

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly











Þórshof

Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

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Words from the Alsherjargothi



The veil thins!

As summer ends and we head into fall and winter, the thin veil that separates us from

the ancestors grows yet thinner.

The remainder of the year is time to redouble our efforts to take stock of what we have, the ways we have been blessed, and the proud ancestors that have brought us into this amazing world.

Hail the Disir!

Hail the Alfar!

Celebrate the season with your Folk. Celebrate with your family. Know you are blessed. Know that you are loved..... and make sure you children know it as well.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



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

Manifesting the World Around Us



Welcome Home | Runestone.org

Words from our Gothar

Warrior and Priest



Today the term warrior is largely taken for granted, and it is also assumed that a priest would not be one who fights. That is not the case. A warrior is not solely a blood thirsty combatant, and a priest does not have to be confined to a solely passive persona.

Throughout history a warrior was someone who fought physically, brutally, and with a thirst for the fight. For the most effective warriors, it wasn't reckless violence as some would have us believe of our ancestors. It was a time when the best and strongest warriors were also the leaders of their tribes and folk with purpose and direction. They became leaders because they had a fight inherent within them combined with the ability to exercise a bold intellect.

Our people were not led by the faint of heart because to survive and to ensure survival one had to be bold, courageous, and smart. For most, fighting was a part time expectation in their tribe or community. For a few it was a calling--for those that had a natural sharp intellect along with a violent nature and could exercise restraint when

necessary. Today, it is considerably different. Yes, we have our warriors still, however, we also have far more faux warriors who think that sitting behind a keyboard and making bold statements makes them some kind of pseudo warrior. I believe the term is “social justice warrior”. I cannot personally acknowledge or comprehend this mindset and think it is disgusting. We have become soft as a society in the soul sickness of our folk, in that our men are losing their masculinity and aggressiveness due to pressure from a society based in a victim mindset. We must do what we can to retrain our men as they come to us, teaching them that being men of our folk means that it is okay to be aggressive and that we must fight if necessary to protect our folk and our families.

That doesn't mean that we go out starting fights. It means that we embrace the natural violence of being a man without shame or regret. It also means that with aggression comes a responsibility. We must balance a bold, physical, and courageous nature with humility and caring, love and compassion. We must teach our young boys that balance and to strive towards a warrior and a priest homogeny that resides within us as noble Aryan men. An approach of a warrior and a priest--be the first to reach out a helping hand and also the first to defend the folk and your family if necessary. We are to be men of action and words, restraint and aggression, being bold and pious. Many can epitomize one or the other, some can be both. As a warrior, we are to be protectors of our Folk, while as a priest we are to be the conduit between our folk and our gods. Both are necessary for the survival of our folk, and survival is an absolute must. “It is not negotiable.” (Stephen McNallen)

So, for our warriors out there, look to incorporate some pious attributes into your personality. For our Priests, seek to investigate some of the warrior ethos into your abilities. We must continuously seek to build on who and what we are as noble Aryan men, building our folk as they continue to open their eyes and come home.

Havamol Stanza 15, “The son of a king shall be silent and wise, and bold in battle as well; Bravely and gladly a man shall go, till the day of his death is come.”



Gothi Nathan Erlandson
nerlandson@runestone.org

Honoring the Ancestors



As the harvest season is nearing its end, we come to a time of year where we look back with pride on the work we have accomplished throughout the past year and begin to give thanks. Thanks to our Gods for their seen and unseen influences, the Wights for their aid, and our Ancestors especially who, if not for their unbroken love for generations over, we would not be here. Take some time as the veil thins and the year winds down to get to give love & thanks to the ancestors you know, and to get to know those you do not. Like among the living, "With half a loaf, and half a cup, a friend won thee", a simple gesture of an offering and heartfelt words can bring joy & love of an ancestor into your life. If you are not sure where to start, fill a horn and meditate on how we got here. After all, if at any point one of Disir or Alfar had chosen another we would not be here.

So let yourself find appreciation and gratitude in how lucky each of us is to have the chance to traverse Midgard. Hold that sensation in your chest, and then start with your least distant ancestor and work your way back as far as you can, state their name and pour a small libation into a sacred vessel or a fire, and let them know you're thinking of them. Eventually you will find someone who will reveal themselves to you, even if only to say thank you. For the ancestors who are familiar to you, put out their favorite

dish and a glass of their favorite drink, it's the least we can do for their gift of life. Whether you're alone or surrounded by the Folk, you'll have a house filled with warmth & love. If you do this often, you'll never walk alone. As the holiday season is upon us, we look forward to seeing as many beautiful white smiling faces, across the AFA and especially at each of our Hofs. May your harvests be bountiful and your holidays merry!

Hail the Gods,
Hail the Ancestors,
Hail the AFA!



Gothi Jason Plourde
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Winter Nights and You



Start with the memories. Those Halloween memories from your childhood -- pumpkins, costumes, candy, and the thrills of spookiness! Back in the day, our Christian parents would never have connected this date with anything significant or spiritual. Most of modern society continues with that interpretation.

However, we're different. If you came by way of Celtic culture, you know October 31st is known as Samhain – the last night of the Celtic year, when “the veil” is thin. This allows spirits to not just roam, but to enter our abodes and our psyche. Jack-o-lanterns have been the warders against dark and unwelcome spirits for centuries.



In Asatru, this focus on spirits exists but is transferred to a special group, our very own Mothers -- the Disir. In Sweden, they traditionally celebrate the Mothers in February with a *Dísablót* at the time of *Disting*, or a *Thing*-gathering by the tribe or community.

In modern Asatru, we celebrate in mid-October – a time that feels charged with mystical energy. In our *Dísablót*, we offer our own thanks and devotion, asking for our Mothers blessings in return. Who among us would not want to feel the loving touch of a mother from your lineage, in time of need? The mothers are there, barely seen through the veil. *Vanadis*, “Dis of the Vanir” is one name for *Freya*, and she too can be called on in this ritual. She and our Mothers, in their many manifestations, are described in Stephen McNallen’s epic poem, “October Women.”

At *Oðinshof*, we invite these ladies into our sacred circle – each of us calling out to one of our Mothers to be with us. As Asatru women, we become the Mothers to our men, calling them forth, guiding them in. Torches and fire, chants and song, movement and stillness, and runes chosen by our mothers are part of our *Dísablót*. For many, this can bring forth unexpected gifts

How to Honor the Disir in Your Own Home



Gather special items like candles, photos, flowers, or foods to place on an Ancestors' altar. Do you have one particular Mother you wish to contact? Talk with her; sing with her; speak her name; write her a letter; give her a special gift. Your own Dísablót can include an offering of liquid that you associate with your mother, though traditional mead is always fine. In blot, honor her life. Think of her gifts to those she knew. Offer your love and a vow to keep her memory alive, to use her lessons to create your best-self. After your offering, within the gifting cycle, you can ask for her gifts in return. What do you need? Insight, tranquility, perseverance, strength, courage, health, hope,

balance, luck... This may happen in unexpected ways. Reach for a rune as a message carrier. Think on your Mother at bedtime, as these messages can present themselves in your dreams.



Dear folk, we have the opportunity to build our own traditions this time of year. Do it alone or with others, but know that in October, your Mothers are always near.



Gythia Sheila McNallen
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October Women

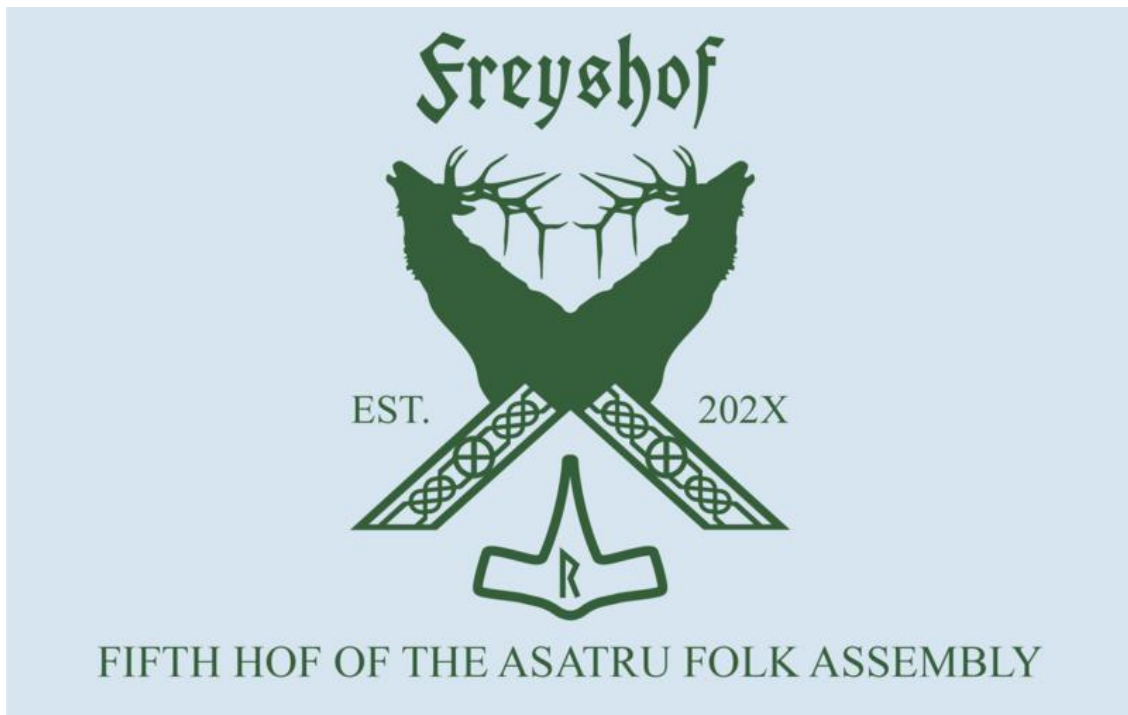


Asatru - Winter Nights & the Disir

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 \$103,790.86 on our remaining loan.
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 4%.
 - This is membership dues/hoftollar plus other donations.
3. We need to locate a suitable property.
4. We need to find lenders and build a war chest.

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

Hail Freyr!

Matthew D. Flavel

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Sigrheim: Home of Victory

Support the Home of Victory



Help Sigrheim get stocked
and ready for our Folk!

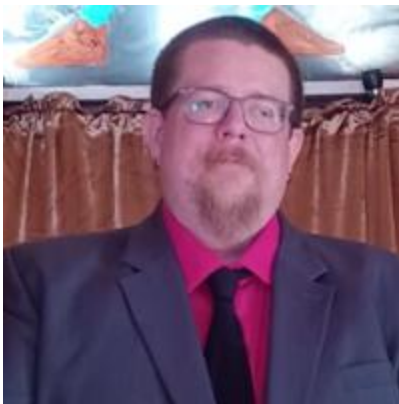
Donate Supplies
from our
wishlist ✨ ✨ ✨
amazon

Thank You!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Upcoming Events





Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

nrice@runestone.org

Victory Never Sleeps

The Asatru Folk Assembly Presents

Victory Never Sleeps!

Wednesdays at 6PM Pacific / 8PM Central

vk.com/AsatruFolkAssembly

odyssee.com//@AsatruFolkAssembly

entropystream.live/app/MattFlavel

rumble.com/AsatruFolkAssembly

youtube.com/@AsatruFolkAssembly

twitter.com/FolkAsatru

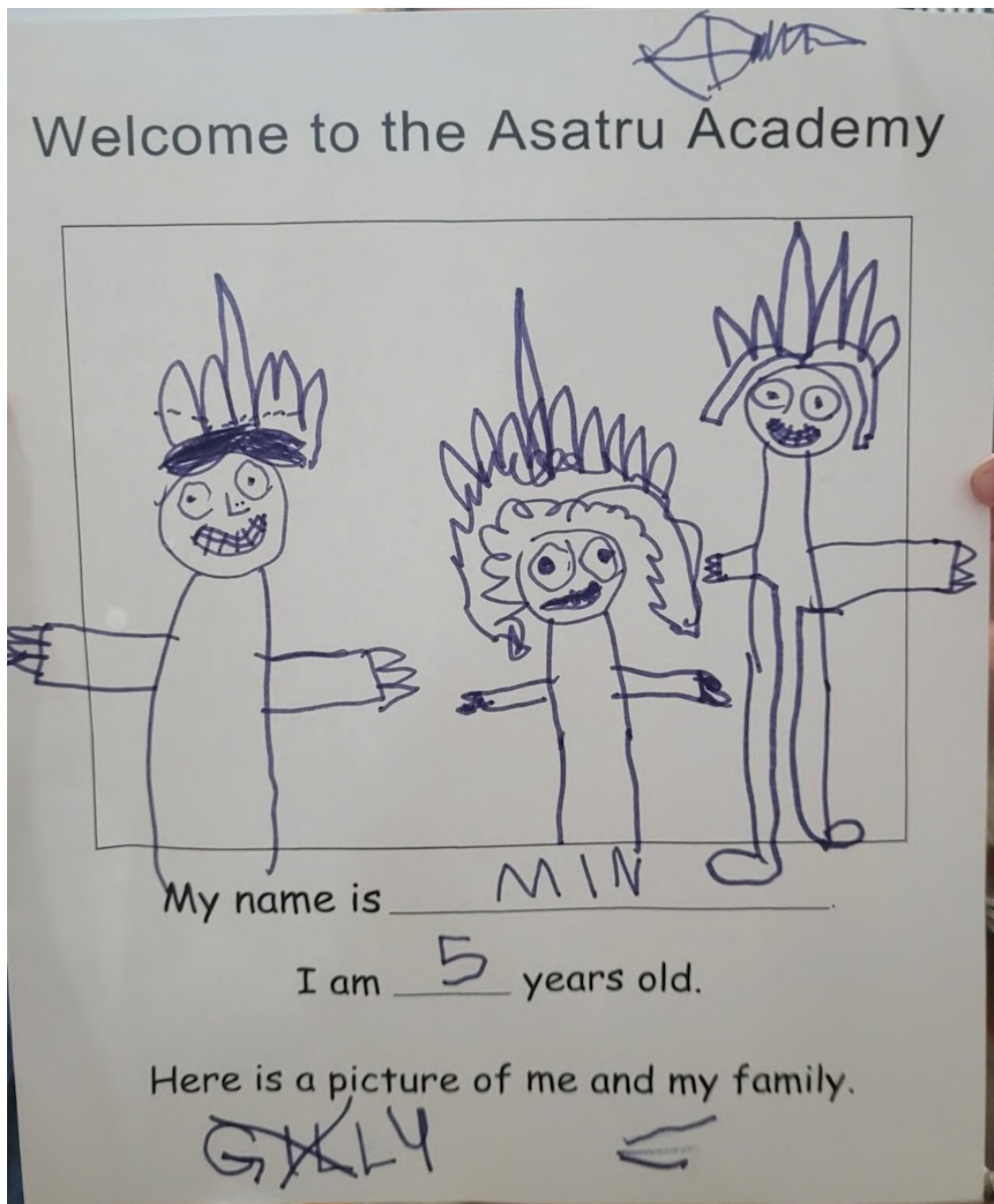


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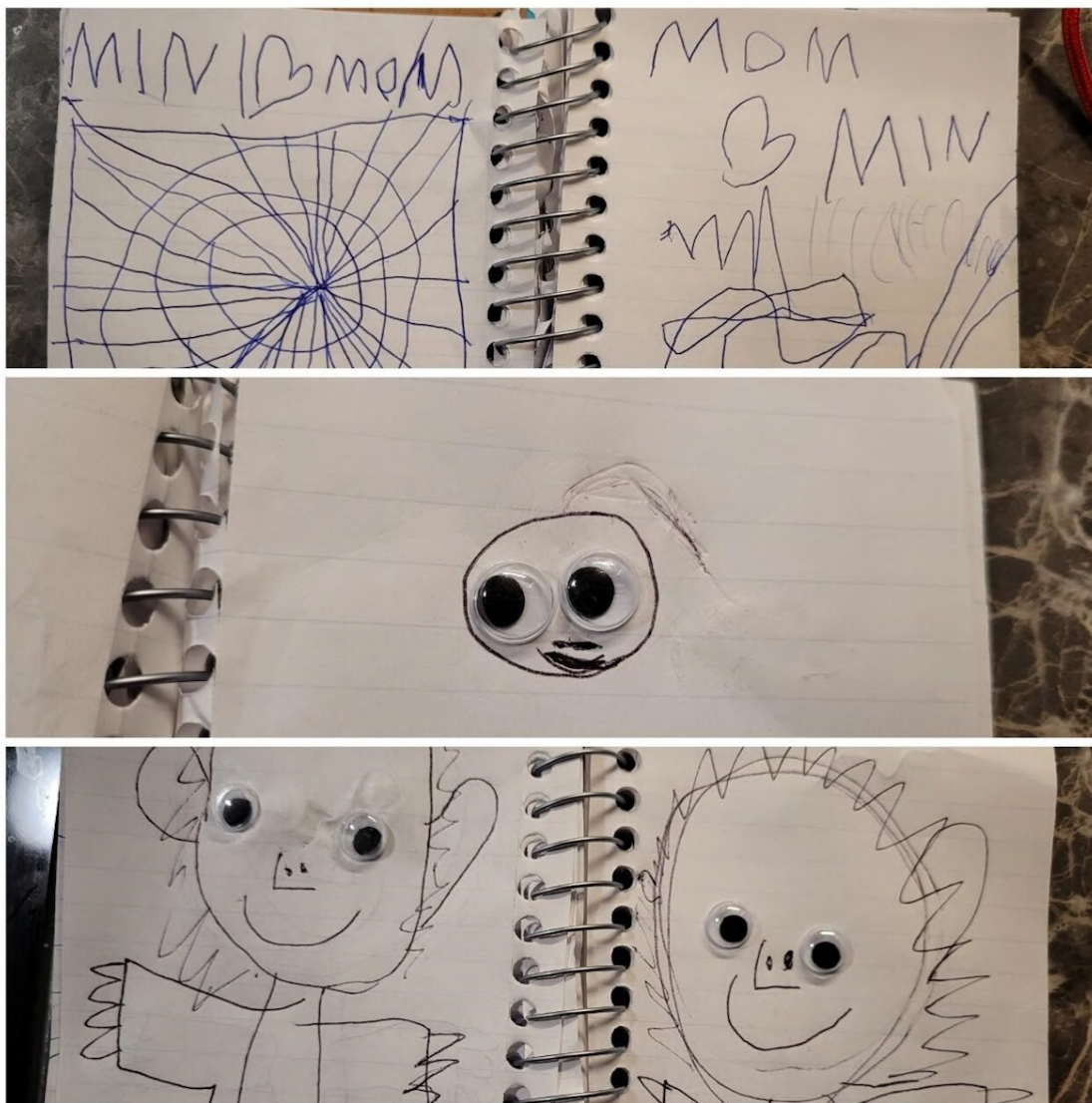
AFA Asatru Academy



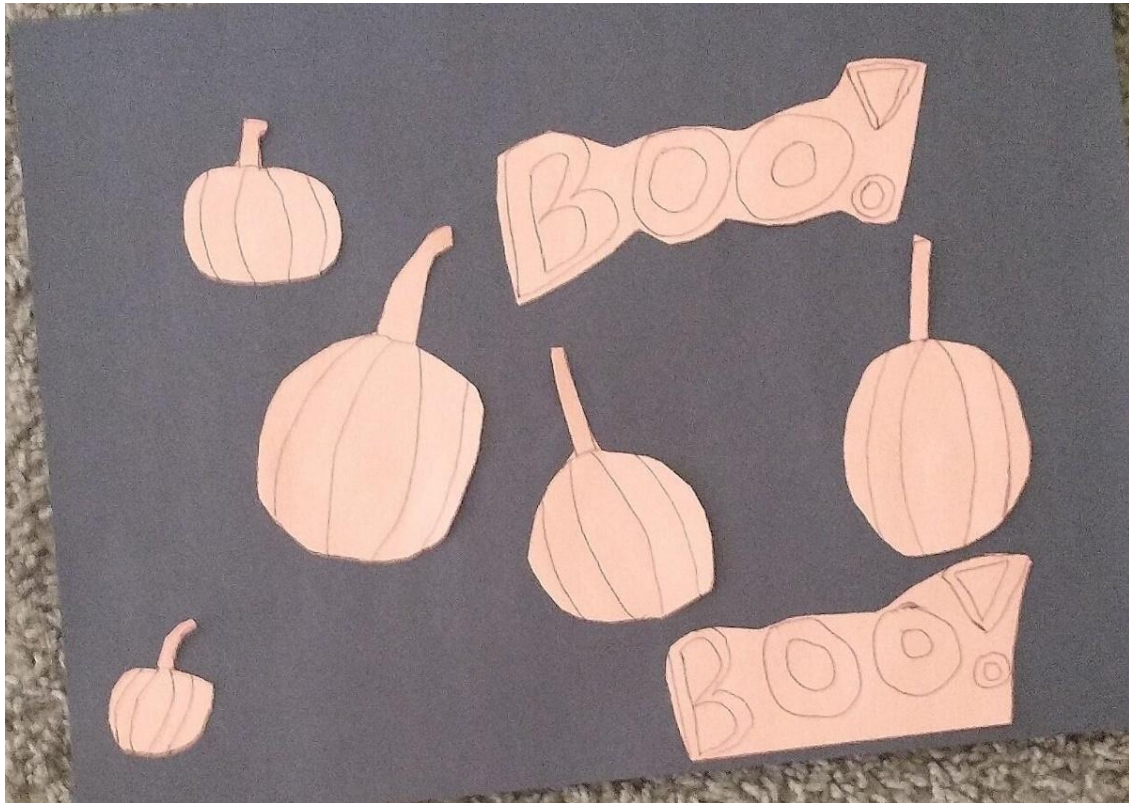
For More Info: [Welcome | Asatru Academy](#)



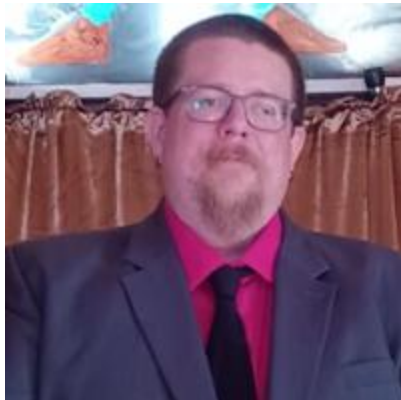
What an exciting time with the Asatru Academy, the AFA, and our future. We're now a solid month into the school year, and it's been a productive start. We're pleased to be able to start doing weekly video calls now with the parents and students, and new from today's meeting, weekly live story readings! Working with these early grades really does wonders to put a smile on your face. The kids got to learn what happens when you "give a mouse a cookie" (hint...they ask for some milk), and I'm excited already for next week's call.



On top of these live story readings, we've also had a good influx of parents and other AFA members submitting their own stories readings for us to upload to the kids. If you're interested in volunteering to make some recordings for our kids, whether that be telling you're own life-stories or reading something from our kids' suggest book list, feel free to reach out to me, and I'd be happy to explain a bit more about the process and possibilities.

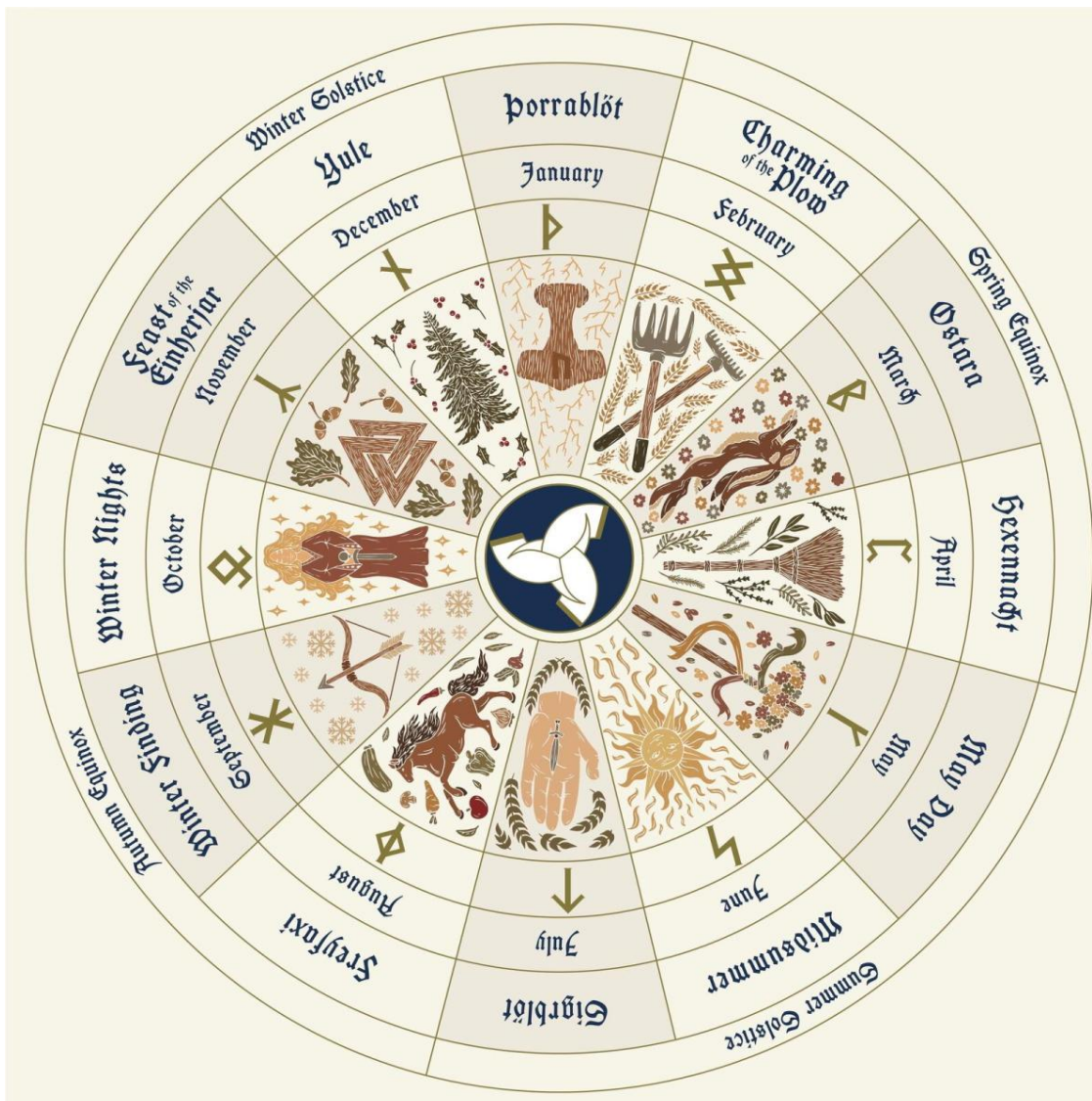


As we're turning the corner towards the cooler months of the year, this marks a great time for our kids to get outside, exploring the rapidly changing environment. Watch as the leaves change, notice how the bugs hide away from the chill, and see all the pretty colors of the autumn world. Whether you're 6 or 60, I bet going on a fall walk through the woods, with leaves crunching under foot, would do just about anyone well.



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
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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

Meister Guido von List - October 9th



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
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Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen

Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen - October 15th



*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.



Gythia Sheila McNallen
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Holiday

Winter Nights - October 21st



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.



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Upcoming National Events

Winter Nights 12 at Sigrheim | October 27th-29th



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

The Asatru Folk Assembly's Annual Winter Nights will be held from October 27th - 29th, at Sigheim near Whitleyville, Jackson County, Tennessee!

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 fee includes all workshops, lectures, meals, tenting, 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!
- Meals are included with all passes.
- You will need to bring your own bedding and it can get chilly at night, so plan accordingly.
- Accommodations are on-site tenting. Campers welcome.

- Please contact Witan Clifford Erickson if you will attend.
- Guests, please include the name of the AFA member who is vouching for you.

Member Family - Weekend: \$120

Member - Weekend: \$80

Member - Daypass: \$40

Guest - Weekend: \$100

Guest - Daypass: \$50

Child - Weekend: Free

Child - Daypass: Free

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

Don't miss out! Visit the Home of Victory for Winter Nights!

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



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

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

FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR

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



SPECIAL GUESTS:
FOUNDERS ELDER STEPHEN AND GYTHIA SHEILA MCNALLEN

SOUTH DAKOTA

Nov. 9-12

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

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

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



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

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



Gothi Nathan Erlandson

nerlandson@runestone.org

Be a Doer



We need you to volunteer for the AFA!

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

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

Baby Blanket Project

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

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

If you are a member of the AFA who is expecting a baby, please let your Folkbuilder know so we can get a blanket to you. If you would like to contribute, either financially

or by volunteering as a baby blanket crafter, let your Folkbuilder know about that as well, so he can get you in touch with the right people. It's so rewarding to see your handicraft being loved by our little heathens!

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



Folk Services



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

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

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

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

Thanks in advance!

Photo Donations

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



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

Eir's Blessings



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

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

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

our community who need our help!

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

Last Will and Testament

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



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

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

Please make your will **today**.

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

Allen Turnage
PO Box 16027
Tallahassee FL, 32317



Witan Allen Turnage
aturnage@runestone.org

Introducing the Newest AFA Kindreds

Five Arrows Kindred of Georgia

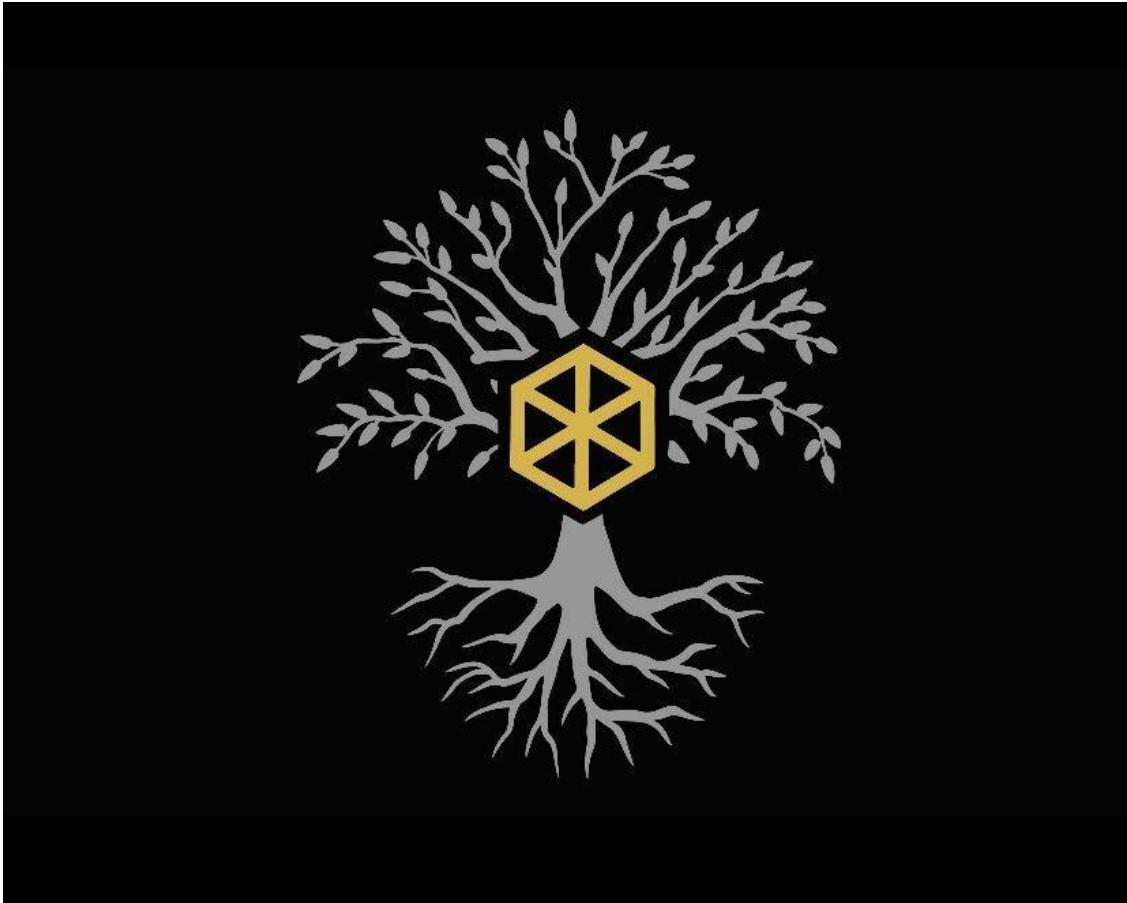


Please welcome Five Arrows Kindred of Georgia as one of the newest Official Kindreds of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Hail the Doers!

Hail the Five Arrows Kindred!!
Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!

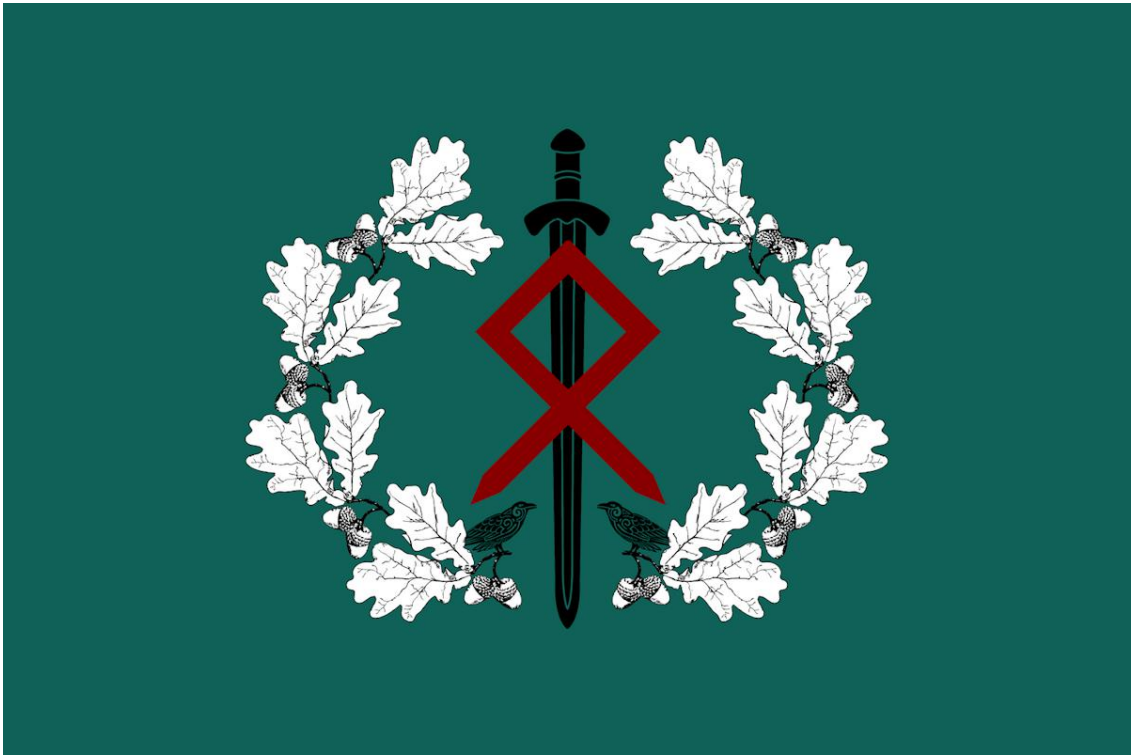
Ninth Night Kindred of Florida



Please welcome Ninth Night Kindred of Florida as one of the newest Official Kindreds of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Hail the Doers!
Hail the Ninth Night Kindred!!
Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!

Blood Oak Kindred of Arkansas



Please welcome Blood Oak Kindred of Arkansas as one of the newest Official Kindreds of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Hail the Doers!

Hail the Blood Oak Kindred!!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!!!



Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher

jgallagher@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

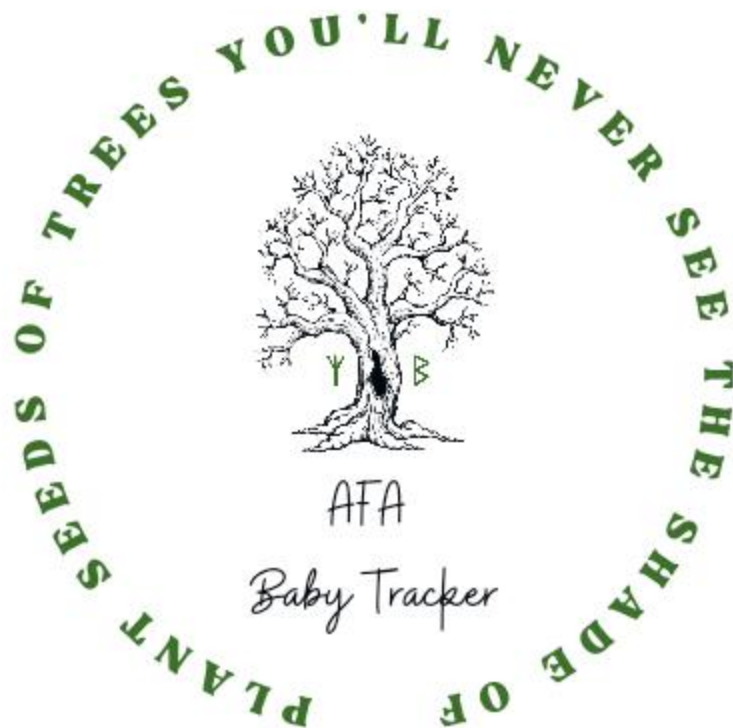
cookies from scratch...make them. Why not? Use the best ingredients you can afford (don't take out a second mortgage for this) but be proud to feed the folk.

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

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: 22

AFA Internet Happenings



Virtue recovery
meeting

Thursdays at 7pm CST;
5 pm PST; 6 pm MST;
8 pm EST

With Ashley Mcstocker
amcstocker@runestone.org

Saturdays at 9 am CST;
7 am PST; 8 am MST;
10 am EST

With Jaclynn Duffy
jduffy@runestone.org

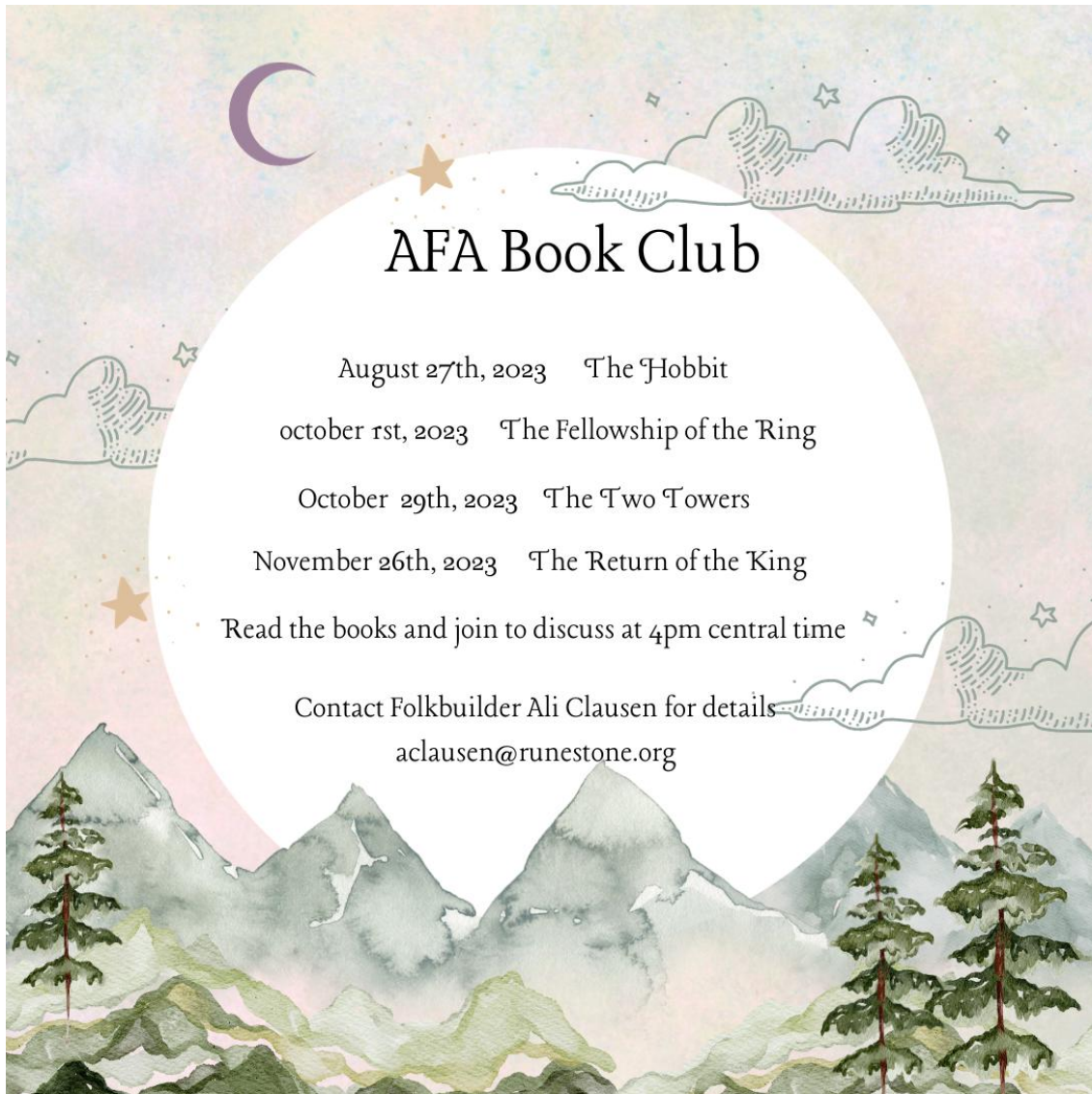
VIA ZOOM

MEETING ID: 885 2917 0746

PASSWORD: Virtue

PASSWORD: VIRTUE





AFA Book Club

August 27th, 2023 The Hobbit

October 1st, 2023 The Fellowship of the Ring

October 29th, 2023 The Two Towers

November 26th, 2023 The Return of the King

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

Contact Folkbuilder Ali Clausen for details

aclausen@runestone.org

Ladies Book Study

Thursday Nights at

7 pm CST

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

For more information contact:

Gythia Brandy Callahan

bcallahan@runestone.org

or

Folkbuilder Sara Ault

sault@runestone.org





Come join the Eldri Folk
and meet others on our Friday afternoon Teams meetings

Interesting Topics — Lively discussions
We've saved you a place!

A group for AFA members, born before 1973
Contact Gythia McNallen,
sheila@runestone.org or MeWe

Ladies Mysteries Podcast

Seidr

Sunday, October 15 at 2:30pm CST

Witan Brandy Callahan

Gythia Anna Plourde

Gythia Catie Erickson

Folkbuilder Heather Young

Folkbuilder Sara Ault

Folkbuilder Ali Clausen

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

Hope to see you there!



WEEKLY ✨

SISTERS ✨

SUNDAY

CHAT

10 AM CENTRAL ✨

EVERY SUNDAY

CONTACT

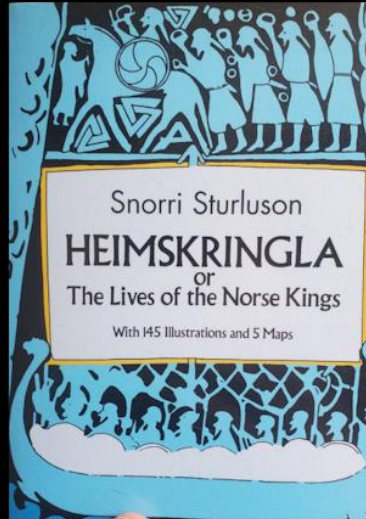
FOLKBUILDER ALI CLAUSEN AND

APP. FOLKBUILDER KATIE JOYNER

aclausen@runestone.org

kjoyner@runestone.org

Lore Study with Gothi Jason Plourde



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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



James Ault
Prison Ministry Director
jault@runestone.org

Just For Fun

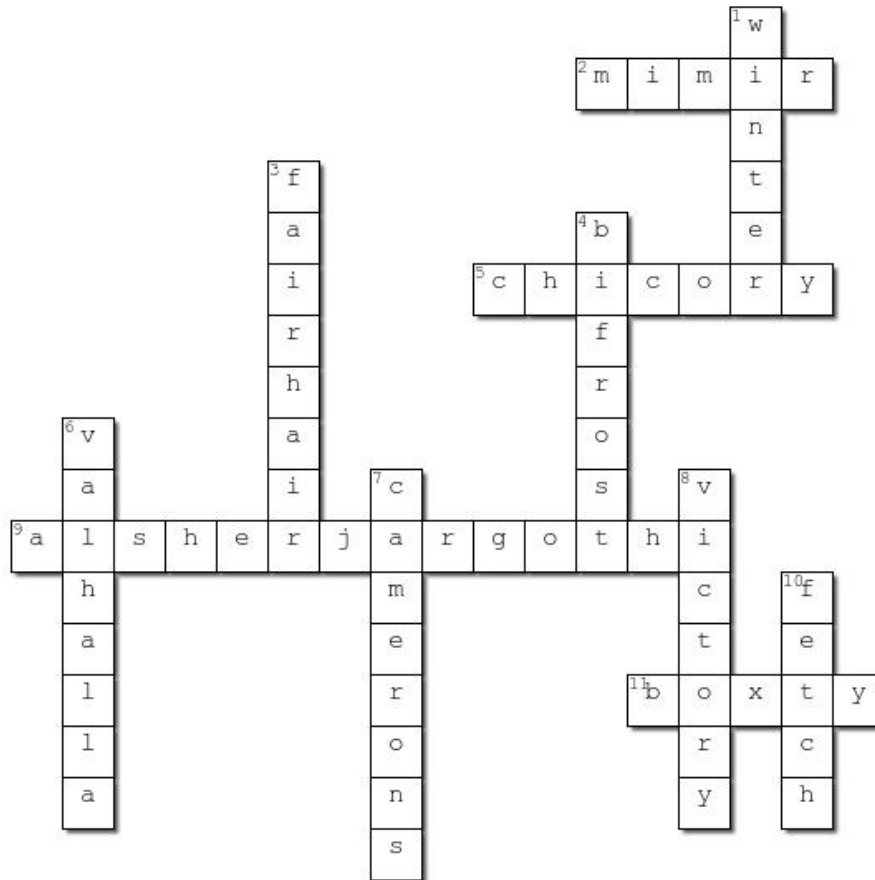
October Coloring Page



Answer Key to September's Puzzle

Runestone Puzzle

The answers to this puzzle can be found within the pages of this issue.



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

2. Demanded the eye (**mimir**)
5. Something missing (**chicory**)
9. Can be a challenge to pronounce and spell (**alshergothi**)
11. Served in Idaho (**boxty**)

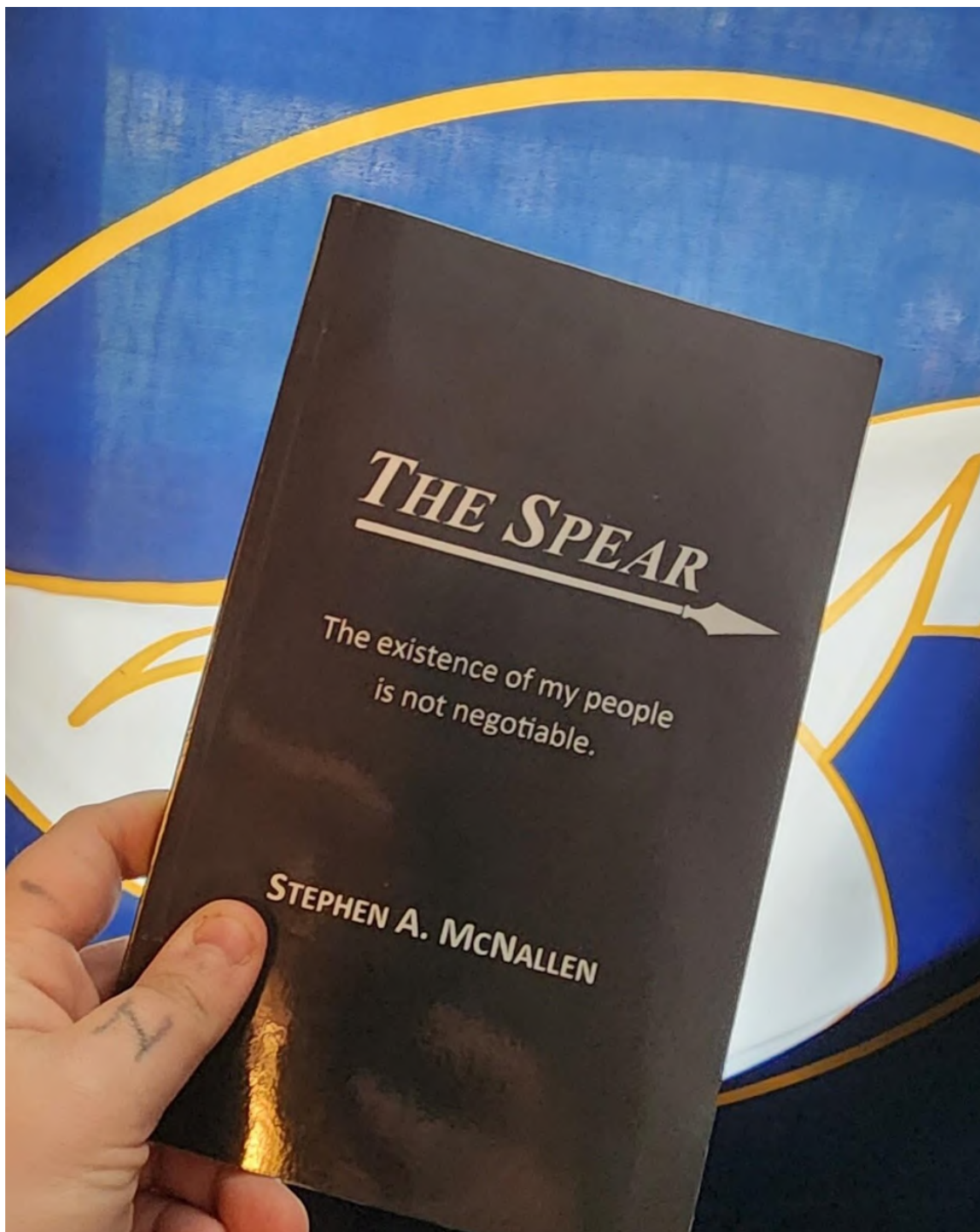
Down

1. What will we be Finding? (**winter**)
3. Descended from Freyr (**fairhair**)
4. Sighted on the 9th (**bifrost**)
6. At the end of Odin Dr. (**valhalla**)
7. Shining this month (**camerons**)
8. Never Sleeps (**victory**)
10. Fylgia (**fetch**)



Olivia Sutherland
Apprentice Folkbuilder
osutherland@runestone.org

Now Available in the AFA Store



The Runestone Store is very proud and excited to announce that we now have in stock "The Spear" by Founder and Elder Stephen McNallen. This is a long-awaited addition to our store and one that many people are excited to see. This book is the topic of the year for Asatruar and one that everyone should take the opportunity to read.

A special thank you to both Founder and Gythia McNallen for making it possible for us to share this book with our AFA family!



Folkbuilder Ali Clausen
aclausen@runestone.org

Þórshof

Food Pantry at Þórshof



The food pantry at winter finding was a great success. Truly becoming a staple and well-known aid in the community, Thorshof was able to provide for 21 families this month. If you would like to help out, please reach out that we may be able to coordinate all the arrangements in order to get your donations to their proper location. Or a better idea is to bring it yourself and feel the warmth of the community.

Any and all donations are appreciated by the AFA and the neighbours that swing by.



Zach Clary
Apprentice Folkbuilder
zclary@runestone.org

Holiday at Þórshof



The leaves are beginning to change and winter is nigh. It is in these nights that we truly FIND winter's knock a-knockin'. Traditionally, we would be out hunting to preserve meat for the possibly long, and definitely cold winter months. The plants and animals are becoming scarce; the sun is shining less and less.

Today, we have quite an assortment of weapons from which we may choose to stop our food in their tracks. We may utilise a firearm, a bow and arrow, a knife for the very adventurous, each of them having a wide array of options, as well. -- That is just we did at the Hóf. NO! Not a hunting trip, but we learned about weapons' safety; Witan Svan instructed us in the 4 cardinal safety rules of handling any weapon, followed by a Blot for the weapons' blessings: That they may aim and fly straight, always fire and kill true to its intention. We reloaded, and exited the Vé to, yet another delicious meal and grand comradery. New faces had appeared; what an enthusiastic and awesome sight to behold. It is always great to see new guests or members.

To those hunters out there: Stay safe! Kill what you intend! Eat and be merry! - Don't forget to share.

Hail the Folk! Hail Ullr, and all the Gods! Hail the AFA!



Zach Clary
Apprentice Folkbuilder
zclary@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Þórshof

2023 events at Þórshof



Þórshof Wish List



Indiana

The Trials of Scotstember



Friends and Folk,

This September we here in the Hoosier State spent a little time (as we often do) mercilessly dominating the cultures of others.

We began by setting what are probably world records in the local Highland Games (anyone who claims otherwise is obviously a fake-news propagandist). Our mighty

Hoosierborean competitors made a mockery of so called “gravity” by stylishly heaving heavy things through space (and possibly time) in the traditional Scottish Highland Games events such as (names historically reconstructed):

The “Throw A Rock Over That Way” contest



The “Pretty Much Also Throwing A Rock But This Time It’s On A Chain” competition



And the “Sort Of Like If Ballet Were Designed To Kill Someone”



My kinsmen - sweating, tired, and breathing heavily after having fought so hard to represent the AFA proudly in this battle of honor; were no doubt heartened watching me compete alongside them as I swiftly (and some would say expertly) mimicked the poetry of their motions as I heroically moved numerous meat pies from a nearby local vendor through the air and into my mouth.



Finishing the day, walking back to my car awash in victory, I passed what is apparently some sort of odd Scottish horse; all-in-all a successful day.



Having so readily conquered the warlike Scots, I knew that I would have no trouble later in the month subduing the chronically-neutral Swiss of Ohio during their yearly Swiss Heritage Festival (to which I arrived in order to steal various cheeses). The festival was a blast, taking place in a quaint little town sporting the world's second largest cuckoo clock (which really is a sight to behold).



The only downside of the event was the constant racket coming from what (based on their instruments and outlandish dress) must be some sort of Swiss ska band, who were desperately (and fruitlessly) trying to distract my attention from the various snack tents.





Listen here Ohio (and your Swiss) I am by all accounts a reasonable man.

However, when a man is WRONGED then even reasonable men can be driven to... rash behavior.

When I am promised 1/3lb of FREE Swiss cheese by a marketing campaign at your festival, I expect to receive 1/3lb of free Swiss cheese; the "store hours" of the promising party is irrelevant.



The Ohioan currently in my possession is a Cincinnati resident, an AFA member, and a nice man. He is being treated well here in Indiana (in accordance with the Geneva Conventions I learned about at your festival) and is eager to return home to his family. I

am eager to eat 1/3lb of free Swiss cheese. I have enclosed a picture of the offending publication and a man who is patiently awaiting the payment of your owed cheesegild. Do the right thing.

Upcoming Events

Oct. 7th

FEAST[®]

of the

HUNTERS' MOON



Family-friendly re-creation of the annual fall gathering which took place Fort Ouiatenon, a fur-trading outpost in the mid - 1700s.

Jrock@Runestone.org to RSVP!

Tickets at <http://feastofthehuntersmoon.org/>



Folkbuilder Jonathan Rock
jrock@runestone.org

Maryland

The Time is Ripe to Retake Our Culture



A society is expressed and defined by its culture. We can see that in examples of art and architecture from the ancient Greeks and Romans, to the Gothic style cathedrals and castles, to the interesting style of buildings in Russia. What we see today though, is the art and architecture style of a civilization and society not only in decline, but decay.

Those of you who know me are aware I am an enjoyer of things such as video games,

tabletop games, and movies. Most of our folk have checked out of these things due to the overwhelming anti-Folk hatred that is being injected into just about everything mainstream. From the replacement of all the good guys in the Lord of the Rings magic the gathering cards to the utter genocide of all White characters with red hair in movies. And I mean that word literally. From Ariel in the Little Mermaid to Flash in Spiderman (a minor character who serves as a bully for the hero to stand up to and nothing more) they have all been replaced by blacks. Not only that, but the Disney corporation (which is so far gone from their roots I cannot in good conscience refer to them as just Disney) has chosen to remove the original Little Mermaid we grew up with from their Disney Classics channel.



This is an attempt at cultural genocide. We are being removed from our culture and heritage by those that hate our Folk. Moreso, they enact every kind of legislation they can to try and ensure we cannot just tell our version of the story: in this case, patent laws.

This goes further than just the Disney corporation putting out trash to remove our Folk from culture (and encourage self-destructive subversive behaviors). In the video game industry, we have seen where a good game is made and last second the cultural Marxists get their hands on it to make the changes where they can (such as there being no more male and female, but instead "body type 1 and 2"). Then there is backlash against the gamers themselves for enjoying the product and for weeks they are told over and over again that they should not expect such a good product from companies, and that expecting good things will result in the collapse of the industry. We can look further into this at the wonder that is Starfield. A game about exploring the stars and it is positively filled with non-Folk. Quite literally it seems that in this space future, everyone from France is going to be black or brown. There is a side quest with a company called Celt Corp, with the founder and his daughter being Folk with red hair. Following through with the side quest, you find that the daughter is apparently in love with an African that owes the company a debt and you can play matchmaker to get the guy out of debt and them together. This game was made by the same company that made Skyrim.



Now this would seem overall a depressing situation. But what I saw gave me hope. What I saw was backlash against this kind of stuff from our Folk. It was immediately called out and mods were made to correct the issue. Of course, the cultural Marxist who run the popular websites where you can get such mods responded by banning them and

making blatant statements about their intentions. This is a good thing: our enemies have taken off the mask and made themselves known.

In the Tabletop world of D&D, a similar nonsense is being pushed. And again, I have seen personally the backlash and result of what these Folk hating goblins despise most: our freedom of choice. Literally anything they push can be met with a "LOL. No. GTFOH" response. And that shows where we can exercise power and retake our culture.

In the AFA, I have seen and met excellent artists, writers and storytellers. I have met military men, tradesmen, doctors, lawyers, writers, artists, and men down on their luck. I have met magnificent mothers, caretakers, and teachers amongst our women as well. I have been to a Hof and seen the amazing things we are capable of.

Rather than checking out of modern culture, I say the time is ripe for us to flood it with OUR culture. Our people are sick of the trash that is being shoveled in front of them and desperate for something real and healthy. We can show them the way forward. From art, to storytelling, to making movies and videogames even. And unlike other predominantly online organizations, we have Hofs. Hofs that are not just renamed square brick buildings like any old small time Christian church can do, but actual buildings with excellent and inspiring art you see as you walk in. We have a real community that is being built, a real culture that is forming apart from and against the sickness that infects our Folk.

It is time for us to express it and bring the Folk home.



James Bethard
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jbethard@runestone.org

New Hampshire

Surrounded by Apples



The shire folk gathered in central New Hampshire for some apple picking and farm fun. Unfortunately our crazy weather this summer was brutal on many orchards, but we were able to find many delicious apples at Windy Ridge.

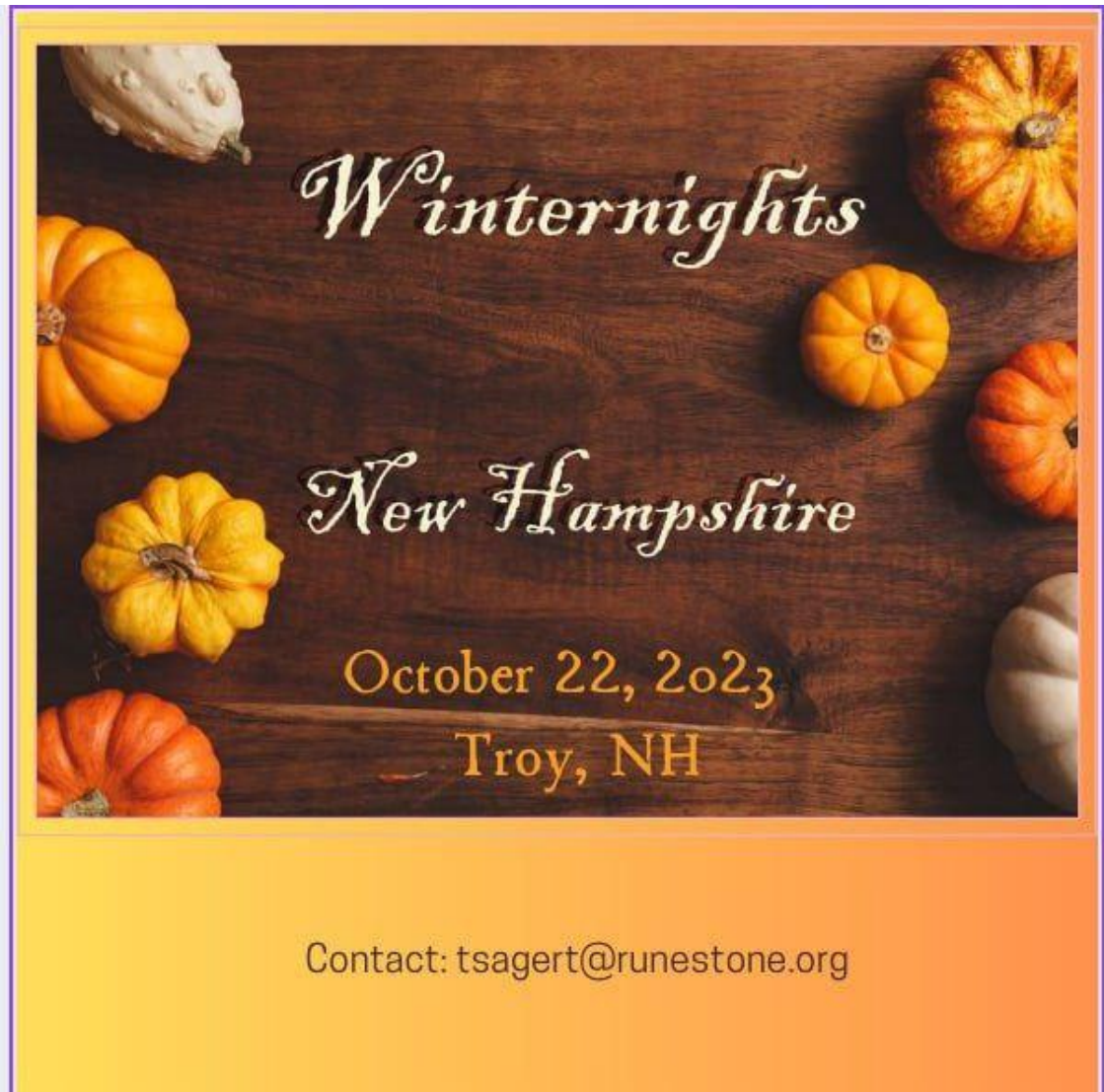


The farm sat up a beautiful ridge with a glorious view of the mountains in the distance. We met in the gift shop which was full of local treats such as apple cider donuts, mead and more. As we made our way up to the orchard we said to hello to many a furry friends.



After our apple adventure we enjoyed a bonfire together before parting ways. It was a truly beautiful day and an awesome start to fall. Looking forward to our NH Winter Nights coming up in October!

Upcoming Events



Please join us for Winter Nights in NH! Feel free to contact with me with any questions!



Tyler Sagert
Apprentice Folkbuilder
tsagert@runestone.org

North Carolina

Remembering the Einherjar



Every one of us Americans and those in once-grand Britannia have some knowledge of the American Revolutionary War or American War of Independence from 1775 to 1783. There were many great battles through the war. The American Patriots won some; the Loyalists to the King won others. In the end, as we all know, the Crown was ultimately defeated. It does great to make mention and remind us that “a well regulated militia” is what it takes to keep the people free. It can, and it does. Our folk, predominately Scotch-Irish known as the “Overmountain Men” walked, marched, and trekked through the trees from over-the-mountains at the legal boundary of the colonies in order to take on these red-coated foes. Of the Overmountain Men is said, “This distinguished race of men are more savage than the Indians, and possess every one of their vices, but not one of their virtues. I have known... these fellows to travel 200 miles through the woods never keeping any road or path, guided by the sun by day, and the stars by night, to kill a particular person of the opposite party.”

This great turning point in the war had commenced October 7, 1780 on Kings Mountain at the North/South Carolina border. Thomas Jefferson had spoken of this battle.



We had a wonderful time walking and talking around this battlefield of our ancestors. Whether ours had fought for the people or the Crown, they all fought valiantly; many of whom had been killed or died where our feet then stood. As we wandered between the several monuments and memorials to the battle and the fallen we came upon a wonderful area, rather clear, at an (at least now) unmarked mass-grave along the “colonial road”. Upon that very road the militia and soldiers would have entered into what became a bloody and smoke filled forest. Between the graves and road we lit the ceremonial fire, formed our circle, being led by the wonderful Witan Young himself into a beautiful Blot in honour of the Einherjar. There was a tremendous and persistent presence of Odin and Tyr. From Blot followed a supremely participatory Sumbel overflowing with laughter and tears, sorrow and gladness.

It was a great experience, I hope, for everyone there. - We, then, carried on returning to the beginning, a few of us exploring the visitor centre, viewing original weapons, bullets, and uniforms used in the battle. - Lastly, in traditional fashion, we communally supped nearby to delicious meals before resuming our lives in a world where again a militia is necessary.



Zach Clary
Apprentice Folkbuilder
zclary@runestone.org

Appalachian Happenings - East Tennessee Celtic Festival



The first weekend in September was still hot and sticky in Appalachia but it was time for the Upper East Tennessee Celtic Festival. These mountains were primarily settled by the Scots and Irish and Celtic blood is part of the soil here now. My son often remarks on the number of “gingers” he sees at public events. We had a preview of the festival this past spring when I brought my children to the Junior Highland Games and they were able to participate in events like the caber toss.



This time was less active, more conversational. The event was held on the grounds of the Tipton Haynes Historical Site named for Colonel John Tipton. Many of you may not be aware, but this area was prepared to become the 14th state of the Union, known as the State of Franklin. Colonel Tipton led a battle on the site against the formation of the State of Franklin and today we are part of the state of Tennessee instead. The site hosts many historic buildings and our small group toured the house and marveled at the craftsmanship while talking about life long ago. The men were quite taken with the loom. There were many vendors and it seemed to be that at this event, Celtic encompasses anything Renaissance-vibe as well as pirates. Modern Johnson City plays fast and loose with the idea of Celtic Heritage. However, we were serenaded by wonderful bagpipes. The food truck fare left much to be desired so we left the pirates and witchy-works to fortify our frith-building with tacos. We look forward to many more events together and will be celebrating Feast of the Einherjar in Jonesborough, TN in November. All hail the Celtic peoples! Hail the Folk!

— Rachel Kinsler, member

Responsibility



Today I wanted to talk about a topic that is often on my heart, especially in regards to the Folk, and that topic is responsibility and duty. We are duty bound to each other, and responsible for the well-being of this community. We must find the good in each other and work together for the common goals of preserving and promoting Asatru, our ethnic culture, strong families, values system and vibrant communities. The Statement of Ethics of the Asatru Folk Assembly states that:

II. The Folk Community Principle

A community based in ancestry and common culture is a better society to live in. We in Asatru hold that our ethnic culture is vital and worthy of protection and promotion. We believe that we each have a personal responsibility to consider the folk good and to assume a personal role in promoting and protecting it. We believe that each of us must work to keep our heritage alive. For the best community, we must:

Work to make justice and law rule among our folk. Express good will towards and

cooperation with members of our community. Work for a better tomorrow. We believe that we have an obligation to create a better future for our folk and to shape a brighter future for our children. Give back to the community that has given to us.

Our obligation to each other takes many forms. If you were to visit one of our Hofs during a monthly food drive, you would see happy Folk “giving back to the community that has given to us.” It’s important to us that we are good neighbors and that we create good impressions and even relationships with the community around us. I’d like to encourage everyone to bear this principle in mind when visiting our Hofs or Sigrheim. How would we want people to behave if they came into our town once a month? This is of course just one example of how we can be more mindful in fulfilling our responsibility to the Folk and to the community. Other examples would be our Folk Services and South Africa funds, donating time or money to the Asatru Academy, pitching in on Hof workdays, volunteering for the AFA in various projects, etc. What I want to focus more on is the mindset behind all of these activities; apart from a declared principle, why should you want to give of yourself to the Folk?


The benefits of giving of yourself to the Folk are many. Once you get over the more immediate self-gratifying benefits such as reputation, sense of purpose and fulfillment, you begin to reap the long-term rewards of grafting yourself into this gift cycle. Your mindset will eventually shift to understanding that giving to the Folk is ultimately giving to yourself. We want the Folk to succeed, to attain the highest heights, to excel beyond expectation; when we benefit collectively, we also benefit individually. We should all strive to be as healthy, successful, strong and intelligent as possible, not just for ourselves, but for our Folk. If all of us are striving to be our best selves, more of us are in a position to reach down a helping hand to those that are falling behind. In this way, we “create a better future for our folk and to shape a brighter future for our children.”

Of course, when we talk about the Folk, we’re not just talking about the Folk outside of our homes, but within as well. It should go without saying that we should endeavor to be the best spouse, parent, sibling or grandparent that we can be. By being a loving husband, I enable my wife to be a loving wife and a kinder mother, thus enriching my children. By being a good father, I give my children the encouragement to push boundaries and expand their experiences. These actions have reverberating effects that are felt throughout our Folk.

I hope that going forward we’ll all be able to bear in mind the responsibility we have to each other, the duty to the familial bond we share. Strong individuals create strong families. Strong families create strong communities. Strong communities create strong

nations! By pursuing right action and adhering to our Noble Virtues, we shall keep the flame of our Folk alive. The existence of my people is not negotiable!

Upcoming Events



**SIGRHEIM
WORK DAY**

OCT. 7-8

**Contact
Folkbuilder
Tyler Bethea**

Join us as we prepare the land for Winter Nights! Bring whatever hand tools you think appropriate, and plan to tent camp on-site. We'll have a great time working the land by day and enjoying each other's company by night under a million stars. Contact Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea at tbethea@runestone.org

Y'all come out with your Tennessee and Carolina Folk October 7-8 to Sigrheim to get ready for Winter Nights! We've got plenty of work lined up to keep us busy, but when you work hard, you play hard, and we'll be rewarding ourselves by cooking out and sleeping under a million Tennessee stars at the Home of Victory.

Later in the month we will be holding Winter Nights 12 at Sigrheim. Be sure to reach out to your local leadership and get your tickets to attend this exciting, multi-day National Event October 27-29.



On November 11, we will be holding Feast of the Einherjar in Jonesborough, Tennessee. Come join us as we honor and remember the slain with a feast put on by our ladies. Arrive early for finger foods and conversation, stay late for Sumbel and hot tub Frith building.



Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea
tbethea@runestone.org

Ohio

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Michael Melillo
mmelillo@runestone.org

Northern Ohio Oktoberfest



On a rainy September day I had the honor of attending the Cleveland Ohio Oktoberfest with some of you wonderful folk. Upon arrival it was a bit dreary but the whole place was bustling with activity. Everything from wiener dog races to a giant sand castle. Music, revelry, and of course beer around every corner. Many men donned a German cap, and the women in traditional dress. All was a comforting sight to behold. Aryan folk celebrating their very essence. Certainly something that needs to happen more in today's world. Shops, traditional fare, and great company was the theme of the day. We ate and enjoyed the music. We spoke and tightened bonds. These are some of the very important things in life. Even if you cannot make it to our formal events sometimes I recommend you find a German festival, or Slavic, or what have you. It is truly a healing

and fun medicine for your soul. It's getting into fall so I wish you all luck in your winter preparations. Until next time Hail the God's, Hail the folk, and Hail the AFA.



Folkbuilder Joe Drotos
jdrotos@runestone.org

Pennsylvania

Bennezett PA Camping Moot



From Friday September 22 to Sunday September 24th, I was able to share with the folk, a place which has been very special to me for many years.



The town of Bennezett and the surrounding area is where the largest population of wild elk are in Pennsylvania, and this time of year is known as the rut or the mating season for the elk. This means that the bull elk are bugling, fighting for a mate, and all around are very active.



While the weather was not the greatest for us due to it raining, we were still able to enjoy a wonderful time camping during the welcoming of fall. I plan on having another camping moot there around the same time next year and hope to see even more of the folk there to enjoy the sights and sounds of the elk and the town of Bennezett.



David Bryson
Apprentice Folkbuilder
dbryson@runestone.org

Winter Nights



We have come to the midpoint of the season; the cold days lie ahead. This is the time our ancestors worked fiercely to acquire that which they needed for the dark days approaching. Animals were butchered, farmers worked their fields, bringing in the crops to sustain their families and wood was collected for light and warmth. In our time, scenarios are much the same. The crops come in and get processed, animal meats fill the shelves for consumption and we continue working hard, looking out for our family, making sure they stay safe until the sun returns. We fork over extra money to keep the house warm and gather heavy comfortable clothing for our children, those thick blankets make their way out of the closets and grandma tells stories while sipping on Coco. Though not the same, there is still struggle amongst our people and we need to be there to support one another. Keep tabs on your loved ones and the Folk in your area.

The veil is thinnest “now” during Winter Nights, this thinning brings forth an opportunity for us to communicate more clearly with our ancestors. Some members begin setting plates for their past family members giving them sustenance for the work and travels on the other side. Others gear their personal in-home practices to Ancestors only. I personally acknowledge and give thanks to those who have in one way, or another supported me and helped me grow throughout my time here upon Midgard. While amidst this holiday make sure to find time to separate yourself from the loud activities and find that quiet place to sit calmly and just listen. You may just find a connection you were looking for or needed.

The most invested in our wellbeing are our women, our significant others give us motivation and comfort whilst we work through the hardships of the season. They birth our children, nurture, raise them and even once they have reached adulthood never stop loving. A mother's touch and soothing words relieve us in the darkness. Our Disir do the same beyond the veil, their time and power is at its height as “we” their children go into survival mode and prepare for Winter. The Disir calm us and sustain us in times of need.

I hold a blot in honor of the Disir during Winter Nights, their commitment and strength funneled into my personal wellbeing is always appreciated, and whether you know it or not, that same commitment and strength keeps each and every one of you going as well. It's important to acknowledge the gifts they constantly bestow upon us and in turn “pay it forward”, those gifts that you recognize should be passed down to your children. Our honored Disir have earned the right to be thanked by their Kin and Folk. We wouldn't be able to hold the AFA banner as high as we do without the support that flows between our realities.

Upcoming Events

WINTER NIGHTS

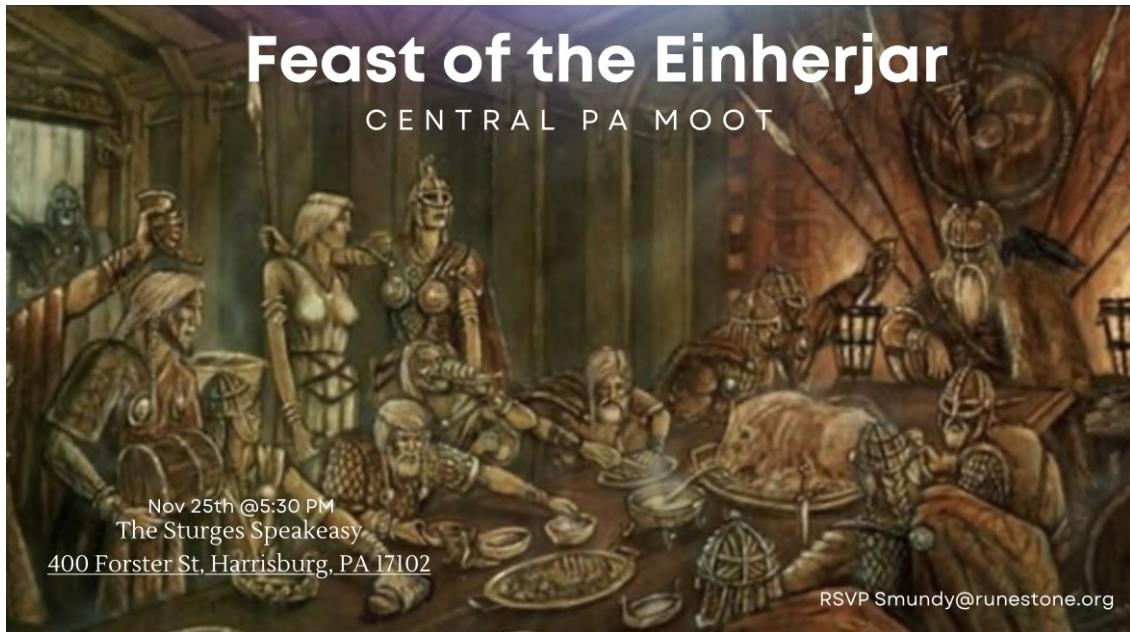
CENTRAL P.A.

Saturday, October 21st, 12pm

Gifford Pinchot State Park Campground
800 E. Camping Area Rd.
Wellsville PA, 17365



RSVP SMUNDY@RUNESTONE.ORG

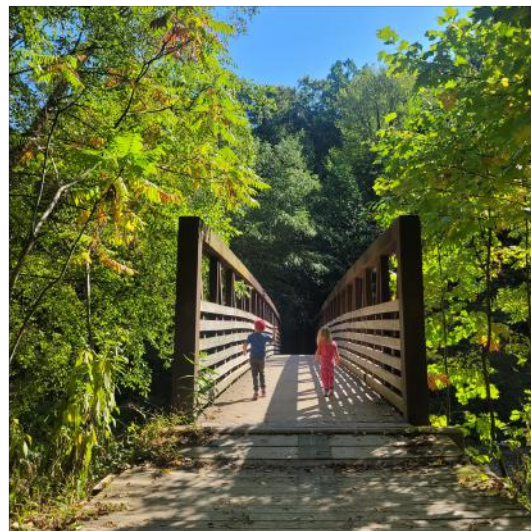
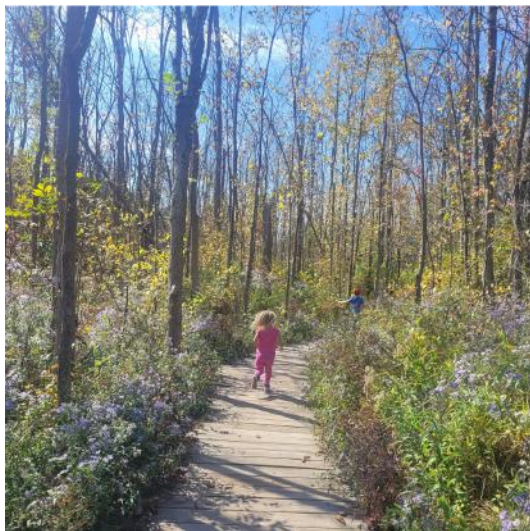


Folkbuilder Steven Mundy
smundy@runestone.org

September Toddler Moot



There were clear signs of early Fall in the changing color leaves and the warm breeze. It was a beautiful day as we discovered the beautiful walking paths of Asbury Woods, in Erie PA.





We explored a “teepee” made of fallen branches, marveled in a very large, very old oak tree, and threw many rocks into the river. We had a great time and everyone was exhausted by the end of the day!

We look forward to seeing our friends this month for the last outdoor toddler moot before the weather turns!

Upcoming Events



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

Upcoming Events

Black Sun Blot

Join in a Black Sun Blot with Witan Clifford Erickson in Erie, PA during the *Total Solar Eclipse!*

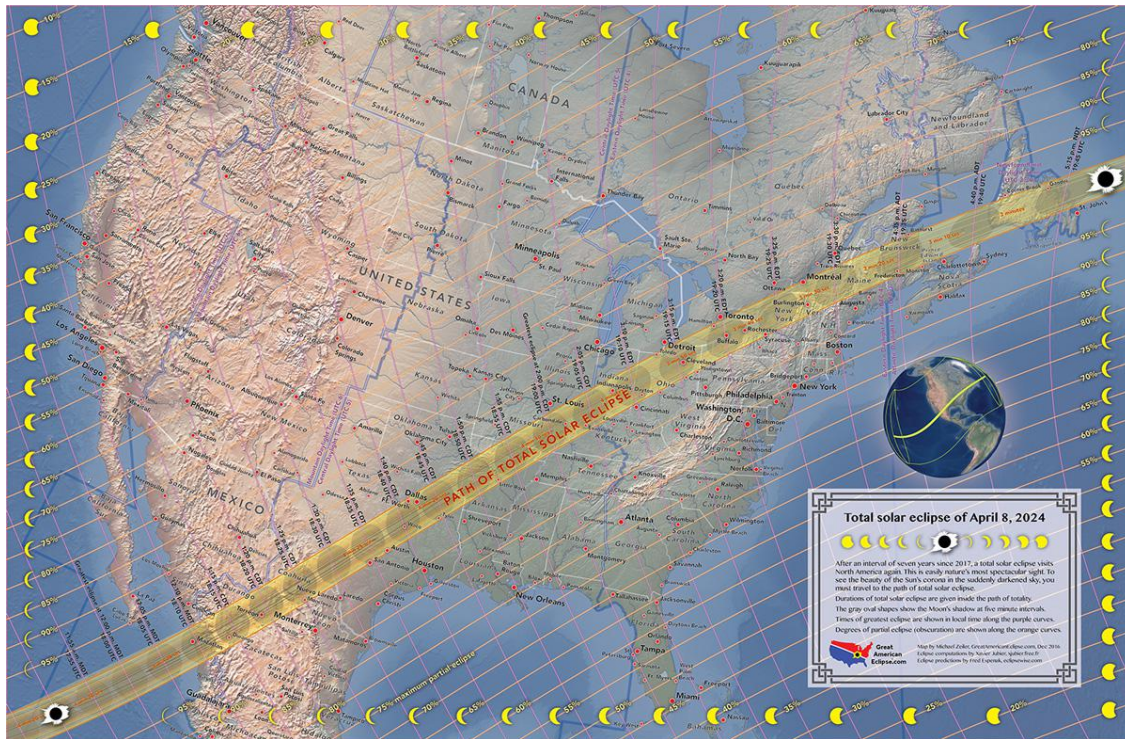
Gather at 12pm on Monday, April 8, 2024.

for details email
cerickson@runestone.org.



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

SOLAR ECLIPSE!



Gather at 12pm on Monday April 8, 2024

For details email cerickson@runestone.org.

Where & When | 2024 Total Eclipse – NASA Solar System Exploration

- <https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/eclipses/2024/apr-8-total/where-when/>



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org



Poland

Poland Moots for September



Greetings from Poland! Things got off to a slow start in the month when the first moot was made. bad timing for movie themed moot when the weather outside was so good and many events taking place. A good time none the less and new bonds made. Later on

things got better and personal invitations make for better company. A moot for a pint can make for a pleasant evening and there will be more to come!



Święto Plonów or Erntedankfest in German, is the ceremonial tradition of giving thanks for a good harvest. Unfortunately, weather was unfavorable so the next day, after making a home ceremony, we celebrated at the nearby Jomsborg viking village to enjoy an archery contest and several festivities.

Upcoming Events



Join us!

FOR DZIADY

This 14th and 28th, the Asatru Folk Assembly invites you to take part in the Polish culture, traditions, and pagan ceremonies that will be taking place. We invite you to join us and explore the historic Osada Slawutowo settlement on the 14th as well as Warownia Jomsborg Viking village in Warsaw on the 28th. For more details please write to Aspir at:

abefreier@runestone.org

Aspir Befreier



Apprentice Folkbuilder
abefreier@runestone.org

Sweden

Winterfinding and Blot to Ullr



It is a curious time of year. One notices that as Summer dies and Autumn takes its place, many of the smaller birds in the woods are silent. No chirping, no song. It lasts for a few weeks, but then they break their silence. Not with singing, but instead chirping back and forth. Almost as if they are telling one another "Summer is gone, prepare for Winter."

We gave what I think was a very good Blot to Ullr. Ullr is close to us in Autumn up here, as a large portion of the food we eat comes from hunting, moose in particular. This year, the moose hunt has not been going very well. Fortunately, we still have a lot of chickens to slaughter, and I am already preparing for roe deer season later this year.



The time of year with abundance is behind us. Before our modern age of food surplus year-round, the community was vital during the harsh months of winter. Even if harvests had been good, and the harvest bountiful, you still needed one another.

In our modern age, our people have rejected community in favor of rugged individualism. When the going gets tough, we feel inclined to shield our loved ones from our troubles. In the case of community, many feel compelled to leave the community. Cut ties. There are many reasons for why one might do this.

But we shouldn't.

When times get rough, let us not flee from community, but instead run towards it. Let us lean on to one another when times are challenging. It is when the going gets tough that relationships are tested, and most needed.

Aotom Taotom, a song about Sara

As Disirblot approaches, I wanted to share a beautiful song with you all. This song tells the tale of old Sara, who is sitting at her loom reminiscing over her life as she is working. It is incredibly beautiful, and I suggest you get your handkerchiefs as you listen to it.

The chorus is an old weaving rhyme from a small community in northern Sweden.



Aotom taotom - Euskefeurat

English:

When the day has closed and the night has sunk its heavy black blanket.
 When the day is done, when laughter and word and folk and cattle has made evening.
 When the moon is waking fat and round over sleep and over house.
 Then light shines from Saras attic, where the flame of industriousness burn.

Refrain: Down and up, step between with the feet, increasing forward and decreasing behind.

That the day has passed to night anew has Sara never noticed.
 There in her room warped and bowed, crooked and broken by cramps,
 There she sits by her loom, defiantly taut and rough.
 She steps again and she throws the shuttle. She weaves the cloth of life.

Ref: Down and up, step between with the feet, increasing forward and decreasing behind.

Soon 81, so, slowly ambling justifiably for her age.
 The lease sticks go and the beam pounds its monotone thumping.
 There she weaves the life she has had and the dreams that she has dreamt.
 With warp and heddle and reed and shaft and with scraps of fabric she has hidden.

Ref: Down and up, step between with the feet, increasing forward and decreasing behind.

There a bit of fabric from a bodice she has saved in secrecy.

From when she was a child herself.

There a woven dress she once inherited, of gray, thick, cotton yarn.

There a child's apron that poor folk wore.

Where the smell of poor stays after each wash.

Ref: Down and up, step between with the feet, increasing forward and decreasing behind.

There is the smock he wore that time she gave her glance.

There is the tie from that night when he had her caught.

The corduroy suit that he wore when he took her as his bride

And the white shirt that still has the smell of his skin.

There is an old rag with smell of lye and piss from four little ones.

There is a linen pillowcase with the embroidery left and the monogram on.

There is a bought piece of fabric from days long past and a washed-out working shirt.

And velvet from a red standard from the old Folkets hus.

Ref: Down and up, step between with the feet, increasing forward and decreasing behind.

There is the shirt from her oldest son, the one that was struck by Tuberculosis.

There is a chemise as a sorrowful memory of the her, the one that the river took.

There is a pretty blouse of nylon from daughter's-daughter's baptism.

There is a cape from far away. Yes, it is all there.

Ref: Down and up, step between with the feet, increasing forward and decreasing behind.

Soon she will have woven the life she has lived and will have run out of warp.

It will be cut down and no more strips will be woven in.

The tassels shall be tied on and the cloth will be given to us.

To look upon if we want to but never step on.

Ref: Down and up, step between with the feet, increasing forward and decreasing behind.

Svenska:

När dagen stängt och natten sänkt sin tunga svarta fäll.
 När dan är gjord, när skratt och ord och folk och få gjort kväll.
 När månen vakar fet och trind över sömn och över hus.
 Då lyser det från Saras vind, då brinner flitens ljus

Ref: Aotom taotom tjila mila faotom
 öukes framma å minskäs bak

Att dagen flytt för natt på nytt har Sara aldrig märkt.
 Där i sitt rum skev och krum, skack och söndervärkt,
 där sitter hon vid vävstol'n sin, trotsigt stram och sträv.
 Hon trampar om och hon slår in. Hon väver livets väv.
 Ref:

Snart åttiätt, så, med ålderns rätt går allt sin stilla lunk,
 stickan går och bommen slår sin entoniga dunk.
 Där väver hon det liv hon haft och dom drömmar som hon drömt,
 med varp och solv och sked och skaft och med tygremsor hon gömt
 Ref:

Där ett livstäckstyg hon spart i smyg,
 sen dess hon själv var barn.
 Där en klänningslärfv hon en gång ärvt, av grått, grovt, bomullsgarn.
 Där ett barnförkläde som dom bar som var av fattig ätt,
 där fattiglukten sitter kvar efter varenda tvätt.
 Ref:

Där är bussarongen han bar den gången hon gav sitt ögonkast.
 Där är kravatten ifrån den natten när han fick henne fast.
 Korderojkostymen som han bar när han tog henne till brud
 och vitskjortan som än har kvar doften ifrån hans hud.

Där en gammal klut med lukt av lut och piss från fyra små.
 Där ett linnekuddvar med brodyren kvar och monogrammet på.
 Där ett köpetyg ifrån forna dar och en urblekt arbetsblus
 och sammet från ett rött standar ifrån gamla Folkets Hus
 Ref:

Där är skjortan från hennes äldste son,han som soten slog.

Där ett linne som sorgeminne från henne som älven tog.

Där en finblus av nylon ifrån dotterdotterns dop.

Där en kappa långt ifrån. Ja, det finns där alltihop.

Ref:

Snart har hon vävt det liv hon levt och har slut på varpen sin.

Den ska klippas ner och inga fler remsor ska slås in.

Fransarna ska knytnas till och väven ska vi få

att titta på ifall vi vill men aldrig trampa på.

Ref:

Upcoming Events

Sunday Call

Europe and Elsewhere

19:00 GMT+2

Every Sunday.

contact: elugnet@runestone.org



Fika Friday

Come and have fika with your
Folk!

27th of October

Norrbottn

elugnet@runestone.org



Fika Friday

Come and have fika with your
Folk!

17th of November

Norrbottn

elugnet@runestone.org

Enhärjafest

**18th of November
Norrbotten, Sweden**

contact: elugnet@runestone.org

Erik Lugnet

Apprentice Folkbuilder

elugnet@runestone.org



Virginia

Virginia Museum Moot



On Sept. 2nd my wife and I drove to Roanoke VA to host a moot at the Department of Transportation Museum! We were glad to spend time with two members and a friend walking around and looking at all the different ways Americans have transported of the years. From horse buggies to airplanes and everything in between, we were able to see the great technological advances to get us from one place to another! After the moot, a

few of us played card games and went to supper. Michelle and I had a great day spending time with the Folk and look forward to seeing you again.

Legacy



I am going to discuss a topic close to my heart that a lot of us can use, the topic is LEGACY. For most of us we have children that look up to us for guidance, and direction. So, for us parents, we need to show the Future Folk how to become better people not just in society, but also spiritually.

Recently my son came up to me and asked what does legacy mean to me. My response was a simplistic version, but can resonate with everyone..."It is what we leave behind after we have gone to the Ancestors." Most of us want our children to lead better lives than what we had growing up, but what does that look like?

Having good morals and leading your family in a good direction is what I believe is the greatest legacy to leave this world. To have your children growing into upstanding, morally sound, and just citizens in society is the greatest legacy we can bestow upon Midgardr.

Now on to the spiritual legacy we will leave. As the leader of my family, it is my duty to bring not just my wife but also my children to learn about the Gods and Ancestors.

Spiritually, to know the Gods and be able to help our children become closer is a great aspiration to aspire to. Knowing that one day I will be sitting in the Hall of my Ancestors, if I am able to bring them closer to the Gods and Ancestors, I have fulfilled my duty. Having my children be able to teach their children, and their children's children and so forth, that legacy will build upon and grown.

And I now leave you with a poem written for my son about legacy...

As I sit at the Hall of the Ancestors,
Telling the tales of my life.
The smiles on their faces are proudly worn.
The scars I wear, I've earned them,
The right to be called a man.
Fights and blood honed me,
Steel and heat forged me,
Love and compassion guided me.
To the Mighty Gods, I give my love!
To the Honoured Ancestors, I give my heart!
To the Blessed Folk, I give my blood!
To the Amazing AFA, I give my name!



Folkbuilder Cody Raynard
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