

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly













Þórshof

Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

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Words from the Alsherjargothi



"We are our deeds."

These simple words mean everything. Thoughts and theories, beliefs and ideas are great but if those things don't manifest into ACTIONS, they are worthless. Asatru is real when lived!

That is what we do in the AFA, we LIVE Asatru....and we live it together.

Seeing all the amazing things we have going on makes me so proud to be a part of this.

Our first year of the Asatru Academy Home School is coming to a close soon as an amazing success. We have 4 hofs hosting worship services every month as well as food pantries, feeding our neighbors in need. And, as you will see in this issue, we have progress at Sigrheim, the first AFA intentional community!

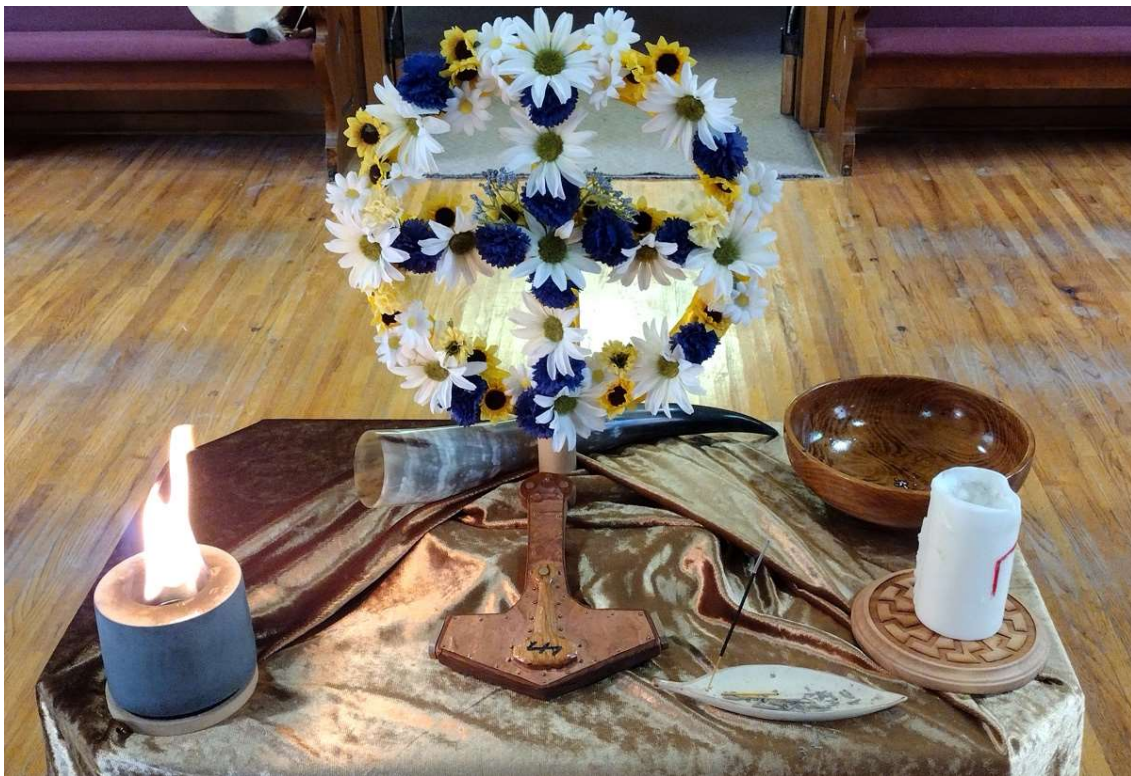
What a time to be alive! What a time to be in the Asatru Folk Assembly!



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

Words from the Witan

May Day



FREYRBLÓT

“Hail the Holy Æsir, Gods and Goddesses of our Folk! We ask you to join us today as we honor your kin!

Hail the Æsir!

Hail to the Honored Ancestors, Mothers and Fathers as far back as time remembers! We ask you to join your sons and daughters gathered here!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the Friendly Vaetter, spirits of this land and place! We ask you to look upon us in worship, see our deeds!

Hail the Vaetter!

Hail Freyr!

We ask you to join us here,

Witness our devotion,

Hear our praise,

Receive our gifts!

Folk, prepare your gifts for Freyr. From your heart to your hand, and from your hand to the horn, give the best and brightest of yourselves to him.

Ask your hornbearer to collect the gifts of the Folk

“Freyr! The horn is heavy with the gifts of your Folk.
If you find them worthy, take them from us now.
Hail Freyr!”

Hold the horn high and await the acceptance of Freyr.
Pour the gifts into the bowl.
Refill the horn.

“Freyr,
We have given you our gifts.
We have offered you our love,
We have offered you our praise,
Our strength, our energy,
Pieces of the best of ourselves.
We ask, should you to bless the gathered Folk.
For the fertility of our fields,
And for the fertility of our women.
May we be blessed with prosperity and good health.
May our animals, our crops, and our children grow healthy and strong.
May the storms we face as Folk be mild. May we weather them with our heads held
high,
With courage and with dignity.
May the summer rains nourish our lands
and may your gifts nourish our souls.
Hail Freyr!”

Receive the gifts of Freyr. Walk the horn around the circle of gathered folk and offer
them the gifts of Freyja.

Pour remaining mead from the horn in the bowl.

“This blot has ended.
We have given our gifts and received gifts in return.
Take with you, and into your homes, the blessings of Freyr.
Go forward with passion, with strength, and achieve the victory that awaits you!
Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!!
Hail the AFA!!!”



THE MAYPOLE DANCE

May Day celebrations are not complete without a May Pole! The May Pole itself is a fertility symbol, with the pole representing a strong masculine energy. The feminine is represented by the beautiful flora decorated crown and the ribbons that wrapped around the pole during the maypole dance.

Following Freyrblot, ask the women to attach the ribbons to the top of the pole and then the menfolk to carry the Maypole “plant” it in a sturdy place already arranged. Divide the group into two groups, those who will dance clockwise and those who will dance counterclockwise. Distribute them along the ribbons evenly. As the group dances, they should go “over” or “under” the person dancing in the opposite direction. The Maypole dance is best done with a good Polka! Once reaching the ends of the ribbons, secure the ends to the pole.

Baldrshof tradition is that those women seeking fertility, asnip a piece of the ribbon ends and take them home with them.



Witan Brandy Callahan
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Words from our Gothar

"Warrior Faith" in the Modern Age



Asatru is often called a “warrior faith”, and there is some truth to this. Our male ancestors often fought with sword, shield, axe, and spear to protect the things that mattered to them, and that still matter to us. They were almost all required to have some sort of martial bearing, and to be able to stare conflict in the eye without taking a single step backward.

We, those warriors' descendants, live in a time where comfort is king for many people, in the deepest and scariest sense of that phrase. Martial prowess is no longer expected from us, or seen as necessary. There are not currently any physical battles to fight; no need to smash through a shield wall, no need to plant some archers in that tree line over there, etc... However, as humans, we have a physical need to exercise that aggression. And as Aryan humans, we have a need to exercise that aggression in a HEALTHY way.



The best options for this are weightlifting, and combat sports. We will never feel the rush of smashing a war axe through someone's shield, but you CAN feel the raw power of lifting iron off of your chest, or from blocking another man's left hook.

This is a call: if you want to call yourself a warrior, get in the gym. Put on the boxing gloves, or the ace bandages around your joints, and get to work. Face that fight. Make yourself solid in a world of mush.

If you need tips on a decent but simple workout routine, get in touch with me at teast@runestone.org!



Gothi Trent East
teast@runestone.org

The Soul Complex, a summary



It's an age-old question. It's taken up many pages in many books, it's been pondered by philosophers, social commentators, and religious leaders for centuries. "What is the soul?" Many cultures across this planet have differing viewpoints on this topic. Recently we had a Gothar meeting on the subject. By the time you read this, Alsherjagothi Flavel and Witan Herul will have had a discussion on Victory Never Sleeps about the Soul and its many parts.

Webster's Dictionary defines it as such,

- : the immaterial essence, animating principle, or actuating cause of an individual life
- : the spiritual principle embodied in human beings, all rational and spiritual beings, or the universe
- : a person's total self
- : an active or essential part
- : a moving spirit
- : the moral and emotional nature of human beings
- : the quality that arouses emotion and sentiment.
- : spiritual or moral force
- : FERVOR

That's the definition, but what do we, as Asatruar define as the soul?

Simply, it's what animates you, makes you unique, it's what makes you...you. It's what makes you human, it's what separates us from animals.

We, in the Asatru Folk Assembly believe that the soul, is broken down into parts. Here in this edition of The Runestone, we will explore the different parts of the Soul Complex, and how each part of the Soul makes us who we are. This will not be exhaustive, but a summary, pulling from *Asatru, A Native Spirituality*, by Founder Stephen McNallen, and *Runelore*, by Edred Thorsson. Over the coming months, we will break down each component of the soul, pulling from different sources. If we were to try to compile all we know here, this will turn into a book. Rather than do that, we'll spread it out over the coming months.

Now that we have defined what the soul is, let's break down the soul, as it is seen in Asatru, in a summarized list.

1. Lík, The physical body.
2. Ek, the ego.
3. Hugr, the logical mind.
4. Minní, memory.
5. Önd, Vital Breath.
6. Hamr, The Projected Self.
7. Sál, The Shade Self, that which is hidden.
8. Hamingja, The Luck or Personal Spiritual Might.
9. Fylgja, or the Fetch, The Primal Essence
10. Óðr, or Wode, the Ecstatic State, the combination of Hamr and Sál.

In the coming months, we will do a deeper dive into each component, beginning with the Lik. We will explore exercises for each component, and how to use each for your spiritual journey.

Each component makes up the whole, and we will also explore how each part interplays with some or all of the others.

Hail the Gods.

Hail the Folk.

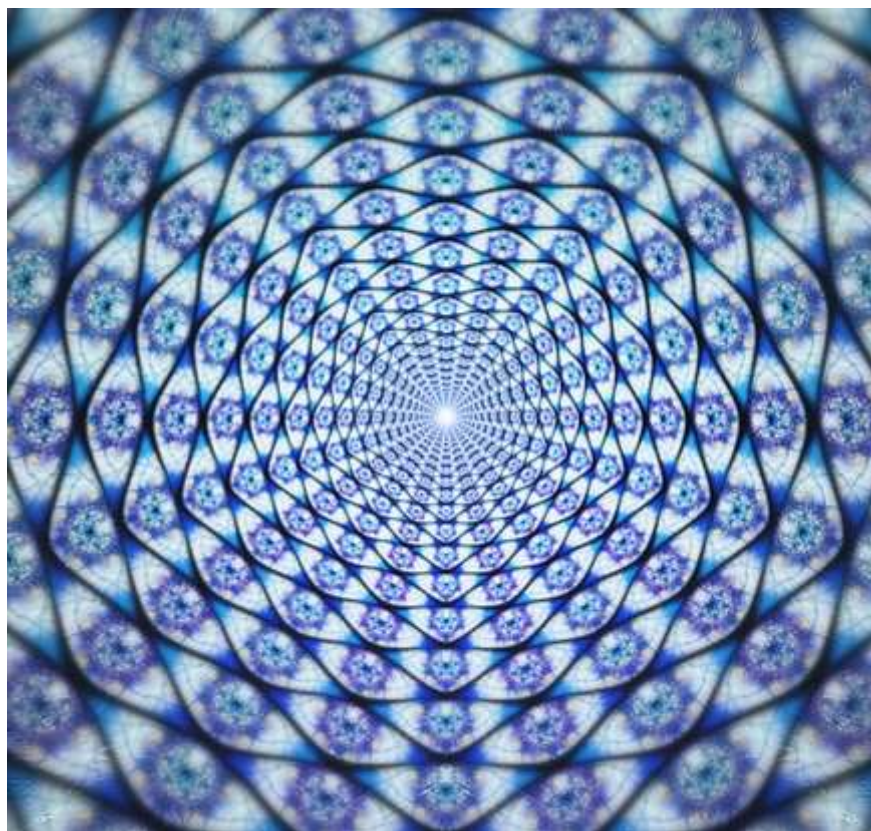
Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly.



Gothi Daniel Young

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Vision & Action



As we move forward in our growth and our relationships, we need direction and momentum to seize the day. With all the conveniences & distractions in our modern world, it is of the utmost importance to have a vision. Vision should be apex of your will & your goal for an ideal future. Having begun developing discipline & good habits, self-honesty should be becoming a daily occurrence. As such use it to check the vision you've painted for yourself. Is it realistic, is it a productive & prosperous, does it elevate you & your folk? If so, have you worked it backwards so you can see your way forward? If all lines up and points towards a good life, start taking actions each day to make it manifest. Having a good life worth living will give a pious man a greater strength, then one who is reactionary or indulgent.



Gothi Jason Plourde
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The Quest for Freyshof

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

– Gylfaginning



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

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

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

1. We need to pay off Njörðshof.
 - The first of 2 loans have been paid off!
 - We now owe \$110,857.86 on our remaining loan.
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 6.25%.
 - This is membership dues/hoftollar plus other donations.
3. We need to locate a suitable property.
4. We need to find lenders and build a war chest.

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

Hail Freyr!



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Sigrheim: Home of Victory

An Earth Day Moot



Some amazing things have going on lately at Sigrheim, including the first moot out there since our initial venture onto the land back in January. I won't spoil the details, as

I'm sure that Folkbuilder Russell Brown will be writing up a fine article about it later in the newsletter.



Since then, our first pioneer living on the property has been the first to break ground and make preparations for the time to come. We've got a couple more brave adventurers too coming later this month or first of next to call Sigrheim home!





And of course, we hope that you can join us in July for Sigrblót at Sigrheim, the first of many, many bigger events at our Home of Victory!





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Victory Never Sleeps

The Asatru Folk Assembly Presents

Victory Never Sleeps!

Wednesdays at 6pm PST / 8pm EST

vk.com/asatrufolkassembly
entropystream.live/app/MattFlavel
youtube.com/c/AsatruFolkAssembly
odyssey.com/@AsatruFolkAssembly
twitter.com/FolkAsatru



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AFA Homeschool Program



For More Info: [Welcome | Asatru Academy](#).

We Have a New Motto!



Student Heidi Harlan, learning about growing and farming!
Keep up the good work Heidi, we are all proud of your hard work this year!

Greetings everyone! Last month I put out a call for submissions for a new motto for the AFA academy. We got a ton of really great submissions! It was a very difficult decision to choose between all the great ideas.

We ultimately decided to go with:

Through knowledge, victory!
Með vitandi, vinna Sigr

Submitted by Allison Clausen.

We chose this because it fully encompasses the AFA culture of victory, and how our students gaining knowledge will lead to that victory.

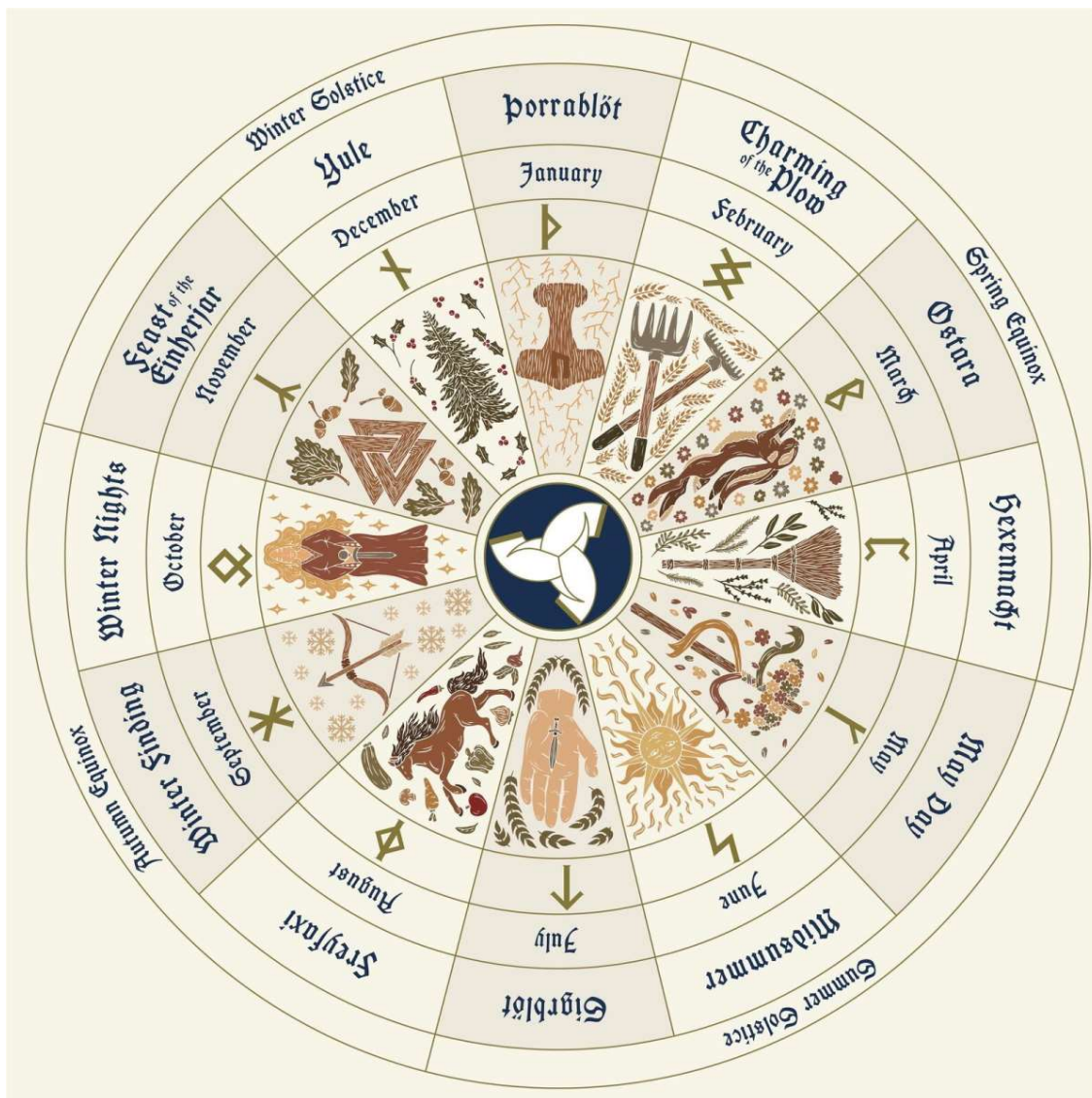
Congratulations to Allison, we will be in touch to get your details and choice of AFA tee shirt!

Thank you to everyone who made a submission!



Gothi Rob Stamm
Dean of AFA Academy
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Remembrance & Holy Days



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

2023

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

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

Day of Remembrance

Else Christensen



Originally born in Denmark, Else Christensen (nee Ochsner) was one of the leading figures in the modern Asastu movement. As a young woman, she left her hometown of Esbjerg in favor of Copenhagen. It was during her time in Copenhagen that Else awoke to the ideas of National Socialism in the midst of right-wing and left-wing radical struggles. She met and married Aage Alex Christensen, and together they were members of the Danish Workers Party.

Both she and her husband were imprisoned after the German invasion of Denmark in 1940 for their involvement with elements of the National Workers Party. After their release from prison Else and her husband emigrated to Canada, via England.

Even from Canada, Else continued to nurture her desire to find a place for her own people. It was during this time, while she was reaching out to far-right activists across North America that she first discovered Odinism in a pamphlet titled *Call of Our Ancient Nordic Religion*, by Alexander Rud Mills. This was the beginning of Else's dedication to the revival of the worship of the Norse Gods. Her understanding of our relationship with the Gods was heavily influenced by the idea that the Gods were encoded in the collective unconscious of the Aryan race.

In 1969 Else Christensen founded the Odinist Fellowship. Until her death in 2005, Else worked tirelessly for her folk, spreading the word of our faith and our Gods to all who would listen. She founded a prison outreach program that proved to be instrumental to

many men. She wrote and published many publications. Her efforts saw her recognized as the Folk- Mother to Asatruar everywhere.

So, what can we learn from this story?

We don't always know where our stories end. We can't always see the ramifications of our thoughts when put into action. Else was just one single woman. She was a woman who believed in unpopular ideas in a time when those ideas were definitively unpopular. Despite being imprisoned for those beliefs she did not give up.

Our current times are, in many ways, similar to the ones that Else dealt with. They are turbulent and wrought with anger on all sides. We stand at the precipice of a new world, but we have no way of knowing which way the tides will turn. Else didn't turn and run. She stood and faced the future. In doing so she became one of the most important women in the Asatru movement to date.

When things are hard, when public opinion would have you conform, just remember. Your story hasn't reached its end yet, and only you can control the direction the story takes.

Stand strong.

Stand with Else.

For more information, including tons of articles and photos, visit the Baldrshof site's [dedication page](#).



Gythia Catie Erickson
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Holiday

May Day



On the heels of Hexennacht, when the cattle were blessed in the smoke of the fire before being sent to their summer fields we celebrate May Day! Halfway between the spring and summer solstice, May Day is often considered to be the first day of summer. Warmer days are becoming normal. The spring rains that helped to nourish the wakening fields have begun to taper off. The world around us is verdant again.

On May Day, sometimes called Sumermál, big celebrations were held both to celebrate the end of the harder days of winter and to bless themselves and their crops for a fertile and productive year. Men and women leapt over fires together or alone, wishing for fertility in the coming year. The maypole was raised and around it, people danced and wove their ribbons. Women decorated their windows and doors with flowers and wove them into their hair.

Mayday is the coming together of men and women to celebrate life. We use this time to celebrate all the good things that we have, all of the things that we have worked hard for. We have survived the harsh months when stagnation is so easy a thing to fall into. When the celebration is done, the real hard work begins. The plan that was set into motion at Charming of the Plow will now begin the active stage. Those seeds that you planted, or that project that you planned at Ostara, will now need real tending to. Mayday marks the beginning. It marks the start of growth.

Where one has the will all things can happen.



Gythia Catie Erickson
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Upcoming National Events

ElseFest 3 in Wisconsin | May 26th-28th



**THE AFA'S
3RD ANNUAL
ELSE FEST**

HONORING THE FOLK MOTHER

COME AND GET TO KNOW ELSE AND ALL SHE'S DONE FOR THE FOLK, PARTAKE IN BLOT, AND SHARE IN FRITH.

HOSTED BY:
**HRAFNAGUD, FOLC IRMINSUL, MID-HEARTH
KINDREDS
AND THE AULT FAMILY**

MAY 26TH - 28TH
FOR MORE INFO REACH OUT TO
CORDINATOR JAMES AULT
-JAULT@RUNESTONE.ORG

The 3rd annual ElseFest looks to be even more epic than the first two. This year we will once again kick off the event with a traditional Wisconsin Fish Boil! There will be many speakers, learning sessions, kid's activities, a Viking games competition, lots of great food, and good company. This is a beautiful camp setting with individual cabins and a bunkhouse. Ticket sales are now live. The price includes lodging for the weekend and all meals.

[Get your tickets here!](#)

Join the Asatru Folk Assembly in remembering Folkmother Else Christensen in Wisconsin from Friday, May 26th – Sunday, May 28th, 2023 (Memorial Day Weekend).

The 3rd annual Elsefest looks to be even more epic than the first two. This year we will once again kick off the event with a traditional Wisconsin Fish Boil! There will be many speakers, learning sessions, kid's activities, a Viking games competition, lots of great food, and good company. This is a beautiful camp setting with individual cabins and a bunkhouse. Ticket sales are now live. The price includes lodging for the weekend and all meals.

An itinerary and the specific location will be emailed one week prior to the event or upon request with ticket purchase. Children attend FREE!

Any questions about the event can be directed to James Ault at jault@runestone.org.

Oathed Folkbuilders and Gothar need to contact James Ault directly to secure their lodging at jault@runestone.org

We are looking forward to sharing in this glorious event to honor the Folkmother and build Frith among our folk.

[Grab your ElseFest III Tickets Today!](#)



Folkbuilder James Ault
jault@runestone.org

Midsummer at Óðinshof | June 16th-18th



Come and tread the hallowed hall of the high one! Come celebrate Midsummer at Óðinshof!

Get your tickets [HERE](#)

Midsummer approaches!! And how exciting! For at this year's Midsummer, we present several educational and fun workshops, exhilarating highland games, fascinating talks, moving rituals, and family-friendly activities throughout the entire weekend.

Midsummer is the premier event of the year at Óðinshof! We have pulled out all the stops this year to bring you great speakers! New and exciting workshops! Bountiful feasts! And as always, you can expect to feel the very heartbeat of the Asatru Folk Assembly when you walk the grounds, step inside the ritual circle of and enter the Hall of Óðinn! There is no better place to gather with your Folk and celebrate Midsummer this year! Come home to the heart of the Asatru Folk Assembly for a Midsummer you won't forget!

Have a look at the amazing itinerary planned over on our [ticket page](#)!

Ticket costs include meals, camping, on-site showers, bathrooms, and all events occurring throughout. There are a few workshops that do require pre-registration, so make sure to sign-up for those that interest you and reserve your spot as space will be limited.

We will be having a raffle, auction, and several vendors, so don't forget to bring your cash or cards, and if you have a unique item you would like to donate towards the raffle, bring it along as well!

Lodging: Óðinshof has free on-site camping and if coming from afar, we can assist with tents, bedding, etc. If dirt camping isn't your thing, there is also the Brownsville Motel nearby and several Airbnb's, as well as a casino in the area. For help with booking or any information, please contact [Sierra Chapman](#).

Weather: Even though clear skies and warm weather are expected, please keep an eye on the weather before arriving as it can be unpredictable at times.

Volunteer: If you would like to volunteer during the event and become an Óðinshof Doer, please contact [Ashley Stockton](#) at your earliest convenience. It takes us all working together to make big events run smoothly, and those that volunteer receive an Óðinshof Doers T-shirt!

Side note This time of year is also California's fifth season: FIRE SEASON! So, we ask you to please be very conscious if you are a smoker and stick to designated smoking areas and always place your butts in a can.



**Midsummer
at Óðinshof**

June 16-18 2023
Brownsville, Ca

Three transformational days with
leaders and members across the globe!

- + Rituals of all sorts
- + Memorable Workshops & Presentations
- + Outdoor fun & games
- + Children's activities
- + Vendors
- + Auction
- + Music & culture
- + Delicious meals

BE HERE FOR IT ALL!

Event Contacts:

Sheila McNallen
Sheila@runestone.org

Ashley Stockton
Astockton@runestone.org
707.800.5333

Michael Sessumes
Msessumes@runestone.org

Sierra Chapman
Schapman@runestone.org

- + Artisans consider becoming a vendor!
- + Non-AFA guests must be vouched for

Purchase tickets through the website & register for workshops before all spots fill up!
<https://runestone.org/product/midsummer-at-odinshof-2/>

Children are free!

Want to get more involved?
Consider volunteering and help make Midsummer great!

All well-behaved dogs are welcome but must be leashed at all times and cleaned up after
Hard alcohol is discouraged & to respect families and our neighbors the noise curfew is midnight

[Midsummer at Odinshof – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](https://runestone.org)

Midsummer is Óðinshof's big fundraising event of the year so if you are unable to attend and would still like to donate, please feel free to do so.

As of right now, we are still working toward many repairs including a new roof that will cost us around 35k! This roof is needed before the next rainy season in order to keep Óðinshof up and running. The structure damage due to water could be slowly

growing and repairing it is a must! For more information on this please keep an eye out for the soon to be added Óðinshof Restoration Project page on the Odinshof.org website and pick up merch, participate in any active raffles, or just donate!

We can't wait to see you around the campfire! Don't wait!

Get registered today! Some workshops have nominal fees to help cover the cost of supplies. And they will also have limited available spots. Those workshops are listed under registration.

Event and Workshop Tickets [HERE](#)



Folkbuilder Ashley Stockton
astockton@runestone.org

Freyr's Harvest Feast in Montana | September 22nd-24th



Freyr's Harvest Feast is the time to honor the Gods after a productive year's Harvest. On September 22nd through the 24th, we gather together for a weekend filled with activities that honor the three Vanir deities Njord, Freyr, and Freya.

Get your tickets [HERE](#)

During the course of the weekend, the folk gathers together for three blots using mead donated by Heinlein's Hollow Meadery.

In addition to blot, we see the display of Freyr's Proposal on stage (stage under construction), the viking games tournament with a prize to be revealed at the feast as well as access to the Drengr Dinner where all previous years' champions are invited out the day before the event.

In addition to brawn, the brain is tested in our Hnefatafl competition. While this competition is less fierce the bragging rights are still pretty good. Guests can also test their luck at a game of Orlog.

While there are plenty of contests, we still have plenty of time for several workshops, and speeches by guest speakers. Craftsmen will also bring their wares out to sell and authors to sign their books. An AFA benefiting auction will provide ample opportunities to walk away with a bag full of spoils.

The whole event is hosted on a private 20-acre ranch in a very low-population area. It's on the river and away from prying eyes. So not only do you get to enjoy a full event you can take in the beauty of rural Montana, enjoy the river and see what an AFA homestead looks like. An optional tour and sunbel will be held in the early morning for those wanting to see inside a proper meadery.

Lodging is straightforward as well. Bring an RV or tent and camp under the beautiful stars. Trust us when we say there's more of them visible than wherever you're coming from and on lucky nights the Northern Lights can be seen.

For those who want less rustic accommodations, there are numerous hotels and motels within a reasonable driving distance. In a few more years we will have cabins available too!

So that's lodging but everyone's got to eat right? Well, we got you covered as well. The meals are all plentiful and delicious, none more so than the feast itself. Last year we filled the dining hall with food and refreshments and this year we aim to provide just as much good fare. Five to ten gallons of mead will be provided for the feast according to turnout and the couples dance that follows is always great fun.

Remember to dress your best at the feast and dance but it won't all be formal. For the first blot, we go into the water to honor Njord. Ladies especially, make sure that you wear clothes that you're not only comfortable getting wet but are also modest when wet.

While the prospect of getting into the water in September might be daunting to some, the month has a wonderful climate. It has a high of 70 and a low of 50 with a nice midday breeze.

The truth is unless you come out you won't know what you're missing so don't make that mistake and come out to Freyr's Harvest Feast.

Grab some tickets at [Freyr's Harvest Feast – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](https://runestone.org/freyrs-harvest-feast).

Please feel free to reach out to Tyler Heinlein at theinlein@runestone.org with any questions.



Tyler Heinlein
Apprentice Folkbuilder
theinlein@runestone.org

Winter Nights 12 in Ohio | October 27th-29th



The Asatru Folk Assembly's Annual Winter Nights will be held between the Greater Dayton & Greater Cincinnati area in Clinton County, Ohio from October 27th – 29th!

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

We look forward to seeing members and friends!

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

Register at <https://runestone.org/product/winternights/> today!

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 limited; you must contact Witan Clifford Erickson if you intend to tent.
- The camp address will be provided after registration as the event gets closer. Travel plans can be made for Clinton County, Ohio.
- We are pleased to announce lower ticket prices this year, due to a change of venue to features a commercial kitchen and other amenities we had come to expect since the first event in the Poconos of Pennsylvania.

Member Family – Weekend: \$120

Member – Weekend: \$80

Member – Day: \$40

Guest – Weekend: \$100

Guest – Day: \$50

Child – Weekend: Free

Child – Day: Free

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



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Be a Doer



We need you to volunteer for the AFA!

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

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

Baby Blanket Project

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

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



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

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

Folk Services



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

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

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

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

Thanks in advance!

Photo Donations

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

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



Eir's Blessings



Everybody needs a little extra help sometimes. Women, being the frithy creatures that we are, are uniquely suited to the task of manipulating energy for the purpose of healing. Magic, you could say.

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

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

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

Last Will and Testament

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



resting places of their remains.

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

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

Please make your will **today**.

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

Allen Turnage
PO Box 16027
Tallahassee FL, 32317



Witan Allen Turnage
aturnage@runestone.org

**Introducing the Newest
AFA Kindreds**



Please welcome the Prairie Fire Kindred of Nebraska as the newest Official Kindred of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Led by Apprentices Cody and Ali Clausen in Nebraska, these Folks have hosted several moots and events in the last few months, including a weekend Hexennacht event for the region.

Hail the Doers!

Hail The Prairie Fire Kindred! 🔥

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!

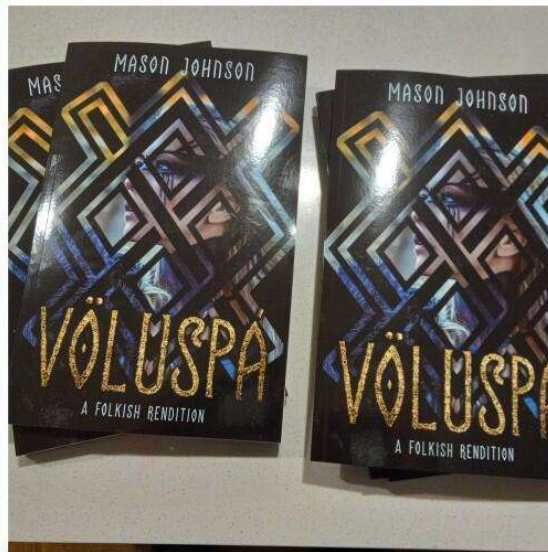
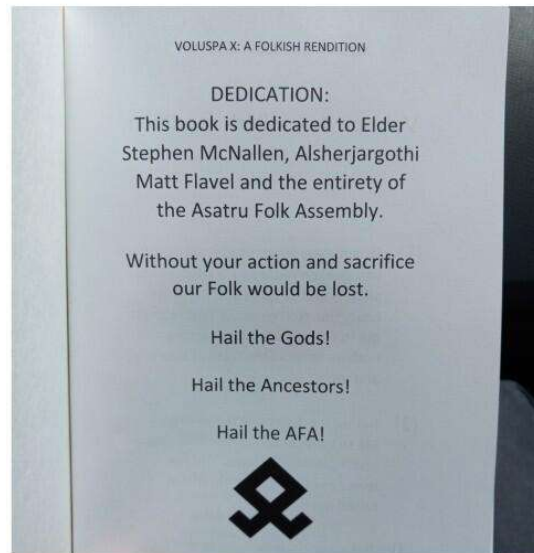
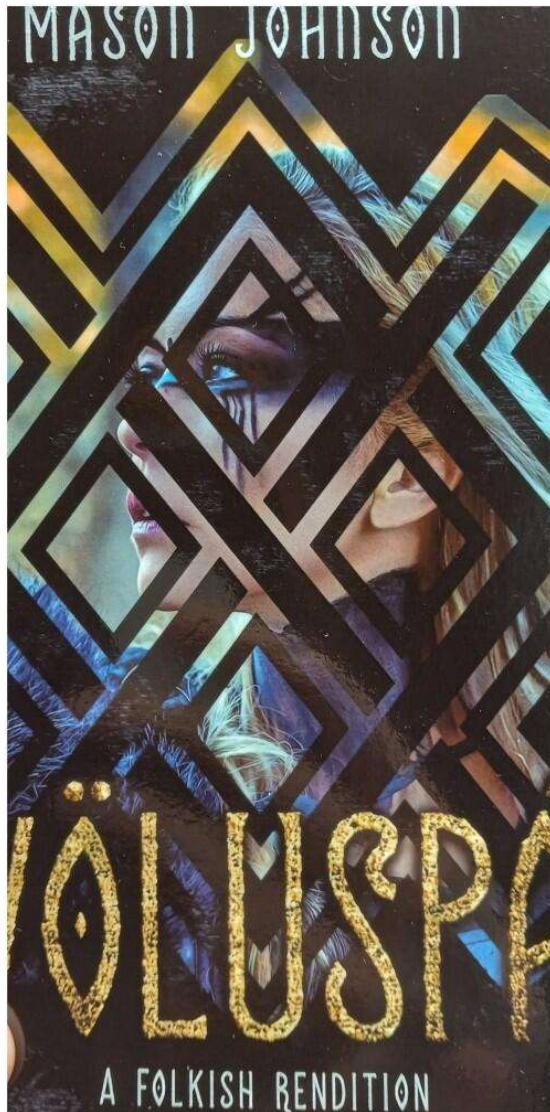


Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher

jgallagher@runestone.org

**The Artisans of the AFA
Support Our Folk**

The Authors Johnson



We are happy to announce the first published works for a wonderful AFA family!

Voluspa: A Folkish Rendition by Folkbuilder Mason Johnson

"This short book offers my own Rendition of the Voluspa Along with the original Old Norse text AND translations from both Bellows and Thorpe!"



Elder Futhark Runes, a coloring book by Rachel Johnson

"Finally got it back from the publisher. My first coloring book about Runes!!! Super excited."

Reach out to them and pick up a copy or seven today!



Mason Johnson
Folkbuilder
mjohnson@runestone.org

Rachel Johnson
Assistant Dean of AFA Academy
rjohnson@runestone.org

Cooking for our Folk



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

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

To this day, I still believe that number one is the most important; but two is the most valuable lesson. So, for example: why would you add flour to the mix when 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

Good Mornings Start with Fresh Bagels and Coffee



In America we may associate bagels with New York City, but they have a long and storied Aryan past. They are believed to have originally been invented in German monasteries during the Middle Ages, much like their cousins the pretzel. They were brought from Germany into Poland by peasant farm workers. They have become a staple food in the country going by the name obwarzanek and are found in most Central European countries. In America today, bagels are found everywhere in grocery stores, cafes, and drive thrus, but for me, nothing beats homemade. They're simple and once you get a knack for it, they're very easy to make.

For the dough:

1 and 1/2 C warm water

4 tsp yeast

4 C flour

1 Tbsp honey

2 tsp salt

Eggwash:

1 egg, beaten

2 Tbsp water

For Boiling:

2 Quarts water

1/4 Cup honey

Any bagel seasoning you might like on top (everything, onion/garlic salt, coarse sea salt, sesame seeds)

Add yeast, warm water and honey to a mixing bowl or stand mixer, allow yeast time to activate and foam (5-7 minutes)

Mix in flour and salt, forming stiff, dry dough

Knead for 5-7 minutes or until smooth and stiff

Allow the dough to rest in a clean, covered dish for an hour or until doubled in size

Preheat oven to 425°F

Line two baking sheets with parchment paper

Put the water and honey for boiling on the stove at medium heat allowing it to warm as you shape the bagels

Divide dough into 8 equal sized parts and form each into a ball

To form the bagel shape, slightly flatten each ball and poke your finger through the center of it. Gently stretch from both sides until the hole in the center reaches around 2 inches.

Allow each bagel a few minutes to rest before boiling

When the water reaches boiling, place two bagels at a time in and allow them to boil 2-3 minutes. They should float when they're done.

Set each bagel on the parchment as it's removed from the water to give them time to cool off.

Once your bagels have had time to cool, gently dip the top side only in the egg wash then dust with seasoning.

Bake 20-25 minutes, until golden brown.

It's important to give your bagels a bit to rest out of the oven to allow them to become chewy and delicious. I usually let them sit for 15-20 minutes before cutting into one.

Serve with butter, cream cheese, jam, as a breakfast sandwich or with soup. They're delicious however you choose to enjoy.



Alison Clausen
Apprentice Folkbuilder
aclausen@runestone.org

Grandma's Gurkensalat Recipe



Yummy Gurkensalat made from my grandmother's recipe....kinda. She could never write down measurements because she didn't measure. So it's as close as I can estimate to the taste...

Ingredients

- 2 English Cucumbers
- ½ C sour cream
- 1 Tbsp white vinegar

- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 Tbsp fresh dill chopped
- ½ tsp salt
- black pepper to taste

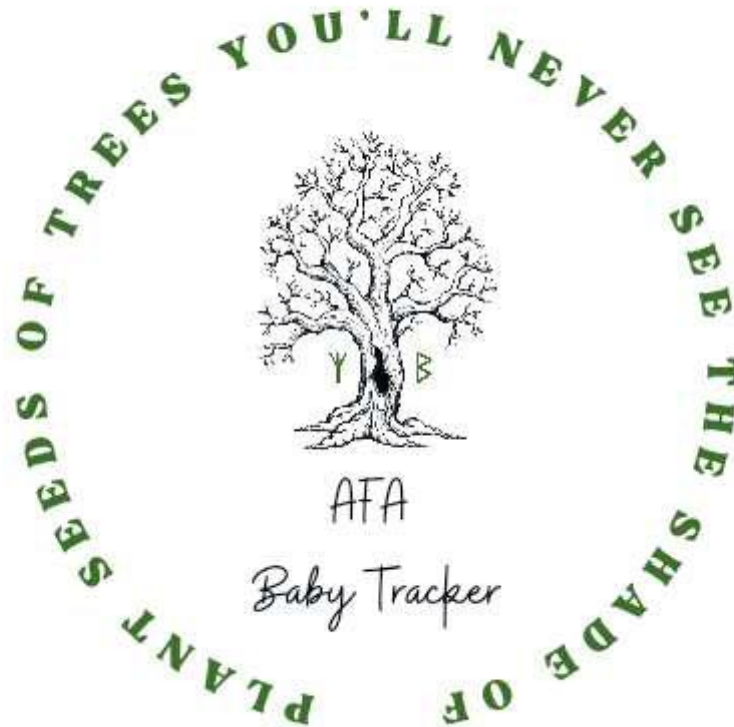
Instructions

1. Peel the cucumbers if desired and thinly slice them with a mandolin slicer. The thinner the better! Put them in a large salad bowl.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together sour cream, vinegar, sugar, and dill. Salt and pepper to taste.
3. Pour dressing over cucumber slices and toss until combined.
4. Cover and refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight.
5. Serve with a slotted spoon.



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 2023: 10



Folkbuilder Jessica Keller

jkeller@runestone.org

AFA Ladies Virtual Events

INTRODUCING THE ALL NEW:

Weekly! Sisters Sunday Chats

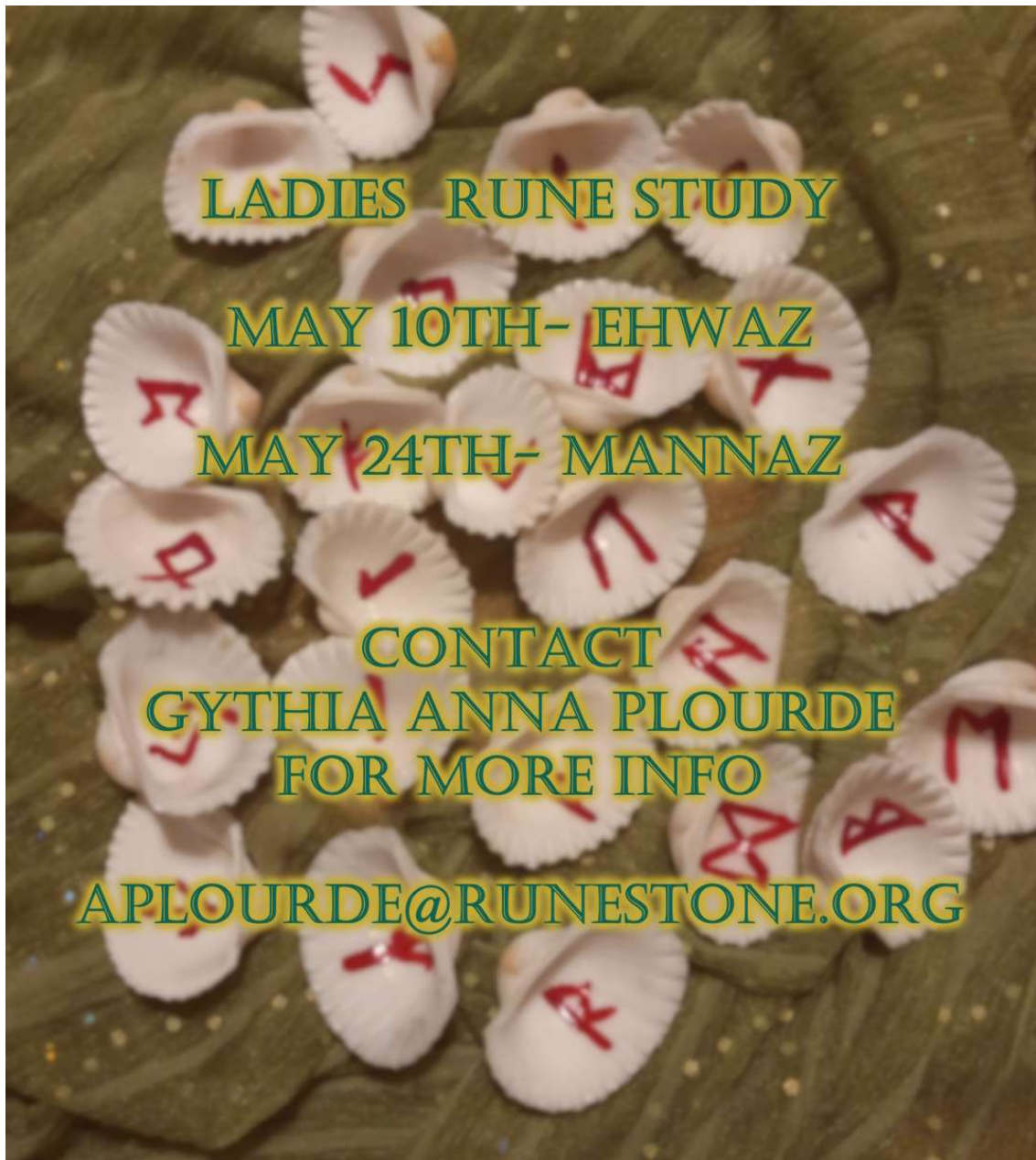
10 am central, every Sunday!

Contact Apprentice

Folkbuilders Ali Clausen

*and Katie Joyner for more
details!*

aclausen@runestone.org
kjoyner@runestone.org





Ladies Mysteries Podcast

MAY 14TH @ 2PM CST

Frigga

GYTHIA CATIE ERICKSON
GYTHIA ANNA PLOURDE
FOLKBUILDER SARA AULT



Saga

WITAN BRANDY CALLAHAN
FOLKBUILDER CHRISTINE DUMAS

CONTACT CHRISTINE DUMAS FOR
INFORMATION

CDUMAS@RUNESTONE.ORG

Saga's Literature Project



Saga needs your stories!

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

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

How do you celebrate our Holidays or Days of Remembrance?

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

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

The Asatru Folk Assembly wishes to create booklets, brochures, and pamphlets to have on hand in our Hof's and with membership Assembly-wide to give out to anyone with curiosity, whether they are a member or not.

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

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

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



Folkbuilder Shane Duffy

sduffy@runestone.org

AFA Prison Ministry



Greetings kinsfolk,

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.

If you have a loved one who is incarcerated or know of someone who is Folkish and will benefit from this ministry, please contact me at jault@runestone.org. Or if you'd like to donate to this ministry, there's a [donation earmark set up on our site](#).



Folkbuilder James Ault
jault@runestone.org

Now Available in the AFA Store





[Óðinshof Shorts](#) | [Þórshof Shorts](#) | [Baldrshof Shorts](#) | [Njörðshof Shorts](#)

It's summertime! And new shorts are in the store!!



Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

mmills@runestone.org

Þórshof

Food Pantry at Þórshof



This month at Þórshof we held our Food Pantry on the 22nd. Thanks to our generous donor and our volunteers we fed over 20 families. Our donation pickups have varied in size and are picked up weekly. Our volunteers have our gratitude for the will they put in. Special thanks to Matt and Nadine Bain and local member Jaeger for their contributions and effort to assist the Linden community.

It is our generous spirit that has helped grow our relationship with the community of Linden, and that can't happen without our volunteers. Thank you!



Gothi Daniel Young
dyoung@runestone.org

Hexennacht at Þórshof

Hexennacht at Þórshof

Happy Hexennacht! On April 29th, 2023, the Þórshof district celebrated Hexennacht at the temple of the Thunderer. People drove from all over the eastern United States to enjoy each other's company and celebrate. The event started with a short class led by Witan Svan about our calendar holidays and a breakdown of a poem about the herb-burning ritual. A few of our women members made the herb-bound sticks to burn, while everyone else conversed in Rumpf Hall until it was time for Blöt.



When the preparations were finished, we all processed from the hall into the Hof to begin Blöt. Everyone in attendance circled through the Ve, hailing Thor as we passed his altar. As the women blessed the ritual mead, the men Galdred the rune Perthro. Witan Svan conducted Blöt with us as we exchanged gifts with the Gods, on this particular occasion, specifically Freyja. As the Blöt concluded, we exited the temple and a few of the women, donning traditional red garb, led the rest of us to our outside ritual space. The ladies burned the herbs and wafted smoke over the rest of the group as they passed, concluding the ritual.



At the end of the ritual, we all returned to the hall, where we enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner of ham, sausage, chicken potpie, and an assortment of other dishes provided by members. After everyone ate their fill, we all sat around and talked about many topics until the time to end the event arrived. Everyone said their goodbyes and headed home, concluding another terrific event.

I wanted to say thank you to everyone who attended and made this Hexennacht a great success!

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



Folkbuilder Robert Shotwell
rshotwell@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Þórshof

2023 events at Þórshof

Date	Event Name
December 15-17	Yule
January 28	Þorrablót
February 18	Charming of the Plow
March 10-13	Ostara
April 29	Hexennacht
May 27	May Day
June 24	Midsummer
July 29	Sigrblót
August 26	Freyfaxi
September 30	Winter Finding
October 28	Winter Nights
November 25	Feast of Einherjar



Pórsstof North

District Meeting

May 18th @ 8pm EDT

Happenings in the District

-Witan Erickson-

-Three Guest Speakers-

**All District Members
Welcome**

Link will be sent out soon



Indiana

To Hexennacht or HexenNot



As a single, middle-aged guy living in a house full of men, I bravely and consistently fight the uphill battle to convince my neighbors that I'm not gay. Some days, I gain ground; like that time a female delivery driver was seen leaving my house in her personal vehicle. Some days, I lose ground, like the roughly weekly occurrence of coming home to find shirtless dudes tussling in my lawn. On this particular occasion, I pulled into my driveway to witness the birth of a homemade Bulgarian Bag; a Frankenstein's Monster of a piece of exercise equipment cobbled together from an old tire, sand, rocks, and tape; designed by a Bulgarian Olympiad wrestler to mimic the act of carrying and swinging sheep... because, that's a thing.



After witnessing a master class in cutting-edge artificial sheep swinging technology, it was down to business. We have ordered 90 trees for planting, that's a lot of trees. Standard logic will tell you that shipping so many trees is prohibitively expensive so I need to drive the truck to the nursery in northwestern Michigan on the upcoming

weekend to pick them up. Fortunately, I can add some efficiency to the trip by tossing out a quick Michigan moot on my way back home.

About 6 hours after beginning my journey I've backed my truck up to a rolling door and I'm standing in the nursery's shipping warehouse, where men are packing boxes and loading skids. I give one of the guys the order number. "I'm here to pick up 90 trees, I'm parked outside." The man looked over his list and said "looks good bud, here ya' go" before basically tossing me a sandwich bag stuffed with what 90 "trees" apparently look like.



On the plus side, there was still plenty of room in the back for what remained of my dignity (not pictured).



Many people are of the opinion that skepticism and religion do not mix well, but I disagree. Just because Wyrð, divination, omens and the supernatural are often marginally observable things to us, it is important to consider our individual biases and fallibility as we attempt to interpret them. For this reason, I tend to enact whatever I have decided to do regardless of any "coincidental" actions and then ponder over their significance later. I also tend to "play it by ear" much of the time assuming that the finer details will shape themselves as they should (also I'm lazy and disorganized.) Regardless, I had not driven more than a mile down the road when I came across a man selling backyard maple syrup. Being a religious man (as well as a dope) I thought to myself "perhaps this is why I was meant to come up here (since it obviously wasn't "trees")."



I do always like to purchase locally made goods for offerings when I travel, I think it's a nice touch. I thought to myself "but what should I serve with this syrup" another mile down the road I find a place selling locally baked loaves of cinnamon and raisin bread, I pick up one of each some strawberries and a locally produced cherry juice for the libation. The small greenhouse attached to the building even had some juniper plants (juniper being a plant traditionally used (to my understanding) in old saining rituals).



About this time, I'm feeling pretty good about the Wyrd of the situation. I trek on southward until I arrive at the park, we had chosen to meet with the stalwart individuals who showed up in spite of the touch-and-go weather situation. We had a pleasant time gathering and socializing amongst ourselves (admittedly I was pretty low energy by this point). Blot time was coming so I gathered my usual items and laid out the gifts that I had brought to act as an offering to Freyja (an appropriate choice of deity given the holiday) who, after looking down upon our gifts... opted to more or less dump a bucket of water on my head.



I recall thinking, "it would be reasonable to interpret this as a bad omen" but faint hearts never win fair ladies, and so we stood resolutely and conducted our blot in the downpour (which predictably ended as soon as we finished). Perhaps with a little less fanfare, but the rites were observed, and the gifts presented in good faith.



During the journey home myself and a companion traveling back to the Hoosier Urheimat with me, met with a friend and had a good time throwing some axes. About halfway through the night, a beautiful young woman walked in and is introduced to me by my friend; we exchange pleasantries and I wonder if the goddess of beauty is rewarding me for my perseverance during Rain-Blot 2023 (or if this girl is being punished for some malfeasance and being cursed with a rain-bedraggled, sleep deprived middle-aged nerd; just as good) but I strongly suspect that the more likely scenario is that our Lady simply hadn't finished waterboarding me, time will tell.



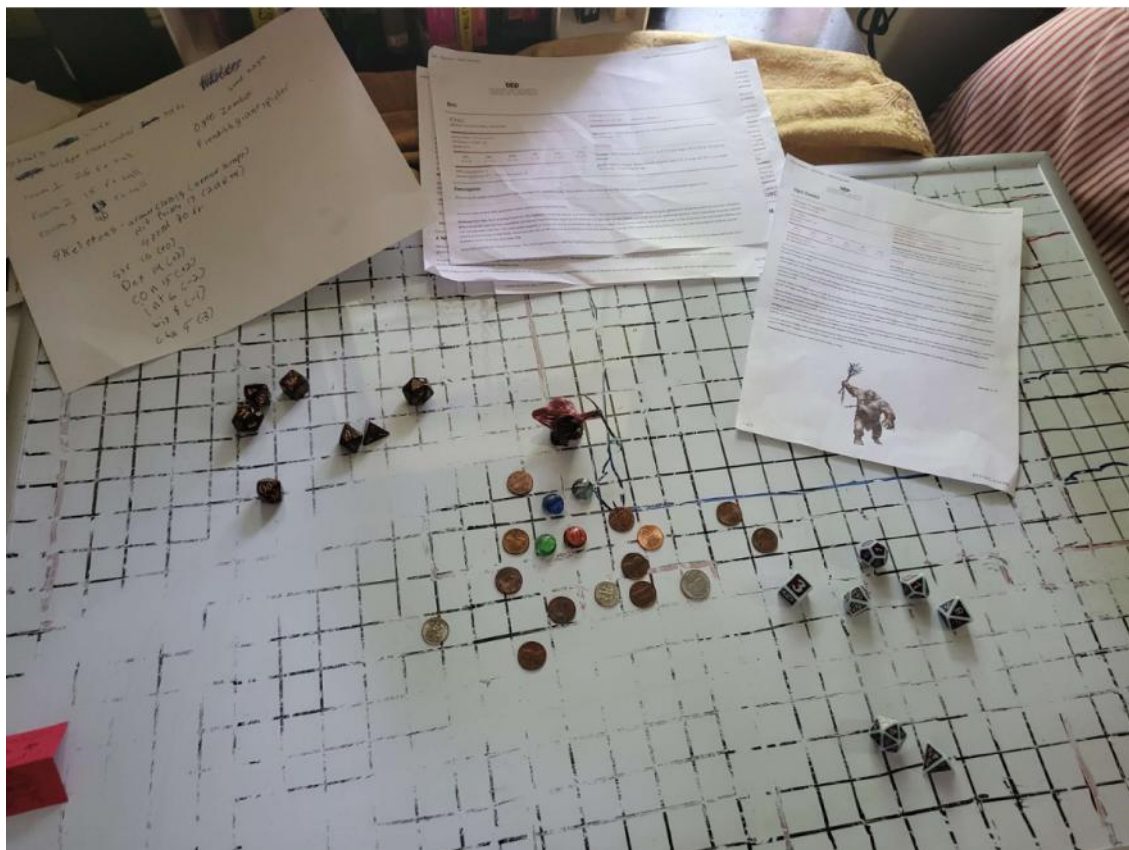
The following Monday after my return I pull out of my driveway and pass, predictably, two guys tussling in my yard. I pause briefly along my way and contemplate the cycle renewing itself right now before my eyes, ever onward and upward. I find that I am looking forward to learning where the next leg of our collective journey takes us. I look forward also to sharing it with all of you next month.



Folkbuilder Jonathan Rock
jrock@runestone.org

Maryland

Roll Dice with Your Kids



Like many people, I pay some attention to what is going on in the world. From the recent addition to the Minnesota state legislature (and the horrific bill that is being introduced by said addition) and the anti-free speech laws being passed in Florida (and being signed in a foreign country apparently, for some reason) it becomes easy to get caught in a negative mindset. Between all that is going on and having to work extra just to make ends meet (or barely keep your head above water) it becomes easy to put "childish" things to the wayside, specifically the "childish" things that your kids are interested in and want to do.

As anyone who pays attention to popular culture is aware, all that is good is being twisted to be presented as evil and even the supposedly most wholesome and popular content creators are now pushing unhealthy and immoral ideas and lifestyle choices to children. It can become quite depressing, having to go through and curate what content your children have access to (and the tools for parental controls typically do not allow for such stringent control of unacceptable content, making your job all the more difficult.)

Now, the "easy" thing to do would be to just tell your kids no and prevent them from accessing content at all. Everything is terrible and you are so busy with work after all. But your children WILL interact with popular culture, and it is being weaponised against you and your culture. Every avenue that can be taken from you is being done so (I literally had my discord account deleted for "hateful content" when all I ever used it for was to talk about the funny antics of a Kenku Bard in my local D&D game). A negative outlook and reinforcement is not what is needed to defeat the forces being leveled against us and our children.



The goblin poops his pants in fear and runs away

What is needed is for us to remember that the "childish" things that our kids want to do are what will help shape their future. The way to push back against the hostile and sick

world that stands against us (and comes for our children, as it came for us when we were young) is to build a positive culture for our children to become enmeshed in. This means not only teaching them right from wrong and having them join with their Folk on a regular basis, but to create and play games with them that reinforce our values. I have found that, along with playing with swords and other weapons, teaching my kids to play D&D seems to be a good tool for this. Along with math skills, I can curate and create a story for them to take part in, where the bad guys are bad, and the good guys are good (and there isn't some blue haired inclusivity director trying to teach my kids, they are born evil and all the other crazy crap there is out there). They genuinely enjoy it and daddy gets to show them what is good and cool, rather than just harp and moan on what is terrible and needs to be blocked.

If you don't teach and play with your children, someone else will do it in your stead. Our Folk need to be brought up strong and healthy, both in body and mind. Do not get so distracted that the most important people get pushed to the sidelines, either because you are wrapped up in what is going on in the world, or because you are having to chase a dollar. Our children and their culture are our future. Build it with them now.



James Bethard
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jbethard@runestone.org

Netherlands

Introducing myself



My name is Jackie Verweij, born and raised in the Netherlands. I am a new Apprentice Folkbuilder for the Thorshof district. I joined the AFA last year.

Ever since I was young, I felt a presence surrounding me. I spiritually grew a lot in my teens trying to learn more about our gods and goddesses but didn't have a name for what I felt or believed, or anyone to guide me in my faith.

I have known about the AFA for some years but thought it was too far away. I learned more about Asatru over time and felt closer and on my path which eventually led me here. Like many, I wish I had joined sooner but what matters is that I am home now!

I was welcomed in with open arms and even in this short time, I already shared many laughs and deep conversations. I made amazing connections and bondings to other members of our church. I feel very blessed. With each one of you I get to know, I feel more pride and amazed by our Folk. As I joined the AFA, I found more than just my church, Kin, my Folk, etc. I also found out more about myself and an even deeper

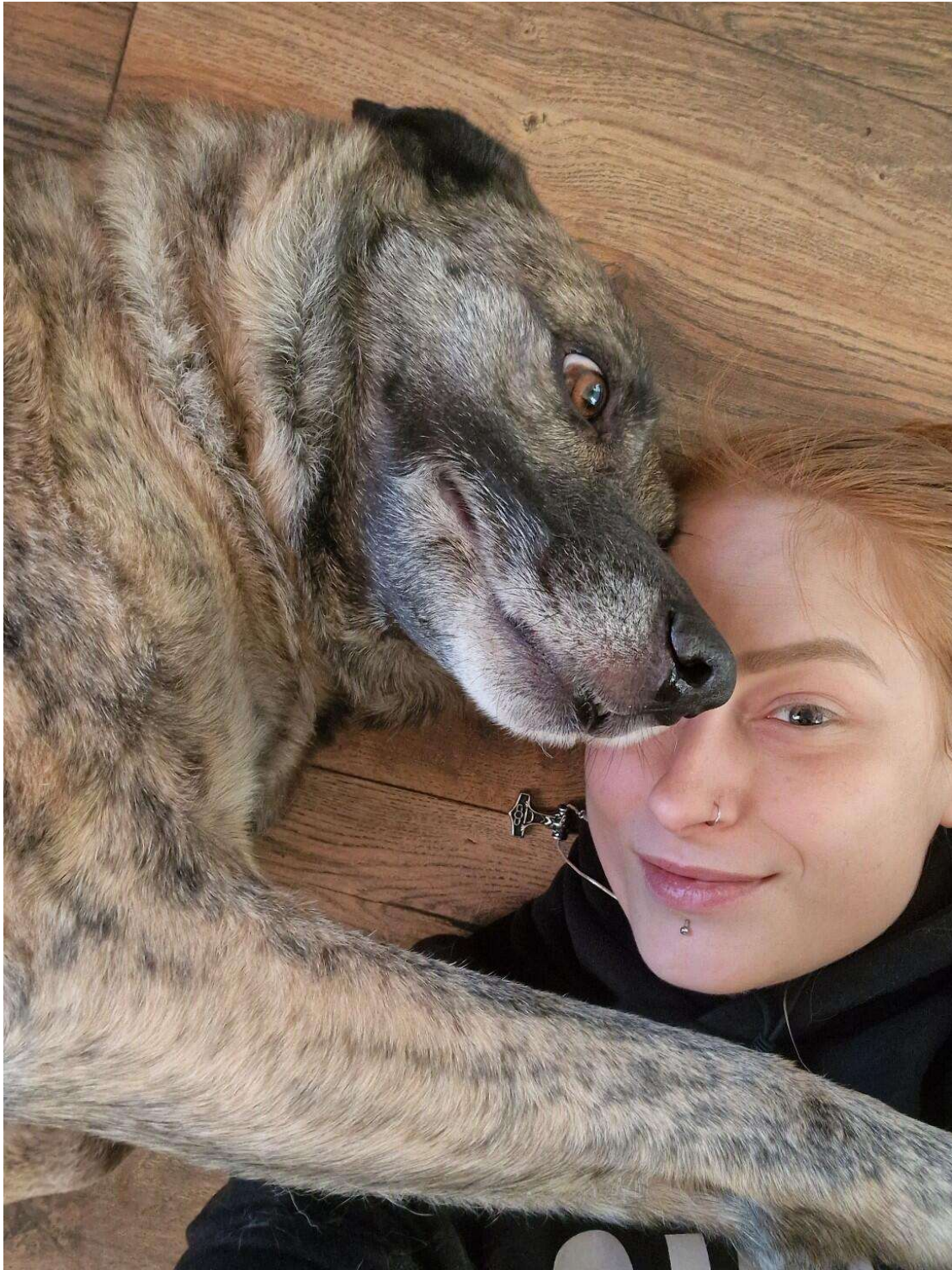
connection to our gods and goddesses and ancestors.

As a new member and Apprentice Folkbuilder I am eager to learn more, to grow more, not just as for myself but to serve the gods, our Folk and all of you. I learned that you can stand by yourself and what you believe in, but you will go further when you are standing together.

Asatru is where yesterday's fight doesn't stop, today is communication, tomorrow will always be a step closer to victory.

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

Mezelf voorstellen



Mijn naam is Jackie Verweij, geboren en getogen in Nederland. Ik ben een nieuwe Leerling Folkbuilder voor de Thorshof. Ik ben vorig jaar lid geworden van de AFA.

Al sinds ik jong was, voelde ik een aanwezigheid om me heen. Ik groeide spiritueel veel in mijn tienerjaren om meer te leren over onze goden en godinnen, maar ik had nooit een naam voor wat ik voelde of iemand om me te leiden in mijn geloof.

Ik ken de AFA al enkele jaren, maar dacht het is te ver weg. In de loop van de tijd

leerde ik meer over Asatru en voelde me dichterbij en op mijn pad dat me uiteindelijk hierheen leidde. Zoals velen wou ik dat ik eerder lid was geworden, maar waar het om gaat is dat ik nu thuis ben!

Ik werd met open armen ontvangen en zelfs in deze korte tijd heb ik al veel gelachen en diepe gesprekken gevoerd. Maakte geweldige connecties en bindingen met andere leden van onze kerk. Ik voel me erg gezegend. Met elk van jullie die ik leer kennen, voel ik me meer trots en verwonderd over ons volk en de kerk. Toen ik lid werd van de AFA, vond ik meer dan alleen mijn verwanten, mijn volk ect. Ik kwam ook meer over mezelf te weten en een nog diepere band met onze goden en godinnen en voorouders.

Als nieuw lid en Apprentice Folkbuilder wil ik graag meer leren, meer groeien, niet alleen voor mezelf, maar ook om de goden, onze volk en jullie allemaal te dienen. Je kunt op jezelf staan en waar je in gelooft, maar je komt verder als je samen staat.

Asatru is waar het gevecht van gisteren niet stopt, vandaag is communicatie, morgen zal altijd een stap dichterbij de overwinning zijn.

Heil het Volk! Heil de goden! Leve de AFA!

Walpurgisnacht Moot



I had a lovely walk, saw some cows, birds, and a fox but as soon as I wanted to Folkbuild and get them on board they ran away, and the cow was just staring at me. I sat down with my bottle of water and enjoyed the beautiful nature surrounding me. Spring weather softly rising its temperatures, bringing us more increasing daytime, blooming flowers, the trees resurrect and regrowth.

Thinking of the next place I will go, and where I can put more flyers in the hope someone finds that, and contacts to come home.

Traditionally this day is celebrated with a bonfire, knowing myself well enough, I know it's not wise for me to make a fire by myself. When I get home and the night falls, I'll burn up some herbal incense, meditate and do my prayers.

Walpurgisnacht Bijeenkomst



Ik heb heerlijk gewandeld, wat koeien, vogels en een vos gezien. Zodra ik ze aan boord wilde krijgen, renden ze weg en staarde de koe me alleen maar aan. Ik ging zitten met mijn flesje water en genoot van de prachtige natuur om me heen. Het mooie lenteweer, de temperaturen stijgen langzaam waardoor we overdag meer uren krijgen. Bloeiende bloemen, de bomen herrijzen en prachtige hergroei.

Ik denk aan de volgende plek waar ik heen ga, en waar ik meer flyers kan neerleggen in de hoop dat iemand die vindt en contact zoekt om naar huis te komen.

Traditioneel wordt deze dag gevierd met een vreugdevuur. Ik ken mezelf goed genoeg en weet dat het niet verstandig is om in mijn eentje een vuurtje te maken. Als ik thuiskom en de avond valt, brand ik wat kruidenwierook, mediteer en doe mijn gebeden.

Upcoming Events



**Ladies Call
Europe + South Africa**

**13th of May
6 PM CET**

**Contact Apprentice Jackie Verweij
jverweij@runestone.org**

Jackie Verweij
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jverweij@runestone.org



New Hampshire

Fire in the Shire



As spring rolls into NH, it's not only the trees and the grass growing. The folk spirit is growing as well.

In mid-April, we had a humble picnic at the base of Mount Monadnock to welcome the good weather as well as the company of good folk. We had many laughs and many bonding moments as time went by. Even though the road up to the top was closed due

to fallen trees, we made the best of the situation, and in the end, realized it wasn't the views that made the moot spectacular, it was those in attendance.

May Day New Hampshire



Eager after our last gathering, we started to plan our May Day celebration. The Boardman's were greathearted in their willingness to host. The weather was raw, overcast, and gray, a stark contrast to the atmosphere provided by our most gracious hosts. A bountiful feast was had, steak tips, marinated chicken, bratwurst, and burgers. Accompanied by a brilliant array of side dishes. Bellies full and smiles wide.



The dedication and admiration this family has to our Gods is exceptional. We were invited to their beautiful blot house to have sumbel. Candlelight and the cozy smell of the wood stove accompanied us in our reverence to our Gods and Ancestors. A 7-hour endeavor felt like only minutes, to be in such great company, I was truly grateful.

I am very excited to see New Hampshire and New England grow, there is definitely a fire in the Shire.

Upcoming Events



Tyler Sagert
Apprentice Folkbuilder
tsagert@runestone.org

North Carolina

Appalachian Happenings



Welcome home, Torsten Rafe!

On April 2nd at 11:56 PM, my wife gave birth to our third son, Torsten Rafe Bethea. Weighing in at 7 pounds and 11 ounces, and measuring 19 ½ inches long, he fit right in with his brothers. After a few days in hospital, we brought him home to meet his brothers and to adjust to the family routine. Emily is recovering very well, and Torsten has been gaining a pound a week! Please join us at Sigrheim in July for Sigrblot, when we will have his naming ceremony and present him to the Folk!



Weaverville, NC Moot on April 29th, members from both Carolinas, Virginia, and Tennessee gathered in beautiful Weaverville, North Carolina for dinner and fellowship. We discussed unifying the region, and why the Asatru Folk Assembly's mission is so important to our Folk. After dinner, we decided a walk was in order and headed over to the local park where we discussed our upcoming May Day event and worked the logistics out while watching a duck mother train her curious ducklings proper begging etiquette. From there, we headed to another local spot for dessert and coffee (and maybe a bowl or two of fried okra). I think that at this point we just weren't ready to part ways. We don't get to see as much of each other as we'd like, and it always makes the goodbyes hard. Recently on Victory Never Sleeps, the question was asked, "Can I be a solo practitioner and join the AFA?", and Gothi Young's response was perfect: "Why would you want to be?" Being in the AFA is all about community. This is why we travel so far to be with each other, and this is what makes our loyalty to each other so strong: Nowhere else can you have such a vibrant community of Asatruar, who also happen to be good and noble people. Be sure to take the time to honor those who have paved the way to make this community possible.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Upcoming Events

*Come Celebrate May Day and
Mother's Day in N.E. Tennessee
Sunday May 14 1:00 PM
Bring a potluck dish and a chair
for the fire
We will have a Maypole Activity,
blot, dinner and sumbel
Contact Apprentice Folkbuilder
Tyler Bethea
tbethea@runestone.org
828-707-7851*

Please join us on May 14th in Jonesborough, Tennessee to celebrate our mothers and May Day! There will be flower crowns, a May Pole, fire, Blot, Sumbel, and food! The festivities kick off at 1 p.m. and be sure to bring proper attire for a time-honored AFA tradition...the hot tub! Please RSVP to Apprentice Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea so that we can ensure adequate parking. I look forward to seeing you there!



Tyler Bethea
Apprentice Folkbuilder
tbetha@runestone.org

Ohio

Wagner Das Rheingold Moot



Richard Wagner, few would argue that if there were one composer that resonates with our folk that it would be anyone other than him and his masterpiece known as The Ring Cycle.

Loosely based on the epic The Nibelungenlied (which is an absolute MUST read), as well as a mixture of other myth/folklore and a touch of Wagner's imagination.

I have longed to witness his work live for over 30yrs. Finances and work schedules stood in my way in those years past so under no circumstances would I miss out yet again!

The orchestra was very good and a few of the opera singers were pleasant to the ear.

However...

The destructive modern influence of "wokeness" was immediately present and reared it's ugly head. The opera opened with one of the Rhine Maidens not of our folk!

Unfortunately, the players of Wotan and Donner (Thor), were also not of our people and it certainly did detract from what is in my opinion one of the most culturally valuable expressions of art, by and for our Völk that ever been created.

Despite the politically correct attempt to obfuscate, misrepresent and sully the representation of our very Gods, their efforts were in vain.

By pushing an anti-European agenda, their hope is in eventually eradicating the beauty, creativity and passions of our ancestors and the cultural legacy that has been left to us by our forebears.

It is absolutely critical that we continue to support, promote and attend our cultural festivals, operas and any other display of what makes our peoples the noble, the shining!

We cannot allow others to dictate the narrative of who WE are, whether as individuals or as a collective folk.

We very much look forward to when Die Walkure comes around.

Siegfried can be played by an alien from Mars, but I will be there, nonetheless.

And the Gods will with as well!



Folkbuilder Michael Melillo
mmelillo@runestone.org

Work with Your Hands



We now live in an expendable give me what I want now world. A world of planned obsolescence and throw it away and buy another. This is not the world our ancestors had in mind. Many young men today can't tell you the difference between a jig saw and a table saw, can't nail two boards together and don't want to, this is unacceptable. How many of you had fathers with the full toolbox and peg board for more on the wall? I know I did and so did all of my friends. I say all of this to say that men are rapidly losing the ability to master their own environment. To the point which younger men have no interest in getting their hands dirty. Instead of toolboxes I see Xboxes. We must

balance this. I know many men here are quite industrious. I propose all of us of this type take this to heart and take back the hardware store from blue haired teenagers and the unknowledgeable. Train every young man around us to find their way around the garage. Let us find a way to make an achievement in the field more desired than a little nonexistent video game trophy. When our young men realize and feel the accomplishment of a job well done and a running engine and a mended fence, we will again be barreling down a path of victory. We all have our place but even if you aren't a handy fella learn to use a couple tools and do a simple project. Once you perfect it have your son help you. Have your young neighbors over for a workday, dinner, and a couple beers. Let's learn to love the garage and back yard again. It's in the field where the food is grown and, in the garage, where the tractor is fixed. Let's be the master of our own domain again and not be held to the whims of sub-par repair men and people with no business standing in a hardware store aisle. With the war of culture being waged against us I think a lot of us have forgotten about the garage out back and how extremely integral an even simple knowledge of working with your hands truly is. So, if you can fix your own machine, patch your own holes, and swing your own hammer to the best of your ability. It's a part of who we are as Aryan men. Yes, we are great warriors but more of us have been the best farmers and craftsmen the world has ever seen. Let us cultivate this tradition. I wish you all an industrious spring.



Folkbuilder Joe Drotos
jdrotos@runestone.org

Central Ohio Haufbrauhaus Moot



In late April, the Folk gathered at the Hofbrauhaus. Current members, new members and potential members gathered at the long tables enjoying authentic German food and beverages. We held meaningful conversations, shared new ideas for the future and set plans for our next event.

We have big plans for May Day and Midsummer. We would love to see you all then.

Upcoming Events

Under Ash + Oak Kindred

hosts

May Day



May 27th at 10 am

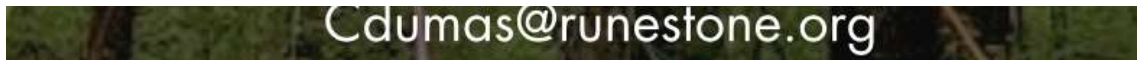
- Maypole
- Potluck
- Flower Crowns
- Blot
- Camping
- Sumbel

Central Ohio

Contact
Christine
Dumas

For
more
information







june 17-18th

UNITE FOR
Midsummer
in Southern Ohio

Blot
Sumbel
Flower
Crowns
Workshops
Auction
Kids
Activities
Potluck
Camping

Welcome the return of the Sun

Contact
cdumas@runestone.org
for more information



Folkbuilder Christine Dumas

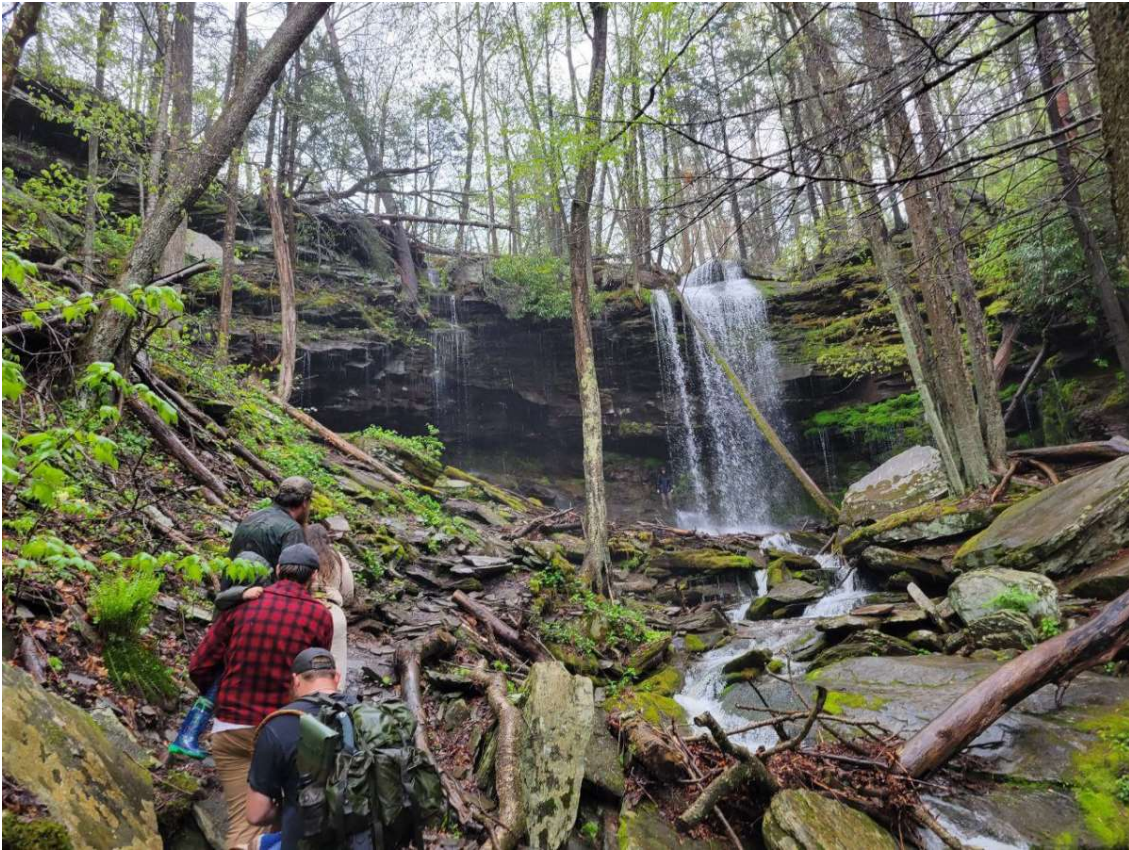
cdumas@runestone.org

Pennsylvania

PA Hike and Eir Blessing

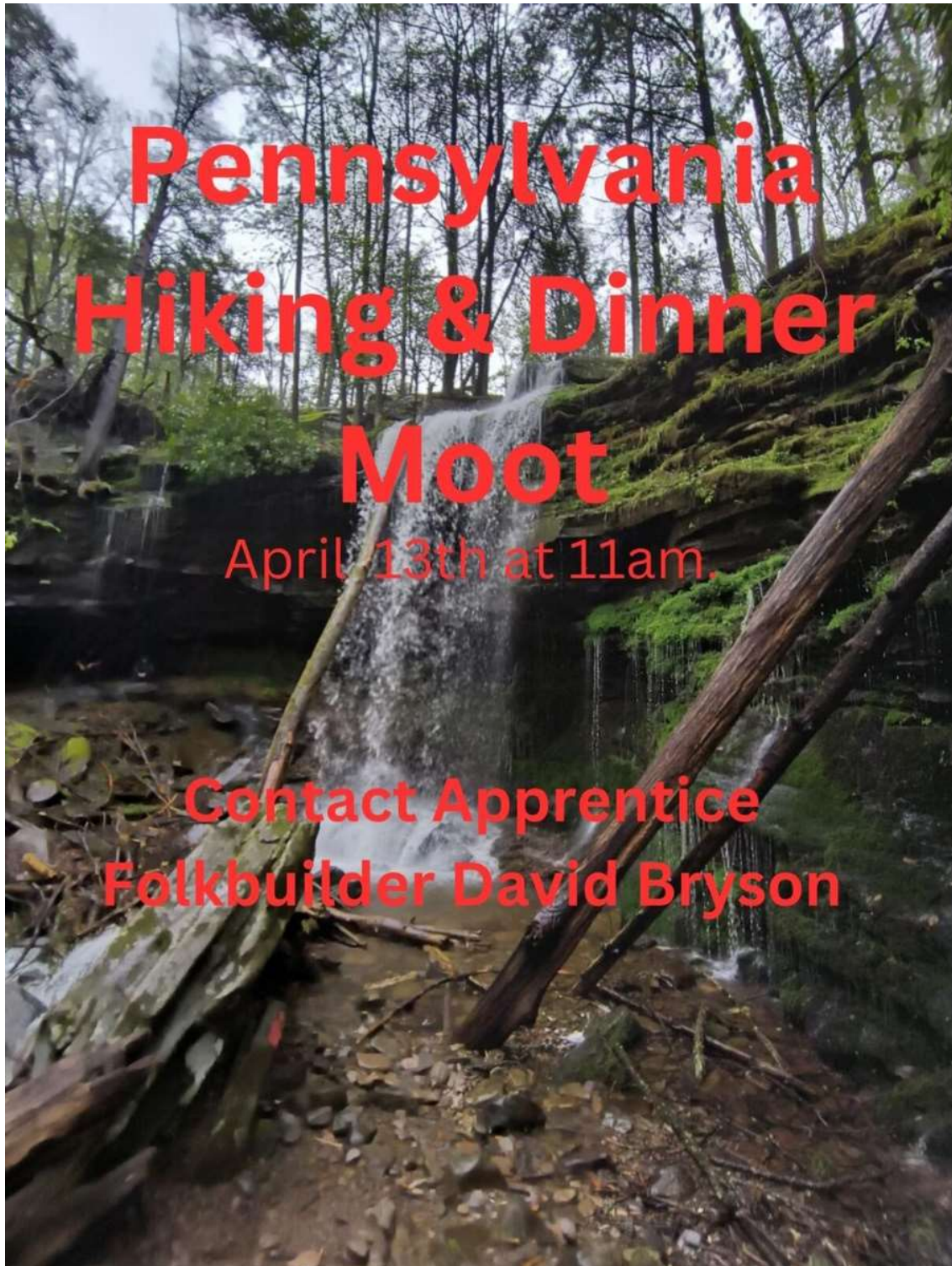


The day after our Pennsylvania Hexennacht celebration i got to show some of my fellow folk an area that I hike to whenever I can. The hike itself is 1.6 miles from the trailhead to the waterfall through a beautiful section of woods. While the weather wasn't exactly on our side, we all still had a great time.



After arriving at the falls, we all gathered up under an outcropping and relaxed for a minute despite most of us being completely soaked. While we were sitting there several people decided to go stand directly beneath the falls and let the water wash over them. We then had Folkbuilder Jessica Keller perform an Eir blessing right at the falls. After concluding with the Eir blessing we made our way back out the trail to our vehicles and ended our wonderful weekend.

Upcoming Events



David Bryson
Apprentice Folkbuilder
dbryson@runestone.org



The Redcoats are Coming



While waiting for the next set of orders to be passed, the British gathered their strength in the city stronghold of Boston, conversation and drink were a necessity. The soldiers knew they had some distance to cover, they knew there was cold lead itching to be spit into their chests. War brings out the worst and best of men, either way a nice swig of brandy can calm some nerves. The battle for Lexington was close at hand, The capture of Samuel Adams and John Hancock was plotted. One command is all that was needed, one command to set this epic tale in motion. “Forward March!”

Yet!!!

Who cares about the British, Taxation without Representation, 13 colonies being ruled half a world away, by a King who was stubborn. King George refused to lose his grip, his control of the people who now inhabited this new green and fertile land. This was just folly; the Patriots saw this corruption for what it was and took matters into their own hands. But that is a different story.

The Midnight Ride is the epic I speak of. Paul Revere risked family and his own life for

the sole purpose of saving his Patriot Brothers and protecting an idea that sounded ever so sweet when it rolled off the tongue, freedom!

On the evening of April 18th, 1775, Paul's presence was requested by one of the last major Patriot leaders hidden in and amongst the overwhelming coats that occupied Boston. Upon his arrival Paul was brought up to some significant news. The British troops were to march on Concord, destroying any and all storage/ammo houses in their path. Another important note was the arrest of both Samuel and John who were staying with Hancock's relatives in Lexington. Paul began constructing his own plan of action, he returned to his neighborhood where he contacted a close friend, asking the man to climb the bell tower of Christ's Church to set the infamous signal, the Two Lanterns. One lantern meant the British planned to march by land, whereas two emphasized the troops' plans to cross the Charles River.

Paul then prepped for the 12-mile horse ride to Lexington. Making his way down to the North End waterfront Revere slipped into a small rowboat to cross the mouth of the Charles River. The water wasn't safe by any means, he had to sneak past the British warship HMS Somerset. The ship had been anchored close to where the ferries normally traveled to Charlestown, pressing past Paul and making his way deeper into town. After confirming that the Sons of Liberty had seen the lanterns that were lit Revere mounted a horse and began his race through the countryside. Just outside of Charlestown Paul was confronted by a British patrol, spurring his steed, he blasted by narrowly escaping capture.

Paul rode hard, waking and notifying all the humble Patriots in his path. When he arrived at the steps of the Hancock residence in Lexington, he was approached by a sentry who wished to know his business and asked Revere not to make so much noise! "Noise! You'll have enough noise before long! The regulars are coming out!" Contrary to belief Paul Revere never actually shouted "The redcoats are coming!" That was the work of Henry Longfellow, a Poet who took the written accounts of April 18th, twisting them, publishing a newer, fresher version. Yet while doing so he left behind such a great story.

Paul Revere is a great example of a Patriot, but he also shows the true power of brotherhood and standing for something more than just himself. He would do anything for those he called family. This story gives a brief glimpse into how impactful an idea can become, how it can grow and push men to tackle great feats.

Our Founder Stephen McNallen has shown the same qualities as he progressed through the years. He held on to an Idea, a belief that has impacted everyone reading. We have

the tools to make the AFA more than just grand, a Utopia for generations to come. All it takes is the courage to become involved. If you don't believe in anything, believe in this organization, take care of those you call family. Together let's tackle the feat of feats! Bring our Folk home and our Roots back to the forefront!

Upcoming Events



Harrisburg

SMOKED MOOT

May 14th @ 7:00pm

Smoked Bar & Grill
1201 W Chocolate Ave,
Hummelstown, PA 17036

RSVP SMUNDY@RuneStone.Org



Steven Mundy
Apprentice Folkbuilder
smundy@runestone.org

Upcoming Events





W
M
*

WINTER FINDING
HIKE & HOT DRINKS
SEPTEMBER 9TH @2PM
MCKEESPORT, PA

CONTACT JESSICA KELLER
JKELLER@RUNESTONE.ORG

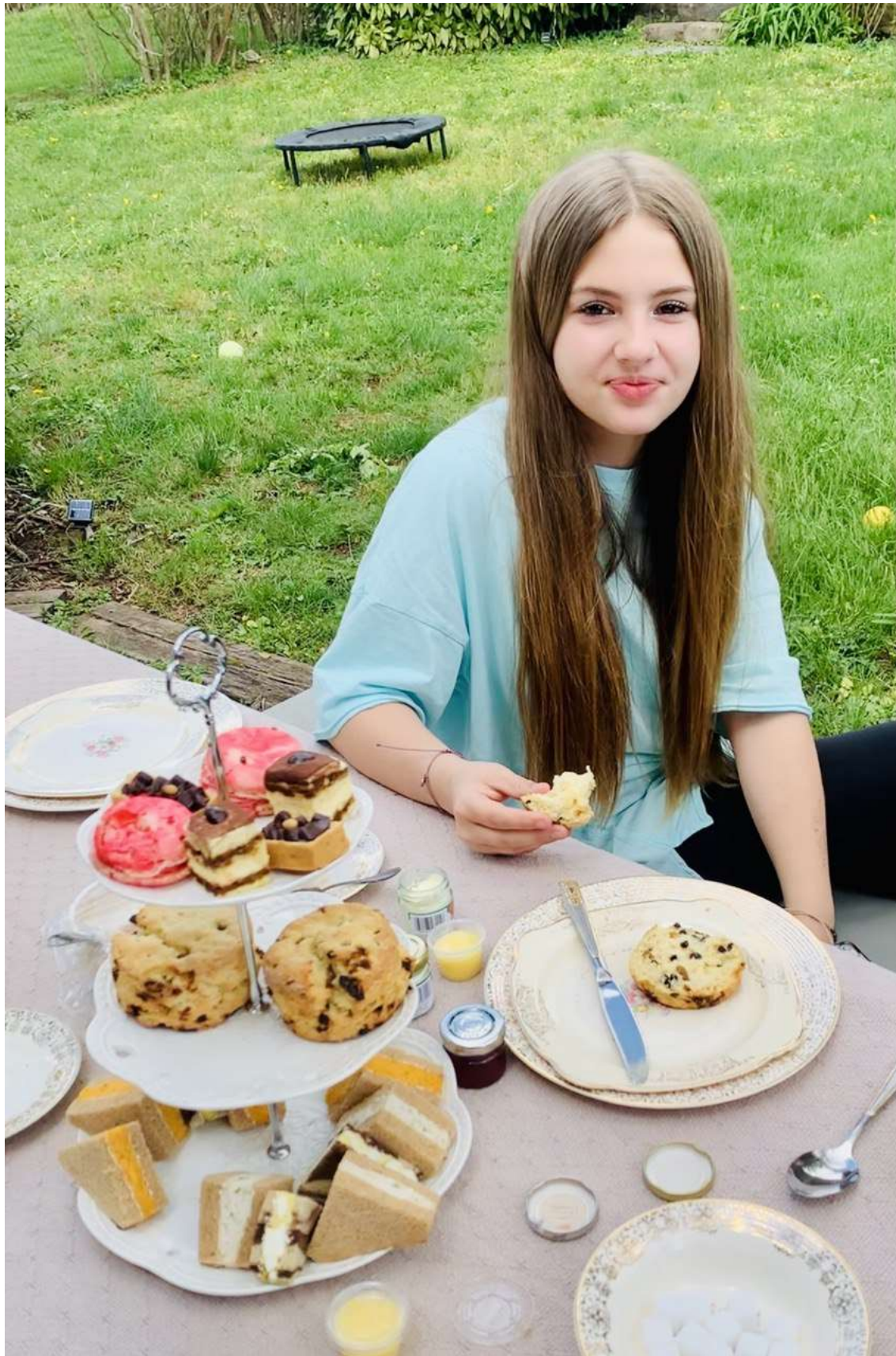


Folkbuilder Jessica Keller
jkeller@runestone.org

Boxing and Tea



This past month we got together on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. I must give it to those behind the idea and in making it happen. A perfect balance of the Masculine and Feminine force that lives in us and around....boxing and tea.



The setting was just right. The table was set with tea pots and dishes from another time. For a moment, we went to that "other place" and brought it back here with nothing else but smiles and laughter. Our best traditions still live. May they continue on through us forever.



Thank you to those that put this very special day together and we look very forward to many more.

Hail the Aesir!
Hail the Folk!
Hail the AFA

Honoring Our Goddess of Everything



Hexennacht in Pennsylvania was a magical time. For all of us, the weather helped add to that. Clouds moving fast across the mountain tops and still a coolness in the air. One last hurrah of Her winter time. Her embrace will be missed.

So much was said and much done as we honored our Goddess of Everything. She walked those wet grounds with us, entering our hearts and creating a joyous time that none of us will forget. We left there different, changed....reborn.

There were many photos taken that day. I found it difficult to choose just one that represents what we all are doing but one called out to me the most. Nothing else can be found here other than pure happiness, pure love. Another wise lesson "caught" for us from Her.

Hail Our High Goddess Freya!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Folkbuilder Adam Hudak

ahudak@runestone.org

Niagra Falls Moot



We had the very great pleasure of hosting a moot in Canada, at Niagara Falls! Aside from being able to see the falls for the first time (for many of us), we also had the honor of being able to meet with a wonderful, long time AFA Family who has never been able to meet with fellow members.



We had a wonderful time getting to know each other and look forward to hosting more moots for our Ontario families!

Upcoming Events



Join Gythia Catie
for a
traditional Garden

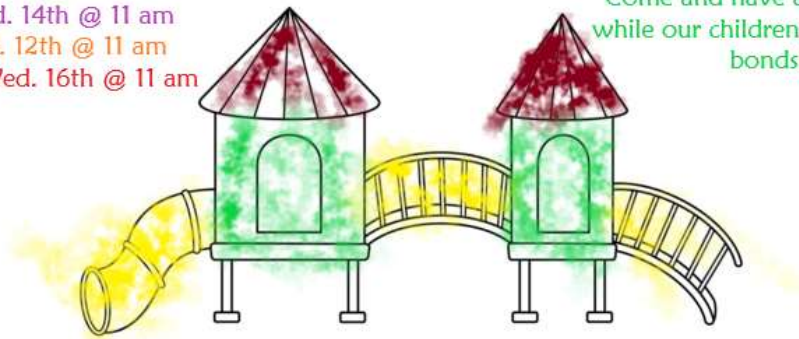
Tea Party!
Traditional Fare, Tea Leaf Readings,
and Fancy Hats!
Saturday, May 13th, at 1pm
Rain or shine.
We hope to see you there!

Contact Gythia Catie for more information
cm.erickson@runestone.org
717-983-9682
Located in Erie, PA

**Pittsburg Area
Toddler Moot!**

May: Wed. 17th @ 11 am
June: Wed. 14th @ 11 am
July: Wed. 12th @ 11 am
August: Wed. 16th @ 11 am

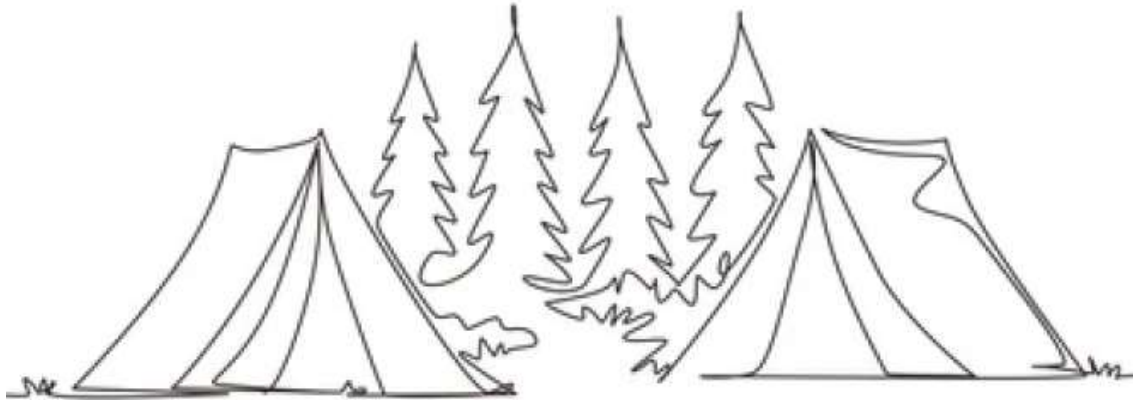
Come and have a good time
while our children build lasting
bonds!



Contact Gythia Catie Erickson to RSVP and for more information, including
locations.

Cm.erickson@runestone.org or 717.8939682

Join the Keystone Tru Folk and the Sagert family on a
Midsummer Camping Moot!
Friday, June 23rd- Sunday, June 25th



Join us in upstate NY for camping, a midsummer Blot, and good times. More information to follow.



Join us for a day of Fun in the Sun at
Presque Isle Beach Moot
Saturday, July 22nd, 11 am @ beach 10,
with dinner to follow. Rain date TBD.

Please contact Gythia Catie 717-893-9682
cm.erickson@runestone.org with any questions!



Keystone Tru Folk invites you to join us for our
2nd Annual Gettysburg Feast of the Einherjar!
Saturday, November 18th @11 am

Tour this historic Battlefield with facts about the war from the Malseed Family, Celebrate the Einherjar with a blot on the Battlefield, and join us for Dinner afterwards!

Contact Gythia Catie for more information!
cm.erickson@runestone.org

We look forward to seeing you there!



Gythia Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org

South Carolina

Ladies Chat

Join us May 26 at 6:30pm EDT for our monthly ladies chat! Join me, Folkbuilder Heather Young, with Gythia Catie Erickson to get to know the wonderful ladies across Þórshof Distrc! Build bonds, and grow in Frith with us.

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Heather Young
hyoung@runestone.org

Sweden

Hexennacht in Sweden



Spring is in full force, despite the warmth having taken a short break. The forest is never quiet during the day now. The air reverberates with the singing from chaffinch, brambling, great tit and blue tit. From the river breaking free of its icy prison the swans serenade each other, and out in wet meadows, the lapwings dance through the air to the eerie call of the Eurasian curlew.

We've seen our first butterflies: European peacock and small tortoiseshell.

In short, all beings are making it known that life has returned to the world.

With rabbit babies already taking their first steps outside of their nest, and the chickens eager to hatch a clutch or two, we asked Lady Freya for some of her power of fecundity and protection to be bestowed upon our livestock. We shared of our bounty in return, and gave of ourselves. Afterwards, Laura recited a spell from a book called Djurskrock (Animal Superstition) for more protection for our animals.

"Trollet gick upp för berget, spände sin båge, skulle skjuta. Vad ska du skjuta? Folk och fä och allt vad som i skogen är. Nej, jag ska dig förmäna; du ska skjuta stockar och stenar, och i den sjö där ingen rör, i den skog där ingen bor".

"The troll climbed the mountain, drew his bow back, about to fire an arrow. What are you going to shoot? People and cattle and all who inhabit the forest. No, I shall deny

you; You shall shoot logs and rocks, and in the lake where no one rows, in that forest which no one calls home."

Hail Freya!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Moosehunt: Spring Preparation



A moose-stand in the village of Kukkola

English:

Moose-season up in the north is sacred. Back in the day it was assumed that the first week of moose-hunt, no hunter would show up for work. I've heard several stories of people matter of fact letting their employer know that if they don't get time off for hunting moose in September, they'll look for work elsewhere.

It used to be a life and death situation. When the crops failed and survival was at stake, being able to bag a moose would be a lifesaver.

The total moose population in Sweden is estimated to about 320 000. About 25%, 80 000, is felled each year. Needless to say, the moose remains one of the most important game in Sweden to this day. Maybe the most important.

This time of year, many hunters focus their attention on preparing for autumn's hunt. The most important task is making sure the stands from which most hunters hunt from are in serviceable condition. A lot of repairing is needed every year, and eventually a stand needs to be replaced by a new one.

Every hunting team has their own design and look to their stands. What they share in common is giving the hunter a good place to sit, watch from and keep their heavy backpack full of food and coffee to last them the day.

It is oftentimes a communal activity getting together to build new moose stands. Between hammering in nails and sawing boards, there is at least one fika, where all things moose are discussed. How is the population looking this year? What stories can we share from last year? Who has a new promising hunting dog in the team? Will it be a good summer or a bad one for the moose?

The pregnant cows are just weeks away from having their calves. Will this be a good summer for them to thrive? Time will tell!

Svenska:

Älgjakten uppe i norr är helig. För i tiden antog man att älgjaktens första vecka skulle se flera arbetsplatser tomma på personal. Jag har hört flera personer berätta att de har givit arbetsgivare ultimatum: Om jag inte får ledigt för älgjakten, så söker jag arbete någon annanstans.

Det brukade handla om liv och död. När skörden slog fel, och ens överlevnad stod på spel, så kunde en skjuten älg betyda allt.

Den totala älgstammen i Sverige uppskattas till 320 000 individer. Ungefär 25%, 80 000 fallis årligen. Det är ingen överdrift att säga att älgen fortfarande är ett av Sveriges viktigaste vilt. Kanske till och med det viktigaste.

Den här tiden på året fokuserar många jägare på att förbereda för höstens jakt. Det viktigaste är att se till att älgstornen är i gott skick. Många torn är i behov av reparation, och tids nog behöver alla torn bytas ut.

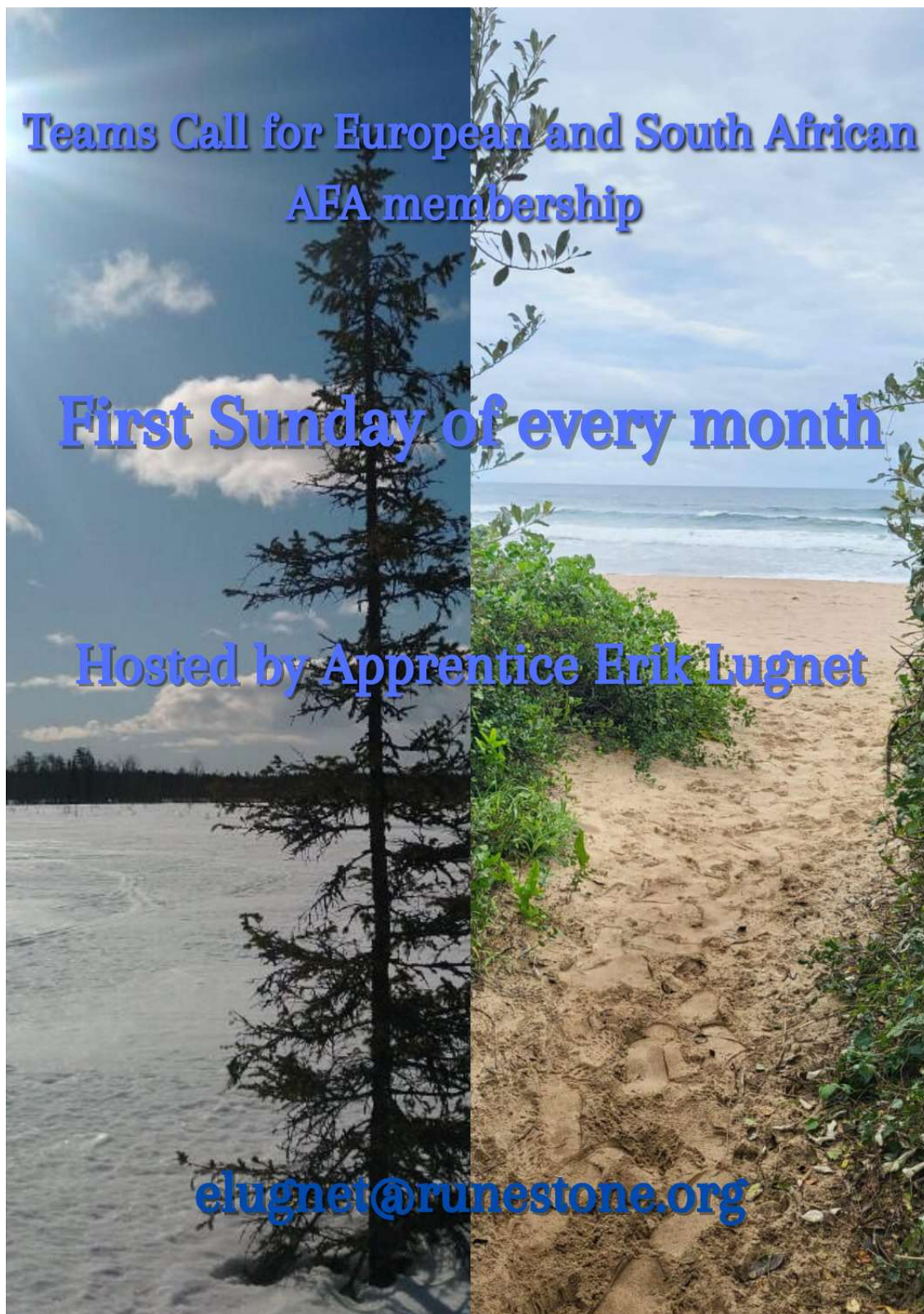
Varje jaktlag har sin egen torn-design. Vad som förenar dem är en komfortabel sittplats med god utsikt och rum för en tung ryggsäck full av mat och kaffe som räcker hela dagen.

Det är oftast en gemensam aktivitet när man ska bygga nya torn. Mellan hammrandet av spikar och sågande av brädor så tar man minst en fika. Samtalsämnet är då, föga

förvånande, älg. Hur ser stammen ut? Vad minns vi från föregående år? Har någon en ny älghund på gång? Bli det en bra eller dålig sommar för kalvarna?

De dräktiga korna är veckor ifrån att föda sina kalvar. Kommer det bli en bra sommar för dem? Den som lever får se!

Upcoming Events

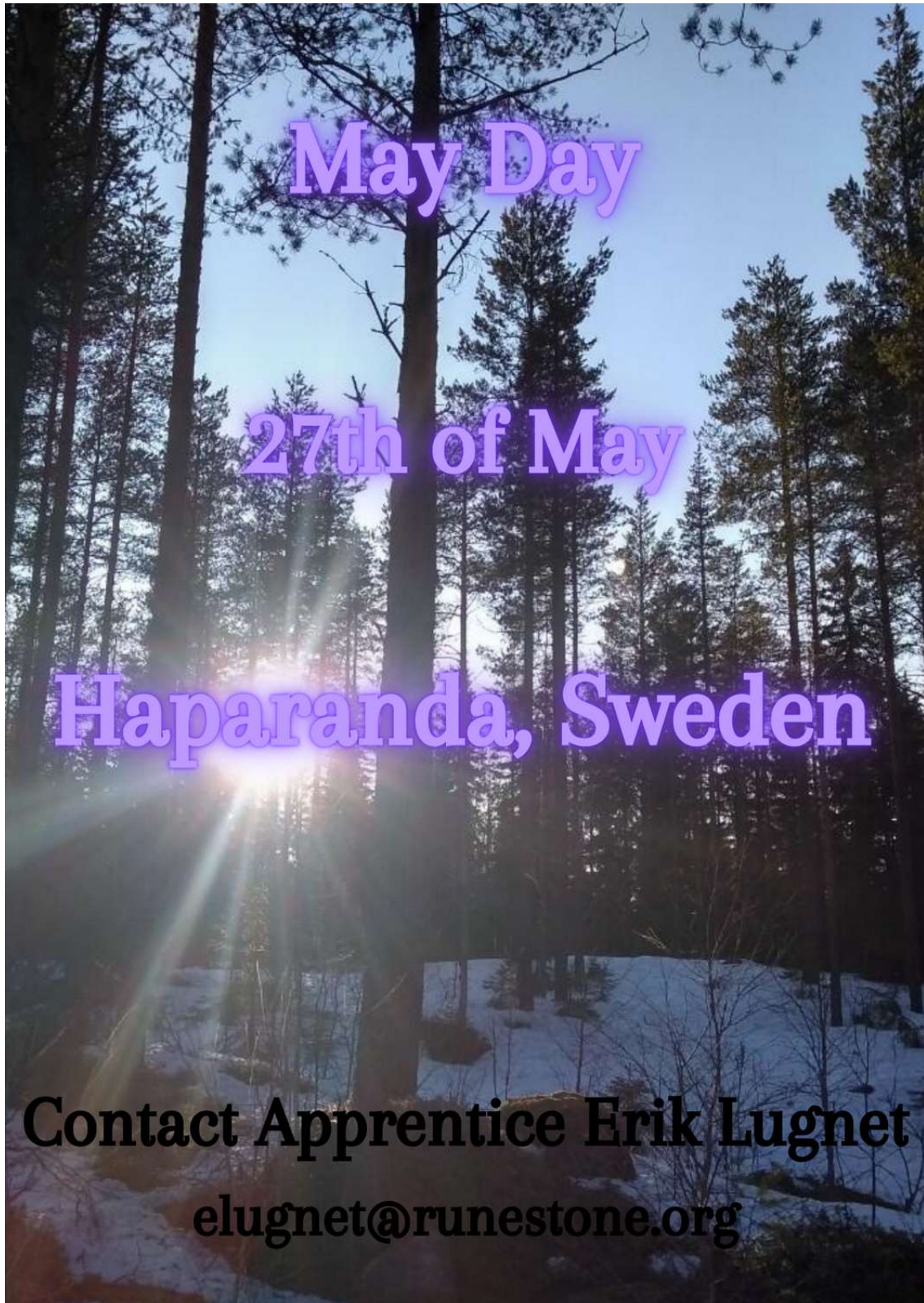


**Teams Call for European and South African
AFA membership**

First Sunday of every month

Hosted by Apprentice Erik Lugnet

elugnet@runestone.org



Erik Lugnet



Apprentice Folkbuilder

elugnet@runestone.org

Tennessee

Hallo Þórshof



Hello, Þórshof! Betchu Didn't think you'd see me here, didya? Well, as the newest Folkbuilder to the district, treat this as my resume. I'm in the process of moving right this second from Baldrshof District and Illinois to the hills of central Tennessee and Þórshof District! I'm excited about all the good things to come and hope I can be a solid asset to all y'all. I'm hitting the ground running hard and already got a few things planned for us that you can check out in the flyers below.

Without further ado, here's just a bit more about me:

Howdy, I'm Nicholas Rice, Folkbuilder formerly of Southern Illinois. If I'm not the

busiest feller in the AFA, then give it a day or two...they'll assign something else to me, and I wouldn't have it any other way. With free time comes wasted time, and there's always something that needs to get done.

So, how'd I get here? Well, I grew up with a love of history and mythology, and as a kid, some of my favorite things were reading and experiencing various adventures through ancient lands. Having read *Odyssey* for the first of many times when I was 11, I quickly grew an understanding that there was something else out there, and something that was drawing me in and away from the status quo. I left Christianity about 16-17 years ago, and made my way through what seems to be a somewhat normal progression of agnosticism, atheism, general paganism, eclecticism; I worked on building connections originally with the Hellenic Gods, before being awoken to the history and cultures of the Germanic peoples and our Gods.

My Folksoul finally found its root and home about 10 years ago, and although I was content for some time practicing alone and with a small group of a few locals, life events eventually drove me into isolation and an inability to connect on my own anymore. I'd heard about the AFA, and knew that it would be my best shot at finding a decent group of Folk who shared my values and had the drive and passion for our Gods and Folk that I wanted to spark within me again and help build.

It was a long time coming, and a lot has happened in the time since I joined back in '21, but I couldn't be happier, and the amazement I feel every single day about the growth and progress we make...it only leaves me awestruck about the good works that we'll continue to do well into the future to build our own bright flames and bring gifts and glory to our Gods.

To circle back around and give you a bit more about the things I'm involved with and how I could help if you needed anything, here's a bit of a list of what I help get done in the AFA: general Folkbuilding with organizing moots and connecting with the Folk, IT and computer system support and website development, back-end production of *Victory Never Sleeps*, helping to assemble and edit our monthly *The Runestone* newsletter, administrative secretary with *Asatru Academy*, historian for *Sigrheim*, keep a couple of our various social media platforms updated, mail out the membership cards, mentoring for new apprentice Folkbuilders, and probably my favorite position and title, Keeper of All the Things for one of our Witan, the wonderful Mrs. Brandy Callahan. :)

And if you're interested in some audio recordings of a few of our most important pieces of lore, feel free to check out my YT channel at >> [youtube.com/@ulfbjorn14](https://www.youtube.com/@ulfbjorn14) <<

Upcoming Events



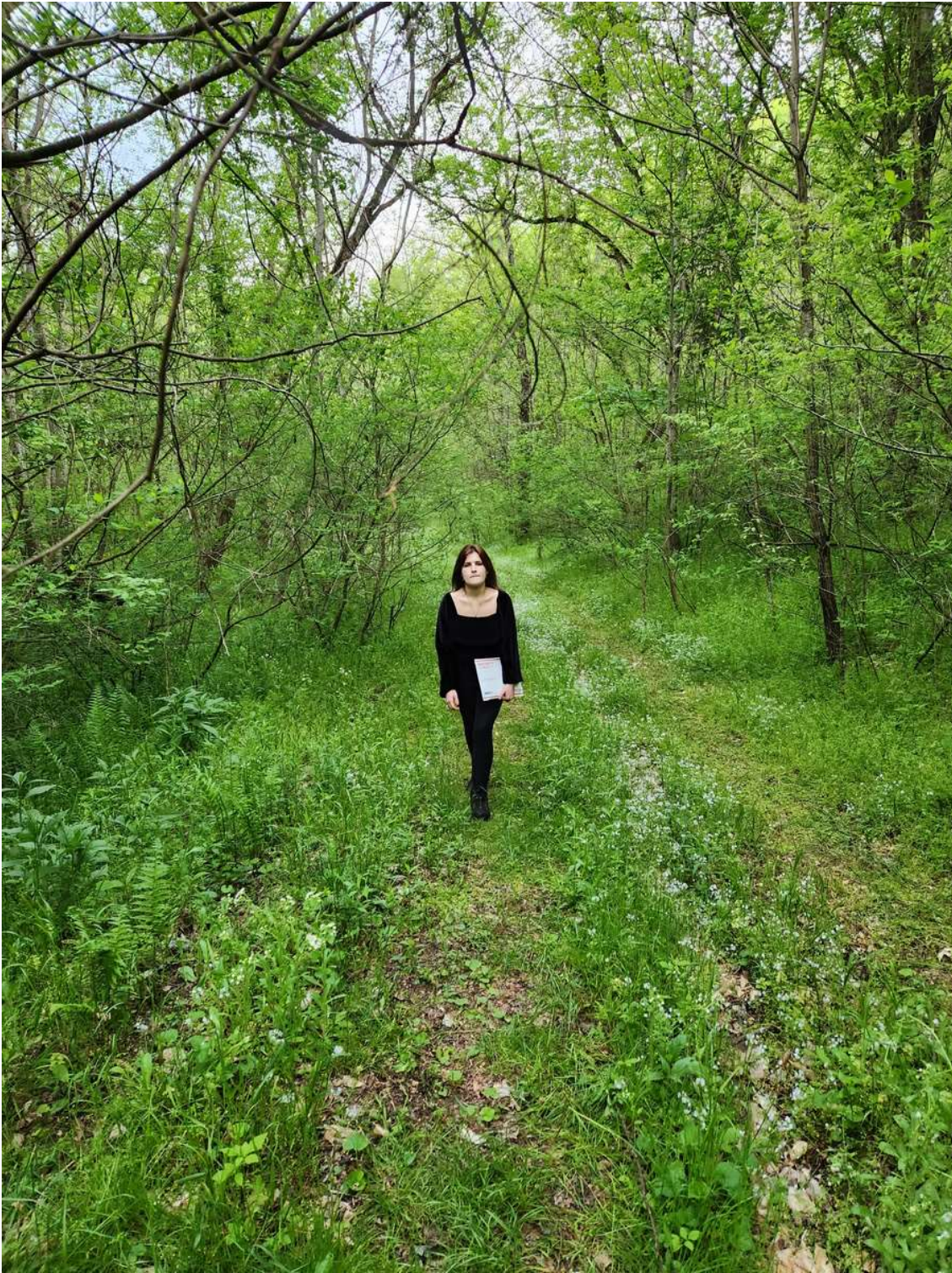
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Earth Day at Sigrheim



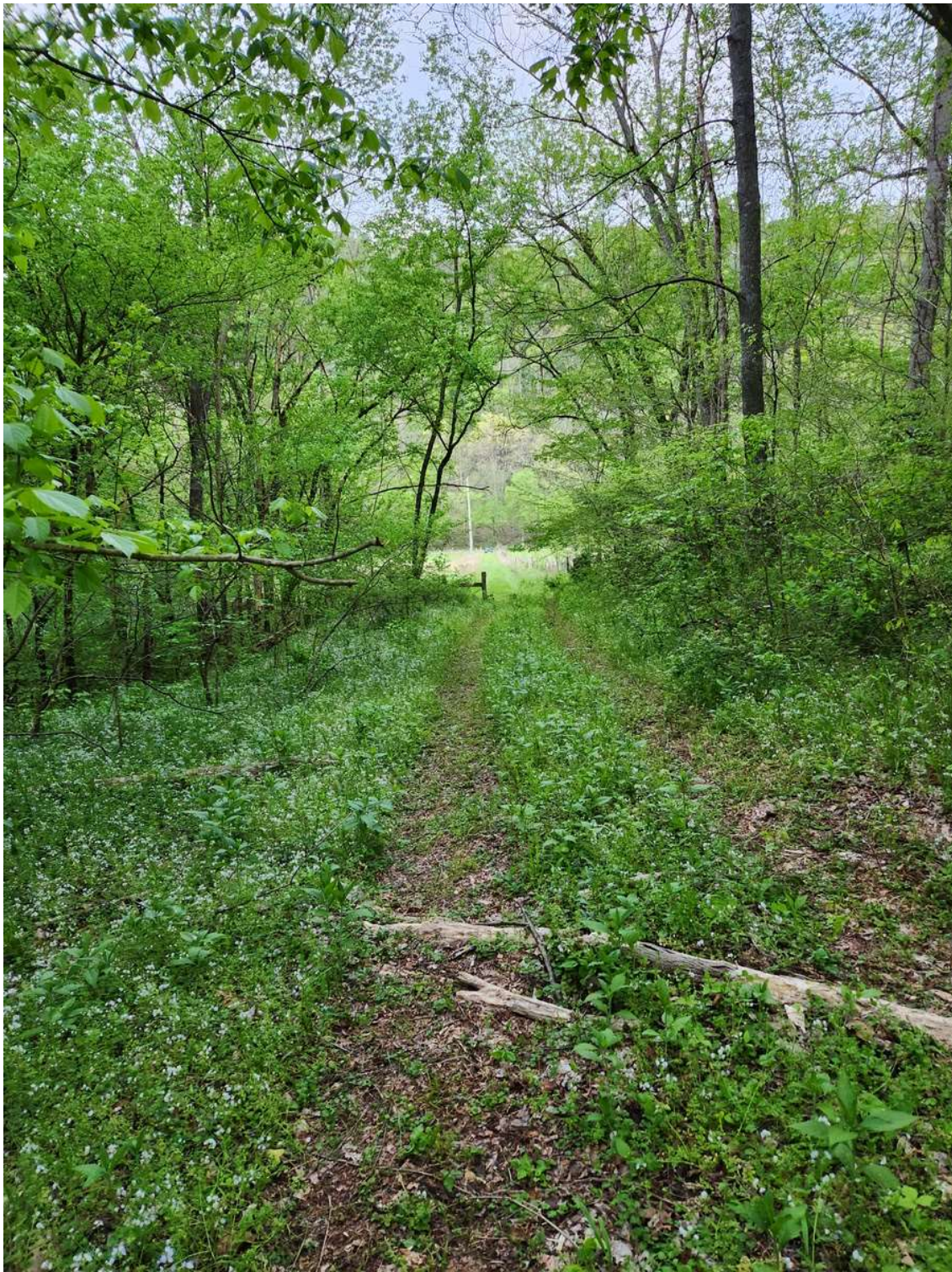
At Sigrheim, some Tennessee Folk gathered to celebrate Earth Day. We camped out the day before the moot to spend as much time with the land and the Folk that came. The weather was fine, and while we did enjoy a minor rainstorm, the scents and sounds of the verdant land were beautiful to behold.



The land has promise, but it will take a lot of work from us all! Anything worth having takes hard work. The old axiom "Put in the blood, sweat, and elbow grease." The future is promising, but we will have to work hard to achieve this goal and continue to pursue it.



The celebration of Earth Day is a call to action and a reminder of our responsibilities to the planet and each other. We can work towards a brighter and more sustainable future by coming together to honor the Earth and engage in stewardship and community-building.



In this way, the celebration of Earth Day is not just a one-time event but an ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of the planet and all who inhabit it. It reminds us that we are all interconnected and that our actions have a ripple effect extending far beyond ourselves. We can build a more just and sustainable world for ourselves and future generations by working together.




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