

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly



## Asatru Folk Assembly

Asatru is about roots... It's about connections... It's about coming Home.

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January 2026

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## Words from our Allsherjargoði



The 32<sup>nd</sup> year of the Asatru Folk Assembly has begun! I am excited for all the amazing things in store for us in 2026. I hope you are all excited as well. The dawn of a new year is an exciting time and an opportunity for a fresh start and a refocusing on priorities. New Year's resolutions have become, at best, a fun intention, and at worst a clichéd joke because so many never make it past January with them. For Ásatrúar, we take oaths and goal setting more seriously because those things are fundamentals of our faith. I hope we have all set clear intentions for the coming year. If you haven't, do so now. This is a special time to look at our goals and intentions with optimism and to build habits that will see success in those intentions. Let's make 2026 a year of Victory, individually, and as the Asatru Folk Assembly!

I would also encourage you all to make 2026 a year of consistent and purposeful participation in the AFA. Make the time to travel to your district Hof. Attend local Moots. Be on your local calls. There is always some mystical perfect "someday" in the future where it is ideal to participate; that "someday" is today.

On a personal note, the Flavel family will be moving to Jackson County, Tennessee early this year. We are overjoyed to make the move and start building Sigrheim with as many of you as are able. This will mean a change of our home district and an opportunity for us to travel as a family much more frequently. I am eager to build up community in Tennessee and to travel to Freyshof, Þórshof, and Njörðshof frequently.

In closing, let's all make today the day. Let's all hit the ground running this year and make our dreams become reality!

Heill the Æsir!

Heill the Folk!

Heill the AFA!

## Announcements, News, & Noteworthy

- 12/6/2025 - Freyshof was dedicated
- 12/6/2025 - Aiden McMillan took his Folkbuilder Oath



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## Words from our Witan

*The Heroic Ideal*



To first give credit where credit is due, the term “Heroic Ideal” was stolen from a conversation I had with the Allsherjargoði about the soul sickness which plagues our people in the Wolf Age.

Before I wax philosophical at my semi-captive audience, I want to share a quote that I feel best exemplifies the Heroic Ideal.

The superior man is distinguished from the inferior man by his courage and his willingness to defy misfortune.

— Friedrich Nietzsche

There are other powerful quotes that we could point to, of course: President Roosevelt’s “man in the arena” speech, Baron Evola’s “be radical” quote, etc... but that line above about having a WILLINGNESS to defy misfortune very much sticks out to me and, in my opinion, fits the modern white man or woman best.

“Misfortune” can be applied a bit loosely for our purposes here. It could refer to circumstances completely beyond your control, but also to mistakes of your own doing that can still be rectified. The easier examples are more concrete ones (obesity, debt) as opposed to more abstract ideas (connecting with the Æsir, fixing relationships with estranged relatives).

With our definition outlined, let’s talk about what that willingness to defy looks like. Ultimately, it is an inherently Aryan combination of courage and motivation and consistency — this is the combination that our people have used since the beginning, to chase Sunna’s light as it drifted westward, conquering all in our path!

Courage is what makes that first step happen, whether it be a step out the door to drive to the gym or your nearest Hof, or picking up the phone to call a relative you haven’t spoken to in years.

Motivation is how we find the strength to keep going, it’s the reminder of why you’re doing this and what you stand to win if you can just hang in there.

Consistency, arguably the most important here, is the perpetual renewing of courage and the repeating mantras of motivation ringing in your heart. Consistency is the drive to fight every day, at every opportunity, not because you want to, but because you **MUST** in order to win the greater battle that you’re facing!

These things are what make the Heroic Ideal. Weakness is a choice, and is one that too many of our Folk make nowadays. Instead, choose to be a champion, choose to be a fighter, choose to be Aryan in spirit as well as lineage!

I hope my scattered thoughts have helped, and remember, your Folk are rooting for you!



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## Words from our Goðar

*Life Keeps Moving Forward*



Our family's traditional Jól season ends on New Years Day. This year it was put off with sub-zero temperatures and snow fall making a fire outside not possible. The plan became to do our Blót on the 3rd of January under the full moon. As it seems to happen with the best made plans, this did not play out either. In the afternoon of the 3rd, our beloved family pet, George, passed quietly in his sleep. George was born in September of 2004. He managed to live an amazing twenty-one years, over half those years with our family. We were incredibly lucky to be blessed with him. He was a very good boy and will be greatly missed. On the 4th, we said goodbye to him as a family. Sharing stories, laughs and of course, tears. I'm not sure what happens next for him. Óðinn had his wolves, Geri and Freki, and of course, his ravens, Hugin and Muninn. Þórr had his goats, Tanngrisnir and Tanngrjóstr. Freyr had her gibkatt. We had our George. As our Æsir treasured their companion animals, we treasured our time with George. For our family, I like to think

that he is off in the pastures making friends with other animals, smelling all the things, and getting tummy rubs from the Ancestors waiting on the time we see each other again.



After our goodbyes to George, we held our traditional new year Blót. We wrote our hopes and goals for the new year on our Jól log. On paper we wrote the things we wanted to leave behind in the old year and the goals to keep us forward moving in the new one. We gathered around the outside fire. Hailed the Æsir and thanked them for another year. A fresh start. We offered up our Jól log with our intentions into the fire. My son added the papers to the fire asking the Æsir to hold us accountable to seeing our

goals through this year. My daughter added rosemary and rose buds to the fire for the Ancestors for surrounding us with love that heals hearts. We hailed the Æsir, the Ancestors, and the Folk before ending the Blót.

Embrace this new year of possibilities with intent and purpose!

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

....and Hail George!



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*Runic Inspiration*



Your blood isn't just yours. It belongs to the past and to the future. It connects you to your ancestors, and continues on to your children. It's the beacon that calls us back to our Gods, and the torch that lights the way forward. It's the light in the darkness that brings hope to our Folk. It can be eternal, as long as we let it. Cherish it as the gift that it is, from one generation to the next.



Stop being basic with your speech. Stop taking this ability for granted. Stop whining about last year in the presence of the new.

The turning of the year is an opportunity to climb up and reach new heights. It is another chance at winning. It's the chance to start again.

Speak your goals. Speak your hopes. Say these things with your whole chest. Build a ladder with your words, and get up there.

Happy New Year's, let's get to work.



A life worth living won't just appear. You can't just sit there with a lighter in your hands waiting for it to just ignite. Nobody is going to just give you luck, life, or a legacy. You must weave your threads into the future for yourself. No grift can build true prosperity or bright fame. Only your entire being will be enough to create those things.

You have what it takes. Generate that fire.



There is only one truth. In a world of manipulation and twisting, truth will always stand firm. You can construct whatever story you'd like to on a wobbling wheel of deceit. However, don't get all mad when your work of fiction tips over and all of your lies come out.

The end of anything is where everything is weighed and measured. Things built on dishonesty and trickery will never stack up and stand toe to toe with what we build with the truth. In the end, no amount of "GeTtInG aLoNg" can support a rickety lie.

Hail the Loyal Folk.



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### *2026 – A Year of Magik and Wonder*



Here's something thoughtful, warm, and a little provocative - an article that invites the reader to loosen their grip on the mundane and rediscover the divine woven into daily life.

We live in a world that moves quickly. Tasks stack, notifications ping, and the rhythm of modern life can feel like a long, unbroken line of obligations. In that pace, it's easy - almost inevitable - to forget that Miðgarðr is not merely functional. It is divine. It's layered with beauty, mystery, and moments that shimmer just beneath the surface of our routines. The magik never left; we simply stopped noticing.

Reopening ourselves to wonder isn't about escaping reality. It's about seeing reality more fully.

Most people assume wonder is something that happens to them—an unexpected spark, a rare moment of awe. But wonder is less an accident and more a skill. It begins with attention.

- When you pause long enough to watch sunlight move across a room, you're practicing wonder.
- When you listen—really listen—to someone's story, you're practicing wonder.
- When you notice the way a tree bends toward the light or how a stranger's kindness shifts your entire day, you're practicing wonder.

Attention is the doorway. Magik is what walks through.

We've been trained to value certainty. We want explanations, answers, and control. But the world is not a solved puzzle. It's a living, breathing mystery.

There is wonder in the things we can't fully explain:

- Why certain people feel familiar the moment we meet them
- Why music can move us to tears
- Why a place we've never been can feel like home
- Why intuition sometimes knows before logic catches up

As Ásatrúar, it should come naturally to acknowledge life is richer than pure mechanics. Óðinn teaches us mystery isn't a threat to understanding—it's an invitation to keep exploring. This becomes even clearer when working with the mysteries of the runes.

Children don't wait for permission to be amazed. They marvel at ants, clouds, shadows, and the shape of their own hands. They ask questions that adults have forgotten how to ask.

Reclaiming that curiosity doesn't mean becoming childish. It means becoming more fully Aryan.

Try asking yourself:

- *What here is beautiful?*
- *What here is surprising?*
- *What here have I never noticed before?*

Curiosity turns the familiar into the extraordinary.

Let's make 2026 EXTRAORDINARY!

Try taking your morning galdr to the next level or starting a morning galdr for the first time. Visualization is key to manifestation and this is a great way to train that spiritual muscle.

- Find a quiet space
  - Galdr Ansuz, Laguz, Uruz three times before entering
- Inhale for a count of 7
  - Visualizing a golden orb growing in your solar plexus.

COLOR	POWERS
<b>GOLD</b>	The light of the sun and the spiritual light shining from Ásgarðr, the force of önd in the universe and a symbol of honor.
<b>RED</b>	Magical might and megin, protective power, spiritual life and vigor, aggressive force.
<b>BLUE</b>	All encompassing, all penetrating, and omnipresent mystical force of the numen. A sign of restless motion and the color of Óðinn's cloak.
<b>GREEN</b>	Organic life, the manifested force of fertility in the earth and sea. A passage between worlds.
<b>YELLOW</b>	Earthly power, a sign of desire and lust in a will toward manifestation.

*\*table 4.1 from Edred Thorsson's Futhark*

- Visualize the rune glowing with energy before you
- Hold your breath for a count of four and visualize a beam of light from the golden orb going out to the rune and charging it
- Exhale with the galdr of the rune while continuing to visualize the rune before you. Use all of your breath for this.

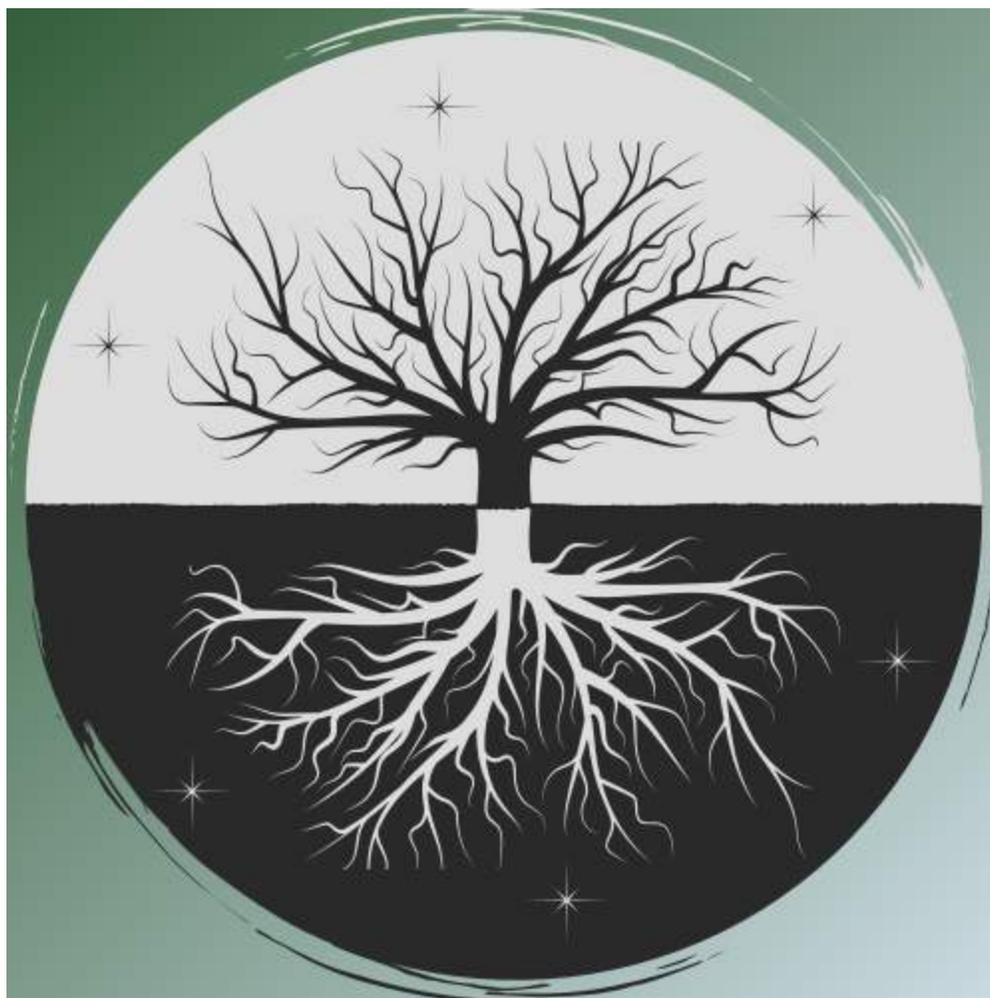
Now, get out there and make 2026 a year of magik and wonder for yourselves, your families, and the AFA.

Goði Lane Ashby

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*A Prayer for the Ancestors, and One for the Heroes*



When it came time to really begin planning for Freyshof, I reached out to our Allsherjargoði with one question. “What is it that you want us to make sure we are doing at Freyshof from the start.” His answer was simple, and quick. “Make sure that you find a way to make veneration for the Ancestors and your Hero a regular part of worship.”

Now, I am paraphrasing here. I can’t remember exactly the way Allsherjargoði Flavel

worded his request, but the gist of it was just this. Ancestor Veneration. Hero Veneration. We have shrines for them; now make sure we are using them.

I thought for quite a while about how to make this happen. How do we make sure that we are including the Heroes and the Ancestors in a way that, eventually, everyone can partake in? How do we do it organically, and not forcefully? How can we make sure that it doesn't interrupt the flow of events, or disrupt Blót?

In the end, all my grand ideas came back to my first. Just write a simple prayer that can be adapted (if needed) across all Hofs. Like Witan Allen Turnage's meal blessing, used and known widely at Þórshof, I wanted a prayer that once learned could be recited by all, both at a Hof or at home. Equally important to me, as we were beginning to build a Hof for the Folk, was to make sure that there were tangible pieces of people at the Hof. Folkbuilder Joe Drotos built our Ancestor and Hero shrines, and Folkbuilder Ronald Boardman built our Freyja and Gerð shrines, for example. Physical representations of their dedication that all the Folk could see.

So, it was only natural for me that I ask Witan Daniel Young and Folkbuilder Mike Melillo to write the prayers, prayers that we intend to be recited after the procession into the Vé and before Blót begins at every holytide. Both of these men are dedicated to Ásatrú, to the Æsir, and to the Folk. Now here we have from each of them a small thing that will become a part of everything we do here at Freyshof.

And now, the prayers!



### **Ancestor Prayer**

written by Witan Daniel Young

Hail the Álfar, hail the Dísir,  
kin who came before us.  
You walk unseen,  
Yet your presence is near.  
Guide our steps with wisdom,  
Guard our souls with strength.

May our deeds honor you,  
as your memory lives in us.  
For the gifts of blood, of life  
And of hue,  
We thank you.

And it is our solemn vow  
Never to waste them.

Hail the Ancestors!



### **Heroes Prayer**

written by Folkbuilder Mike Melillo

There are those, whose time was spent,  
in defense and service of others, known and unmet

Stood tall in the face of chaos and strife, all gave much, some even their life

Though through your deeds, you may have tired, your words and actions still yet  
inspire

Won for Gods and Folk, bright glory and fame, we shall never forget and speak loudly  
your name!

Hail the Heroes!

(Or, Hail a specific Hero, ex: Hail Allsherjargoði Sveinbjörn Beinteinsson!)



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## The Folk Remember



# Adam Sjöstedt

Y 5/4/93 - 11/23/25 A

Adam was a very bright young man, with incredible artistic gifts. He was also a warm, gentle man, who was very concerned with finding the right path for himself in this life, which lead him to find Ásatrú and the AFA. From the moment he joined, he was eager to reach out and connect with his fellow Ásatrúar, no matter how far away they were.

Adam's passing at such a young age is a great loss to the Folk still living. May it be a reminder to us all, that life is precious and fragile, and that we must be there for one another, in both good times and bad times. Nourish your bonds of Frith, and hold Troth to one another.

May you find your way to the halls of the ancestors, Adam. The Folk remember you.

Hail Adam Sjöstedt!

— Erik Lugnet, member, Sweden



Drawing by Adam

Adam Sjöstedt Y5/4/1993-11/23/2025. We are saddened by the loss of our brother and we hope he is now in the loving embrace of his ancestors. The Folk remember.

**Need Help? Reach out.**



Fine Folk, we would like to address you today to ensure that our Folk who are suffering are aware of all of the resources available to us.

We know that part of our Folk's soul sickness can manifest as thoughts of self-harm or suicide, and we want your all to know that we are here to help! Our Goðar are at your fingertips if you need help. Please reach out to us if you are having these harmful thoughts. We want to help you walk safely through difficult times and we want you to rely on your Folk and your Goðar.

Please reach out to [gothar@runestone.org](mailto:gothar@runestone.org), which goes directly to the inbox of our Goðar and Gyðjur. You can also reach out to our clergy via MeWe if you have an individual with whom you are more comfortable.

That said, sometimes that can be too personal. You do have other resources available to help if you are more comfortable with anonymity.

Below, you will find links to local suicide prevention resources:

- In the US and Canada, simply dial 988 to be connected to the National Suicide Prevention Hotline.
- In the UK, just dial 111 for help.
- In Sweden, dial 08-696 00 95.
- In Russia, dial +7(495) 989 50 50.
- In Australia, dial 13 11 14.

- You can find more hotlines, lifelines, and helplines here:

<https://www.iasp.info/suicidalthoughts/>

Your Folk are your Family. Your Goðar are here to help you stay in the Family. Please come to us for support when you need it.

## Ásatrú Trúlögmál



*Ásatrú Trúlögmál: The fundamental beliefs of the Asatru Folk Assembly.*

You can find it on our website at <https://www.runestone.org/trulogmal>.

We have known for a long time that a clear expression of the fundamental beliefs of the AFA was needed and recently, we took the first steps in presenting that in a clear and straight forward way. Please know this is the first step and is by no means all-encompassing. The intention here is to express the very fundamentals of our religion in one place, in a way that is easy for our AFA family to reference as well as a document to explain our religion to those who ask: "What is it that you guys believe?"

Hail the Heroes of Ásatrú that paved the way!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Hail the Æsir!



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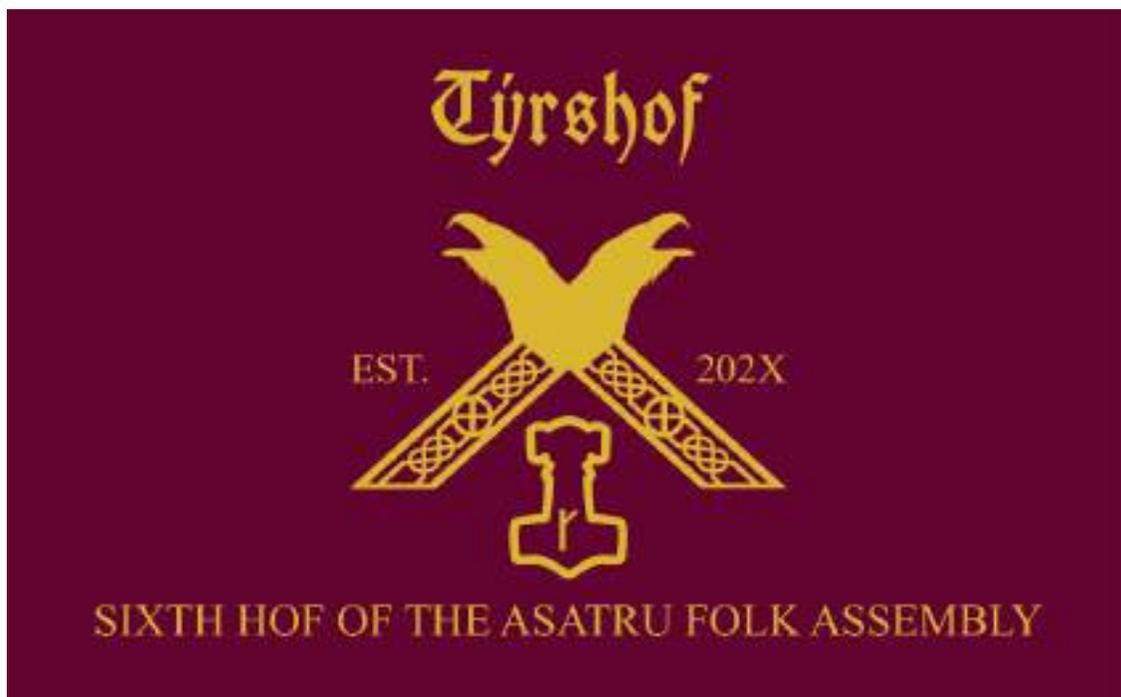
## The Quest for Týrshof

Yet remains that one of the Æsir who is called Týr: he is most daring, and best in stoutness of heart, and he has much authority over victory in battle; it is good for men of valor to invoke him. It is a proverb, that he is Týr-valiant, who surpasses other men and does not waver. He is wise, so that it is also said, that he that is wisest is Týr-prudent. This is one token of his daring:

when the Æsir enticed Fenris-Wolf to take upon him the fetter Gleipnir, the wolf did not believe them, that they would loose him, until they laid Týr's hand into his mouth as a pledge.

But when the Æsir would not loose him, then he bit off the hand at the place now called 'the wolf's joint;' and Týr is one-handed, and is not called a reconciler of men.

— Gylfaginning 25



Donate to make it happen at <https://store.runestone.org/product/freyshof-fund/>

Týrshof will be a very different task than our previous hofs. Týrshof will be built from the ground up as a hof to Lord Týr. Týrshof will be built at the AFA capital, Sigrheim, in Jackson County, Tennessee. The Æsir have blessed us with tremendous inspiration on this project and I look forward to sharing that with you as this project takes shape. Due to your tremendous generosity, I believe we will be starting on Týrshof much sooner than some might imagine.

This is the list of things that need to happen before we can break ground on Týrshof:

1. We need to pay off Freyshof; we are currently 33.8% paid owing \$82,748. (\$111/member would pay it off today!)
2. We need to find an architect/engineer that works with metal buildings. Ideally this person will be eager to do this sort of project.
3. We need to assemble a team of members with relevant skills and experience to help with the process. As of now we need site prep people, foundation people, architects/engineers, steel construction people, metal artists.

As developments are made, we will keep you updated and amend the steps necessary and the progress on those steps. This is a historic project and we are ready and resolved to accomplish this amazing task for Týr and the Æsir.

Heill Týr!



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## Sigrheim: Home of Victory

*Support the Home of Victory*



Help Sigrheim get stocked  
and ready for our Folk!

Click Here

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from our  
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**amazon**

Thank You!

<https://tinyurl.com/SigrheimWishlist>

*Upcoming Events*



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice  
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**Victory Never Sleeps**



Victory Never Sleeps, a weekly podcast, airing Wednesdays at 8pm Central, produced by the Asatru Folk Assembly, hosted by Allsherjargoði Matthew Flavel, and featuring weekly special guests speaking on spiritual topics pertaining to our Folk. The show doesn't stop until the questions quit rolling in. Come listen and learn about a variety of topics and truths relevant to our modern Ásatrú Folk.

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

Help support the stream and keep the cameras rolling!

Catch us LIVE with new episodes on Wednesdays at 8pm Central & 6pm Pacific on YouTube, Twitch, Odysee, VK, Rumble, and Twitch. Audio versions drop on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeartRadio, and Amazon Podcasts after the new episodes air.

Check out the full playlist of 170+ episodes comprising many 100's of hours of previous recordings on our YouTube.

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## AFA Ásatrú Academy



Check out the Ásatrú Academy at [AsatruAcademy.org](https://AsatruAcademy.org)

*Why Waldorf? Why the AFA Academy?*



Hello good Folk,

I wanted talk to everyone this month about a few things.

First, we understand. Not all parents are able to homeschool, even if they really would prefer it. Many families today must have 2 working parents, and homeschooling just isn't an option. We completely understand this. But, did you know that the AFA Ásatrú Academy doesn't just offer the complete program only? We also offer and encourage our parents to sign their children up for our religious instruction program. You don't need to be a full-time Academy student to enjoy our wonderful religious teachings and lessons. Even if your kids attend public or private school, we would love to have them enrolled in our religious studies program. This program will give your kids a solid foundation in our faith and teach them the fundamentals of Ásatrú and AFA doctrine and culture. Please reach out to us if you are interested!

Secondly, I'd like to take some time to talk to you about our educational philosophy and the program we use.

Our curriculum is heavily infused with Ásatrú, of course, but our foundational education and curriculum materials are from the Waldorf educational philosophy.

*What is Waldorf?*

Waldorf educational philosophy and application is a holistic and experiential styled education that focuses on developing the entire person. Waldorf education is based on experiences, imaginative play, and is developmentally based. This style fits a homeschool platform perfect. For example, even a trip to the grocery store is an opportunity to learn math, nutrition, economics, etc. Waldorf seeks to cultivate children's emotional life and imagination. The use of storytelling, drama, art, music is heavily focused upon. The founder of Waldorf, Rudolf Steiner, believed that standardized tests and textbooks should be kept at a minimum, and especially for younger children, that engaging in abstract intellectual activity too soon would actually adversely affect a child's growth and development. Waldorf breaks education up into 3 stages or epochs: early childhood, elementary, and secondary. Each of these epochs are 7 years long. Materials and strategies for learning are uniquely tailored to each epoch based on how a child develops at those ages.



Who was Rudolf Steiner? And why pick Waldorf? You may ask.

Rudolf Steiner was a German nationalist, writer, philosopher, spiritualist, and educator. He was a contemporary and was in the same circles as Meister Guido von List. Steiner also participated in this early 20th century spiritual movement. Aside from religion, Rudolf Steiner was also personally invited by Friedrich Nietzsche's sister to assist in archiving her brother's works. Steiner was an admirer of Nietzsche and jumped at the opportunity to meet the philosopher and to assist in preserving his works. Steiner got involved for a time in theosophy, however in contrast to mainstream Theosophy, Steiner sought to build a Western approach to spirituality based on the philosophical and mystical traditions of European culture.

Rudolf Steiner used his deeply spiritual background, his emersion in European culture and nationalism, and his academic background to build an educational philosophy designed to educate and develop strong, proud, healthy European men and women. He saw that traditional education was not doing this, and he sought to fix it.

The first Waldorf school opened in Stuttgart, Germany in 1919, and today, it is the largest independent school movement in the world! With more than 1200 independent private Waldorf schools, and 2000 kindergartens in 75 countries. There are also numerous Waldorf-based public schools, charter schools, and academies. Waldorf also has a robust homeschooling program, of which the AFA takes part.

We chose Waldorf because Waldorf specifically sets out to develop the whole person. The program is designed specifically to give a quality education and develop the mind, body, and spirit of the European man and woman. Rudolf Steiner was a proud European, nationalist, and for lack of a better term: he was our guy.

We hope you'll take advantage of the program we offer, that Herr Steiner designed for us, by an Aryan, for an Aryan!



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## Remembrance & Holy Days



[Holy Days | Asatru Folk Assembly](#)

- > January 9 - Raud the Strong <
- > January 17 - Þorablót <
- > January 18 - King Blót-Sveinn of Sweden <
- > February 1 - King Eanfrith of Bernicia <
- > February 9 - Eyvind Kinnrifa <
- > February 21 - Dísaping <
- > March 9 - Olvir of Egg <
- > March 20 - Austrá (observed on March 21) <
- > March 26 - Winguric <
- > April 9 - Jarl Hákon Sigurðarson <
- > April 10 - John "Stubba" Yeowell <
- > April 30 - Nornanótt (observed on April 18) <
- > May 1 - Sumarmál (observed on May 16) <
- > May 9 - Járnskeggja <
- > May 22 - John "Hoskuld" Gibbs-Bailey <
- > June 9 - King Athanaric of the Visigoths <
- > June 13 - Erik Klasson <
- > June 21 - Miðsumar (observed on June 20) <
- > July 4 - Sveinbjörn Beinteinsson <
- > July 15 - Alexander Rud Mills <
- > July 18 - Sigrblót <
- > August 1 - King Osric of Deira <
- > August 9 - King Radbod of Frisia <
- > August 15 - Freyfaxi <
- > September 9 - Prince Hermann of the Cherusci <
- > September 12 - Else Christensen <
- > September 22 - Haustblót (observed on September 19) <
- > October 4 - Goði Þorsteinn Guðjónsson <
- > October 5 - Meister Guido von List <
- > October 15 - Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen <
- > October 17 - Vetrnætr <
- > October 23 - King Aoric <
- > October 27 - Ragnvald Odinskarl <
- > November 9 - Queen Sigríðr of Sweden <
- > November 11 - Einherjablót (observed on November 21) <
- > November 18 - King Sexræd <
- > December 9 - Egill Skallagrímsson <
- > November 18 - King Sæward <
- > December 20-31 - Jól (observed on December 19) <

# Days of Remembrance

*Goði Rauðr the Strong | January 9th*



999 ♀

In January, during the time of Þórrablót, we honor Rauðr the Strong, whose shrine is at Njörðshof. His story takes place during the last decade of the 10th century, when Christianity was finally sinking its claws into Scandinavia.

Rauðr was a Norwegian warrior, landowner, sefarer, wizard, and Goði during the reign of King Olaf Tryggvason. Olaf, who is infamous for his relentless subjugation of his own Folk in the name of the foreign Christ, spent his reign (995-1000 CE) traveling through Norway, torturing and killing brave Europeans who would not forsake their Troth with the Æsir.

Eventually, Olaf the snake made his way to Rauðr's part of Norway, and he engaged in a sea battle with Rauðr's vessel, which was larger than any in Olaf's fleet. His fleet defeated Rauðr in the naval battle, but Rauðr's reputation as a wizard proved to be true, as he was able to escape to safety by sailing against the wind, which was largely unheard of in this part of Europe at that time.

Although Rauðr managed to escape to one of his settlements in the Godøy Isles, Olaf tracked him down under the cover of darkness and stole him from his bed. Once he and Rauðr were face to face, he tried to bribe Rauðr by letting him keep all of his lands and offered to be his best friend, so long as he would renounce the Æsir and embrace Christ. Rauðr immediately refused, dauntless even in the face of doom, mocking Christ and Christianity and Olaf himself.

Olaf became angry and would hear no more. He ordered the brave Goði to die a horrible death, and so a snake was forced down Rauðr's throat, eventually gnawing its way out through his side and killing him. Olaf then seized Rauðr's wealth, lands, and famous ship for himself. The rest of Rauðr's men were either baptized or killed in a similarly disgusting fashion.

Rauðr the Strong was dedicated to the Æsir from his first breath until his last, facing down death with his loyalty to his gods and folk unbroken.

May we ALL strive to remain loyal to the Æsir, even when surrounded by serpents! May Rauðr's name and glory burn like a torch through the darkness of doubt!

Hail Rauðr the Strong!

*King Blót-Sveinn | January 18th*





1087 ↴

Blót-Sveinn's story starts with the rule of his sister's husband, King Inge of Sweden. These events take place in the mid-to-late-11th century, when Christianity had spread its influence over nearly all of our Folk, including the Scandinavians.

According to our main source, the Icelandic *Hervavar's Saga*, King Inge was a Christian, but his people were still Ásatrú. When Inge took the throne, his people hoped that he would renounce the foreign Christ and give Blót to the Æsir at the temple of Uppsala, on behalf of the Swedish kingdom. Inge refused to do so and was then rightfully deposed by his people who wanted to keep their troth with the mighty Æsir.

His brother-in-law, who we now know as Blót-Sveinn, told the Folk of Sweden that he would take up the throne and give Blót to the Æsir for the sake of the Swedish people. The people joyfully proclaimed him King of Sweden, and thus returned to being an Ásatrú nation. However this glorious moment was short-lived, a few years later Inge returned to Sweden with a small retinue of men and lit King Blót-Sveinn's home on fire, killing him. Although Ásatrú was once again suppressed in Sweden by force, King Blót-Sveinn's courage is something to be remembered and celebrated.

What can we learn from this story?

As modern day Ásatrúar, we can take much inspiration from the King's example. He managed to be both an aristocrat, as well as someone who could relate to his people and give them what they wanted and needed. He fearlessly stood in the way of rampaging Christianity, even publicly giving Blót to the Æsir at Uppsala on behalf of his Folk. He did not let sociopolitical pressure or greed for the Christians' coin stop him; rather, he pressed forward with both piety and strength. Had he not been felled by the underhanded work of Inge, he would certainly have been a mighty leader of a mighty Ásatrú Sweden for many prosperous years!

Let us all reflect on this and take courage into our modern lives, just like King Blót-Sveinn!

Hail King Blót-Sveinn!

# Holiday

## *Þorrablót | January 17th*



Þorrablót is an Icelandic midwinter festival dedicated to, as the name describes, Þórr. Þorrablót is named after the Icelandic month of Þorri from the historic-calendar and ran from mid-January to mid-February. Though Þorrablót is a relatively modern social celebration in Iceland, there is a reference in the Flateyjarbók that states that the Kvens offered a yearly sacrifice to Þorri at mid-winter. Typically, Þorrablót is celebrated by gathering together and eating many of Iceland's traditional foods and by singing, reciting poems, and telling stories.

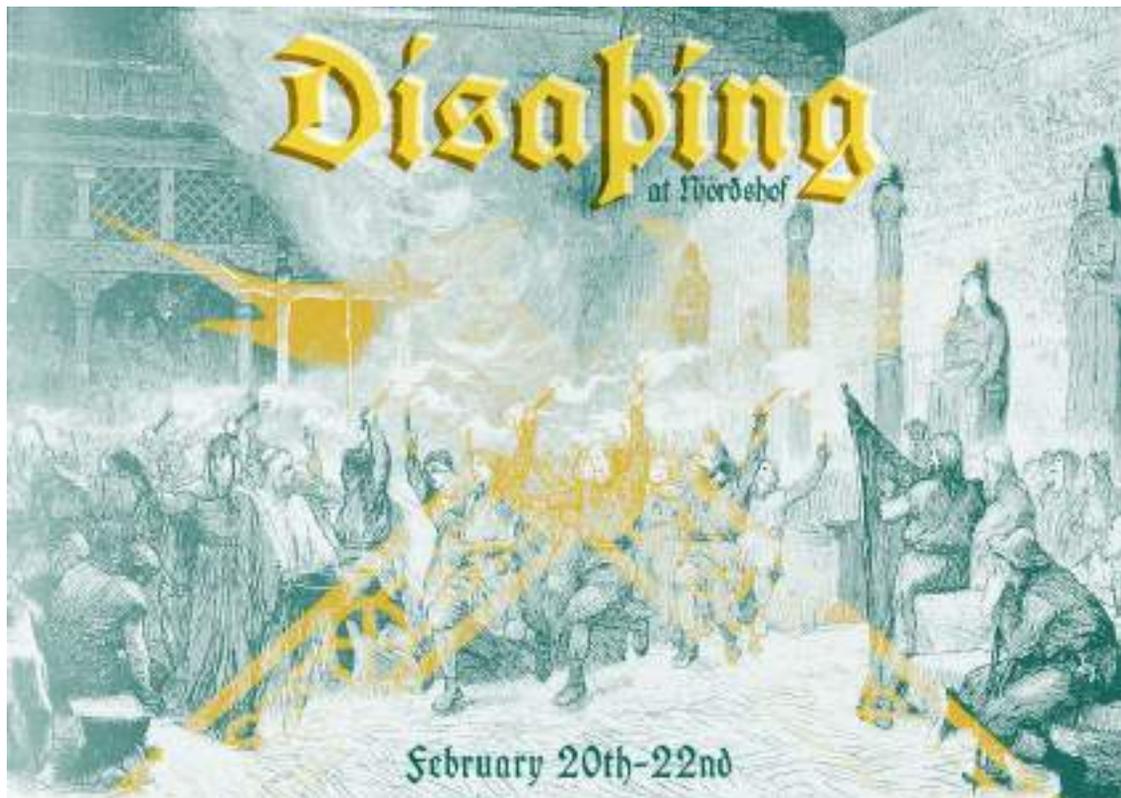
Some good ways to celebrate Þorrablót include eating traditional Icelandic foods, such as Hákarl (putrefied shark), Blóðmör (blood suet, filled sausage/black pudding), Hrútspungur (ram's scrotum with testicles), Lundabaggi (sheep's fat), or Svið (burnt sheep's head).

Don't worry! If these are unavailable, or simply not to your taste, eating goat and goat products such as goat cheese or goat milk are also appropriate options.

Called by some as the cabin fever holiday Þorrablót is a great way to liven up the doldrums of mid-winter. So take some time to light a fire and make merry. Have the Folk tell stories or recite poems about Þórr. Eat, drink, and enjoy the company of Folk and family.

## Upcoming National Event

*Þínging | February 20th-22nd*



RSVP at <https://store.runestone.org/product/disathing/>.

You are cordially invited to Dísaping at Njörðshof, the Fourth Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly from Friday, February 20th to Sunday, February 22nd in White Springs, Florida. This is the Hof's national event, so we will have great food, multiple rituals, auction, and more!

Please RSVP to get more information and to ensure we have enough food to feed all of our guests. Please register one ticket for each member of your family who will be attending. This event is completely free to attend.

RSVP at <https://store.runestone.org/product/disathing/>.



Witan Trent East  
[teast@runestone.org](mailto:teast@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.

## Want to Get Involved?



## 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 since 2020 and has been a resounding success! The Ladies of the AFA have knitted, crocheted, and sewn beautiful baby blankets for over 120 of our littlest folk, with more on the way. They've been delivered everywhere from Alaska to Florida to California to Sweden!

If you are a member of the AFA who is expecting a baby, please let your Folkbuilder know so that 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, and we will get you in touch with the right people. It's so rewarding to see your handicraft being loved by our precious wee-Folk!

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! Thank you!



## 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](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!

## Calling All Folk Photographers



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 honoured. Please send these to:

Allen Turnage

PO Box 16027  
Tallahassee FL, 32317



Witan Allen Turnage  
[aturnage@runestone.org](mailto:aturnage@runestone.org)

## AFA Prison Ministry



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

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

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

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

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

**AFA Reminder Texts**

# GET AFA TEXTS STRAIGHT TO YOUR PHONE



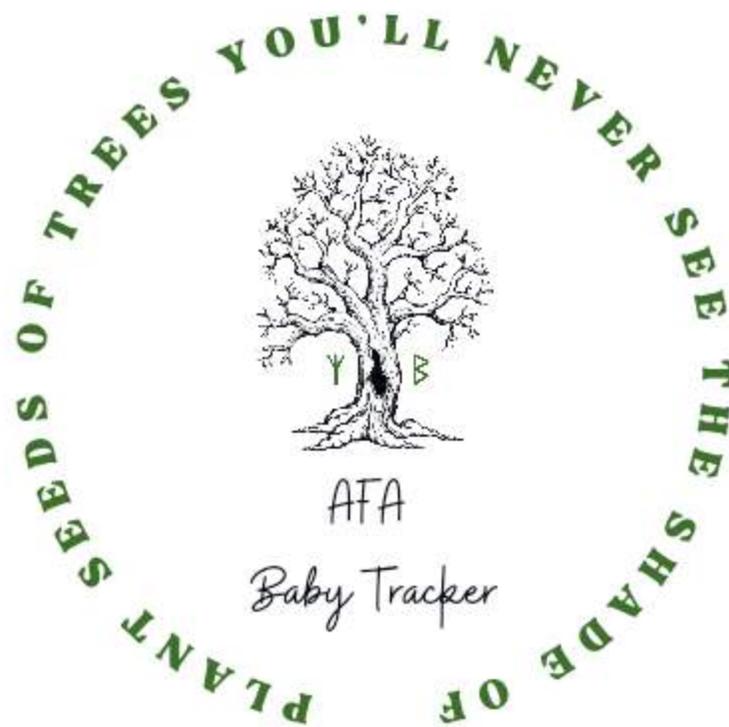
REMINDERS, DAILY SPIRITUAL,  
PRAYER REQUESTS

CONTACT SIERRA AT  
[schapman@runestone.org](mailto:schapman@runestone.org)



Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman  
[schapman@runestone.org](mailto:schapman@runestone.org)

## Baby Tracker



To show the growth of our Folk we present to you an ongoing baby tracker. We have been keeping track of how many children have been and are born within the AFA from 2022 and onwards. 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 2025: 23

## Online Events and Meetings

### **Lore Study with Gothi Jason Plourde**

**Join us every Tuesday night**

**at**

**6:00 pm EST**

**5:00 pm CST**

**4:00 pm MST**

**3:00 pm PST**

**2:00 pm AKST**

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

**For more information  
reach out to Gothi Plourde  
[jplourde@runestone.org](mailto:jplourde@runestone.org)**



**AFA Ladies Book Study**

**MEAD CUP MONDAYS!**

**LADY**

**WITH A MEAD CUP**

LADY WITH A MEAD CUP

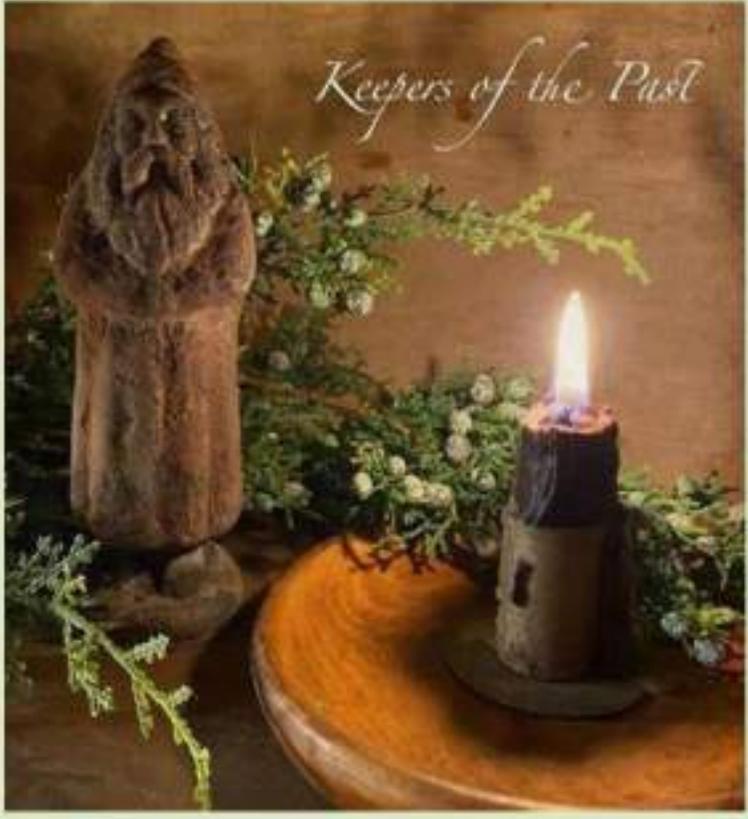
RITUAL, PROPHECY AND LORDSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN WARRAND FROM LA VENE TO THE VIRGIN AGE

Michael J. Dwyer

Every first Monday of the month  
 Starting June 2, 2025 5pm PT/8pm ET  
 PDF and Meeting Link available on MeWe  
 or by request

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





*Keepers of the Past*

**January  
6<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup>**  
*NEW TIMES*  
6:00 PT, 7:00 MT  
8:00 CT, 9:00 ET

**AFA Eldri**

**Virtual Meetings**  
A place for members  
age 50 and above to  
gather and chat.  
**Join our MeWe Group**

**CONTACT**  
Gyöja Sheila McNallen  
Sheila@runestone



Just for Fun



Blessed Þorrablót to you all!

# Ása-Pórr and Þorrablót

M I O F J S U W E E X P B K P R O A W V O C W N  
 T S O F R O U I O Y I U C O C E P O J W Y P A F  
 A J H O H O A R I D L G P O R R I S P H E J R I  
 N T H A P T A K S D J O W U A J P J M A O A R S  
 H A L O W P I B G A C O H S I F D J T K X R I M  
 G N O M I I M R O D D T E N P F L L A O N O K  
 N M R A A T H D I U W I Y U E L O D W R U G R C  
 J G R I A G P R D D A R R N D I P R L D R H O  
 O R I E R Y H R E S G R R H A B X G H W I E C P  
 S I D P W S G I P I Y A P D R I A C H B Y I E O  
 T S I E E A R R X O D O R O E U N N O T O P M O  
 R N D Y E V I D I A R M A D R R T S E B N R B B  
 L I E J I D D U E D O R A C R R E S R C L I D L  
 B R D I T W A L D E H I A R C I J W P A I E N O  
 K I F Y I J R K M P W E D B R O L A O U P P P G  
 M O U X P R V U H C F T U K L H I M R U N U G P  
 Y C J S O O O P C W B M U M B O D C Y H Y G A J  
 Y K U X P O L V E U R R I D W A T V P R S F A I  
 E C T C O K R D V D Y R W M J O L N I R O A E R  
 B S U R E I D A R T Y R F U C O D I N N I E X T  
 I V E R J X E M O D I G F A Y U V O O D E O N A  
 O I O S T I K T T D F M E G I N G J O R D V V O  
 H D M K P V E T C L A W X S T O R M S K E U J E  
 S L I C O U R A G E O J O R D O T H U N D E R J

- Pórr
- Þorrablót
- Þorri
- Hákarl
- Svið
- Courage
- Hlórriði
- Véurr
- Hreiðmarr
- Járngreipr
- Járnsaxa
- Jörð
- Jötunbane
- Lightning
- Magni
- Móði
- Megingjörð
- Miðgarðr
- Mjólnir
- Gríðarvölr
- Oak
- Rains
- Reiðartýr
- Sif
- Storms
- Tanngnjóstr
- Tanngrisnir
- Thunder
- Warder
- Warrior
- Óðinn
- Þruðr



Feel free to send your colored creations or finished puzzle to [press@runestone.org](mailto:press@runestone.org) for a shout-out in the next issue!



Enjoy! Hail Þórr!

## Grow Your Daily Practice



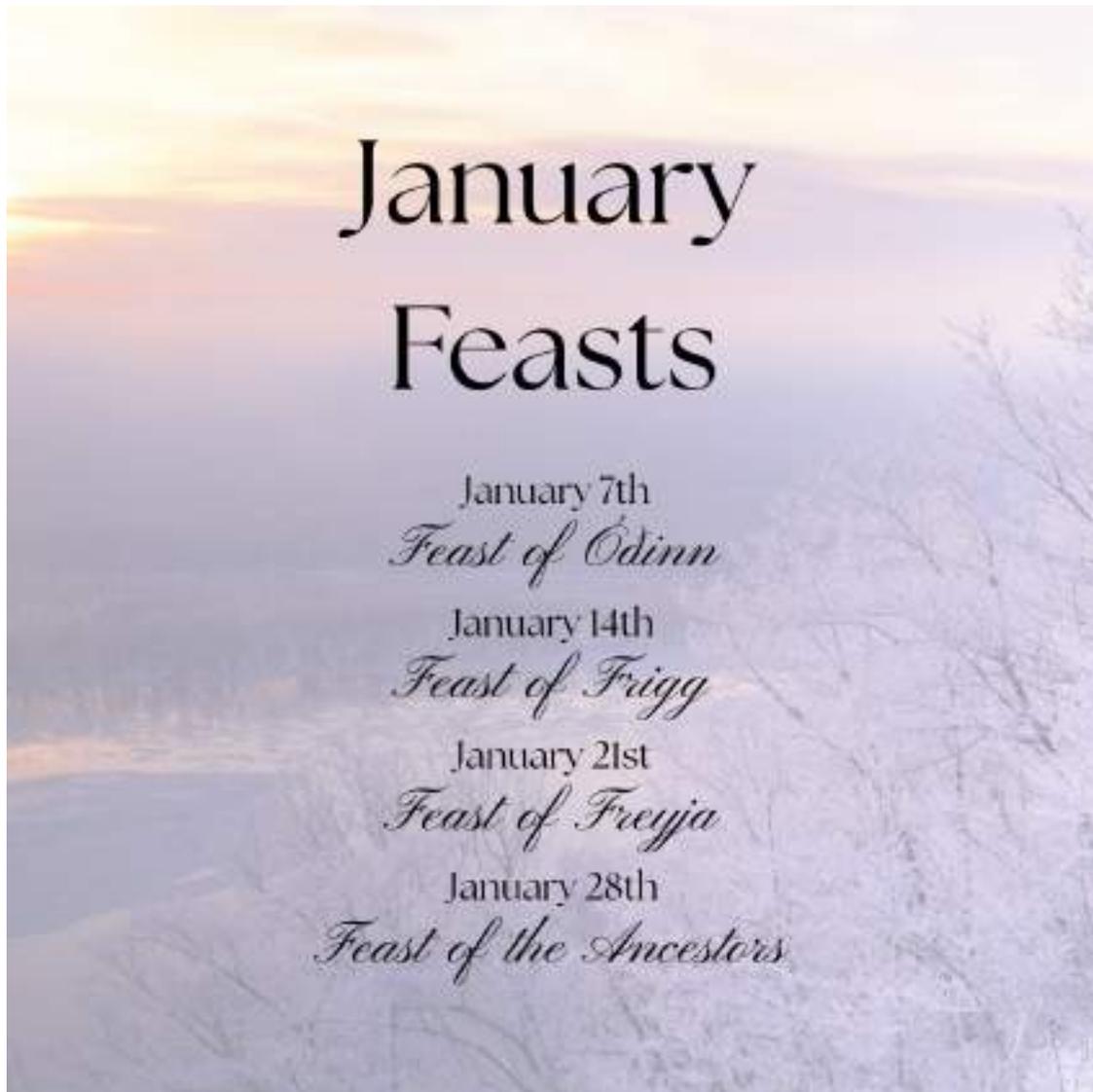
Please join me in the daily practice of Ásatrú, the worship of the Æsir & Ásynjur, and on the journey to spiritual awareness and understanding each day of 2026.

All members of the Asatru Folk Assembly are welcome to be a part of this group on MeWe. It is a "side quest," or rather, a pet project of mine, to help our Folk find a daily practice of their own through examples, study, and active worship.

Please join us:

<https://mewe.com/join/dailyasatruwithbrandy>

We'll also be following a schedule listed here in *The Runestone* of weekly prayer days broken down monthly alongside accompanying prayers to the Æsir. Here's everything we'll need until the newsletter.



Hail to the Wanderer, cloaked in the grey,  
The one-eyed seeker who walks the fray.  
Father of wisdom, through trial earned,  
Master of runes, by sacrifice learned.

In battle's din, your ravens soar,  
Gathering the slain to Valhøll's door.  
Bearer of frenzy, of poetry's fire,  
Stirring the hearts with ruthless desire.

Óðinn, we hail your sacred name,  
Bringer of wisdom and victor's claim.



Hail, Frigg, great queen of Asgard's throne,  
Of Fensalir's halls, where feminine strength is sown.  
Mother of Baldr, so steadfast and wise,  
Your will unshaken when chaos does rise.

Spinner of will, silent and keen,  
Keeper of truths both unheard and unseen.  
Protector of kin, unyielding and strong,  
Guide us in honor our whole lives long.

Regal Frigg, our Folk defend,  
Steer our fates to their rightful end.



Freyja, golden goddess, powerful and fair,  
 Daughter of Njordr, sea's boundless care,  
 Sister of Freyr, the harvest's delight,  
 Wife of Odr, lost in the night.

Through tears of gold, your beauty shined,  
 Even in struggle, your strength refined.  
 Brisingamen gleams, a radiant spark,  
 Magic and courage, the guiding mark.

Chooser of heroes for Fólkvangr's field,  
 With your name on our lips, we humbly yield.



# February Feasts

February 4th

*Feast of Þórr*

February 11th

*Feast of Sif*

February 18th

*Feast of Sága*

February 25th

*Feast of the Ancestors*

Ása-Þórr, wielder of Mjólnir's might,  
 Champion of courage, defender of right,  
 Grant us the strength to stand and fight,  
 To face our own jötunn and conquer the night.

Your hammer strikes with purpose clear,  
 A justice all foes must fear.  
 With steadfast will, you lead the way,  
 Through storm or struggle, we will not sway.

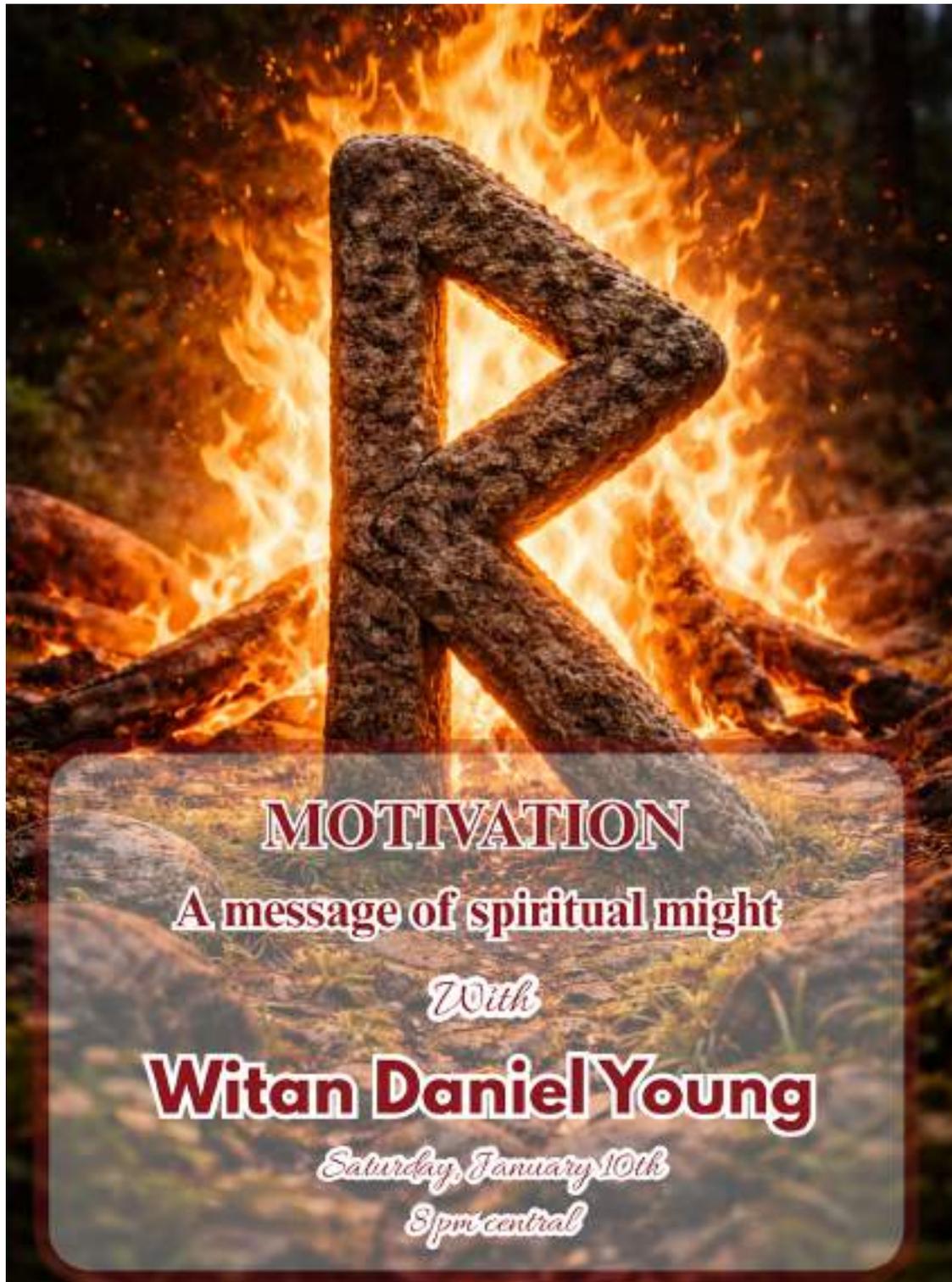
Protector of Midgard, noble and true,  
 Hail the Striker, we honor you.




Witan Brandy Fassett  
[bfassett@runestone.org](mailto:bfassett@runestone.org)

## Ásatrú Basics

New to 2026, the AFA will be hosting online classes taught by our Goðar and leadership on a variety of basic Ásatrú concepts. Open to all members, reach out to Witan Fassett at [bfassett@runestone.org](mailto:bfassett@runestone.org) for more information and the link.



# **MOTIVATION**

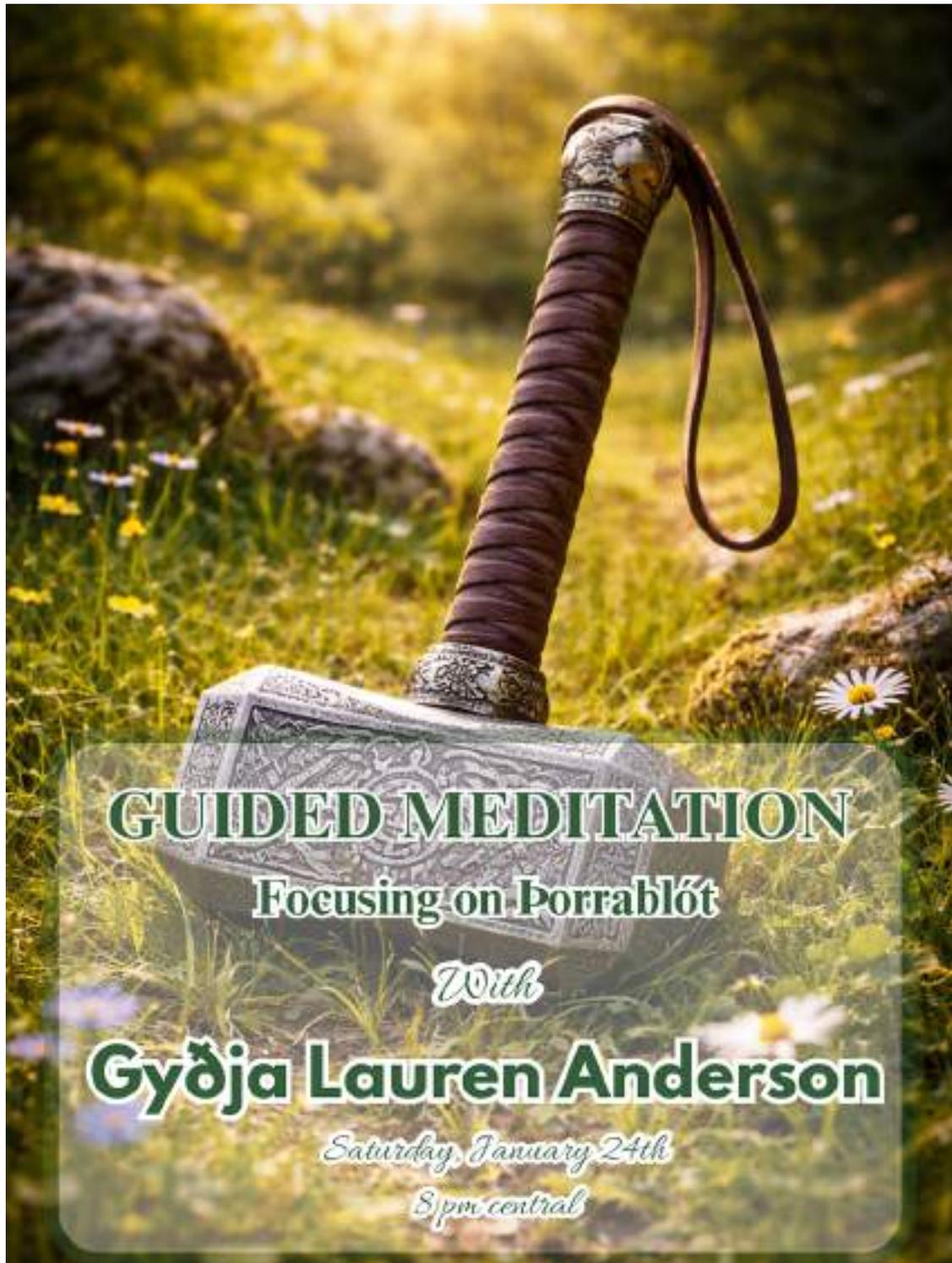
**A message of spiritual might**

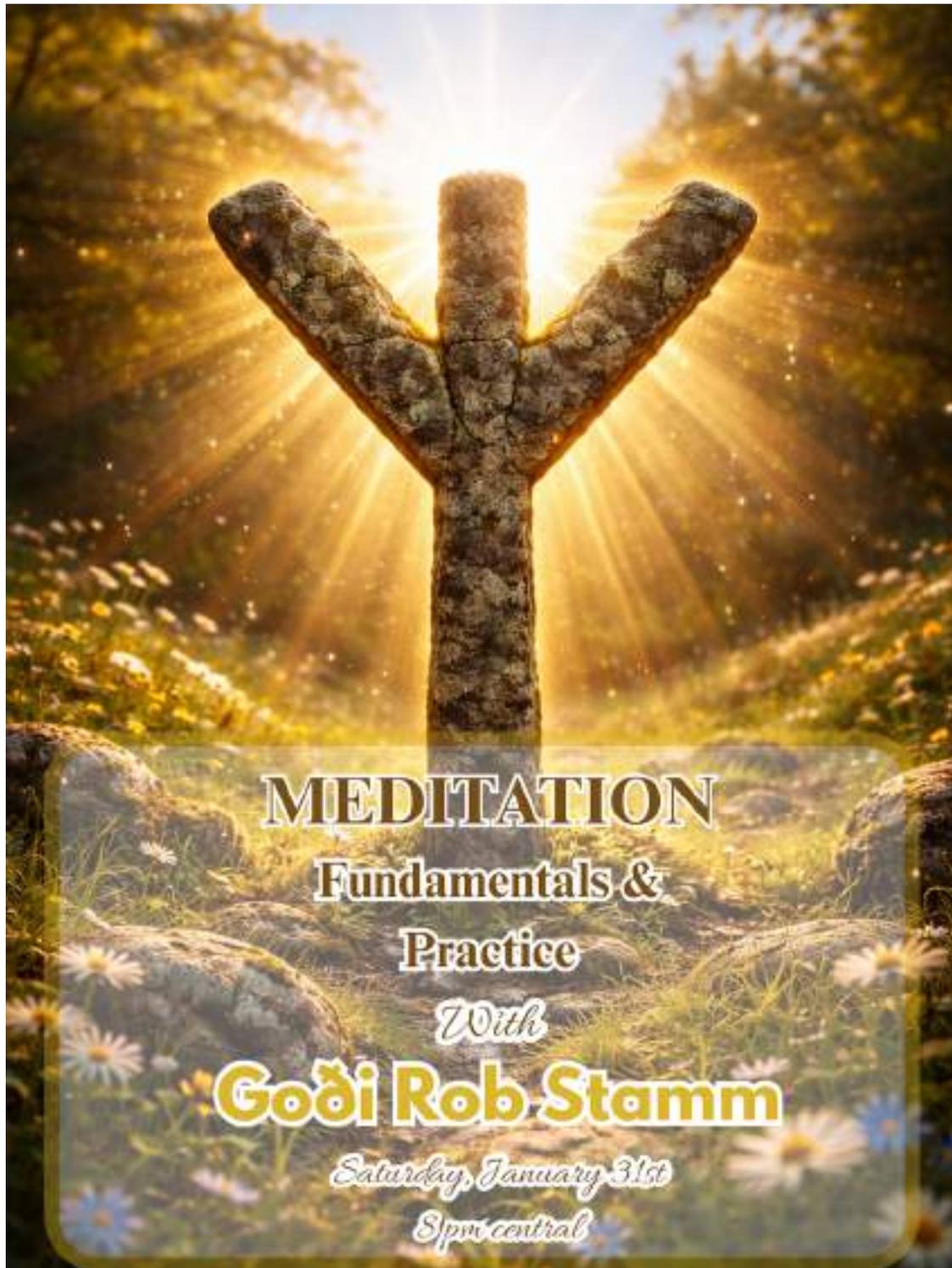
*With*

**Witan Daniel Young**

*Saturday, January 10th*

*8pm central*





# MEDITATION

Fundamentals &  
Practice

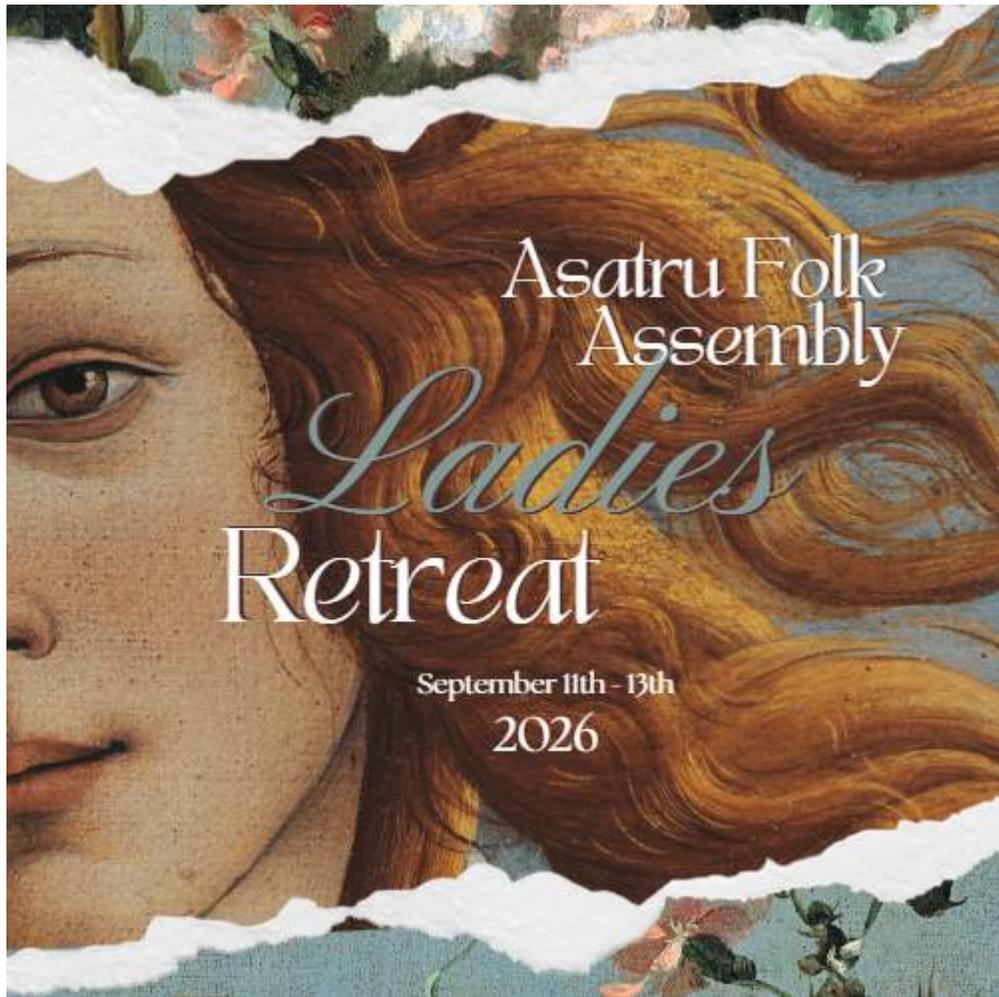
*With*

**Goði Rob Stamm**

*Saturday, January 31st*

*8pm central*

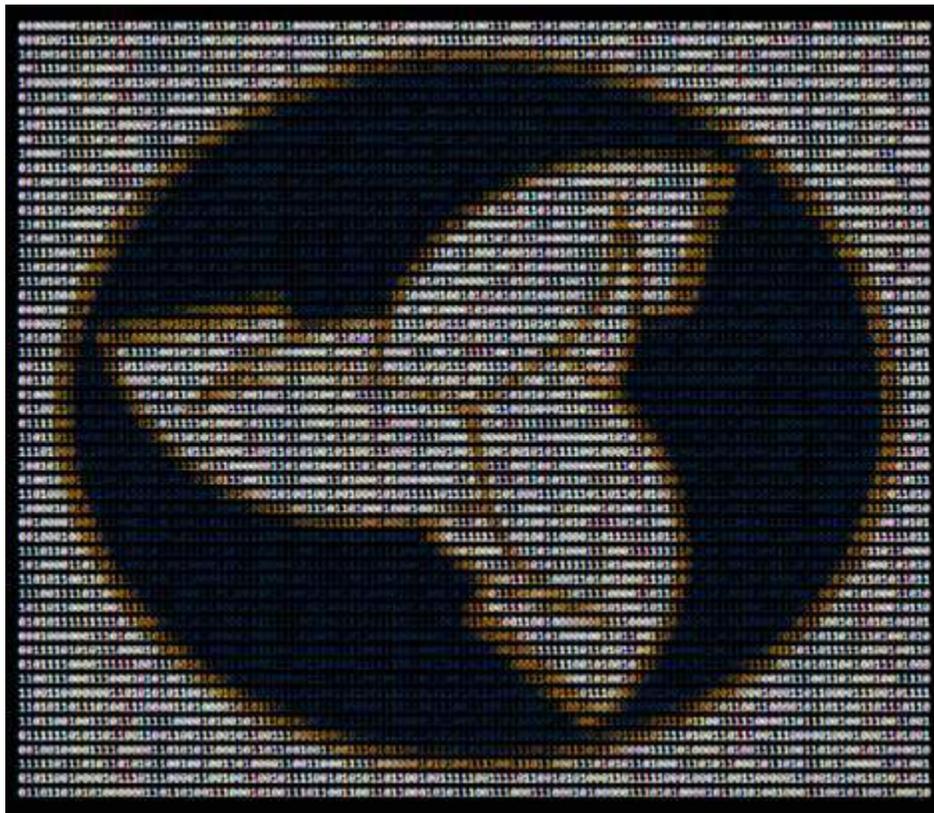
**2026 Ladies' Retreat**





**AFA STEMCELS**

*Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math  
Community Education and Learning Service*



Have you ever considered a career in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM)? STEM positions have great work-life balance, high compensation, job security, and can be done remotely.

The goal of STEMCELS is to help AFA members learn the skills needed for technical positions and help them find gainful employment using our professional network. We currently have mentors in General Software Engineering, Data Engineering, and Embedded Engineering, including some with Silicon Valley experience. We are holding information sessions to help you decide if any of these disciplines are right for you. The sessions include:

- Possible career paths
- Necessary skills and mindset
- What a typical workday looks like

If this interests you or if you're interested in becoming a mentor, please send an email to [stemcels@runestone.org](mailto:stemcels@runestone.org).

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



**Óðinshof**  
First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly



[www.odinshof.org](http://www.odinshof.org)

## Food Pantry at Óðinshof



Our Jóltide Food Pantry and Toy Giveaway. Our Óðinshof Food pantry-year ended much like November's distribution with blustery winds and drenching rain. But none of that prevented folks from getting what they came for. Again, there were no turkeys or hams, but each family got a twelve pound box of items for their holiday dinner plus an extra bag with peanut butter, pasta, and other staple-goods.

Spirits were high as drivers made their circuit around our driveway. My husband went car-to-car, chatting them up with warm holiday wishes. All were reminded that this was also the day for our annual Jóltide Toy Giveaway.

At 11:00, it was now time for the toys. Families who came for food began gathering inside our hall as our attention switched from food to gifts. Each parent filled out a sheet that gave us information about the family. Toys-for-Tots had provided us with five huge bags of mystery toys. Volunteers quickly set them out by age, starting with infants and ending with teens.



The process went quickly as everyone sought to get back to the warmth of their homes. Earlier years had more of a party atmosphere, but that was when the food pantry was on Saturday followed with toys on Sunday. No coffee, cocoa, or cookies this year due to fewer volunteers and the inclement weather.

Regardless, it was still a very successful day. We provided food for 55 households representing 174 individuals. Several of our regulars didn't come the past two months due to rain, but we added lots of new families.

As for the Jóltide Toy Giveaway, we provided gifts to a total of 50 children in 17 families. Of those parents, nine said they were interested in learning more about Óðinshof and three want to volunteer.

Talking about volunteers, they are essential to a successful gathering. Opa Jim and Diane, Mike, Ashley, Jason, Dustin, Jake, Ross, Courtney, Danielle – and many others. Thank you for bringing Óðinshof 2025 to a victorious ending!



Hofgyðja Sheila McNallen  
[sheila@runestone.org](mailto:sheila@runestone.org)

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## Jól at Óðinshof



Our gathering at Óðinshof this year for Jól was wonderful! The Hof was so beautifully decorated and lit with seasonal garlands, warm lights and festive Jóltide touches, glowing as brightly as our fellowship that day. Thank you to the Sutherlands for bringing the beautiful Jól tree, to the Preciados and all our brothers and sisters who helped in many ways to make our Allfather's temple look so wonderful for our gathering. As Folk

began to gather at the Hof for the day's festivities, we assembled in the hall in front of Lord Óðinn's altar for a candlelit Sumbl, speaking heartfelt words over the horn to honor our Gods and Ancestors.



After a hearty lunch of chicken soup, the rainy weather kept most inside for the afternoon, and the hall was full of life. Activities for the children included Jól crafts,

story time with Hofgyðja McNallen, and a special visit from Opa Jól and Julian the Jól Elf! Gifts were given, friendships were made and strengthened, and much fun was had by all. We tied bright ribbons embodying our joys to the straw Jól goat, which would be offered later during Blót.



In the evening, the Folk were led by Allsherjargoði Flavel in a Jól Blót to our holy Æsir, and the traditional offering of the Jól goat was made to the flames. Accompanied by strong rain, the sunwheel was set alight and we lifted our voices to praise the holy names of our Æsir and Ásynjur; may They continue to bless and guide our paths in the coming new year! Hail the Ancestors and Landvættir! As we all returned back inside, we hailed Lord Óðinn one by one as we re-entered his temple, and we prepared for a delicious dinner. We enjoyed an evening of frith and feasting, a gift exchange, and seasonal songs. As Folk prepared to head home for the evening, preparation was made for Sunday's Food Pantry and Community Toy Giveaway. Our Folk are amazing, and we loved seeing you all, please come join us next at Þorrablót on January 17th!

Hail the Æsir! Hail the Folk! Hail the AFA!



Gyðja Lauren Anderson  
[landerson@runestone.org](mailto:landerson@runestone.org)

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## Upcoming Events at Óðinshof

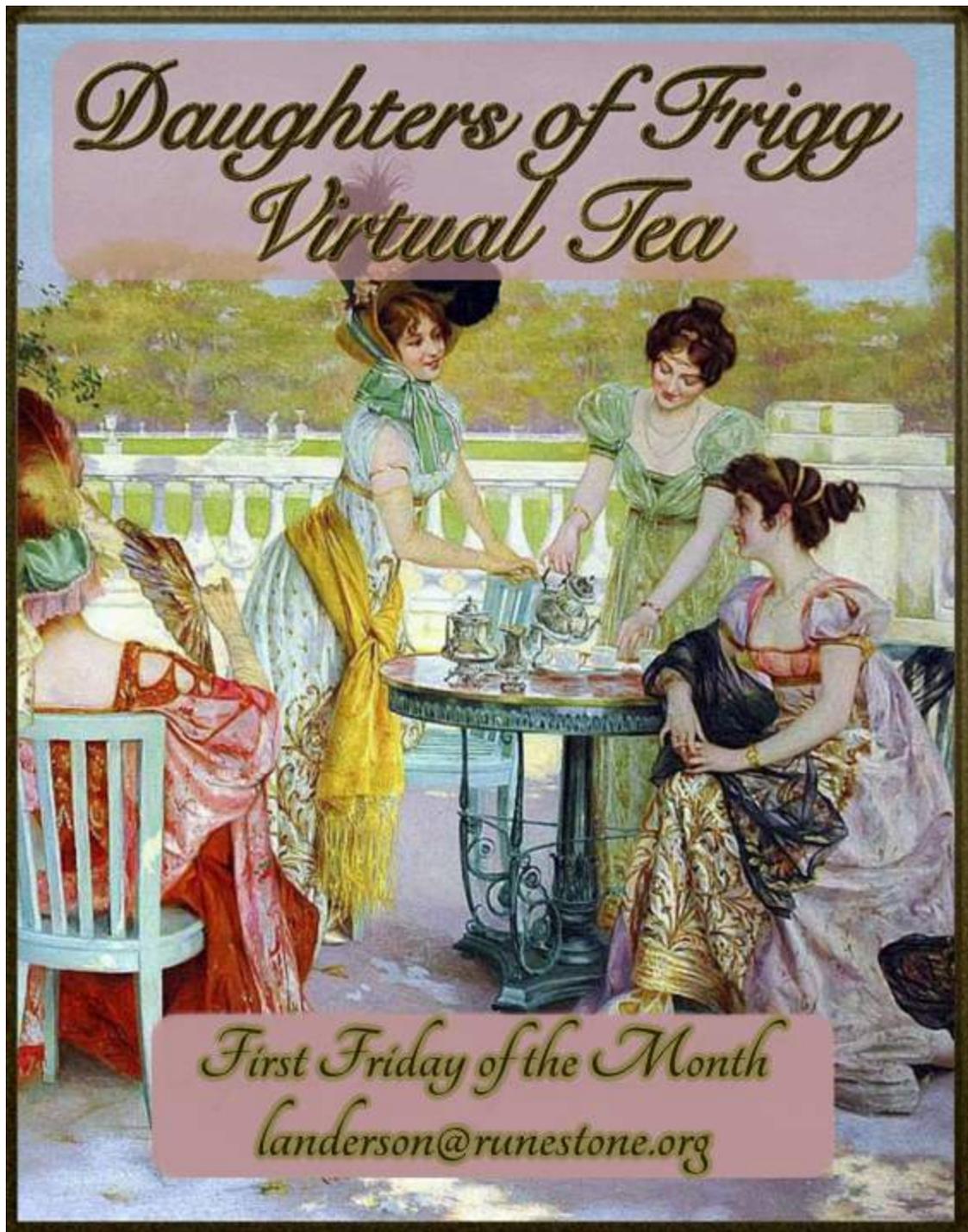




## Óðinshof Wishlist



**Monthly Virtual Members' Meetings**



*Daughters of Frigg  
Virtual Tea*

*First Friday of the Month  
landerson@runestone.org*

# Odinsfolk Chat *a virtual meetup*

Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PT, 8:00 MT

*Let's cozy-up to the fire. Brrr.....*

Contact: [sheila@runestone.org](mailto:sheila@runestone.org)



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## Monthly Members' Meeting



**Óðinshof**  
**Monthly Members'**  
**Meeting**

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**Last Friday of the Month at 7pm Pacific**



**Links Emailed and Posted to MeWe**  
**Contact Any Folkbuilder for Assistance**

Don't forget the last Friday of the month we have our Óðinshof Monthly Membership Meeting! This month we will be talking about Dísaping formerly known as Charming of the Plow, as well as our Heilagmaðr. We will talk about runic magic and how to incorporate Ásatrú Book studies into your daily life! You won't wanna miss this.



Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman  
[schapman@runestone.org](mailto:schapman@runestone.org)

## Arizona

### *Upcoming Events*



Folkbuilder Lou Nickerson  
[lnickerson@runestone.org](mailto:lnickerson@runestone.org)

## Australia

### *Yuletide: Standing at the Turning*



Jóltide is a time to pause and take stock.

Not in a loud or ceremonial way, but in a deliberate one. The year reaches a turning point, the sun's path shifts, and the cycle moves on - whether we stop to notice it or not. Jóltide is the reminder to notice.

Our ancestral ways were shaped by close attention to nature. Our ancestors watched the land, the sky, and the seasons, not out of sentimentality, but because survival depended on understanding change. Jóltide marks one of those moments when awareness mattered.

Even in the Southern Hemisphere, where this time of year brings heat and long days, the turning still happens. The sun stands strong, but it has reached its height. From here, the year begins to lean toward its next phase. That quiet shift is what Jóltide is really about.

This is a good time for reflection.

Jóltide invites us to look back over the year without unnecessary judgement. To consider what was carried, what was endured, and what was learned. Not everything needs to be celebrated - but everything can be acknowledged. There is value in simply recognising the road already walked.

It is also a time to hold our ancestors in mind.

Not as distant figures, but as people who faced uncertainty, change, and hardship with the tools they had. They lived within cycles, adapted when they had to, and left us more than stories - they left us perspective. Jóltide is an opportunity to remember that we are part of something longer than our own moment.

Nature continues its rhythm regardless of our plans or beliefs. The year turns. Growth gives way to rest, and rest prepares the ground for what comes next. Paying attention to that rhythm can bring a sense of steadiness that modern life often lacks.

From that steadiness comes readiness.

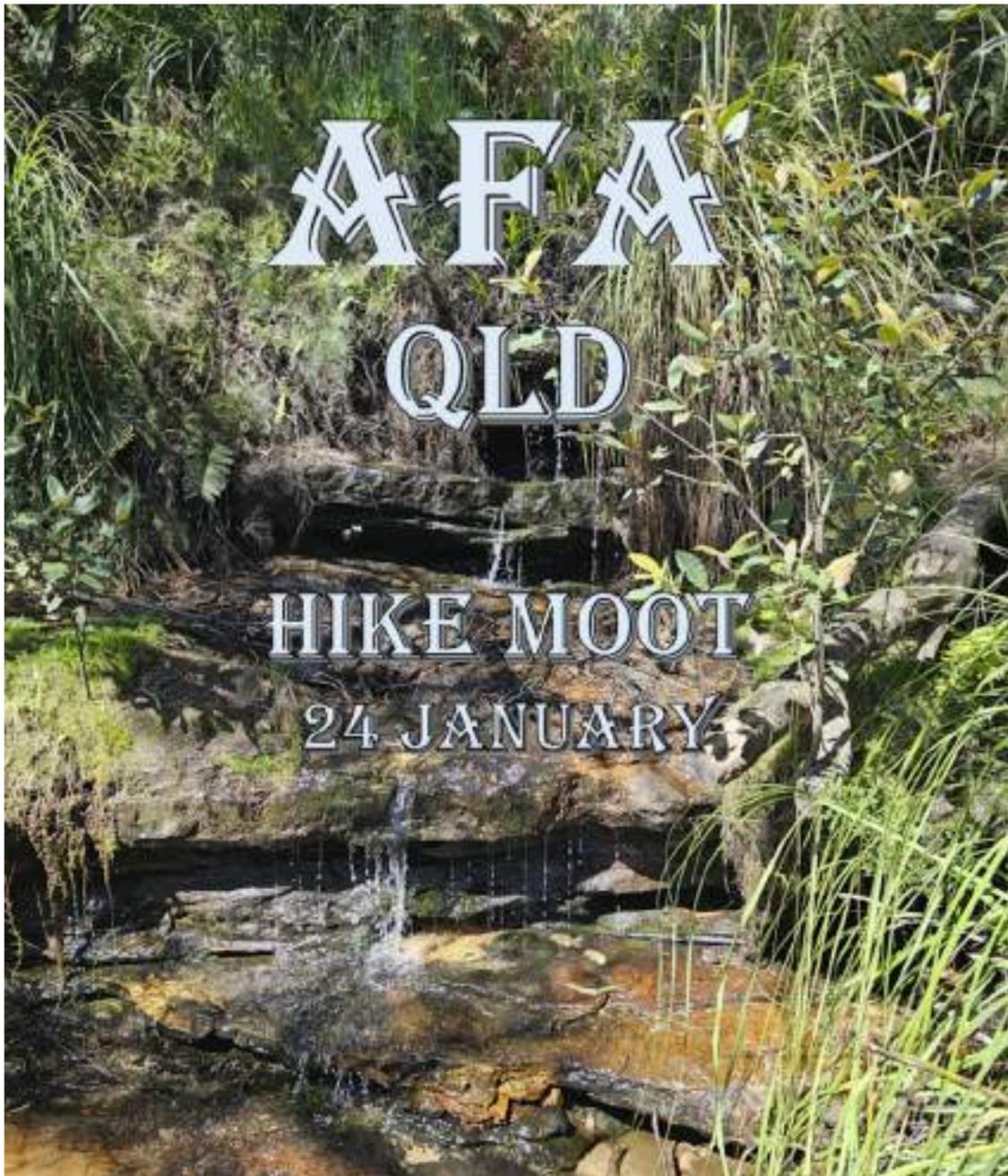
As the year turns, so does our focus. Jóltide is not about forcing optimism, but about recognising possibility. A new year is here. Whatever it brings, it will meet us shaped by what we have already lived through.

Marking Jóltide can be as simple as acknowledging the turning, remembering those who came before, and setting your feet firmly in the present moment.

The cycle continues.

And we continue within it.

*Upcoming Events*



Chris McDonald  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[cmcdonald@runestone.org](mailto:cmcdonald@runestone.org)

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## California

## *The Power of 1%*



Can you tell 1% of the bill was missing?

Seems insignificant, right?

It is not though!

*Hoftollr!*

- Utility and Facility Maintenance: Keeping the lights on and the facilities operational is essential for the smooth functioning of our church. Combatting the increasing costs, such as insurance and power. A Hoftollr 1% may seem negligible at first glance, but this contribution helps cover utility bills, facility maintenance costs, much needed renovations, and other overhead expenses that are vital for creating a welcoming and functional space for worship, fellowship, and community activities.
- Local and Global Outreach: Hoftollr support, though modest in percentage, plays a crucial role in facilitating our local and global outreach efforts. Whether it's funding community events and various community engagement, 1% counts toward making a positive and lasting difference in the lives of our Folk, both near and far.
- Running the Food Pantry: Hoftollr 1% may seem small on paper, but when you consider how it contributes to running essential services like our food pantry, its impact becomes clear. That 1% could translate into transporting the freely acquired food, maintaining clean and secure pantry space, or covering operational costs, ensuring that every family in need has access to food assistance.

While 1% may appear small numerically, its impact is magnified when you consider how it sustains vital services and initiatives within our churches. Hoftollr contributions,

whether financial or otherwise, play a significant role in supporting our church's mission, fostering engagement, and meeting the needs to bring honor to our Holy Gods, our Ancestors, and to secure the future of our Folk.

Reach out to your Folkbuilder and ask about Hoftollr today!



Folkbuilder Ryan Skinner  
[rskinner@runestone.org](mailto:rskinner@runestone.org)

*Upcoming Events*



Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman  
[schapman@runestone.org](mailto:schapman@runestone.org)

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## Colorado

### *Warm Greetings From Colorado!*



We had an unseasonably warm December here in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado!  
So, here's a Warm Jól Greeting from your highest members!



We had our Jól gathering down in Cañon City, Colorado this year. We held Blót to Óðinn followed by an amazing Sumbí with lots of mead from our beloved Dan and Theryn of Colorado and some meads brought to Colorado from Texas makers too. All were delicious!

We ate a very hearty meal of Irish Stew, chicken, homemade breads, and pumpkin chocolate muffins.



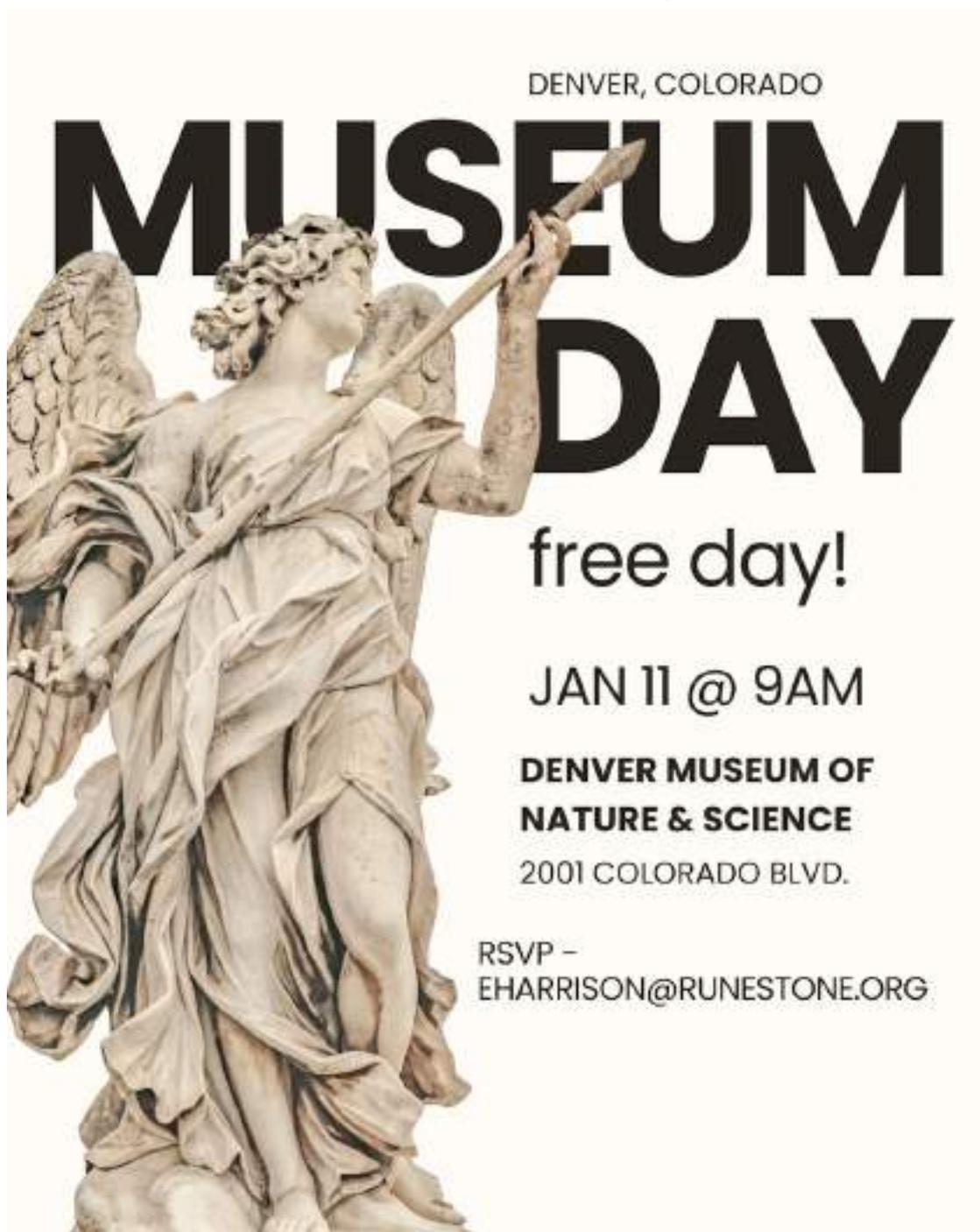
A fun gift exchange happened with yummy tins full of fudge, hand knit hats, and treasures brought back from Sweden from one of our members.

We definitely missed our friends who were not able to make it due to work schedules and other commitments.

### *Upcoming Events*



Please join us for our first Moot of the year. It's a virtual online moot to make our plans for 2026. Bring your bucket list of adventures you'd like to go on and let's make this happen! Please download the free Teams app and join us on January 10th at 7pm from the comfort of your home. We'll send out the meeting link via email.



We'll be following that up with a trip to the museum in the Mile-High City.



Erin Harrison  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[eharrison@runestone.org](mailto:eharrison@runestone.org)

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**Idaho**

*Upcoming Events*



Annika Peterson  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[apeterson@runestone.org](mailto:apeterson@runestone.org)

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**Montana**

*A Western Montana Jól*



Another year has come and gone. December really seemed to fly by for some reason. Warmer than normal weather has made for additional time and activities outside, but it really hindered the hunting in these parts. Despite not filling our freezer with the bounty of the forest, we're still doing well and enjoying life in the Northern Rockies.



The month began with Krampusnacht; boots and carrots left out for Sleipnir and hopes to not be snatched by Krampus. Our family's day of remembrance for Egill Skallagrímsson was on the 9th. A simple dinner and lighting a candle while reading his story and hailing his memory. December is also the month in which our girls have their first dance performance after a break during fall. The Festival of Trees is an annual event in which local businesses elaborately decorate Jól trees to a theme of their choice and then auction them off at banquet dinner and dance, giving all the proceeds to local charities. The following day the trees are left on display for people to view, kids get the opportunity to craft ornaments, and of course the performing arts! Many local dance and musical groups take part in performing for the public, including our Irish dancers. It's always a fun and festive time. This year our girls had advanced up to their next levels in their class, and it was like a brand-new experience.





The days leading up to the Solstice and Jól are always busy but fun. Baking, making cookies for the Jól Father's visit, craft making, a trip to visit Father Jól in town at the Carousel, finding a tree, decorating...it's always nice to see the merriment and joy of the kids, share our historical traditions, and create some new ones as a family. On the night of the Solstice the girls baked a Solar Wheel of bread and we spent the night outside around a fire. Daily rituals of lighting a candle and discussing the virtues, breaking out the Jól Log, cookies and porridge left out for Father Jól and the house Tomte, and of course the big day!





Our Kindred ended the month up at our local Ski Hill for the annual New Years Eve torchlight Ski parade and fireworks. It begins early with those who wish to Ski queueing at the lift and heading up the mountain. Once at the top the Skiers light their torches, the lights on the mountain are shut down and they begin their descent. There is something quite magical about watching the procession of dancing lights than they move across the hill on their way down. Once they lead Skiers reach a point close to the bottom the fireworks begin. The swoosh of skis and brilliance of lights booming overhead is a fun

time! I can't think of a better way to end the year than surrounding oneself with family, friends, and neighbors while enjoying the festivities.



We look forward to sharing more with our Folk in the New Year!

*Upcoming Events*

*Western Montana*

*Heroes  
Remembrance  
Dinner*



*9th of Every Month*

*RSVP to [rharlan@runestone.org](mailto:rharlan@runestone.org)*



Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan  
[rharlan@runestone.org](mailto:rharlan@runestone.org)

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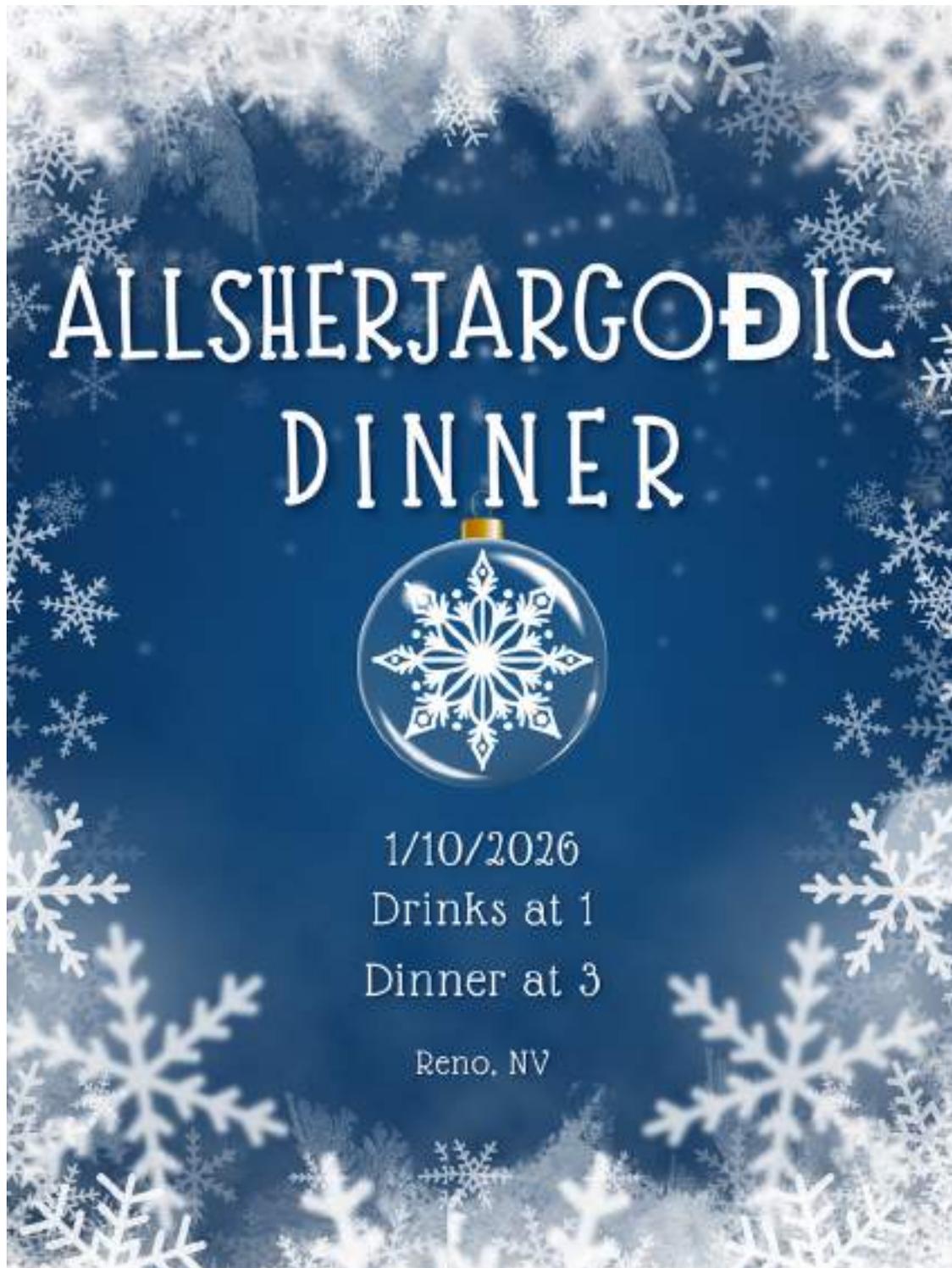
## Nevada

### *Allsherjargoðic Dinner*



Thank you to all who can out and who have consistently been guests at my table, the Flavel family appreciates you all. Please join us on January 10<sup>th</sup> for what might be our last Allsherjargoðic Dinner in Reno as we plan to move to Jackson County, Tennessee imminently.

*Upcoming Events*



Matthew D. Flavel  
Allsherjargöði , Asatru Folk Assembly  
[mattflavel@runestone.org](mailto:mattflavel@runestone.org)



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## Oregon

### *Upcoming Events*



Ryan Wilson  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[rwilson@runestone.org](mailto:rwilson@runestone.org)

## Washington

### *Welcoming A New Apprentice Folkbuilder*

Please welcome Nathan Wiens of Washington as our newest apprentice Folkbuilder for the Óðinshof District! We are excited to see the success Nathan will achieve in the coming months and years.

Hail Nathan Wiens!

Hail the AFA!

Hail Óðinn!



Nathan Wiens  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[nwiens@runestone.org](mailto:nwiens@runestone.org)

### *A Year of Growth*



When I joined the AFA, I made a conscious choice not to do much research, reading, or lore study. As a Mormon, I'd witnessed countless people join, get extremely invested, burn out, and leave within a year. I knew the AFA was where I needed to be but didn't want to do that to myself. I chose to focus on showing up, getting to know the people and the culture, and absorbing any knowledge through listening and observation. I didn't volunteer for anything or make large commitments. I wanted to fully understand the base of what I was involved in before I started to commit. Does that sound a bit wishy washy? Yes. However I'd seen the results of jumping in headfirst without looking, and I wanted to be sure. I didn't want to back out of an oath.

Becoming an apprentice Folkbuilder has been extremely rewarding. I have loved getting to help my Folk! It has stretched me in some wonderful ways.



Now, about a year and a half into my membership, I think it's time to start learning, and boy does 2026 feel like the right time to start! I cannot wait to start Witan Fassett's Daily Ásatrú program on MeWe. She has put a lot of effort into creating it, and I think it's going to be a great tool to strengthen knowledge and daily devotional practice. I know I'm not the only one who struggles with that!



I'm looking forward to continuing the Ladies' Rune Study and also diving into the Sagas and the Eddas with the help of Witan Svan's VNS episodes.

I think this is going to be a year of growth, not just for me, but for all of us, and it's going to be exciting to see how far we've come by next Jól.

### *Upcoming Events*



Annika Peterson  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[apeterson@runestone.org](mailto:apeterson@runestone.org)

*What a Year It's Been, Folks*



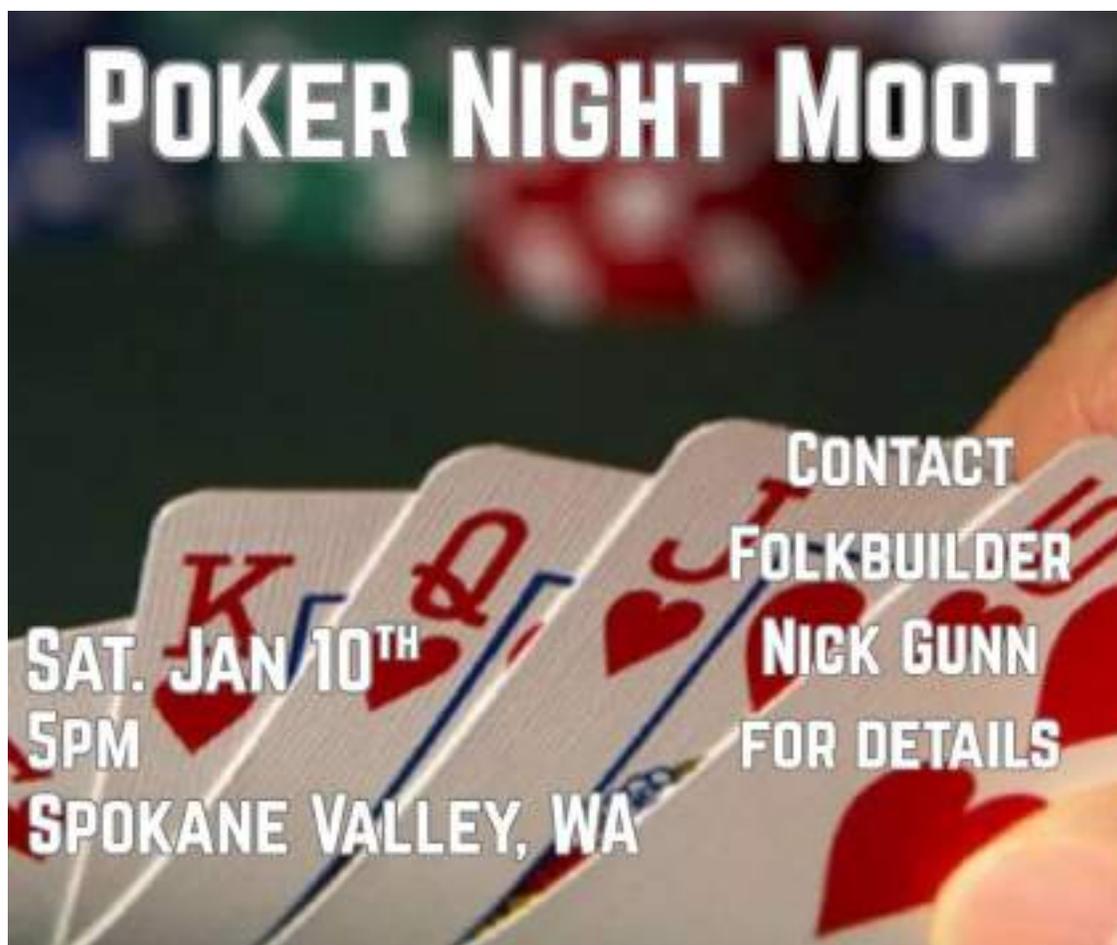
Hope you all had a great Jóltide with your loved ones. We had a beautiful Jól here in North Idaho, but we had some interesting curveballs come into play in the preceding week. The region experienced a battery of high winds that knocked down power lines and widespread flooding just days before the event. Roads were blocked off and trees had to be cleared, and that Thursday I took the day off work to make sure some of our Folk across state lines were doing alright. My buddy's house that would serve as our venue was without power when we got there, so we hooked up his generator to see how many hours of electricity we could get out of it. We ascertained a little over two. Jól by candlelight wasn't off the table and would have been pretty atmospheric, and that was the plan until the whole county got power back as we were walking back to the car. Ultimately a really good thing, but almost disappointing in some respect. That would have been cool.

We gathered together on Mother's Night, our crowd surpassing that of any local event we've held thus far. It feels like I say that in every event write up because it's just the truth. Our turnouts get better all the time as we regularly honour the holy tides, something which was formerly much more sporadic around these parts. The afternoon was spent fraternizing with the Folk as they trickled in. I spent a good while getting the sunwheel ready while a few of our guys built up the bonfire. I wrapped it in burlap and slathered it in pig fat. This is the first sunwheel I'd ever made so I was just taking suggestions from the people around me and it turned out glorious.

Annika performed a fantastic Blòt to Frigg and the Dísir once the sun went down which culminated in the lighting of the bonfire. It didn't burn long, but it sure burned bright. Easily the highlight of the night and the part that will stay with me, and hopefully everyone who participated. It left a really warm and light energy with me.

Afterwards we returned to merrymaking indoors, and the King of the Party was crowned. Though more of a tradition in line with the Roman branch of our Folk, I thought it would be a fun thing to adopt. We all played rock-paper-scissors and the loser had to spend the remainder of the night ordering people to perform some sort of non-demeaning goofy task. I lost, so I was crowned king. I almost exclusively either asked people to sing me a song or make up a story for me, and the results were pretty entertaining. The event concluded with some gifts exchanged as people gradually filtered back home. I want to thank everyone who came out, and everyone who helped make this Jól as successful as it was. 2026 is going to be an even better year, I can already feel it.

### *Upcoming Events*





Folkbuilder Nick Gunn  
[ngunn@runestone.org](mailto:ngunn@runestone.org)



**Þórshof**  
Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly



[www.thorshof.com](http://www.thorshof.com)

**Food Pantry at Þórshof**



It was not near as chilly as I'd expect in late December when we set up our Food Pantry. Enthusiastic members of Þórshof, and a devoted couple who drove up from South Florida helped us with our monthly food distribution, as well as our annual toy giveaway. We had our regulars arrive with grateful hearts to pick up their venison along with non-perishables. Many, no....all.... told us how appreciative they are for the hospitality of our membership and the generosity displayed.

Our usual toy donor, Toys for Tots has stopped donating to individual churches, but our membership and leadership is not dissuaded. Many toys filled the table at Terry's Hall which included donations from the Flynn family and Gyðja Heather Young. This has been a passion of Heather's since we opened the doors in 2020. She should be proud of what we have accomplished despite challenges we face.

2025 was a remarkable year. Yet we don't rest on past successes, we continue pushing forward, not ever lessening our drive to be openly generous. Out thanks to Tyler, Nick, Craig, Jennifer, Josh and Carrie for helping out this month, for donating both time and resources to our charities this month.

We do not charge admission to any of our events at Þórshof, but we do ask for non-perishable food items to add to our Food Pantry. If you find yourself headed to the Hof, bring some canned items to help bolster our stock. If you'd like to make a donation,

please do so at [Runestone.org](https://runestone.org). Click on the donation tab.

For all inquiries about our food pantry, including how to donate food directly, please reach out to me directly at [dyoung@runestone.org](mailto:dyoung@runestone.org) or Gyðja Heather Young at [hyoung@runestone.org](mailto:hyoung@runestone.org).



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

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## Jól at Þórshof



Jól is a unique time for the Aryan folk. It is a time that we feel we can fully and energetically “bring the magic.” By this I mean it seems to take minimal effort and

creativity to “do Ásatrú,” but it results in significant pay-off.

Just think about the energy and atmosphere around us because of the decorations, lights, music, foods, drinks, and social gathering. If one has children, the opportunity to make the time and space magical really increases.



For example, our family – like so many – participates in the Elf on a Shelf tradition. We use our little elf as a conversation piece to help our kids understand the Landvættir and Husvættir. Keeping our home tidy so they get a Jól present each day becomes much more tangible with the little elf sitting right there watching them.

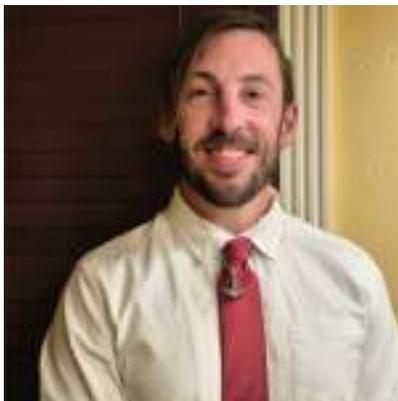


We also use the broader holidays to engage family who may not yet be awake to Ásatrú. Instead of forcing talk of the ancestors into a random dinner conversation, we ask them what their parents did for them for Christmas when they were children. This is a way to honour the ancestors by mentioning their names, personalities, and deeds.



Finally, we bring our children to the Hof and this really is incredible for them. For one they are among other children, so they know this isn't just their parent's religious preference. More than that though is the blot and bonfire that follows. The Blót is the crescendo for them as they participate with the group holding the mead horn while hailing the Æsir and the ancestors. It's far more powerful for them than singing sleepy hymns in a stuffy pew, that's for sure! They talk about it for days on end afterward.

Jól isn't the only time to bring the magic for ourselves and our families. Every day is. There is no better time to begin than right now at the start of a new year!



Taylor Traficanti  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[ttraficanti@runestone.org](mailto:ttraficanti@runestone.org)

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## Upcoming Events at Þórshof





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**Monthly Members' Meetings**

**Þórshof**  
**Monthly Members'**  
**Meeting**

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Last Tuesday of the Month at 8pm Eastern



Links Emailed and Posted to MeWe  
Contact any Folkbuilder for assistance

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**Beautify Þórshof**



Some paint here and there, caulking, replacing a door or two, making sure the windows are air and weather tight, keeping the gutters secure, a bit of landscaping. There's a lot that goes into taking care of our Hofs and making sure they are not only functional but aesthetically beautiful and worthy of being the homes and emblematic representations of our Gods as well as functional, safe, and pleasing places for our Folk to come too.

There's a bit of work that could be done to get and keep our Hof in tip-top shape, and we'd love to get to work on doing just that.

If you'd rather than cash, instead donate your time and muscles or maybe some of the raw materials, whether paint or caulking or anything else, please get with our Hof Steward Craig Flynn at [cflynn@runestone.org](mailto:cflynn@runestone.org) and he'd be happy to help let you know

the kinds of things we'd need and coordinate getting it (or you) to the Hof.

We certainly appreciate any and all donations from our Folk.

Thank you in advance!



Craig Flynn  
Hof Steward  
cflynn@runestone.org

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### Support Þórshof



Cleaning supplies, food pantry canned goods and pantry staples, beautification materials, and all sorts of things are up on our Amazon Wishlist if you'd like to donate to

help keep the Hof running, comfortable, fun, and a fitting tribute to Miðgarðr's Protector.

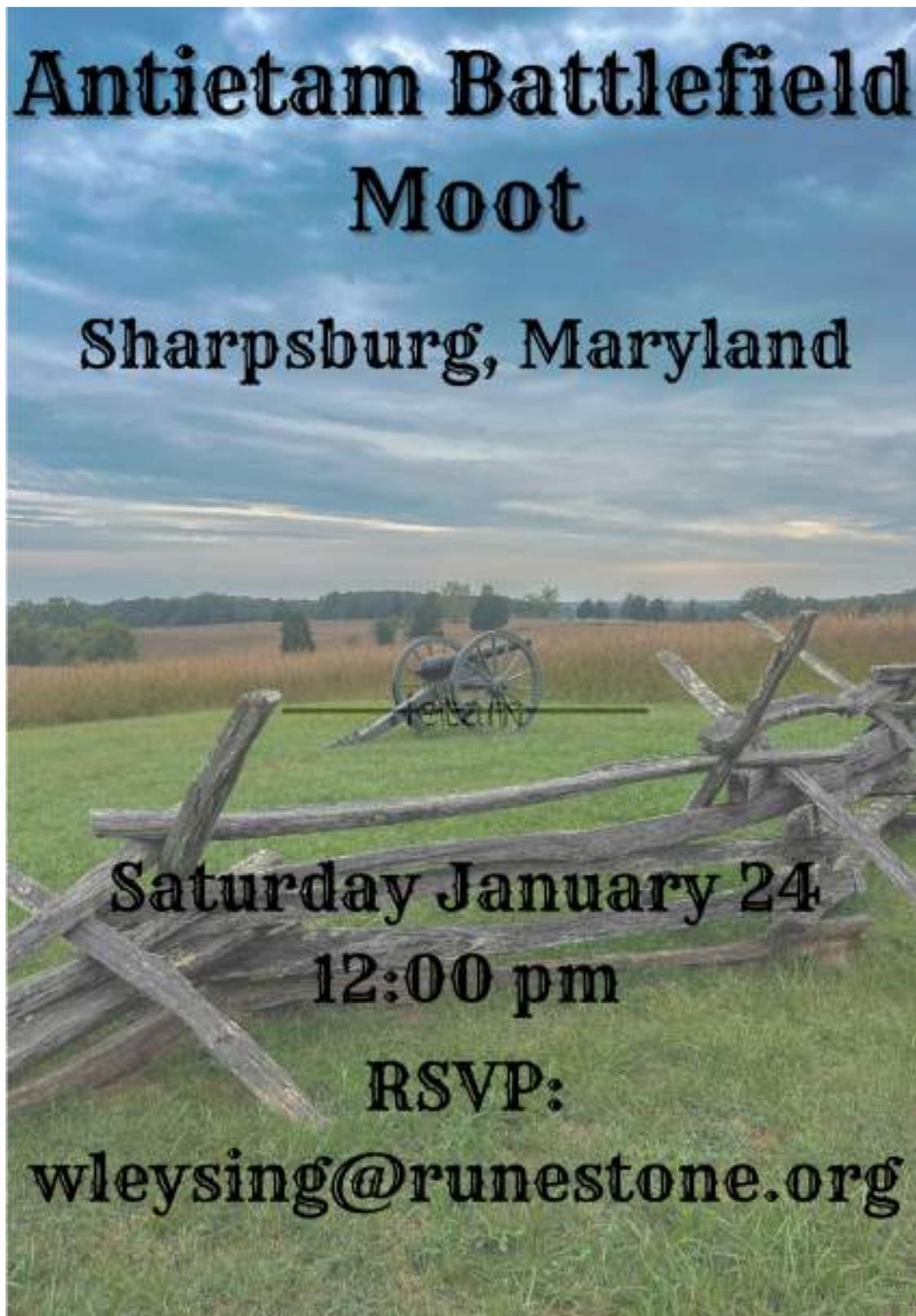


Gyðja Heather Young  
[hyoung@runestone.org](mailto:hyoung@runestone.org)

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## Maryland

### *Upcoming Events*



Wayland Leysing



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

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## North Carolina

### *Upcoming Events*



Folkbuilder Robert Shotwell  
[rshotwell@runestone.org](mailto:rshotwell@runestone.org)

## South Carolina

### *Family*



This month I'd like to talk about family. Too often, this is the group of people that we take most for granted. We'll blow off our extended family in favor of hanging out with friends or making plans with a best friend or a spouse. We assume that our family will always be there because they are blood-tied to us and that comes with certain obligations. I'd like to encourage you to not let that be the case.

In 2002, we expected it to be my Grandmother's last Jól with us. She was battling cancer, and it didn't look good. We gathered family from three states and spent almost a week with her, savoring every moment. For years, our family referred to that week as "the best Christmas ever." She pulled through, and has outlived the rest of my grandparents, despite two more bouts with cancer since then. A proud great-grandmother of 8, there's no doubt about her status as matriarch of the family.



This Jól, we surprised our family by being home for the holidays. My mother did a great job gathering everyone at her house and keeping the surprise a secret, and we enjoyed every minute of each other's company. There were more of us under one roof than ever, and the pure joy was palpable. For a few days, we were able to put aside political, spiritual, and worldview differences and just be family. This week has reignited a desire in all of us to spend more time together and to prioritize our family. We can never know just how many more holidays we can spend with each other, so I encourage you all to not wait for a holiday. Go visit with your siblings, parents, or grandparents if they're still with us here on Miðgarðr. Repair what may be broken, and revel in the joy of each other's company.

*Upcoming Events*



Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea  
[tbethea@runestone.org](mailto:tbethea@runestone.org)

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**Tennessee**

*An East Tennessee Jól*



East Tennessee had an amazing and Frithful Jól! We began by meeting for Mother's Night for an intimate feast and Blót. We ate delicious meat pies, gave offerings to Frigg and Freyja for all their blessings while the sun lit up the sky as it set.



We also took the opportunity to burn a sunwheel to commemorate the shortest day of the year for the following day and are all so happy to welcome back the Sun. Hail Sunna!

It also happened to be the night of another of my son's dances, so we brought our friends to see the wholesome fun as hundreds of teens dance the Virginia Reel.



We ended the evening in our jammies with hot cocoa and tried to expose our younger friends to the delights of old movies by watching *It Happened on Fifth Avenue*. We also took in the wonderfully bizarre Finnish film, *Rare Exports* - a quite quirky take on Santa Claus and his elves.



The following day, we met up with more Folk at the Knoxville German brewhouse Shultz Brau for their Christkindlesmarkt. There were only a few vendors, but live music, great drinks, and food and visits from Santa and Krampus. It was such good bonding time and we hope to make our Jól a tradition going forward.



A wonderful New Year to you all and may you be blessed by the Gods and your Ancestors as you venture out into a bright, beautiful future full of possibilities!



Rachel Kinsler  
Homeschool Coach, Ásatrú Academy  
[rkinsler@runestone.org](mailto:rkinsler@runestone.org)

*Names That Do Not Dim*



We name them not as dust,  
but as fire held in the bones of the world.

We speak their names  
so the fire remembers.

We speak their names  
so the wind remembers them.

We speak their names  
so the earth knows who walked her  
with oathbound feet and lifted eyes.

They stood when standing meant loss,  
and chose to take up our right ways  
when easier roads were offered.

**Goði Rauðr the Strong,**  
who would not bend,  
oak-rooted against the tide.

**King Blót-Sveinn,**

who chose the altar over the throne,  
old fires over foreign crown.

**King Eanfrith of Bernicia,**

caught between crowns and conscience,  
caught between worlds, faithful unto death.

**Eyvind Kinnrifa,**

whose words bit deeper than steel,  
whose words outlived his breath.

**Goði Ölvir of Egg,**

keeper of rite and resolve,  
hearth-bound and enduring.

**Winguric,**

spark of darkness, tent-light awakened,  
remembered where ink ran out but honor did not.

**Jarl Hákon Sigurðarson,**

storm-willed beneath hostile skies,  
sea-crowned ruler, iron against false promises.

**John “Stubba” Yeowell,**

modern hands, ancient loyalty,  
soldier, scholar, sage, and bard.

**Atharid,**

standing firm when silence was demanded  
stone-spined, faithful and devout.

**Járnskeggja,**

iron-bearded, iron-hearted  
warden of Þórr’s right-stead.

**John “Hoskuld” Gibbs-Bailey,**

quiet fire, unwavering oathkeeper,  
virtuous on the long road home.

**King Athanaric,**

would not bow his gods to empire black,  
his brother’s keeper, ruler, and shield.

**Erik Klasson,**

steadfast amidst fractures strong,  
proud alone, last to stand firm.

**Goði Sveinbjörn Beinteinsson,**  
who gave breath back to sleeping songs,  
rustic, rural—brought faith to Folk.

**Alexander Rud Mills,**  
who named what others tried to erase,  
dapper druid and a solid first start.

**King Osric of Deira,**  
bound by fate's narrow blade,  
crowned in doubt, faithful unto death.

**King Radbod of Frisia,**  
who chose the ancestors over heaven,  
tide-tempered, unbent by cross or crown.

**Prince Hermann of the Cherusci,**  
wood-wrought liberator, eagle's shattered pride,  
who broke an empire in the forest's teeth.

**Else Christensen,**  
unyielding when standing alone,  
forthright, valiant, exiled-forged.

**Goði Þorsteinn Guðjónsson,**  
thread in the unbroken line,  
voice of continuity, backroom skald.

**Meister Guido von List,**  
Memory, myth, and awakened will,  
seeker of runes beneath the world.

**King Aoric,**  
remembered at the edge of time's standing,  
whose name still walks the margins of history.

**Ragnvald Odinskarl,**  
son of the one-eyed path,  
iron faith, raven's fire carried.

**Queen Sigríðr of Sweden,**  
steel-willed, flame-true,  
Proud, worthy, of unbent will.

**King Sexræd,**

counted among the faithful,  
embers fading, flame rising again.

**Egill Skallagrímsson,**

poet, berserk, breaker of silence,  
magic medicine, and bearer of truth.

**King Sæward,**

who met death with blade unlowered,  
Sea-crowned, fate-steeped, stern.

They were not sorrowful.

They were *steadfast*.

They were not perfect.

They were *true*.

They chose loyalty over comfort,  
memory over forgetting,  
and stood so that something old  
might yet stand tomorrow.

They stood when standing cost them.

They spoke when silence was safer.

They kept faith when faith demanded blood, exile, or flame.

We speak their names

so we remember

what it costs

to remain true.

We do not call them dead.

We call them *ancestors*.

We call them *examples*.

We call them *heroes*.

We call them *ours*.

May their names never be swallowed by quiet.

May their deeds sit heavy on our shoulders.

May we be worthy—

when our own names

are finally spoken into the fire.

*Upcoming Events*



  
**REMEMBRANCE  
DINNER**  
 SECOND SATURDAY  
 OF EACH MONTH  
 6PM  
 COOKEVILLE, TN  
 RSVP TO  
 NRICE@RUNESTONE.ORG



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice  
[nrice@runestone.org](mailto:nrice@runestone.org)



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## Virginia

*Go to that Irish Pub in Town*



This past month in Virginia, we met at an Irish pub. This pub in particular is unique in that it blends several elements together in such a fantastic fashion that it keeps me coming back nearly every single week. With the decline of Irish pubs nation-wide, here are a few reasons why you should consider visiting your Irish pub:



1. They often have traditional European food.

In our modern society of fast food and cookie-cutter restaurant chains, this is a real game changer. Authentic recipes, usually passed down by the family of the owners, really makes you savor every bite.

2. Imported European beer on draft.

Most of the time when you visit a restaurant the draft selection is limited and boring. Coming to an Irish pub can re-awaken those taste buds, give you a taste of Europe, and pair wonderfully with the cuisine.

3. Décor and live music.

It's rare I go to a restaurant and look around while saying to myself, "Wow, this place looks so inviting and welcoming." Usually, it's the opposite! Many Irish pubs have a long history and you can see the personal touches on every wall.

4. Family and folk atmosphere.

For me, this is the most important aspect. At the local Irish pub I frequent it is always filled with happy, jovial, and talkative folk. This lifts the atmosphere and re-enforces trust among the locals. Another perk is people often have phones out of sight, so they are more willing to strike up an actual conversation.

Take some time and find an authentic Irish pub near you to get to know. You never know the traditions you could create there!



*Upcoming Event*

A promotional poster for an event. The background is a solid dark red color. On the left, there is a tall glass of beer with a thick head of white foam. On the right, there is a close-up of a burger with a sesame seed bun, a beef patty, cheese, tomato, and lettuce. The text is in white and yellow. A yellow starburst graphic is in the upper right corner. The text reads: 'Burgers, Beer, & Trivia Moot', 'Central VA', 'January 24, 2026', 'Noon', 'RSVP to', and 'TTrafficanti@runestone.org'.

**Burgers,  
Beer, &  
Trivia Moot**

Central VA  
January 24, 2026  
Noon

RSVP to  
TTrafficanti@runestone.org



Taylor Traficanti  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[ttraficanti@runestone.org](mailto:ttraficanti@runestone.org)



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# Baldrshof

Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly



[www.baldrshof.org](http://www.baldrshof.org)

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## Food Pantry at Baldrshof



What a fantastic Jól pantry we had this year. We had the immense blessing of overflow donations of food that we nearly didn't know what to do with it all. We call this a quality problem, how fortunate are we to bridge this gap for the community that really has stood up for us and been so gracious to the Folk!



Also, in the spirit of giving during Jóltide, we were able to give out many gifts for the children of Murdock, MN. Since our local county does not participate with the Marine Corps based Toys for Tots national program, we are not able to utilize the resource, however we find a way!



Thanks to some very dedicated, private donators that have supported us since 2020, we were able to give out over 60 toys and winter gear for their holiday celebrations along with all the food we could fit in their vehicles!



Folkbuilder Ashley Erlandson  
[aerlandson@runestone.org](mailto:aerlandson@runestone.org)

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## Jól at Baldrshof



Jól was amazing! Thank you to everyone who came out from near and far.

Our day was full of fun, Frith, and folk. Member Tashina from Minnesota engaged our children in a beautiful story about Óðinn and Frigg and gave gifts of sewn shooting stars for all the littles that participated. All of the children (and adults) were captivated by her storytelling.

The Schattenforst family of Wisconsin entertained the Folk and then led us in songs of the season. Miranda's voice is absolutely beautiful and we hope to ear it echo in Baldrshof again soon!



Thanks to Bob and Folkbuilder Ashley Erlandson for the delicious soups and to also to all the Folk who contributed to the potluck.

Special thank you to Corrie and Tashina's families for setting up the Hof in all the festive décor!

Member Carl from South Dakota brought us an amazing gift for Baldrshof, a throne that he constructed and carved himself.

Thank you to the Brucer family for sharing their daughter's Horn Ceremony with the Folk! It was a beautiful ceremony meant to welcome Ella into the world of the women. I look forward to continuing to work with you and your family on your spiritual development!



Member Tanner, as always, played beautiful music and took time to teach the littlest Folk.

Ella, Emma, and Lily are always my most helpful Blót assistants! Thank you to these young ladies for all they do to help prepare, perform, and close our Blótar with piety and devotion.

Thank you to Ashley for another successful Toy Drive! Due to her hard work,

commitment, and gift of gab, we were able to secure many gifts for the local families of Murdock. Her devotion to the Hof and the community that surrounds it is amazing!



Our Jól Blót was led by Gothi Erlandson and concluded with his burning of our Jól goat.

Witan Brandy Fassett  
[bfassett@runestone.org](mailto:bfassett@runestone.org)



### Upcoming Events at Baldrshof

**Baldrshof 2026 Event Calendar**

<b>Einherjablót</b> November 21st	<b>Fól</b> December 18th-20th	<b>Þorrablót</b> January 17th	<b>Disaþing</b> February 21st	
<b>Veitnætr</b> October 17th		<b>Austra</b> March 21st		
<b>Hautþlót</b> September 19th		<b>Nornanótt</b> April 18th		
<b>Freyfaxi</b> August 15th		<b>Sigrþlót</b> July 18th	<b>Midsumar</b> June 20th	<b>Sumarmál</b> May 15th-17th





### Baldr's Steeple Project



We have a lot more to do, and we're determined to make it even more glorious and worth of Baldr! Help the project as you, whether that be through donations or coming out to

the Hof to swing a hammer.

Baldr's Steeple Project > <https://store.runestone.org/product/baldrs-steeple-project/>

Hail the Gods

Hail the Folk

Hail the AFA

Hail Baldr



Goði Nathan Erlandson  
[nerlandson@runestone.org](mailto:nerlandson@runestone.org)

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### Help Keep Baldr's Light Shining



## Monthly Members' Meeting



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### Illinois

#### *Upcoming Event*



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**Iowa**

*Upcoming Event*



Goði Rob Stamm  
[rstamm@runestone.org](mailto:rstamm@runestone.org)

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## Wisconsin

*Determined to Meet*



On December the 14th, the Wisconsin Moot was held. The original plan was to have a Park Moot with the children sledding, but Mother Nature did not cooperate by giving us a wind chill of negative eleven degrees. Not an ideal family-friendly outing, but we were still determined to meet each other. So we changed our plans to meet in an indoor and heated restaurant, which provided a much better environment to enjoy each other's company.

The children drew on their coloring sheets while the adults held conversations about the old world. We all had a great time seeing each other again, sharing good food, and weaving good Frith. Despite the weather and the change of plans, everyone was happy they were able to attend, and we hope that in the future we will have more people join us.

### *Upcoming Event*



## Museum & Lunch Moot Wausau

On Jan 11, 1:00 pm, come spend quality time with the Folk.  
We would love to see you!

Contact [amerwald@runestone.org](mailto:amerwald@runestone.org) for more information.

Images not an actual representation of event locations



Austin Merwald  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[amerwald@runestone.org](mailto:amerwald@runestone.org)



# Njörðshof

Fourth Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly



[www.njordshof.org](http://www.njordshof.org)

**Food Pantry at Njörðshof**



As you all know by now, the Food Pantry is one of my favorite services we provide each month to the local community in our district. It's a great time to chit chat with our Folk who tirelessly volunteer and continue build bright fame, as we are instructed in the Law of the Hall.



We had one of the largest food pantries the Hof has ever had, perhaps even record-breaking, feeding 84 families. We also gave toys to 60 children in the community and 7 to our children at the Hof! With Toys for Tots not providing any support this year, our members stepped up and made the Toy Giveaway a success! If that doesn't get you in the spirit, you might just be the Grinch.



Thank you all who volunteered to make this happen, from the delivery of the food to the bagging and packing and handing out toys. We couldn't do this without you all. I hope to see you all again next month.



Folkbuilder Alexander Casto  
[acasto@runestone.org](mailto:acasto@runestone.org)

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## Jól at Njörðshof



Friday our Folk began to gather around our AFA hearth in Florida. The Jól tree was decorated and finishing touches were put on the Jólbukk. The edict we received from our Allsherjargoði had a two-foot minimum requirement – and ours was over three feet tall. Lights were put up and gingerbread cookies were made. It was a wonderful time with everyone milling about getting the Hof in the spirit of the Holy Tide – and they did a great job!



After a tasty breakfast the next morning, we held our monthly food pantry, followed by Greeting of the Gods welcoming the Ás and Ásynjur, Álfar and Dísir, along with all our ancestors to the Holy Tide, sounding three times on the conch Witan Swan had given the Hof. With the Gods welcomed, we sat for lunch. It was necessary to gather for the group photo before Blót this time so we could include the Jólbukk; because he would not be there after. Blót was a heartfelt dedication to our Holy Mother Frigg on this

Mother's Night by yours truly. We thanked her for our all our beautiful children, past, present... and FUTURE!



Njörðshof had a significant baby boom in 2025 and we asked Frigg to continue that trend into 2026. After Blót, we were visited by Papa Jól, played by our own Nick McCloskey, and enjoyed another delicious meal prepared by his wife, Pam. Children big and small got to tell Papa Jól what they wanted and our children in attendance received their toys.





With full bellies and even fuller hearts, it was time for Sumbl. It is said “Men drink together and men drink themselves together.” This is the power of Sumbl. I love hearing the stories of our families; noble and tragic alike. The stories of war heroes are fun, but for me, it’s the ancestors that had a direct impact on the people regaling us with their stories. Keeping their names alive; the mother or the grandfather. These are the bonds that bind our Folk. This is where the AFA shines!

Sunday we returned to the temple of our Divine Ship Captain for breakfast and the Wayfarer's Blót. Gythja Anna Plourde officiated an inspired exchange with our goddess Eir. Sending our Folk home with health and healing for the coming year.



2026 is going to be a year of magik and wonder!



Goði Lane Ashby  
[lashby@runestone.org](mailto:lashby@runestone.org)

### Upcoming Events at Njörðshof

<b>Einherjablot</b> November 21st	<b>Jól</b> December 18th-20th	<b>Þorrablót</b> January 17th	<b>Disaping</b> February 20th-22nd
<b>Vetrætur</b> October 17th	<b>Njörðshof 2026 Event Calendar</b>		<b>Austra</b> March 21st
<b>Hautblót</b> September 18th-19th			<b>Nornanott</b> April 18th
<b>Freyfaxi</b> August 15th	<b>Sigrblót</b> July 18th	<b>Midsumar</b> June 20th	<b>Sumarmál</b> May 16th





# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**3RD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
KITCHEN DUTIES: COOKING  
CLEANING PLANNING...**



**CONTACT ANNA OR PAM FOR  
DETAILS**



**Monthly Members' Meeting**

**NJÖRÐSHOF**  
**MONTHLY MEMBER CALL**

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Fourth Monday of Every Month  
**8 PM ET, 7 PM CT**



CONTACT ANY FOLKBUILDER  
FOR THE LINK  
LINK ALSO SENT VIA  
EMAIL AND MEWE

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**Suggestion Box**



# SUGGESTION Box

We would like your input  
what would you like to see served  
for lunch at monthly events?  
Your opinion matters  
contact Pam McCloskey on MEWE



## Njörðshof Wishlist

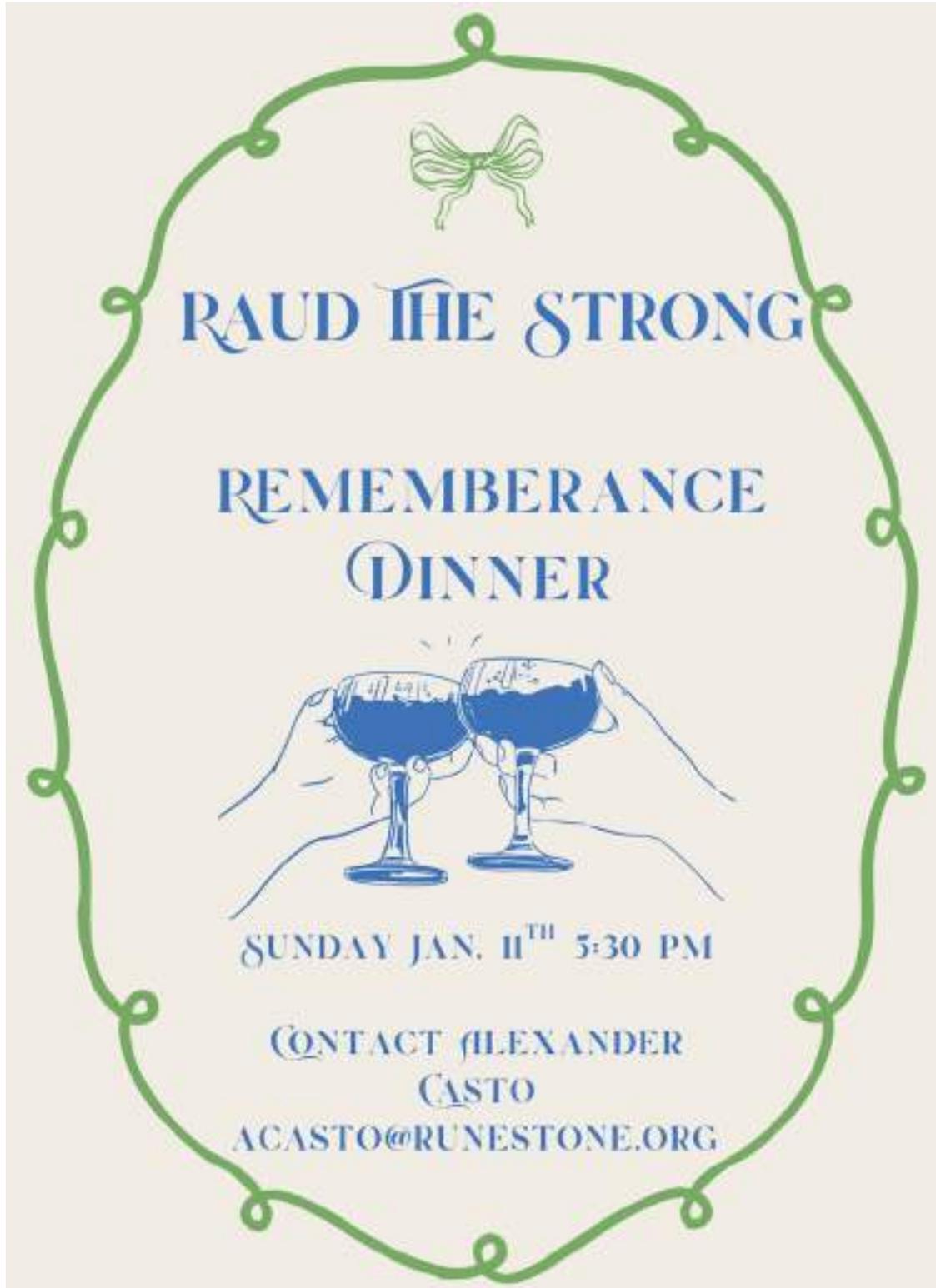


<https://tinyurl.com/NjorðshofWishlist>

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## Florida

### *Upcoming Events*





Folkbuilder Alexander Casto  
[acasto@runestone.org](mailto:acasto@runestone.org)

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## Georgia

### *Upcoming Events*

# SUNDAY BRUNCH MOOT

**Date: Sunday, January 18th**

**Time: 10 AM ET**

**Location: Kennesaw, GA**

Join us for Sunday Brunch!

RSVP at [jwells@runestone.org](http://jwells@runestone.org)



Folkbuilder Jordan Wells

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

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## Texas

### *Upcoming Events*



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**Freyshof**  
Fifth Hof of the A̅s̅atru Folk Assembly





[www.freyshof.org](http://www.freyshof.org)

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### **Food Pantry at Freyshof**



Every 3rd Saturday of the month means Food Pantry day at Freyshof from noon to 2 pm! We hosted our 3<sup>rd</sup> monthly food pantry on December 20. We fed 25 people this month. We are working to get better sourcing so the food packages that we are offering are more robust.

If you are in Ohio and food insecurity is something you struggle with, come by for a small bag of groceries.

Freyshof  
4125 Lanterman Road  
Austintown, OH 44515



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

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### Jól at Freyshof



After we had cleaned up from the Food Pantry, we gathered in the Freyshof Vé (sanctuary) where we decorated the Jól Tree and marked wishes for the New Year on

festive colored papers. These notes were taken up by each of our Folk to the Jólbock to carry to the Æsir. We do not have an outside Vé yet, so the notes will be kept in Freyr's offering box on his Hörgr (altar) until Sumarmál.



The children were surprised by a visit from Krampus, who encouraged them to behave all year long! Krampus didn't single out any child as having been naughty, so after he had left for his next visit, the children opened a pile of gifts from under our Jól Tree. Every child received at least three gifts!



Next, Hofgyðja Catie Erickson led us in a Frigga Blót. After our gifts of will were given, Hofgyðja Erickson invited each of the Folk to light a candle from Freyhof's Folk Flame, symbolizing bringing the light and warmth back to their own homes, and to be used in lighting their own need fires.



We then feasted with more food than we knew what to do with, followed by an auction and a joyful Sumbl.

Happy New Jera, all!



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

### Upcoming Events at Freyshof

Einherjablót November 21st	Jól December 19th	Þorrablót January 17th	Disabing February 21st
Veitnætr October 16th-18th			Austra March 21st
Haustblót September 19th			Nornanótt April 18th
Freyfaxi August 15th	Sigrblót July 18th	Midsumar June 20th	Sumarmál May 16th

### Helping Tend the Grove at Freyshof



Some things on this are big, some are small. Any donation is greatly appreciated!

Freyshof Amazon Wishlist > <https://tinyurl.com/FreyshofWishlist>

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## Monthly Members' Meeting

# Freyshof

## Monthly Members' Meeting

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2nd Thursday of the Month at 730pm Eastern



Links Emailed and Posted to MeWe  
Contact any Folkbuilder for assistance

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**Europe**



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**Indiana**

*Ingwaz and Freyr*



The month of December was very hectic for all of us, here in Indiana! In between the Dedication of Freyshof, Jól, and some pretty gnarly weather, I was unfortunately only able to squeeze one Blót into the chaos.

That Blót was to Freyr himself, in honor of the dedication of his Temple!

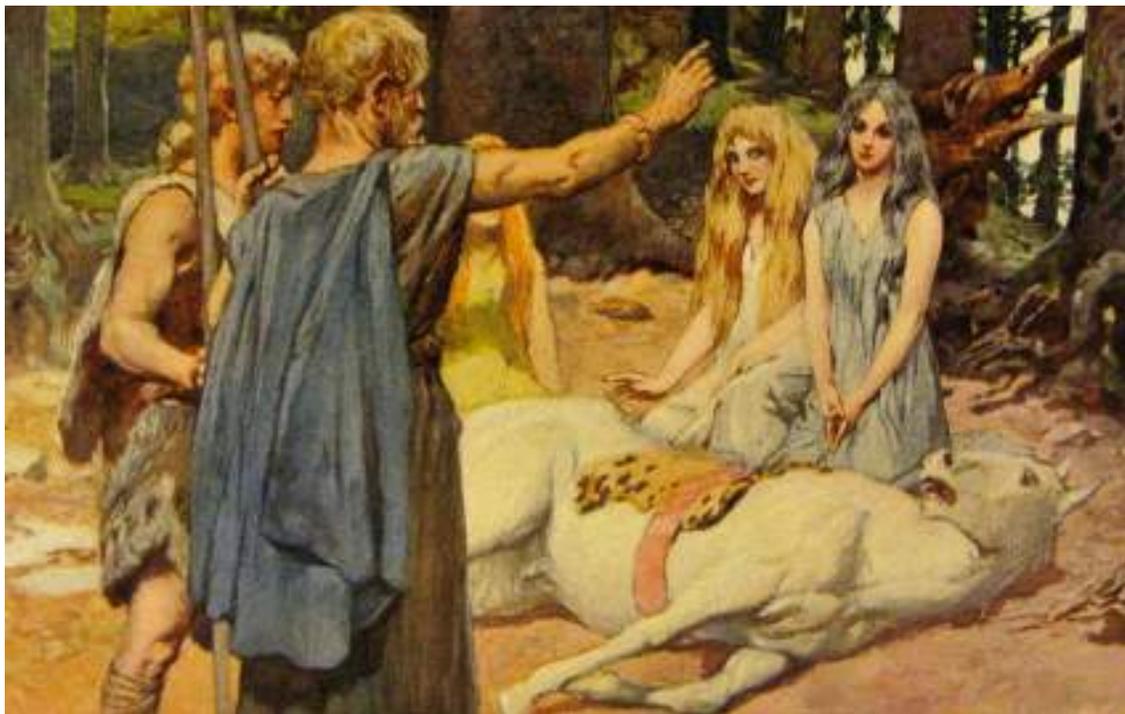
Freyr's rune, "Ingwaz" is a rune of budding potential. Therefore, I asked him to bless us

with the potential and insight as we hunker down through the winter and make plans for the new year. All in all, December has been a big blessing for us all.



Jacob Rutledge  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[jrutledge@runestone.org](mailto:jrutledge@runestone.org)

*Aryan Book Review ~ Report on  
"The Transition from Wuotanism to Christianity"  
by Meister Guido von List*



Meister von List begins the text of *The Transition from Wuotanism to Christianity* with a fascinating display of his knowledge concerning the Germanic Folkish spirit, then continues to breakdown the language and faith conversion that occurred when Christianity swept over northern Europe. This book is a really good follow-up to *The Religion of the Aryo-Germanic Folk* since it explains how this Germanic Folk religion

was preserved throughout history due to its genetic foundation in our ancestral spirit, and due to the actions of the old pagan priests and early Christian converts.

Armanism itself had to undergo a demise after it had reached its zenith - all according to the law of arising, becoming, transformation and passing away towards a new arising in order to rejuvenate itself that it could shine forth anew after its transitional darkening...it already bore within itself the seed of its death in its original germination, as well as the rejuvenating primeval seed of future arising, becoming, etc..

The Folkish spirit will arise again. The multiple Hofos of the Asatru Folk Assembly are also proof of this new arising. The presence of young men like myself shows that this Folkish spirit will not subside so easily, not without a significant struggle. We have answered the call of the ancestors. From the text:

Soon the Armanic knowledge will be revealed with perfect clarity that in nature there exists a fully conscious directive and not only merely an unconscious impulse towards beauty, as well as towards happiness.

This sentiment is followed up a few pages later with:

It is the intention of the conscious guidance of the All that during the time when religion is being eclipsed, the equally eclipsed and hidden doctrines and knowledge of Armanism is being made openly available, because these same things are being provided in the service of humanity, which to a certain extent indicates a kind of preparatory, apparent, materialization for these idealized concepts.

This eclipsing of religion is happening today, and thus the return of Folkish paganism is arising again. The snake is eating its tail. The cycle is nearing its end, only to begin again. In the words of Meister von List these changes are "*merely the birthpangs of the coming epoch, in the convulsions of which those chasms will be closed once more.*" He goes on to say that this knowledge will be abused due to a lack of deeper spiritual knowledge - just look at genetic science which could truly help us understand the grand mystery of human existence, but which is used by evil men to create false paradigms of liberal universalism.

As the French philosopher, Thomas Rousseau, said: “*The arts of civilization serve only to cast garlands over the chains men bore.*”

Christianity came into Germany and attempted to sweep away all of the deep traditions passed down from successive generations of ancestors, doing so with glittering gifts and bloody threats. In the words of the Meister: “*the folk slowly lost its trust in its gods, and so in themselves as well.*”

Meister von List explains that the ancient Germanics had three castes or classes, and although these are largely speculative, we can find deep insights here:

1. The Ingfonen, the settled families and elder.
2. The Armanen/Semanen, the learned elders, priests, and judges.
3. The Istfonen, the excess population who had to emigrate, colonists.

The Istfonen are described in a similar way to how I describe the mannerbunds and the creation of new social contracts. In the past, I've said: “*let us send our young men out to create a new polis, and create a new social contract under their own households.*” This would be much better than the current standard created by liberalism and even Christianity to an extent. When modern Europeans emigrate to new lands, we tend to drop our tribal identities and assimilate into the new culture. Meister von List agrees that this is not the ideal form of emigration. From the text:

They do not form new colonies but rather perish in individualistic struggles for their existence in foreign nations, strengthening these with their Aryo-Germanic blood in a common struggle against the Aryo-Germanic folk.

Meister von List goes on to explain how Germanic priests from the Armanen class were forced to find ways to preserve the Folkish traditions in the face of Christianization. When Christianization occurred, the princes and kings converted first, while rural Folk remained Folkish (hence the terms pagan and heathen, both denoting the rural nature of the Folkish practitioners). This preservation supposedly occurred due to the pagan priests pretending to convert only to retain Folkish views and then meld them with the new religion. Christians need to realize that ***you cannot erase the Folkish spirit.***

According to Meister von List, the Armanen became the kalander-brotherhoods: groups of priests and monks who meddled with Christian stories through implanting pagan ideas and concepts into the stories and policies. Kalandar comes from kalun, meaning “*word-play by turning the meaning around*” which is the basis of Armanism itself. These brotherhoods were: “*preservers and protectors of mysterious truths by means of*

*alterations of words and meanings, that is true to their names: Kalenbergs.”*

From the text:

The transition from Wuotanism to Christianity was no sudden thing and in no way can it be seen to be concluded by the mere common baptism of the inhabitants of a certain strip of land, but rather it proceeded very slowly and nowhere was it brought to a complete conclusion, but rather it usually fell into a faltering pattern and solidified in incomplete stages.

Meister von List directly quotes [this](#) letter from Pope Gregory the Great to Abbot Millittus concerning what should be done to pagan temples: the temples were to be utilized, reused, and converted to Christian spaces. This process occurred all over the pagan world as Christianization swept across the continent. Nothing could be fully subverted outright — it had to be subverted subtly, which allowed for the Armanen to disclose hidden truths and sacred spaces and concepts. From the letter:

Tell Augustine that he should be no means destroy the temples of the gods but rather the idols within those temples. Let him, after he has purified them with holy water, place altars and relics of the saints in them. For, if those temples are well built, they should be converted from the worship of demons to the service of the true God. Thus, seeing that their places of worship are not destroyed, the people will banish error from their hearts and come to places familiar and dear to them in acknowledgement and worship of the true God. Further, since it has been their custom to slaughter oxen in sacrifice, they should receive some solemnity in exchange. Let them therefore, on the day of the dedication of their churches, or on the feast of the martyrs whose relics are preserved in them, build themselves huts around their one-time temples and celebrate the occasion with religious feasting. They will sacrifice and eat the animals not any more as an offering to the devil, but for the glory of God to whom, as the giver of all things, they will give thanks for having been satiated. Thus, if they are not deprived of all exterior joys, they will more easily taste the interior ones. For surely it is impossible to efface all at once everything from their strong minds, just as, when one wishes to reach the top of a mountain, he must climb by stages and step by step, not by leaps and bounds....

Ah, so cunning! It reminds me of the bread and circuses, to just appease the Folk with simple things they are comfortable with so they will accept other larger changes. Indeed, if you just inch closer and closer without going for the end target right away, then you will have a better chance to convert the Folk, which we all know well from the liberalization of the West, which truly started back in the Axial Age and took over two-thousand years to reach its modern zenith. This letter also shows Christians had no solid conception of the pagan gods, because Indo-Europeans did not worship the semitic devil, which was born from a semitic mind, but instead worshipped natural emanations of divinity first perceived by their ancient ancestors.

Meister von List goes on to explain how the kalendar-brothers preserved countless pagan concepts and names through the festivals and holidays of Europe. This was a rather long section and I will not go into great detail here, all I will point out is that countless pagan festivals and holidays are still practiced today, albiet with shoddy Christian and liberal overtures placed on them, such as May Day, Easter, Yule, and Hexennacht. As for Hexennacht and witchcraft, Meister von List has this to say:

Witchcraft was originally nothing other than the secret cultivated feminine priesthood of the holy female advisors.

Mentioned by Tacitus, immortalized in the modern Folkmother Else Christenson, no one can deny that European women are much closer to divinity than Christians would ever affirm. Unlike the liberals of the modern era, these ancient women were treated with dignity and respect according to their stations in the tribe, assembly, and nation.

I should note that I am personally wary of these fantastical claims that Germanic priests became Christian priests only for the purpose of continuing the Germanic religion in secret. I think that it may be true in some cases, but that in most cases the Christian priests were forced to work within the framework of the pagan Folk they were attempting to convert. This seems to me to be more logical, but with characters such as the Catholic priest Lanz von Liebenfels perhaps there are kernels of truth to what Meister von List says concerning the kalendar-brotherhoods.

A possible example of a kalendar-brother would be the writer of [the Heliand](#) which is an Anglo-Saxon poem immortalizing Jesus and the Apostles in a very pagan light — Jesus is a warrior-savior with a mannerbund of elite warriors, coming to defeat the great serpent and free damned souls from the pits of Hel. This is both endearing and ridiculous on its face. When I was trying to be a Christian, I liked to imagine Jesus as a cool Aryan warrior, but that conception is not true to form. He was a pacifist who had no children. He said to deny yourself for universal transcendence. He said to deny family, tribe, and ancestors for the Jewish god. I did still enjoy reading the poem.



Essentially, even though I disagree with Meister von List concerning Loki being Logos, and men coming from the moon, or humans being a fifth root race, or even some other Folk etymologies, I think these works are incredibly useful for modern Aryans to better understand the esoteric truths of our forefathers. These works are not to be taken dogmatically — they are to be logically broken apart and understood in their entirety. **Meister von List was basically a reverse-kalandar-brother: he was seeking to unravel the raveled mysteries encoded into mythology by the ancient pagans.**



Folkbuilder Aidan McMillan  
[amcmillan@runestone.org](mailto:amcmillan@runestone.org)

*Indiana Jól*



Friends and Folk,

As we close another year in the cycle of our lives there is much for us to consider. We celebrate the joys and victories of the past and we consider and strategize for an optimistic future.

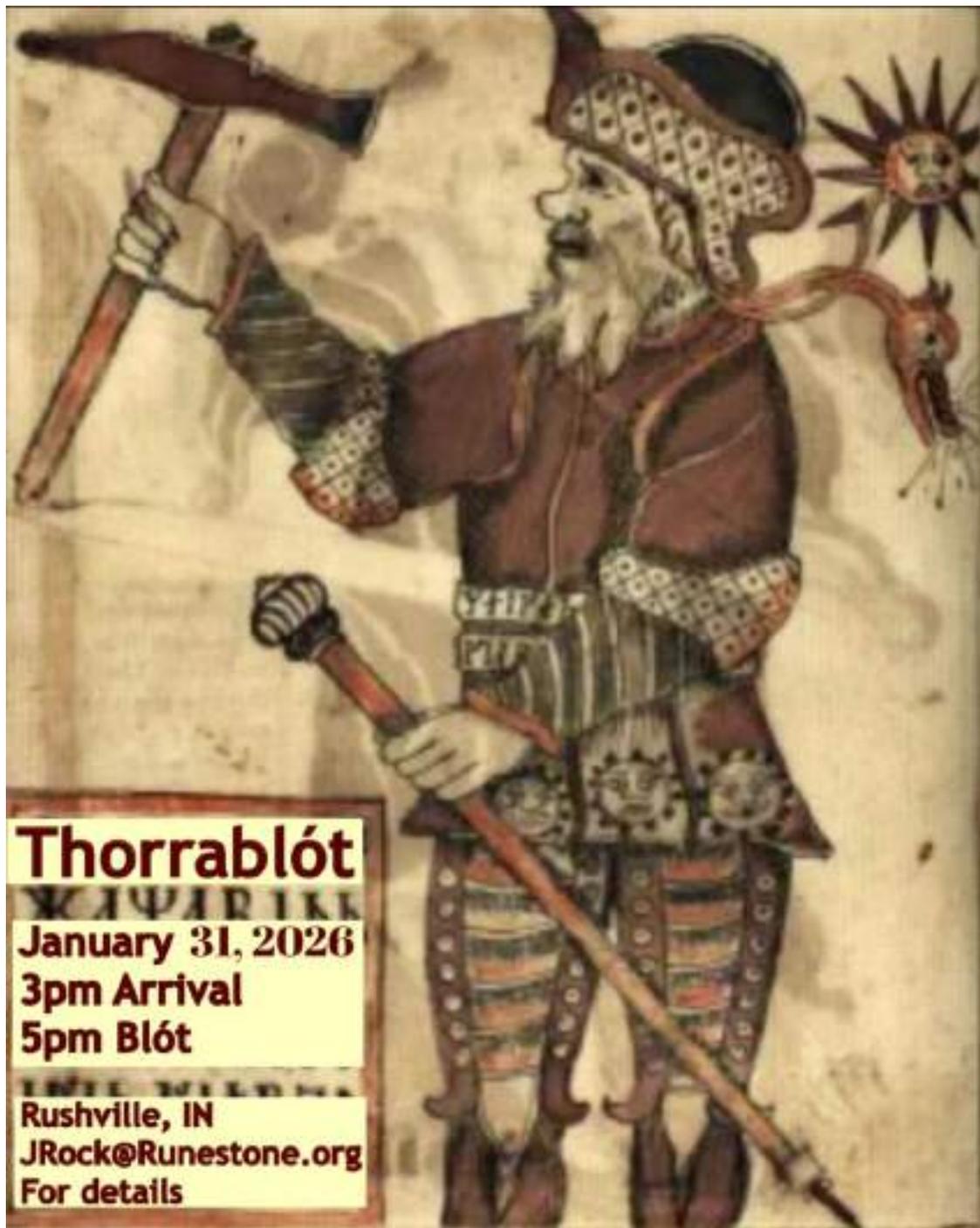


We take time also to appreciate our present, The Wild Hunt is passing, the days grow longer and we gather to revel in each other's company before enduring the coming cold or remaining winter.



I hope that your Jól was as merry as our own here in Indiana and invite you to come seek us out and enjoy our hospitality if ever you're able.

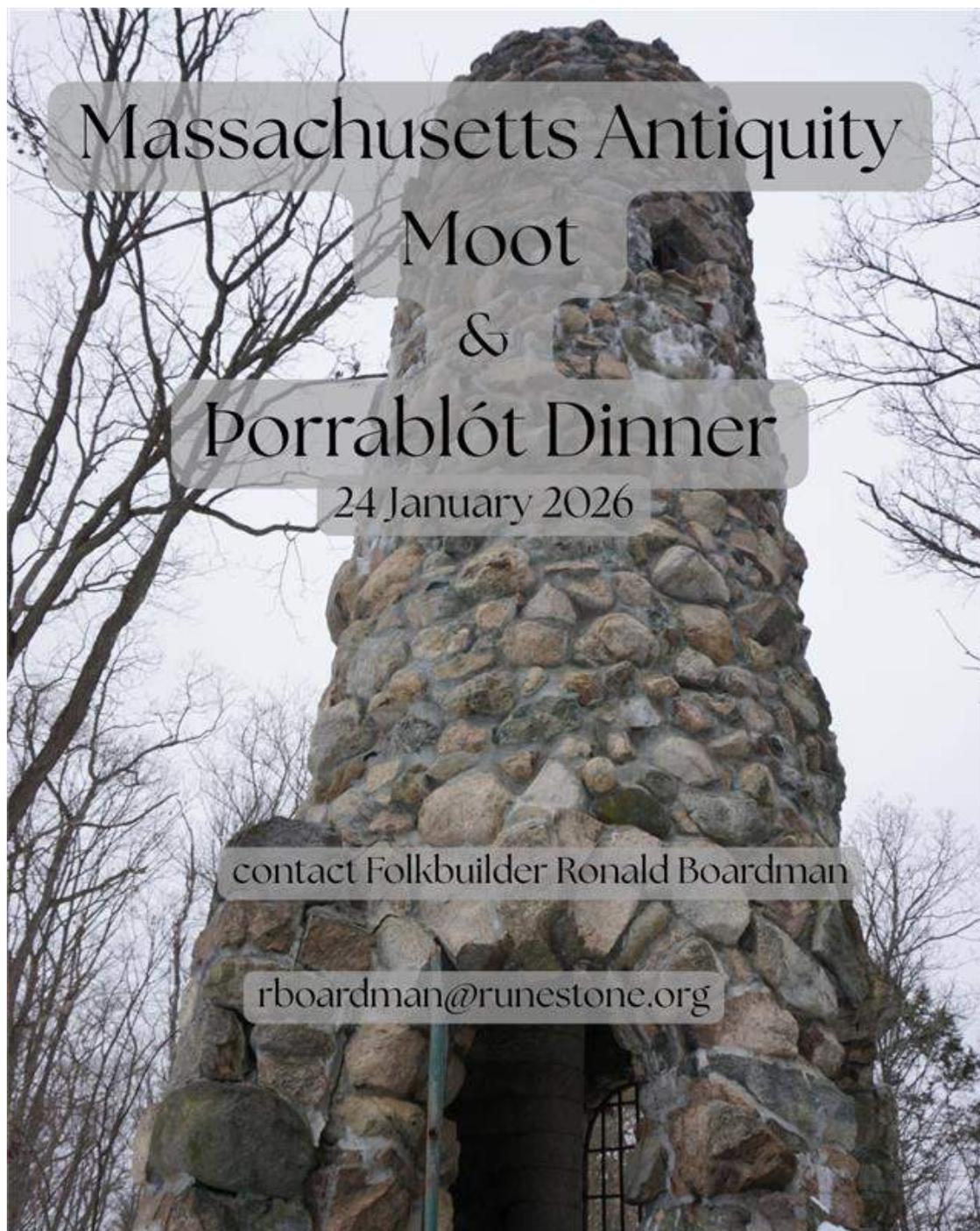
*Upcoming Events*



Goði Jonathan Rock  
[jrock@runestone.org](mailto:jrock@runestone.org)

## Massachusetts

### *Upcoming Events*





Folkbuilder Ronald Boardman  
[rboardman@runestone.org](mailto:rboardman@runestone.org)

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## Michigan

*Finally, a Fane for Fair Freyr*



To ðe friend of farmers has been gifted a fane  
ðat is good for a God who blesses ðe givers  
wiþ bounties and boons that are good for soul and body,

given by a God boþ stately and grand.  
 Secured for sacred rituals, secured  
 to right a wroŋ: ðe denial of rites  
 done for ðe drighten of ðe plow and ðe drivin  
 of proud and powerful cows. Ðat prince of  
 of cattle and cultivation now holds his castle  
 in his holy hands, his fingers secure on that hall that's  
 fine in fixture, and loŋs to be filled  
 wiþ ðe love of ðe lord of ðe world, and loŋ  
 will ðe worshipers work ðeir holy ways  
 in ðat hall, so highly timbered and hearty.  
 It has been time for a temple to Freyr for a loŋ time!

### *No Swimming in December*



Friends and folk,

2025's December Moot here in Michigan went swimmingly! Having said that, we did not go swimming, which have been a catastrophic idea given the weather. It was quite cold! During Blót I actually lost feeling in my fingers. We had a good crowd for lunch, with several kids, although some had to leave early. Myself and a few others were still riding a high from the dedication of Freyshof, so we had a good amount of fun regaling those who did not attend about the event.

After the meal, we went off to a lake that I assume is lovely when it's not frozen solid, and held Blót to the holy Freyr. We angled the circle so as to protect the ladies from the

frigid winds.

Hail the Gods, hail the Folk, hail the AFA, and hail the holy Freyr!

*Upcoming Events*



Folkbuilder Chris Savich  
[csavich@runestone.org](mailto:csavich@runestone.org)

## New Brunswick

### *The Relationship Between Dogs and our Folk*



#### Origin of the Bond

There are few relationships or bonds quite so powerful or iconic as the one between Man and Dog. We have been at each other's side for tens of thousands of years, helping each other and sharing in the good and bad. This relationship is so powerful that we often sacrifice for our four-legged family members.

Approximately 14,700 years ago there was a nomadic tribe traveling through pre-historic Germany, and this tribe had already managed to form a mutual relationship with dogs. Not only had they managed to pioneer this bond, but they also rendered the earliest known act of Veterinary Care by caring for a puppy that was sick with Distemper. The puppy was fed, watered, and carried by the tribe for weeks. To learn more, research the Bonn-Oberkassel Puppy.

#### Ancient Civilizations

There is plenty of evidence to conclude that our Germanic ancestors were well aware of the utility of dogs, making use of them in three main ways.



First and foremost, dogs were a source of security. Large dogs such as mastiffs would be kept around and cared for as guardians of the settlement or homestead, keeping predators away from livestock, and bandits away from the home.

Secondly, they were used to help herd livestock. It would have been common amongst the wealthy cattle herders to have a dog or two for help controlling the herd. This would have been invaluable in securing the animals during storms or times where the animals were otherwise upset.



Finally, we used dogs to hunt. In fact, we still do for many of the same species. We still send hounds howling after bears and large cats in an effort to send them scrambling up a tree. We still use Retrievers and Pointers with bird hunting. German Shepherds as well as Belgian Malinois as used for the purpose of chasing down criminals. The mutual work of man and dog has made us an almost unstoppable force when paired appropriately with the same goal.

### Middle Ages



During the middle ages, our relationship with dogs underwent a shift in dynamic very similar to us humans. While the wealthy began to live more luxurious lives, their need for working dogs wained and their want for social pomp increased. It's during this time we see our people start to breed dogs not for work, not for use, but for image. The way

the dog looked became a more important factor, so we see the demand for aesthetic dogs begin to form amongst the aristocracy.

As for the average farmer, we continued our allied work with our hounds. We continued to rely on their senses to guard our livelihood and our family, we trusted them to help us round up our herds, and we employed their tenacity and intelligence to help us collect our wild game.

It is important not to forget, at this point we would have been burying and mourning our furry friends for millennia. Our bond, either through toil or through companionship, has always been enveloped in affection for one another.

### **Modern Relations**

Dogs in the modern day are seen by some as replacements or additions to our children and it's often easy to see why. We have spent literally thousands of years cohabitating, pursuing survival, and continuing our evolution. We have such an intrinsic relationship that both humans and dogs release oxytocin when we make sustained eye contact while relaxed.

The more consistent relation lies in the lives of working dogs. We continue to use dogs in our everyday lives but also in far more specialized roles. Where once we relied on each other to survive the natural world, we now rely on dogs to help keep us safe from our fellow man. It could be a drug-sniffing dog at a drive-thru border crossing or a bomb-sniffing dog at an airport, from K-9 unit bite dogs to search and rescue dogs of the mountains and coast, dogs are still helping us stay safe.



These days, we have made many advancements when it comes to protecting our canine partners. We have developed canine body armour in the form of vests and helmets, we have developed means of protecting their eyes and ears from debris and combatants alike. We install heat alarms and internal monitoring systems to vehicles we know the dog will spend long hours in during any kind of weather. Between training and handling techniques evolving over time, and our increased exposure to the risks our partners face, veterinarian intervention has also evolved to compensate for the new risks such as fentanyl attacks and other attempted druggings. One of our greatest choices, in my personal opinion, is our choice to institute a proper retirement, ranging from 5-10 years of service depending on circumstances and job risk.

### **In Aryan Spiritual Heritage**

I have chosen 4 examples of dogs from across our European home to show the diversity that dogs inhabit in our mind and lore.

*Garmr*



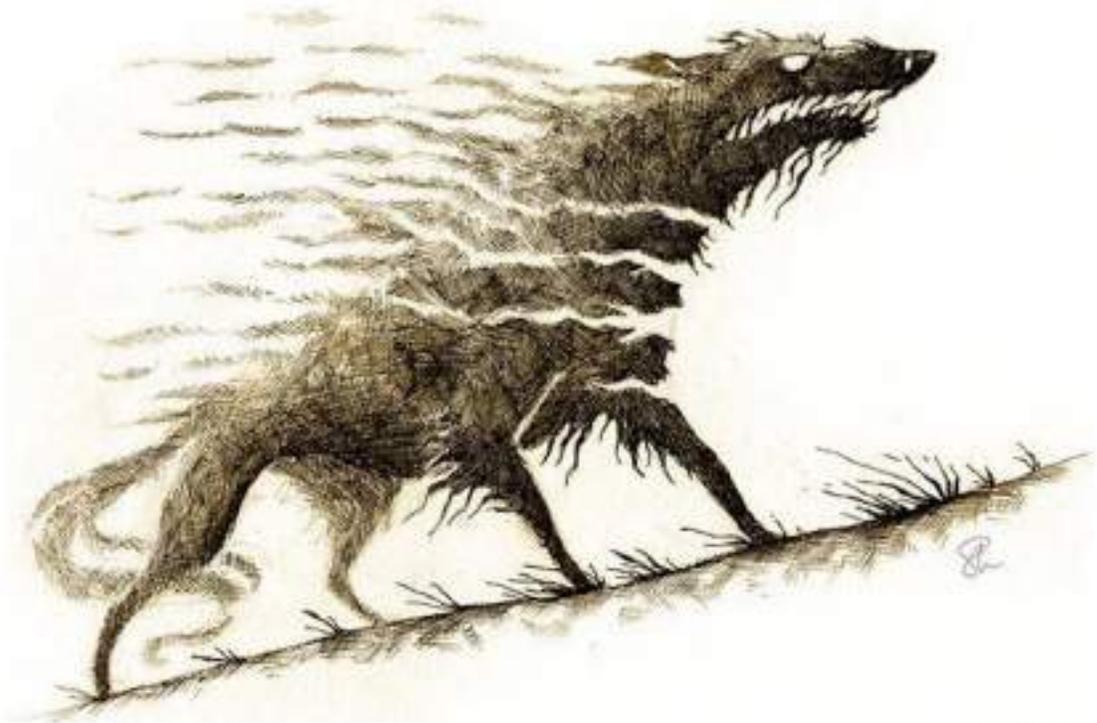
From Norse lore, Garmr is said to be a blood-stained hound guarding Hel's gate. Garmr is often compared to Fenrir, especially given they both have a less than pleasant relationship with Týr, as it is said that during Ragnarok that Týr and Garmr will kill each other.

*Cerberus*



Hailing from Greece, Cerberus is quite similar to Garmr in function, but quite different in presentation. Where Garmr is described as a blood-stained hound, Cerberus is described as a (usually) three-headed dog, often including serpents for a tail. He is said to guard the gates of the underworld preventing any from leaving.

*Black Shuck*



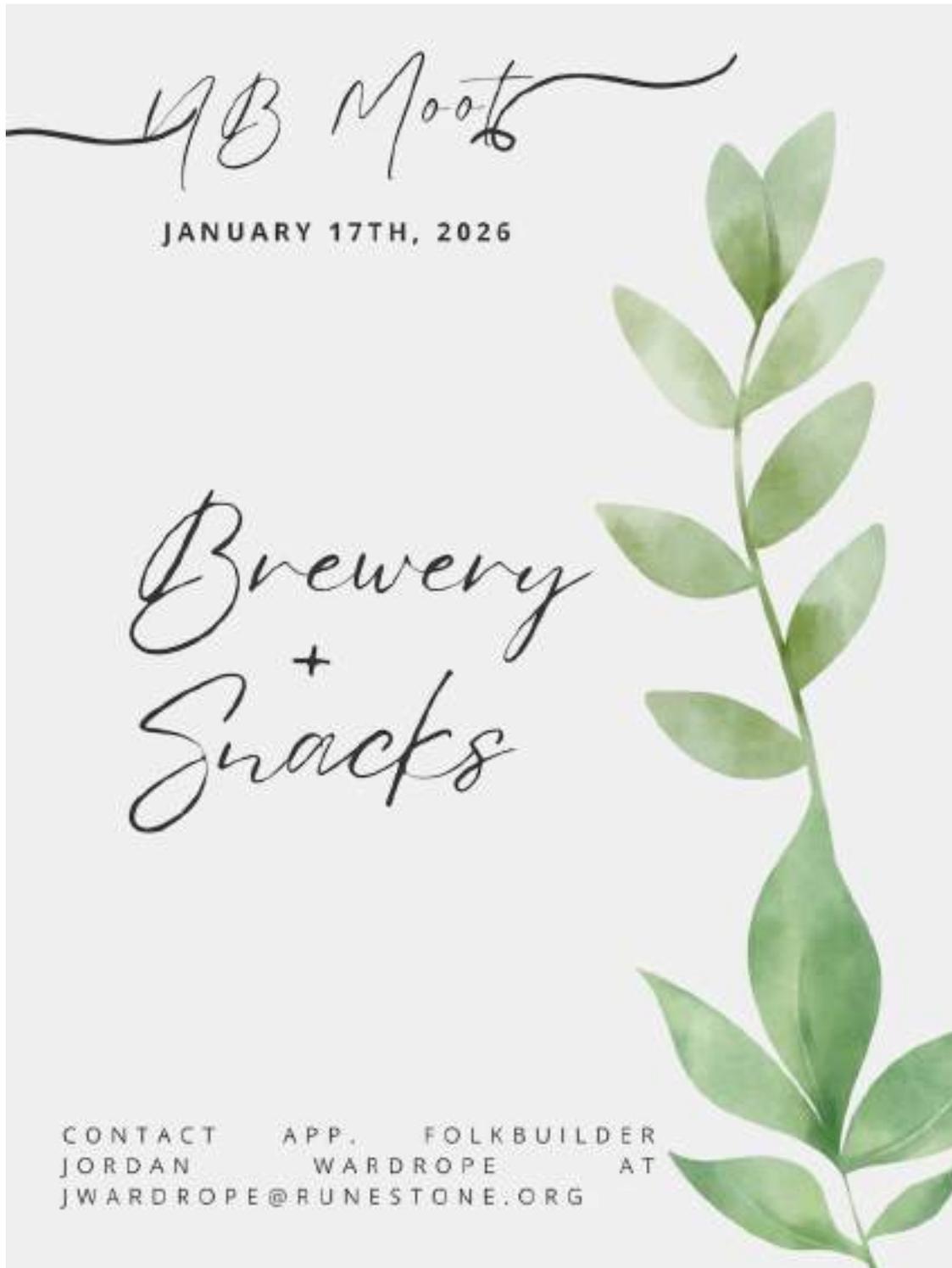
The Black Shuck originates from the East Anglia area of England, but has made appearances in almost every corner of the country. The Black Shuck is often described as being a large, shaggy black dog with one or two glowing red eyes. It's often attributed with being an omen of death, though some claim it is far more benign.

*Cwn Annwn*



The Cwn Annwn are often compared to the Black Shuck and other black dog myths. They are described as being white spectral hounds with red ears, often accompanying the Wild Hunt. They are said to be led by Arawn (or Gwyn ap Nudd) as an omen of death. According to folklore, they are loudest when far away and get quieter as they close in on the poor sop they must guide to the otherworld.

### *Upcoming Events*



Jordan Wardrobe  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[jwardrobe@runestone.org](mailto:jwardrobe@runestone.org)



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## New Hampshire

### *Meat & Greet*



I recently hosted my first Moot!

I called it the “Meat & Greet,” since I held it at a local BBQ joint, SmokeShow BBQ, in Concord NH. This restaurant also catered our recent wedding, so I was happy to enjoy

their food again, especially in the fine company of fellow AFA Folk.

What my guests lacked in quantity, they certainly made up in quality! The Sagert family, with brand new baby boy Sagert in tow, and Josiah Hector showed up for some food, fellowship, frith, and fun!

Tyler Sagert blessed our meal, and we all tucked in the tasty BBQ offerings—there was much pork, beef, chicken, cornbread, mashed potatoes, Texas caviar, and chili consumed that night, but most importantly, there were Folk gathered together.

Josiah had to jet a little early, but I'm really glad he came out; I hadn't seen him in a bit and he's always good for some interesting conversation.

The Sagert family later came over to our home, as Jess needed to feed the baby; I offered the privacy of our living room over the growing noise of the restaurant. It was really lovely to enjoy their company and visit with their girls, who call me "Princess Angela," since they were guests at our September wedding, and I LOVE IT SO MUCH. The girls left with cuttings from one of my houseplants; let's hope they have wee green thumbs!

So to those who made it out into chilly Concord, New Hampshire, for my first Moot, I thank you!

I'm trying my hand at hosting again in February! Come out to the McAullife-Shepard Discovery Center on Sunday, 15 February, to learn of the endeavours of our Folk to explore the Universe.

Be well, and Hail to the Aesir!

### *Upcoming Events*

# PLANETARIUM MOOT

Family-friendly learning about our explorations into Space!

Where:  
McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center  
2 Institute Dr Concord NH

When:  
Sunday 15 February 2026  
12:30pm

Cost:  
\$14/adults, \$13 students & seniors, \$11  
ages 3-12, Free for -2  
+\$7 for planetarium show tickets  
Food: Cafe on site

Contact [arobichaud@runestone.org](mailto:arobichaud@runestone.org)



Angela Robichaud  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[arobichaud@runestone.org](mailto:arobichaud@runestone.org)

*Jól Sumbl*

At the height of the Jóltide, New Hampshire held it's Jól Sumbl. The overnight of the 26<sup>th</sup> to morning of the 27th, Sumbl Day, saw a good 5 inches of fresh snow but that was no match for my snow plow and I was able to clear plenty of parking which was good because we needed it.



The Folk gathered, old friends and new with greetings of God Jol or Glad Yule. These greetings were non-stop filling my house and yard. Lebkuchen, Pfeffernusse, Winternacht Gefüllte Herzen Zartbitter and others were laid out next to the usual cheeses.

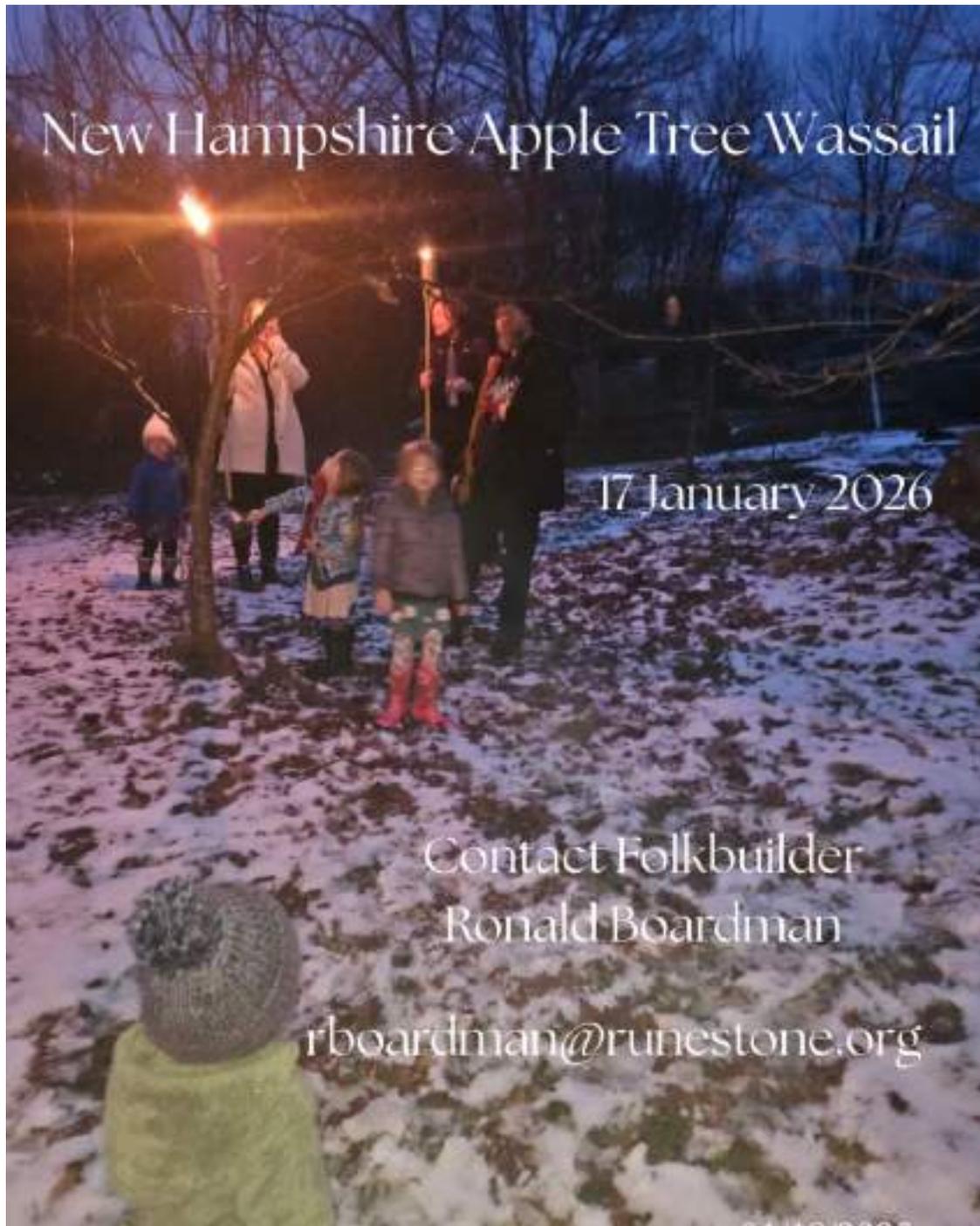


Once the house was full, down to the Blóthouse we went. Most were grateful we had already pre-lit the candles and woodstove so it was nice and comfortable. I addressed the crowd about courtesies for Sumbl as we had some newer faces who hadn't Sumbl'd with us before. A new member had brought some outstanding 1634 Mead so we poured that mead, the ladies wove their magic and we sat to Sumbl. Three times, in our ancient tradition, the horn went round and the toasts were made. I think we could have sat longer but all things must end.



Then back to the house we went for Spiral Hams, potatoes, spaghetti and meatballs for feast. Little of that food survived the night once Folkbuilder Sagert blessed the meal. So many laughs, so much joy, and so many children! It was a day to remember.

### *Upcoming Events*



Folkbuilder Ronald Boardman  
[rboardman@runestone.org](mailto:rboardman@runestone.org)

*Showing Up Matters*



Life is busy, and not every absence needs explaining. There are real reasons to stay home—illness, loss, true emergencies. Those things deserve understanding.

But sometimes what stops us isn't necessity, it's inconvenience.

My family welcomed our 3rd child on December 7th. Two weekends later, we had already committed to attending a Moot an hour away. When it came time to leave, our van wouldn't start. It would have been easy to turn back and say it just wasn't meant to be.

Instead, we adapted. I bought car seats for my other vehicle since the ones from the van did not fit, moved everything over in the snow-covered driveway, and we went. We showed up as planned.

It was our beloved Angela's first moot, and being there mattered to us.

Our traditions are carried forward not only by belief, but by presence. Showing up—even when it requires extra effort—strengthens our bonds and honours the commitments we make to one another.

As we move into 2026, I hope to see everyone make it out to many Moots this year, whenever they're able. Our gatherings are stronger when we're together!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the AFA!

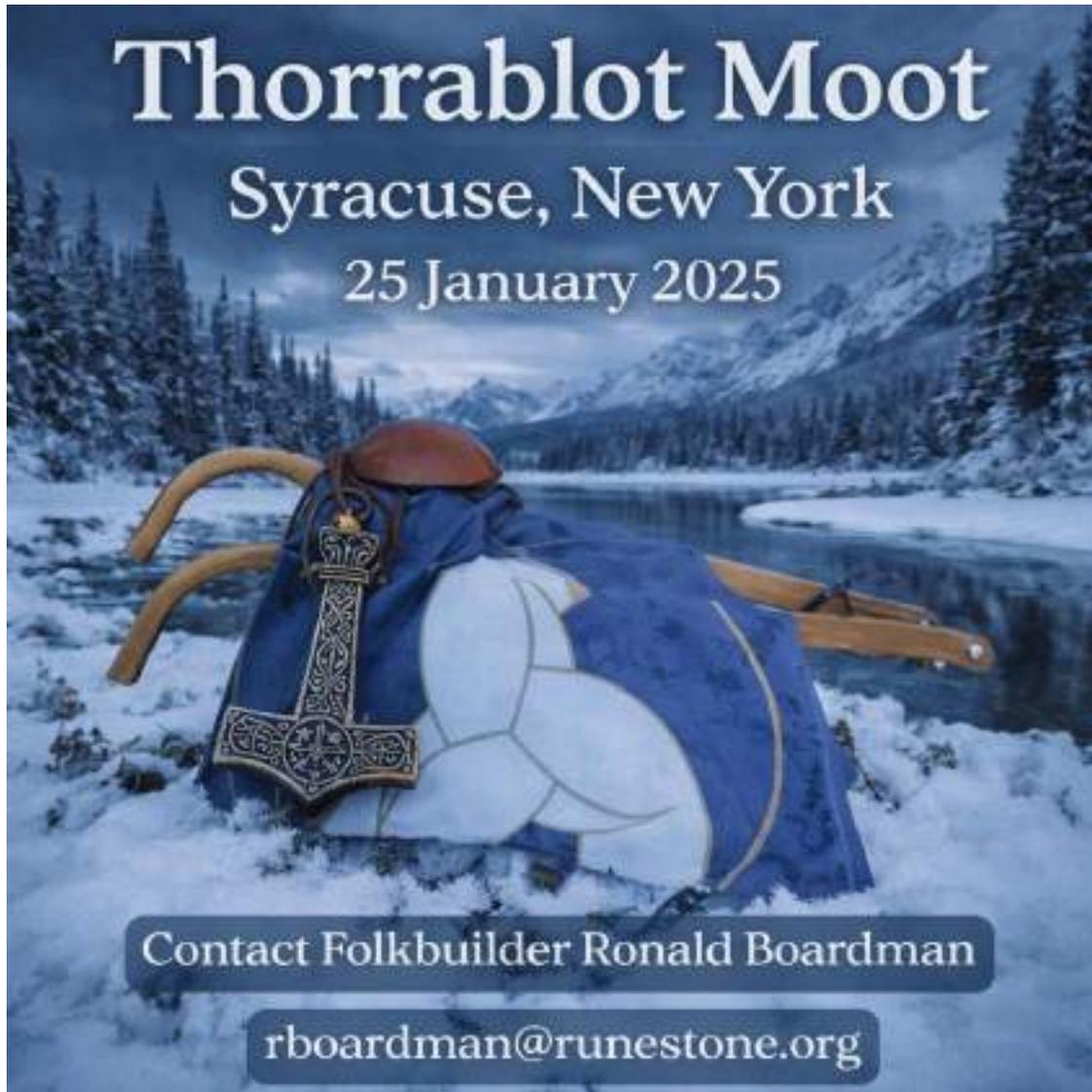


Folkbuilder Tyler Sagert  
[tsagert@runestone.org](mailto:tsagert@runestone.org)

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## New York

### *Upcoming Events*



**Thorrablót Moot**  
Syracuse, New York  
25 January 2025

Contact Folkbuilder Ronald Boardman  
[rboardman@runestone.org](mailto:rboardman@runestone.org)



Folkbuilder Ronald Boardman  
[rboardman@runestone.org](mailto:rboardman@runestone.org)

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## Ohio

### *Welcoming a New Apprentice Folkbuilder*

Please welcome Michael Linger of Ohio as our newest apprentice Folkbuilder for the Freyshof District! We are excited to see the success Michael will achieve in the

coming months and years.

Hail Michael Linger!

Hail the AFA!

Hail Freyr!



Michael Linger  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[mlinger@runestone.org](mailto:mlinger@runestone.org)

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## Pennsylvania

### *The Great Blótferð of 2025*



In December of 2024, a friend and Folkbuilder began persuading me to fly from Pennsylvania to Dísaping at Njörðshof in White Springs, Florida. I had been in the AFA

for 2 years and had not yet visited a Hof. I was on the fence, but he won me over by telling me Stephen and Sheila McNallen would be there. I arrived on Thursday, the day before the event, and drove to the Hof. The sanctuary was quiet, dominated by a massive, glowing image of Njörðr. It was Witan Svan's most recent mural of the Æsir (at the time). Note the wooden statue of Freyr in the right corner.



I felt something like a chill when I stepped beyond the doors into the sanctuary. The word "chill" carries a negative connotation. The feeling was more like electricity or a static charge originating at the base of the skull and extending through the spine into the limbs. It was a wave of vigor. I could immediately feel this was a holy place. It is a sensation I would get stepping into every Hof and Hof-to-be that year. Njörðshof has perhaps the largest amount of land attached at present.



The event began, and I met many great Folk, including Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman and Gyðja Sheila McNallen, who wasted no time encouraging me to attend Miðsumar at Óðinshof. I also met the Plourde family, the Lawspeaker, and the East family. I sat enthralled by Stephen McNallen's accounts of his adventures. Pam McCloskey managed to prepare food for everyone present using a closet-sized kitchen. The auction was full of beautiful items, and the Lawspeaker was an outstanding auctioneer, making the Folk laugh frequently. Alexander Casto (also the Hof Steward at the time) took his Folkbuilder Oath. I wanted more shortly after the event, and Austrá couldn't come fast enough.



I managed to get off work for Austra in the South at Þórshof. Austra has been a special event for me since my first Austra in Boyertown, PA, and this was the only Hof within a 7.5-hour drive. I again felt that wave of vigor as I stepped into Þórshof. The building has a high ceiling, with Algiz rune supports lining the side walls, and a gathering hall built next to it, where most of the Folk can be found outside of ritual. The photo of the mural does not do it justice in terms of size or beauty.



I met several great people, including Folkbuilder Nick Rice and the Young family. I witnessed a baby naming and saw two Folkbuilders, John Rock and Heather Young, take

their Ordination to become Goðar. Nick Gunn took his Folkbuilder Oath. I also saw Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea honoured for his outstanding accomplishments in supporting our Folk, both within and without, as Folkbuilder of the Year. The auction was filled with several cool items, and Goði Rock rose to the occasion as the auctioneer. He made me laugh so hard it hurt. On the drive home, I was trying to think of how I could make it to Óðinshof.



I picked up a lot of overtime and ran the numbers. I began reaching out to try to save money. Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman helped with the planning, and soon enough, I was on my way to Óðinshof, where I encountered another AFA member at Philly airport by chance. He was on his way to the same event. I got to meet (the now apprentice Folkbuilder) Austin Merwald, who offered me a ride in his rental car.

Soon enough, we were bound for Óðinshof.



I arrived a day early and found the Hof mostly empty. At the top of the entry stairs, I felt Óðinn's eye on me before I even stepped into the building. I saw Folkbuilders Sierra and Alexander were hard at work getting ready for the start of Miðsumar. I would have guessed at the time that this was the year's highlight. The McNallens began the day with a prayer. There was excellent company, great Blótar, games of strength, a mead-making presentation, ladies' tea/men's moot, and Sumbl. There was room for everyone to camp on-site, and a motel within a < 10-minute walk. A friendly AFA couple offered me a ride back to the airport, and I was on my way home.



Sigrblót at Sigrheim, Tennessee, was the most challenging event to make. I needed to take 5-days off to make the drive and succeeded in switching for 4 out of 5, but exhausted all possible switches. I had gained a reputation as the one trying to attend every national event this year, and it seemed as if that wasn't going to happen. I had almost given up when my boss texted me, saying they needed help on the night shift. We struck a deal, and I got the final day off in exchange for a week of nights. This threw a wrench into my travel plans, and I ended up arriving at 1am on Friday at Sigrheim in the deep darkness of the Appalachian *holler*, where I settled into sleep after being heckled by an armadillo. The drive was over 10 and a half hours.



There was plenty of room to camp, and we had a large tent set up for gathering. The event began with the usual gradual arrival of the Folk and the welcoming of the Gods. Goði Trent East was elevated to the Witan. The men journeyed up the mountain for a man-making ceremony. We held a Blót in the outline of where Týrshof will be. It began to rain in the sun as the beams entered the Blót space from below the rain clouds. We had an Ancestor Blót with a song written for the occasion (on short notice) by one of our talented musicians. The heat was brutal, but it was worth it. The drive home was just as long.



Baldrshof wasn't hard to make thanks to Senior Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher. He offered me a ride to the Hof from the airport. I arrived a day before the Freyfaxi event, where the Folk were getting things ready. Baldrshof ends the night early, so hot tub Moots became the standard at the hotel after hours. Folkbuilder Sara Ault's car broke down, and Folkbuilder Ashley Erlandson began a 7-hour drive one-way to pick her up. Witan Brandy Fassett hosted a Galdr workshop and ritual. Meals were held in the hall below the sanctuary. We passed our hands over a Candle of Syn to enter the ritual space for Blótar. Folkbuilder Sara Ault became Gyðja Sarah Ault. Austin Merwald gave me rides to and from the Hof each day and stepped up to Folkbuild that weekend along with several others. Goði Erlandson auctioned a bucket of water to be dumped on him for the benefit of the Hof. He also gave me a ride back to the airport.



At the time, Baldrshof marked the milestone of visiting every Hof this year. I was able to compare cultures and traditions between the different Hof's now like how Njörðshof has a culture of minding one's words with a swear jar that imposes an extra penalty for misusing *wyrd/weird*. Þórshof has a culture of being very well-dressed and shares a men's pre-Blót ritual with Baldrshof, who uses a Candle of Syn to mark the passing through a threshold into sacred space for Blót. Óðinshof is the only Hof with all its Blótar outside, within its beautiful ritual circle.

There was only one national event left, and that was Vetrnætr in New Hampshire. Vetrnætr 2024 was my first national event, now hosted for the second time at Othala Acres by Folkbuilder Ronald Boardman in 2025. A big tent was pitched, and two patio heaters were set up inside. The nights were cold, but even with the main tent flap open, the heaters kept us warm.



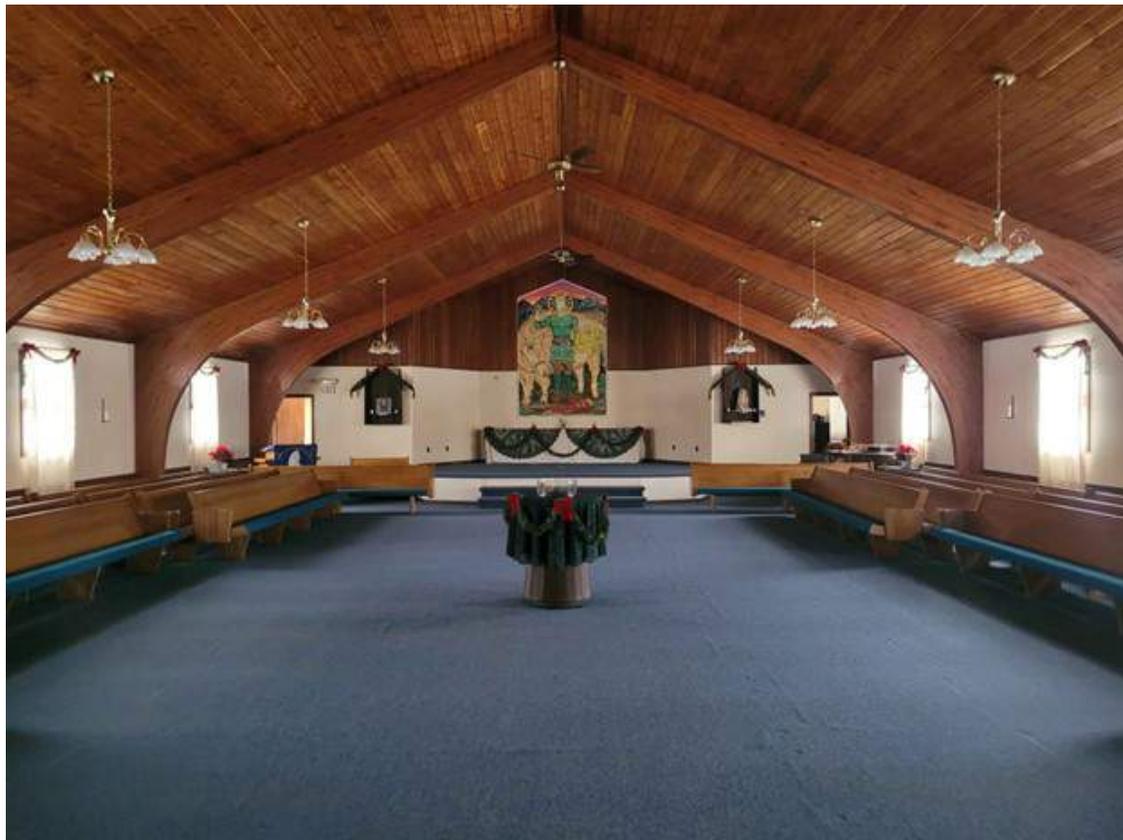
This was a special event for the Savich family. Chris Savich presented on Sveinbjörn Beinteinsson, took his Folkbuilder Oath, and the newest Savich was welcomed in a Ausa Vatni baby-naming ceremony. Folkbuilder Tyler Sagert gave a men's talk on fitness in the Blóthouse. A Blót was performed to Óðinn, then to the ancestors in the God Pole Grove. Folkbuilder Ron Boardman did a presentation on the fruit press for the kids. The auction had five horns. Two horns were small, one blank but custom-carved for the winner, an Óðinshof horn, and the first Freyshof horn available. This was the most I've seen at any auction so far.



There was one more event to make for the year. Not a national event, but a unique one. The Dedication of Freyshof, the first temple to Holy Freyr in over a thousand years. I would spend most of my free weekends there, helping to make it presentable through many smaller Blótferðs. I learned from visiting the Ericksons that a five-hour, one-way trip can be a day trip for me, and Freyshof was about four and a half hours from me.



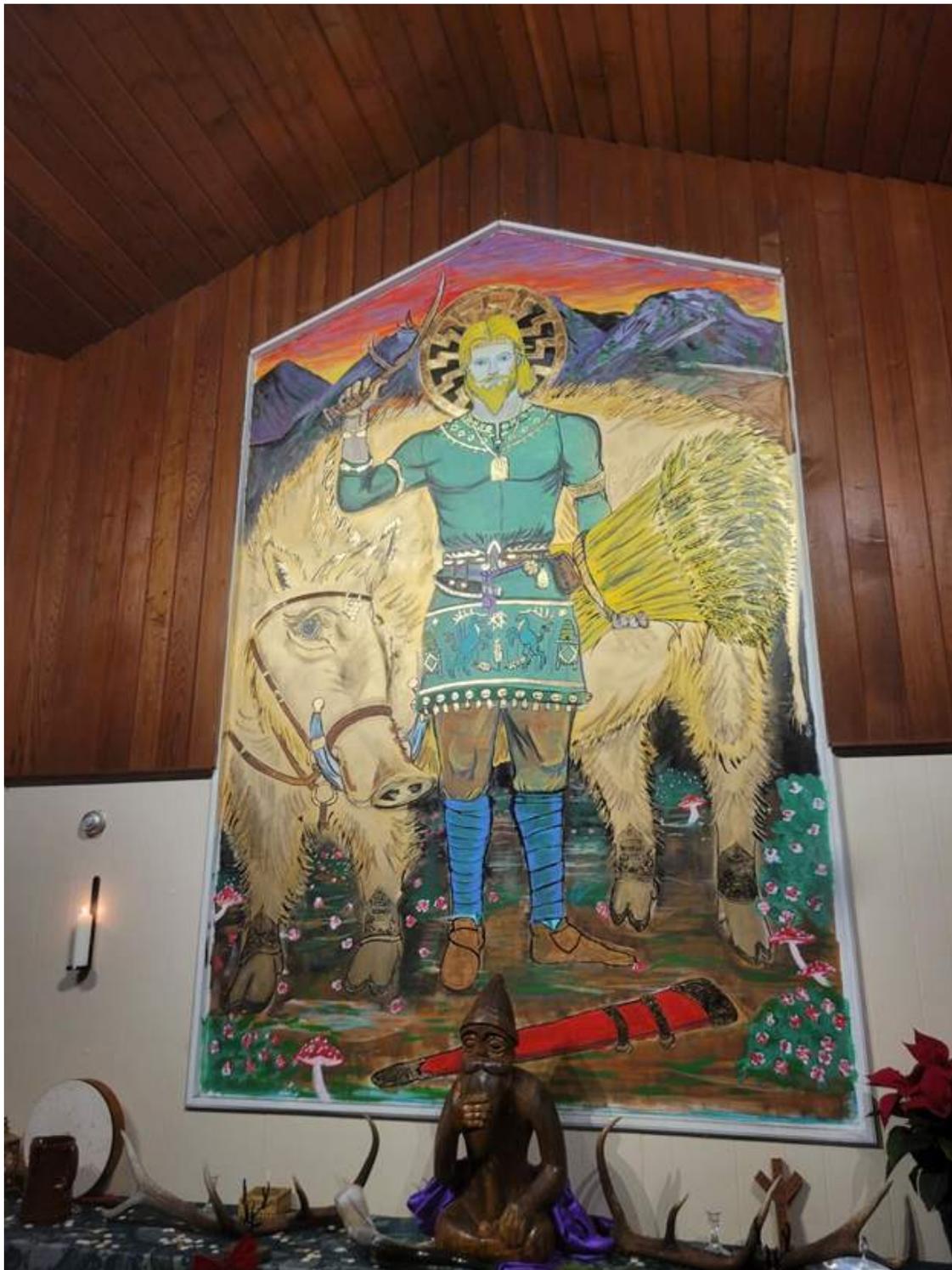
There was a lot of work necessary to convert a neglected temple of Yahweh into a gift to Holy Freyr. Everything was scrubbed “-to within an inch of its life.” One night, I arrived in preparation for the next day’s work and camped out behind the Hof. One of the neighbors heckled me because he suspected me of being a hooligan. What a good neighbor! I was equally glad he didn’t call the police on me, as I was to see he was looking out for the Hof.





Months later, Freyshof was looking like a Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly, and dedication was on our doorstep. Witan Svan painted another beautiful mural for the Æsir, this one to Holy Frey. Shrines were raised to the Ancestors and Hof Hero. The Goddess shrines would be delivered by Folkbuilder Ron Boardman the night before.

The dedication kicked off. This unique event was made even better by seeing Folk, whom I had met at all the national events I had traveled to. It was the perfect finale to a great year. We processed around the Hof, declaring it a gift to Holy Freyr. The wooden idol of Freyr (that I pointed out in the first paragraph) was brought North from Njörðshof by Goði Mayo and Witan East. The skilled and generous craftsman who had given it to the AFA for Freyshof years ago was the one who carried it around the grounds as we declared our gift to Holy Freyr. We moved into the sanctuary where the idol was placed below the mural. Those present were anointed with the rune of Freyshof. An Elk Antler was gifted to Freyshof by Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein, and a sword was gifted by Folkbuilder Mike Melillo. The food was delicious, Sumbl was full of praise and laughter.



So why did I write this article? Partially to boast, but mainly to get our Folk to visit our Hofs. Every single Hof visit was an incredible experience. The temples alone are worth the trip, but getting to be there with your Folk is even better. I titled this article with the year because even greater Blótferðs will be possible with time. We are on a roll, and momentum shows no signs of slowing. In fact, each Hof becomes easier to attain than the last as the AFA learns and grows. Lord Týr will soon have his own hof at Sigrheim, and the rest of the Æsir are sure to follow in the years to come. These are exciting times!

Not only can we be present for the openings of temples to our Gods for the first time in over a thousand years, but we can help make them happen.

If you're a member reading this, try and make 2026 the year you visit a Hof. If you're a lurker reading this, why aren't you on the team? Reach out to a Folkbuilder if you're trying to make it to a Hof. They can help you plan and may know a few ways to cut travel costs.

— Kaleb H., member, Ohio, Freyshof

### *Upcoming Events*

Join us for lunch on  
Thursday, January 8th, 2026  
at  
Noon  
Bucks County, Pennsylvania  
RSVP [jilliestorm@yahoo.com](mailto:jilliestorm@yahoo.com)



**Vermont**

*Winter Wassail*



Woodstock, Vermont does a fun thing every year (40 something of them) called the 'Winter Wassail.' They close the quaint New England town's Commons and downtown off for a few hours. On the Town Commons, they have carolers, hot food and drink vendors, blacksmith products, pottery makers, breads, you know the sort. Wool and yarn are next to local wines. Good wholesome stuff. They also setup a large bonfire on the Commons with smaller firepits around for warmth.



The highlight of the event is a Horse Parade that starts downtown, goes around the Commons and back out of town. The participants dress in Victorian inspired clothing and drive the horses, some in wagons, some carts, and some saddled. It is a wonderful sight and a wonderful day and a few of us New England AFAers went and shared joy and Frith there again.



After the day full of holiday cheer, we went to a brew pub and had a meal. We hoisted a glass and toasted the Æsir for Jól. We never expected Folkbuilder Tyler Sagert to spring for the entire check or he would have gotten toasted as well!



A note on the word *Wassail*. *Wassail* is a contraction of *Wes Hal* which itself is from *Wes Thu Hal*. It is an ancient English greeting which essentially means 'be whole, be well or be healthy.' Over the years, as it was most often said while offering a drink or horn at a large event such as Jól and at such events there would be singing and drinking of mulled cider that *Wassail* became tied to Jóltide, mulled cider and singing. Singing at Jól turned into Christmas carols but you still hear in many old English carols contain the term *Wassail*. Think 'Here We Come A-Caroling,' the 'Gloucester *Wassail*,' and others. To this day, you hear some Ásatrú men and women use *Wassail* as a greeting or parting. The Nords had a cognate *Ves Heill*. So now you know a little something. Terms and traditions from our ancient Ásatrú past resurrected in a small New England town, though I am certain they see this only in a secular context. 'Til next Moot when we *Wassail* the Apple Trees in New Hampshire!



Folkbuilder Ronald Boardman  
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