”

– Folkbuilder Robert Shotwell

As the above folks have stated, Heather Young is one of the most prized members of AFA leadership. She exemplifies everything it means to be a leader of our Folk and is without question the tip of the spear for our members. Thank you, Heather, for all that you do for the Gods, The Church, and our Folk.

Hail Folkbuilder Heather Young!

Gothi Nathan Erlandson

nerlandson@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...

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

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.

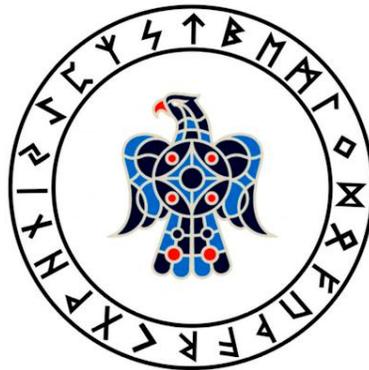
If you have a loved one who is incarcerated or know of someone who is Folkish and will benefit from this ministry, please contact us at prisonministry@runestone.org.



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.

**Artisans of the AFA
Support Our Folk**

GOTHIC RUNES



FRITZ MAES

GOTHIC RUNES

Energy Elements Ethnicity

Fritz Maes

Final Revised Glorious Edition 03 March 2024

"Fritz Maes' latest book, Gothic Runes, is a precious jewel. In a genre saturated with every other kind of runes - Younger, Elder, Anglo-Saxon, Frisian, whatever - it is a delight to find a competent volume on the runic lore of the much-neglected Goths.

Maes' book breaks new ground, and is illuminated by his knowledge of, and passion for, the mythic and somewhat mysterious Goths. Already known for his works on medieval German weaponry and fighting traditions, he applies a scholar's mind with a refreshing passion to breathe life into the runic tradition of the Goths. Well done!"

— Stephen McNallen

Please consider purchasing your copy of my book from Lulu:

<https://www.lulu.com/shop/fritz-maes/gothic-runes/ebook/product-yv7vgyw.html>

BTW: Anyone who has previously bought my book may email me to verify that and request free copy of latest edition + FM

fritzmaes@yandex.com

Best Regards,

Fritz

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 you are 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 simple, 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

Ancestral Food and Culture

German Sweet Milk Rolls



Ingredients

- * 450 g all-purpose flour (use weight, not cups for accuracy)
- * 250 ml milk, lukewarm
- * 1 pouch dry yeast (7 g or 0.25 oz)
- * 2 Tbsp vanilla sugar <<https://amzn.to/3PGIAZ6>>
- * 2 Tbsp sugar
- * 1 Tbsp honey
- * 1 egg

- * ½ tsp salt
- * ½ stick butter, cut in slices (=56g) at room temperature



Instructions

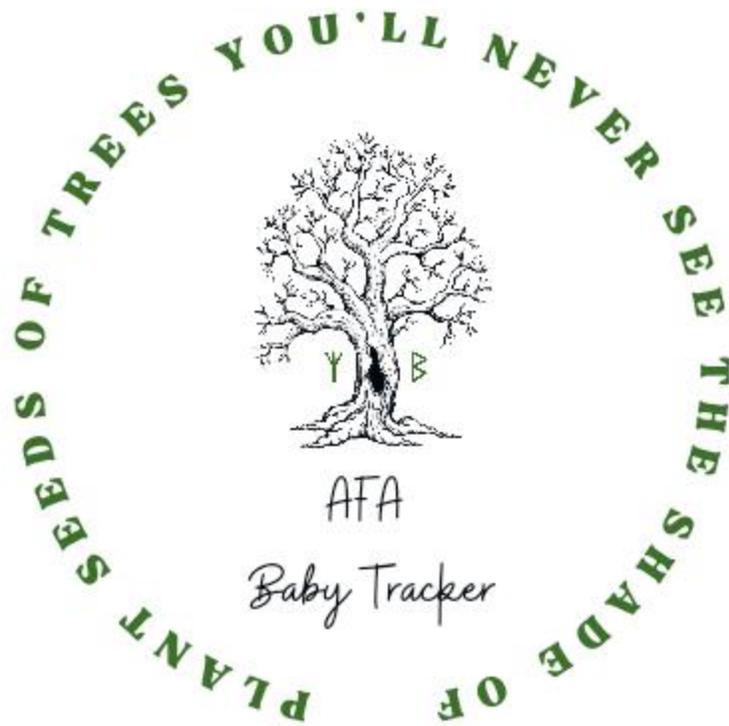
- * Use some of the warm milk to dilute the yeast in a small bowl.
- * Add the flour to a large mixing bowl.
- * Add the yeast milk mix to the flour, cover and let stand for 10 minutes.

- * After 10 minutes add the sugar, vanilla sugar, honey, salt and the egg.
- * Give it a quick mix until the ingredients are mixed well, then add the butter.
- * Mix the dough for 10 minutes.
- * After 10 minutes mixing, cover the bowl with a damp towel and let the dough proof for 2 hours.
- * After 2 hours the dough should be significant larger.
- * Give it a quick knead and if you have time, let it rest for a few minutes.
- * Preheat the oven to 350°F.
- * Divide the dough into 9 parts of equal size.
- * Each dough part gets shaped into a sphere by moving it with a hollow hand in a circle on the table.
- * Grease a baking sheet or a casserole with butter and place the rolls there.
- * You can either place them close to each other, so they grow together, or apart so they bake separate.
- * Bake at 350°F for about 20 minutes (more or less, depending on the oven and size of the rolls).
- * Remove the rolls from the oven, let cool. Best enjoyed warm and fresh.



Folkbuilder Sara Ault
sault@runestone.org

Baby Tracker



To show the growth of our folk we present to you an ongoing baby tracker. We will be keeping track of how many children have been and are born within the AFA from 2022 and forward. The ongoing tracking is proof that we are building something sustainable for the future of our folk, which is a place for these children to grow up within and a place where they can feel proud of who they are!

Total babies born in 2024: 5

Online Events and Meetings



VIRTUE RECOVERY MEETING

THURSDAY 7PM CST
(5PM PST, 8PM EST)

SATURDAY 9AM CST
(7AM PST, 10AM EST)

Being our most virtuous selves is not always the easiest task. As a community, we are home to many that have or are currently, struggling with addiction. Many traditional 12 step meeting, though so very respected, do not fall in line with what we as a people believe. Specifically, any step pertaining to the divine will or requesting the removal of any shortcomings. So, we run what we are calling the Virtue Recovery Meeting. Since we are an international organization, the best way for us to do this is via Zoom (<http://tinyurl.com/virtuerecoverymeeting>). We hold our meetings every Thursday at 7pm Central and every Saturday at 9am Central. Join us!! Feel free to reach out to

Folkbuilder Ashley McStocker with any and all questions!

AMcStocker@Runestone.org





AFA Reading Challenge Meetings



1/9/24	Link will be posted on MeWe the weekend before the meeting	7/9/24
2/13/24		8/13/24
3/12/24		9/10/24
4/9/24		10/8/24
5/14/24		11/12/24
6/11/24		12/10/24

CONTACT FOLKBUILDER ALI CLAUSEN FOR DETAILS
 ACLAUSEN@RUNESTONE.ORG OR ON MEWE

These meetings are family friendly so please, no politics or overly mature topics

Ladies Book Study

Revolt Against the Modern World

by Julius Evola

Dates:

7 pm CST

January 25th

February 8th

February 22nd

February 29th

March 7th

March 28th

April 4th

April 11th

**Free PDF
and meeting link
in Mewe Ladies Group**

**For more information contact
Witan Brandy Callahan
Folkbuilder Sara Ault**

Ladies Mysteries Podcast

Seidr

March 10th

3 pm PST, 4 pm MST, 5 pm CST, 6 pm EST

Witan Brandy Callahan

Gythia Anna Plourde

Gythia Catie Erickson

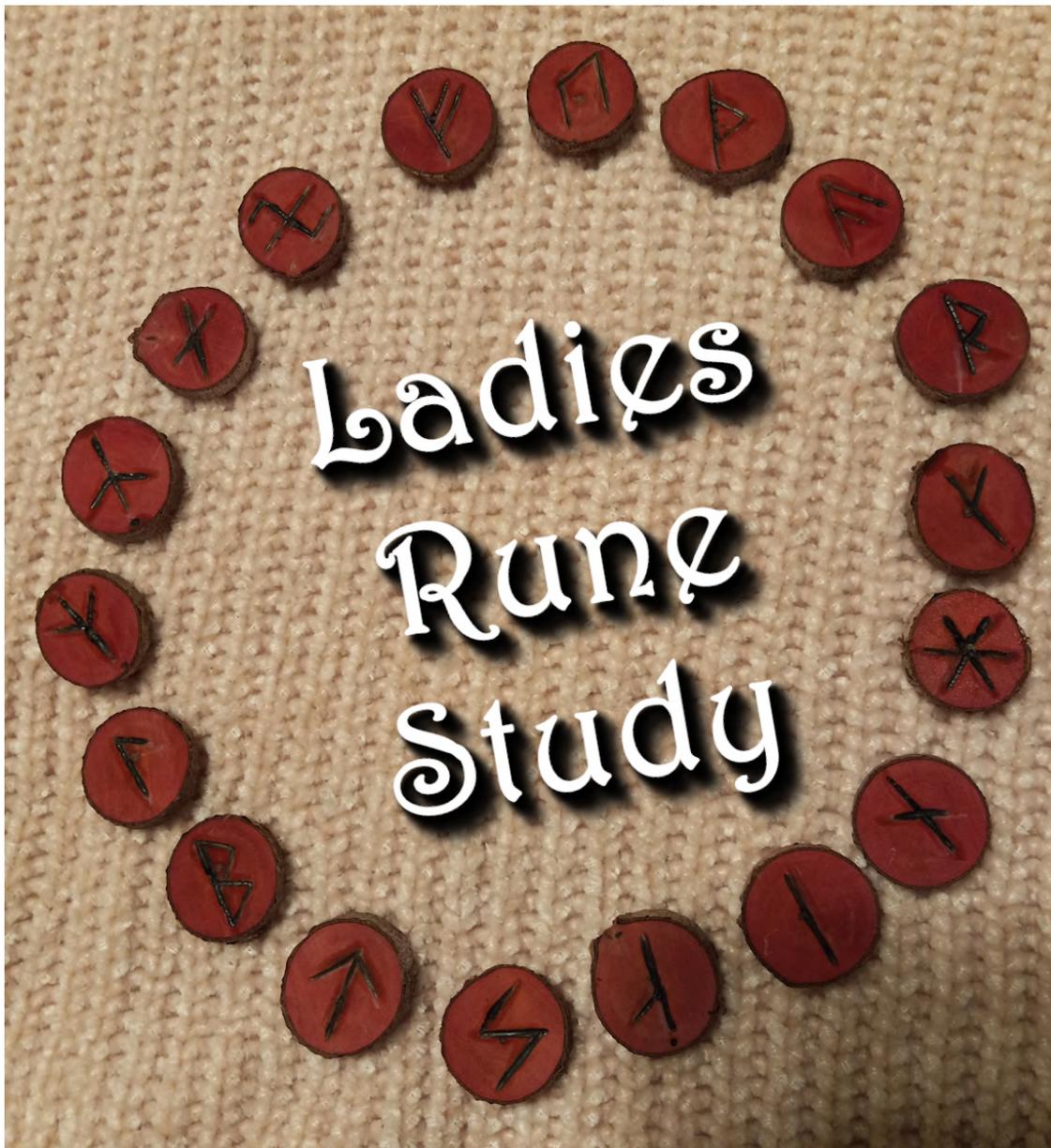
Folkbuilder Heather Young

Folkbuilder Sara Ault

Folkbuilder Ali Clausen

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

Hope to see you there!



Starting February 3rd, at 1pm Eastern

If you are looking to expand your knowledge of the runes in the company of your AFA sisters, stay tuned. We will be discussing how to work the runes into our real lives, and how they relate to us in the modern world. This is open to all women of the AFA. Stay tuned to the ladies' chat for more details, or feel free to contact Gythia Anna Plourde at aplourde@runestone.org

**Lore Study with
Gothi Jason Plourde**
Join us every Monday night

at

8:00 pm EST

7:00 pm CST

6:00 pm MST

5:00 pm PST

4:00 pm AKST

**Each study begins with trivia questions
from VNS and the previous week's
reading. A winner is announced monthly.**

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

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



For our AFA Folk who are 50 and over

Eldri

Teams Meetings

TUESDAY EVENINGS:

March 5th & 19th

5:30 PT 6:30 MT 7:30 CT 8:30 ET

FRIDAY AFTERNOONS:

March 8th & 22nd

2:00 PT 3:00 MT 4:00 CT 5:00 ET

Join us for animated conversation where we share wisdom & reflections while building bonds of friendship.

Copy this link into a browser: <https://tinyurl.com/yc289cn8>

Hosted by Gythia Sheila McNallen

February Sister's Fitness Winner



The winner of the February Sisters Fitness challenge is Ceilidh McPhee of New Zealand!

Ceilidh has been consistently working hard in our group and is so deserving of this victory. Every month she has made reasonable goals, continually building off her previous goals.

She has shown true perseverance and despite any setbacks she always continues to the end.

Congratulations Ceilidh!

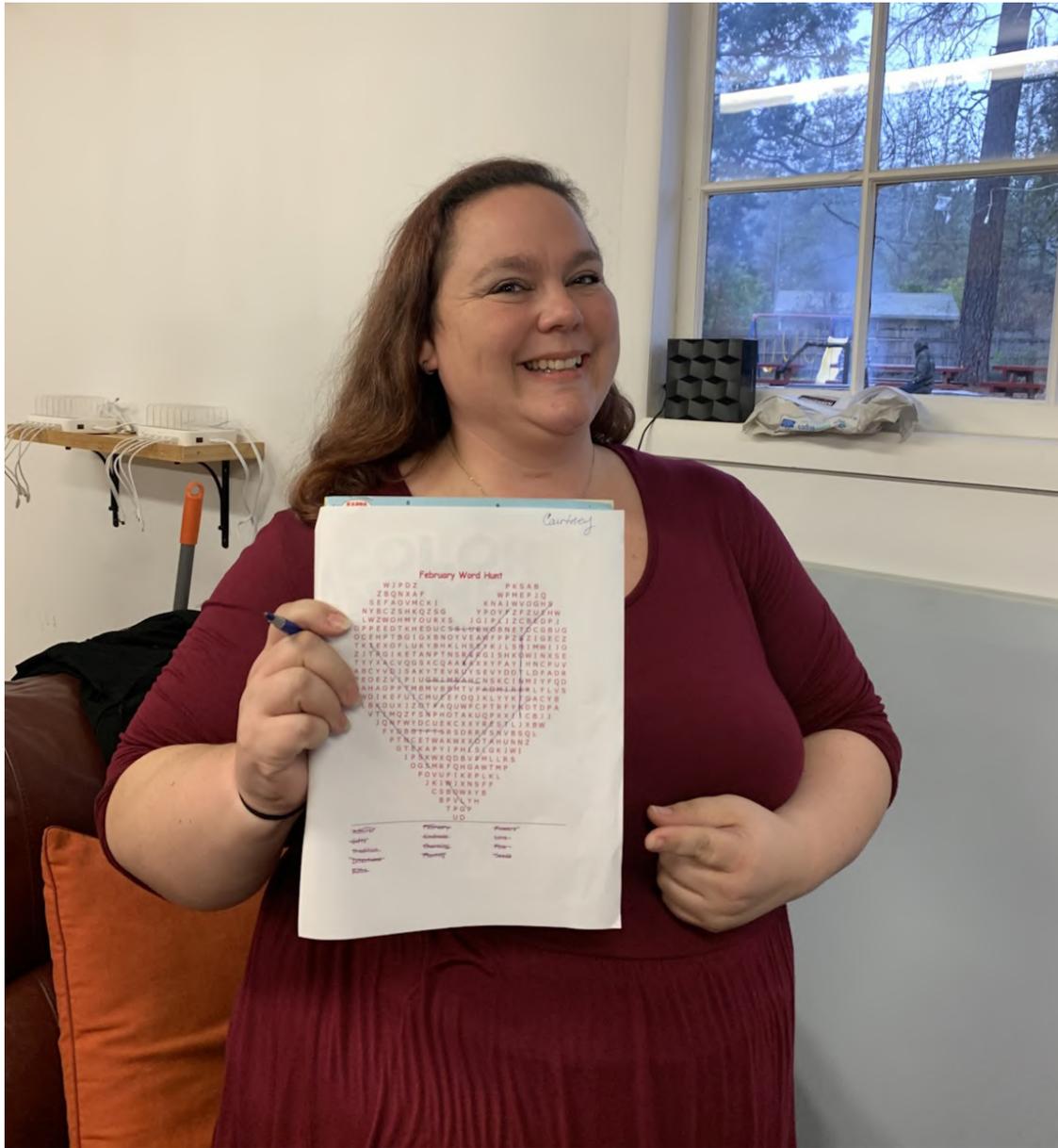
All women of the AFA are welcomed and encouraged to join our AFA sisters' fitness group. Everyone's goals are self-determined and whoever is most consistent wins!

— Corrie Proudfoot, member, Minnesota

Just for Fun



Apprentice Folkbuilder **Hope White** took 1st place in completing February's word search. Hooray! It was definitely a fun one, and a couple of ladies at Óðinshof raced each other to complete it at Charming of the Plow.



Courtney and Caitlin finished the puzzle with smiles on their faces, worthy of honorable mentions.



Thank you to all who participated!

A huge shout-out also goes to our youth participants, **Kara, Russell, and Madilene** for their efforts in completing the kid's maze and creating a "LOVE" acrostic poem this month!

LOVE Maze

Write a Valentine's Day Acrostic:

L Laugh

O Optimistic

V Valuable

E Enchanting

www.BrainyMaze.com

Images (c) Hidesy's Clipart & Little Red

LOVE Maze

Name: Madilene

Write a Valentine's Day Acrostic:

L Laughter in their

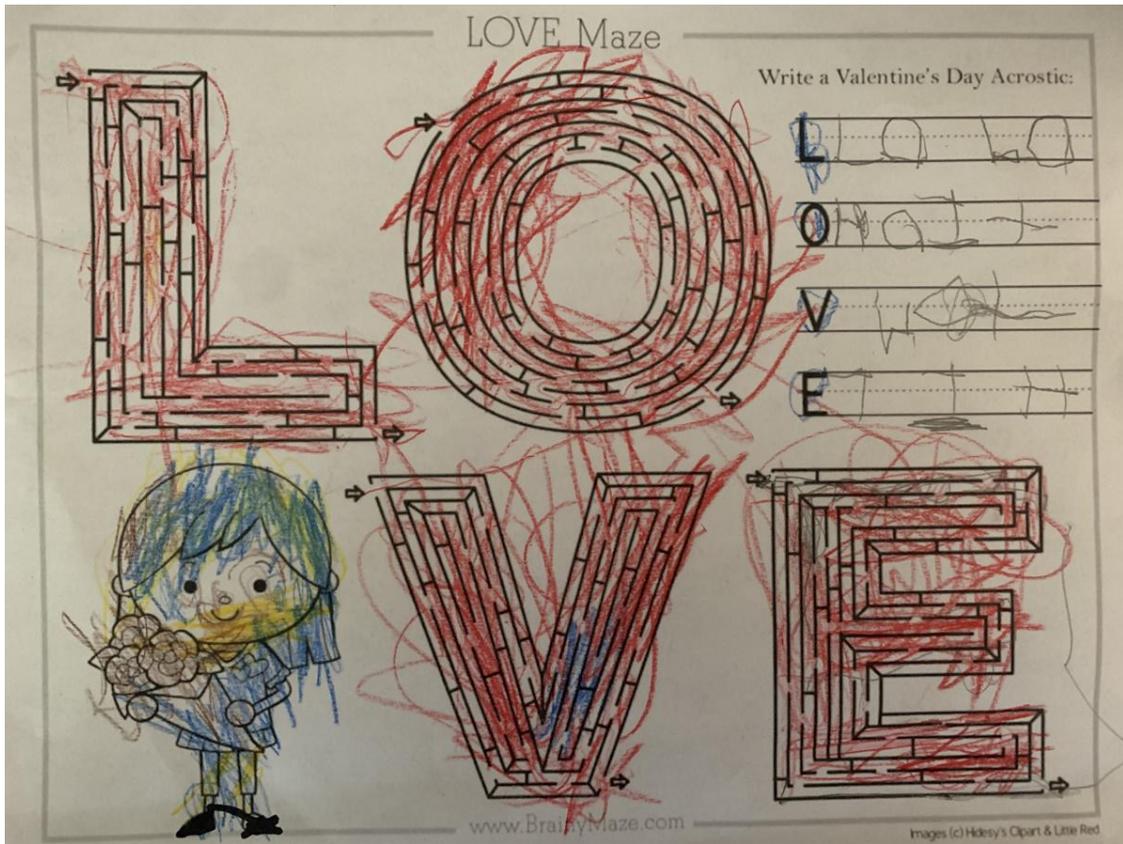
O Old timestones

V Victory together

E Everyone's smiling

www.BrainyMaze.com

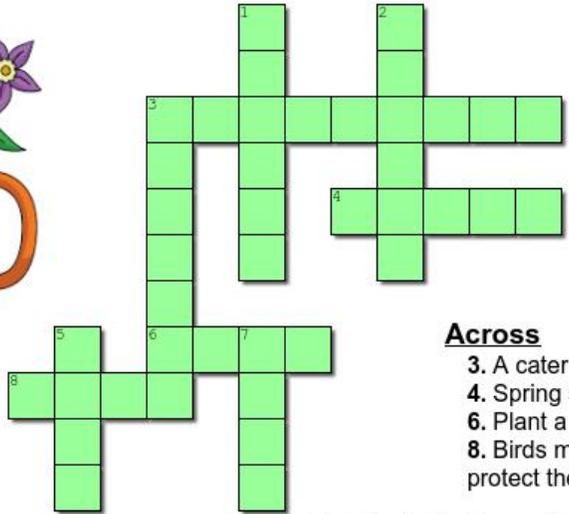
Images (c) Hidesy's Clipart & Little Red



As we welcome the return of Spring, I invite both members and youth to participate in a fun crossword puzzle and to enter the contest for the best AFA Ostara egg design!

March Crossword

You're invited to complete and send proof to press@runestone.org!



Across

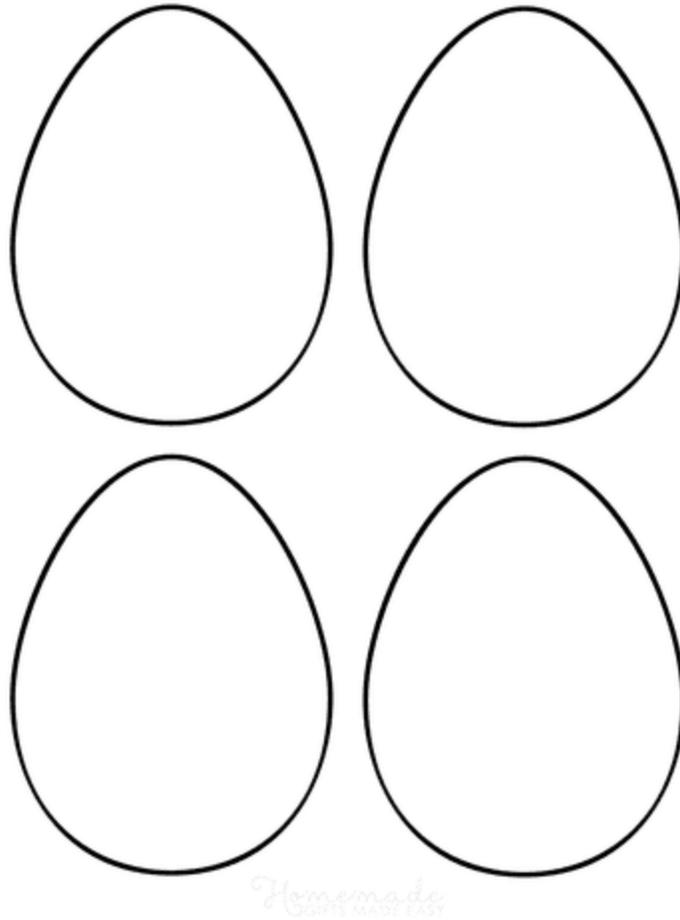
- 3. A caterpillar turns into a _____.
- 4. Spring starts during this month.
- 6. Plant a _____.
- 8. Birds make a _____ to lay and protect their eggs.

Down

- 1. goddess we call upon this month
- 2. The first day of Spring lands on the _____ equinox in the northern hemisphere.
- 3. colorful arc in the sky after rain, guarded by Heimdall
- 5. Ice and snow _____ when they warm up.
- 7. We dye, decorate, and hunt for these.

Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

The best AFA eggs in the "Member" and "Youth" categories will be featured next month! Please send your design entries to press@runestone.org.

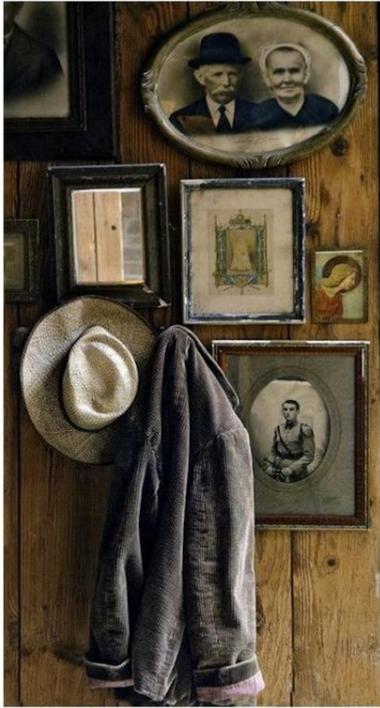


Have a Fun and Magical March!



Folkbuilder Olivia Sutherland
osutherland@runestone.org

Genealogy and Kinship Charts



Come on, AFA family!

1) The AFA Genealogy MeWe group has added “chat”. We can now share tips, discoveries, resources and all the goodies of family tree research.

2) Create a Gedmatch.com account to obtain a “kit number” to find your DNA matches with other AFA members.

Send your Gematch Kit # to
Sheila@runestone.org

for inclusion on our next AFA KINSHIP CHART

See how closely you’re related to other AFA members. 72 people so far, and counting!



Gythia Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org

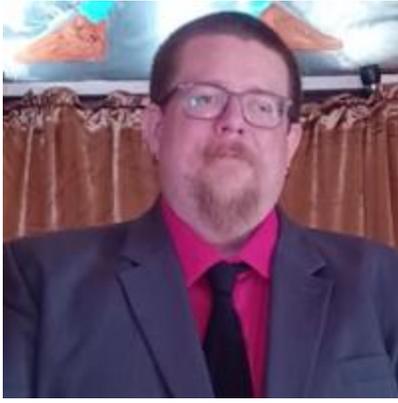
Submit Now to the Runestone

Took some awesome pics at a moot or event? Were you at the Hof recently?

We'd love to see 'em. Send to Photos@Runestone.org

 A collection of various cameras and lenses, including Sony Alpha series and Canon EOS series, arranged on a dark surface.

Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice



Editor, *The Runestone*
nrice@runestone.org

Þórshof

Food Pantry at Þórshof



This month, on the twenty-fourth of February, Thorshof held its monthly food pantry, wherein eleven families from throughout the local community were successfully provided food. With the dedicated efforts of AFA leaders and volunteers, much work has been put in to ensure, even with difficulties presenting themselves, that Thorshof is able to continue doing good work through deed and provide many people in need with what may be one of their very few opportunities to receive food. In doing so, as Asatruar, we uphold our values of being good neighbors, hospitality, and right action. It

is one thing to speak about helping others; another to actually do it. Words are Wind, Deeds are Iron. Hail the Gods! Hail the Folk! Hail the AFA!



Jager Croft
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jcroft@runestone.org

Charming of the Plow at Þórshof



It had been a while since I had been at the Hof for Charming of the Plow, but finally my schedule lined up with the holiday schedule at Þórshof. We saw old friends and met a few new friends came to see us.

We shared a potluck meal, which by the way, was awesome. A Ukrainian dish, some Southern cuisine, some lasagna, and some treats for the kids. Speaking of kids, we had a lot of new babies at the hof. Beautiful, well behaved and excited for what we set out to do. After our meal, we processed into the Temple for our gift exchange with Frey. Witan Herul lead a powerful ritual in which we set goals, to planted as seeds in the furrow we cut into the unyielding earth. Offerings of mead and grain were made. Svan sounded the horn, and I can still here its notes echoing in my mind. Weare ready for the return of Ostara, as Delling's Door begins to crack open. Her warmth is helping to

loosen the grip of winter, and we are ready to win, ready to achieve.

Hail Ing! Hail Ostara



Witan Daniel Young
dyoung@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Þórshof





Support Þórshof



The District Poetry Corner

To a Radiant Ostara



*In Ostara's gentle wake, the world begins to stir,
As Winter's icy grip recedes, and Springtime's light doth spur.
The goddess of the dawn, with golden locks and grace,
Awakens sleeping earth, in her loving embrace.*

*From frost-kissed buds to verdant fields, her touch brings life anew,
As blossoms bloom and songbirds sing, beneath the sky so blue.
Her laughter fills the warming air, a promise bright and clear,
Of days to come, filled with warmth, as the year unfolds its sphere.*

*With each step forward, we feel her guiding hand,
Leading us through the cycles, across the fertile land.
For as the days grow longer, and the sun climbs high above,
We celebrate Ostara's gifts, with hearts brimming with love.*

*So let us dance upon the earth, beneath the budding trees,
And honor Ostara's presence, on the whispering breeze.
For in her radiant light, we find hope's gentle sway,
As Springtime's warmth envelops us, and leads us on our way.*

*So let us raise our voices, in praise of Ostara's light,
As she guides us through the cycles, in the dance of day and night.
For in her glowing presence, we find our spirits soar,*

And greet each dawn with hope, as we embrace forevermore.



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Springtime, Springtime



*'Springtime, springtime, how we have longed
We hear your orchestra through birds and their song*

*The buds on the willow break out in green
What is coming is clear for all to see*

*You bring the light, hope and rebirth
You clear the way for the flowering earth*

*The light of the sun falls warm on our faces
The joy of our people heard in all places*

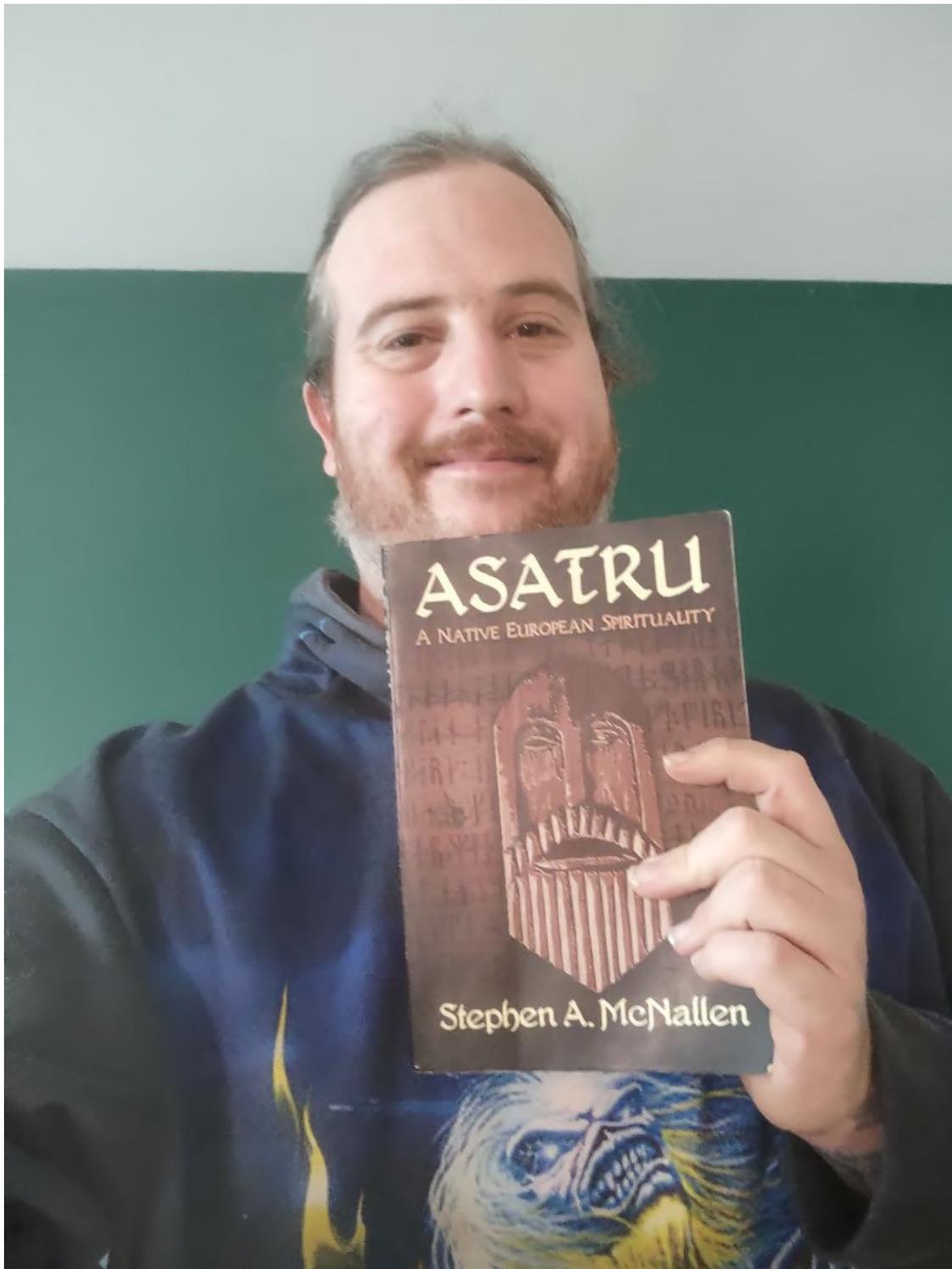
*Springtime, springtime, how we have longed
May we share in its blessings, let's sing it a song'*



Erik Lugnet
Apprentice Folkbuilder
elugnet@runestone.org

Indiana

The Wyrd Shall Weave



I recall about a year ago I had gone to hang out with friends who I hadn't seen in about 3 years. It was a typical Friday night gathering that these friends of mine throw. Beer, heart food, political discussion, spiritual debate, and general fellowship.

I don't stay at these gatherings too long. The friends I had who used to frequent them don't attend that often anymore. I was a bit bored as I sat there with a Yuengling in my hand.

All of a sudden, I overheard a discussion about the Proto-Indo European peoples and their faith, and I saw a tall man who hadn't done any drinking, who was quiet yet not shy, discussing the Nordic myths.

That man was Jonathan Rock. After a brief discussion he began talking a little bit about the Asatru Folk Assembly. I was skeptical that the ancient faith could be practiced in the modern era, especially with all the lost lore but after a week or two, I was sold, and I quickly signed up to become a member. I've learned that in life not all coincidences are just mere coincidences, something bigger was calling me home.

I was raised in a small town outside of Indianapolis and had dabbled around with various spiritual and occult practices until my mother died. I made the mistake that many spiritually inclined people make in a time of crisis, I became a Christian. An Orthodox Christian.

After 6-7 years of hypocrisy and growing liberal rot on top of being burnt out by dead end political causes surrounding it, I had become disillusioned. I wasn't sure that my own gut instinct and natural intuition about folk was compatible with the world view of the Orthodox Church. The Church prides itself in being hardened traditionalists until you look at the western clergy and Greek monks pushing a liberal agenda. You think the OC is ethnocentric until you learn that's only nominally for the Eastern people, the West not so much.... You're also required to spit on the west during your baptism.....

Naturally I didn't have home there unless I wanted to be a de-racinated hippy. That's not my jam and that's what drove me into the open arms of the AFA. Asatru spoke to my instincts on a primal level in a way that Christianity could not.

To keep this brief because I have drones on long enough, I'm 33 years old. I have a handsome little baby boy named Carter who is nearly 7 months old. I enjoy working out, going to concerts, great discussions, some reading, some writing, some tabletop gaming, and movies. I decided to become a folk builder as a way to give back to the AFA and to serve my folk.

I'm honored and humbled to be accepted as an Apprentice Folk Builder. The AFA Church has done more for our folk in 30 years than any political group that's come and gone since then. The AFA is here for me during a time of personal crisis and hardship, and I couldn't be more grateful. I look forward to working with my fellow Apprentices and Oathed in Folk Builders, meeting new people, and learning more about this thing we call life.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the AFA!



Jacob Rutledge

Apprentice Folkbuilder

jrutledge@runestone.org

Ladies and Gentlemen, Charm Your Plows!



This February, the charming denizens of the equally charming state of Indiana gathered to celebrate the Charming of the Plow. In this modern age when many of us (even here in the Midwest) have moved away from the agrarian lifestyles of our ancestors, there are two prevailing schools of thought regarding the proper way to celebrate this venerable holiday; being a practical folk, were Hoosiers opted to do both:

1. to give thanks to our Holy Gods and to ask their blessings upon the instruments of

industriousness that we use in our modern lives, the tools of tradesmen, artisans and the teachers of children, then close with a delicious meal (the preferred method)



2. to engage in an arm-wrestling competition presided over by a man in a fur trapper's hat while someone plays flaming guitar solos (popular but admittedly less well-attested)



I hope that you, like us, we're able to spend the holiday in the warmth of Folk and Gods in preparation of the coming months and the challenges and opportunities that it will bring. If you should find yourself in the vicinity of Indiana for any of our upcoming Holy Tides, I likewise hope that you will consider spending them with us.

Upcoming Events



Ostara

March 16, 2024

Fortville, IN

JRock@Runestone.org
for details



Folkbuilder Jonathan Rock
jrock@runestone.org

New Hampshire

Charming of the Plow NH



The New Hampshire folk gathered this month to celebrate Charming of the Plow. It was a blistering cold day but full of warmth from the Folk flame. We all caught up with each other as we enjoyed some fancy cheeses with various meats and other tasty snacks.

We proceeded outside in the cold to perform Blot to the Goddess Gefjon. We circled around the fire and had an amazing ritual. participating in the gift cycle with Gefjun. After Blot, we gathered back in the house and got things ready for our meal.

We blessed the food and had a delicious feast of pork, potatoes, squash followed by some treats for dessert. Hail Gefjun! Hail to the New Hampshire Folk! Hail the AFA.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Þórshof for Ostara! Can't believe we are just weeks away!

Upcoming Events



Please join us in March for some axe throwing fun!



Please join us in April for in Boston!



Tyler Sagert
Apprentice Folkbuilder
tsagert@runestone.org

New York

Upcoming Events



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF RACING AND HALL OF FAME MOOT

JOIN US SATURDAY MARCH 16TH IN SARATOGA SPRINGS NY@
1PM AND TAKE A WALK THROUGH THE RICH HISTORY OF
THOROUGHBRED HORSE RACING

RSVP WITH APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDER DANIELLE RISSO
AT DRISSO@RUNESTONE.ORG

Look forward to seeing everyone 😊

Danielle Risso
Apprentice Folkbuilder
drisso@runestone.org



North Carolina

Appalachian Happenings



This month, my wife and I traveled down to Njörðshof in Florida for their annual Charming of the Plow event. We had a great time, from having brunch in Savannah on the way down, to hanging up our kindred flag in the Hof, and all the rituals, meals, and frith building in between. The event is covered in detail in other articles, so I won't go

into that here, but I did want to take a minute and talk to y'all about the joy of attending events at our Hofs.

Our Hofs are the culmination of years of dreams and effort. It has been a thousand years since our people have had a chance to come together in a temple dedicated to our Gods to worship them. It has taken all of us coming together, dedicating time, money, and resources to make this happen. When we are able to come together at one of these Hofs, it truly is a magical time. There's delicious food prepared by Folkish hands, beautiful white children crawling and running all over the place, Folk clustered in conversation, flags of our kindreds hanging on the walls, handcrafted auction items, exquisite murals of our Gods, sacred altars on the dais, and everywhere you look, well dressed, smiling people sharing in the joy of hall culture and being together.



I'd like to encourage all of you to get out to a Hof as soon as you can. I know it isn't always easy; I get out to Thorshof about 3 times a year. Schedules don't always line up, PTO isn't the most abundant thing in the world, and the prospect of driving anything over 4 hours just feels so daunting. I'm not asking you to come out to every Hof event, but you owe it to yourself and to your Folk to at least come out a few times a year. Once you come out once, you'll long for your next trip. We'll be hosting Ostara at Thorshof again this year, our national event. Every member of the Witan will be there, there will be classes, men's and women's groups, kids' activities, multiple rituals,

delicious food, a food pantry, and a vow renewal. Come out and spend some time with us, get to know your Folk, and have a weekend you'll never forget.

Upcoming Events



MARCH 16

Join us at the
Bethea house in
Hendersonville, NC

Bring a dish, stay for
bonfire and games!

**WILD GAME
SUPPER**

Arrival at 2, Dinner at 5

Bring your favorite wild game dish

Contact Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea for details
tbethea@runestone.org (828) 707-7851

March 16th, Hendersonville, NC

Come join us at the Bethea house in western North Carolina for a wild game supper and a weekend filled with good wholesome fun. Several families will be staying the night, either on-site or in the area, so the good times will continue on into the next day. Please contact Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea for more details and to RSVP. tbethea@runestone.org



April 7th, Chimney Rock, NC

Join us near Chimney Rock, NC for a 10-mile hike in the rugged southern Appalachian Mountains! Be sure to dress and pack appropriately, as we'll probably be out there for about 5 hours. We'll be conducting a Wotan on the Peaks ritual while hiking, as well as having a nice lunch on a mountaintop. For more information, reach out to Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea tbethea@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea
tbethea@runestone.org

Ohio

Upcoming Events





Folkbuilder Michael Melillo

mmelillo@runestone.org



Ohio Charming of the Plow



On a beautiful February day, the Ohio folk and some fine Pennsylvania folk gathered for charming of the plow. We enjoyed each other's company in unseasonably warm weather, and great conversation. The children spent their energy running the property, enjoying the company of chickens, and having action figure fights. The atmosphere was a pleasant break from the hustle and bustle of our fast paced non communal life presented to us in our modern times. Farming implements were brought for blessing, a potluck meal was presented, including ham, salad, and other goodies. A wonderful blot was officiated by Clifford Erickson, and it was an overall welcoming and beautiful

affair. I personally officiated a Sumbel which is always my personal favorite of our gatherings. I have high hopes for our future, and I humbly thank all of you for sharing your time and energy with me. As the weather warms, I look forward to welcoming all of you around my fire. Hail the Gods, Hail the Folk, and Hail the AFA.



Folkbuilder Joe Drotos
jdrotos@runestone.org

Pennsylvania

PA Charming of the Plow



Somehow, in the midst of an unseasonably warm February, Charming of the Plow in Pennsylvania managed to happen on one of the coldest days in two weeks!



With temperatures in the mid 20's, fresh snow on the ground, and a very brisk breeze, we ventured out on a hike to explore some abandoned limn kilns and hold blow in an old limestone quarry. Adult and child alike braved the bitter chill and were rewarded with yummy food in a warm diner.





Overall, it was a wonderful day, and we look forward to the coming warmth of spring!

Upcoming Events



***Come and Join us
For Frith, Blot, and
Corned-beef and Cabbage!***

16 March 2024

Ostara

***Hosted by the Ericksons
at their home in
Erie, PA***

***Reach out to Gythia Erickson
For detail:
cm.erickson@runestone.org***



Gythia Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org

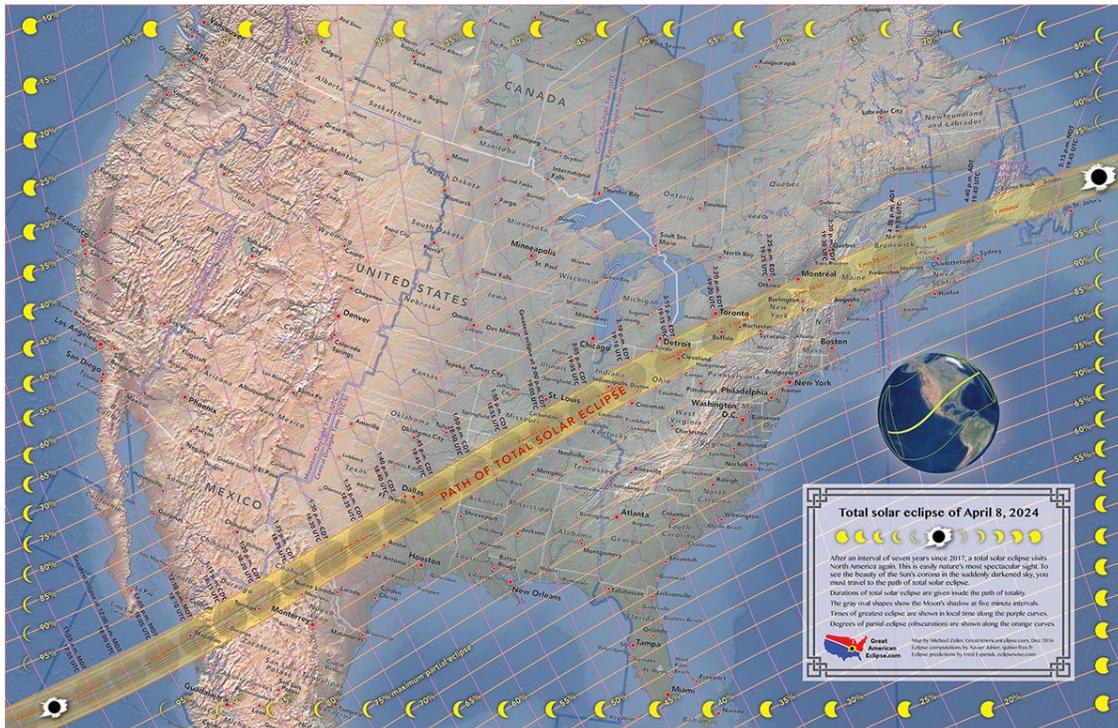
Upcoming Events



Join in a Black Sun Blot with Witan Clifford Erickson in Erie, PA during the TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE!

Gather at 12pm on Monday April 8, 2024

For details email cerickson@runestone.org.



Where & When | 2024 Total Eclipse – NASA Solar System Exploration —
<https://science.nasa.gov/eclipses/future-eclipses/eclipse-2024/where-when/>



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Poland

Ceremony and Moot in the Woods



Frost and winter darkness do little to deter, while the West celebrates with the Charming of the Plow, the East honors the God of the underworld and communication

with the ancestors during a great holy fire. As is the tradition, we bring food or drink for feasting and for this particular ceremony something sweet is the tradition.



In turnout we met up with a local Asatru leader and members and discussed future collaborations. While they might not be members of the AFA, perhaps soon they can be brought to see err of their ways and become true followers of Asatru!

Upcoming Events

Ostara Moot & Ceremony



**Contact Aspir for further details:
abefreier@runestone.org**



Hexennacht Moot & Ceremony

April 20th

*Join the AFA for an evening bonfire
ceremony followed by a feast!*

**Contact Aspir for more information:
abefreier@runestone.org**



AFA Weekend Campout!

From Friday the 24th of May to the 26th tests of strength and skill, beauty of women, stories of native faith and culture acted out and even shared by you! Feasting and festivities await! Contact Aspir Befreier for more details: abefreier@runestone.org



Aspir Befreier
Apprentice Folkbuilder
abefreier@runestone.org

South Carolina

Frithweaving



Since January I've made it my mission to speak to every member of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

From Washington to Florida, California to New England.
Along the way I've gotten to know some very good people.
A group in Kentucky, good folks in the Pacific NW, folks in the Four Corners region.

As an Ásatrú woman, it is my duty to weave Frith everywhere I go. And it's a responsibility that I take very seriously.

I began this campaign in an effort to reach members that were in far flung places,

places with no Folkbuilder or Gothar in the area. Most of the folks I've spoken to have been very receptive and a few were confused as to why someone from South Carolina would be calling. If I find members who are in need, I put them in contact with members of our Clergy, if they have questions about their membership, if they have questions about Lore.

If you see a number pop up from South Carolina, chances are it's me. I hope to bring the joy and beauty of Asatru a little closer to folks who are in underrepresented areas.



Folkbuilder Heather Young
hyoung@runestone.org

Sweden

Charming of the Plow in Sweden



This winter we have taken to holding blot outside on a pond next to our house. Clearing the way down to it and making room for the ritual space has been an excellent way for me to devote time and labor to making the gift giving more powerful, more significant.

As I spent time outside sweating to get us ready to blot after sauna, Laura stayed inside with the girls and prepared a semla (a type of sweet roll) for offering. It felt very appropriate being outside as the man, doing the heavy lifting as it were, and my wife and girls were doing the more delicate, intricate work.



This time again, the winds were incredibly strong, and so having candles lit outside was impossible. The fire took well this time though, and we had a very good blot to Gefjon. Afterwards, we gathered inside and shared a hearty meal together.



The days are longer and brighter and just the other day when the sun was out, we could feel its warmth on our faces. Some birds have started to tentatively sing. All in all, winter is losing its grasp on our part of the world. We can't wait to see what spring will bring!

Hail Gefjon!
Hail the Folk!
Hail the AFA!

A Song to Ostara



As part of our coming gifting to Ostara, I want to incorporate singing. Our voices are divine gifts capable of incredible goodness. I started to write down a song in Swedish, but quickly realized that I wanted to be able share, and invite all members to consider singing to Ostara this March.

It is my hope that this spring of 2024, more of our Folk will sing together.

The songs are sung to the melody of "Hail to the Princess Aurora" from Disney's "Sleeping Beauty", 1959.

English Version:

"This is a song
To a Goddess so bright
Her shining light that warms the earth
It brings to us both hope and mirth
Hail to the Goddess, Ostara!
The Folk now gathers to worship
Hail winters end!
Hail to the dawn!
Hail to the Goddess, Ostara!

May we be joyful
Darkness is brought low
Glory to you now, Ostara!

Hail Ostara!
Hail Ostara!
Hear our bright song
Young, old, as one Folk
Victory is near now, Ostara!
Hail winters end!
Hail to the dawn!
Hail to the Goddess, Ostara!"

Swedish Version:

"Solen i öst
Skåda strålande ljus
Vårens vackra ljud må eka nu
När mörkret snart har nått sitt slut
Hell dig, du vackra Ostara!
Folket nu samlas i vördnad
Hell vinterns slut!
Hell Gryningen!
Hell dig, du vackra Ostara!"

Må hon ge välstånd
Hör nu vår lovsång
Fröjdas åt våren, Ostara!
Hell Ostara!
Hell Ostara!
Må hon ge välstånd
Hör nu vår lovsång
Segern den nalkas, Ostara!
Hell vinterns slut!
Hell Gryningen!
Hell dig, du vackra Ostara!"

Upcoming Events



Fika Friday

22th of March

26th of April

Come and have a warm cup of coffee with the Lugnets!



Ostara

23th of March

Come and let us celebrate the Lady of Spring!



Hexennacht

27th of April

Come and let us share joy and Frith for the coming of Spring!



May Day

18th of May

Come and let us celebrate the coming of Summer!



Erik Lugnet
Apprentice Folkbuilder
elugnet@runestone.org

Tennessee

Upcoming Events







Remembrance Dinner for Olvir of Egg

March 9th at 6pm

Cookeville, TN

RSVP to

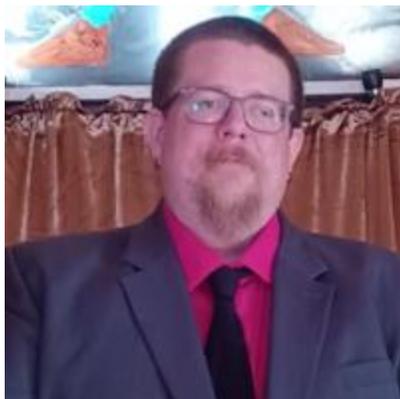
nrice@runestone.org

*Jarl Haakon
Rememberance
Dinner*

Apr. 9th

Cookeville, TN

RSVP w/ nrice@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

nrice@runestone.org

West Virginia

Charming of the Plow, Sandy Point, Maryland



It was a sweet reunion for an AFA kindred, after some time apart, to come back together right where we left off. As Stonewall Kindred, we held our third Charming of the Plow Blót and dinner moot this month at Sandy Point State Park, Maryland. Returning to a previously used site, we connected points in time, both drawing from, and feeding the charge we left behind.



Sandy Point State Park in Maryland is on the Chesapeake Bay, overshadowed by the always-busy Bay Bridge. The roar of motor vehicles in the distance, cut by the much closer squawking of seagulls and still-frigid bay breeze, reminds the visitor that while the modern world is never far away, one is in this time and place, apart from it. There is certainly that sense of separation from the ordinary world in the little acre or so of woods next to the "Green" parking lot which, it being February, we had almost all to ourselves.



This little wooded patch has a certain pull to it, and we weren't the only ones to notice. Twice now we've given Blót here, and both times we saw evidence of sacrificial offerings made by someone who had been there recently.



Our Blót began with a plea to Mother Earth, in the person of Gerðr as depicted in the Eddic poem Skírsmál, to yield to our plow and accept our planting. This was followed by the ceremonial digging of the furrow, representing the first breaking of the earth in preparation for the planting season.



Laid in the furrow were our "seeds," prayerfully marked eggshells representing intentions for the coming year. With them were laid tokens representing the Apples of Iðunn and the Ring of Óðinn, which in the Edda are offered to Gerðr by the hero Skírnir as a bribe to marry his Lord, Ingvi-Freyr. This was concluded with an invocation and pouring of the horn to Ingvi-Lord Himself to bestow fertility upon our planting.



Stonewall Kindred was founded in 2020 when its predecessor, the mighty Irongard, became known as þórshof. We are proud to report that we're still carrying the banner forward, four years hence.

...

Please join us in eastern West Virginia on the evening of Friday, April 26th for

Hexennacht! This will be on private property; AFA members and personally vouched-for guests are welcome.



Folkbuilder Patrick Cook
pcook@runestone.org



Copyright © *2024* Asatru Folk Assembly, All rights reserved.
[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

