

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly

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Baldrshof
Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.baldrshof.org

November 2024



Donate to the AFA

Words from the Alsherjargoði



The veil has thinned, and we do well to give special focus to our ancestors. In October, we all started this process with giving Blót to our Dísir. Winter Nights and Dísablót specifically have always been very special to me and have been where I have had some of my most visceral spiritual experiences. It is not possible to logically convince those who have not shared the experience or who are determined to be unconvinced, but the ancestors are with us, they reciprocate our love and our attention and if we have open hearts and open minds, they have much to share... Once you know, you cannot unknow.

Hail the Álfar!
Hail the Dísir!
Hail the Heroes!



With this in mind, we have been hard at work seeking out our history and preserving that history for future generations. A shining star in this endeavor is apprentice Folkbuilder Chris Savich of Michigan. Thank you, Chris, for your exceptional work! We have been cataloging old publications such as *The Runestone*, we have recently gained access to the very first issues in 1972 through 1980, these will be uploaded to <https://library.runestone.org/library/> very soon! We have also been looking into the heroes of our faith from all times so that they get their proper recognition. A reoccurring theme is that Folk don't realize they are making history until events are long past. We are making history NOW, these are historic times. We must be aware of this and we must make the most of our time in Miðgarðr!

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Announcements, News, & Noteworthy

- 10/12/24 - Freyjalynn Mae Bailey was named before her Gods and Folk.
- 10/12/24 - Milo Freyr Wilson was named before his Gods and Folk.
- 10/12/24 - Ronald Boardman took his Oath as Folkbuilder of the Asatru Folk Assembly.
- 11/6/24 - Goði Þorsteinn Guðjónsson of the Ásatrúarfélagið was recognized as a Heilagr Maðr.
 - His Day of Remembrance will be October 4th.



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Words from Our Witan

Minni, The Storehouse of Wisdom and Experience



Last month, we discussed the Hugr, or the logical mind, as part of the many components that make up the Aryan soul. This month, the theme continues as we discuss the Minní, memory.

First, let's define memory. Oxford defines memory as the "faculty by which the mind stores and remembers information, something remembered from the past, a recollection."

As you may recall, last month we discussed the two ravens Huginn and Muninn, who fly over Miðgarðr, relaying the affairs of men back to Lord Óðinn. Huginn (Thought, Logical Mind) and Muninn (Memory).

O'er Mithgarth Hugin | and Munin both
Each day set forth to fly;
For Hugin I fear | lest he come not home,
But for Munin my care is more.
— Grímnismál, stanza 20

The Minní, or memory center, of the soul plays hand in hand with the Hugn, our logical mind. When presented with a situation, we often recall previous experiences to help us take appropriate action. Sometimes it is the recollection of a past situation that ended badly or didn't work out and we alter our course.

There are good and bad memories; some we remember for victories, and others, failures. If you ask yourself which you recall the most vividly, I'd wager that you recall failure much more vividly. Why is this? In my opinion, it is so we don't fall into the same traps that have snared our progress in the past. I sometimes use memories of previous failures or of people who told me I couldn't do something better, and I put it in my fuel tank. To propel me forward. And once I accomplish something special, I'll reflect on those memories and have a feeling that I conquered something; I overcame a negative memory and added a new, better one.

Then, there is ancestral memory. There's déjà vu, the feeling you have been here before, seen this before. This is ancestral memory. As we are the most recent representation of our Blood, we feel what they felt, see what they saw, experience what they did. How do we explain this? I think Stephen McNallen explains it best in his book, *The Philosophy of Metagenetics*. I encourage you to read it.

The collective unconscious is a reservoir of primordial images called archetypes. They are not exactly memories but are rather predispositions and potentialities.

What are these "primordial images," these recollections of a past you were not present for? They are the memory wells that we are connected to through our bloodlines, the experiences of our forebears echoing in our minds, in our souls, in our Minní.

Just as Odin left one of his eyes in Mimir's Well so that he could know the secrets contained in its watery depths we, too, must explore the personal and collective

memory. We must come to know those parts of ourselves that are hidden from our sight, including those parts we would prefer not to face!

When done in a psychoanalytical context, this work of self-exploration is best accomplished through Jungian analysis. This is a highly specialized process and most of us are not able to undertake this work for ourselves.

Nevertheless, any of us can gain by becoming familiar with Jung's writings on archetypes, symbols, and dream analysis. You can take this work farther by keeping a dream journal and working with the unconscious content revealed while you sleep.

— Stephen McNallen, *Asatru, A Native European Spirituality*

While Witan Dan is not an expert on Jungian analysis, I do suggest that we keep a dream journal, as sometimes secrets are revealed in this state. Some may feel prophetic, others are a recall of a forgotten memory, maybe your own, but maybe that of your ancestors.

Our memories are the storehouse of Wisdom. Wisdom is gained through experience, and we store that experience to better inform our present and future.

Some memories are painful, but we must face them with courage and determination in order to drown them out by creating more and better memories. Memories are your history; by creating new memories, we create history. Go out and create history, my Folk.

Hail The Æsir!

Hail The Folk!

Hail The Asatru Folk Assembly!

Hail the memory makers....



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Words from Our Goðar

Cosmic Order & Natural Law: Ásatrú Worldview



The two main “forces” that make up our entire cosmos, the two forces whose relationship is what creates entire worldviews, are cosmic order and natural law.

Cosmic order is the Æsir (not initially including the Vanir) in Ásatrú, or Yahweh/Jehovah/Allah in the Abrahamic faiths. It is the “supernatural,” the heavenly, the higher truths of the world.

Natural law is the Vanir in Ásatrú, and simply the natural world in general. It is exactly what it sounds like—nature, land, and sea—basic truths.



As mentioned above, the relationship between these two primordial forces is what makes up the foundation of every worldview. For example, in monotheistic faiths, cosmic order should trample and conquer natural law. This is clear in Christianity, where this world and its laws and machinations are seen as a prison of suffering, nothing more than a punishment for the righteous Christian to pass through in order to get to their afterlife. Think of all of the “be IN the world, not OF the world” bumper stickers you see on the way to AFA events!

In modern atheism or “science” worship, cosmic order is absent, but natural law must still be subdued by man. This life is their *only* life, but nature is still seen as barbaric and evil.



In Aryan faith, and likely many other pre-monotheism faiths, these two forces compliment each other. Cosmic order is “higher” than natural law, yes, but it does not conquer it. It works alongside it, the two both being necessary and integral pieces to the tapestry that is the Nine Worlds. The only time in our stories where cosmic order and natural law clashed is represented by the Æsir-Vanir War, before the Vanir joined the Æsir. This is symbolic of cosmic order’s true relationship with natural law; the two working together, with natural law almost being a part of cosmic order.



Witan Erickson wisely noted once that the worldviews that despise natural law are world-rejecting faiths, while Ásatrú is a world-affirming faith. We recognize that this life is good, that this life is worth living, and that our corner of Miðgarðr is worth fighting for.

The Æsir gave us this world and this life, with all of its creatures and its laws, so that we may make use of it and enjoy its many bounties! We do not hide from nature, and we do not look forward to some sort of apocalypse where our Gods will burn it all down. It is not only possible, but also morally correct, to both worship the Æsir AND love the world they gave us!



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Declaration of Purpose II



II. The preservation of the Ethnic European Folk and their continued evolution

If the Ethnic European Folk cease to exist, Ásatrú would likewise no longer exist. Let us be clear: by Ethnic European Folk, we mean white people. It is our collective will that we not only survive, but thrive, and continue our evolution in the direction of the Infinite. All native religions spring from the unique collective soul of a particular race. Religions are not arbitrary or accidental; body, mind and spirit are all shaped by the evolutionary history of the group and are thus interrelated. Asatru is not just what we believe, it is what we are. Therefore, the survival and welfare of the Ethnic European Folk as a cultural and biological group is a religious imperative for the AFA.

What does this mean? In my mind this declaration should impact every one of us, impacting us deeply in our genetic memory. If you don't stand up for the continued existence of our Folk and win victories along the way, the entire human population is

doomed to an insignificant, gray, and sorry existence. The benefits that our people have brought to the human population is exponential and indisputable in the advancement of the human population. We must remember and preserve at all costs our heritage and history. We are connected by our race and should be nothing less than proud of where we come from as Ethnic European Folk.



This is why we are here now as part of the AFA, to preserve our heritage and faith. As eyes become opened to this truth, we must embrace our race and culture, adapting to the current time we exist in by incorporating a modernity to the ways of our ancestors and practicing Ásatrú, not in the environment of our ancient ancestors, but in today's environment.



So, raise your children to know where they come from and to be proud of their race. Don't hide in the shadows with your faith, speak bright words in support of our Folk in

the open so that the world can hear. Don't let fear run rampant in being proud of who we are. Help secure the present so that the next generations should be secure in their existence as a people without worry of destruction by those that would see us disappear into the annals of history.



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Interdependence > Independence



This train of thought began with a post online that ‘Nation > Self’ and to this I agreed and amplified that ‘Interdependence > Independence.’ This sent me down a path that required I completely change my topic for this month’s article because of the foundational nature of this idea to our Folk and our faith.

We have been taught from childhood the importance of independence. Nowhere more so than in America. Most self-improvement ideologies put independence at the pinnacle; relegating communication, teamwork, and cooperation to second class status. Much of today’s focus on independence seems to be a reaction to being dependent.

Having others control us, “define” us, or even manipulate us. Because of this we see people, often for selfish reasons leave their marriages, abandoning their children, forgoing their church, and forsaking all kinds of social responsibility all for the prize of independence. Now fewer people than ever are even dating, let alone getting married

and starting a family. And while being dependent is not a good thing - we, as a people, instinctually know independence is only a stepping-stone.

Everyone knows the story of the bundle of sticks as a visual symbol of unity. The Hellene interacts with the world as an individual. He's a separate person within a community or state. The Germanic individual only exists within the context of the tribe or Folk. He is the very embodiment of the tribe because he knows fundamentally, they are the doers of one another's deeds. This doesn't mean that strong wills and even more stubborn heads do not exist among individuals in Ásatrú; what it speaks to is the ever-present sense that kin will find their way to unity.



But how do we get there from here?

We begin our lives completely dependent on other people for our very survival. We must be fed, clothed, and sheltered. But over the years we learn to walk, to drive, to get the things we need; physically, emotionally, and financially. Until one day we are able to take care of ourselves. Something is missing though. We seek a spouse, start a family, join a community. But we are still acting as individuals in these roles by and large, because it has been so ingrained over course of our lives. But there is something older, a natural order that we can tap into and become more than we can ever be through independence.

In the recent past, we would mature and come to appreciate that nature (the Xartus in PIE) was in fact interdependent. Stephen Covey in his book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, calls out this natural order that we know as Ørlög, or primal law. He

describes this process of moving from dependence to independence and ultimately our natural state of interdependence as the Maturity Continuum.



If we are physically dependent from a car accident or some other physical limitation – we would need help to get around, or even with basic tasks like cleaning ourselves. If we are emotionally dependent, our sense of worth and security would come from the opinions of others. If you don't like me, it could be devastating. Lastly if we are intellectually dependent, we would need someone to do our thinking for us.

Dependence is the paradigm of – you. You take care of me – it's your fault if I don't get what I need.

Being independent physically, we can make our own way in the world. Mentally we can think our own thoughts, and emotionally, our sense of worth would not be dependent on being liked or how we are treated. Independence is the paradigm of – I. I can do it – I am self-reliant. It is clear independence is greater than dependence. But it's not the goal. It is not how Wyrð is woven. Maybe it is the obviousness between being dependent and independent that keeps people from moving to the next stage of this Maturity Continuum; maybe it's that most people experience this transition at least in the physical sense.

That brings us to interdependence. Interdependence is the paradigm of - Frith. We can do it – we can cooperate – we can combine our luck and create something greater... TOGETHER. Our times focus on the pecuniary aspects of Fehu (f), but to our ancestors it was known to bind men together in great tasks which required steady purpose and unwavering loyalty. When we in the AFA speak of 'connections' in our motto, this is how it manifests; through interdependence.



Interdependence is a mature concept, a concept as old as our Folk. If we are physically interdependent, we are self-reliant, but we also realize that together we can accomplish far more than we could alone. If we are emotionally interdependent, we get our self-worth from within ourselves, but also understand the need for love, for giving, and for receiving love from others. And if we are intellectually interdependent, we realize that

we need the best thinking of our Folk to join in solving the problems before us.

Interdependence is an expression of our Folk-soul. After experiencing Blót with your Folk, practice in solitude is magnified from the bond born of sharing ritual and bread; knowing those people are performing these same household rites. This expands to every aspect of our lives, of our families, and of our community... it's about connections.



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More Runic Thoughts



Regardless of what you go through, the very core of who you are will remain. You are made to build from within, and the external assignments from the outside are unnecessary. In fact, to truly build yourself it may be necessary to completely strip away all of that. Become who you are with what you truly are.



There is always the chance for an awakening. Each awakening offers an opportunity to reach up and grab the new. There is always the choice to be better, and those chances are always around you. Nothing can thrive in stagnation, growth and change need to occur. Whether or not you are in control of the change or simply affected by it depends on how you greet the new day.



You can have all of the money in the world, and still not be prosperous. A man who dies alone, dies alone. At the end of the day, your money won't light a candle for you in remembrance.

It's good to be comfortable, don't get it wrong. Money has purpose, but it shouldn't be your purpose. It is a tool, something useful, something to build with. Use it to brighten your future, and ensure that your name lives on.

Hail the Folk!



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The Runestone - A Throwback

Sacred Trees, the Roots of Our Folk



from *The Voice*, August 2018

Donar's Oak, once mightily grew, in the lands of our ancestors. Chopped down by Boniface, much as the sacred Irminsul, and many a sacred grove across Europe succumbed as well. Defaced by those bent on destroying the culture and faith of their ancestors and kinsmen, for the empty promises of an alien cult. The blow of the axes upon the trunks, matched only by the blow of axes upon the unwavering necks of those who refused to submit. But much as the Oak once felled, the old ways have sprouted anew from roots which remained untouched, hidden beneath the surface, biding its time for when the conditions are right. Awaken! Your roots run deep. Our past spouts anew. That which was, is again. From the mighty fecund Earth we spring, reaching towards the heavens, the children of the Sun rejoice! Wotan has risen, and the memories, once thought lost, are stirred. To be forgotten, our fate is not. The Gods of our Folk have been woken from an eon long slumber and shall not be bidden back to sleep. A flame has been kindled from ashes thought cold. Flames once kindled, need only be fed and tended. The foundation, upon which great things are to be built, was laid long ago. We need only be willing to work for it and remain Tru. Let lesser beings wallow in their baseness and be consumed by the status quo as their unbridled egos crash and burn.



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Ásatrú Trúlgmál

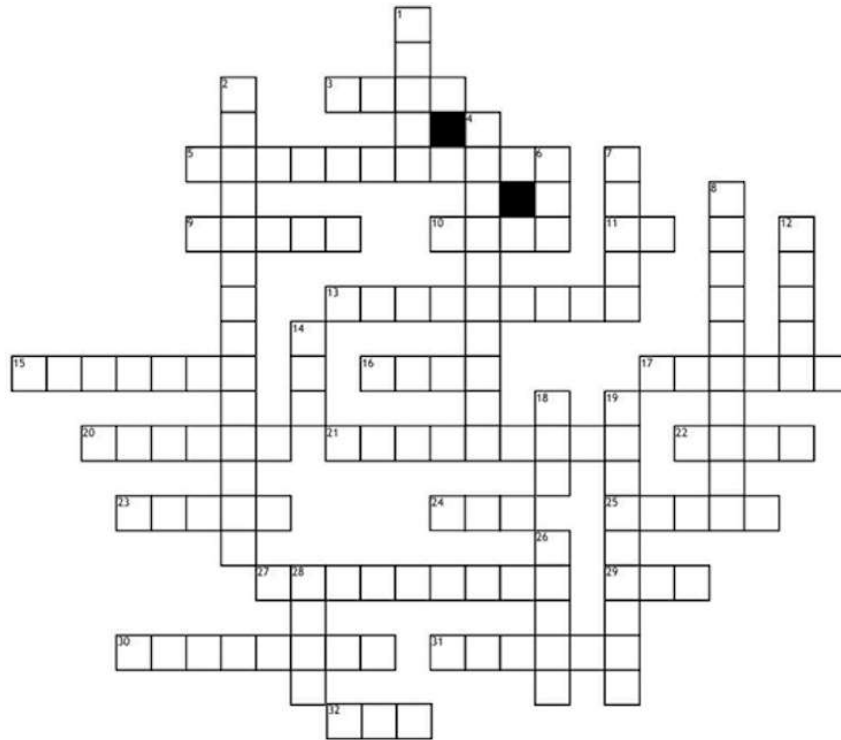


Ásatrú Trúlögmál: The fundamental beliefs of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

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?"

Ásatrú Trúlögmál Crossword



Across

- 3. His name means "Glorious"
- 5. Baldr is the _____ whose light shines in the souls of his Folk
- 9. Aryan means _____
- 10. "shape, skin" - The appearance one projects
- 11. "I" - The self or ego
- 13. "Outer yard, outside the fence or wall" - Aryan Folk who are not yet Ásatrú
- 15. Lofn is a special _____ to those struggling in love
- 16. Of his flesh the earth was created
- 17. Means "Loyal to the Æsir"
- 20. The _____ is the foundation of community
- 21. Víðarr is known as the _____
- 22. The Aryan soul has _____ parts

- 23. Through interaction, our _____ is judged
- 24. "soul" - The fundamental individual identity
- 25. "remembrance" - Memory
- 27. Ása-Þórr is the divine _____
- 29. "lifeless body" - The physical body
- 30. "luck" - Accumulated luck and spiritual potency
- 31. "someone who accompanies" - A protective guardian
- 32. She who protects the thresholds and exemplifies a women's responsibility to set boundaries

Down

- 1. The second son of Odin
- 2. Njörðr's name means _____

- 4. "Inner yard, inside the fence or wall" - united with our AFA brothers and sisters before the Æsir through worship and sharing in the gift cycle
- 6. The best physician, Gylfaginning 35
- 7. He rules over the rain and the shining of the sun per Gylfaginning 24
- 8. _____ is a spiritual currency and has power, felt by friend and foe
- 12. After the first war, these Gods and Goddesses were assimilated into the tribe of the Æsir
- 14. "spirit, breath" - The animating breath of life
- 18. The relationships built by the gift cycle increase as the cycle continues over the course of time. This exchange is expressed in this runic formula
- 19. Órlög means _____
- 26. Her name means "Beloved"
- 28. "mind" - The analytical mind

I know you've read through it, so let's see what you've learned. Show off your skills!

Hail the Heroes of Ásatrú that paved the way!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Hail the Æsir!



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The Quest for Freyshof

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

– Gylfaginning



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

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

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

1. We need to pay off Njörðshof.
 - The first of 2 loans have been paid off!
 - We now owe \$74,105 on our remaining loan.
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 9.5%.
 - This is membership dues/Hoftollar plus other donations.
3. We need to locate a suitable property.
4. We need to find lenders and build a war chest.



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

Hail Freyr!



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Sigrheim: Home of Victory

Support the Home of Victory



Help Sigrheim get stocked
and ready for our Folk!

Donate Supplies
from our
wishlist ✨ ✨ ✨
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Thank You!

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Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
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Victory Never Sleeps



Victory Never Sleeps, a weekly podcast produced by the Asatru Folk Assembly, hosted by Alsherjargothi Matthew Flavel alongside weekly guests. 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 Asatru Folk.

Aesir. Virtues. Heroes. Doctrine. Beliefs. Cosmology. Runes. Holidays. Literature. 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, Entropy, Odysee, VK, Rumble, and Twitch. Audio versions drop on Spotify, Apple Podcast, iHeartRadio, and Amazon Podcasts on the Friday after the new episodes air.

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



TEES, TANKS, SWEATERS!

MUGS! HATS! STICKERS!

We've also got merch over at the [Runestone Store!](#) Go check it out!



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AFA Homeschool Program

Með vitani, vinna Sigr



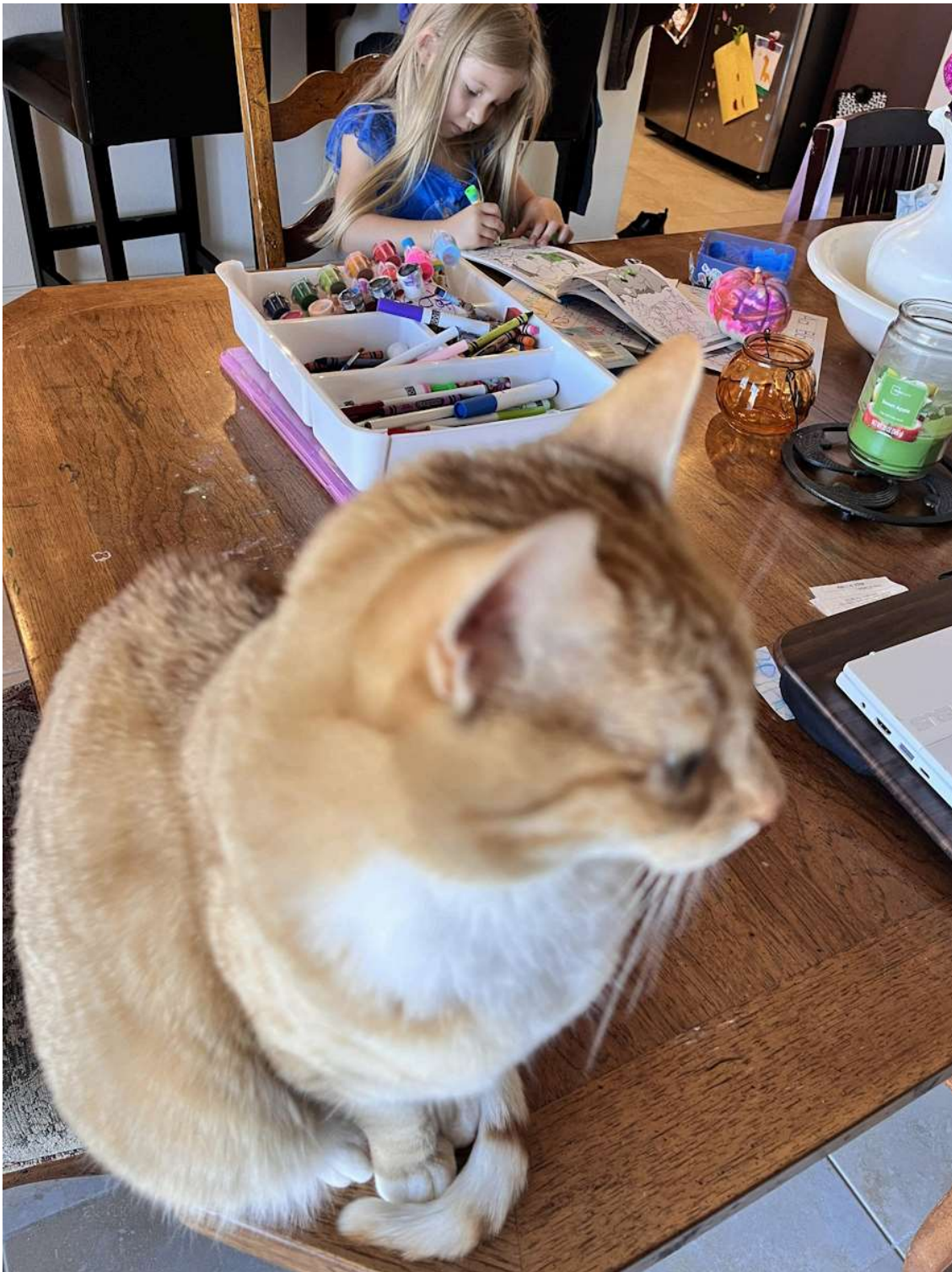
Through knowledge, victory!

Check out the Asatru Academy at AsatruAcademy.org



We've also got merch over at the [Runestone Store!](#) Go check it out!

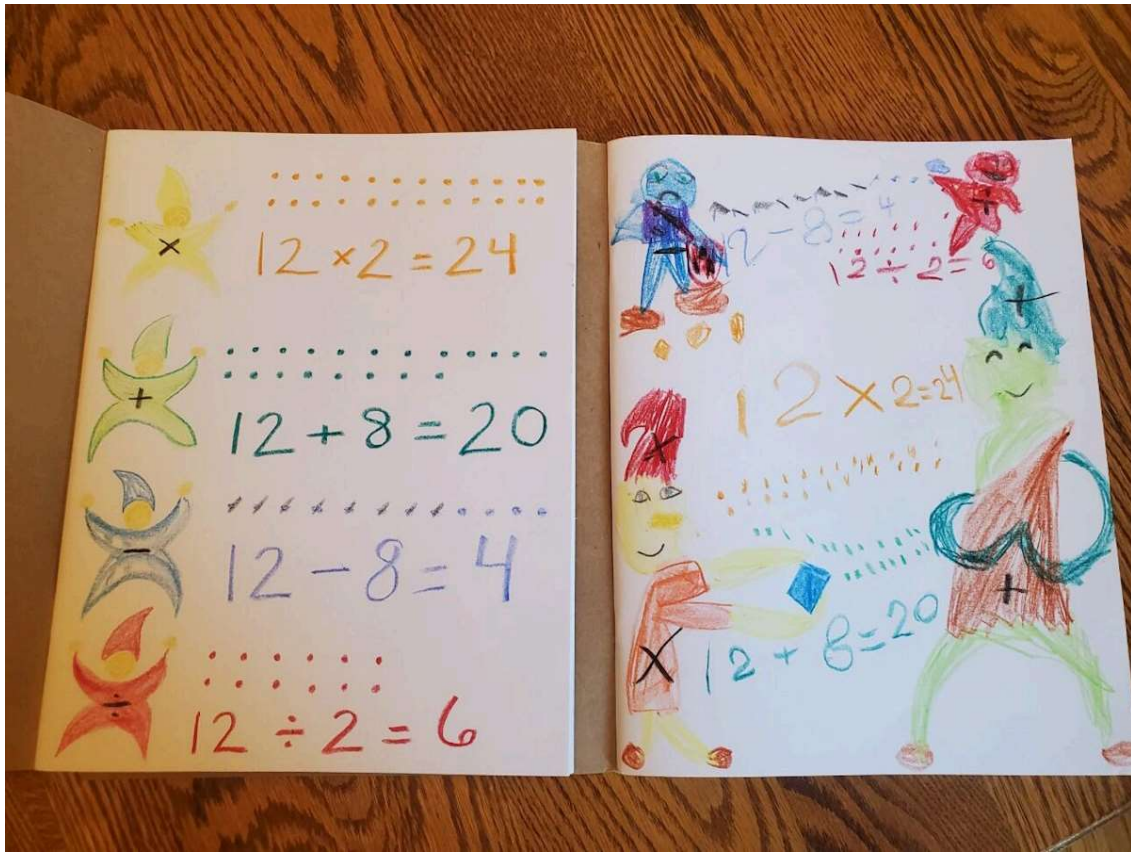
Academy Kids are Hard at Work!



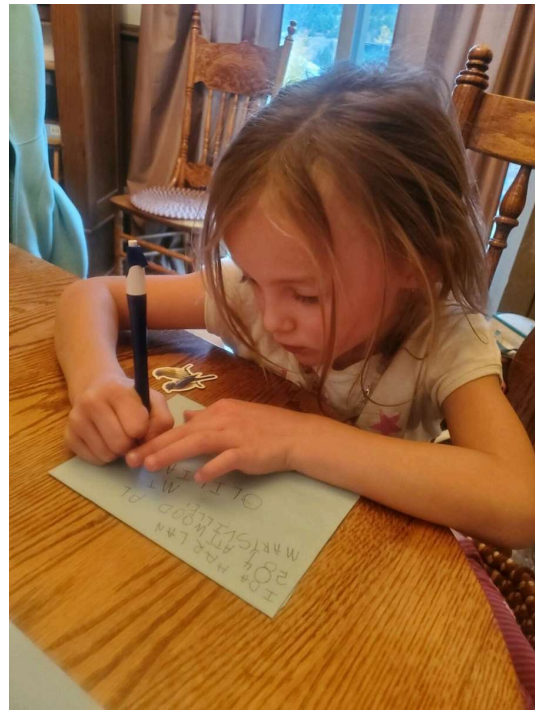
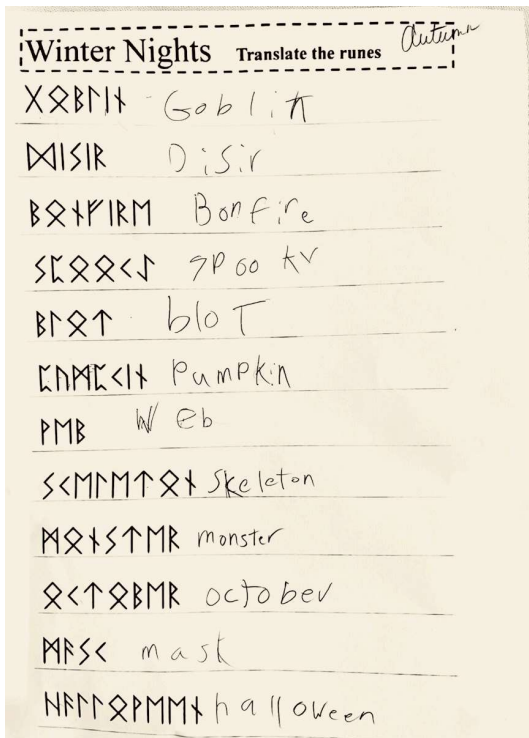
Fall time greetings parents and students!

All our wonderful students have been working hard and learning this Fall, and we are so proud of them! Remember to get out there and enjoy the crisp Fall air! A very important part of Waldorf philosophy is experiencing and being outside! Soon our thoughts will turn to Yuletide and all the wonderful activities and family time that comes with it. We generally recommend our students take time off from school over

Yule and enjoy family and focus on spirituality. There is certainly a lot of it during this time!



Of course, we will have Yule-themed activities and schoolwork if you choose to use it. But spend this time making family traditions, enjoying the traditions of your family's unique Aryan ethnicity, whether that be Krampus, the Yule elf, Frau Holle, the Yule lads, Zwarte Piet, etc. An easy search will find a great deal of traditions from your ancestors' homeland, many of which are not explicitly Christian or are older traditions with a Christian veneer that can easily be peeled away.

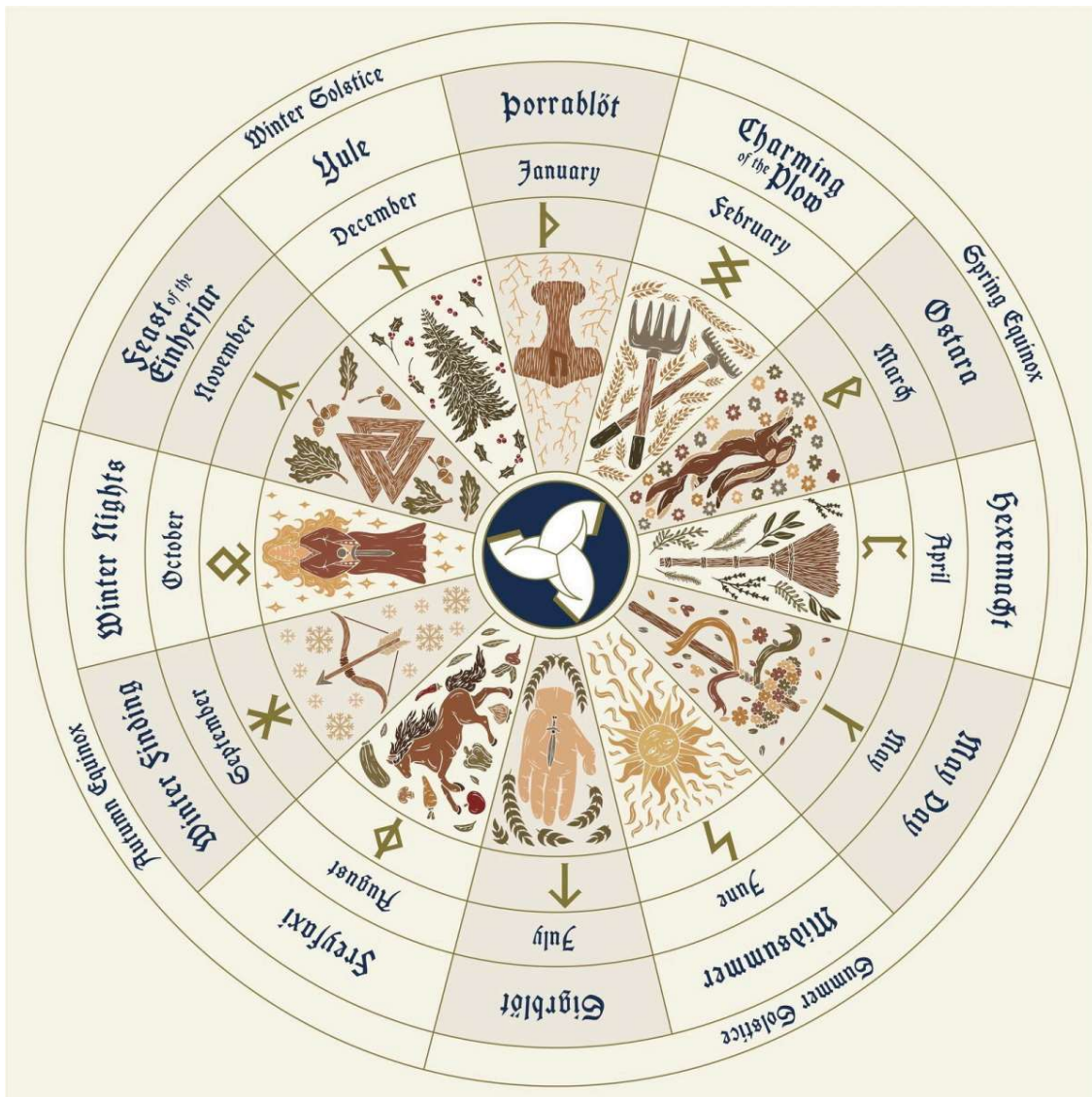


We hope all our students are doing well and are enjoying school! As always, feel free to reach out to myself or any of our staff. We now have two ladies who are focused on making sure your family is comfortable in the homeschool process and are there to help you and answer questions. Rachel Kinsler and Folkbuilder Heather Young are fantastic ladies and have your answers! Rachel specifically is a very experienced homeschooler and has a great wealth of knowledge and ideas to help you be successful.



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Remembrance and Holy Days



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

2024

Date	Observance
January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 20	Porrablót
February 1	Day of Remembrance for King Eanfrith of Bernicia
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 17	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olvir of Egg
March 19 (observed on 16th)	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 10	Day of Remembrance for John Yeowell “Stubba”

Date	Observance
April 30 (observed on 20th)	Hexennacht
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
May 1 (observed on 18th)	May Day
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric of the Goths
June 20 (observed on 15th)	Midsummer
July 4	Day of Remembrance for Sveinbjorn Beinteinsson
July 9	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills
July 20	Sigrblót
August 1	Day of Remembrance for King Osric of Deira
August 9	Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia
August 17	Freyfaxi
September 9	Day of Remembrance for Prince Hermann of the Cherusci
September 22 (observed on 21st)	Winter Finding
October 1	Day of Remembrance for John Gibbs-Bailey "Hoskuld"
October 9	Day of Remembrance for Meister Guido von List
October 15	Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen
October 19	Winter Nights
November 9	Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigríð of Sweden
November 11 (observed on 16th)	Feast of the Einherjar
December 9	Day of Remembrance for Egill Skallagrímsson
December 20	Mother's Night
December 20-31 (observed on 21st)	Yuletide

November



<https://youtu.be/DNXUueB6S0s>

Days of Remembrance

Queen Sigríðr of Sweden | November 9th



Queen Sigríðr of Sweden, also known as Sigríðr the Haughty, was a proud and noble Ásatrú woman who knew her worth and kept true to her loyalty to the Æsir.

She had the honor of marrying the powerful King Erik the Victorious of Sweden, earning her the title of Queen of Sweden. With this marriage, she became the most powerful woman in all of Sweden, even acting as regent after King Erik's untimely death. She was described by Snorri Sturluson as "the wisest of women and prophetic about many things."

Because of her great reputation and wealth as a dowager queen, she was highly sought after by many nobles throughout Scandinavia. One of these was her foster brother Harald, who decided to visit her on his way to raid in the Baltic Sea region. After they shared a feast, Harald became sullen and embarrassed when Queen Sigríðr mentioned that her power in Sweden was comparable to his in Norway. After ruminating on this for some time, Harald decided to officially propose marriage to Queen Sigríðr, as a marriage between the two would give him power over most of Scandinavia.

She rejected his offer, as he was already married to a woman named Asta. However, Harald insisted this did not matter as he believed Asta was not worthy of a man of his station. Queen Sigríðr stuck to her guns, riding away to her castle. Harald followed her home with a retinue of soldiers, and they arrived to find another suitor—Vissavaldr of Garðaríki. Queen Sigríðr housed them in the same quarters, fed them large amounts of drink, and then ordered her men to burn down the quarters and kill any survivors. This was meant to send a message to all petty kings in the area who would seek to marry her for the wrong reasons.

Queen Sigríðr was later being wooed by Olaf Tryggvason of Norway, a familiar figure to many of our heroes and the same Olaf who had forcibly converted his own Folk in the name of Christ by means of threat, torture, and murder, but she eventually agreed to marry him. To celebrate this, Olaf sent her a "gold" ring that he had won in some conquest, but Queen Sigríðr's goldsmiths discovered that it was only gold plated, making Queen Sigríðr distrust Olaf. When he later arrived in Sweden, he informed her that she must abandon the Æsir and convert to the foreign faith of Christianity in order for the marriage to be fulfilled. She immediately rejected this offer to betray our Gods, saying:

"I shall not abandon the faith that I have previously held, as have my kinsmen before me. I shall also make no objection to your believing in whatever god you like."

As expected, this enraged Olaf, and he first insulted her age and beauty then struck her across the face with a glove. Queen Sigríðr reacted as calmly as possible and told him that his actions “may very well cost him his life.” She already had reputation for being prophetic, and sure enough, Olaf the Christian was later killed by a united front of both Christian and Ásatrú Scandinavians at the Battle of Svold in September of the year 1000.

Queen Sigríðr is an example to all of our Folk for her unwavering loyalty to the Æsir, her Folk, and her noble ancestors. She is especially an example to the noble women of our Folk, as she remained steadfast and undaunted in her faith and personal convictions. She refused to marry any man who was not worthy of her station, as well as any man who would force her to abandon her longstanding troth with the Æsir!

May all of our people stand with our Gods, and may we all reclaim and retain our nobility no matter what lies ahead of us!

Hail Queen Sigríðr of Sweden!

Hail Syn!

Holiday

Feast of the Einherjar | November 11th (Observed November 16th)



One of the most recognizable motifs in Ásatrú is that of the Viking warrior. Helm, sword, beard, and blood—boys and girls have long been mesmerized by the stories of Valkyries and the eternal feasting and fighting of the Einherjar in Óðinn's hall, Valhalla. Pop culture has taken the Berserker and the Valkyrie and remade them hundreds of times.

Our ancestors lived in a different time, when fighting wars and general “viking” was necessary for survival. For a warrior, to die in battle was the greatest honor. Today, war is not necessary in the same way. Most people scoff at war, urge their children to “do better” or “be better.” For those of us who practice Ásatrú, however, we recognize the importance and the value of the warrior. More important still, is the importance and the value of those who have fallen, the Einherjar.

Once a year, we set aside a day specifically to honor the Einherjar. We raise a horn to the fallen warriors to thank them for fighting for our people and our freedom. One way to celebrate is to set a place at the table for the Einherjar. Serve them the same food you are eating for dinner. Pour them a glass of wine or beer. When you are done, leave the plate outside under a special tree in offering. Another way to celebrate would be to visit the graves of veterans at a local cemetery and help to clean them up. Leave some decorations or a small flag.

You don't have to have any veterans in your immediate family. It is a guarantee that somewhere down your ancestral lines you have family who fought in war, and just as likely, that some of them didn't return from the front lines. It is in your blood. So, raise that horn and raise it high. Remember our fallen.

Hail the Einherjar!

Hail Óðinn!

Upcoming National Event

Feast of the Einherjar | November 8th-10th



Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



Mark your calendars. Join your Folk in honoring our warrior ancestors and those that still fight for the Folk today! Meet us in South Dakota for the 4th Annual Feast of the Einherjar, November 8-10. Ticket includes all meals, lodging, Folk activities, and ceremonies.

Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



Goði Nathan Erlandson
nerlandson@runestone.org

Winter Nights - A Recap



<https://youtu.be/RddutYgfSXo>

On the weekend of October 13th, the Asatru Folk Assembly held our thirteenth Winter Nights national festival, this year at Othala Acres in New Hampshire! We had travellers, not just including Alsherjargoði Flavel, make over 900 miles to attend and even an international traveller from Canada.



On Friday, after Folk had started to arrive and make camp on the hill, Folkbuilder Mike Melillo led us in introducing the Folk to and welcoming the Ancestors, Wights, and Gods to our meta-ritual. Winter Nights, and all of our Ásatrú festivals, really are one large ritual each. We then learned and discussed the Alfar and Disir in a presentation led by Folkbuilder Jon Rock. After supper, Alsherjargoði Flavel led us in a rousing Blót to Lord Óðinn. We could see his eye in the sky after the Blót, so we know that Odin saw the assembled Folk.



After breakfast on Saturday morning, the children defeated the adults in a pool-noodle battle. We don't know how they did it, but the children must have a powerful battle-magic because our blows would not slay them, but their strikes felled us almost instantly. No matter how many times the adults rose up, the children could not be defeated. We adults plan to win next year, but the children remain unconvinced.



Next the ladies went inside for a private discussion on women's roles and culture in Ásatrú. Meanwhile, the men gathered for tests of strength and to share some mead. Four of the young lads of 5 and 6 years old were able to lift a very heavy steel anvil using teamwork! After lunch, Folkbuilder Mike Melillo led a discussion on home altars and home practice, which in many ways followed up directly on the previous days' presentation on the ancestors. The ladies then studied Osteomancy, or bone throwing divination, with Gyðja Catie while the men made preparations for the upcoming Folk Services. In those Folk Services, we welcomed two new babies to our Folk- Freyjalynn Mae and Milo Freyr! We also had the pleasure to accept the Folkbuilder Oath from our host, Ron Boardman. Ron has gone above and beyond, and I know he will continue to serve our Folk and Gods with piety, dedication, and distinction.



During supper, Witan Erickson awarded the benefit raffle prize of \$235 to our friend from Canada, Dimitri. Folkbuilder Boardmen conducted the benefit auction which raised over \$2500. The generosity of our Folk allows all children to attend for free, for family tickets to be especially low, and for all of our event tickets to be a great value.

After supper, Gyðja Erickson and Witan Erickson led the Folk in Blót to our Disir and Alfar. As Gyðja Erickson explained before the rite, our ancestral mothers and fathers are complimentary just as we living men and women are complimentary. They, and we, do not operate in a vacuum. This was the first Winter Nights where we have made Blót to the Disir and Alfar together as one rite, and it was well received by the Folk and, I believe, by those ancestors. More than one grown man was brought to tears.

To end Saturday night, we had Sumbl together in Folkbuilder Boardman's beautiful Blót house.



Sunday morning started with brunch as folks were breaking down tents and making some goodbyes. Folkbuilder Jon Rock led us in a Wayfarer's Blót to invoke Þórr's protection and to give Þórr's blessing for the journey home, as well as blessing the Folk's Mjölnir pendants. And with that the Folk headed home to Canada, Nevada, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, and West Virginia.



Thank you to everyone who attended, we truly enjoy your company and are honored to worship with you. Gyðja Catie and I would like to give special thanks to Folkbuilders Jon Rock, Mike Melillo, Tyler Sagert, and Ron Boardman, and most especially to the unsung heroes of this event—Jessica and Lily. We see all you do to support Tyler and Ron, and this event couldn't have been a success without you!

Maybe we will see you there next year? Look for information about Winter Nights XIV, in New Hampshire for a second year in 2025, very soon!



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Be A Doer



We need you to volunteer for the AFA!

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

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

Baby Blanket Project

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

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



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

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

Folk Services



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

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

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

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

Thanks in advance!

Photo Donations

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



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

Eir's Blessings



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

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

know!

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

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

Last Will and Testament

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



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

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

Please make your will **today**.

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

Allen Turnage

PO Box 16027
Tallahassee FL, 32317



Witan Allen Turnage
aturnage@runestone.org

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

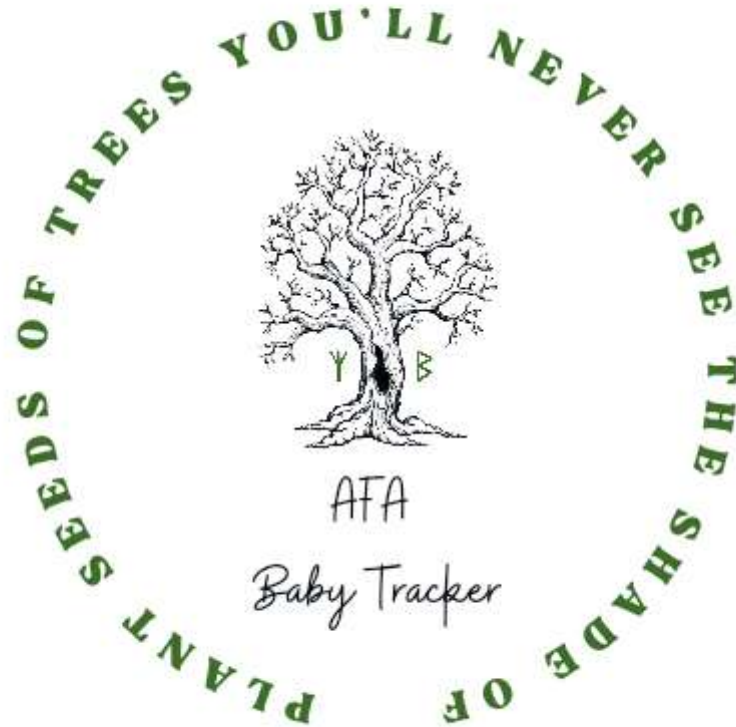
By the example of our Folkmother, Else Christensen, we will also be going into prisons as we are able to. Some of our Gothar and other leadership, will be going into the prisons to hold study groups, lead blot, and encourage continued growth in the folk inside.

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 will be keeping track of how many children have been and are born within the AFA from 2022 and forward. The ongoing tracking is proof that we are building something sustainable for the future of our folk, which is a place for these children to grow up within and a place where they can feel proud of who they are!

Total babies born in 2024: 25

Online Events and Meetings

VIRTUE RECOVERY MEETING



THURSDAY 7PM CST
(5PM PST, 8PM EST)

Being our most virtuous selves is not always the easiest task. As a community, we are home to many that have or are currently, struggling with addiction. Many traditional 12 step meeting, though so very respected, do not fall in line with what we as a people believe. Specifically, any step pertaining to the divine will or requesting the removal of any shortcomings. So, we run what we are calling the Virtue Recovery Meeting. Since we are an international organization, the best way for us to do this is online. We hold our meetings every Thursday at 7pm Central. Join us!! Feel free to reach out to Folkbuilder Ashley McStocker with any and all questions!

AMcStocker@Runestone.org

SISTERS SUNDAY CHATS



Second and fourth Sunday of the month
10 am central
Contact Folkbuilder Ali Clausen



2024 AFA Reading Challenge!

50 books in 52 weeks!

Contact Folkbuilder Ali

Clausen for details

aclausen@runestone.org

AFA Reading Challenge Meetings



1/9/24	Link will be	7/9/24
2/13/24	posted on	8/13/24
3/12/24	MeWe the	9/10/24
4/9/24	weekend	10/8/24
5/14/24	before the	11/12/24
6/11/24	meeting	12/10/24

CONTACT FOLKBUILDER ALI CLAUSEN FOR DETAILS
ACLAUSEN@RUNESTONE.ORG OR ON MEWE

These meetings are family friendly so please, no politics or overly mature topics

Ladies Book Study

Revolt Against the Modern World

by Julius Evola

Starting

July 11th

7 pm CST

**We will meet
every Thursday.**

**Unless there
is a national
event that
week.**



**Free PDF
and meeting link
in Mewe Ladies Group**

For more information contact

Witan Brandy Fassett

Folkbuilder Sara Ault



Our Ladies' Rune Study is just getting started! We meet on Teams every other Saturday.

Contact with any questions you might have — aplourde@runestone.org

I hope to see you there!

Lore Study with Gothi Jason Plourde

Join us every Tuesday night

at

6:00 pm EST

5:00 pm CST

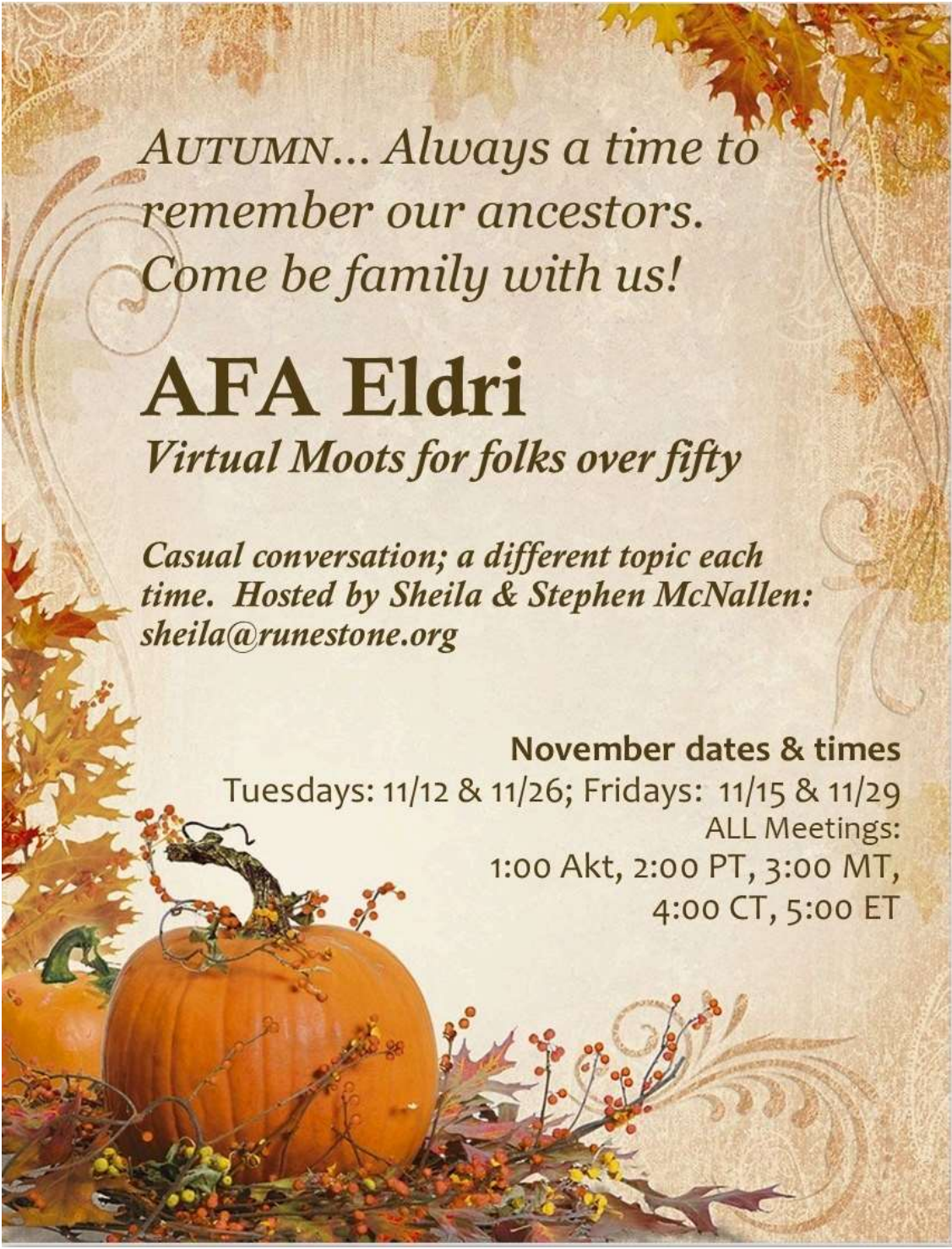
4:00 pm MST

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**



*AUTUMN... Always a time to
remember our ancestors.
Come be family with us!*

AFA Eldri

Virtual Moots for folks over fifty

*Casual conversation; a different topic each
time. Hosted by Sheila & Stephen McNallen:
sheila@runestone.org*

November dates & times

Tuesdays: 11/12 & 11/26; Fridays: 11/15 & 11/29

ALL Meetings:

1:00 Akt, 2:00 PT, 3:00 MT,
4:00 CT, 5:00 ET

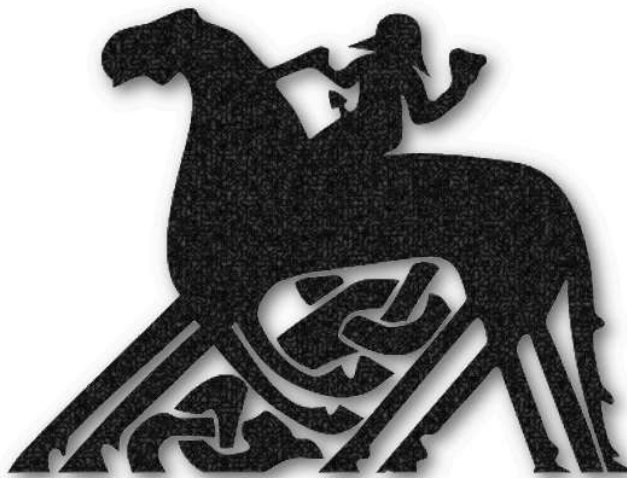


Just for Fun

The Poetic Edda

UKZNELNÖRGNEADIVKALTAFOGKÞGNTÞÖÚZHNYBÖ
 BSGÐÐTKÖHYZINDRÖÖGBVÍNNRIMVYÍDHBZÍJSÁÖ
 FOBTHPZVVEOBÞVFLÖGZÁFPRÖÐAÁOKTRVPVÖZPA
 UGHÁRBARDSLJÓÐEASKHNÐEÍTBOÖÐÞOAUÞÐÁOSN
 ÅKIZGHLVFLDGVÖLNÓVBÖGÞLTNMILTIKÚHAIDSR
 ÞÐÖÞZÖPPEÁÐÞAPHULBZÍÐPGAUJÖAHZÁEÍÖRDIO
 FÍVANMGYÐMÚAAKÞEDANJÁTASRGFDNÚLKÝÚURPF
 KRBMHJTIOSEÐLUVÖLSMBGEMÖESAEÍGYKÓRAÚÍN
 PISBTVÞSJIIFTZTTIMGLSJDBNIIILRAÖGHGVZNR I
 BMVÁBÖEYLNÞÚGSÖÁÐVAÖNÓNGNNGKHÞÍRÓKRAGA
 LIJÖEFÍMRREBZELJNAÁKINURÖSVÚHEÐEGÜÖRÐD
 UÁIÁLBFOAÍZHÍLSFFÍHSVRIRÞIGYÍÖMUIPHGBI
 ÚPMSNUÖVLKVGÞBÖBKNBJÐIGVÐÁMGJÖÐDPZÖRTV
 YYVSÐKNÖÖSÚINVGÞSÖRIAÖNDASIELÖRRÖLSTÁÐK
 LÚÓÍIHMDSEVRGDÞÚÞÁRSERHASLUÚÜGÖSÚPSTPR
 RÁÓÖÍÐEIAÞPÖBÞÍYÁKALAUVKHLÖNÓÚÁGMÖÖRFA
 DAMAOVMZMRÚTÖYAIVÁÁGNÐVADUAJRÍGSÞULAJN
 FDMSDÖPAÖDKYNRGIBMDDÞIUNRRNÓFIJAZÍFMOÜ
 DIÚUIEUPHSLVRDÞTAÓIHÐOYAKÐODFREZÓTÍRIR
 ÁÖDUANKVENÁÐIUMLTNVAÁHLVDESFIÖÐÖÞGDZÖÞ
 PRSBZRFJPOMAAÐTRGÖÍJKÁIELÁMSINMÍRGÐÐÖU
 HKHHNÁDÁÖKAAOAAASHÐFPMÐJLUÖRÁOYGÖLDYHRG
 EDIRFSÁSFVÖVZBÖRPTSAMTAMÍSFPNSSHUFDPN
 LDSLAJÞLROÁÁÐARFHNGÍFTKGOOBÖRSAUBÍLHRD
 RÚÓÖÁFÁBIDHFNLDJDUANILDL SJÞNÖOURPALMSÚ
 ELGYFMNÖJFLASÍHDDÞÖÖAOLVEPAKDGVLGENAFP
 IÞBZÞFSAUTIABYÞPRVHÞBKÐMÖLÞFPHSLÖÖZÍABD
 ÐÐÚÁÚPESGYLIBÞIKHÁAHÓIÐISUÍMZRRBVEMIZ
 BSAÚFRRPÍAPAVVÐZZSSRVMÖVÞJGKIGUSHNOVOI
 RÐMÚZZEOÖVLÖSJDJDEÍÐUÞKBKÖDJDPJGYJÞRTÚ
 YDFFANGYLRDLADBOVNKUÖÐSIMÖRAÓFPJUBEAIZN
 NDÍBLTUMÞÁRARPNNUÞÞVMEJÁÞOAMJRJBLFFZVÓ
 HAGNULFINPÁRDÓADÞRÞYOÁLÁMSINDÚRÞFAVYRJ
 IKKYBIIÁÖPDTÖMÐRÞRHIFIHÖLEÐÚBYGBÚIÚFN
 LSZRNVÁETHMÓÁHIRÞAORONLSGFVURZNÞSRMDG
 DTOGUDRÚNARHVÖTRNVLÁMUFÍRDRGISÐYOOUÖÐÓ
 AIIJFJRZOÞFTGYFDOSKISÞJÍBFÖÞGLKUGEMETD
 RÁBKAAOAMMAKSNIHADIVKRADRUGISÚOSGOÜÁYA

- Völuspá
- Hávamál
- Vafþrúðnismál
- Grimnismál
- Skirnismál
- Hárbarðsljóð
- Hymiskviða
- Lokasenna
- Brymskviða
- Völundarkviða
- Alvissmál
- Baldurs draumar
- Gróttasöngur
- Rígsþula
- Hyndluljóð
- Svipdagsmál
- Grógaldur
- Fjölsvinnsmál
- Hrafnagaldur Óðins
- Sólarljóð
- Helgakviða Hjörvarðssonar
- Helgakviða Hundingsbana I
- Helgakviða Hundingsbana II
- Frá dauða Sinfjötla
- Gripisspá
- Reginismál
- Fáfnismál
- Sigrdrífumál
- Brot af Sigurðarkviðu
- Guðrúnarkviða I
- Sigurðarkviða Hin Skamma
- Helreið Brynhildar
- Dráp Niflunga
- Guðrúnarkviða in forna
- Guðrúnarkviða in þriðja
- Oddrúnargrátr
- Atlakviða en Grönlensku
- Atlamál en Grönlensku
- Guðrúnarhvöt
- Hamðismál



Where The Old Gods Dwell



This heartfelt folksong was written to honour our Gods and to inspire our Folk to keep pushing forward with nobility and purpose. With every chord and verse, it encourages us to hold fast to our values, overcome challenges, and strive for lasting victory. Sung with passion by Celine_Faye, it's a tribute to our unity, resilience, and timeless connection with the Gods.

Sang by Celine_Faye

Written by Folkbuilder Ryan Skinner



<https://youtu.be/2zE0gqcNW0Y>

Where the Old Gods Dwell

[Verse 1]

Out in the woods where the old Gods dwell,
We find our path on the ancient trail.
With wisdom sharp as Óðinn's eye,
We live by the stars and the evening sky.
Our oaths are few, but in our core,
We guard them tight like Þórr's mighty roar.

[Chorus]

Simple life, with noble ways,
Underneath the heavens' gaze.
Ásatrú, we stand tall,
With the land, one and all.

[Verse 2]

By Freyr's blessing, fields we sow,
In nature's rhythm, our hearts grow.
In harmony with the earth so vast,
We learn from stories of the past.
Stand by duty, protect the kin,
In unity, let life begin.

[Chorus]

Simple life, with noble ways,
Underneath the heavens' gaze.
Ásatrú, we stand tall,

With the land, one and all.

[Bridge]

With each new day, we greet the Gods,
From dawn till dusk, we bring their praise.
A future bright, with tales of yore,
In honour bound, forevermore.

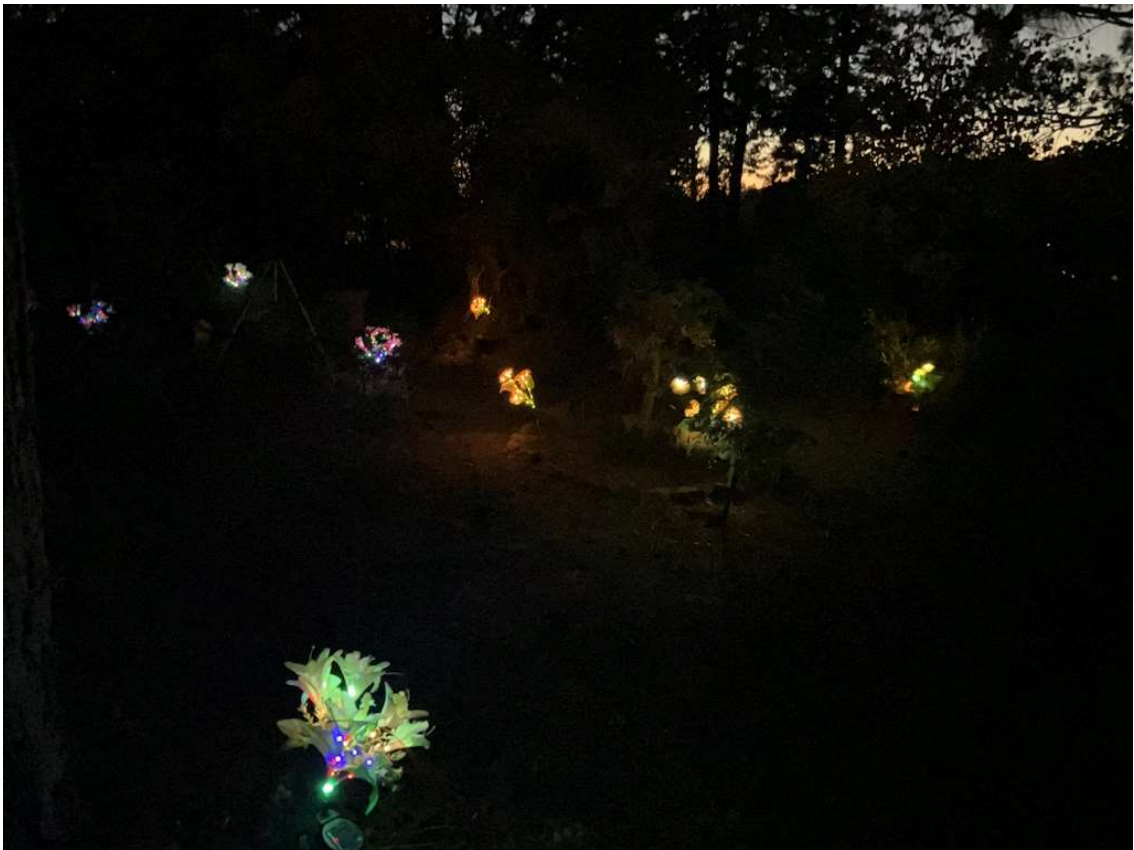
[Chorus]

Simple life, with noble ways,
Underneath the heavens' gaze.
Ásatrú, we stand tall,
With the land, one and all.



Folkbuilder Ryan Skinner
rskinner@runestone.org

Bill's Ásatrú Blótferð of Nearly 10,000 Miles



Thorgrunn's Grove at Óðinshof
(Photo Credit: author)

In the September 2024 issue of *The Runestone*, Goði Trent East's article, 'Blótfærð -- Ásatrú "Pilgrimage," and Why It Matters' jumped out at me. I was eating dinner in my car in North Carolina. Goði East explained what I was in the process of actually doing. I was about 6,000 or 7,000 miles into my own Blótfærð (rough translation, a "sacrificial journey") to visit all of the Asatru Folk Assembly's Hofs and Sigrheim.

Based in California (and hopefully soon, in Nevada), I have been a member of the AFA for over a decade and a half. I recall when the AFA had no Hofs. I'll never forget the excitement of donating towards the purchase of Óðinshof, and then going to it for the first time, in 2015.

The last few years in AFA have been so exciting with the acquisition of the newer Hofs and Sigrheim. For a year or two, I have been thinking about visiting the other three Hofs and Sigrheim. I decided to combine this with attending a high school reunion back East and visiting people in the Midwest and South.

The Blótfærð started in mid-August by going to Óðinshof. It was the day of Goði Thorgrun Odden's funeral. Thorgrun was a brave man, a loyal friend, and a wise mentor!



Bill's Blótfærð route shown in blue highlighter (may look green). The route is clockwise, starting in California. Detours in pink (reddish) highlighter, due to fire blocking I-80, and to evading a hurricane(!). Planned, but not taken, paths in orange

highlighter.

(Map and Photo Credit: Bill's Blótferð map by author. Base map of the United States, the interstate highways, and the capitals of the States, from GISGeography.com, US-road-map.)

The map shows my departure from Óðinshof on Interstate 80 (upper blue/green line) heading east. Because of a fire blocking I-80, I had to take awful Highway 50 over the Sierra Nevada mountains, and nearly got hit by a truck that went over the yellow double lines on a very narrow, two-lane, curvy, steep road.

My first destination was Baldrshof, via Interstate 80 from California to Nebraska and then north on I-29 towards Minnesota. But in Nebraska, the “service engine soon” light came on. Baldrshof Leadership helped me, even at this southern reach of the Baldrshof District! By telephone, Folkbuilder Jessie Shaffer and Goði and Folkbuilder Coordinator Nathan Erlandson gave me advice about the car, and Folkbuilder Allison McKee, advice about the locality. After getting the car fixed, I took a side trip to meet Ali and Folkbuilder Chris McDowell. It was such a pleasure to meet them!

Finally reaching Minnesota, Folkbuilder Jessie Shaffer went way out of her way to meet me at Baldrshof, so that I could go inside, and also to visit with her and her darling children. It was a great evening, and she kindly made us all dinner. Baldrshof is so beautiful! Baldr shines in the mural! Jessie's spectacular, giant Sonnenrad decorates the floor.



Ancestors' alter at Baldrshof, including photo of the late Goði Thorgrun Odden in the center

(Photo Credit: author)

Via side trips, I visited Witan Brandy Fassett and Goði Nathan Erlandson. Brandy gave me insights about Baldr, and incidentally, demonstrated her wisdom, courage, and inner strength! Nate inspired me deeply with his thoughts on the virtue of perseverance, his fitness level, and his understanding of Baldr's story!

The next big event was the high school reunion on the East Coast, which turned out great.

The next religious destination was Þórshof. There, I was mesmerized by the emotion in Þórr's face in the mural. Folkbuilder Robert Shotwell coordinated with me for the visit. Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea conveyed the spirit of deep piety of this Hof. It was great meeting them and others in the Hall!

At Sigrheim in Tennessee, I had a great visit with Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice, who does so much to care for Sigrheim. Driving along this vast property, I came upon the statues of Steve and Sheila McNallen, and Nick waiting patiently in his truck. Sigrheim is full of possibilities! Tennessee was my favorite Southern State that I traveled through, with its beautiful mountains and friendly people. A good choice for Sigrheim's location!



Statutes of Founder and Alsherjargoði Stephen A. McNallen and Gyðja Sheila McNallen, fire pit, and behind them, the hill where Tyrshof will be built
(Photo Credit: author)

I next visited Njörðshof in Florida, which was a powerful experience. Besides that, this is a special site with characteristic Florida vegetation. Special thanks to Witan and Lawspeaker Allen Turnage! Later by text, Jessie joked with me hoping I had the chance to “feed the gator” at Njörðshof, but I hadn’t known there was an alligator there.



Njordshof has a beautiful setting, including this area and pond in the front. Alligator did not come out for the photo.

(Photo Credit: author)

I intended to visit people in Texas. However, a tropical storm was forecasted to turn into a hurricane (Category 2) the next day, right where I intended to drive (orange highlighting on map). I had to evade the hurricane! Traveling north through Alabama (pink highlighting on map), my car pretty much outran the hurricane, which was traveling at 17 mph northward. The rain and wind did catch me in Tennessee and Arkansas, as I turned westward on Interstate 40 towards home.

Finally, I had the bittersweet experience of coming home to failing, tragic California, a month from when I left. The next weekend, I completed the Blótferð loop by attending Winter Finding at Óðinshof. However, the trip's drama was not over. On Sunday morning, the car battery needed a jump. Folkbuilder Ryan Skinner (with truck) and member Mike (with jumper cables) kindly solved the problem.

You'll notice a theme in this article: how the AFA Leadership came through for me! Everywhere I went, AFA Leadership was there to help make things work, to inspire me, and to visit and learn about each other. Special thanks to Folkbuilder Jessie Shaffer for the Baldrshof visit (which was the most time I spent at any of the three Hofes); along with her wit, wisdom, and laughter!

Altogether, the Blótfærð was nearly 10,000 miles of driving. I went through 29 States. A lot of such a trip is rather mundane: driving, eating, sleeping, getting gas, adding oil to your car. But it's worth it! (Fortunately, I enjoy driving!) On your Blótfærð, expect adversity, beauty, and surprises.

Like Goði East, I encourage you to go on a Blótfærð. Perhaps, as for me, at the end of it, you will realize even more than you did before, that the AFA Folk provide sustenance to each other. That the Gods and Goddesses are present in your life and their lives. That there is fulfillment to be found with these people, these places, the ancestors, and the Holy Powers. And that you wish this fulfillment for the unawakened Folk. You want more of the Ethnic European Folk to come Home to Ásatrú. Moreover, you wish this fulfillment for the children of present and future Ásatrúar, and it gives you joy to see children being brought up following the Old Ways.

— Bill, member, California

Calling All Folk Photographers



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Baldrshof

Ancestor Altar



All folk are welcome to bring framed photos of their deceased loved ones to be placed on the ancestor altar at Baldrshof!

If you are unable to bring the photo, you are welcome to email a digital copy which will be printed, framed, and hung on the ancestor wall. We also ask that you provide your name, the name of your ancestors, birth and death dates of they are available, as well as a memory, story, or dedication about them. This information will be printed and placed into our book of ancestors kept next to the ancestor altar. Of course, the ancestor can

remain anonymous, but remember that our immortality is in our names and stories being spoken by the folk!

Please contact Folkbuilder Jessie Shaffer for more info or to submit your ancestor pictures and information.

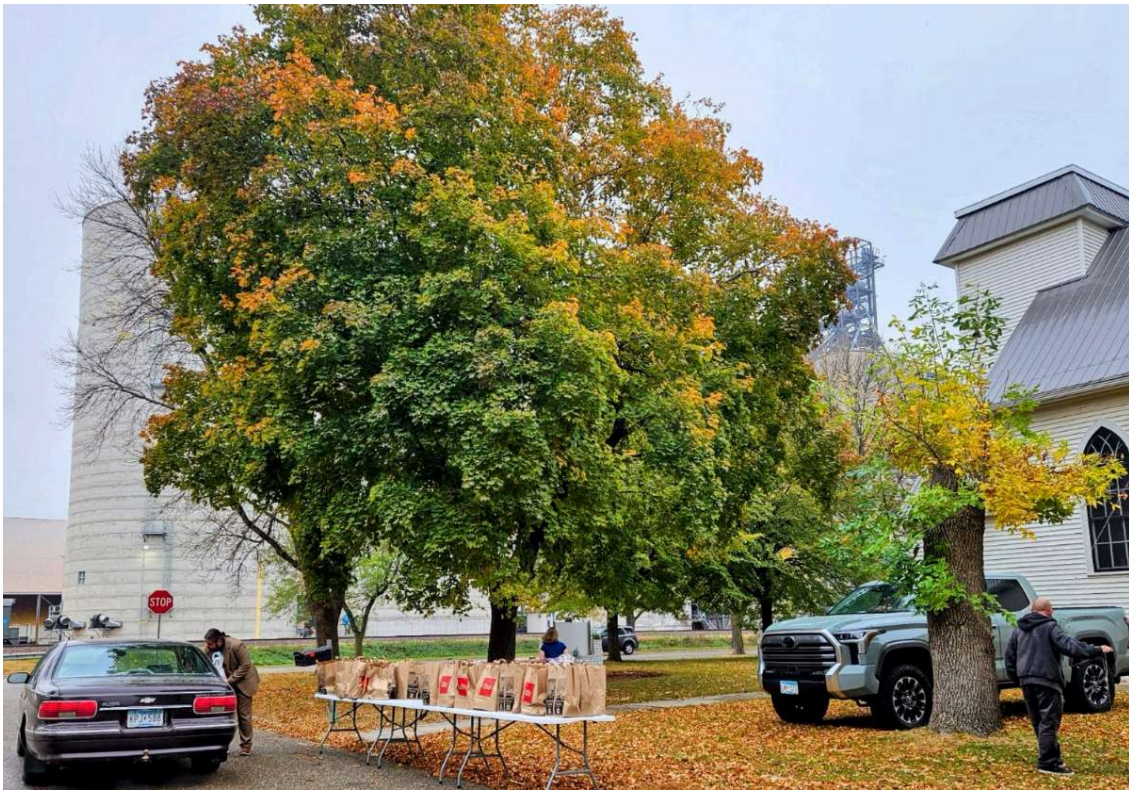


Folkbuilder Jessie Shaffer
jshaffer@runestone.org

Food Pantry at Baldrshof



This past month, the food shelf initiative at Baldrshof has continued to make a significant impact in the Murdock community by assisting 20 families in need. We distributed hundreds of pounds of meat, produce, baked goods, dry goods, and various household items, ensuring that those facing food insecurity received essential supplies. The generosity of our Folk as well as our corporate and private donators played a vital role in this effort, showcasing our collective commitment to supporting one another.



We are deeply grateful for the trust placed in us to provide this assistance and appreciate the hard work of everyone involved in making the food shelf successful. Volunteers dedicated countless hours to gather, organize, and distribute these resources, reflecting our values of compassion and intention into the community. As we move forge ahead in victory, we look to continue this vital service, reinforcing our commitment to the community if Murdock, in eternal gratitude for being the site of the Hof to Baldr. Hail!

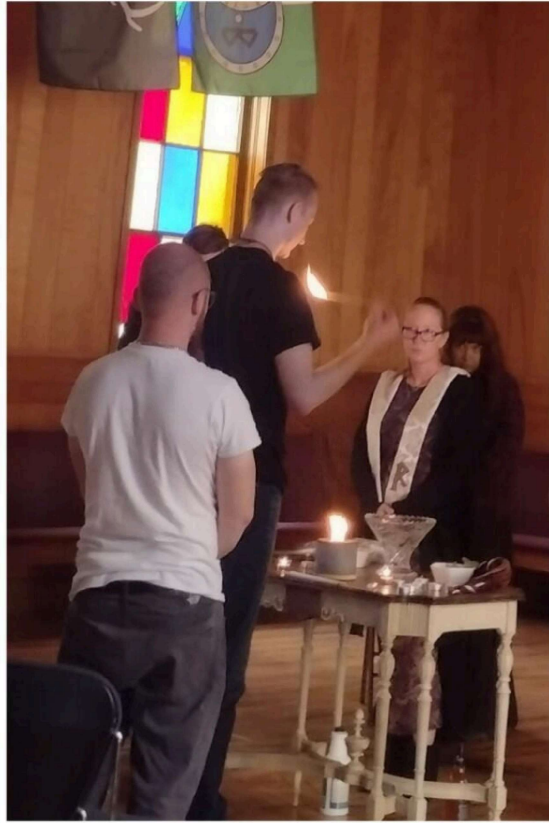
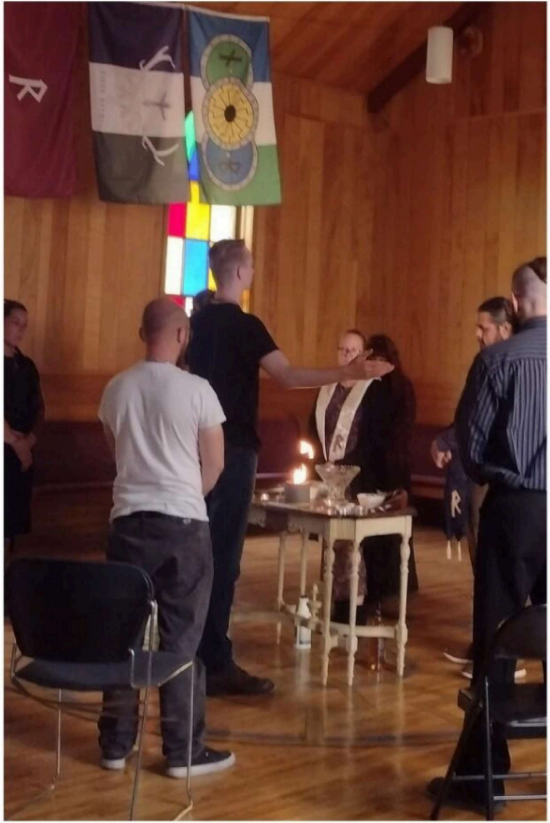


Folkbuilder Ashley McStocker
amcstocker@runestone.org

Winter Nights at Baldrshof



Once again the veil had thinned, once again our minds naturally turned to our beloved ancestors who have passed and watch over us from the other side as the days grow shorter and winter winds blow in the cold weather. The good Folk of Baldrshof gathered to celebrate and honour these ancestors for our Winter Nights ritual. Folk from Iowa, Minnesota, and North Dakota all travelled to Baldr's Temple to give Blótand honour our Disir and Alfar, beloved male and female ancestors. Witan Fassett and Goði Stamm conducted a beautiful ritual, together, honoring both men and women who have come before us.



Good food and friendship was shared by all the gathered Folk, Goði Stamm continued his lecture series on Aryan tribes and migration. Goði Erlandson spent much of the day hard at work aloft on the continuing steeple project, but joined the Folk for ritual and food. Everyone in attendance lit a candle and paid special homage to a beloved ancestor of their own.

All the Folk gathered for a wonderful time, and we sure hope we will see you next time at our beautiful Hof!



Goði Rob Stamm
rstamm@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Baldrshof





Baldr's Steeple Project

A blue banner for the Baldr's Steeple Project. It features the title "Baldr's Steeple Project" in a white Gothic font, a central white logo of a steeple, and a progress bar showing 6.3% completion. Text on the left says "Beautify Baldrshof" and on the right "Click Here to Donate".

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

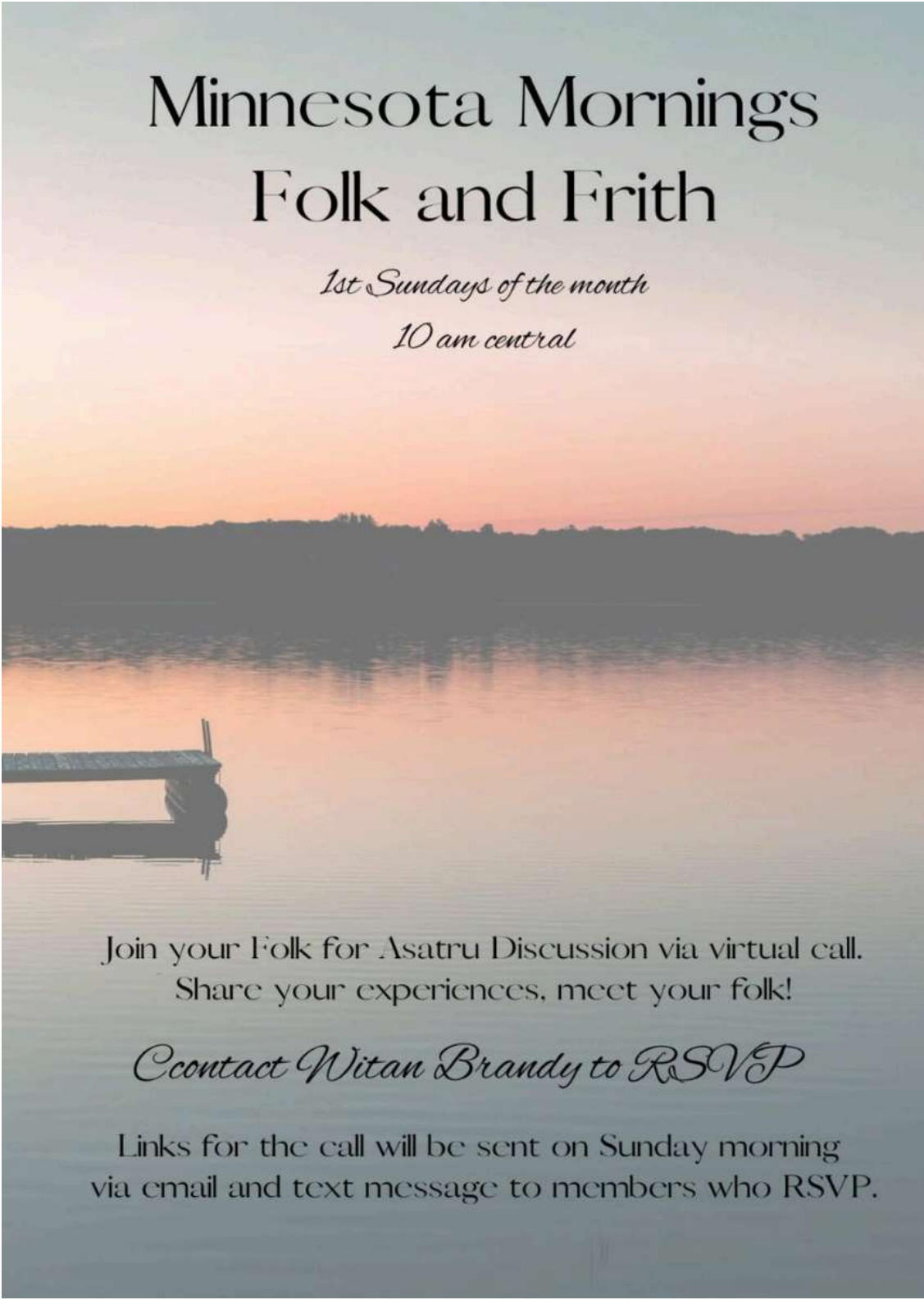
A graphic with a blue background featuring a close-up of white flowers. In the upper right, there is a stylized logo consisting of two crossed swords with intricate patterns on their hilts. The text "Baldershof Wishlist" is written in a gothic-style font. Below it, the text "Help Elevate the Shining One and Keep Baldershof Beautiful!" is written in a simpler font. At the bottom, there is a call to action: "Click Here or Use the Link to check out the Wishlist at" 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

Baldershof District Virtual Moots



Minnesota Mornings Folk and Frith

1st Sundays of the month

10 am central

Join your Folk for Asatru Discussion via virtual call.
Share your experiences, meet your folk!

Contact Witan Brandy to RSVP

Links for the call will be sent on Sunday morning
via email and text message to members who RSVP.



Dakota's
Members

Drinks & Discussion
Learn Asatru.
Build Frith!

Call *for information*

Contact Witan Brandy

First Sundays of the month
6 pm central

*Links for calls will be provided Sunday morning to
RSVP'd members via text and e-mail*



Kansas & Nebraska
Virtual Mead Hall

Connect with your folk!

Share a drinks!

Learn Astatru!

Share stories & experience

First Saturdays of the month

7pm central / 6pm mountain

Contact Witan Brandy for more information

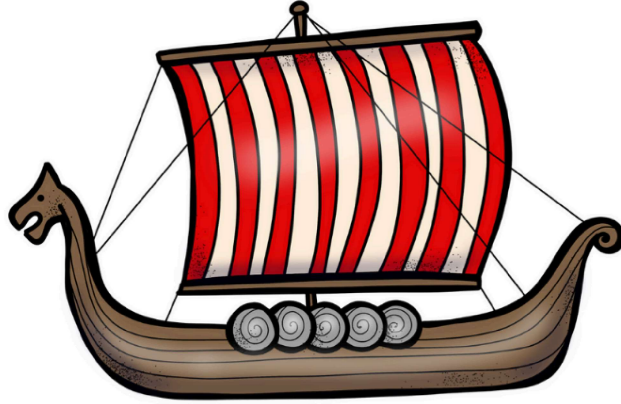
Links will be sent via text & email

Saturday morning to members who RSVP

A is for Asatru!
B is for Baldrshof!
C is for Courage!



Baldrshof Children Pre-K through
3rd grade are invited to the
Baldrshof Children's Call:
Last Wednesday of every month
7 pm central



Contact Witan Brandy or Gothi Rob
to RSVP

BALDRSHOF MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING

Witan Fassett and Godi
Stamm presenting on
Folksgiving and Yule

11/21/2024

8pm Central

Contact any Folkbuilder
for details

MEETING LINKS SENT VIA EMAIL
AND POSTED ON *M&W&*

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

Illinois

Illinois ScarecrowFest Moot



Where two or more of us gather, the Gods gather with us. Our Moot in Saint Charles was small, but any opportunity we have to build Frith with our Folk is important. We enjoyed good mead, good conversation, and good company, all in a beautiful setting. Today was a good reminder that it doesn't matter how large or small a gathering of our Folk is, the effort to be a community and see one another in person is always worth the time and effort.

— Sherwood, member

Iowa

Ground Yourself



Here in the Midwest, we're quickly entering the last throes of fall with all the wind and rain it brings. Witnessing the shifting of the seasons on the native prairie is beautiful, despite the weather. Although the lush green is long gone, the shades of brown and gold are equally vibrant and beautiful to take in. I've been enjoying the last days of warmth, reconnecting with the cycles of nature, and enjoying the scenery. Life is hectic and stressful; taking an hour or so to reconnect with Miðgarðr and ground yourself is a worthwhile investment.

Upcoming Events

Folksgiving Sat. Nov 23



Rockford, IA

arrive noon

Food at 2pm

RSVP w/ Folkbuilders Chris McDowell or Ali McKee

cmdowell@runestone.org

amckee@runestone.org



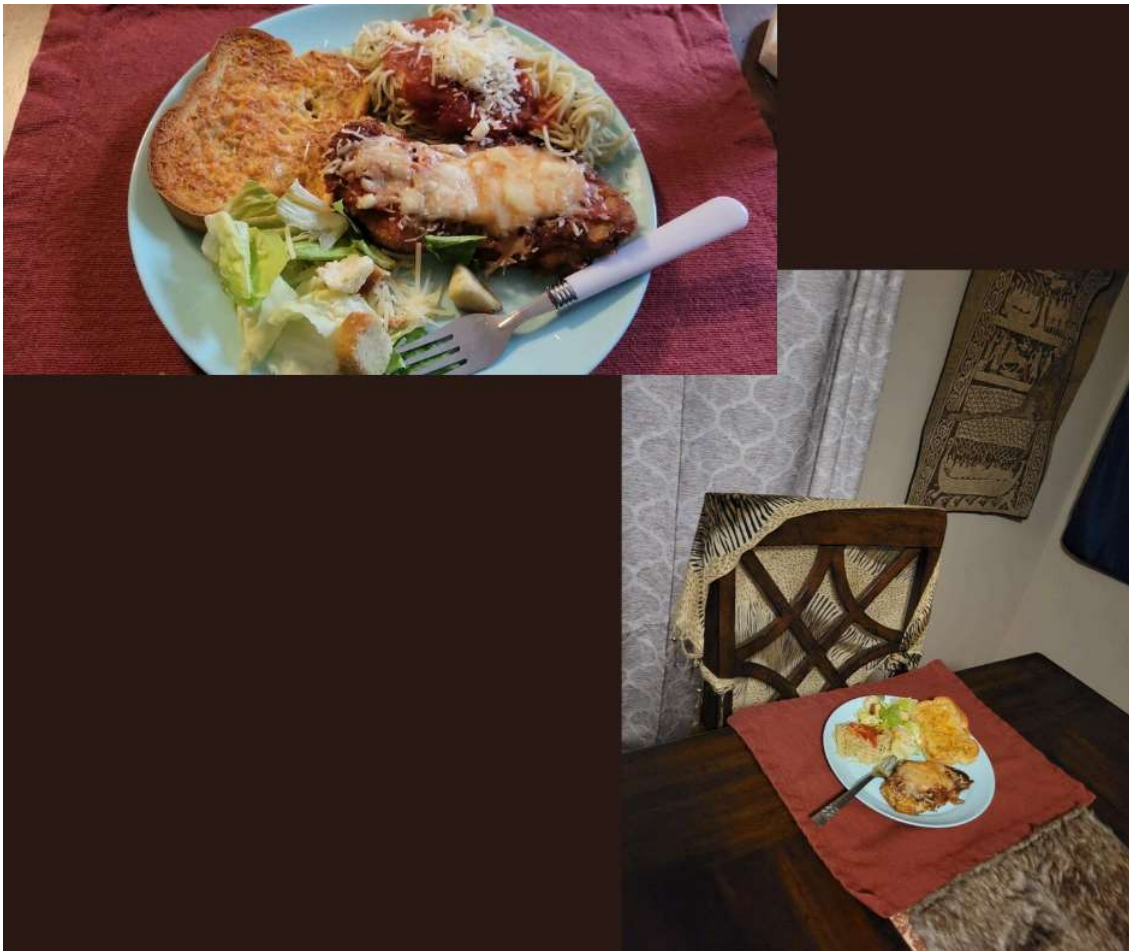
Folkbuilder Allison McKee

amckee@runestone.org

Iowa Winter Night



Winter Nights in Iowa was a wonderful day spent with Folk. We started the day by taking the children to hunt for Devonian fossils at a nearby quarry. They found handfuls of shells, fossils, and neat rocks. We then went on a hike through the prairie picking native flowers and enjoying the sight of the return of the prairie to its natural state.



We returned to the house to meet up with more Folk. Ali prepared a delicious chicken parmesan with spaghetti, garlic toast, and Caesar salad, as I prepared the firepit and tended to guests. The meal was blessed, and we sat at the dining table with a plate for the ancestors, enjoying the meal and each other's company.



After dinner was finished, we gathered outside around the fire. Blót was conducted by myself and Folkbuilder Ali McKee. The flowers that were gathered earlier and a branch in the shape of an Algiz were offered in the fire for the Disir and Alfar. Ali collected the gifts from the Folk in a horn of metheglin mead and offered that into the fire as well. After the Blót was finished, we hung around the fire sharing stories of an ancestor.

The weather is getting colder, and activities outside will become less frequent. Use this time to see your friends and family. Be sure to check on your loved ones and speak with your ancestors. Invite them in and share a meal with them. Hail the Ancestors!

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

Upcoming Events

Yule
Dec. 28th-29th
Rockford, IA

McDowell Residence

Contact Folkbuilders Chris McDowell or
Ali McKee for more info/RSVP
cmcdowell@runestone.org
amckee@runestone.org

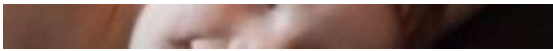


Folkbuilder Christopher McDowell
cmcdowell@runestone.org

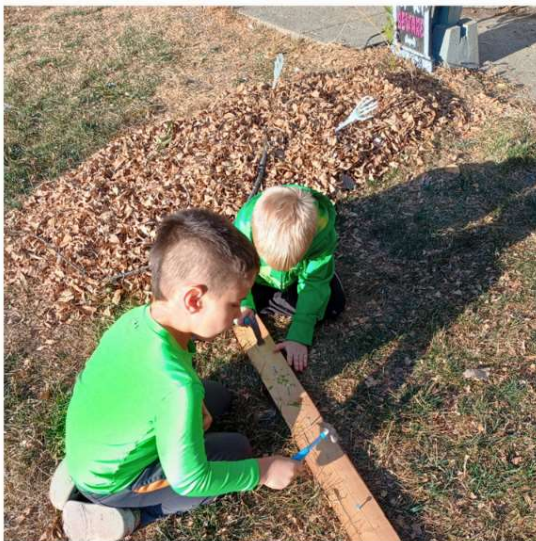
Minnesota

Life is Always an Adventure





October was surprisingly warm this year, and we were able to enjoy being outdoors later than normal. Starting off the month was a great day of planting bulbs at the Hof and getting in some baby Bonnie time. She's such a doll. I got to nab my two favorite red headed stepchildren for a bit and visit with their parents, as well.



With all the warm weather, we have been fishing a lot and putting some miles on the bike. We have gotten our first cold spouts and snow is on the horizon, so I got them tucked inside for the winter too. Great to be starting that project...

We are looking forward to November and can't wait to see everyone with all the great things happening around the district.



Folkbuilder Jessie Shaffer
jshaffer@runestone.org

Monthly Update and Other Adventures in Minnesohhta

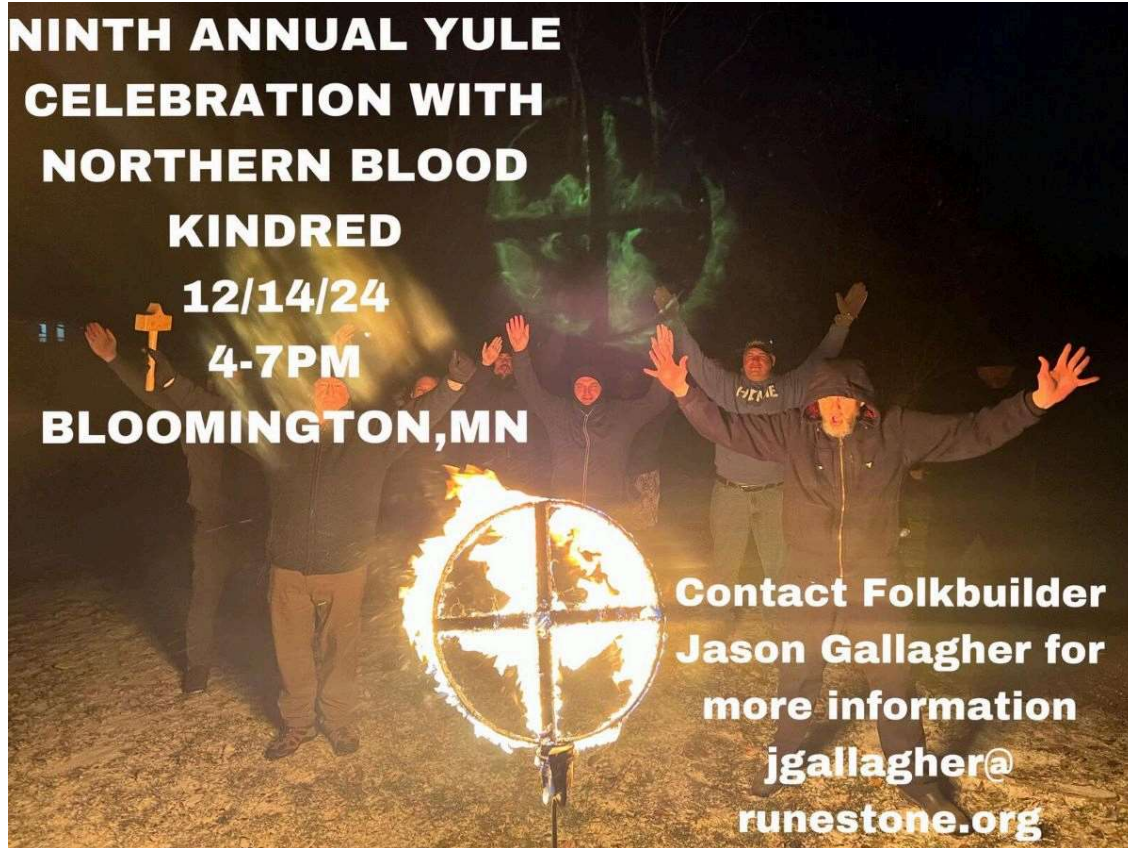


October was a pretty good month. Getting closer to Winter here in Minnesohhta. Northern Blood Kindred hosted another Children's craft day on October 20th.



Always great spending time with family.

Upcoming Events



We have our Ninth Annual Yule on December 14th in Bloomington, MN at Gallagherheim. This is my favorite time of the year. Please RSVP with me if you plan to attend. We plan to have our next Children's craft day sometime in January.



Senior Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher
jgallagher@runestone.org

Nebraska

Upcoming Events

Boxing Moot

Omaha, NE

7pm 11/27/2024

Spectator event: you may leave your gloves and mouthpiece at home! 🥊🥊🥊



Contact/RSVP Witan Brandy Fassett

bfassett@runestone.org

Star Moot

LINCOLN, NE

7pm 12/14/2024

Contact/RSVP Witan Brandy Fassett bfassett@runestone.org

North Dakota

Dinner in North Dakota



Some of the Folk in North Dakota gathered this month in Fargo for a delicious dinner prepared by member Stian. He never fails to disappoint us when it comes to his culinary talent!

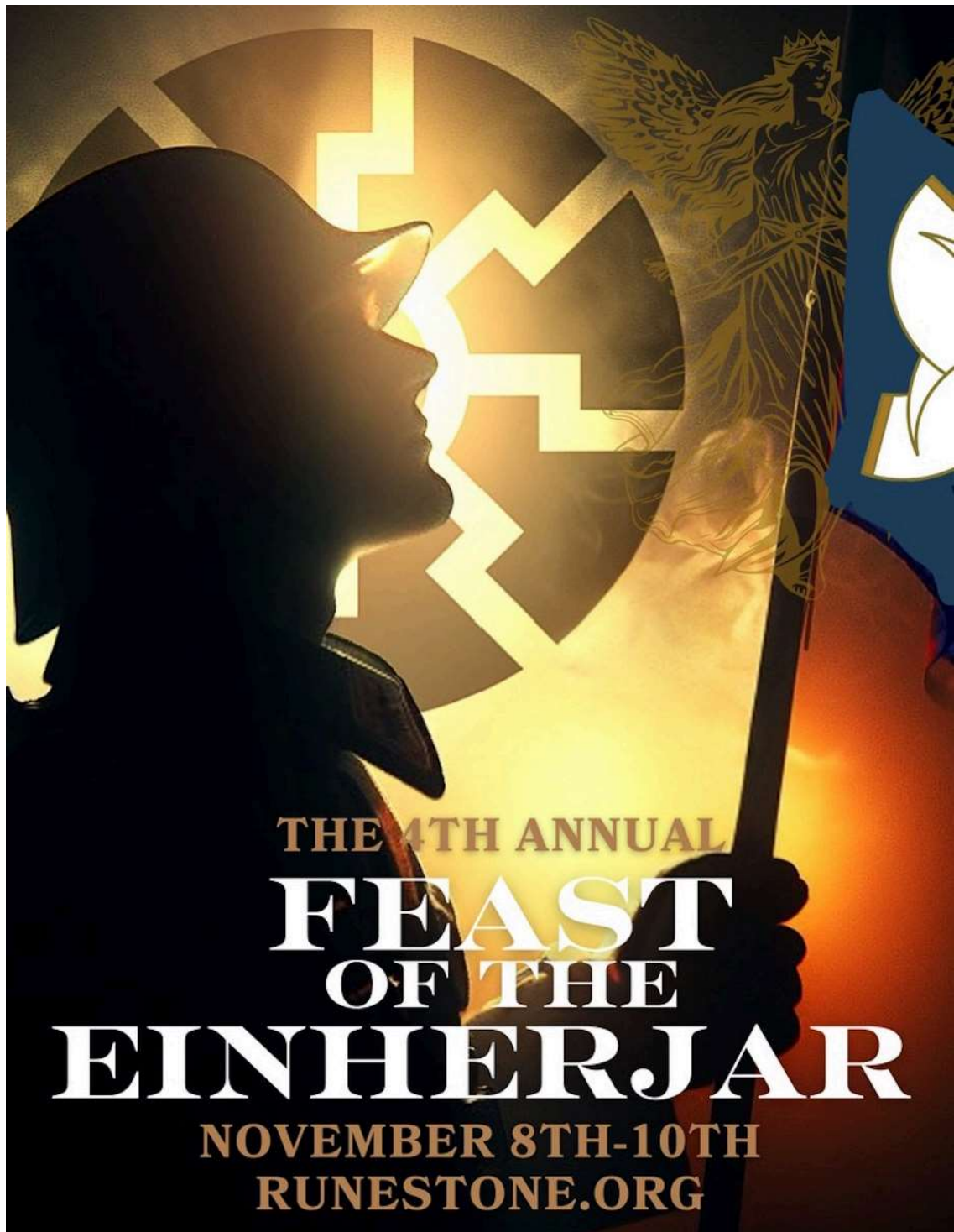
It was a great dinner, full of great conversation and laughs, with fireside Galdr later in the evening.



Witan Brandy Fassett
bfassett@runestone.org

South Dakota

Upcoming Events




Gothi Nathan Erlandson
nerlandson@runestone.org

Wisconsin

Personal Insights: Caring for Houseplants During Winter





As the cold winter months set in, I've developed a routine to ensure my houseplants remain healthy and vibrant despite the challenges of the season. With reduced sunlight and drier indoor air, I've learned that special care is essential.

First, I adjust my watering schedule. During winter, I check the soil moisture more frequently, watering only when the top inch feels dry. This helps prevent overwatering, which can be detrimental during this time.

To combat the lack of sunlight, I've positioned my plants near south-facing windows where they can soak up the maximum light. On particularly gray days, I use a grow light for a few hours to supplement their needs.

Humidity is another concern, as indoor heating can dry out the air. I've started misting my plants regularly and have placed a small humidifier in the room to maintain a comfortable humidity level. Grouping my plants together has also proven beneficial, as they create a microclimate that helps retain moisture.

Lastly, I've scaled back on fertilizing, recognizing that many of my plants are in a dormant phase. I'll resume feeding them in spring when they start to show signs of new growth.

Through these simple yet effective strategies, I've managed to keep my houseplants thriving all winter long, ensuring they are ready to flourish when spring arrives.



Folkbuilder Bruce Perron
bperron@runestone.org

Law of the Hall #1



Law of the Hall

I. Honor the Aesir, the Vanir, the Wights, and the Ancestors

Honor the Aesir, the Vanir, the Wights, and the Ancestors by blot and by deed. Grow in the lore and strengthen the Mighty Ones with ritual; observe the holy days of Asatru.

What is our purpose? To make our Gods and our Ancestors proud of us; to make a better Hamingja and a better Örlög for the children we bring into the world and for our grandchildren than we came into the world with. We grow our relationship with the Gods and the ancestors through the gifting cycle. Our Gods are real and when we engage in the gifting cycle they bless us. The Gods are connected to us by our very blood and our ancestry. We want them to be proud of us. We want them to see us living nobly and see us doing great deeds. The more we learn the lore, do Blót, observe the holy days, and live Ásatrú daily, the stronger that relationship grows. This is what primes you to be the best person you can be and to reach higher achievements. This is what we pass on to the next generations not just in words but by us being that living example. Each of us are the future ancestors.

The AFA has defined Ásatrú in the modern age. Through the building of Hofs, the AFA has built a very real place for our Folk to worship our Gods and interact with them. This has helped build a very powerful and special relationship with the Gods that can be felt. Our success and growth is a testament to how the Gods have blessed us. It is

important that we continue to strengthen that relationship with a deeper understanding of the lore, rituals, and showing that to the Folk.

Upcoming Events



**Wisconsin Hiking Moot
November 23rd
at 2 pm CST**

**Walla Hi County Park
(Site of recent Big Foot sighting)
Hiking then Blot**

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





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