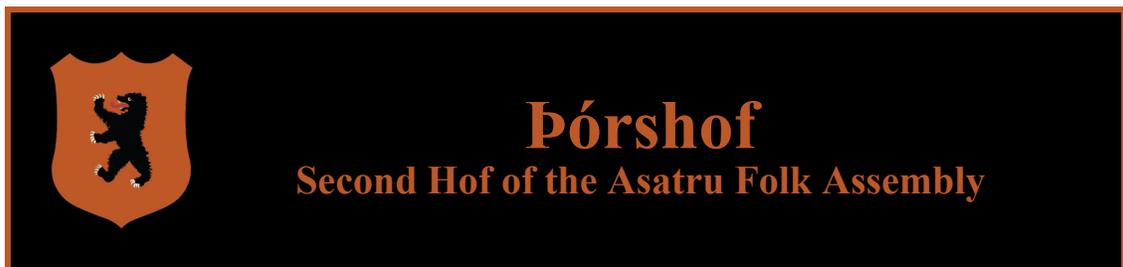
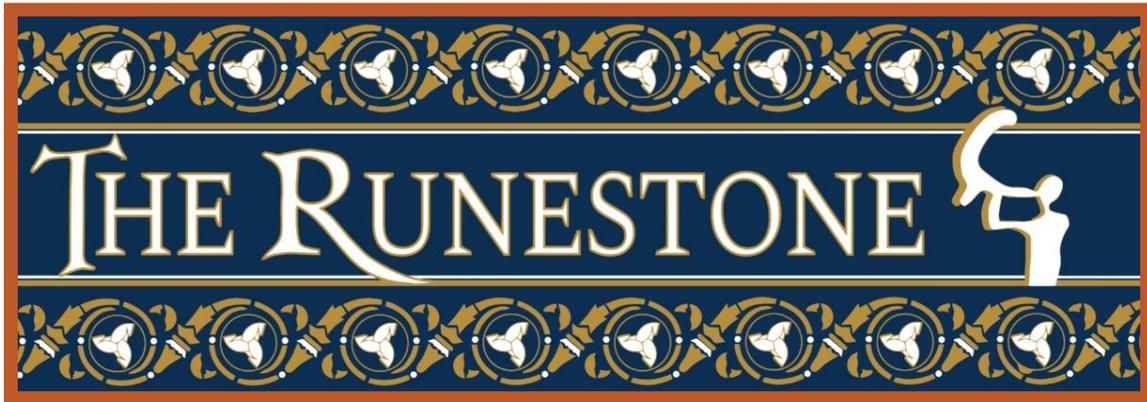


[View this email in your browser](#)



<http://www.thorshof.com/>



Donate to the AFA

## Words from the Alsherjargothi



September was a big month for the AFA and I made a very important announcement last week that I want to make again here for our Runestone audience and for posterity. That announcement is Sigrheim!:



"Sigrheim

Home of the Asatru Folk Assembly

Established 202X

“IV. The restoration of community, the banishment of alienation, and the establishment of natural and just relations among our Folk:

Our ancestors had religious and social folkways that gave them a feeling of continuity and community while jealously preserving individual rights; we can and will re-establish this natural order among our Folk. Asatru encourages sound, traditional families while providing an extended family or tribe to support the basic family unit.

We help each other materially, socially, and religiously while respecting the privacy of individuals and families. Society would work better if families and communities cared for each other, rather than relying on coercive, intrusive “help” from outside sources such as government”

– AFA Declaration of Purpose

When I first became actively involved in the AFA, around 2009, there was talk of the AFA Hof and Land Fund. The vision was, a hof of course, but also land for an intentional community of AFA members. The more I studied our roots and spoke with other members, the more the theme of intentional communities was talked about as the dream. Not only is this the dream of so many when they join, this has been a dream of Asatruar since the reforging of our faith in the 1960s. We have certainly all seen and been part of the dream of hofs, our current 4 hofs are a testament to our ability to accomplish and manifest dreams into realities. The time has come for the next stage in the Asatru dream to take shape- Sigrheim.

Sigrheim means “Home of Victory.” Sigrheim will not only be the home of victory but the home of the Asatru Folk Assembly. As with all dreams, the form changes and shifts as the dream becomes real. This is the vision as it stands now. An AFA neighborhood

will be built with several members constructing their homes on a common parcel of AFA land. On this land, there will be a magnificent hof. On this land, there will be guest lodging. On this land, there will be a common meeting/cooking/dining area. This land will serve as the corporate and ecclesiastical headquarters for the Asatru Folk Assembly.

After my first AFA national event (Midsummer in the Sierras 2010), I was hooked, and I have tried to make it to all that I could from that time on. It occurred to me after the first few years that I was living my “mundane” life for 350 days so that I could live my real life for 15 (at AFA gatherings). I have tried ever since to make every day like those beautiful event days. I want that for myself, I want that for my family, I want that for us. This will be a home for our AFA family. Those who have the commitment and desire will be welcome to move here (or to an area close by), whether or not you make your permanent home on the grounds, you will be welcome here always because this is HOME.

In faith and as a church, we have grown. Our mission and scope have grown by leaps and bounds! We have AFA membership in 14 countries! This is amazing and it makes the case for a headquarters from which to manage and coordinate all the glorious things we have going on. We have long wanted a place to host AFA national events. Up until now, we have had to rent venues and camps (I am confident we will still do this in the future). Our hofs are a great place to host events and we love that, but the lack of on-site lodging is problematic. A place of our own, with facilities and accommodation for large gatherings, will be a useful and fantastic thing. The whole project will be focused around a hof to Týr and a grand gathering hall, in this way it will have all the functionality of our current hofs but so very much more.

There is an additional need that has weighed heavily on me for some time now. Our elders often find themselves impoverished and with no family willing or able to care for them. Our members living with disabilities have trouble living on their own with dignity and with their spiritual needs fulfilled. We have families who find themselves without safe places to live and stay. Sometimes this is due to a natural disaster, sometimes due to loss of employment, and sometimes to the dissolution of an unhealthy relationship. We can, we should, and we will do better with this. Sigrheim will increasingly be a place where these folk can come and be cared for by family, our AFA family. We can't promise luxury and are not equipped to provide medical care, but we will provide food, shelter, and love for our elders, disabled, and folk going through hard times.

As this dream grows, we also envision facilities to do homeschooling, summer camps, community craft fairs, and athletic training. As with all dreams, there is no end to the possibilities."

As with any of these endeavors, success hinges upon the generosity of our amazing AFA Family. The first step is securing the land, we are working on that, but it will take a significant down payment. If you are able, please consider contributing to this project, and do remember that your contribution is tax deductible.

<https://www.runestone.org/product/sigrheim/>



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## Words from the Witan

*LAWSPEAKER'S CHALLENGE, SPEAKING WITH INTENT*



# NOBILITY

This begins a series of challenges that I will present to all members of the AFA, including myself, so that we may continue to improve ourselves. The goal is to be our highest and best selves and live in a way that demonstrates our nobility and honors our ancestors and gods. The first challenge: Speaking with Intent.

As many of you already know, I have been on a crusade (okay, maybe just a campaign) to eliminate profanity at the Hofs. Our Hofs are sacred grounds, dedicated to the protection and preservation of our Gods and our Ancestors. Are those goals served by speech littered with profanity and vulgarity? If you went to a church or temple of different faith and heard that sort of language would you be impressed with their nobility?

Profanity is defined as “showing contempt or disrespect for sacred things.” Vulgarity is “lacking culture or taste; crude, boorish.” Is this how we want to present ourselves to the world? Would your great-grandparents be impressed with your command of Low speech?

This ideal is especially true for our Folk. Our knowledge that galdr changes ourselves and our world for the better necessarily means that Low or idle speech changes the world for the worse. Every ill-intentioned swear or curse coarsens our part of the multiverse.

In addition, vulgarity has always been shunned by those of a higher mindset. Not long ago critics noted that certain comics could not work in large venues because their language was too vulgar; the change in the culture since then, only 40 or 50 years ago, represents a decay in thought and attitude. I also confirmed with a scholar of Anglo-Saxon history that the tribal Folk would not have sworn at inanimate objects, as they took their words more seriously than that.

The attack on our families, our faith, our culture, and our civilization continues with the attack on our noble ideals of self-expression. We should decide not to participate in the degradation of our Folk by speaking in a way that honors our ancestors and our Gods: with high ideals, with nobility, with intent.



Lawspeaker Allen Turnage  
[turnage@runestone.org](mailto:turnage@runestone.org)

## Words from our Gothar

*ALU, Wodanaz, & the Gifting Cycle*



What does the runic formula ALU mean? Why did our ancestors call Odin “ALU-God”? What does all this have to do with the gifting cycle?

In the Gylfaginning, King Gylfi of Sweden is asked questions about the Gods and the cosmos by “three men”, who are all most certainly Odin.

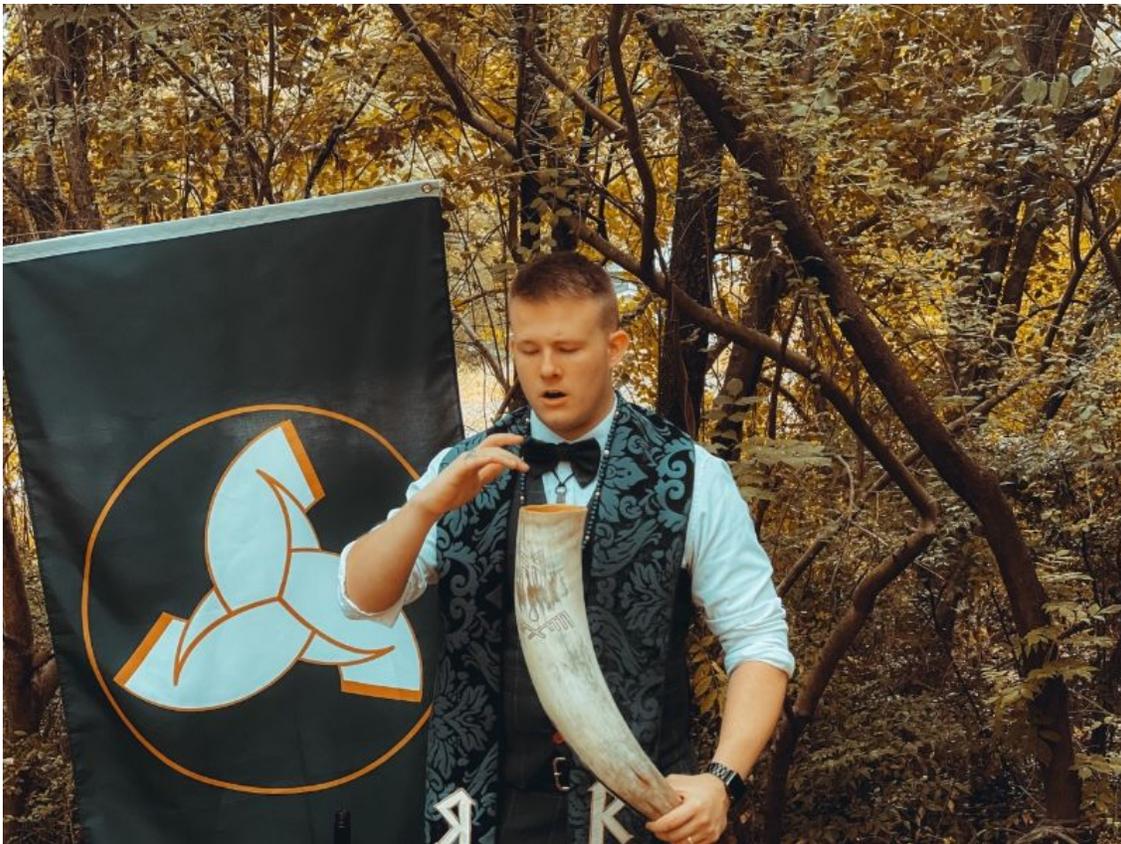
The three men give their names as High, Just-As-High, and Most High. These are thought to represent different forms that Odin takes. Let’s discuss those three forms, and how they relate to ALU:



“High” is the human form of Odin, often called Grímnir. He is credited with being the progenitor of many lines of Germanic royal dynasties, as well as a wanderer and wizard. This is URUZ, the rune of primordial power, cthonic while still sacred.

“Just-As-High” is the disembodied form of Odin, the “divine ecstasy” that he is known for. Pure Oðr, fury, ecstasy, inspiration. This is LAGUZ, the intermediary flowing force between Aryan and Æsir, between Uruz and Ansuz.

“Most High” is the God form of Odin, King of the Æsir, the All-Father, the High One who discovered the runes. This is ANSUZ, the rune of the Æsir and their king, representing the Gods as a single concept.



Now, when we analyze how Odin won the runes, we can identify it not only as an example of the gifting cycle, but as a representation of ALU and what it means. Odin's "human" form, representing Uruz, stabs himself with his spear and hangs himself from a branch of Yggdrasil. He does this as a sacrifice, a gift(Laguz) to his higher self, which is Odin the God(Ansuz). He sends this gift of his lower self to his Higher Self, from "High" to "Most High". From here, the gifting cycle is completed, and Odin's gift is returned in the form of grasping the runes!

Uruz gives the gift, Laguz, to Ansuz, and Ansuz returns the gift in kind!

Our ancestors called Wodanaz the "ALU-God", as he himself embodies the entirety of the gifting cycle that is found in the runic formula of ALU.

From Aryan, into the well, to Æsir- from Æsir, into the well, to Aryan. A gift for a gift.



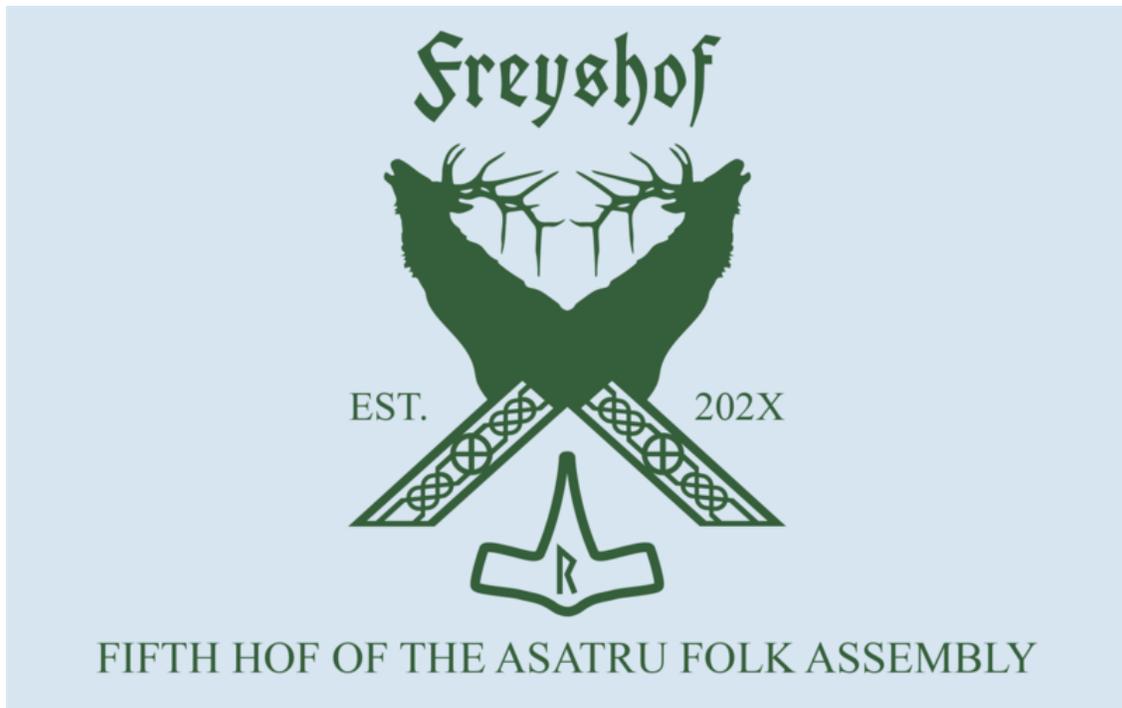
Gothi Trent East

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

# The Quest For Freyshof

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

– Gylfaginning



[Freyshof Fund - Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)

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

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

1. We need to pay off Njörðshof. (We have paid off 39% so far)
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 17%. (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 the patient and resolute. As we progress, I will keep you all updated on our progress!

Hail Freyr!



Matthew D. Flavel  
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## AFA Homeschool Program



Welcome to October! All our kids have been hard at work and doing great in their studies!

This month I would like all our students to complete an art project that is outlined in the Waldorf book OR complete a coloring sheet from the posted options on quickschools. Parents, please upload a good picture of the project either to quickschools or you can email me directly. We will feature the artwork in this section in the next runestone!

We would also love to see your Halloween costumes!

We sure hope to see as many of our students as possible at winternights in Ohio this month! Extra bonus, you'll get to meet the man with the story himself, Uncle Timmy!

Feel free to contact me or any member of our academy staff at any time, and have a great October!

*We need your help, too:*

**AFA ACADEMY  
Wants YOUR Artwork!**



**Please send any drawings of  
Gods, Goddesses,  
or  
Asatru themed art  
to  
[Rstamm@runestone.org](mailto:Rstamm@runestone.org)**



Gothi Robert Stamm  
Dean of AFA Academy  
[rstamm@runestone.org](mailto:rstamm@runestone.org)

## Victory Never Sleeps



The AFA is thrilled to be continuing to host Victory Never Sleeps as a weekly live stream and podcast. I have always loved doing my monthly Live chats and this is the continuing evolution of that. Each week I bring on an AFA leader to answer all your

questions and discuss Asatru. So far, this has been well received and we have had a great time doing them. We promise you an hour every week and keep over-delivering.

Please join us for these each week Wednesdays at 6 pm Pacific. You can participate on YouTube, Twitter, and Entropy. On Entropy we are able to take tips and super chats.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/asatrufolkassembly>

<https://twitter.com/FolkAsatru>

<http://EntropyStream.live/app/MattFlavel>

And if you can't listen live, you can always listen to the podcast at any time.

<https://open.spotify.com/show/0CULujeOav980SZbAMGk4f>



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## Day of Remembrance

*Meister Guido von List*



Born in October of 1848 in Vienna, Guido Karl Anton List was the son of a prosperous middle-class family who traded and worked in the Leather goods industry. Raised a Roman Catholic, List found his love of mythology and history early in life, often acknowledging that his belief in the Germanic Gods, and Wotan in particular, developed during these young years. A scholar, painter, and writer, his big ambition was to live his life doing the things he loved. His father, however, pressured him strongly into taking over the family business.

In his spare time, he continued to write and paint. He also took part in several leisure sports clubs, such as rowing and mountaineering. During one of his many trips List

purportedly left his group to spend a solitary midsummer atop Geiselberg hillfort. Here, it is said, he reaffirmed his belief in Wotan. Upon the death of his father in 1877 List abandoned his family business in favor of pursuing his writing passion.

Despite being an avid believer of Wotan, he married his second wife in a Protestant ceremony in 1899. This didn't hamper his writing or his influence, however, and by 1902 when his writings took on a different direction, he was a prolific and well-known voice in the nationalist and volkish movements.

It was in 1902 that von List had his great epiphany. After a cataract surgery left him blind for eleven months, List was left with much time for reflection and meditation. During this time he discovered the Armanen runes. He called this set of runes the Proto-language of the Aryan race. It was through these runes that von Lists occult ideas and writings evolved.

The popularity of his ideas exploded amongst the wealthy, middle class of Austria and Germany at the time and the Guido-von-Gesellschaft was born. The von-List society further evolved and on the Midsummer of 1911, the inner group called the High Armanist Order was created. While the main group focused on his occult and political ideologies, the inner group was dedicated to the worship of Wotan through his writings and sacred pilgrimages.

With food shortages after the war and old-age creeping up on him, von List's health deteriorated and in May of 1919 he passed away at the age of 71. His body was cremated and buried in an urn in the Vienna central cemetery, Zentralfriedhof.

Among his many novels, plays, and political manuscripts it was his first dedicated occult manuscript, "Das Geheimnis der Runen" or "The Secret of the Runes," that really sets Guido von List up as a forefather of modern Asatru, influencing many including the Asatru Folk Assembly's hero Alexander Rud Mills.

What can we learn from this story?

We can never anticipate when the spark of inspiration will lead to the flame of an idea. It's easy to look at that inspiration and say that it isn't real, or it's just the imagination going crazy. With faith, however, our limitations can be cast off. Have faith in our Gods. Have faith in our Ancestors and in our Folk soul. Most importantly, have faith in yourself. each one of us can accomplish great things if we work hard enough and maintain our faith.



Gythia Catie Erickson  
[cm.erickson@runestone.org](mailto:cm.erickson@runestone.org)

**Happy Birthday!**

*Happy Birthday Founder Stephen McNallen*



*“Anyone who has raised a horn in honor of our ancestral Gods, has done so because of, or in spite of Stephen McNallen.”* – Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel. Ostara In the South, March 2020

This month we celebrate the birth of our Founder, Stephen McNallen. Before he became the Father of Modern Asatru, before he started a religious movement on his own, before the Kennewick Man, he was born in a small rural town in Texas in 1948.

“On a more intimate level, I chose my parents well: My father was a hard-working, Irish Catholic oil hand who had come to Texas for the oil boom some years earlier, and my mother was a loving, kind, and intelligent woman who – significantly – bought me the books I wanted and read them to me.”

Founder McNallen developed an interest in pre-Christian religion in college after reading the book *The Viking*, by Edison Marshall. In 1968 or 69, he dedicated himself to worship the Gods of Europe. In 1969-70, he founded the first Asatru church in the new world, The Viking Brotherhood, which gained tax exempt status in 1972. He began writing and distributing *The Runestone* which was hand typed and copied on a mimeograph machine.

“At first it was a private thing, but then I began quietly promoting the religion – which at that point I simply called “Norse paganism,” as I had no name for it. I really was starting from scratch. About the time of my graduation from college, I started a minuscule publication called *The Runestone*. I cranked it out on a mimeograph machine (!) – the first run was eleven copies. Within a year or so – August 29, 1972 – I had received recognition of the Viking Brotherhood as a tax-exempt religious organization.”

After reading Magnus Magnusson's book, *Hammer of the North*, where first heard the word Asatru, Founder McNallen began to use and promote his religious ideal as Asatru, rather than Odinism.

At some point during his time in the US Army, Founder McNallen began to adopt the belief that Asatru was a religion of the peoples of Europe, rather than being a religion for all, thus adopting Folkism. In 1976, after being discharged from the Army, he renamed the Viking Brotherhood to the Asatru Free Assembly. In 1987, Steve dissolved the Free Assembly.

After seeing what American Asatru had developed into, which denied that Asatru was a uniquely ethnic faith, Mr. McNallen stepped back into the Asatru scene. Establishing the Asatru Folk Assembly. The emphasis on Folk to differentiate from the universalist lie that threatened to take hold of our ancestral faith.

“It flourished. Over the years it grew, and I wrote *Asatru: A Native European Spirituality*, which defines my convictions and purpose. We purchased a permanent building which became *Odinshof* – our first temple to the Gods. The AFA has since expanded to include four Hofs in the USA and continues to grow. In 2016, after leading the Asatru Folk Assembly for 20 years, I turned it over to a younger generation and started the next phase of my service to my Gods and to my Folk.”

In the years since Mr. McNallen retired, he has remained an active participant at *Odinshof* with charitable giving and contributing in any way possible.

It is often said that we stand on the shoulders of giants, and none are more giant than that of our Founder, the First *Alsherjargothi*. Thank you, and Happy Birthday, Mr. McNallen, from all of us in the Asatru Folk Assembly.



Gothi Daniel Young  
[dyoung@runestone.org](mailto:dyoung@runestone.org)

## Remembrance and Holy Days



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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Observance</b>
January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 15	Porrablót
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 19	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olvir of Egg
March 20 (observed on 21st)	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 31 (observed on 16th)	Hexennacht
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
May 1 (observed on 21st)	May Day
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric of the Goths
June 21 (observed on 18th)	Midsummer
July 9	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills
July 16	Sigrblót
August 9	Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia
August 20	Freyfaxi
September 9	Day of Remembrance for Prince Hermann of the Cherusci
September 21 (observed on 17th)	Winter Finding
October 9	Day of Remembrance for Meister Guido von List
October 15	Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen
October 15	Winter Nights
November 9	Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigríð of Sweden
November 19	Feast of the Einherjar
December 9	Day of Remembrance for Egill Skallagrímsson
December 20	Mother's Night
December 20-31	Yuletide

## Winter Nights



Autumn has officially started. The days are noticeably shorter. The nights are noticeably cooler. The trees are ablaze with the colors of Fall and the crunching of the fallen leaves underfoot has begun. All around us the world is dying. This was a time of drawing in close, of hearth and home and family. For our ancestors, this was not an Autumn festival, but a quiet Winter rite in which the female spirits were honored in a rite called Disirblót.

Today, Winter Nights is often seen as a death of the physical world, the world we can see, and the reawakening of the intangible. It is the world of high energy, of spirits. It is that deeper feeling and connection to the things we know to be there. This is the time we honor our Disir—our female ancestors. We remember that without our ancient mothers we could not be. They cared for the home and the hearth fires. They cared for their families. Our ancient mothers, with strength and determination, raised the next generation against odds we cannot really begin to fathom.

With the harvests finished, there is a quiet lull before we turn our minds to the hectic holiday season. Now is a good time to turn inward in introspection, and to self-improvement. It is also the time to meditate on things of a more spiritual nature. Connect to the energy that is always there.

Gythia Catie Erickson

[cm.erickson@runestone.org](mailto:cm.erickson@runestone.org)



## Upcoming National Events

*Winter Nights 11*  
*October 14th-16th*



Register Here: [Winter Nights 11 – Asatru Folk Assembly](#)

The Eleventh Annual Winter Nights will be held in Scioto County, Ohio from October 14- 16! Since 2012, this long-running AFA festival has been dedicated to our ancestral mothers, the Disir. When the harvest is in, the summer plants have died off, and the winter is quickly approaching the veil between the living and dead is said to be at its thinnest. Again, we will gather to worship our Gods, our Goddesses, and our Ancestral Mothers. We build upon the success of the Asatru Folk Assembly by making new friends and renewing old friendships. We look forward to seeing members and friends!

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

Things to know:

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



## Winter Nights XI

October 14 - 16, 2022

### Friday, October 14

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

### Saturday, October 15

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

### Sunday, October 16

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

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

Member Family – Weekend: \$150

Member – Weekend: \$100

Member – Daypass: \$50

Guest – Weekend: \$125

Guest – Daypass: \$60

Child – Weekend: Free

Child – Daypass: Free

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



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

*Feast of the Einherjar*  
*November 10th-13th*



# **Feast of the Einherjar**

**2022 Nov 10-13**

**in Oklahoma**

**With Special guests Stephen and  
Sheila McAllen, Alsherjargothi  
Flavel and Gothi East**

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

**Register now @**

**<https://runestone.org/product/feast-of-the-einherjar-2022/>**

**contact Folkbuilders Melsa Mills, Nate Erlandson or Ashley  
McStocker for more information**

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

Come and honor the fallen with your Folk.

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

## FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR

**THURSDAY  
11/10/2022**

11am check in  
12pm - lunch  
1:30pm - Welcoming of the Gods (Nathan)  
5:30pm - Dinner  
6:30pm - Freya blot (Sheila)

## FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR

**FRIDAY 11/11/2022**

7am - brisk morning swim  
8am - Breakfast  
12:30pm - lunch  
(games)  
5:30pm - dinner  
6:30pm - Odin Blot (Steve)  
7:30pm scripted stories  
8:30pm - ~~Sumbel~~

**SATURDAY 11/12/2022**

8am - Breakfast  
12:30pm - ~~lunch~~  
(games)  
5:30pm - Einherjar Blot (Nate & Trent)  
6:30pm - Feast  
7:30pm - auction

Let us know if you are entering the mead competition!

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

## FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR

**SUNDAY 11/13/2022**

8am - Breakfast  
10am - Wayfarer Blot (Mike)  
11am - checkout

## CLARKE WEDDING

12:30pm

**ALL EVENT ATTENDEES ARE WELCOME AND  
ENCOURAGED TO STAY FOR WEDDING  
CEREMONY AND CHECK OUT MONDAY WITH  
OTHER WEDDING GUESTS**

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

Member Family – \$150

Member – \$100

Guest – \$120

Child – Free

Child – Free

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



Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

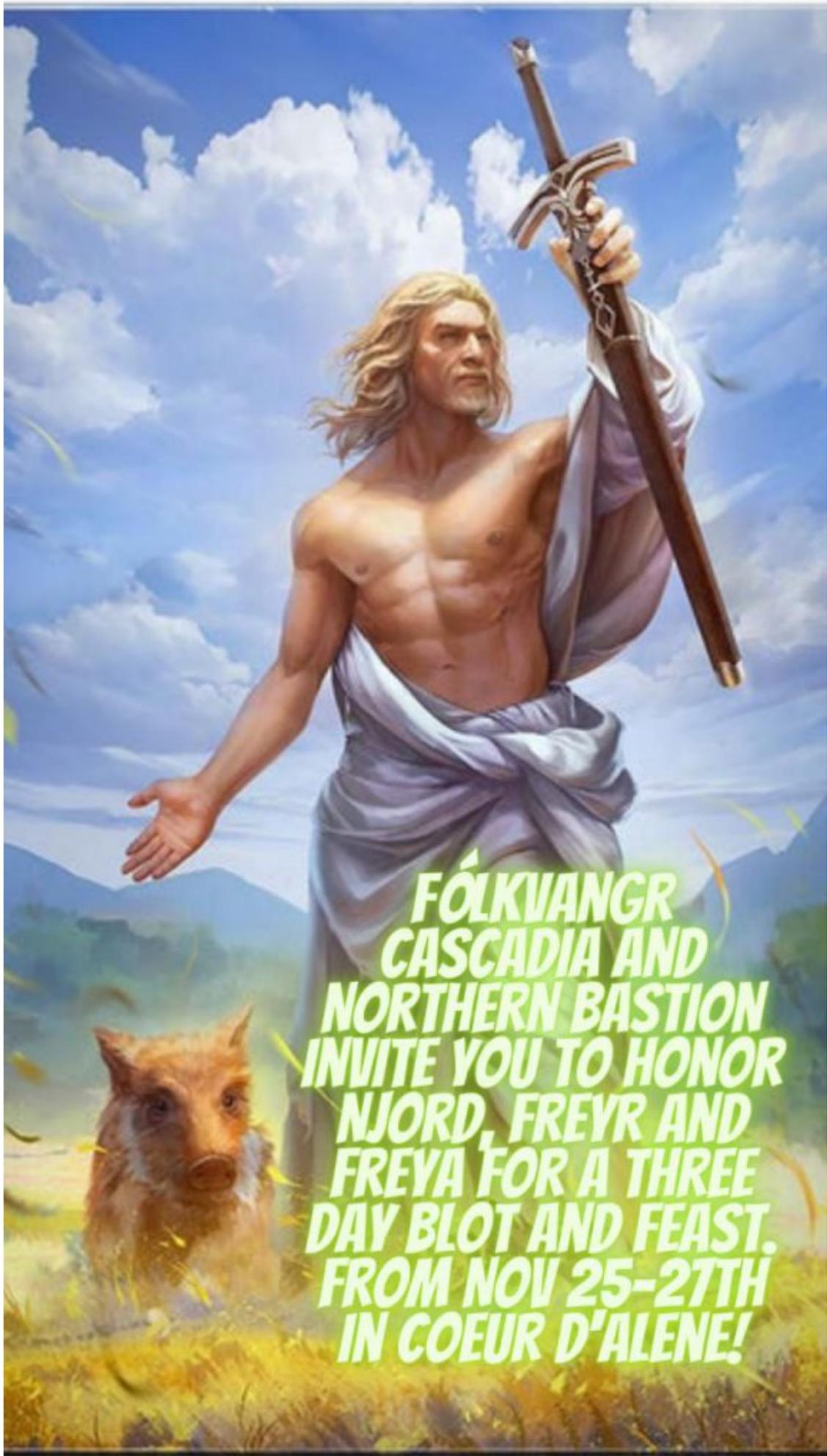
[mmills@runestone.org](mailto:mmills@runestone.org)

*Freyr's Harvest Feast in Idaho*

# FREYR'S HARVEST FEAST NOVEMBER 2022



Fólkvangr Cascadia and Northern Bastion invite you to honor Njord, Freyr, and Freya for a three-day Blot and Feast on the banks of Lake Couer D'Alene where we will gather in frith enjoying good food and even better company. An AFA blacksmith will be working the forge for all to see and our instructors will teach Glima (historical Viking wrestling) leatherworking and basketweaving. Compete in events for prizes, see the telling of Freyr's Proposal on stage and give thanks to the gods. With events, speeches, a big auction, and vendor tables there's too much to do to be put into words and it's definitely something you don't want to miss.



**FÓLKVANGR  
CASCADIA AND  
NORTHERN BASTION  
INVITE YOU TO HONOR  
NJORD, FREYR AND  
FREYA FOR A THREE  
DAY BLOT AND FEAST.  
FROM NOV 25-27TH  
IN COEUR D'ALENE!**

Join us from Nov 25-27th in Coeur D'Alene greater area. The event kicks off Friday afternoon and ends Sunday. Lodgings include cabins, bunkhouses, auxiliary buildings, and campsites. The feast will be in the great hall and festivities range from the forge, throughout the site, and even on the stage. Email Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein ([theinlein@runestone.org](mailto:theinlein@runestone.org)) for more details!



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

## Be A Doer



### **We need you to volunteer for the AFA!**

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

Please email [volunteer@runestone.org](mailto:volunteer@runestone.org) to help us make a difference in our world.

## Baby Blanket Project

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

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

everywhere from Alaska to Florida, California to Sweden!

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



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

## Folk Services



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

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

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

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

Thanks in advance!

## Photo Donations

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



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

## Eir's Blessings



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

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

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

You can reach us at [EirsBlessings@runestone.org](mailto:EirsBlessings@runestone.org)

## Last Will and Testament

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



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

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

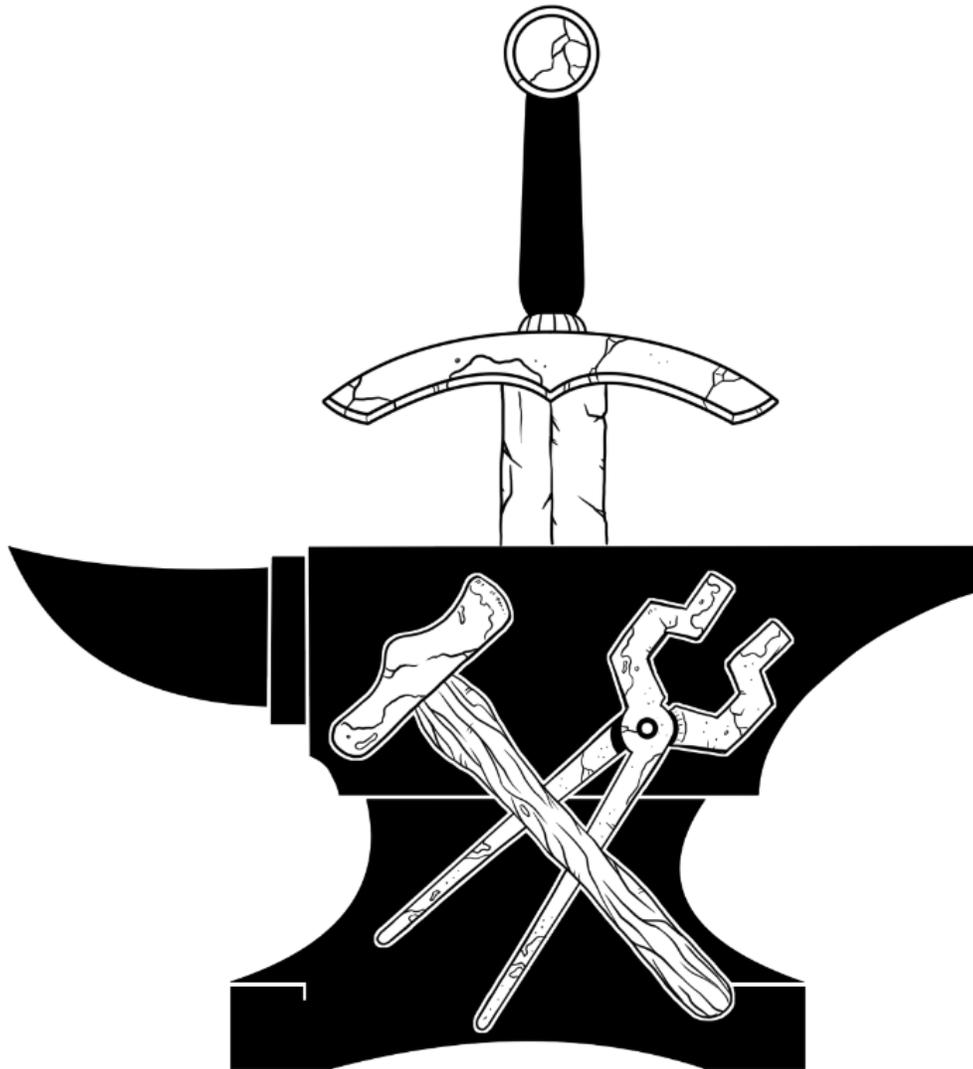
Please make your will **today**.

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

Allen Turnage  
PO Box 16027  
Tallahassee FL, 32317

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

## *Stalvind's Forge*



At Stalvind's Forge, we craft blades and some tools. We offer sharpening, cleaning, and repair! Veteran Owned and operated.



Contact us today at [stalvindsforge@gmail.com](mailto:stalvindsforge@gmail.com) or reach out at 270-293-8690



Folkbuilder Jessica Lambert

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

## Ancestral Food and Culture

*Pierogis*



My name is Maya, and we just moved to PA from Washington, but my family came to PA in the late 1800s/early 1900s from Czechoslovakia and Prussia. My grandma tells us stories about her dad, Pa, who I remember only as a little kid, when he had severe dementia. There wasn't much we kept from the culture because they tried hard to Americanize but we did keep halupki and pierogi.

Pa and his family worked in the coal mines so all the women in the family would get together and make large batches of pierogi and wrap them up in the newspaper as a way for the men to transport them with them to eat for lunch at work.

Here is the recipe for pierogi:

*For the dough*

- 4 cups flour
- 2 egg
- 1 tsp salt
- 3 tbsp oil
- Add flour/water as needed\*
  - (you must learn to feel Baba's Slav Power in your fingertips and just know when a dough is a dough and not a rock or a soup)

*For the filling:*

- (We only had potato and onion because we were poor but here are some add-ons)
- A decent amount of potatoes, as many as you like but not less than 4 preferably
- 1-2 onions, minced
- As much garlic as you like
- Ricotta/farmer's cheese/tvarog
- A handful of shredded cheddar
- 3-4 spoonfuls of cream cheese or sour cream
- Salt
- Garlic powder if desired
- Pepper
- a Good deal of milk
- 1 stick of Butter

Recipe:

- *For the filling:*
- Boil the potatoes in a large pot.
- Sautee onions and garlic if desired in a pan with butter or oil.
- Mash the potatoes and salt to taste, add garlic powder, and pepper if you want.
- Add milk, butter, cottage cheese/sour cream, ricotta(or other option), cheddar, etc. to the potatoes.
- Add the onion to the potatoes.

*For the dough:*

- Mix the ingredients for the dough together in a large mixing bowl, and add water or flour as you need to make it more wet/dry until it is a dough consistency.
- Knead just a bit.
- Cover and let rest for an hour.

Roll out to a thin, but not too thin thickness on a floured surface- if you stretch it and it tears, it is too thin.

Take the bottom of a glass and make circles with the dough.

Take some filling and put it in the center of the dough circle. Fold over the circle so it becomes a crescent dumpling shape and pinch the edges with your fingers. Not required, but if you want to make it look better, take 1 egg and a fork and lightly egg wash the edges and press the tines of the fork into the edges.

Do this until all your dough or filling is used up.

Boil the pierogi in very hot water until they float to the surface, then take them out.

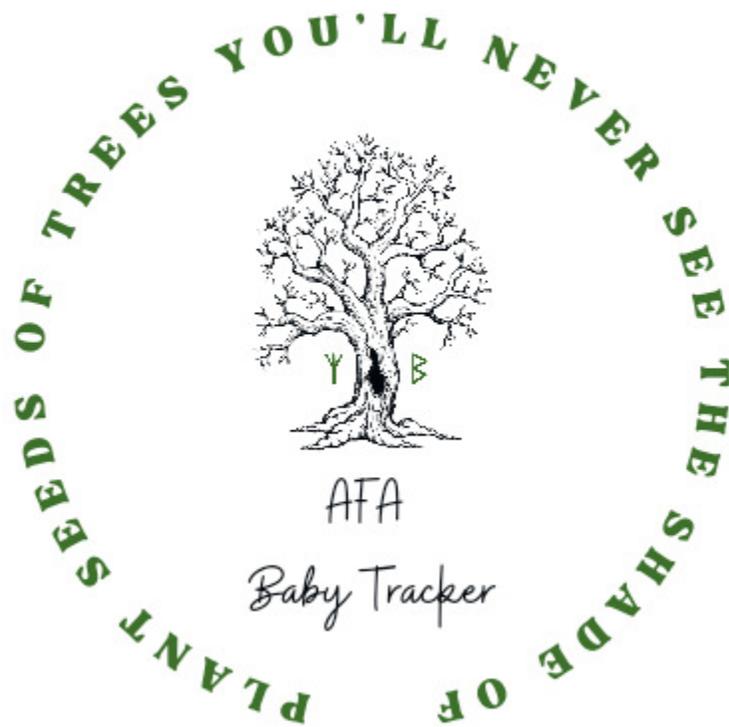
You can leave them boiled like this, and put onion on top or sour cream or sauerkraut or whatever you like, OR you can fry them in hot oil/butter in a pan and they will become crispy.



Folkbuilder Timothy Dumas

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

**Baby Tracker**



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

Total babies born in 2022: 35 (*up 6 from Aug!*)



Jessica Keller  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[jkeller@runestone.org](mailto:jkeller@runestone.org)

**Upcoming Fundraisers**

AFA FUNDRAISER

# ARTISANS NEEDED

Woodworking | Sculptors | Blacksmiths  
Leatherworkers | Painters | Jewelers | Weavers

Details on raffle and drawing dates to  
come soon

We are asking all artisans for donations of something handcrafted for an online AFA fundraising raffle. Have a hand in raising money for Óðinshof repairs and get your name out there as a crafts person. We will purchase your item or donations are greatly appreciated!

To get involved contact Ashley Stockton  
707.800.5333

[ASTOCKTON@RUNESTONE.ORG](mailto:ASTOCKTON@RUNESTONE.ORG)



ÓÐINSHOF  
FUNDRAISER

# AFA VIRTUAL RAFFLE!

\$10.00 A SQUARE

We are delighted to announce the first annual AFA Virtual Raffle!  
Help restore Óðinshof first hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly, buy a  
numbered square and get a chance to win this beautiful one-of-a-  
kind, high quality, limited edition AFA scarf!

The winning number will be drawn on Nov 6th at 6pm

Limited squares available!

Contact Folkbuilder Ashley Stockton to participate and good luck!!

BUY A SQUARE NOW!



[ASTOCKTON@RUNESTONE.ORG](mailto:ASTOCKTON@RUNESTONE.ORG)

707.800.5333

[HTTPS://MEWE.COM/1/ASHLEYSTOCKTON3](https://MEWE.COM/1/ASHLEYSTOCKTON3)



Ashley Stockton

Apprentice Folkbuilder

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

**AFA YULE CARD  
FUNDRAISER**

*Let the Competition  
Begin!!!*



*Card Artwork created by Reign Kinsler*

Odinshof & Baldrshof Districts contact Ashley Stockton astockton@runestone.org	Thorshof & Njordshof Districts contact Jessica Keller @jkeller@runestone.org
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**\$20+ shipping  
Per pack of 10  
All proceeds go to the Hof  
with the most orders**

As much as we loved our folk-created poems from last year, we listened to your feedback and made changes to the card designs this year.

\*\*\*Competition\*\*\*: The district with the most orders, will receive all donations to that districts Hof fund!! Last year we raised \$600!!!

Ashley Stockton will be in charge of Odinshof and Baldrshof orders, and Jessica Keller will be in charge of Thorshof and Njordshof orders!

The artwork was originally painted by Reign Kinsler, the daughter of one of our AFA folk sisters, Rachel Kinsler.



Jessica Keller  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[jkeller@runestone.org](mailto:jkeller@runestone.org)

## Calling All Chefs



We are putting together an AFA cookbook!

We are looking for your recipes with notes for foods served at Hofs and Moots. Please submit your recipes to [cookbook@runestone.org](mailto:cookbook@runestone.org). When submitting a recipe, please include a photo of the meal as well as info about the event and the date the meal was served.



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

## Ladies' Mysteries Podcast

*AFA Ladies' Mysteries Podcast*

OCTOBER 9TH, 1:30 PM CST

Mark your calendar for our new monthly ladies' Teams call. An invite link will be provided to join.

*Themes and Topics*

**SACRED SPACES**

By Witan Brandy Callahan

**WINTERNIGHTS AND DISIR**

By Gythia Catie Erickson

**ALTERS AND OFFERINGS**

By Gythia Anna Plourde

**FRITH WEAVING AMONG WOMEN**

By Folkbuilder Sara Ault

**OFFERINGS WITH YOUR CHILDREN**

By Apprentice Folkbuilder Christine Dumas

Contact Christine Dumas,  
[cdumas@runestone.org](mailto:cdumas@runestone.org)  
with any question.



The women in AFA Leadership have something new, just for womenfolk! Check out the Ladies' Mystery Podcast on Teams 10/9/22 at 1:30 pm CST

Christine Dumas  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[cdumas@runestone.org](mailto:cdumas@runestone.org)



## Now Available in the AFA Store



Stay warm this season with your new Zip and Non-Zip hoodies! Get yours today!

<https://runestone.org/product/afa-zippered-and-non-zippered-hoodies/>

<https://runestone.org/product/odinshof-zippered-and-non-zippered-hoodies/>

<https://runestone.org/product/thorshof-zippered-and-non-zip-hoodies/>

<https://runestone.org/product/baldrshof-zip-and-nonzip-hoodies/>

<https://runestone.org/product/njordshof-zip-and-nonzip-hoodie/>





Folkbuilder Melisa Mills

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

## Þórshof

Indiana

### *Michigan Dachshund Derby*



Friends and Folk,

This month I pulled into a tourist town called Frankenmuth, Michigan. Supposedly it's "German or something." Naturally, I am suspicious, as I see absolutely no evidence of this.



Now, Michigan is a land of both pristine beauty and ruthless terrain, from the solitary wilderness of the Upper Peninsula to the concrete jungles of Detroit and the unforgiving depths of the Great Lakes. However, of all the spell-binding lures that Michigan holds to ensnare the unwary, there is no siren song more deadly than that of Oktoberfest wiener-dog racing. Written in year 98, by the famed Roman historian Tacitus, Germania tells of the vice our forefathers for this kingly sport: "...so venturesome are they about gaining or losing, that, when every other resource has failed... they stake the freedom of their own persons. The loser goes into voluntary slavery... Such is their stubborn persistency in a bad practice; they themselves call it Weiner-Dog Racing" (citation pending).



While I didn't lose my freedom in the traditional sense, I did put a real crimp into it by betting on a nimble-looking long dog that I had a good feeling about. Unfortunately, halfway through the race "my" dog grew confused and wandered over to a nearby family eating a bratwurst.

I was now roughly 45k in the hole to the local bookies, who sent two "toughs" over to put a crimp into me. I snapped a quick photo in case I turned up missing. I tried to look brave in the photo, but I think you can see the fear and self-loathing of a dachshund-gambler who's finally hit rock bottom in my wilting demeanor.



I managed to do a little quick talking and buy these two thugs off with a meal from a local German restaurant. I raised a toast to my two guests and declared that "the food is as good as the company!"



Unfortunately, the food wasn't actually very good; realizing this, the two men beat me mercilessly and left me in a ditch outside of the establishment. I managed to crawl back into the Oktoberfest to seek help, but the local populace was more interested in beer and polka music than in the pathetic whimpering of a down-and-out outlander like myself. I had almost given up when my fortune changed.



I crawled to an opening in the crowd, raised my eyes and they made contact with a beautiful young damsel with flowers in her hair being fussed over by her parents. I wasn't able to slip her my phone number, she never spoke a word, but the loving and non-judgmental look on her face gave me the strength to pick myself up and hobble out to my car for the long ride home.

*Highland Games with Mid-land Folk*



Friends and Folk,

Most are aware that Scotland was founded in 1995 when Mel Gibson defeated the British at the battle of Braveheart; but did you know that soon after his victory selling tickets to the Highland Games became one of the proudest Scottish traditions?

Coincidentally, since the modern nation-state of Indiana was created to promote the hit film Hoosiers, we have enjoyed a PROUD tradition of stealing the proud traditions of others.

Therefore, it should come as no surprise this month that we chose to honor our ancestors with participation in the auspicious Indiana Highland Games.



Being their first time, our kinsmen failed to win any of the competitions (I assume the prize was independence from England) but now that we have some experience under our..kilts we will be better prepared to compete in future events. On the brighter side of things, we also found this really cool (apparently Scottish somehow) mushroom.



There was some talk of eating it, but since we couldn't identify whether it was poisonous, we instead opted to enjoy a traditional Scottish Highland meal of "pizza pie."



A couple of weeks later it was discovered that we inexplicably enjoyed each other's company enough to get together for an impromptu "barbeque."



I put "barbeque" in quotes because it's a nebulous term meaning different things to different people. Apparently, in many parts of this country "barbeque" refers to gathering with friends and family to grill food and play games. When we use the word in Indiana we are typically referring to "suckering a bunch of dopes into autumn tree felling and kettlebell swings."



Now, many are under the impression that these work elements in our moots are enacted for altruistic purposes: "Folk labor," "strength building," "discipline," blah blah blah; these assumptions couldn't be further from the truth!



The real reason I encourage these actions is a matter of survival. I need something to burn the energy out of these savages; because invariably, every time these animals get together, they start punching one another in the face



This inherent anti-social behavior would be fine if these barbarians confined themselves to smashing their own faces to human pulp; but it's now become their tradition to likewise beat me like some form of human piñata, followed by slamming me into the ground creating a series of "me-shaped" dents.



Usually, after regaining consciousness following one of these unprovoked (and wholly undeserved) attacks, I engage in that which is customary for the Hoosierborean man; to feast Popeye-style on corn to replenish our virility.

You will observe that in the Hoosier Heartland even our cats are predatory corn-devourers; man, or feline, this is the manner in which lions are created

*Upcoming Events*

**KINDRED FOLC IRMINSUL - FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR**  
NOV. 12. FORTVILLE, IN  
14:00 - FOREVER

**I**



**In Memorium of the Honored Fallen**  
**JRock@Runestone.org for info**

Hog Roast • Contests of Strength and Combat • Sumbel • Camping on site



Johnathan Rock  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[jrock@runestone.org](mailto:jrock@runestone.org)

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## Maine

### *Northern New England Hike*



We got together and saw something really special in New Hampshire this month. It's known as The American Stonehenge. Although that may not be the best name for it because once we arrived we noticed that there wasn't a henge in sight. But what is there is a structure that was most likely built by the Celts several thousand years ago.

It looks like an ancient city of very small dwellings all clustered together and made entirely of stone. It looked as if they were making something like very sturdy stone

bomb shelters instead of normal houses. But there are plenty of examples of ancient Celtic writing at the site and tool marks in many of the stones consistent with the particular type of chisels used by the Celtic people at the time. Also, in the middle of this stone bunker village, there is a large stone that has been flattened into a table with what looks like a large “blood groove” around the perimeter. On one corner, the blood groove has another intersecting groove that drains off of the corner of the table, presumably into a container under it. Was it used for human sacrifice or was it just the local butcher shop? We don't know for sure. My vote is “butcher shop” since the table looked a little small for a human to be stretched out on top of it but just the right size for a deer. But that's just my guess.



That's one of the fun things about visiting archaeological sites, the mysteries which still are unsolved. One of the biggest mysteries is, why did our Celtic ancestors come to North America so long ago, travel many miles inland, and establish a town? Then why did they leave after putting so much hard work into building stone buildings which look like they could withstand an air raid? We don't know. But at least we know that they were here. So, if you find yourself in the area, don't miss out on the chance to see one of the very few Celtic sites that the Roman Empire failed to demolish.

Wandering around those ruins for a few hours stirred up a lot of feelings in our group. The predominant feeling was hunger! So, we talked about finding a place to eat and it turns out that one of our members' parents owns a restaurant in town. He suggested that we go there and so we did and upon arrival, he told us that his parents had said that we

could all eat for free. We all really appreciated that! So, we enjoyed some really good seafood there before heading home. Overall, it was an awesome way to spend the day!



Daniel Mason  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
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## Ohio

### *Lake Cleanup Moot*



When I first joined the AFA, I was struck by the fact that we had so many good people willing to show up physically and form a community. In an age of online tough talk and media making it is easier and easier to drift apart and be loners immersed in whatever new product or TV show is being produced to keep us comfortable and cut off from one another. Here we have Folk willing to come together and work hard to create a community that most Americans think is lost to the last century.

I am continually amazed at the fact that in an age of complacency we have young men who step apart from their peers and pick up a shovel to work hard and create the world that they wish to see. When we do not see the things that we want in our community,

we must make it happen ourselves.

For this moot I decided to address an issue in my local community very close to my heart, the environment. The lake in my area has been filthy for years now, a dumping ground for the lazy and a convenient place to take cars after a joyride. Instead of complaining to the local government like all of my neighbors do I decided to take matters into my own hands and use this opportunity to commune with our Folk as well as improve our environment.

In total three good men made a several-hour trip to come help out. We took multiple trips with a 4x4 and a trailer and made a significant dent in the issue. Not content to simply make a dent in the issue, these great men staged all the trash they could find for easy access to take more later. After several hours of hard work, we headed to the gym and had a good full-body workout and a lesson on lifting form. We then had a cookout and discussed the Gods and our peoples' stories and lessons.

The county maintenance department took notice of our actions and came to thank us for our efforts, a cherry on top of an already wonderful day.

We know the value of action and hard work, and because of our actions and because of our hard work, now the community has a cleaner space to enjoy nature in.

Gods be praised!



Jonathan Montgomery  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[jmontgomery@runestone.org](mailto:jmontgomery@runestone.org)

*Ohio Newer Member Moot*



If you have been paying attention to the goings on here in Ohio, you already know that we've had a very good year thus far in being able to welcome our folk home. We have been truly blessed by the Gods!

Not only have native Ohioans joined our ranks, but we have had several members move to our great state from parts far and wide as well.

It was decided to get a small group together of our newer members and new to Ohio.

We met up and were greeted with a homemade stew (which was delicious) before heading out to some gorgeous rural property to pop some targets, catch some fish and get to start that ever-so-important bond among men.

The targets rang, and the fish were ravenous which made for an amazing day.

A huge thank you to the father of one of our troupes for graciously allowing us the use of his property for the day.

The hospitality extended toward us will never be forgotten.

We took a tour of the property for spots less mundane, and we plan to return relatively soon.

Assembling our folk is near and dear to my heart, even more so for our newest

members.

Get them together, for it is how we lay the groundwork and build the foundation that our community desires in the now and will be required in the time that has not yet come.



Mike Melillo  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[mmelillo@runestone.org](mailto:mmelillo@runestone.org)

### *Meetups in Northern Ohio*



September was as lovely as it was busy. I've had the honor of holding two moots for our folk this month. All in between electrical school, harvest and meeting my beautiful girlfriend's father. Though he is a Christian he was glad to be a part of both moots and caught a glimpse into our world. He enjoyed our company thoroughly and it was a testament to the fact that not all our folk believe the same thing though we can get along and understand each other on fundamental levels.



That aside in early September, we met for an Oktoberfest near my hometown. Beer, comradery, happy children, all that you expect from such an event was not in short supply. Not to mention some of the best potato salad I've had. The adults visited and had a few rounds while the children enjoyed the playground. There were German ware stands as well as traditional German dances coupled with great music. We met some new members and another man who I may be able to bring home, I hope. It was a great day and I look forward to many such festivities in the future.



Our second moot was toward the end of the month. Though a little off schedule we celebrated Freyfaxi. Some came the night before and the ladies visited inside while the men had a good old-fashioned greasy-handed night in the garage. Before bed was a board game and more visiting. In the morning I prepared for the moot and set up everything necessary while my lovely lady prepared mashed potatoes grown in our own garden. When everyone arrived, the energy was as always, a delight to me and our honorable members. The children played with the chickens and had games while the adults visited leading to intriguing conversations. I had the honor of meeting Jason Plourde from Florida whose company was very much enjoyed by me. The blot was great which even involved the children and was officiated by our own Clifford Erikson a great honor to have at my home. Good food and the best of folk always. I am always overjoyed to facilitate the furthering of our folk and I thank you all deeply that taking part in this organization and when you're able spending time with us in person. I understand some can be apprehensive the world is an odd place these days, but I can tell you from my experience that has truly changed my life. Contact your local folk builder and come see us sometime. You will not be disappointed. Hail to the Folk, the God's, and the AFA. Thank you all for helping make the God's and ancestors proud. Until next month I love you all and wish you a Fall filled with happiness.

Joe Drotos



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

*RenFest in Southern Ohio*



On the last weekend of September, members gathered in Waynesville, Ohio for the 22nd annual RenFest. If you love Renaissance Fairs, RenFest is above the rest.



The thirty-acre re-created 16th-century English village has over a hundred fifty vendors and over one hundred daily performances. Each weekend in September is themed. We meet up for Highland Weekend.



The expansive grounds and lack of cell reception made it difficult for us to coordinate a meet-up location. We stayed at the combat arena until everyone arrived.



We cheered loudly for our kindred brother who engaged in armored combat with real weapons.



The womenfolk shared recent birth stories with each other and met the new children of our folk.



Later in the day, we enjoyed the performance and humor of Celtic Mayhem.

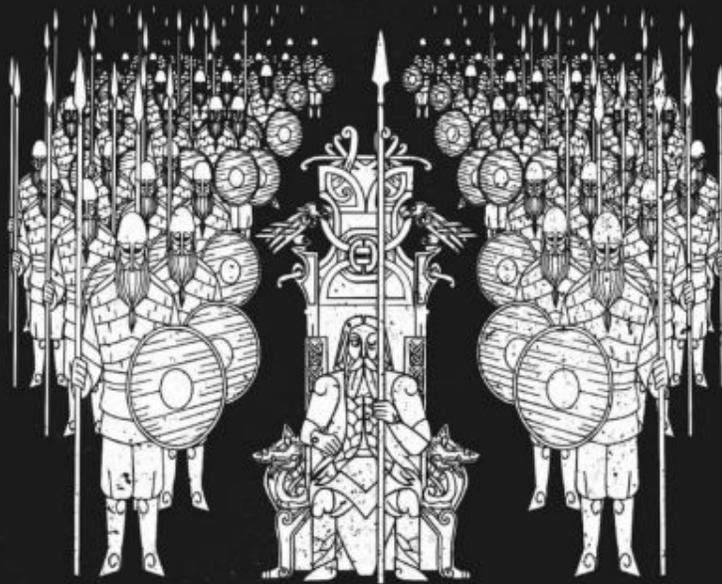


We all enjoyed the grounds, food, and shopping while spending time with our Folk. We look forward to seeing our Folk at Winternights in Ohio.

### *Upcoming Events*

UNDER ASH + OAK KINDRED HOSTS

# FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR

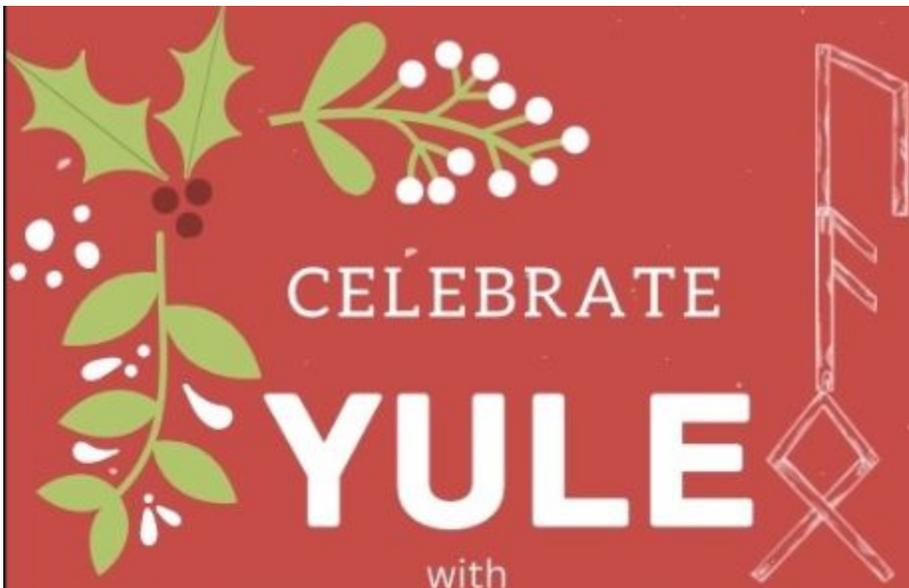


NOVEMBER 12TH AT 2 PM

CELEBRATE OUR FALLEN  
WARRIORS WITH YOUR FOLK

BLOT  
POTLUCK

CONTACT CHRISTINE DUMAS  
CDUMAS@RUNESTONE.ORG



CELEBRATE

**YULE**

with

**UNDER ASH**

**+ OAK**

**KINDRED**

December 10th, 1 pm

Potluck • Crafts • Blot •  
Sumbel • Gift Exchange

**CONTACT**

**CHRISTINE DUMAS**

**CDUMAS@RUNESTONE.ORG**

SUNDAY

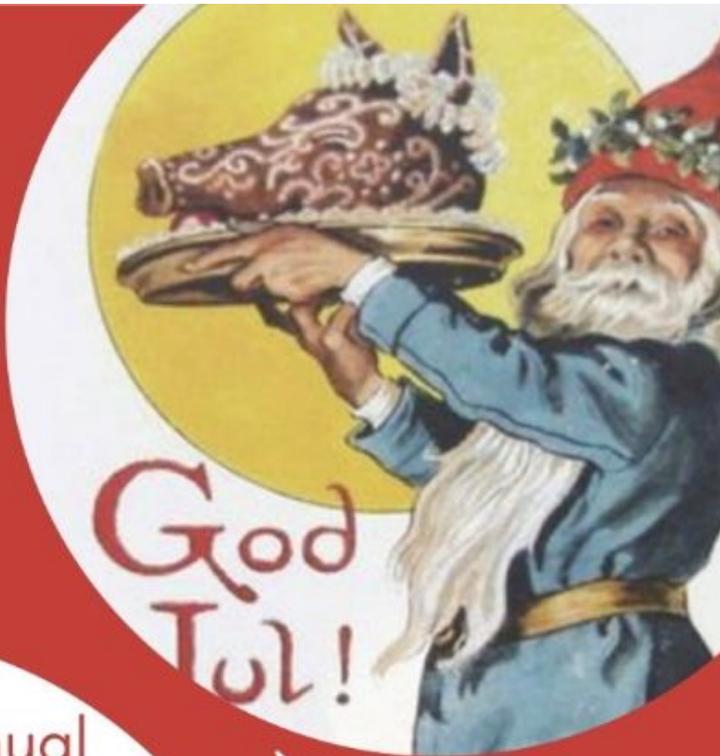
JANUARY  
1ST

2:30-3:45  
PM

The 83rd Annual  
Boar's Head and  
Yule Log Festival

318 East 4th Street,  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

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



BUY TICKETS ONLINE

[HTTPS://CINCINNATICATHEDRAL.COM/BOARS-HEAD](https://cincinnatiathedral.com/boars-head)



Christine Dumas  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[cdumas@runestone.org](mailto:cdumas@runestone.org)

## Pennsylvania

### *Backpacking Moot*



September 23rd to 24th was an exciting time. After months of talking about it and planning, we finally set out to try our hand at backpacking as a group! The section of the Appalachian trail we chose was a deceptive 2 miles on google earth, but everyone quickly learned that that was measured as the crow flies! The trail begins on the road at the base of the mountain, it is a very steep incline and continues as such for about 45 minutes until it levels out, the rest of the trail continues in this way for the rest of the journey. Once you reach the top you begin walking along massive, jagged boulders and the tree line gives way to a beautiful view of the valley. Our group followed the twists and turns of this mountain trail for several hours until the sun began to set where we made camp in a small clearing and watched the view as the sun took its leave over Harrisburg and allowed the stars of the night to shine. In the center of our camp lay a humble fire ring left by hikers from previous adventures, we got the fire going and proceeded to rehydrate our various bags of dried chili, stroganoff, and breakfast skillet. The next morning was easy hiking in the crisp morning air and level ground until we reached the parking lot on the opposite end of our starting point. We wished each other safe travels and ferried the rest of the group back to their respective cars on the other side of the mountain.



All in all, the trip took about 6 hours to trek, not counting stops and moving at a decent pace for most of the way. I don't believe a single one of us walked away without learning something, from what we need to change about our gear, things to bring next time, or for others what to forget at home! This was a great way for us to dip our toes into the idea of backpacking since the trail is short but gives one a taste of what the rest has to offer. I hope to hold similar moots in the future and expand on the distance and days we spend in the wilds of Central Pennsylvania.



Spencer Kerns  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
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*Western PA Blot/Moot*

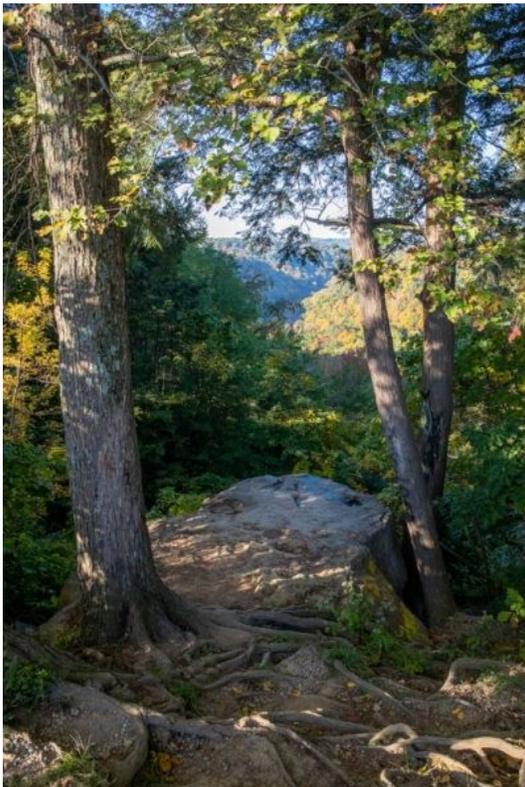
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As we welcome the fall equinox, we take the time now to reflect and give thanks for the harvests of this year as we prepare for winter. Winter for our folk has always meant preparation in order to survive. A small group of us met up in the morning to honor our gods during this Winter Finding for all that has come in the form of bounty but to also ask for strength and guidance as there are many uncertainties that our people face in the future.



One of the aspects that were incorporated into our blot was a moment for us to each go off to a peak that overlooked a vista. Our group was intimate enough that we were able to do this. Why? The purpose of why I had our folk break off to honor our gods individually for a moment of solitude was so that they could reflect in our holy space and be present with our gods on an individual level, but to also allow for each of us to learn patience for one another and to slow down and truly be present. Many times, during blot I have noticed that it is a series of motions, what is next, filled with anticipation and a lack of presence where we are rushing each other through, not always but at times. It was an exercise to allow for the remembrance that we are all in a different places in our journey and where some took just a moment, others took a little longer.



In a situation where we need our folk, our people in the future, one may be behind and

so, as there is not enough of us, to begin with as the demographics change in our world, sometimes extending the hand of patience is all that is needed in order for that other person to further grow into the place that they need to. So, what is my point here in all of this? It is to remember that if we do not also prepare our minds, and spirits along with the sustenance that is required to fulfill nutritional obligations for the winter and the future, it could very well be what breaks down our ability for us to survive as a folk together.



After blot, we proceeded to a local nearby heritage festival where we got to listen to folk blue grass bands, smell the aromas of fall and fall type fair food, and explore local vendors. One artisan made a craft known as the thunder maker. It was a sort of drum that when struck made the sound of thunder



During our time there, a Civil War reenacting group did demonstrations from different cannons and gave a brief history explanation for each of them. We ended our day on a hay wagon ride where we discussed different ideas, folklore, and dreams. This day was well spent in the company of our folk and among our gods.

*Oktoberfest Western PA.*



At the beginning of September, a few of us decided to check out the Pittsburgh Zoo for a day trip to invite some family fun! We had one potential future AFA family come hang out as well, as we talked with them about the benefits of Asatru for families and the community that the AFA offers while we walked around and checked out the animal exhibits.



Afterward, we went to the Public Oktoberfest which is put on each year by the Teutonia Mannerchor. We enjoyed music, dancing, German food, and beer. We got to also participate in two really fun activities as well. One of which was a traditional stein-holding contest, and the other was a tour of the original club building that was built in the early 1800s. Beautiful hand-painted murals and steins were throughout the Ratskeller. A great way to celebrate culture, and heritage, and end the summer all while enjoying the company of good folk!

### *Upcoming Events*

SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 22ND, 2022  
6PM  
PITTSBURGH, PA

# Pumpkin Carving Bash



Contact Jessica Keller  
[jkeller@runestone.org](mailto:jkeller@runestone.org)

# Sauerkraut Making Meet



Pittsburgh, PA  
Saturday  
Nov. 5th 2022 @ 1pm

CONTACT JESSICA KELLER  
JKELLER@RUNESTONE.ORG





*Holiday Heritage Baking*

*&  
Family Tree Mapping*

Saturday  
December 3rd, 2022  
11am  
Pittsburgh, PA

Contact Jessica Keller  
[Jkeller@runestone.org](mailto:Jkeller@runestone.org)



Jessica Keller  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[jkeller@runestone.org](mailto:jkeller@runestone.org)

***WHAT IS THE AFA?***



I've been lucky enough to be a part of the AFA for a little while now. I've also been lucky enough to have the honor of being a Folkbuilder for a period of time. One part of my duties are reviewing new applications. I am sure many of you remember but it asks, "reason for joining." 9 out of 10 times the response is something like this "I want to see or be a part of a better world for my children, my spouse, my people/race, etc. and the AFA is the only sane place in this world." When I see answers like that, I think to myself "what is the AFA to people coming in?"

The AFA is not an organization. We are not a club or an entity. We are a church but is there something beyond that? Something perhaps far greater. In my eyes, the AFA is an idea, it's a legend, it's a Myth to the Folk without. It's Asgard, Hyperborea, Thule, Agartha. It's a place beyond what some have dreamed of. Truly a better place, cut off from the outside world.

The beautiful part of all of this is we are living in that Myth. We are a part of it. In a way, we are behind the walls with the Gods building something that so many hope for. This is special beyond words, but this also gives us a great responsibility. Being part of that Myth, we have much to live up to. Much is on our shoulders.

When we think of what the AFA means to us, think of the people coming in and what they think of us. We must at all costs keep the idea, the legend, and the Myth.....alive for them, for ourselves, and for those to come.

Hail the AFA!



Folkbuilder Adam Hudak

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

### *Niagara Falls Moot*



Canada is finally OPEN, which means we can host a moot in Ontario!

Please join Witan Clifford Erickson and Gythia Catie Erickson at Niagara Falls, Ontario on November 19th. We will also be on the American side at Niagara Falls, New York on November 20th!

We will post more details soon, or you can request them by emailing [cerickson@runestone.org](mailto:cerickson@runestone.org) (Clifford) or [cm.erickson@runestone.org](mailto:cm.erickson@runestone.org) (Catie).

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



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## Sweden

### *Winter Finding in the North 23th of September*



Autumn is upon us and darkness encroaches. It is hunting season, a time for filling our freezers with protein and fat to keep our bodies healthy through the long winter that is to come.

We called out to Skadi and Ullr to our circle out in the dark woods. We had brought them a meal we hoped would warm and strengthen them for their coming hunts. Each divinity was offered a cup of hot minced-meat soup (Nikkaluoktasoup), and a moose liver patty with lingonberry jam to go with it.

In exchange, we asked them to bless our hunts this season, so that we may nourish our bodies by the light of candles this dark time of year.

Underneath a sky filled with stars, the light from the candles and the fire we had built reminded us, that the flame that is our Folk, shall never perish. Despite the dark times we face, seasonal and cosmic, we shall overcome, and in the end, we shall triumph.

As long as the good women and men of the Asatru Folk Assembly remember and honor their Gods and Ancestors.

## *The Joys of Foraging: Mushrooms*



Besides hunting, autumn means I get to enjoy another joy of mine, and that is foraging for mushrooms.

I have always had a burning passion for all things in nature. But it is only in my mid-twenties that I took a greater interest in mushrooms. I bought a book on the edible ones, and more or less taught myself using the book. Now, I am able to enjoy a much greater abundance in my kitchen. By learning to identify more mushrooms, I have extended my foraging season considerably! And for the less known species, there is less competition, which equals more fungi for me.

Left photo: *Cantharéllula umbonáta*

Right photo: *Harvest of Cantharéllula umbonáta, Cantharéllus cibárius and Sárcodon squamósus*



Back in the day when people would let their cattle forage more or less freely, sometime in summer, the cows would be led away by the oldest cow, the matriarch if you will. She'd know that the first mushrooms of the year had arrived, and the cows would eat the mushrooms all day. They could not be called back until they had their fill. Late evening, they would be satisfied. Likely filling up on some essential minerals that had been lacking with their winter diets of dried hay.

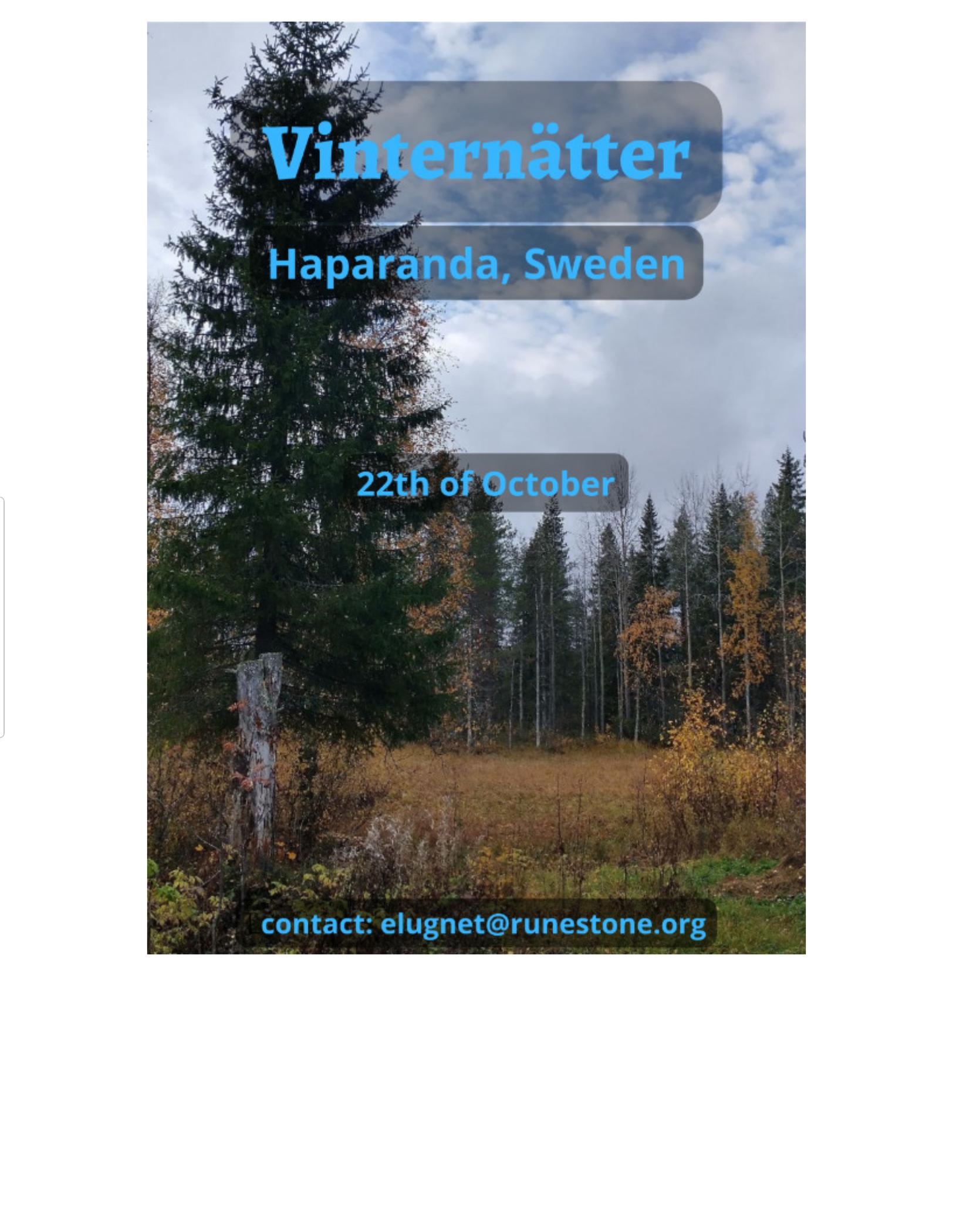
Above photo: *Cantharéllus auróra* frying in butter



I hope my post has encouraged some of you to go outside and discover the mushrooms that grow in your part of Midgard. Whether you enjoy them immediately by cooking them or conserve them in some way, I would advise all of the Folk to familiarize themselves with their local fungi. For pragmatic reasons, as well as a way to appreciate the splendor that is nature.

Above photo: *Dried Cantharéllus auróra*

***Upcoming Events***



# Vinternätter

Haparanda, Sweden

22th of October

contact: [elugnet@runestone.org](mailto:elugnet@runestone.org)

# **Welcome in for Fika!**

**In Kukkola, Sweden**



**29th of October**

contact: [elugnet@runestone.org](mailto:elugnet@runestone.org)

Erik Lugnet

Apprentice Folkbuilder

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



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## Tennessee

### *Pubmoot*



At the end of September, Tennessee held a pubmoot to toast the good health of the Folk, raising our drinks to our newborns, friendship, and continued prosperity in these trying days! The moot was good, and I met many people; while they weren't of the

Folk, the new connections will surely aid the Folk down the road in the coming years. While it has been a hard road to fan the flames of passion, I have not let that deter me from doing my duty to help revive the spirit of the faith here in my homeland.

The mead flowed that night, the old songs were sung, and merriment was plentiful! Hopefully, someday we will have more of the Folk come out to the moots and enjoy the festivities!



Russell Brown  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[rbrown@runestone.org](mailto:rbrown@runestone.org)

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## United Kingdom



“I’ve never liked it there, it’s eerie and gives me the creeps” – anonymous N.C.O

The above quote was the first time I had heard anyone mention Dartmoor. The N.C.O was one of the training staff at phase one basic during my time in the Army many years

ago. He was a capable and confident veteran and all we fresh recruits looked up to him. This was the first time he had expressed a genuine fear of something to us, the fact his fear appeared to stem from something ethereal and otherworldly naturally sparked my young imagination.

To give a brief history of Dartmoor it is located in the beautiful County of Devon in the Southwest of England. It is regarded as a mysterious and picturesque location that was clearly held in high regard by the Ancients who once dwelled in that place. To illustrate this, the county of Devon has 16 known ancient stone circles 14 of which are greedily claimed by the moor itself. Since the early 1800s the British Army has used the location for field exercises, as an artillery gun range, and as general training. I've been told this place was selected not for its fascinating history but for its undulating topography and bizarre weather conditions, both of which my Buddhist friend and I found to be quite... punishing during our 3-night stay there. It is also home to a men's prison of which there have been some notorious inmates, a few of which have managed to escape only to never be heard from again. One infamous name is Frank Mitchell (the 'Mad Axeman') who is worth a search engine inquiry.



Above I briefly mentioned my close friend and sole teammate for the trip who is interestingly (although of British descent) a Buddhist from birth. We've had many deep conversations over campfires about our spirituality. He has not only walked the path with me but also encouraged my journey to Asatru and ultimately to the A.F.A.

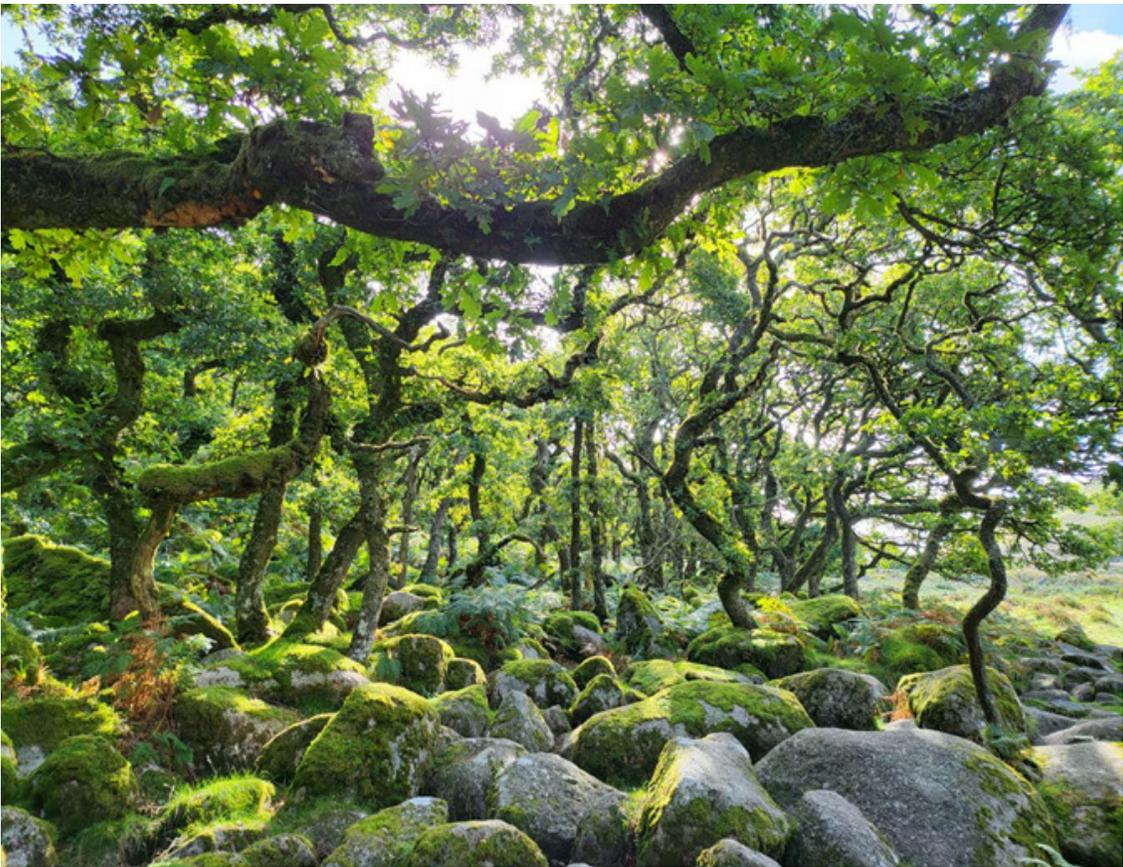
I wanted to seize the opportunity to perform rites and Blots in this magical location, but I wasn't sure how to approach it given my company. Despite being an enlightened chap, I wasn't entirely sure if my friend should be part of or even watch a blot. I wasn't even sure how he would react to one of my rituals. Even though he is very supportive of what the A.F.A is doing and is genuinely interested in Asatru I was apprehensive that what I choose to do might displease the Gods or even my fellow Asatruar. I'm sure this is a situation many of you may appreciate and no doubt there are some varying opinions on this subject.



I was however put at ease in the run-up to the excursion because of a discussion with Folkbuilder Adam Hudak who, as usual patiently listened, weighed up, and dispensed some solid, well-thought-out advice. As a result, on the first night, after my friend and I had seen the milky way in the star-blanketed sky for the first time in years we sacrificed my first batch of homemade mead, which might have been slightly fizzy! (Some more lessons to be learned on the art of how to make good mead.) To Sif and Mother of Earth marking even night. It was a short ritual and I believe it went over well with my friend who described the rite as “powerful”.



We pounded the ground for what seemed at times to be an eternity, we ate the below-par rations, climbed the highest peaks and Tors, and abandoned attempts to sleep beyond 3 AM, instead opting for what we playfully dubbed “night ops” traveling in the light of the Moon. This was mainly due to that bizarre weather I previously mentioned. Before the trip had started, we had decided to forgo taking a tent which we belligerently decided was ‘too weighty’ and instead decided to sleep under the stars in a bivvi/sleeping bag combo which in hindsight was a costly mistake. Although it never rained the entire time, we were there we were however in very exposed plains. High up above sea level with strong winds we were surprised to find that when the sun went down at 19:00 the temperature would drop from 15-20oC (59- 68 F) to around freezing and a strange heavy moon-illuminated mist would descend absolutely drenching us and our gear. I think it safe to say that we were certainly uncomfortable for the 3-night stay.



I'll end with the question I should have probably started this write-up with; why?

Why didn't we just visit for a day at a time in comfortable clothes, and fresh well-rested eyes and then go back to a comfy hotel or inn to a warm bath and bed? Why did we subconsciously make it so difficult for ourselves? Why did we even go at all?



Put simply, I chose to do it this way to be closer to my ancestors and the Gods. I wanted

to have a small sample of the very harsh existence that our ancestors endured for thousands of years, I wanted to go somewhere that the Gods inhabited and celebrated. After all, Odin never hung from the tree in comfort and the ancestors didn't repudiate their duty because of adverse conditions. My 3-day trip may be trivial in comparison but to me, it was a humbling and awe-inspiring experience that allowed me to feel closer to my gods and ancestors.



Now that the expedition is complete and I'm back to the grind of daily modern living, I've realized that I hadn't just visited the Gods and connected with the lives of our ancestors, I feel that they have walked by my side, out of the windswept moor and stayed with me.

-David Y

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**Virginia**

*The Family*



The biggest aspect that brought me to the Asatru Folk Assembly was the concept of family. Family to me is those that choose to have you in their life, and those you choose to have in your life. My blood relatives did not like the fact that I had left Christianity, and so have cut ties with me.

It wasn't until I was introduced to a man named Svan that I found a kindred spirit as well as a mentor in Asatru. Since that time, I have had the honor to meet a lot more people within the AFA that I have considered my "true family". When you have the choice to make, your family becomes an extension of your own person as well as the greatest gift from the Gods.

Most if not all of us have had that feeling of a "family reunion" when we first meet up with the Folk. Due to recent events in my personal life, that pull has been even greater than before. The AFA has had a massive increase in growth, and my only thoughts were that my family is growing!

We talk about the family concept a lot and is the greatest way to help others come home and find the Gods and the AFA. My son has come to call Thorshof his second home. He constantly has told me about how each and every member he has chatted with is another "aunt" or "uncle" added to his family. I am very proud of the family that I chose to call my own, and hope that you too will come to see the family we have become!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

### *Raynard Apple Cider Recipe*



#### Ingredients:

- 12 lbs of apples quartered
- 4 oranges quartered
- 10 cinnamon sticks snapped
- 1 Tablespoon Nutmeg
- 1 Tablespoon Allspice
- 1 Tablespoon Ground Clove
- 1 Cup Dark Brown Sugar

#### Directions:

In a large stock pot, add apples, oranges, cinnamon, and spices. Add roughly 2 gallons of water to the mix. You want to have at least 2 inches away from the top of the stock pot to allow for the expansion of the fruit. Put on a stovetop covered for 3 hours on high, constantly mashing the mixture to the consistency of apple sauce.

Once the mixture is the right consistency, take off the stove and strain through

cheesecloth to get the big stuff out. Have another stock pot ready to pour the liquid into. (Save the mixture in a big mixing bowl for later.) If you have a press, you can use it to press out even more liquid to make even more cider!

After you are done with the pressing and extraction of the liquid, add the brown sugar to the mixture. Return to the stove and bring to a gentle boil to dissolve the sugar, constantly stirring. Once it is good to go, rerun through the cheesecloth to get any clumps of brown sugar out. This recipe usually makes roughly 3-4 gallons.

You can enjoy it right from the stock pot (Michelle's favorite) or put it in mason jars to cool down and gift to others. To help keep fresh for longer, you can put it in the fridge to chill, and is still good to go for about a month.

### *Upcoming Events*

A promotional poster for a 'Coffee and Brunch Moot' event. The central image shows a white coffee cup on a saucer, with coffee being poured into it, creating a dynamic splash. The background is filled with coffee beans. The text is overlaid on the image in a stylized, bold, red font with black outlines. The event details are 'Coffee and Brunch Moot' and 'Oct. 8th @1100'. At the bottom, it says 'Contact Folkbuilder Raynard for more information!' in a white, cursive font with a black outline.

***Coffee and Brunch Moot***  
***Oct. 8th @1100***

***Contact Folkbuilder Raynard  
for more information!***



Folkbuilder Cody Raynard

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

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## West Virginia

*Winter Finding in Virginia*



Autumn came this year right on schedule. Like the flip of a switch, immediately after the equinox the air became cool and damp, the bugs retreated, and the atmosphere of change took its place.

In Stonewall Kindred, we were honored to be hosted by our friend and AFA brother Jason Garrett at his beautiful countryside home near Charlottesville, Virginia. Jason truly embodies for us the virtue of Hospitality and led us to Jason shared with us his sacred space in the woods behind his property, which we honored by using it as our property.



Several new members and guests were in attendance, and for many of them, this was their first exposure to the AFA or Asatru. It was a perfect first Blot to attend because it was personalized - each of them reached into their family history and called upon their own ancestors to be honored with an ancestor plate taken from our banquet.

The Blot directly honored the forebears of those in attendance and officially declared closed the summer season. This is an important thing to do, we've found. By formally

marking the transition point, we are moving in tandem with the cycle of nature, making ourselves participants, rather than just observers.



Finally, we ended Blot with an invocation of Wuldor (Ullr), great God of the Hunt, honoring him with libation and asking His blessing on our hunting weapons and tools for winter preparation.

Now the work is wrought! As one of our guests remarked that evening, it brings a sense of ease knowing that we're now fully ready for the fall to begin.



Folkbuilder Patrick Cook

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

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