

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly

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Baldrshof
Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.baldrshof.org

July 2025



Donate to the AFA

Words from the Allsherjargoði



Thank you to our amazing leadership at Óðinshof and to all of you who traveled far and wide to make Miðsumar such a spectacular success!

Focusing on our 30th anniversary has had me very contemplative of things; where we came from, where we are, and our plans for a glorious future. I remember my first AFA event that I had the honour of attending, Miðsumar 2010 in Alta, California. It is

amazing to see how far we have come. In the 15 years since that event, we transcended being a West Coast organization and have expanded our membership across the United States. At present, the majority of our members are east of the Mississippi! We have gone from wandering to and from rented camps and member's backyards to 4 glorious Hofs to our Æsir. Now more than ever, our Folk have come home to our native faith and those who have come home take our faith more seriously than ever in modern times. We are blessed! We are waxing! We are winning!

I have seen a stark contrast as of late between those willing to live real lives and those who prefer to be stuck in the world of theory or "what if?" It is very easy to get comfortable dreaming and debating about how life should be "someday." It is much easier to enumerate all the ways the doers should do things differently or better than it is to venture outside of our comfort zones and participate in life. Resist the defeatism, resist the nihilism, resist the cope. Join your brothers and sisters out here in the sunlight, living our faith, moving the ball forward, building our reputation, and glorifying the mighty Æsir.

Today is the day. The time is now. Shape your destiny. Build your fame.

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the Folk!

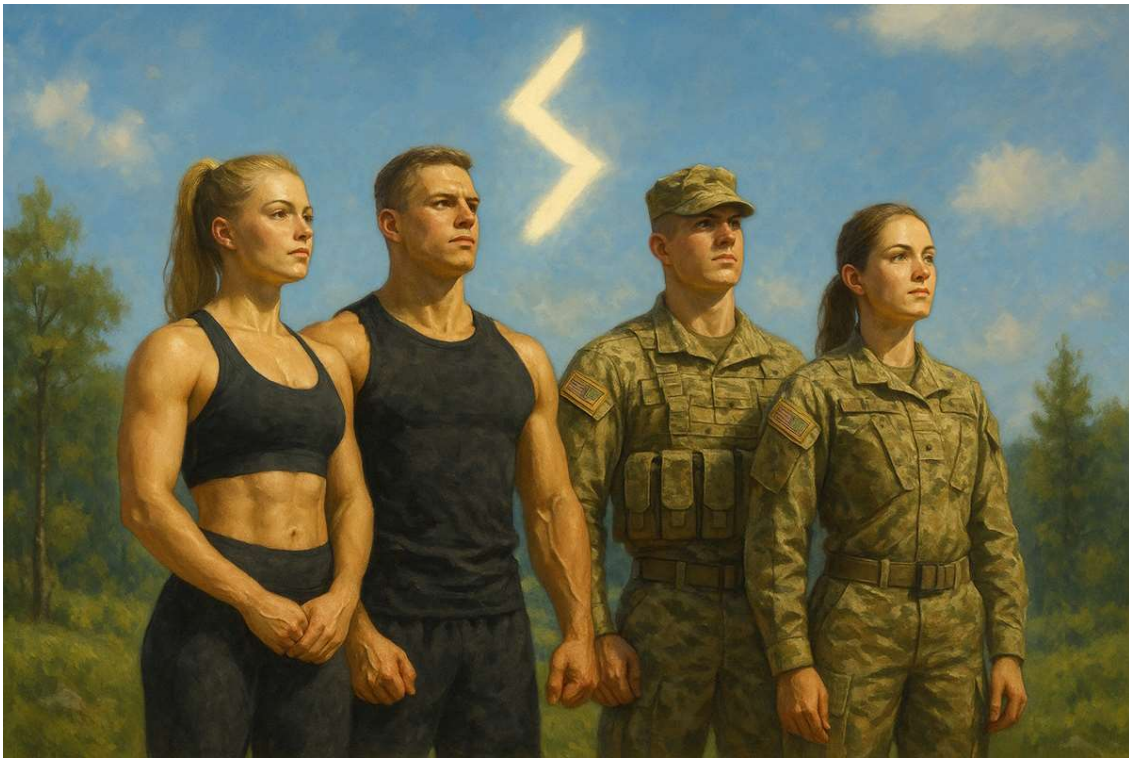
Hail the AFA!



Matthew D. Flavel
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Words from Our Goðar

Declaration of Purpose IX



IX. The affirmation of the struggle of life, welcoming the challenge of that struggle and living life wholly and with joy, and facing eternity with courage

Life's struggle is the whetstone that sharpens the sword of spirit. We should not regret the obstacles that confront us but use them to grow ever stronger and wiser. Nor should we let them drain away our enjoyment of life. Let us live our lives with vigor – and when it is time to die, let us do that with dignity, honor, and grace.

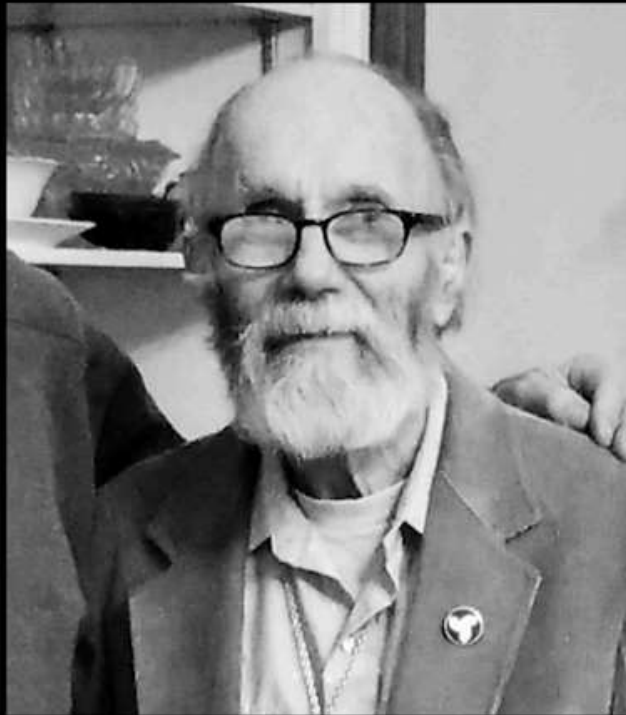
As a Folk in history, we did not fear hard work, difficulty, or struggle. A challenge was welcomed and hoped for, as our Ancestors knew in their hearts that without, made for weakness of body and mind. In that struggle also came the appreciation of success and victory. Without hardship one does not know the self. It is the obstacles that we encounter that shape who and what we become. Challenge should either make us stronger or put us in the ground, quitting only reaffirmed weakness. We unfortunately see an abundance of weakness in our Folk in this age. If challenge doesn't present itself, it is up to each and every one of us to find that challenge and conquer it. When you've quit once, the next time is even easier and so on. We've all done it at some point in our lives, which the hope is that we learn from that weakness and become more. Or we can continue to let it control us; we all have that choice. Embrace difficulty, don't wish it were easier—instead, become better. A sword doesn't become a sword without first being beaten and burned repeatedly, the more, the mightier the sword. Live with vigor, embrace difficulty, grow stronger and wiser, and live well.

Macht geht vor Recht - Might is Right.



Goði Nathan Erlandson
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The Folk Remember



John “Fred” Kilpatrick
Ÿ March 6, 1944 - June 8, 2025 𐌿

The Ásatrú Folk Assembly is saddened by the passing of our brother, John “Fred” Kilpatrick of Kentucky. He departed Midgard to be with his ancestors June 8th. Fred had been a loyal member of the Ásatrú Folk Assembly since 2017.

He is survived by his domestic partner Sherry, son Kevin, and 2 granddaughters, Guthrun (2) and Thorra (10 months.) as well as his brother, Jerry.

Born to a preacher in Shreveport Louisiana, Fred grew up all over the state, before going to college and settling in Kentucky.

Fred had a PhD in Psychology as well as a BSEE in Engineering. He was also 5th Dan in Aikido, as well as Temple Guard in Kuta.

Fred was a dedicated Ásatrúar, a family man and our kinsman.

Cattle die, and kinsmen die
And so does one's self die
But a noble name will never die
If good renown one gets

The Folk Remember

Ásatrú Trúlögmál



Ásatrú Trúlgömál: The fundamental beliefs of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

You can find it on our website at <https://www.runestone.org/asatru-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!



Matthew D. Flavel

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The Quest for Freyshof

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

– Gylfaginning



[Freyshof Fund – Asatru Folk Assembly_\(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)

This sacred quest is making great progress! The generosity has been amazing, as always!

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

1. NJÖRÐSHOF IS NOW COMPLETELY PAID OFF!
2. CURRENT AVERAGE MONTHLY DONATIONS LOOK GOOD!
3. We need to locate a suitable property (The Ericksons have scouted 3 properties so far).
4. We need to find lenders (we have two different parties currently seeking lending pre-approval).



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

As on now, we have \$3,108.92 set aside for our down payment.

Hail Freyr!



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Sigrheim: Home of Victory

Support the Home of Victory



Help Sigrheim get stocked
and ready for our Folk!

Donate Supplies
from our
wishlist ✨
amazon

Thank You!

[click here](#)

Upcoming Events



Sigrblót at Sigrheim

July
25-27

Tickets at
<https://store.runestone.org/product/sigrblot>



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Victory Never Sleeps



Victory Never Sleeps is a weekly podcast airing Wednesdays at 8pm Central. It is produced by the Asatru Folk Assembly, hosted by Allsherjargoði Matthew Flavel, and features weekly special guests speaking on spiritual topics pertaining to our Folk. The show doesn't stop until the questions stop rolling in. Come listen and learn about a variety of topics and truths relevant to our modern 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, Twitter, Odyssee, VK, Rumble, and Twitch. Audio versions drop on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, iHeart Radio, and Amazon Music no later than the Friday after the live show.

Check out the full playlist of 150+ shows with 100's of hours of previous recordings on our [YouTube](#).

Matthew D. Flavel

Allsherjargoði, Asatru Folk Assembly

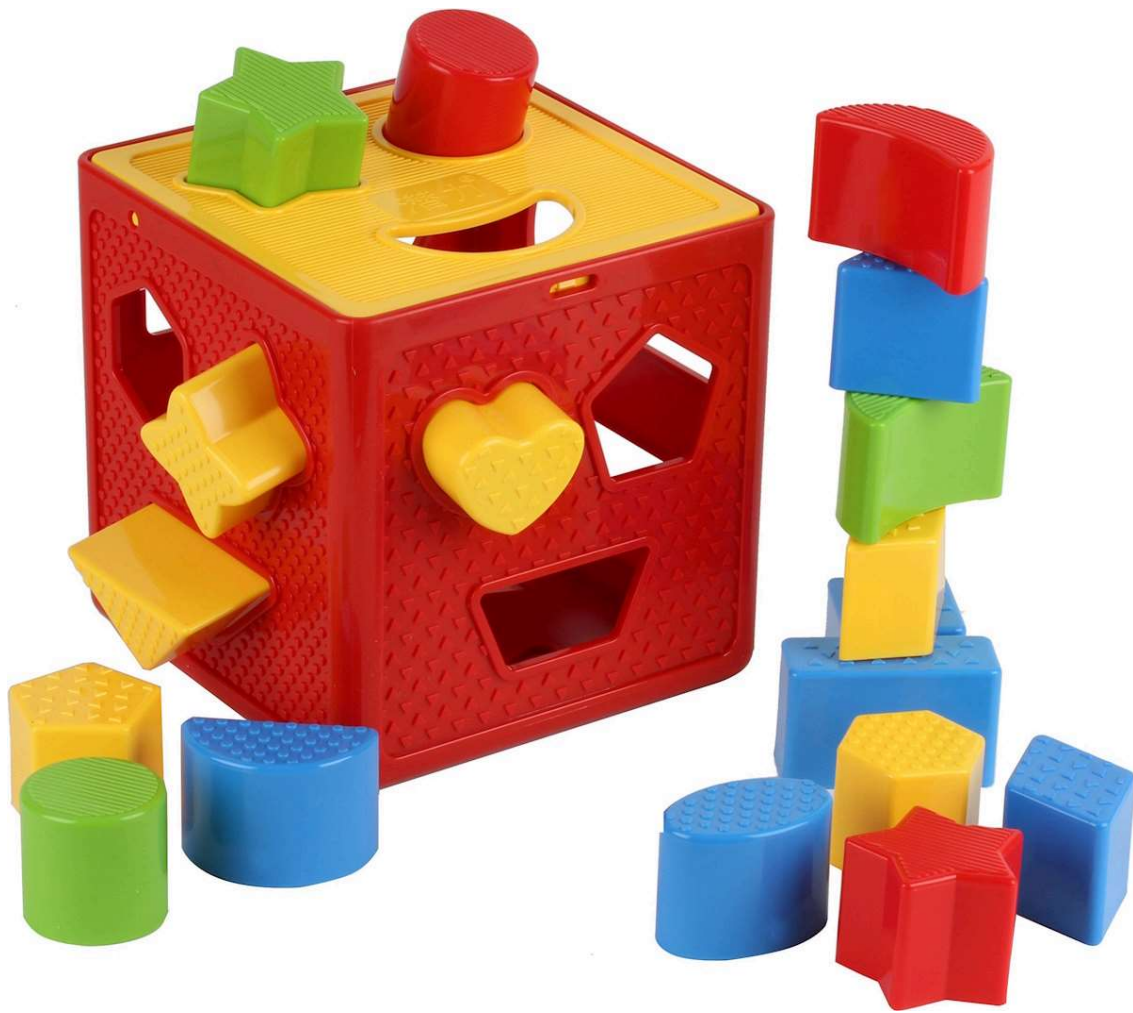
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AFA Homeschool Program



Check out the Asatru Academy at AsatruAcademy.org



In the past few Runestone articles about the Ásatrú Academy, we have begun introducing ideas about the Waldorf philosophy of education. While there are many homeschool and educational theories, the foundation of Steiner’s work is the whole person, whole family, and their values.

The essential element in early childhood education is actually the educator, who shapes and influences the children’s environment, not only through the furnishings, activities, and rhythms of the day, but most important, through the qualities of her own being and her relationships... These qualities, which include attitudes and gestures both outer and inner, permeate the early childhood setting and deeply influence the children, who take them up through a process of imitation. The results of such experiences appear much later in the child’s life through predispositions, tendencies, and attitudes toward life’s opportunities and challenges.

Early childhood education demands an ongoing process of self-education by the adult. If we again ask, what makes a Waldorf program “Waldorf,” the answers might be sought less in the particular activities or rhythms or materials and furnishings, and more in the extent to which these outer aspects are harmonious expressions of inner qualities, attitudes, capacities, and intentions of the teacher – all of which can have a health-giving effect on the children, both in the moment and for the rest of their lives.

Rudolf Steiner spoke on a number of occasions about experiences essential for healthy early childhood education, including the following:

- Love and warmth
- Care for the environment and nourishment for the senses
- Creative, artistic experience
- Meaningful adult activity as an example for the child's imitation
- Free, imaginative play
- Protection for the forces of childhood
- Gratitude, reverence, and wonder
- Joy, humor, and happiness
- Adult caregivers on a path of inner development

— Susan Howard, *Essentials of Waldorf Early Childhood Education*



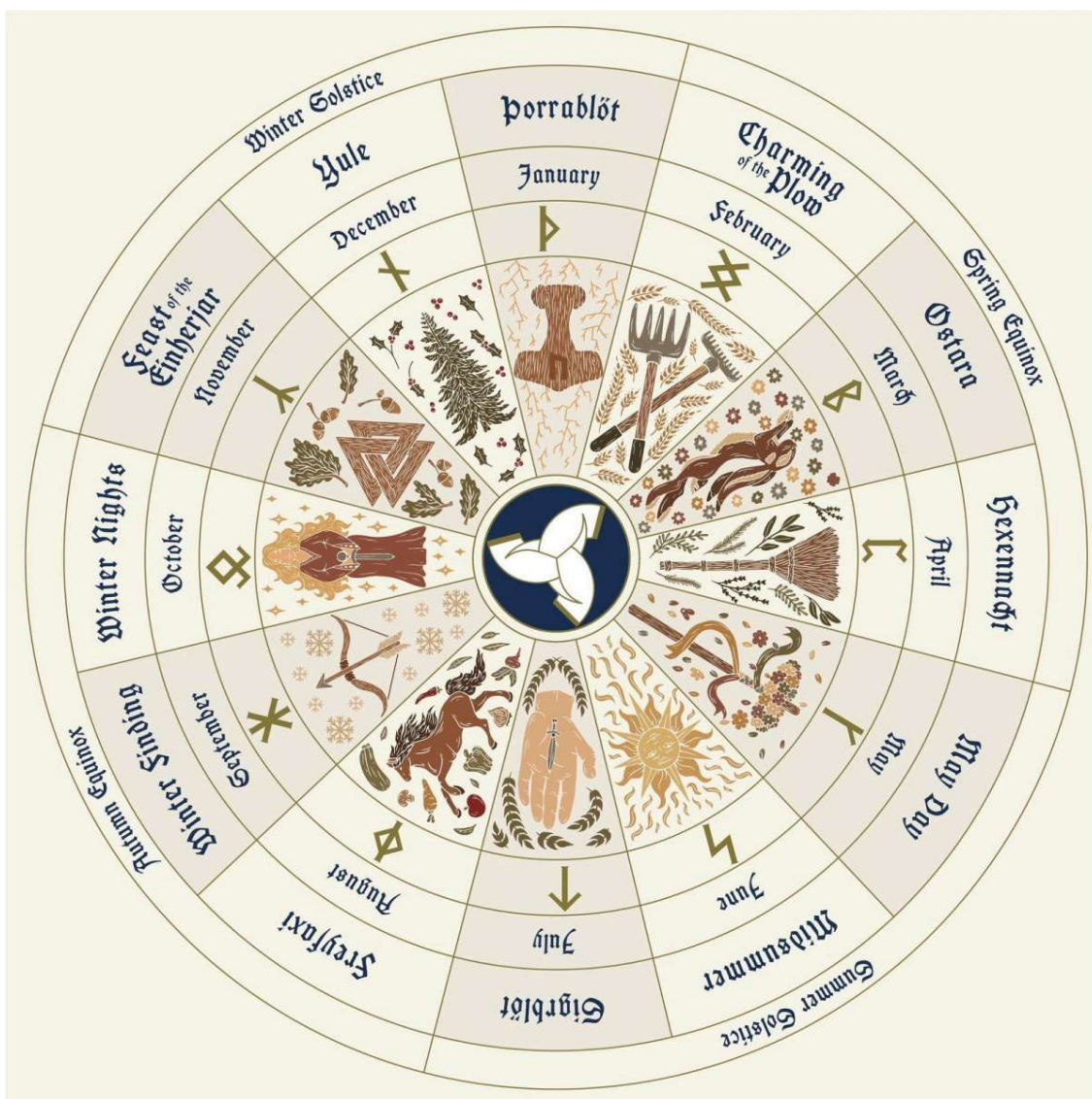
HELP YOU, HELP THEM

Just as the flight attendant reminds fliers to put the oxygen mask on themselves in the event of an emergency, the same advice is true for parenting and teaching. In order to guide our families, teach our children values and information, we must first make sure the parent is a secure, living example of learning, movement, initiative, safety, and achievement. Caring for the parent's soul and intellect make fertile ground. Our children are watching and listening. Cultivate an environment that is prepped for calm, perceptive conversations, space for intentional action, opportunities and materials for physical and creative growth. Your whole family will flourish.



Rachel Kinsler
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Remembrance and Holy Days



[Holy Days | Asatru Folk Assembly](#)

- > January 9 - Raud the Strong <
- > January 18 - King Blót-Sveinn of Sweden <
 - > January 18 - Þorablót <
- > February 1 - King Eanfrith of Bernicia <
 - > February 9 - Eyvind Kinnrifi <
- > February 15 - Charming of the Plow <
 - > March 9 - Olvir of Egg <
- > March 20 - Ostara (observed on March 15) <
 - > April 9 - Jarl Hákon Sigurðarson <
 - > April 10 - John Yeowell "Stubba" <
- > April 30 - Hexennacht (observed on April 19) <
 - > May 1 - May Day (observed on May 17) <
 - > May 22 - John Gibbs-Bailey "Hoskuld" <
- > June 9 - King Athanaric of the Visigoths <
- > June 20 - Midsummer (observed on June 21) <
 - > July 4 - Sveinbjörn Beinteinsson <
 - > July 15 - Alexander Rud Mills <
 - > July 19 - Sigrblót <
 - > August 1 - King Osric of Deira <
 - > August 9 - King Radbod of Frisia <
 - > August 16 - Freyfaxi <
- > September 9 - Prince Hermann of the Cherusci <
 - > September 12 - Else Christensen <
- > September 22 - Winter Finding (observed on September 20) <
 - > October 4 - Goði Þorsteinn Guðjónsson <
 - > October 5 - Meister Guido von List <
- > October 15 - Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen <
 - > October 18 - Winter Nights <
- > November 9 - Queen Sigríðr of Sweden <
- > November 11 - Feast of the Einherjar (observed on November 15) <
 - > December 9 - Egill Skallagrímsson <
- > December 20-31 - Yule (observed on December 20) <

July



Asatru Holidays - July 2025 - Beinteinsson | Rud Mills | Sigrblót
<https://youtu.be/aXcbY1tvdfs>

Day of Remembrance

Sveinbjörn Beinteinsson | July 4th



Y July 4, 1924 - December 23, 1993 𐌿

Allsherjargoði Sveinbjörn Beinteinsson entered Miðgarðr on July 4th, 1924. He is known for reviving Ásatrú in Iceland, having the Æsir be recognized by the Icelandic government, and forming the Ásatrúarfélagið for that purpose. While his organization is no longer what he created it to be, his work in the early reforging of Ásatrú is forever honoured by the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Sveinbjörn lived his entire life in western Iceland, with much of his early adulthood spent as a poet and sheep farmer. He was also married, and sired two sons with his wife, Svanfriður, in the 1960s.

The winter of 1972 saw the beginnings of Sveinbjörn's greatest deeds, as he and three friends would meet in a Reykjavik café to discuss Ásatrú. They quickly decided that the faith of their ancestors was one to be practiced as a community, as one Folk, and began the work to make this a reality. These four men were the earliest leading figures of the Ásatrúarfélagið: Allsherjargoði Sveinbjörn, future Allsherjargoði Jörmundur Ingi Hansen, Goði Þorsteinn Guðjónsson, and theosophist Dagur Þorleifsson.

Sveinbjörn described the revival of Icelandic Ásatrú as “the desire that Icelanders could have their own faith, and nourish it no less than imported religions.” Dagur emphasized a return to nature and a rejection of the negatives of industrial civilization. The Ásatrúarfélagið was officially formed on the “first day of summer” in 1972, with Sveinbjörn very soon after being named Allsherjargoði.

Just before Jól 1972, Allsherjargoði Sveinbjörn and Goði Þorsteinn sought official government recognition for our faith. They visited Ólafur Jóhannesson, the Icelandic minister of justice and ecclesiastical affairs. He initially thought the two Goðar were joking about their request, but then asked for paperwork to be filled out when he realized that they were serious. Shortly after Sveinbjörn and Þorsteinn exited the building, the power in the center of town went out due to a large and sudden thunderstorm, showing that Lord Þórr himself gave his stamp of approval! Many Christian Icelanders at the time even viewed this as a sign!

The Bishop of Iceland, and others, recommended denying the request for recognition as the faith was and is Folkish in nature. After another five months or so of discussion and paperwork, the Ásatrúarfélagið was officially recognized by the government of Iceland as a religious organization in May of 1973. This gave them the rights of any other church: marriage, share of the church tax, etc, which they still hold to this day.

On August 5th of 1973, Allsherjargoði Sveinbjörn led the first public Blót in nearly one thousand years. The rite took place at his farm in heavy rain, under a statue of Lord Þórr, who had intervened on their behalf eight months earlier. A local newspaper described the Blót as “vigorous and energetic”!

Allsherjargoði Sveinbjörn held his title until his death around Jól of 1993. He lived a simple but happy life on his farm, without many luxuries. He was an author and poet, having published eight different written works and three different musical recordings. He was said to be soft spoken, and even a bit shy, but his thunderous impact on our native faith more than made up for this!

Despite standing nearly alone in his mission to reestablish Icelandic loyalty to the Æsir, he never wavered or compromised in his duty to Gods and Folk. His resolve was so mighty that even Lord Þórr himself intervened to sway the minister's decision to recognize the Ásatrúarfélagið!

Hail Allsherjargoði Sveinbjörn Beinteinsson!

Alexander Rud Mills | July 15th



☯ July 15, 1885 - April 8, 1964 ☯

Born in 1885 in Tasmania, Australia, Alexander Rud Mills was a barrister, author, and early proponent for the revival of our ancestral faith. The Asatru Folk Assembly honors him with a Day of Remembrance every year on the 15th of July, and Þórshof holds a shrine in his name!

While there is not a great deal of knowledge on his early life, we do know that Mills attempted to serve in the Australian armed forces in World War I, but was rejected on medical grounds. Regardless of this rejection, he devoted his life to serving our Folk, and honouring our Gods, by establishing the Anglecynn Church of Odin.

Alexander Rud Mills was something of an outlier among our Folk Heroes, as he was one of the first people to embrace what we call “forward-facing Ásatrú”— he established a real church with hymns, vigils, virtues, and communion, and with an authentic English flavor reminiscent of the faith of his Anglo-Saxon ancestors.

On May 7th, 1942, he was placed in an internment camp for his Folkish beliefs, due to the political climate of the Second World War. He was interned until December of the same year. While many men would crumble and hide after something like this, the Hero of Þórshof did no such thing. After his release, he immediately returned to sharing his love for the Æsir, publishing numerous works honoring our Gods and Folk. He was so devoted that he did not marry until the age of 65!

Alexander Rud Mills passed away on April 8th, 1964, just 13 years after he married. His loving wife Evelyn passed away nine years later, and was laid to rest next to her husband in a Church of England cemetery. Although Mills left this world over 60 years ago, his legacy is stronger than ever! His portrait, as well as an original print of his book Hael, Odin!, have been immortalized in a shrine inside the Vé of our very own Þórshof! This shrine sits mere feet away from the mural of Lord Þórr that our members worship at on a regular basis, in a real Hof dedicated to one of the Gods that Mills devoted his life to. He may have been forgotten by many of his Folk in his time, but the Asatru Folk Assembly honours and remembers this Hero!

Hail Alexander Rud Mills, Hero of Þórshof!

Holiday

Sigrblót | July 19th



Sigrblót literally means ‘Victory Blót’ and was celebrated by our ancestors in the early summer months. On the one hand, our ancestors were celebrating their victory over the harsh winter. Life had won. On the other hand, our ancestors performed Blót to ask for victory. With the warm weather and the completion of the planting time, the men often turned their minds to the duty of man. War. Practically speaking, summer was the better time to organize new campaigns and to set sail.

In our modern times, the vast majority of us are not familiar with war in a personal way. We do, however, all have our struggles. Sigrblót is a time to refocus. It is the time we can use to reorganize our priorities, to figure out the steps we need to take in order to reach our ultimate goals, and to break free from those that we struggle with.

One great way to celebrate Sigrblót is to offer a meal or some other item that you spent time making in thanks for the victory of life. Another option is to sacrifice a bladed weapon to the fire. A nice knife, for example, the blade dulled in battle so that it cannot be used against you (this is symbolic, of course), offered to the fire is a great way to ask our Gods for victory during the coming winter.

A gift for a gift.

Upcoming National Event

Sigrblót at Sigrheim | July 25th – 27th



Get your tickets [HERE](https://store.runestone.org/product/sigrblot)

The third Sigrblót at the Home of Victory!

And no other place is it more righteous to celebrate the Victory Sacrifice!

This is time we come together to honor both the summer and to make offering to the Æsir in hopes of their blessing for that which we are striving forth to conquer or acquire for us and our Folk! In times now passed, our Folk would be asking for the Æsir's blessings in battles and raids! And we ask now at this time for them to accept what we have to offer that he may lend his strength to see us victorious in our current endeavors!

Blóts! Feasting! Sumbel! An auction with one-of-a-kind items!

Camping is available on-site (bring your own tents and gear), and there are hotels in some of the cities around Sigrheim as well. AirB&B's in the area too. You are welcome to come early, stay late, and spend as much time on the land as you'd like. It's open to any of our member Folk!

Get your tickets [HERE](https://store.runestone.org/product/sigrblot)



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

nrice@runestone.org

Freyfaxi at Baldrshof | August 22nd – 24th



Join the gathered Folk for Freyfaxi at Baldrshof 2025!

Friday, August 22nd through Sunday August 24th, 2025

This weekend will include:

- 9 total meals
- Daily Fika
- 5 Blótar
- High Sumbl

- Daily Dedications and Devotions
- Ceremonies of the Folk
- Discussions, Workshops, and Classes
- Men's and Women's Spiritual Groups
- Tournaments and Games
- Ice Bucket Challenge
- Crafter's Tables
- Auction
- Children's Activities

Freyfaxi is Baldrshof's yearly showcase event and serves as the primary fundraiser for operation and support of the Hof.

Contact any member of Baldrshof Leadership for accommodation recommendations or questions about travel arrangements.

Tickets on sale soon!



Witan Brandy Fassett
bfassett@runestone.org

Winter Nights XIV | October 10th – 12th



Get your tickets [HERE](#)

This long-running AFA festival is dedicated to our ancestral mothers, the Disir. Started in 2012, the Asatru Folk Assembly's Winter Nights festival was hosted at a beloved camp in Pennsylvania for its first decade. This year, for the second time, Winter Nights XIV will be held from October 10th – 12th, in Cheshire County, New Hampshire. We build upon the success of the Asatru Folk Assembly by making new friends and renewing old friendships. We look forward to seeing members and friends!

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

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

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

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

Things to know:

- Children 17 and under attend for free!
- Meals are included with all passes.
- You will need to bring your own bedding, and it can get COLD at night, so plan accordingly.
- Accommodations are on-site tent camping. Bring your tent!
- Please contact Witan Clifford Erickson if you will attend.
- Guests, please include the name of the AFA member who is vouching for you.

Member Family – Weekend: \$135

Member – Weekend: \$90

Member – Day pass: \$45

Guest – Weekend: \$120

Guest – Day pass: \$60

Child – Weekend: Free

Child – Day pass: Free

Playlist of previous events > <https://tinyurl.com/AFAWinterNights>

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

Get your tickets [HERE](#)



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

A Miðsumar Recap



Miðsumar 2025

<https://youtu.be/xLrdxRnnTkg>

Miðsumar at Óðinshof - Nine years and Counting

Since the purchase of the old Grange Hall, now known as Óðinshof, we've gathered for over 100 monthly events. But it is Miðsumar that draws people from across the country. Weddings and baby namings have taken place, but in the year of 2025, our celebration would center on the AFA itself—its 30th Anniversary.

Leaders who came from other states included Goði Nathan and Folkbuilder Ashley Erlandson from Minnesota, Goði Jonathan Rock from Indiana, Folkbuilder Alexander Casto from Florida, Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan from Montana, and Folkbuilder Lou

Nickerson from Arizona. We also had members and guests from OH, PA, DE, NH, WI, CO, AZ, NV, ID, and OR. In the end, AFA family and friends numbered 112.

Work Weekends, led by Daniel saw the finish of our impressive, highly functional kitchen, completion of a new septic system, and the installation of a new HVAC system that allows us to maintain comfortable temperatures throughout the year. For visual impact, the Odom family created two huge red and blue balloon-arches to decorate our Hof. Miðsumar bouquets in white and yellow, along with vines of sunflowers decorated the tables.

We always extend the event to Thursday for those who make the long distance trip. Folkbuilders Sierra Chapman and Alexander Casto arrived early to prep meals and greet everyone with a warm welcome when they arrived. The feeling of “coming home” is immediately felt by everyone who meets Sierra. While occupied in the kitchen, she always keeps her eye on the needs of all, from the youngest to the oldest.

At least twenty people gathered for the Friday morning’s food blessing. The day began with the Valkyrie’s Prayer, first sung by Dan McDonald of Colorado, and then recited by all, facing Sunna with arms outstretched. Throughout the day, our numbers would increase until all eight tables at dinner were fully filled. Miðsumar had officially begun.

Greeting the Gods, led by Allsherjargoði Matt Flavel, is our first use of our highly admired ritual circle. The Holy Powers are invited to join us, then all celebrants in the circle state their names over the drinking horn while hailing one of the Æsir. It’s a beautiful AFA tradition. We depart the circle by entering the Hall, specifically to acknowledge Óðinn before his mural and “hail” his presence.

The day included an outstanding Mead-making presentation by the McDonald family of Colorado and a heartfelt talk by Founder McNallen that ended with the reading of a skaldic-style poem about the siege of the Alamo called the *Death of Bowie Gizaardsbane*. Guitar music by Paul Stevens is always played during our evening meals, adding more pleasure to our delicious dinners.

The perfect evening drew many outdoors but those who remained in the Hall were presented with a slideshow created by me featuring photos from the earliest days of the AFA in 1994 up through the purchase and beginning of the Hof in 2015. I enjoy sharing dramatic stories of our past and how we came to be here. That journey is the Örlög we all share here at the 30th year of the AFA.

In the deep twilight, we re-entered the ritual space for the Allsherjargoði's Óðinn Blót.

Torches and bonfire marked this sacred space where we intoned runes, sang the Herjarfather chant, and “Hailed Óðinn” as we exchanged our gifts with him. The day was officially done; Saturday would be our official Miðsumar.

Following breakfast, I led all who wished to honor Mother Frigg to the Goddess Circle, kept verdant by Hof Steward Odom through the dry month of June. The serenity of this place beckoned as we approached and encircled the Freyja pole. My message during the Frigg Blót was to recognize in the family triad of Óðinn, Frigg, and Baldr, family unity and the love and duty of parents to their children. Our request for Frigg was to watch over our families and guide us well in our relationships.

Mid-morning was Ladies’ Tea time and the Men’s Moot. The women returned to the kitchen-sitting room where we chatted about our goals at this midpoint in the year., The men were likewise engaged in conversation with input from our leaders. The Q&A session later in the day brought forth some great questions and responses from the Allsherjargoði about changes in the AFA this past year plus more general questions.

Miðsumar Games included a tug-a-war with a chain, but most exciting was the contest to pick up and carry a huge boulder weighing 115 pounds. Men, women, and even kids took part in this spectacle. Those who had the strength to master the Hof Rock Challenge made it a great show with lots of memorable moments. Following this, I led a children’s Sumbl in the Goddess Circle with many sweet words including memories of departed pets that mean so much to our little ones.

The Miðsumar Blót to Baldr was led by Goði Nathan Erlandson. Though it was late afternoon, the torches and bonfire were lit as four ladies stood near the fire, at the cardinal directions, each with a horn of mead in hand. This honor was given to Gyðja Lauren Anderson, Folkbuilders Ashley Erlandson and Sierra Chapman, as well as myself. The rune Sowilo was invoked, Baldr summoned, and the traditional sunwheel set afire by Hof Steward Odom. It was an intense Blót; a beautifully orchestrated ritual with the addition of the ladies.

Our evening feast of pork loin roast and tasty side dishes was many faceted. At one point, Gyðja Lauren Anderson joined Paul Stevens in a song called *Noble Ways* by our very own Folkbuilder Ryan Skinner. This was followed by a rousing rendition of *Take Me Home Country Roads* with everyone singing along. Auction time was near, but first the special 30-year Anniversary cake was brought in candles alight for Steve and me to blow out.

Then it was time to acknowledge some very special members of our AFA family. One

man has stood out for his kindness and generous spirit – Knute Allmendinger. He received a certificate that featured his family crest, given with our thanks for decades of devotion. The second certificate went to the Sutherland family – Olivia and Brodie, who have given so much to Óðinshof. They’ve been innovative in suggesting improvements, with the development of Thorgrun’s Grove last summer as one of their big projects. They also gave much love and support in the planning of Thorgrun’s memorial last August. Their certificate features the Sutherland coat-of-arms with the family motto “No Fear.”

Goði Jon Rock stepped up as auctioneer with much wit and laughter woven throughout the hours-long process. The auction featured wood carvings, art prints, an 8x10 foot wall-hanging of the Óðinn mural commissioned by Monk LaSan, painted rocks by the children, plus lots of AFA memorabilia. When we were through, the AFA made close to \$4000 from the generosity of our Folk.

By 10:30, the Folk filtered back into the Hall that was transformed and ready for Sumbl. Sitting in a darkened room lit by candlelight, many participated for the very first time. For the next two hours, impassioned words, deep memories and holy names were spoken over the horn. Hail Óðinn in his Hall!

The last event of the weekend was the Wayfarers’ Blot Sunday morning. Goði Jon Rock officiated this one in a very nurturing ceremony. Hammers and various amulets were placed on our altar stone and blessed by the mighty Þórr for our journeys – wherever they’d take us. At the very end, we gave the farewell hugs that have become standard at Miðsumar. I felt dazed by the weekend, standing there with Folk who came to mean so much to us in only three days. The blessings imparted by Goði Rock can still be felt. Hail the Folk! Hail the AFA!



Gyðja Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org

Be A Doer



We need you to volunteer for the AFA!

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

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

Baby Blanket Project

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

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



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

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

Folk Services



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

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

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

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

Thanks in advance!

Photo Donations

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

If you are willing to donate some hi-res photos for use in promotions such as the AFA

Calendar, the AFA website, our publications, and more please email them to the AFA at photos@runestone.org. The larger the resolution the better, so please email them from the device where the photo was taken.



Eir's Blessings



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

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

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

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

Last Will and Testament

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



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

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

Please make your will **today**.

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

Allen Turnage
PO Box 16027
Tallahassee FL, 32317



Witan Allen Turnage
aturnage@runestone.org

AFA Prison Ministry



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

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

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

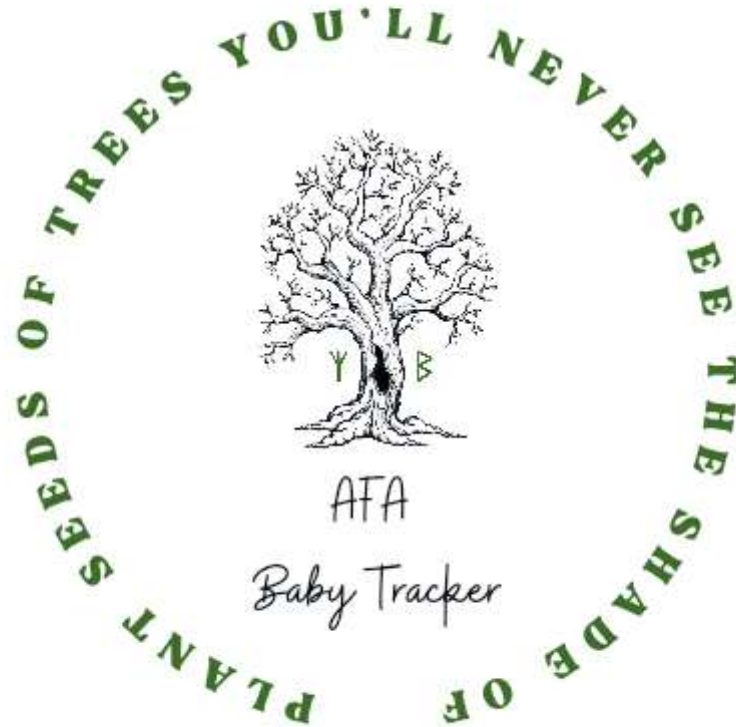
By the example of our Folkmother, Else Christensen, we will also be going into prisons as we are able to. Some of our Gothar and other leadership, will be going into the prisons to hold study groups, lead blot, and encourage continued growth in the folk inside.

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



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

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: 14

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**

A decorative background featuring white flowers with yellow centers on the left side, set against a light blue and green bokeh background. The entire graphic is enclosed in a thin green border.

AFA Eldri Moots *on Teams*

*A social group for members
age 50 and above.*

A place to share memories,
ideas, experiences,
and the joys of life ~
in caring conversation.

Tuesdays:
5:00 PT, 6:00 MT, 7:00 CT, 8:00 ET
July 22nd

Hosted by Gythia Sheila McNallen

Copy/paste link: <https://tinyurl.com/yc289cn8>



McNallens Pub

a virtual meetup
at our home and yours

Sunday, July 27th

5:00 PT, 6:00 MT, 7:00 CT, 8:00 ET

TOPIC

“BUCKET LISTS - Then and Now”



AFA MEN'S CALL

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH @ 6PM PST

HOSTED BY FOLKBUILDER NICK GUNN
AND APPRENTICE AIDAN MCMILLAN

6PT, 7MT, 8CT, 9ET

LINK CAN BE FOUND ON MEWE IN AFA MEN'S AND SENT OUT VIA EMAIL

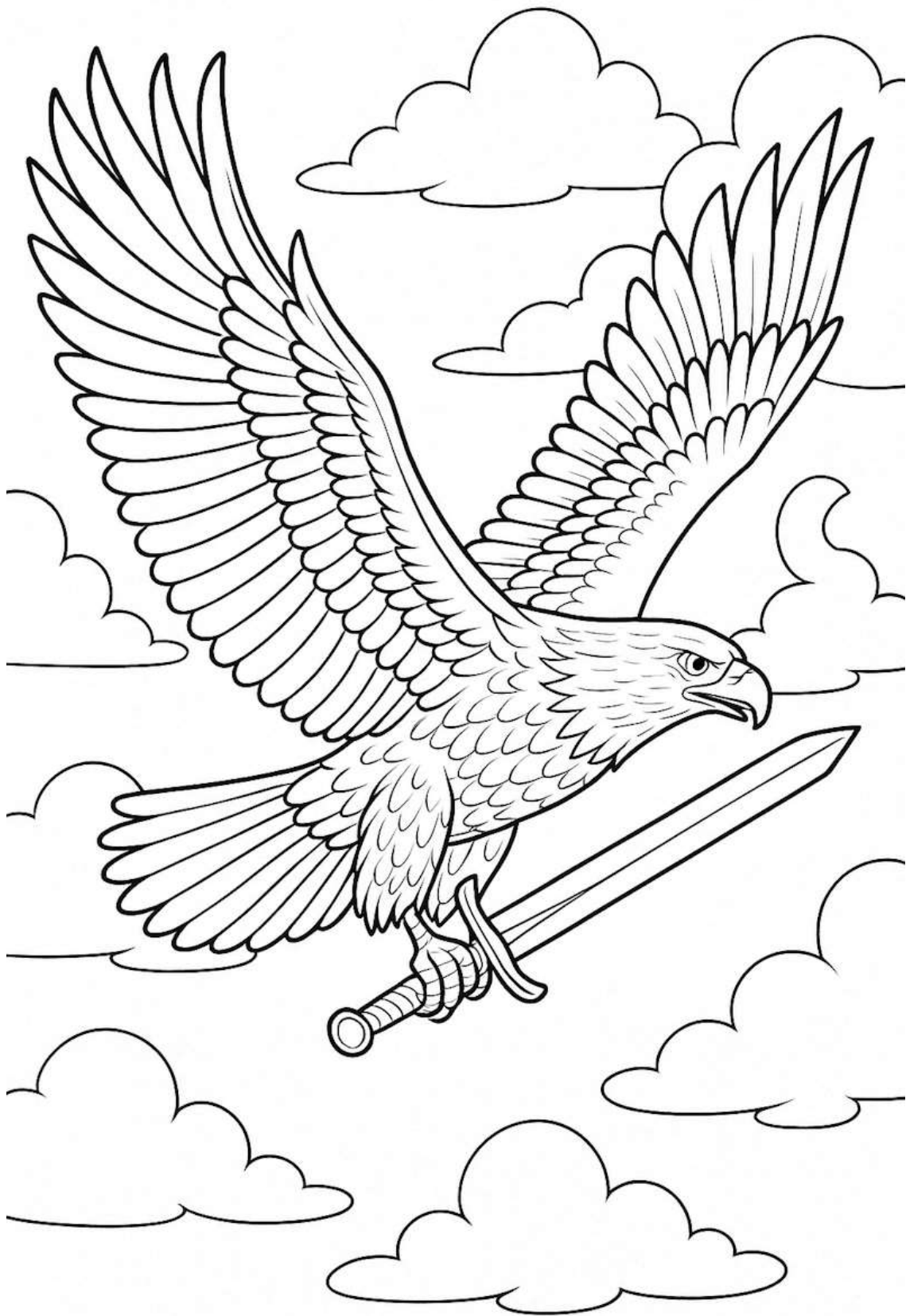


Mead Cup Mondays! Greetings ladies of the AFA, have you heard about our new book study group? We have just started reading *Lady with a Mead Cup* by Michael J. Enright! We are meeting virtually once a month, on every first Monday, to discuss what we have read during the previous month. If you would like to join us, please contact Gyðja Anderson at landerson@runestone.org to be sent a pdf of the book and the meeting link; these are also available in the AFA Ladies Group on MeWe. Have a wonderful month, and I hope to see you at our next Mead Cup Monday!

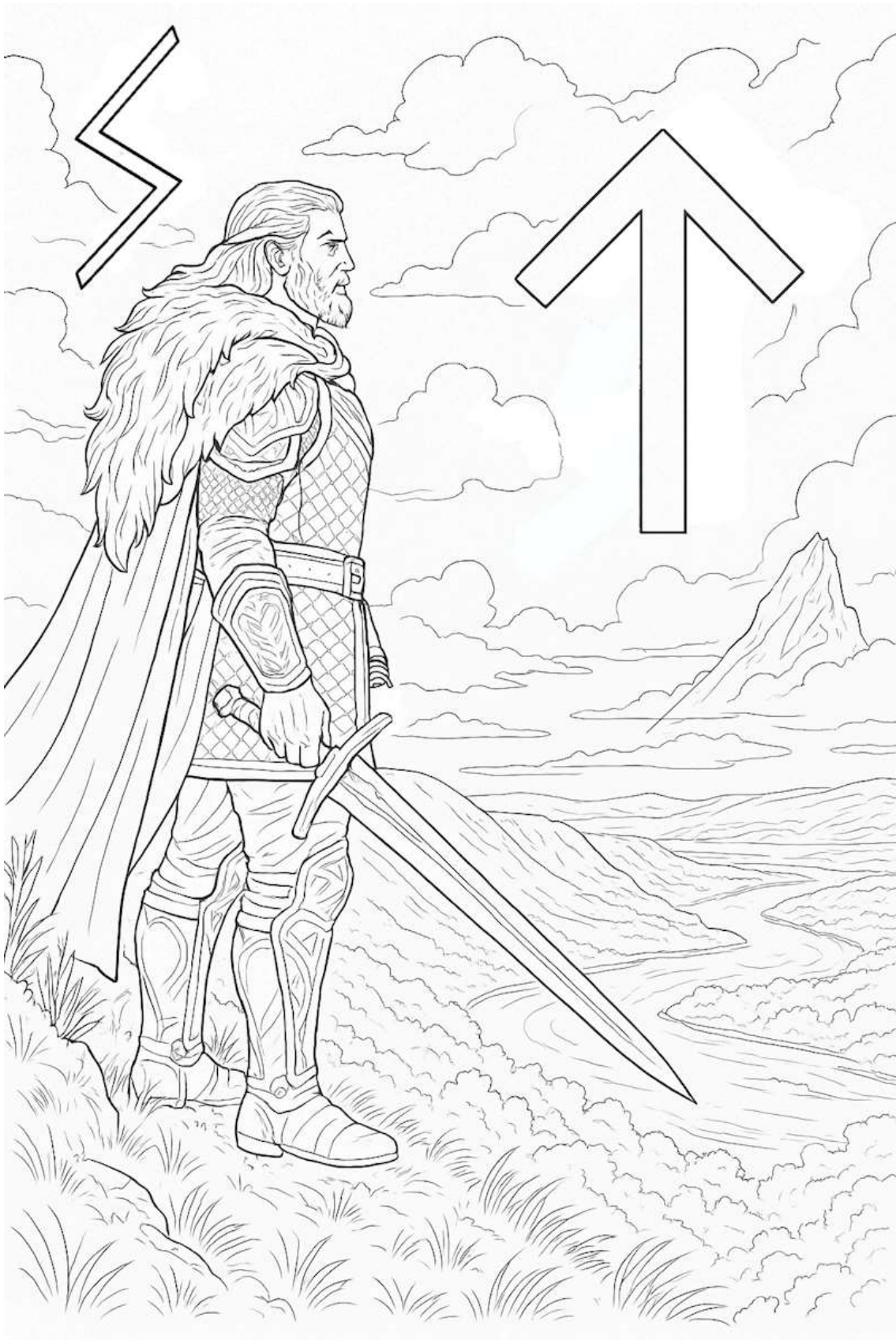


Please join us for a study of the Elder Futhark, beginning on July 20th at 12pm Eastern. We will be building our knowledge of the runes, and well as sharing ideas and conversation. The first session will focus on Fehu and Uruz. Reach out to Gyöja Plourde at aplourde@runestone.org for info.

Just for Fun



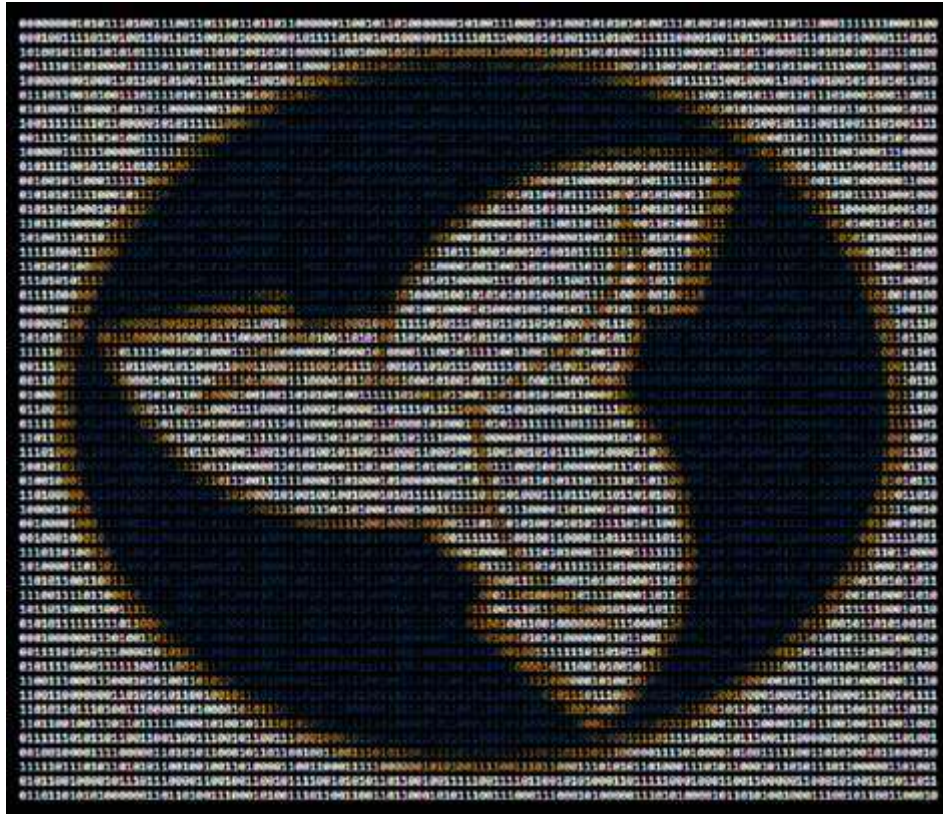
Hail Týr and a Blessed Sigrblót to you all!



Feel free to send your colored creations to press@runestone.org for a shout-out in the next issue!

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

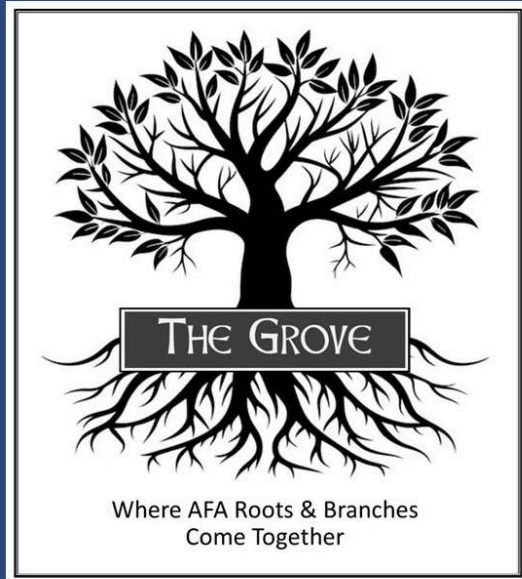
If this interests you or if you're interested in becoming a mentor, please send an email to stemcels@runestone.org.



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Genealogy and Kinship Charts

Working on your family tree?



Come join us in
THE GROVE

Virtual
Teams Meeting
Special topics covered

Sunday, July 20th

4:00 PT, 5:00 MT, 6:00 CT, 7:00 ET

Hosted by: **Sheila McNallen** - sheila@runestone.org



Gyöja Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org

Calling All Folk Photographers

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



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



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

nrice@runestone.org

Baldrshof

Food Pantry at Baldrshof



Baldrshof district had another incredibly successful food pantry for the month of June! We are again just so grateful that we have become a staple of the area and have gained the love and trust of the Murdock.



Baldrshof, residing in a farm community and consisting of salt of the earth folks, means that most are 4-5 hours into their day at 10am when we open up the pantry, so we continue to have neighbors lining up, waiting for us to open. This month, we ran out of all supplies within the first hour. This is a quality problem! As we were able to help 19 families (roughly 40% of the town) and gave out more than 500 pounds of meat alone.

Shout out to all that make this happen each month so we can be consistent and remain a

resource for our community. We have true examples of living Ásatrú through practicing a victorious life with the philosophy that we are our deeds. Hail the doers!



Folkbuilder Ashley Erlandson
aerlandson@runestone.org

Miðsumar at Baldrshof



The good folk of Lord Baldr's hof gathered together to celebrate the sun reaching its zenith, the longest day of the year, Miðsumar! A beautiful Blót to our Lord Baldr was performed by Witan Brandy Fasset as the Folk celebrated the Gods and gave thanks for the beautiful day under the warm and life-giving sun.

The Folk enjoyed a delicious meal and wonderful Frith with each other. Children

played and smiled, adults shared conversation and good company. Our hearts filled with gladness, our souls elevated and full of love for the Gods and our Folk, another Miðsumar passed under the northern sun. Every event at Baldrshof is like attending a family meal, but sadly, our hearts and bellies full, we had to say farewell until the next gathering at Baldr's glorious Hof. Won't you join us next time?



Goði Rob Stamm

rstamm@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Baldrshof



Hof Stewards' Address

Upcoming Work Days



Brock and Corrie Proudfoot

Hof Stewards

bproudfoot@runestone.org

cproudfoot@runestone.org

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

Help Keep Baldr's Light Shining

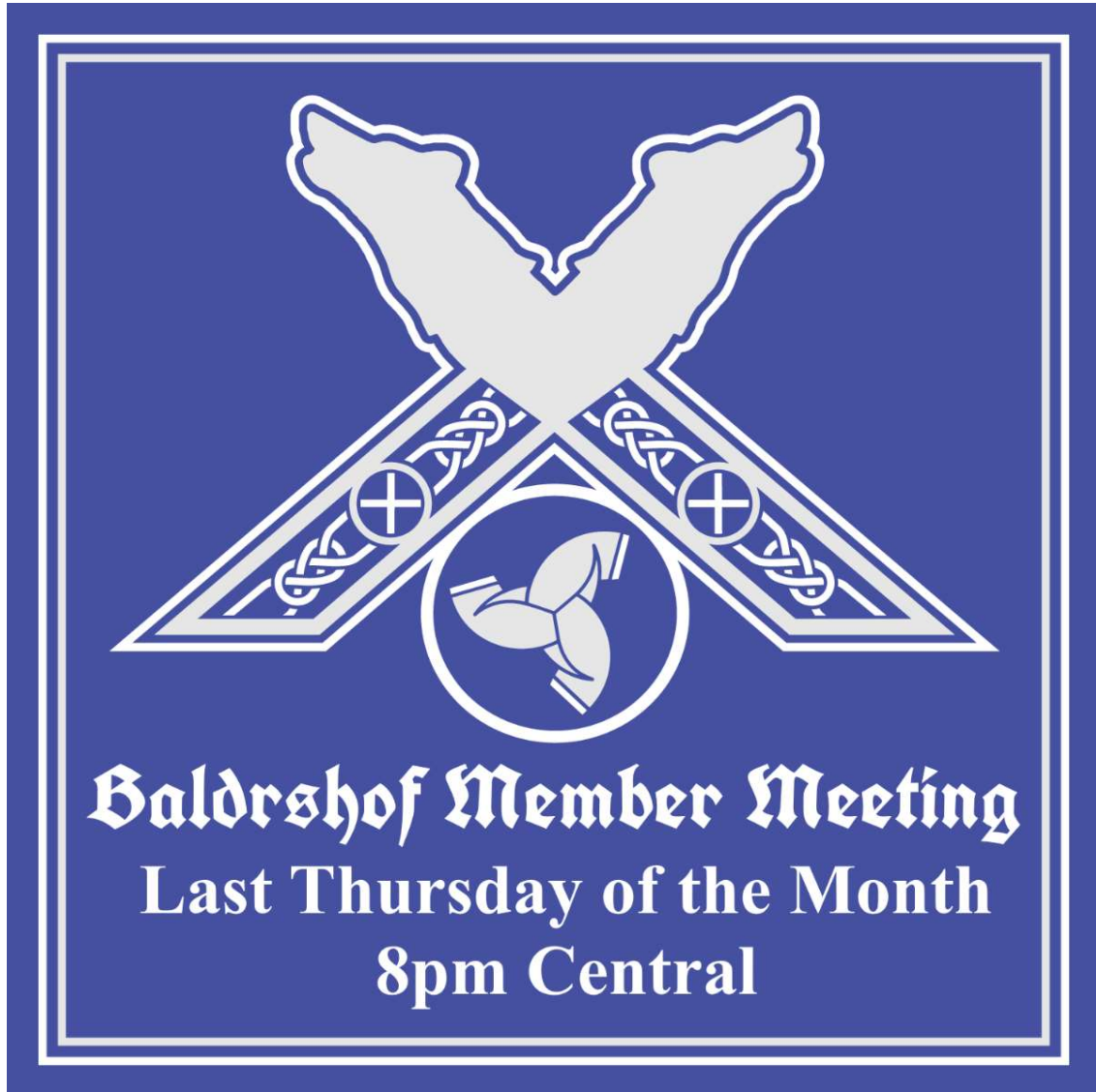
The banner features a close-up of a cluster of small, light-colored flowers. In the upper right corner, there is a stylized logo consisting of a large 'X' with intricate knotwork patterns. The text 'Baldershof Wishlist' is written in a bold, black, serif font. Below it, the text 'Help Elevate the Shining One and Keep Baldershof Beautiful!' is written in a smaller, black, serif font. At the bottom, the text 'Click Here or Use the Link to check out the Wishlist at' is followed by the URL 'https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/UUJLG9IM9VM3?ref_=wl_share'.

Baldershof Wishlist

Help Elevate the Shining One
and Keep Baldershof Beautiful!

Click Here or Use the Link to check out the Wishlist at
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/UUJLG9IM9VM3?ref_=wl_share

Baldrshof Monthly Members' Meeting



Did You Know?



Our members can play a big role in
building AFA activity in their region

**COME ON!
HELP US REACH OUR
FOLK!**

Folkbuilders will assist planning your moot.
venue & event ideas - flyers - promotion

Public notices list a Folkbuilder as the
contact person, not you.
The goal is 3-persons or more. That's easy.
Contact Sara Ault or Ashley McStocker for more info

Iowa

Upcoming Events



Goði Rob Stamm
rstamm@runestone.org

Minnesota

Upcoming Events



**FOLKISH FAMILY
MIDSUMMER WITH
NORTHERN BLOOD
JULY 20TH 2PM
Bloomington, MN**

**Contact Folkbuilder
Jason Gallagher for
more info.**

**jgallagher@
runestone.org**

Also join us on July 20th 2pm Bloomington, MN at Gallagher's Gaff for our Folkish Family Midsummer Celebration with Northern Blood Kindred. Blót followed by potluck feast and Sumbl.



Senior Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher

jgallagher@runestone.org

Wisconsin

The Importance of Coming Home



"When I was young, I once traveled alone
and lost my way.
I thought myself rich when I found another,
man rejoices in man.
— Hávamál 47

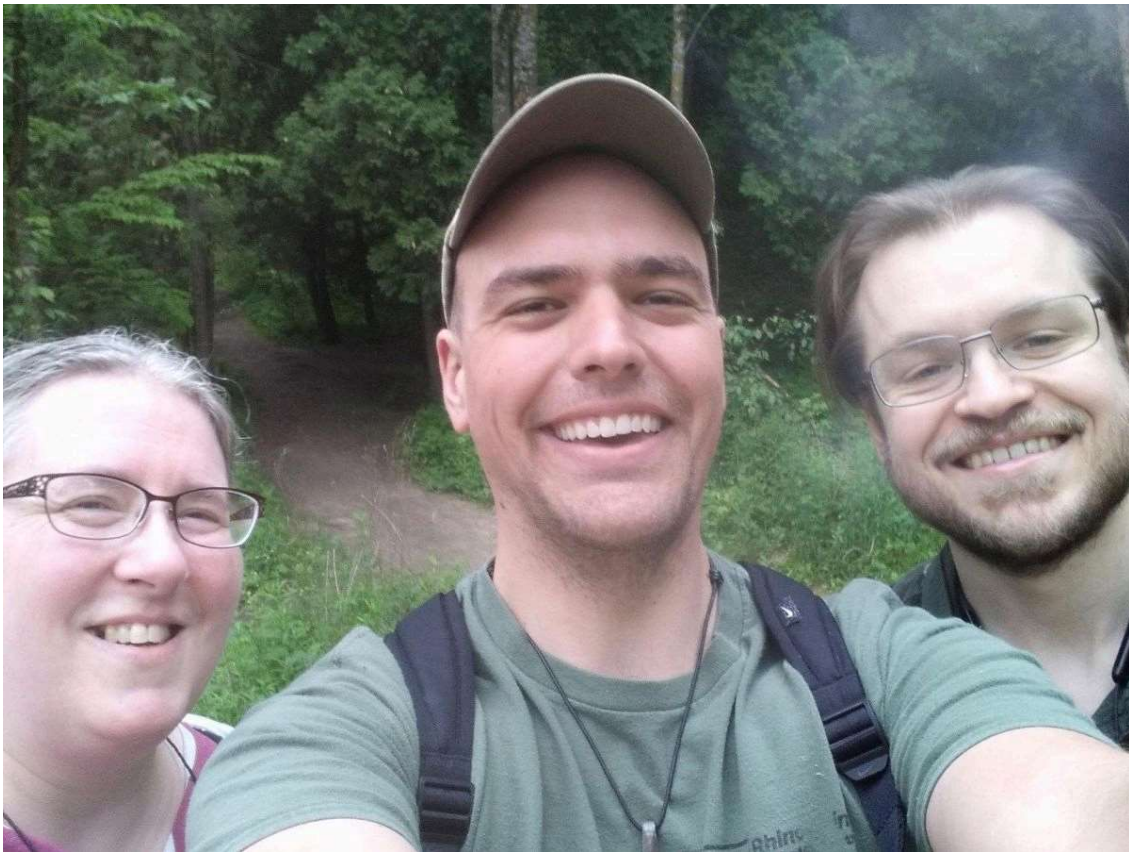
There is something very special that is moving throughout your body. If you listen closely, you can hear it calling your name. It's your blood memory. It's your ancestors calling you to come back to the path of your destiny. It starts as a whisper of love as you look around this world that you live in and realize you don't feel a part of it. It

becomes a gentle pulling to learn more about your heritage and where it all started for your bloodline. It moves to a comfortable feeling, as you use what you have learned to repeat the traditions that your own family has put in place for many, many generations. It becomes a peacefulness, as you start to recognize, respect, and worship the Gods and Goddesses of our ancestors. Then as your journey would have it, you learn of the Asatru Folk Assembly either through meeting members, hearing talk of the AFA successes, or research of Ásatrú. This is when your blood memory lets you know that you have found Home, and these are your people.

I had felt the call of the blood memory very early in my life. Searching for something that I knew was connected to me lead to a very deep spiritual journey. There was such an intense draw to the lore of my ancestors and the traditions of my family, yet still an emptiness I was trying to fill with faith in a desert god. I wandered aimlessly through books and different versions of a religion that was never for me. This led to exploring different pagan beliefs and having many experiences that I can't explain in words but brought me along my path. As I got more focused on my DNA and where I come from, Ásatrú came into my life. The fateful day in Minnesota, when I was welcomed into the house of Senior Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher for a gathering with Northern Blood Kindred of the AFA was the changing point. I had already been intrigued by photos from Óðinshof that showed multigeneration of families gathered to worship the Gods. It was very natural to bring the rest of the family home.

It is hard to put into words the feeling of primal energy that pulses through an AFA Óðinn's Blót. The wisdom that reaches out to you during a talk from one of our many elders. The emotion that moves through you during a Sumbl. Come and experience for yourself. Hear the call. Come Home.

Wisconsin Hiking Moot



This month saw Wisconsin members meet up for hiking, Blót, and Frith in the Green Bay area. It's always great exploring a new to me hiking trail and this location did not disappoint. Austin had been on these trails many times and served as our guide. We stopped at a stream where we held Blót to Óðinn. As we continued to journey along the paths many deep conversations were had. Bonding with your Folk is such an amazing way to spend a Sunday morning.

We are looking forward to meeting up with other Wisconsin members on July 13th in the Green Bay area for a hike and Blót as we explore a different location. If you are reading this and would like to join us, please send a message for location and details to sault@runestone.org

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Upcoming Events

Wisconsin Hiking Moot

**Join us for a morning hike
and Blot with lunch at a
local place afterwards**

near

Green Bay, WI

on

July 13th at 10 am.

**For more information contact
Folkbuilder Sara Ault
sault@runestone.org**

Wisconsin Hiking Moot

**Join Us
on
August 10th at 10 am
for
a Hike and Blot at a park in
the Appleton Area, then
going for lunch afterwards.**

**For exact location and more
information contact
Folkbuilder Sara Ault
sault@runestone.org**



Folkbuilder Sara Ault
sault@runestone.org



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