

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly

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Baldrshof
Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.baldrshof.org

September 2024

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Words from the Alsherjargothi



Thank you to the amazing folks at Baldrshof for hosting another fantastic Freyfaxi celebration! I was so honored to show this beautiful Hof to Mandy and to Aubrey for the very first time. I am exceedingly proud of this Hof and of the amazing people that have made it such a special place.

If you have never made it our to a National or Regional AFA Event, now is the time! We have Freyr's Harvest Feast coming up a few weeks in Montana. We have Winter Nights in October, for the first time ever in New Hampshire. And in November we have the Feast of the Einherjar in South Dakota. I am looking forward to all of these amazing events and I would love to see as many of you as possible there. This is a great opportunity to get involved and really get a feeling for the amazing things we are building and the wonderful people who are part of our AFA family. The time is now.

It is great to go out to these big events and I encourage you all to do so. I would also encourage you to engage in hospitality this season closer to home. My experience in Ásatrú started with inviting others into my home and sharing a meal. I do that monthly still today and it is a special thing to gather the Folk around my table. It can be at your home, it can be at a park, it can be at a local restaurant. You don't have to be a Folkbuilder...our Folkbuilders would love to help you though. I encourage all of you to exercise hospitality by gathering the Folk near you and building the connections that make all this a community and a family. As we Find Winter this month, lets find it together, surrounded by AFA friends and family.

If you are interested in hosting anything locally, reach out to any of our Folkbuilders and we will help make it a success.

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



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

Words from Our Founder



<https://youtu.be/xxl86tRBQzo>



Founder Steven McNallen

Words from Our Gothar

Blótferð—Ásatrú “Pilgrimage,” and Why It Matters



I've spent the last few weeks looking for the best possible Old Norse equivalent of the English Christian word "pilgrimage", and I have finally decided on the term "Blótferð"-roughly translating to "sacrificial journey". It means to travel to a Blót, whether it be to your local Hof, to a rented campground, or to a Hof on the other end of the continental United States.



Our ancestors would often travel quite far to participate in a Blót with their cousins across Germania or Scandinavia, the most well-known example of this is the former temple at Gamla Uppsala. This travel itself was seen as a necessary sacrifice, and it was a tremendous honor to be able to attend rituals led by the Goðar of Uppsala.



Times have changed, of course, but many things remain unchanged. We should all do what we can to attend ritual as often as feasible, and to see the glory of all five of the Ásatrú Folk Assembly's lands. The raw power of Óðinshof, the southern piety of Þórshof, the shining devotion of Baldrshof, the prosperity of Njörðshof, and the endless potential that is Sigrheim- these are already such a huge part of our Folk's reawakening, already nearing the equivalent of Gamla Uppsala. We are making history, living in what our descendants will look back on as a foundational period for Ásatrú!



There are quite a few of us across the AFA who have made these long road trips or flights to attend one of our Hof events, and I can tell you from experience that the sacrifice is worth it. Your effort is rewarded 1000 times over with great rituals, memories, food, and Frith.



Consider this a call to action! I urge everyone reading this to start planning a Blótferð to any of our Hofis, or to Sigrheim! Ásatrú in real life starts here!



Gothi Trent East
teast@runestone.org

Declaration of Purpose 1



Our purpose in the practice and implementation of Ásatrú in the AFA is to tap into our ancestral ways, our ancestral spirit, and practice it as things are today. We are uniquely tied to this as a people and culture. These ways have been passed to us by our forebearers and our Gods, shaping us to be who we are. This is our cultural history belonging to our people with the divine heritage that our Gods and ancestors passed down to us at a cellular level in metagenetic form.



It has been millennia since we forgot what our ancestors inherently knew to be true. And that is that we come from the Æsir as they created our Folk in Askr and Embla. That we are a noble race with the ability to change our world around us as we see fit, opposed to being a race of stagnation, naivety, and lethargy. For over a hundred centuries our ancestors have been methodically weakened and now muzzled to the point of instilling fear and self-loathing by those afraid of us. This could never have happened in an all-out frontal campaign, no, it was methodical, deliberate, and thorough with the utmost patience and arrogance, or so they think it to be thorough. It is

up to every one of us to keep that flame of our Folk alive, to nurture that flame, and to share it with our Folk in our own campaign to reopen our eyes. This is all of our responsibility, from the Alsherjargoði to the new member that goes to a Moot for the first time. WE, have the ability to change our environment, to build each other back up to our former ancestral glory. When fear and hopelessness set in, reach out to your Folk and remind yourself that it is up to us as a people to come together in this, you are not alone. Don't be distracted by petty disagreements amongst each other, don't be drawn in to those who aim to divide and weaken us. Build your Folk up and they will build you up, strengthening your Folk will strengthen you. The adverse is also true so when you feel wronged or hurt by something, draw from your inherent nobility that the Æsir gave us and work it out with Courage, Fidelity, and Perseverance.



Gothi Nathan Erlandson

nerlandson@runestone.org

As the Year Draws to a Close, Embrace the Season of Reflection



As we approach the end of the year and the season of outward work and harvest comes to a close, a new season emerges—one of introspection and inner work. Especially for those who experience the deep quiet of winter, it's a time when our focus naturally shifts inward, towards the warmth and comfort of home and the workings of our inner lives.

One powerful tool for this inward journey is journaling. Journaling has been a cornerstone of self-discovery and growth throughout my life, appearing in various forms—whether as a "Dream Journal," a "Book of Shadows," or simply a diary. Each form has served as a guide to understanding the complexities of my inner world, helping to affirm the more intangible aspects of life.



Think of journaling as taking inventory in the "business of you." Much like an inventory sheet in a commercial business, journaling allows you to keep track of your experiences, progress, and projections for the future. It's an opportunity to catalog the joys, pains, strengths, and weaknesses of the past year.

When you find yourself feeling stuck, confused, embarrassed, lost, or overwhelmed—write it down. Record it alongside your successes and victories. As you periodically review what you've written, you may start to see patterns emerge, offering insights into what drives you and what holds you back.

In the coming year, consider inviting the wisdom of the Gods and the guidance of your ancestors to help you cast away what no longer serves you and to bolster the elements that propel you forward. Through this practice, may you find clarity, peace, and a deeper understanding of yourself.



Gothi Jason Plourde

jplourde@runestone.org

Goði Thorgrun Odden ~ A Life Well Loved



Writing this has been a slow process for me. How does one compress the sharing of lives, spanning three decades, into a single article? Interwoven like knotwork, there was joy, heartache, births, deaths and weddings. I knew it was my role to see this last stage to the end; to help Thorgrun and his wife grasp the unknown.

Thorgrun Odden's passing added a new page of the AFA story. For the first time, we began preparing an Asatru funeral based on the "forever" role of a Goði. Tools and handwork had been his trade as a carpenter. Our Folkbuilders brought those same skills to the forefront to plan a memorial that celebrated Thorgrun's love of tradition and the ancestral ways.

There was already a familiar grave in our Óðinshof Cemetery. Their daughter, Rebekah Thompson Roth, passed away suddenly, leaving two young children behind. At Midsummer 2020, we gathered to intern her ashes, the first sacred remains in our cemetery. It was understood that Thorgrun's ashes would be placed within arm's length of Bekah's grave.

Over several days, Brodie and Daniel dug through the cement-like soil and lined the hole with concrete, doing everything "the right way" - for that is what Thorgrun deserved as a beloved family-member and leader within the AFA. By the time we gathered at Thorgrun's grave on August 18th, a stunning Algiz rune made from hefty limbs stood in the place where a headstone will eventually lie. Chunky rocks curved around the length of the gravesite in the shape of a ship - a Viking ship, with an upright boulder at each end - just as Thorgrun would have wanted it.

The date for the memorial service fell on the weekend of Freyfaxi, which was always Thorgrun's special event as a devotee of Freyr. As Founder and Gyðja respectively, Steve and I recounted to everyone the significance of the Freyr Blót which we were about to lead. Thorgrun was honored throughout the ritual, but the next day was wholly Thorgrun's. Sunday was also Thorgrun's 78th birthday. Whether deliberate or Wyrd-at-work, it was the perfect date. Katie, Thorgrun's life-long wife and partner of 55 years, was delighted at the synchronicity of dates, and so the invitations went out far and wide.



For weeks, Katie and I had planned the splendid reception that would follow the funeral rite. She called on Mother Frigg as she gathered the treasured items he had collected along the way, reflecting his dedication as a Freysgoði. All of these items, as well as family photos and Thorgrun's ritual garments, were on display when guests entered the Hof.

The Hof was bright and welcoming in autumn splendor. The efforts of the last few days showed. Fall leaves in various hues of orange covered the black tablecloths.

People were directed to a table with writing and crafting materials so they could make “grave-goods” as gifts for Thorgrun to take on his journey. Eventually, the moment arrived: It was time to proceed to the cemetery.

The Hof-team made sure that rows of seats were waiting beneath the shade of popups. Guests and kin were seated as we began our procession across the parking area to the cemetery gate. Steve and I led the way, carrying the AFA horn and the handmade box with Gothi Thorgrun’s remains. We were followed by Olivia, holding the small box of grave-goods. With the horn filled and raised, we called to the Holy Æsir, the Ancestors, and the Landvætrr to be with us to honor this great man. I spoke of Thorgrun’s journey through life, describing him as a good and stalwart friend to everyone who now sat by his grave, and a man of high principles who could always be counted on to give his best and share his wisdom.

Founder McNallen and I together dipped a frond of cedar into the bowl of mead. We called on Daniel to bring forth the box containing Thorgrun’s ashes, which Daniel had lovingly built with rare woods and runic symbols. We placed it in the grave, heavily sprinkled with mead. Olivia and her family then stepped forward with the box of grave-goods and placed it next to the wooden box. It, too, received blessings of holy mead as we said our words over the grave. Calls went out. “Hail, Thorgrun Odden!”



But we were there at two graves belonging to this family. To our right, was Bekah. We stepped to her graveside to give special blessings and love for this reunification with

her father. From everyone's heart, came the shouts, "Hail Bekah!"

Final blessings to Thorgrun included thanks for sincere friendship, and for leading so many lost souls to a noble and virtuous life under the banner of the Aesir. At that point, Founder McNallen said his own words of farewell, ending with the Hávamál stanza, "Cattle Die, Kinsman die..." Hail to those, worthy of remembrance. Gothi Odden was now one of the esteemed Ancestors.

The rite was done. As people filed back through the wrought-iron gate, Olivia stood with the small bowl of mead. For those who wished, she gave the rune Raido on their foreheads. Most asked for that blessing, in honor of Thorgrun, while Katie received condolences and hugs.

The rest of the afternoon had a festive atmosphere as we offered mead and cider for a group toast to Thorgrun. As all stood up, a thunderous, "Hail Thorgrun!" filled the Hall. Next was a slideshow, beginning with Thorgrun's ancestors, then traveling through his personal years with his young family. Then came memorable events during his AFA years. The slideshow ended with recent photos at Óðinshof, among the folk who so loved and respected him – all to the tune of Willie Nelson's "On the Road Again." Yes, that would be Thorgrun...



We feasted in his honor from a table laden with croissant-sandwiches, salads, and trays of veggies and fruit. The final task before us was to celebrate his birthday with a cake made for the occasion. Our voices filled the hall with joy as we sang “Happy Birthday” for his 78th.

This part of Thogrun’s life was done. We had given good closure to family and friends who had come to give homage to this exceptional man. Our own AFA Folk saw how well our leadership worked seamlessly, in unison, to create this day of tribute. We were the Do-ers. We ARE the Do-ers!

Hail the Folk!

Hail, Goði Thorgrun Odden!



Gythia Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org

The Runestone - A Throwback

In honor of the upcoming Winter Finding celebrations

Ullr's Gifts to Hunter by WulthuthewaR

From The Runestone, Fall-Winter 1999



Long ago, in the days before man received the gift of iron or runes, he hunted. During the long, cold winters, it was the heart of the tribe. Long after the plants were gone, hunting provided food. Long after Sunna's warmth had gone, it provided furs for warmth.

The whole tribe hunted together as the whole tribe ate together. With nets they captured the large game, with rocks and sticks they killed the small. All was well.

Until the year the tribe almost died.

It was a harsh winter. Cold enough that a sapling bent to set a snare would snap. Cold enough that the people had to go far out on the ice to break through for water. Cold enough that a child grew deathly ill.

The child's sickness swept through the tribe, making everyone too weak to hunt, save one. He was called Hunter, for he was the best at killing a rabbit with a thrown rock or stick.

He tended his tribe, waiting for the sickness to pass. None died, but none regained their

strength. Then the stored food was gone, and the fever did not pass.

Hunter gathered his rabbit sticks and went out. The snow was deep, and Hunter had to force his way through it. The hares and rabbits, who walk on the crust of the snow, heard him, and stayed out of his range. Hunter wished that he too could walk on the snow, but he was not a rabbit and had to return home at the end of the day without food.

And his tribe grew weaker, and his daughter no longer answered when he talked to her.

The next day he took the tribe's nets out to the trails the larger animals left in the snow. He found two trees close on either side of the trail and placed the net across it. Hunter then circled far around and, with his flint tipped spear, waited beside the trail. Deer rushed down the trail towards his net but stopped in front of it. Hunter rushed towards them, yelling, and hoping to scare them into the net, but they ran around it. Hunter threw his spear, but even at his closest, he was far out of range.

Without others to cast the net, the deer could not be caught.

Again, Hunter returned home unsuccessful. And now many of his tribe no longer spoke, and all were close to death.

The next day Hunter brought all of the tribe's nets. Hunter skillfully created a trap from them, so that no matter which way the deer ran they would be ensnared. Hunter again circled far around and, with his flint tipped spear, Hunter waited.

A bull moose ran down the path and, being poor of sight. into the net. Angered, it began tearing the precious nets to pieces. In horror, Hunter jumped forward and thrust the spear into the moose. But a spear thrust will not kill a moose, and Hunter had to climb a tree for his life.

As Hunter sat in the tree, he felt a new type of cold, this one starting from his heart and flowing out. Hunter had failed. He could not provide food for his tribe, and without food all would die. Hunter wept for his people.

A movement in the snow caught Hunter's attention. He watched in amazement at a tall man walking across the top of the deep snow carrying a bent stave. Hunter had never seen a man such as this before. who seemed to shine brighter than the snow. He looked at his feet and saw that he walked on nets stretched between sticks. The man stopped before Hunter and reached up, touched his tears.

"My people," said Hunter "they die. They are starving and I cannot feed them."

The brilliant man pointed across the field toward several deer, who were poking their heads deep into snow to graze.

"I have tried." Hunter said, "but they are too wary for me to net alone, too wary for me to approach in this snow."

The man lifted his bow. He pulled an arrow from his quiver and fitted it to the string. How strange thought Hunter, yet his heart raced with excitement. With a snap, the bow sent an arrow across the field, dropping a deer.

Something else snapped in Hunter's mind, and he fell from the low branch. Suddenly he understood the bow, and how it sent the arrow further and faster than he could throw it. Suddenly he understood the snowshoes, and how they trapped the snow like a hunting net.

He got to his feet and looked around. The man was gone, but his belongings remained. "Who are you?" breathed Hunter. A voice inside his head told him "You will hear my name in the howl of the wolves," and he shivered.

Hunter picked up the snowshoes and looked at them. "We can make these!" he said, and tied them to his feet.

Hunter picked up the quiver of arrows and examined one. "We can make these!" he said, and tied the wolf hide belt around his waist.

Hunter picked up the bow and drew the string. "We can make this!" he said, and slung it across his chest.

Hunter then hurried to the deer, for he had many to feed in the coming days. As he dragged it home, he heard wolves in the distance. He listened to them calling to him who is first among them.

"Uuuuulllll" they called.

"Ulll" Hunter replied.



<https://youtu.be/cofmBz0Qxv4>

Ásatrú Trúlögmál



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?"

Hail the Heroes of Ásatrú that paved the way!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Hail the Æsir!



Matthew D. Flavel

Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly

mattflavel@runestone.org

The Quest for Freyshof

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

– Gylfaginning

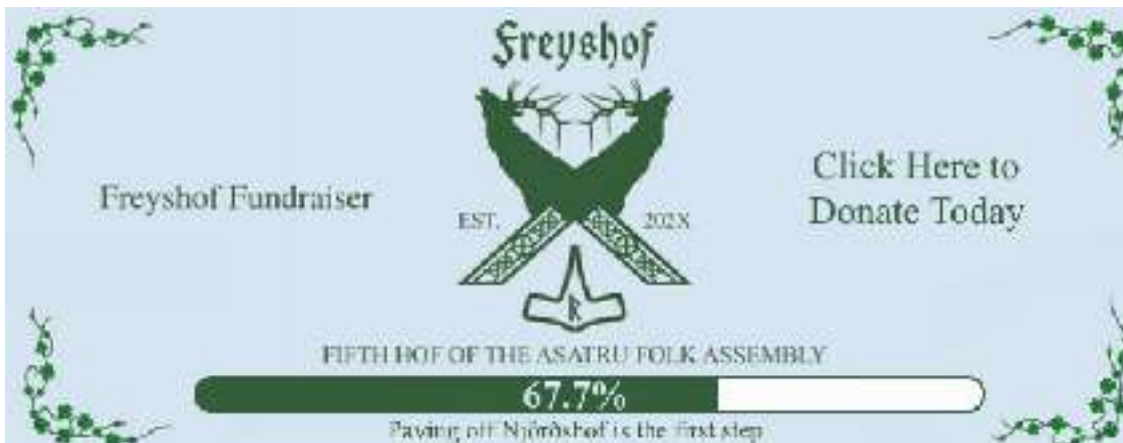


[Freyshof Fund – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](https://runestone.org/FreyshofFund-AsatruFolkAssembly)

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 \$79,111 on our remaining loan.
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 9.6%.
 - This is membership dues/Hoftollar plus other donations.
3. We need to locate a suitable property.
4. We need to find lenders and build a war chest.



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

Hail Freyr!



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

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

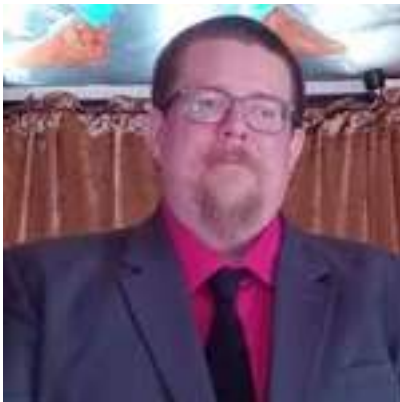




Winter Nights at Sigrheim

October 19th at 830pm

RSVP to
nrice@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

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, Odyssee, 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](#).



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



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

AFA Homeschool Program

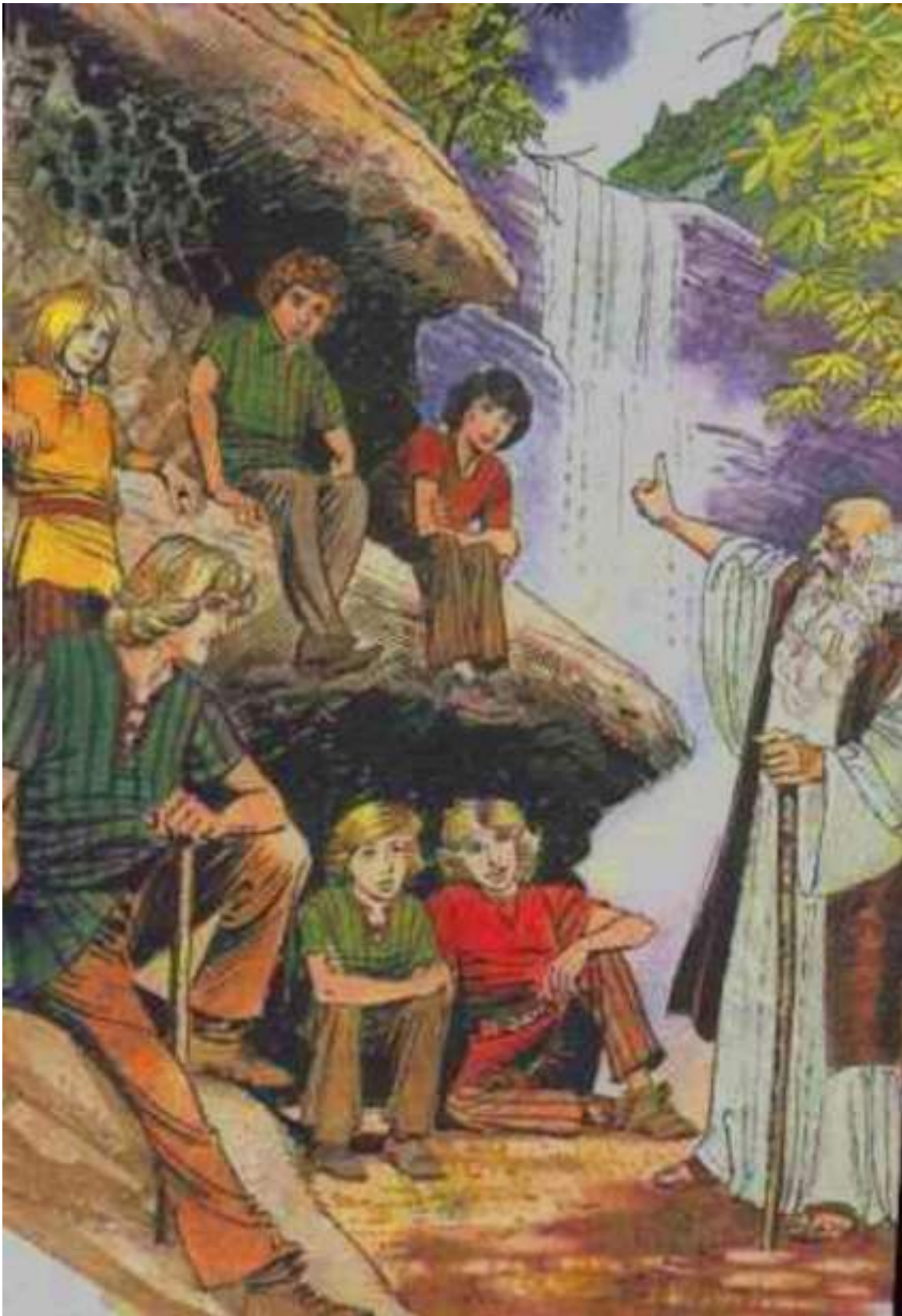


Check out the Asatru Academy at AsatruAcademy.org



We've also got merch over at the [Runestone Store](https://RunestoneStore.com)! Go check it out!

Asatru Academy Offers Religious Instruction to All Our Kids



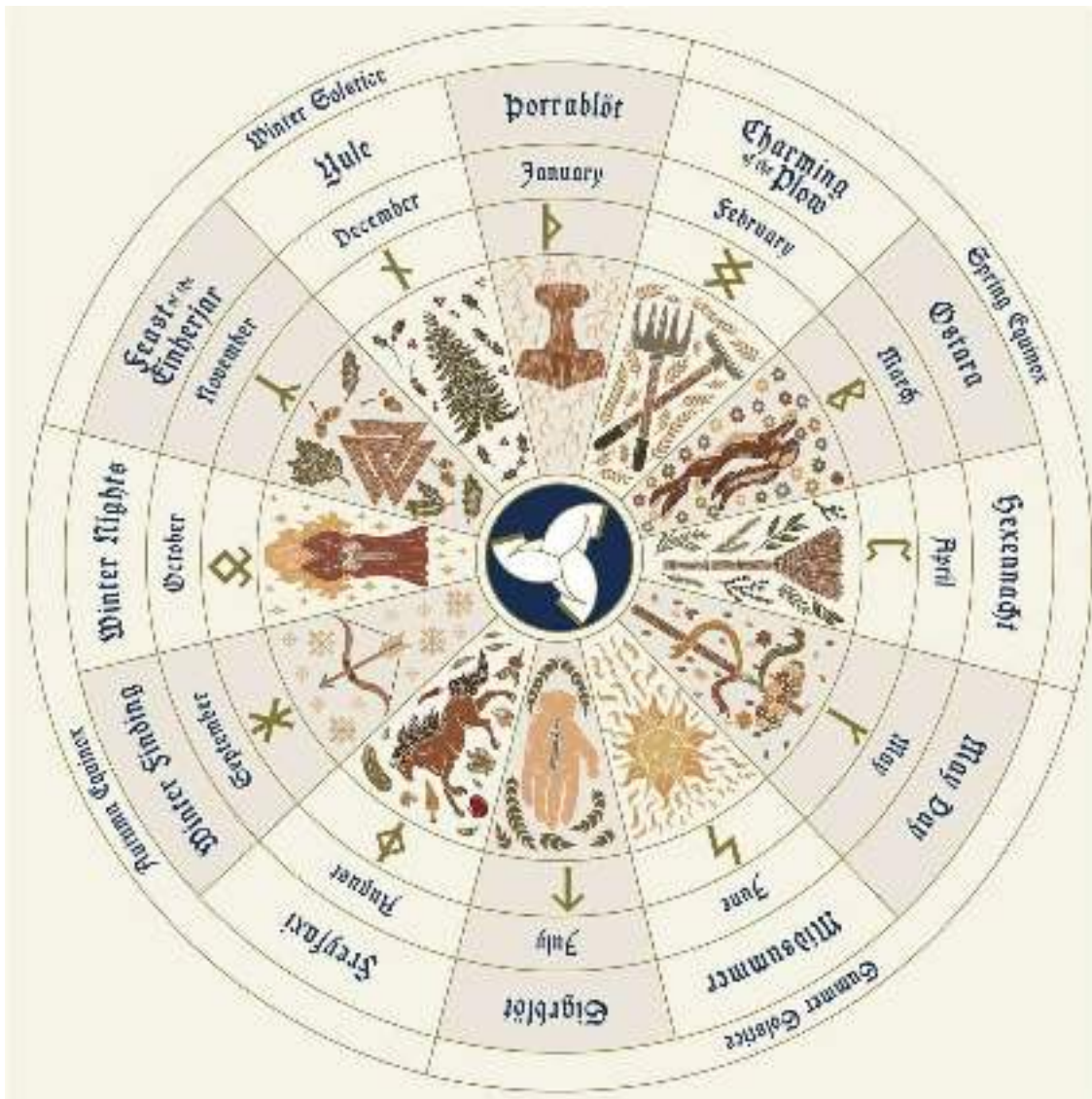
Something that the Academy is doing different this year. We are opening enrollment to our kids who may have to attend public or private school for one reason or another. Why would a parent duel enroll you might ask? Well, we want all our AFA kids to benefit from a solid folkish Ásatrú religious upbringing. To that end, even if your child is in a public or private school, we would still love for you to enroll in the Academy, so

that your child has access to our Ásatrú religious lessons and activities! We certainly understand that in today's economy and circumstances, some parents may not be able to commit to a full homeschool program, however we don't want that to be an obstacle for our parents when it comes to giving their children quality Ásatrú teachings. We would really love to see all our AFA kids enrolled, and learning about our beautiful faith together. Reach out to any of our Academy staff with any questions you have, we are here to help. Your local Folkbuilders and Goðar are also ready to help and answers your questions. We sure hope to see you soon!



Goði Rob Stamm
Dean of the Ásatrú Academy
rstamm@runestone.org

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

August



<https://youtu.be/UpNZ3lhRNLc>

Day of Remembrance

Prince Hermann of the Cherusci | September 9th



Υ 18 BCE - 21 CE ᵂ

Prince Hermann of the Cherusci, or Gaius Julius Arminius, was born to the Chief of the German Cherusci Tribe, Segimer in 18 BCE. Segimer was a Roman sympathizer and both of his sons, Hermann and Flavus, were raised in the Roman Empire under Roman “guardianship”. Hermann proved to be equal to the task and it did not take him long to excel as a soldier in the Roman Legions. He earned both Roman citizenship and the rank of a Roman Knight before distinguishing himself in His exploits in the Great Illyrian Revolt, after which he was sent to Germania to aid in finishing the conquest of the Germanic Tribes.

Once in Germania again, Hermann was able to quietly unite five Germanic tribes with the intention of overthrowing the Roman occupation of his land. His deep knowledge of Roman warfare and his sharp tactical mind led to the historic Battle of Teutoburg

Forest, and Rome's most devastating defeat. Despite backlash from his Roman sympathizing father and brother and the loss of his wife and then-unborn son, Hermann continued to fight against the Romans and their retaliatory attacks.

Ultimately, Hermann was assassinated by Germanic tribal leaders who were frightened of his great power, in 21 CE. Even so, it was his crucial victory in the Teutoburg Forest that forever changed the face of Germania and the Roman Empire.



So, what can we learn from this story?

We no longer have the ancestral homeland to fight for as our ancestors did. We live too scattered, and the countries of our ancestors are not what they once were. However, we still have families, we have ideals, and we have Ásatrú. Every day is a battle to hang onto those ideals that no longer have a proper place in our modern society. Every day is a battle to make our world a little better, a little stronger for those who we leave behind when we die. Patience and fortitude will get us far. So will the knowledge of how-to best fight for what we want. With the knowledge of how to do things the right way, it might take that one decisive victory to reshape the future of our Folk.

Holiday

Winter Finding | September 22nd (Observed 21st)

The ancient calendar only recognized two seasons. There was summer, and there was winter. Just as May Day was their first day of Summer, Winter Finding was their first day of winter. The temperature slowly begins to fall, the days get shorter. Those who grow their food begin preparations for the final harvests. The larders are growing full with the fruit of earlier efforts. Now it's time to begin the hunt, to kill enough game to finish winter's preparations.

Today, many of us don't have the same connection to the need for food and preparation that our Ancestors experienced. Food has become easy to access, and therefore not so vitally important. Those who hunt, usually do it for sport not because without it they don't have the food to survive the Winter. This doesn't mean, however, that we cannot take the time to think and reflect. Thus begins the Winter season. Thus begins the death of the "world" too dark and cold. We can all see and feel the change in the world around us. Our days are shorter, the nights grow colder. The leaves change and begin to fall.

Get outside and find someplace to sit and feel the changes. Make a hearty meal to share with your family and with the Gods. If you hunt dedicate, your first kill to the Gods and Ancestors, to Ullr. Share a choice cut with them. Now is time to begin the "closing in." Everyone begins to gather closer to home, sticking close to push away the wintery drear. Take time to remember what's important.

Freyfaxi, a Recap



<https://youtu.be/lr-45bVjqy0>

The very wonderful leadership of Baldrshof spent weeks and months in careful planning, diligent preparation, spent sweat and tears and elbow grease, all to bring you out showcase event for the year, Freyfaxi! And what an event it was!



The festivities kicked off with a morning dedication on Friday to the Folkmother Else Christensen performed by Folkbuilder and Gyðja student Sara Ault. Friday was packed with moving and uplifting spiritual activities. Witan Fassett lead the Folk in the now famous Æsir meditation, also known as the litany. If you haven't experienced this, you must! Sara Ault performed a beautiful Welcoming of the Gods Blót. Friday ended with a beautiful Baldr Blót performed by our Alsherjargoði Matt Flavel, and then the Folk danced and had a blast at Baldr's Ball! Witan Fassett Rules: everyone MUST dance at least once!



Saturday started off with a delicious breakfast, and a dedication for Baldr by Folkbuilder Ashley McStocker. The day kept rolling with an ice bucket challenge where some brave Goðar, and even a few Witan, volunteered to be doused with ice cold water for Baldrshof charity.



Saturday also saw a very moving Freyfaxi Blót by Witan Daniel Young. Witan Young is best described as a fiery southern Goði. Witan Young's Freyfaxi Blót was (in this Goði's opinion) the best Blót he has possibly ever done. If you weren't inspired, uplifted, your soul alight with passion for the Gods, then you may need to check your pulse. Passion and piety are a tradition in the Young household, as we were also treated to a very beautiful Nanna Blót by Folkbuilder and Gyðja student Heather Young. Saturday night ended with a wonderful, heartfelt Sumbel enjoyed by all present.



The last day of Freyfaxi dawned on Sunday with an ancestor dedication performed by Folkbuilder Chris McDowell. Goði Stamm officiated our final ritual of Freyfaxi on Sunday, the Wayfarer Blót. This final act of worship is bitter sweet.



We celebrate the wonderful weekend filled with Frith, family, and worship. We hug, we cry, we say farewell. We do not say "goodbye" we say "see you later" until next time.

Freyfaxi was really a joy. Folk left with full hearts and spirits renewed. We sure hope you'll join us next month for Winter Finding, and of course, Freyfaxi 2025!



Goði Rob Stamm
Dean of the Ásatrú Academy
rstamm@runestone.org

Upcoming National Event

Freyrs Harvest Feast | September 20th-22nd

FREYR'S HARVEST FEAST SEPTEMBER 2024





Freyrs Harvest Feast is the time to honor the Gods after a productive year's Harvest. As we gather together for a weekend filled with activities, we honor the three Vanir deities Njörðr, Freyr, and Freyja.

During the course of the weekend, the Folk gather together for three Blótar using mead donated by Heinlein's Hollow Meadery.



In addition to Blót, we see the display of Freyrs Proposal on stage and host the viking games tournament with a prize to be revealed at the feast. In addition to brawn, brain is tested in our Hnefatafl competition. While this competition is less fierce the bragging rights are still pretty good. Guests can also test their luck at a game of Orlog.

While there are plenty of contests, we still have plenty of time for several workshops, speeches by guest speakers including Gothling student and renowned Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea. Craftsmen will also bring their wares out to sell and authors to sign their books. An auction benefiting the AFA will provide ample opportunities to walk away with a bag full of spoils.

The whole event is hosted on a private 20-acre ranch in a very low population area. It's on the river and away from prying eyes. So not only do you get to enjoy a full event, you can take in the beauty of rural Montana, enjoy the river, and see what an AFA homestead looks like. For those of you that came last year, you'll notice quite the host

of improvements, including new buildings, showing we are anything but idle at Fólkvangr.



Lodging is straightforward as well. Bring an RV or tent and camp under the beautiful stars. Trust us when we say there's more of them visible than wherever you're coming from, and on lucky nights, the Northern Lights can be seen.

For those who want some less rustic accommodations, there are numerous hotels and motels within a reasonable driving distance. In a few more years, we will have cabins available too!

So that's lodging but everyone's got to eat right? Well we got you covered as well. The meals are all plentiful and delicious, none more so than the feast itself. We fed forty people last year with plenty to spare, and this year even more gardeners and hunters have chosen to add to the feast. Gallons of mead will be provided for the feast, and the couples dance that follows is always great fun.



Remember to dress your best at the feast and dance, but it won't all be formal. For the first Blót, we go into the water to honor Njörðr. Ladies especially, make sure that you wear clothes that you're not only comfortable getting wet but are also modest when wet.

While the prospect of getting into the water in September might be daunting to some, the month has a wonderful climate. It has a high of 70 and low of 50 with a nice mid day breeze.

The truth is, unless you come out, you won't know what you're missing, so don't make that mistake and come out to Freyrs Harvest Feast.

Any questions please feel free to reach out.

Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein
theinlein@runestone.org

Winter Nights XIII | October 11th-13th



Started in 2012, the Asatru Folk Assembly's Winter Nights festival was hosted at a beloved camp in Pennsylvania for its first decade. Winter Nights has since been hosted in Ohio and in Tennessee and this year Winter Nights XIII will be held from October 11th – 13th, in Cheshire County, New Hampshire!

This long-running AFA festival is dedicated to our ancestral mothers, the Disir. When the harvest is in, the summer plants have died off, and the winter is quickly approaching the veil between the living and dead is said to be at its thinnest. Again, we will gather to worship our Gods, Goddesses, and Ancestral Mothers. We build upon the success of the Asatru Folk Assembly by making new friends and renewing old friendships. We look forward to seeing members and friends!

Your registration fee includes all workshops, lectures, meals, 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.

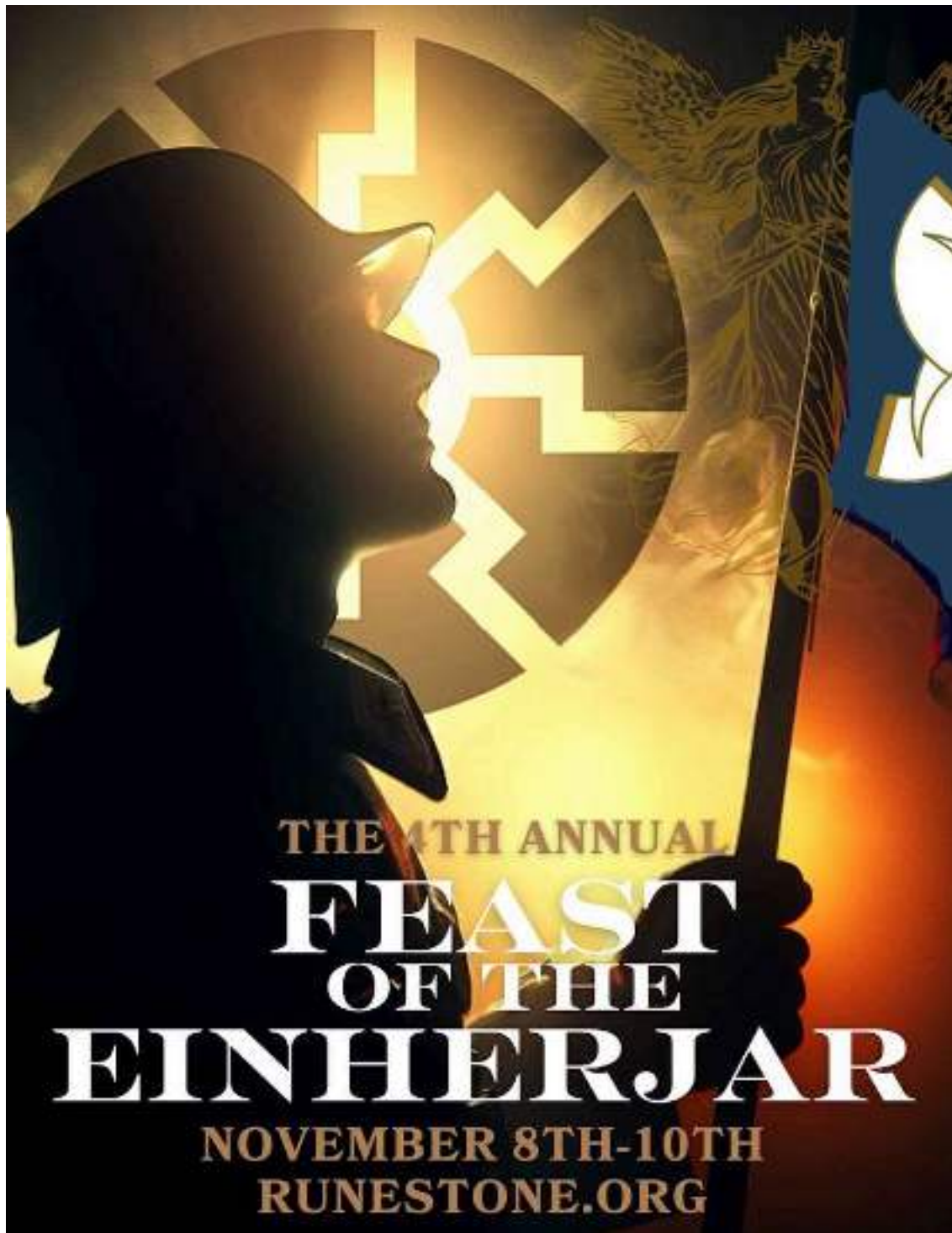
If you have any questions or concerns, please email cerickson@runestone.org

Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Feast of the Einherjar | November 8th-10th



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!](#)



Gothi Nathan Erlandson
nerlandson@runestone.org

A Folk Services Campaign

Helping Chris Keep His Home (and that awesome garden!)



If you're able, please consider donating at
<https://store.runestone.org/product/helping-chris-keep-his-home/>

Hello Folk, I need to ask for your help. I am a disabled veteran and due to some unfortunate circumstances, I am facing foreclosure. In order to prevent that

from happening, I need to make a large payment before they can put me on a payment plan. I am on a fixed income which makes this very hard to do, I appreciate the help and support of the Folk. Thank you.

Hail the Gods! Hail the Folk! Hail the AFA!

Hail Victory!!!



Folkbuilder Christopher McDowell

cmcdowell@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

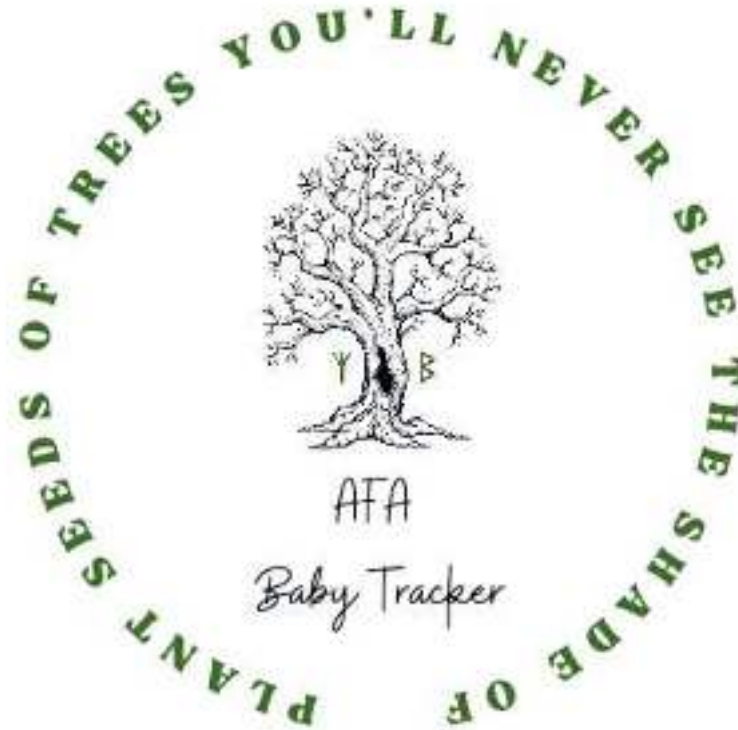
By the example of our Folkmother, Else Christensen, we will also be going into prisons as we are able to. Some of our Gothar and other leadership, will be going into the prisons to hold study groups, lead blot, and encourage continued growth in the folk inside.

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: 23

Online Events and Meetings



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

The poster features a dark brown background. At the top, the text "SISTERS SUNDAY CHATS" is written in a light pink, arched font. Below the text are two illustrations: on the left, a white cat with orange stripes is curled up on a striped cushion next to a purple flower; on the right, a branch of strawberries with green leaves and white flowers is tied with a red ribbon. At the bottom, the event details are written in a light pink, serif font.



AFA Reading Challenge Meetings



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

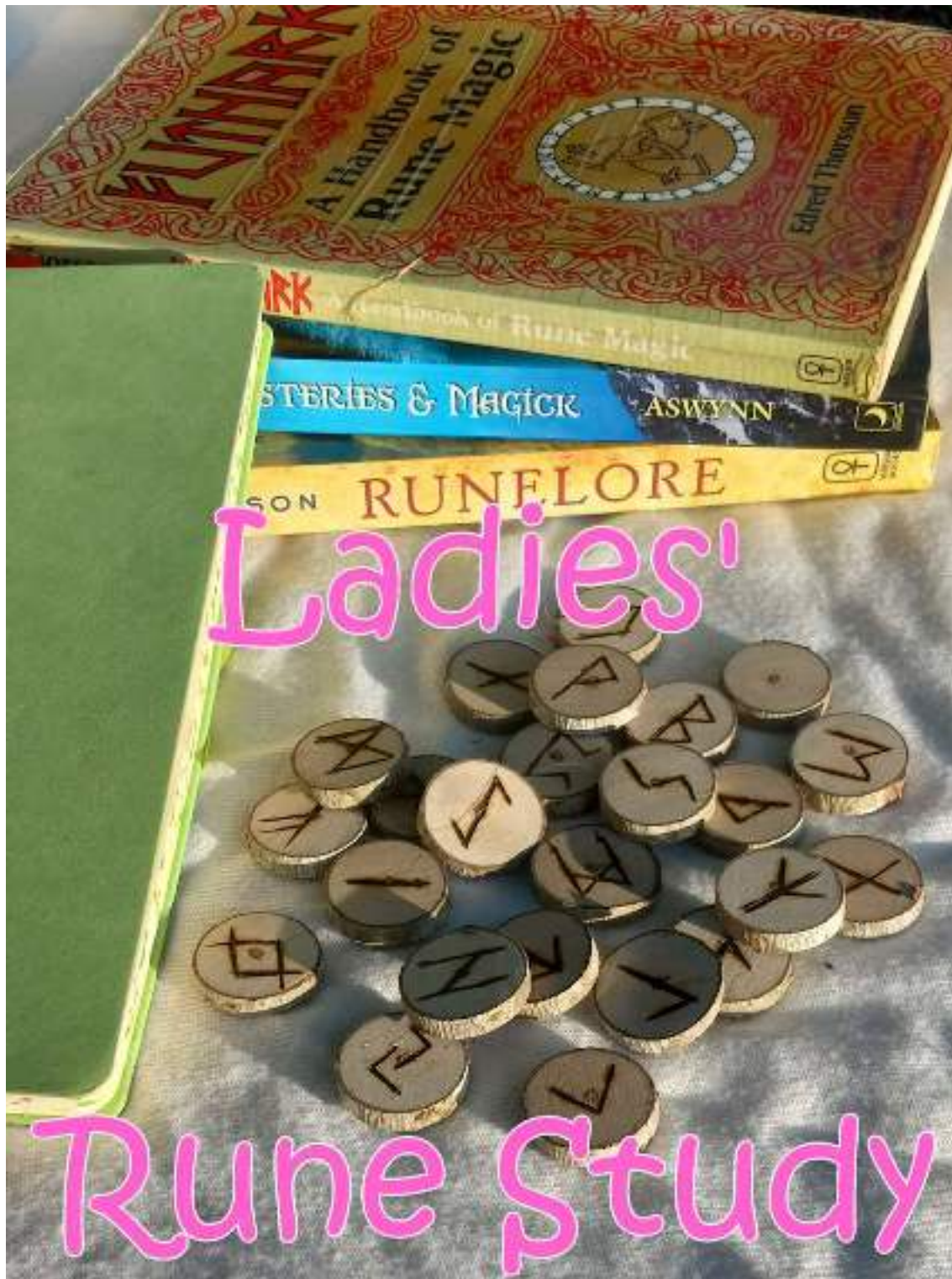


For more information contact

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**

ELDRI
Meetings

A social group for all
AFA members
age 50 and above

Contact Sheila McNallen
for details & the Teams link
sheila@runestone.org

Tuesdays
September 10 & 24
5:00 PT, 6:00 MT, 7:00 CT,
8:00 ET

Fridays
September 13 & 27
2:00 PT, 3:00 MT, 4:00 CT,
5:00 ET

TOPICS:
Where did "the road" take you?
What was "the road less traveled?"

Open to All

McNallens Pub

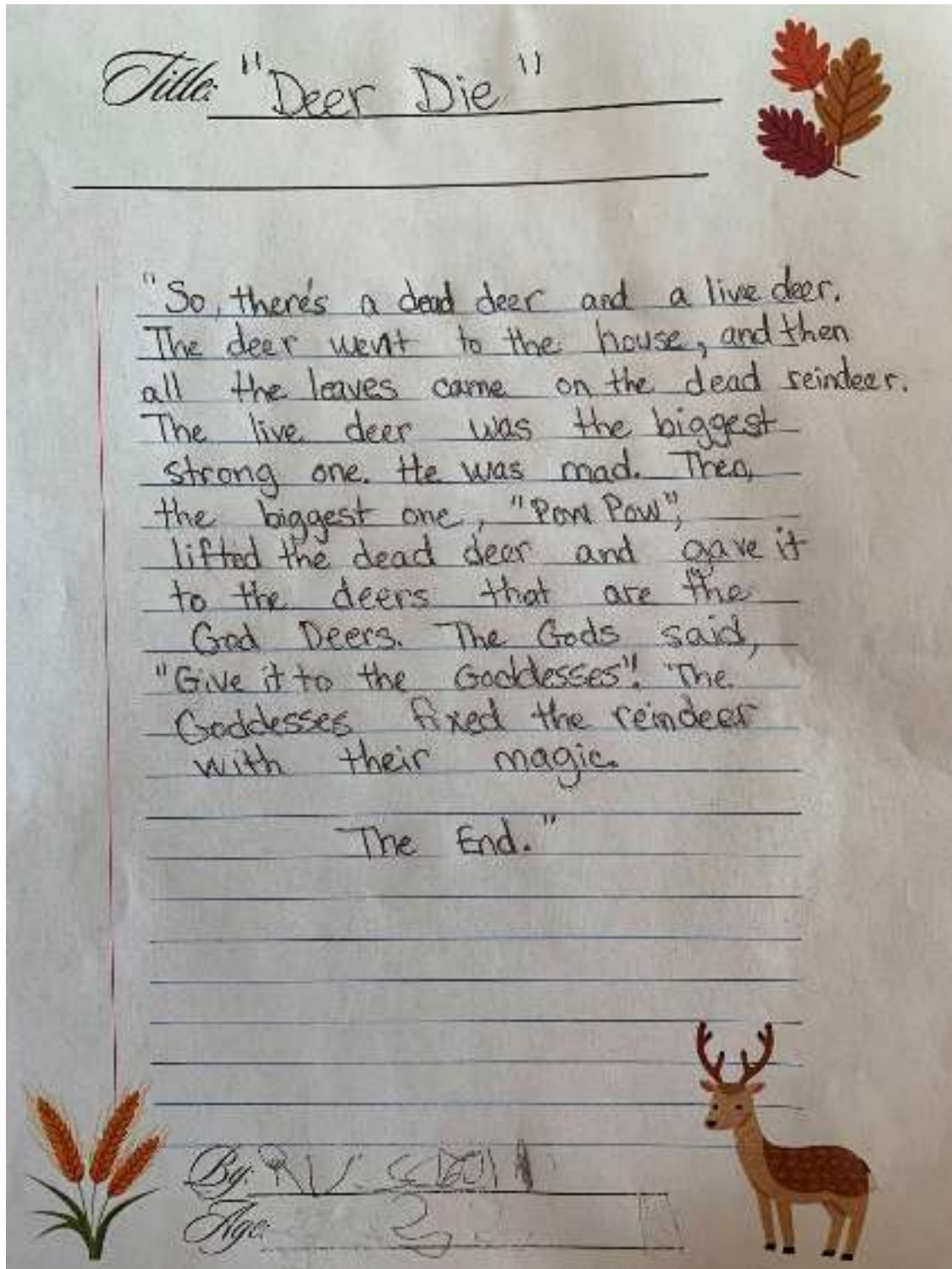
Saturday, September 28th
5:00 A&T 6:00 PT 7:00 MT 8:00 CT 9:00 ET

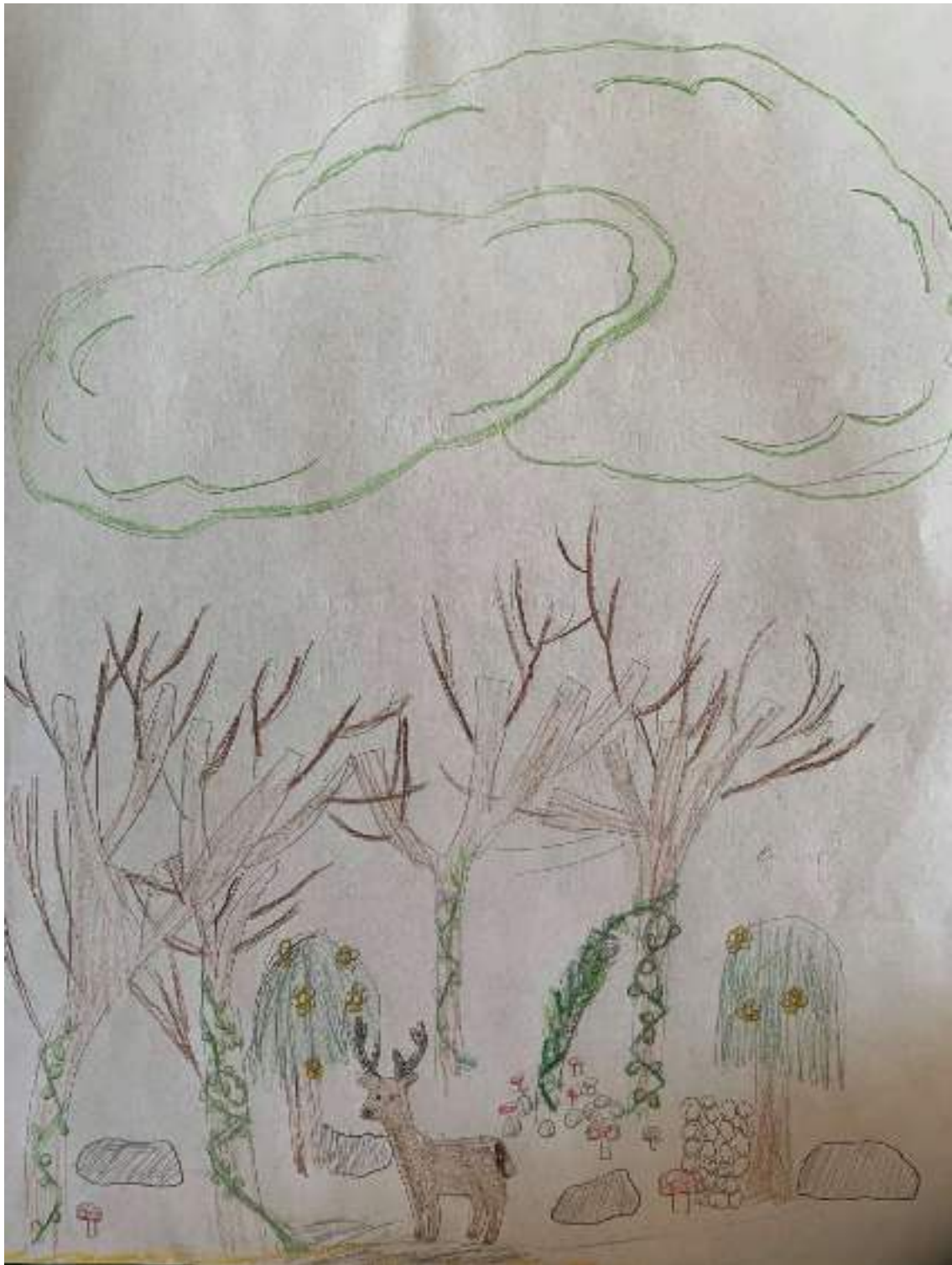
TOPIC:
UAPs, Nordic Aliens, & More!

Just for Fun

Congratulations to Bob Stanley of Óðinshof, the winner of last month's rune word unscramble! I guess it was harder than I thought. The answer? ΧΝΙΝΗΒΕΝΡΞΤΙ or Gullinbursti, Freyr's boar!

We also received some creative autumn stories from our youth:





Title: The Deer Who Hates Fall



Once upon a time, there was a little deer. His name was Tamson. He loved summer, spring and winter, but he hated fall. Fall? Why does Tamson hate fall? Tamson: I hate fall because when I try to sleep leaves fall on me, Oh, and it gets odd at night. The food turns brown. The leaves taste like rotten dirt! That is why I hate fall.

THE END



By: Madilene
Age: 10



Wonderful work, Russell and Madilene!

Autumn Word Hunt

Find all the words and send proof to press@runestone.org for a shout-out in next month's Runestone.

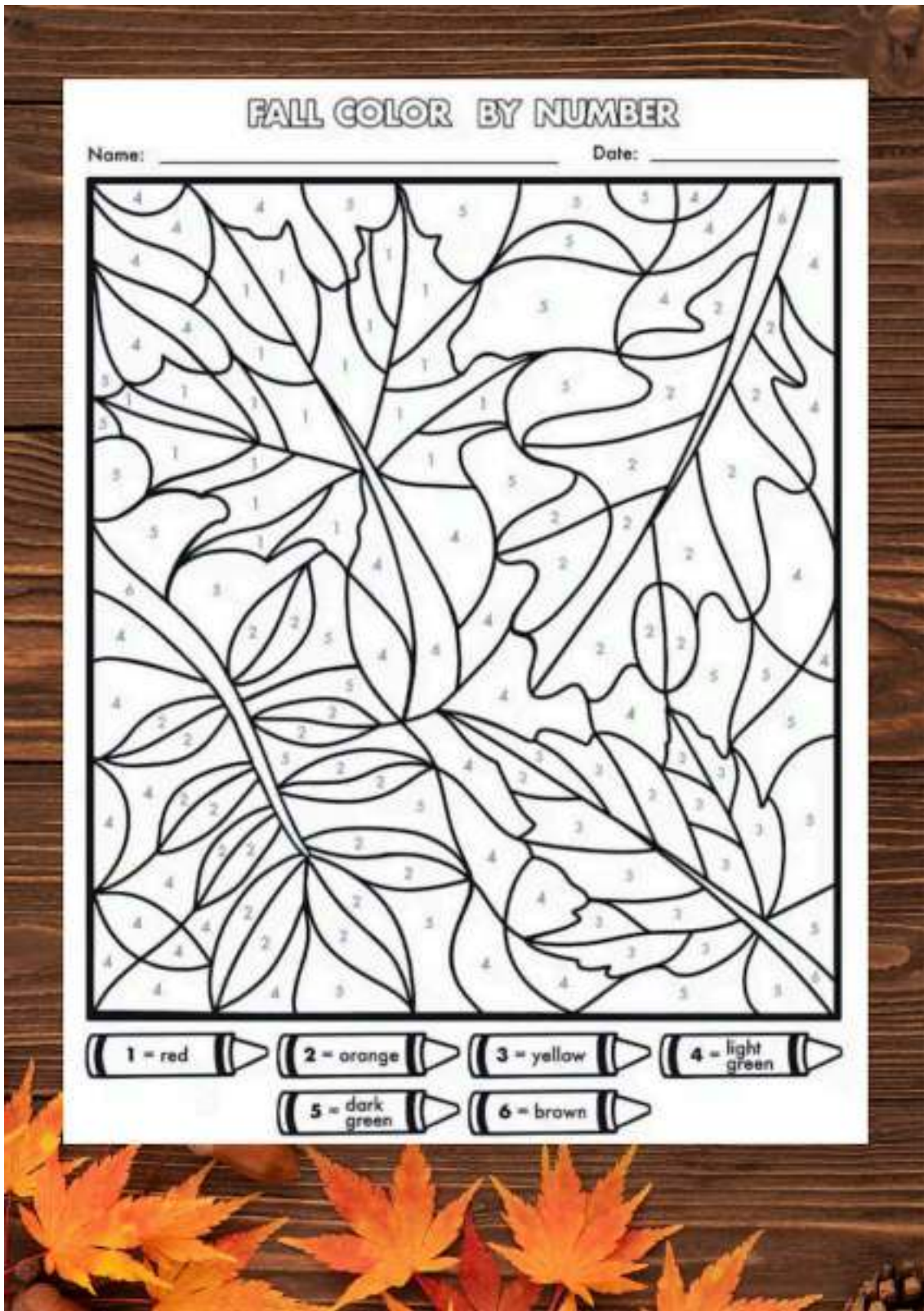


FOLIAGE
ULLR
YDALIR

ACORNS
HUNTING
BREEZE

PROSPERITY
ARCHERY
EQUINOX

This month we have a Word Hunt with autumn words. As always, the first member to complete the word hunt and send it in to press@runestone.org will get a shout-out in next month's edition.



For the youth and youthful, I offer two autumn-themed coloring by number activities. The first is for younger children to help them learn to identify numbers 1-6.

Name _____ Date _____

Multiplication Color by Number

Tables 1- 12

Product = 1 - 12
Beige

Product = 14 - 32
Dark Blue

Product = 33 - 54
Gray

Product = 55 - 80
Green

Product = 81 - 144
Light Green

Multiplication problems on the bear:

- 7x2=
- 1x7=
- 3x4=
- 5x3=
- 4x8=
- 2x3=
- 11x1=
- 3x7=
- 12x2=
- 5x12=
- 4x5=
- 5x2=
- 7x5=
- 4x4=
- 8x8=
- 11x2=
- 6x2=
- 3x8=
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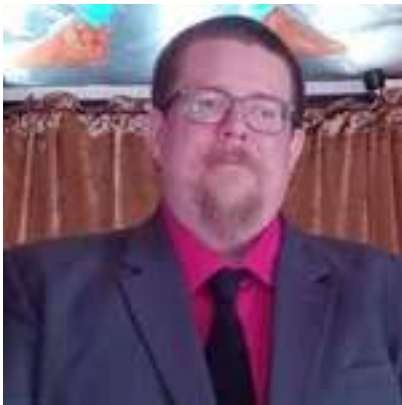
The second one is meant for older children who could use a little extra practice with their multiplication factors. And, if your child isn't ready for numbers, they are still welcome to color one or both of these. Have a fun time coloring, and submit your finished work to press@runestone.org!

Have a super fun September, y'all!



Folkbuilder Olivia Sutherland
osutherland@runestone.org

Calling All Folk Photographers



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Store Spotlight





New athletics merch available at Runestone.org/Store



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.



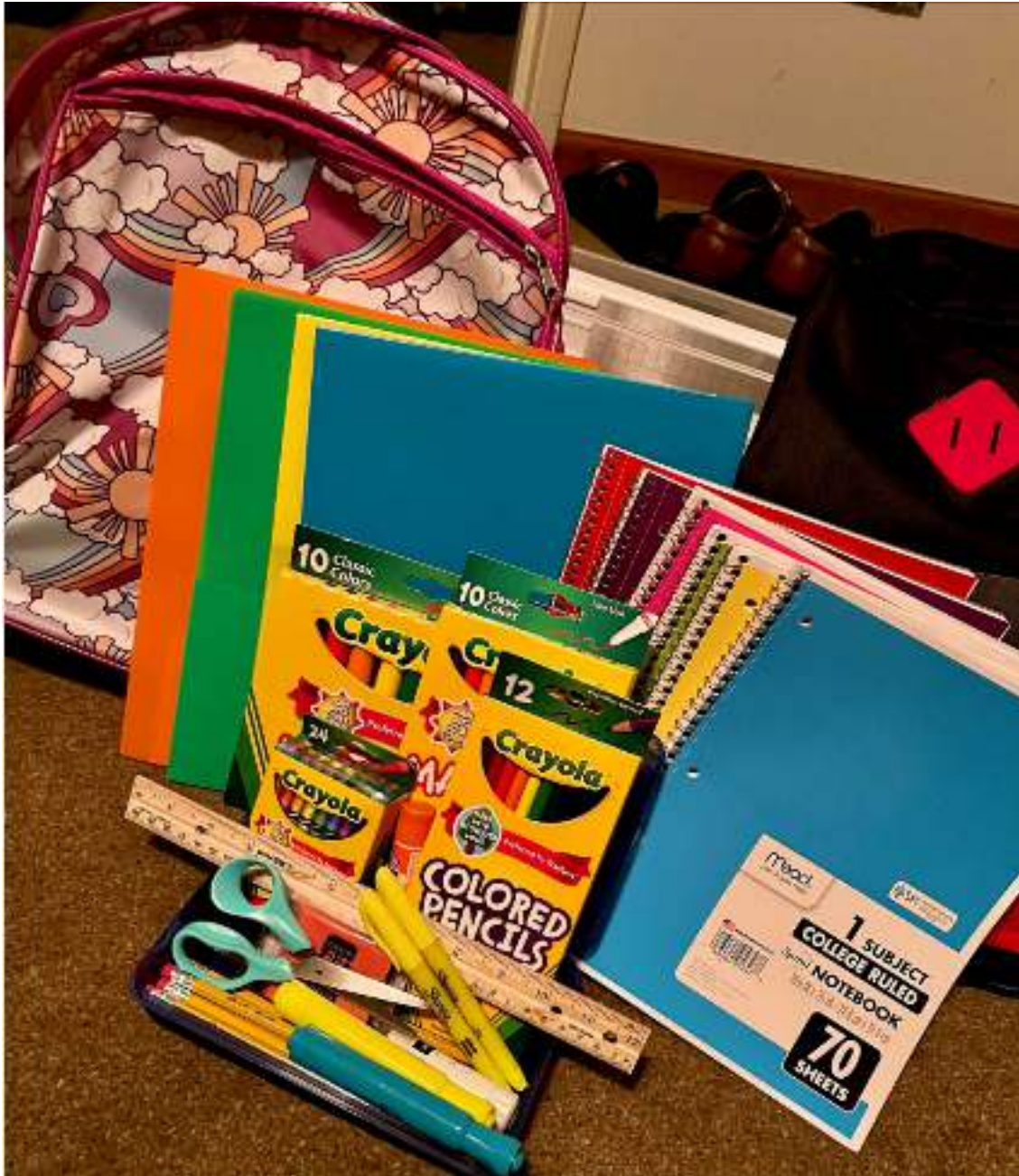
Folkbuilder Jessie Shaffer
jshaffer@runestone.org

Food Pantry at Baldrshof

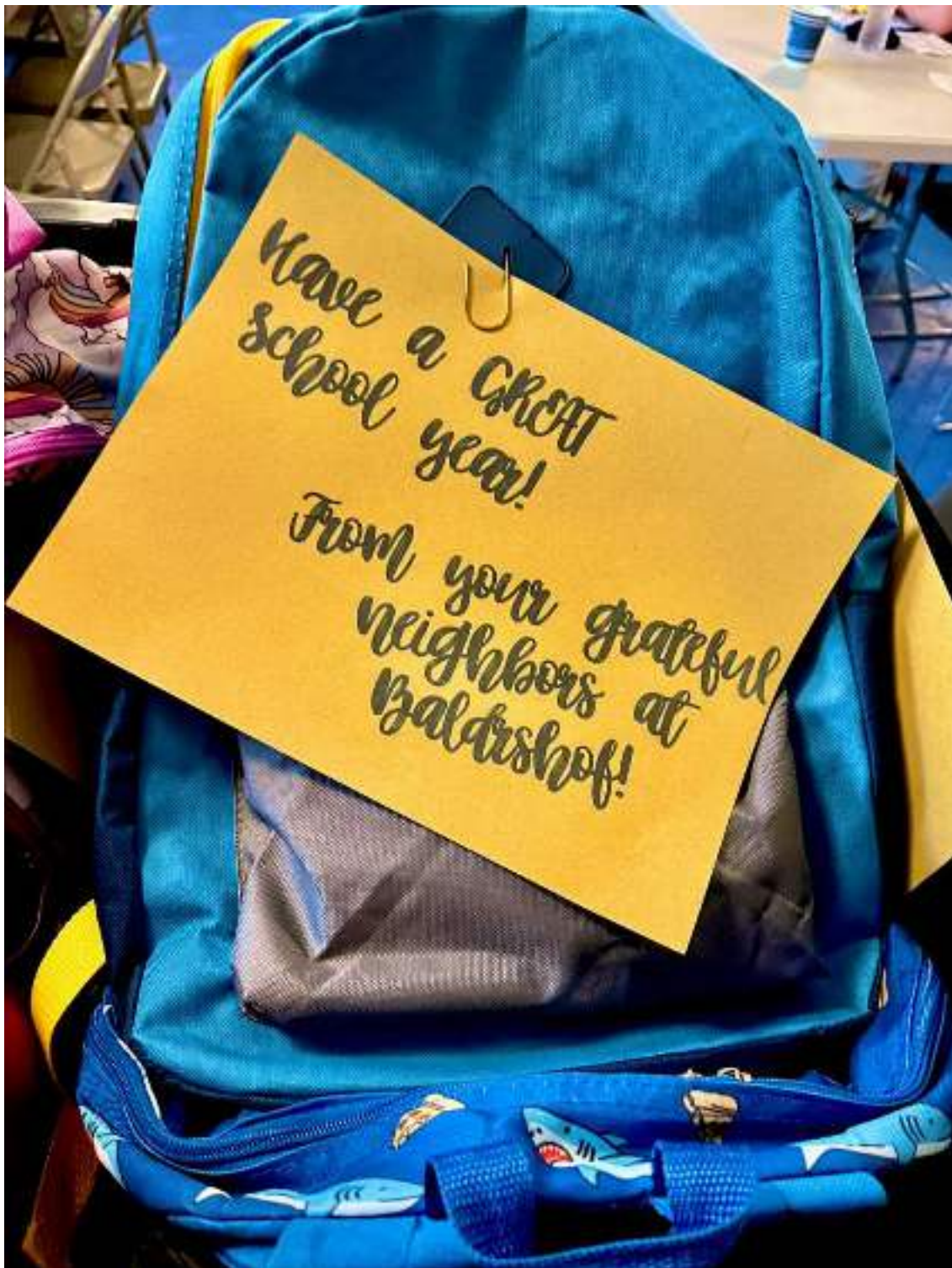


We are thrilled to share the highlights from our Freyfaxi food shelf event, marking a wonderful milestone in our community outreach efforts. For the third consecutive year,

we successfully combined our food distribution with a backpack giveaway, making this initiative even more impactful for the families in the Murdock community.



This year, we proudly brought our running total to 100 distributed backpacks filled with essential school supplies for both high school and elementary students. Each backpack was carefully packed with folders, notebooks, scissors, pens, pencils, markers, highlighters, erasers, and various art supplies, ensuring that our young learners are well-prepared for the academic year ahead.



In addition to our backpack initiative, we also provided substantial food assistance. Our volunteers distributed an impressive 300 pounds of meat, along with a variety of baked goods, sweet treats, beverages, pantry staples, dry goods, toiletries, and household items. This comprehensive support aims to alleviate food insecurity and enhance the well-being of families in our community.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all members of the Folk, volunteers, donors, and community members who contributed to this month's food shelf. Your generosity, support and intention make a significant difference in the lives of those we have been so fortunate to be a trusted resource for. Together, we are fostering a stronger, healthier, closer and more purposeful community.

We look forward to continuing our efforts and hope to see even more faces at our next food shelf event. Thank you for being a part of our mission to uplift our community and give back to the neighbors who have stood by our side and given us this opportunity .

Stay tuned for our next newsletter, where we will share more updates and ways you can get involved for our next big project, our toy drive for the Yule distribution!! Hail the Folk!



Folkbuilder Ashley McStocker
amcstocker@runestone.org

Freyfaxi at Baldrshof



Upcoming Events at Baldrshof



BALDRSHOF MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING

Featuring Alsherjargothi Matt
Flavel speaking about Sigrheim.

9/26/2024

8pm Central

Contact any Folkbuilder for details

MEETING LINKS SENT VIA EMAIL
AND POSTED ON M&WG



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



Gothi Nathan Erlandson
nerlandson@runestone.org

Help Keep Baldr's Light Shining



Illinois

Hrafnagud Blót



Hail from Illinois!

The summer has been productive and eventful for us here. We now see it beginning to

wind down and are excited for cooler weather and the coming spirit of Autumn. In part of this celebration, we welcomed a somewhat newer member to their second Moot as well as a very long time friend of mine who has been studying our Gods for a bit now.

To celebrate the year's achievements so far and ask for strength in future endeavors, we held a Blót to many Gods. Each of us brought offerings of food or mead along with incense to the altar. After offerings, each had words to say in prayer to a God and discussed what they've accomplished this year and what they plan for as we go.

In Celtic tradition in place of a bull and First Fruits, the Duffys offered a great beef roast with potatoes and carrots along with Irish soda bread. The Hartungs offered borscht and piroshki (delicious buns stuffed with meat). Other offerings included great mead, fresh baked cookies, and plum bread.

After an offering of our feast, we finally partook in it ourselves. Afterwards we held a ceremony to welcome 3 members to the Kindred. We haven't had this ceremony in 3 years since we founded the Kindred. We welcomed Mrs. Hartung along with 2 other very close members we have built Frith with over a couple of years now.

I hope to have my good friend join soon. He is very excited to have found a spiritual community after a somewhat solo practice for some time.

My family looks forward to our own Winter Nights Blót next month followed by our next open Blót in November which will be available to anyone wishing to come out.

— Shane, member

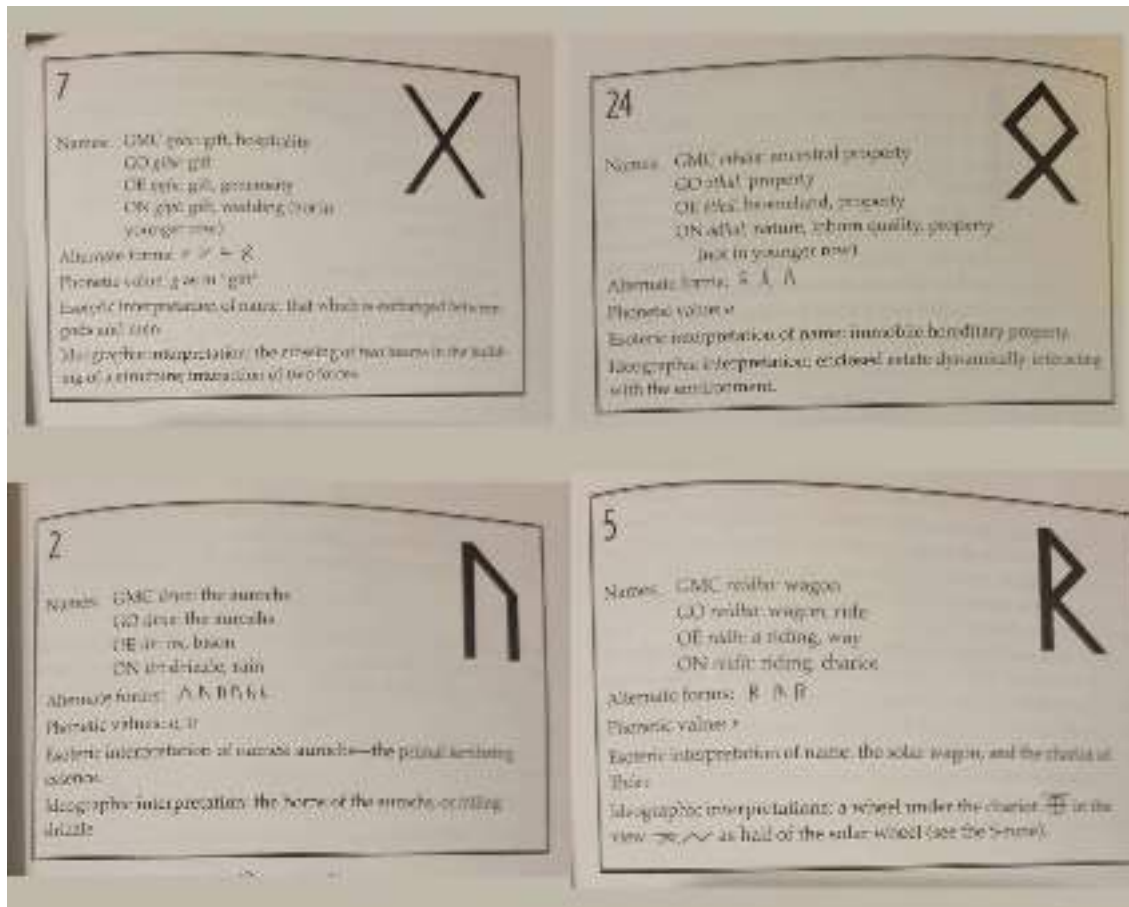
Upcoming Events





Iowa


Runic Meditation



When you are struggling with finding an answer to a life question take a moment and reflect on the runes. Breiðablik Fólk men gathered for some much-needed clarity. We had a three rune galdr in harmony for ten minutes. The focus was on Isa, Uruz, and Tiwaz. Isa to still our emotions, our minds, and to center ourselves. Uruz for strength from our faith, from each other, and from firm resolve. Tiwaz for victory through right order, through honorable deeds, and through focus on what is upward facing. The runes will reveal the answer to your question.

This runic exercise was suggested by Alsherjargoði Matt Flavel and was extremely helpful. I had a great experience leading my brothers in the runic meditation. We each left feeling better with focus on what we need to do.

Upcoming Events



*Come travel the road least traveled
Explore the riverside as our ancestors did
Only in style.*

SCENIC RIVER TOUR
MOOT

Iowa Falls, IA

Saturday, Sept. 7th

RSVP w/Folkbuilder Chris
McDowell
cmcdowell@runestone.org



 **Breiðablik Fólk**

presents the 2nd annual
Winter Nights in Iowa

Camping Moot
Oct. 11-13

Contact Folkbuilder Chris McDowell cmcdowell@runestone.org
for detail and RSVP

Alli Clausen alclausen@runestone.org
Cody Clausen cclausen@runestone.org

IA
NE

Check-
In
4pm



Folkbuilder Christopher McDowell
cmcdowell@runestone.org

Upcoming Events



Gothi Rob Stamm
rstamm@runestone.org

Minnesota

Grizzlys Moot



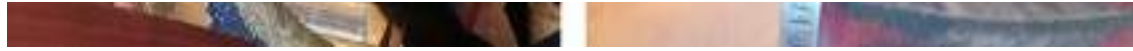
This month, I was finally able to meet up with some of my Florida friends that flew in for Freyfaxi! It was great getting to talk in person and sharing a meal together. We ended up stopping at Grizzly's in Willmar, Minnesota for steak bites and pasta.



Folkbuilder Bruce Perron
bperron@runestone.org

Awesome Augustski





August was busy as usual for the family and me. The kids have been enjoying the weather and taking on new hobbies. We have been traveling to see folk and stop off the beaten every now and again to pay our respects along the way. I had the honor of going to visit some great folks out in Montana and catching up. It's always hard to leave...





I swung down to Sturgis this year and was able to meet up with some folks along the way. A new member was even gracious enough to give me a little tour of his beautiful town, Spearfish, SD. Would recommend anyone to visit. There were many obstacles in my travels, but well worth it...it was great company, concerts, rides, and memories. Somehow I managed to get on the wrong end of town in Minneapolis too...interesting...





I had many travels to the Hof this month. Freyfaxi was absolutely beautiful and a great opportunity and time meeting so many great folks and leadership! My kids started school again too. Non-stop Folk and family!



Folkbuilder Jessie Shaffer
jshaffer@runestone.org

Upcoming Events



Fall is the air up Nort in Minnesota. This is my favorite time of the year when the weather starts to get cooler. September 14th is our 4th Annual Renfest Moot hosted by Witan Fassett and me. This is always a good time spent with good Folk.



Northern Blood Kindred is starting up our classic crafting day event again that will run monthly. This will be a kid's craft day focused on children's activities. September 22 12-4 pm Bloomington, MN at Gallagher's Gaff. This is also a good excuse to come out and have some Folk-time.



Senior Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher
jgallagher@runestone.org

Kansas

Kansas Moot



On Saturday Aug 31st, a few members met in Salina, KS for a nice day at the park. We let the children play on the jungle gym for a while as us adults conversed. We then went on a pleasant nature walk and found a nice spot amidst nature to perform a Blót to Freyr. I was able to offer some potatoes harvested from our garden in addition to an offering of beer. Afterwards we all met at a local burger joint for some dinner. We

parted ways after that.

— Coke, member

Nebraska

Building a Family Culture and Tradition Centered in Ásatrú



One of the best things we can do as Ásatrúar is to develop a personal practice, something we can do at home to worship and engage in the Gift Cycle with the Æsir, Ancestors, and Heroes of our Folk. Developing a daily practice incorporates this Gift Cycle further into our lives and helps to build a family culture and tradition centered in Ásatrú.

Beginning the day with a dedication, much like we do at Baldrshof, is a good starting place for developing personal practice. For those who haven't yet been to a Baldrshof event, we begin each day of our weekend with a dedication to Folkmother Else Christensen, Lord Baldr, or the Ancestors. During the dedication, we invoke and invite the ones we are honouring, and we give them our gifts, in the form of incense and gratitude for the gifts we have already been given. Then each person is able to approach

the altar to give their personal thanks and hail them. To bring this ritual home, spend a moment in prayer, giving thanks for the gifts you have been blessed with and hail them. Light a stick of incense or burn a small candle at your altar, you can also place small gifts like a cup of coffee for the Ancestors. The gift you give does not need to be elaborate if you approach your altar with piety and sincerity.

By starting our day with a dedication and gratitude, we are setting a positive tone for the rest of the day and reminding ourselves that we can draw strength from our Gods, Heroes, and Ancestors when we need it.

Prince Hermann of the Cherusci



Prince Hermann of the Cherusci, also known by his Roman name of Arminius, was a leader of the Germanic Cherusci tribe. Herman was born between 18-17 CE, the son of Cherusci leader and Roman sympathizer Segimerus. Hermann joined the Roman military in the first year of the common era. During his time in Roman lands, he was granted Roman citizenship and the status as an eques. As an eques he was of a rank of similar importance to an English knight, this was the second highest status in the Roman society.

In 4 CE, Hermann was placed in charge of the Roman forces in Cherusci. Returning to the northern parts of Germania in 7 CE, Herman began plotting to overthrow the

Roman rule of his people and prevent further expansion of the Roman Empire into Germanic lands.

When Rome needed to shift their military presence to other parts of the empire, Hermann saw his chance. In 9 C E, Hermann brought falsified news of rebellion to the governor of the region. He succeeded in diverting three legions to suppress this fictitious rebellion. On entering the Teutoburg forest, the legions were ambushed. Despite outnumbering the Germanic tribes they were coming against, the Romans were forced to march out of formation and along narrow footpaths. The Romans were woefully unprepared for the united Germanic people fighting guerilla warfare and all three legions were decimated. When it became clear that the Germanic tribesmen had humiliated the Empire and would win the battle, the Roman Governor of Germania took his own life. It was this battle that ended Roman rule of Germanic lands. Consequent attempts at retaking Germania failed.

Following the Battle of Teutoburg Forest, Hermann was married to a Cheruscan woman of similar stature. Thusnelda was the daughter of Cheruscan prince Segestes. He took her away from her father who disapproved of the anti-Roman stances Herman held, and they eloped. In 15 C E, a pregnant Thusnelda, who was living with her father, was kidnapped by the Romans. Driven mad at the loss of his wife and unborn child, Hermann declared that he would wage war on the Romans. Hermann continued to make attempts to unite the Germanic people and spent the rest of his life fighting against Roman encroachment into Germanic lands. His growing power and popularity led to his fellow Germanic leaders fearing him. He was assassinated in 21 CE.

Despite the fact that a united Germany would not happen for nearly two millennia after his death, Germania never again fell to Rome. The Battle of Teutoburg Forest remained a shining example of the will of the Germanic people and a rallying point during the German Unification of the nineteenth century.



Folkbuilder Alison Clausen
aclausen@runestone.org

Nebraska Dinner Moot



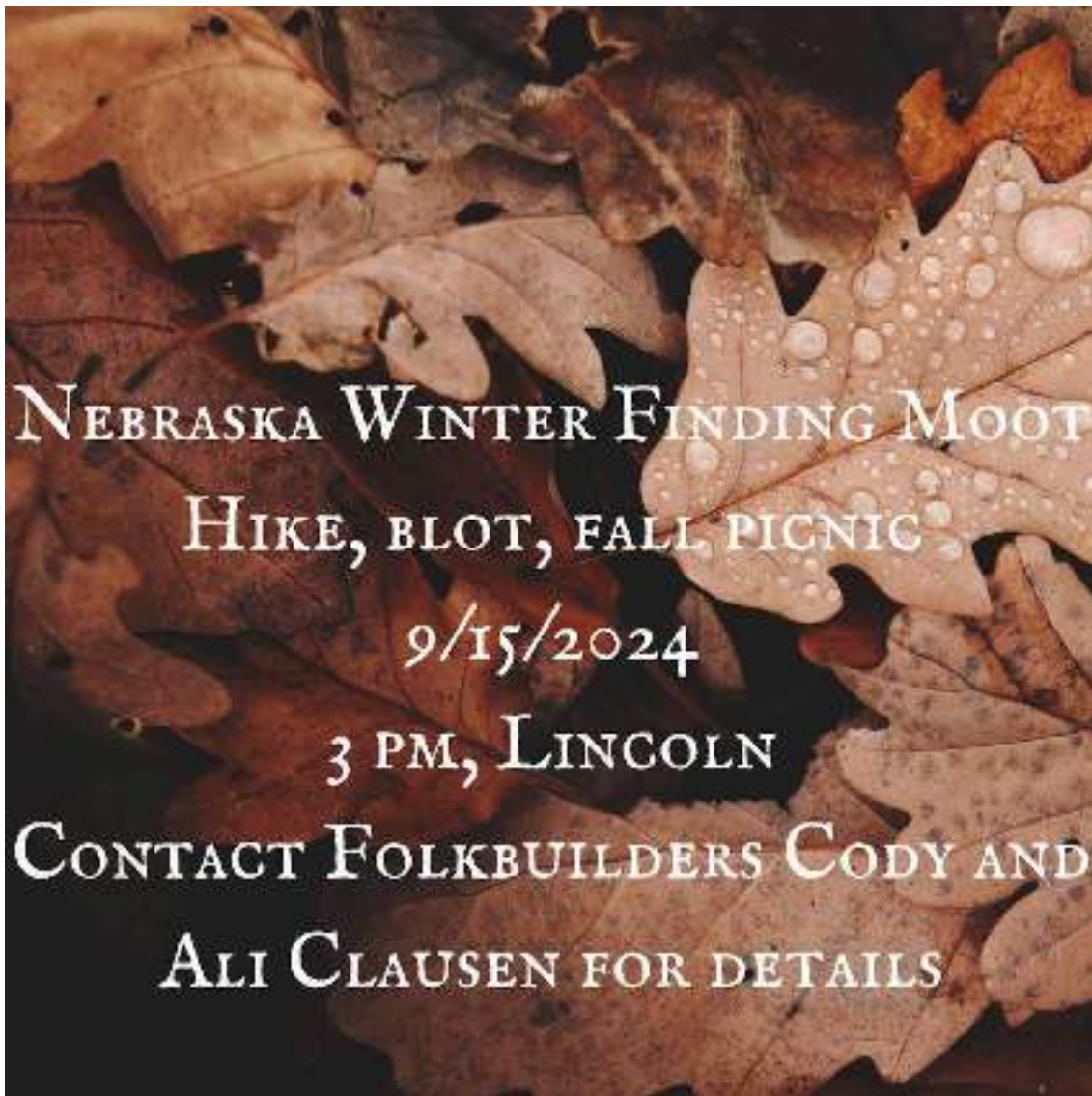
Local community is extremely important. Not just spiritually (though that's crucial), the personal connections we make give us support and kinship. We are not solitary Folk, we need that community. That's why, for this month, we hosted a dinner and gathering at our home.

Dinner was simple. I whipped up some chicken, mashed potatoes, and stuffing. I don't normally cook, so it was a wonderful feeling to feed the Folk. It's a simple act of devotion and sacrifice to the Folk. Taking the time, energy, and even the funds to feed those you care about is often overlooked.

Beyond dinner, we had plenty of great discussions. We talked about life, some personal spiritual practices, the tree in our backyard, and Folkbuilder Chris McDowell even led us in some runic meditation (check out his article for more)! We always have a great time with the Nebraska Folk, and this Moot was definitely no exception.

I'll leave this advice: host dinners, have Folk over, make those meaningful connections, and have those fun conversations. You may just find yourself a new brother or sister.

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Cody Clausen

cclausen@runestone.org

North Dakota

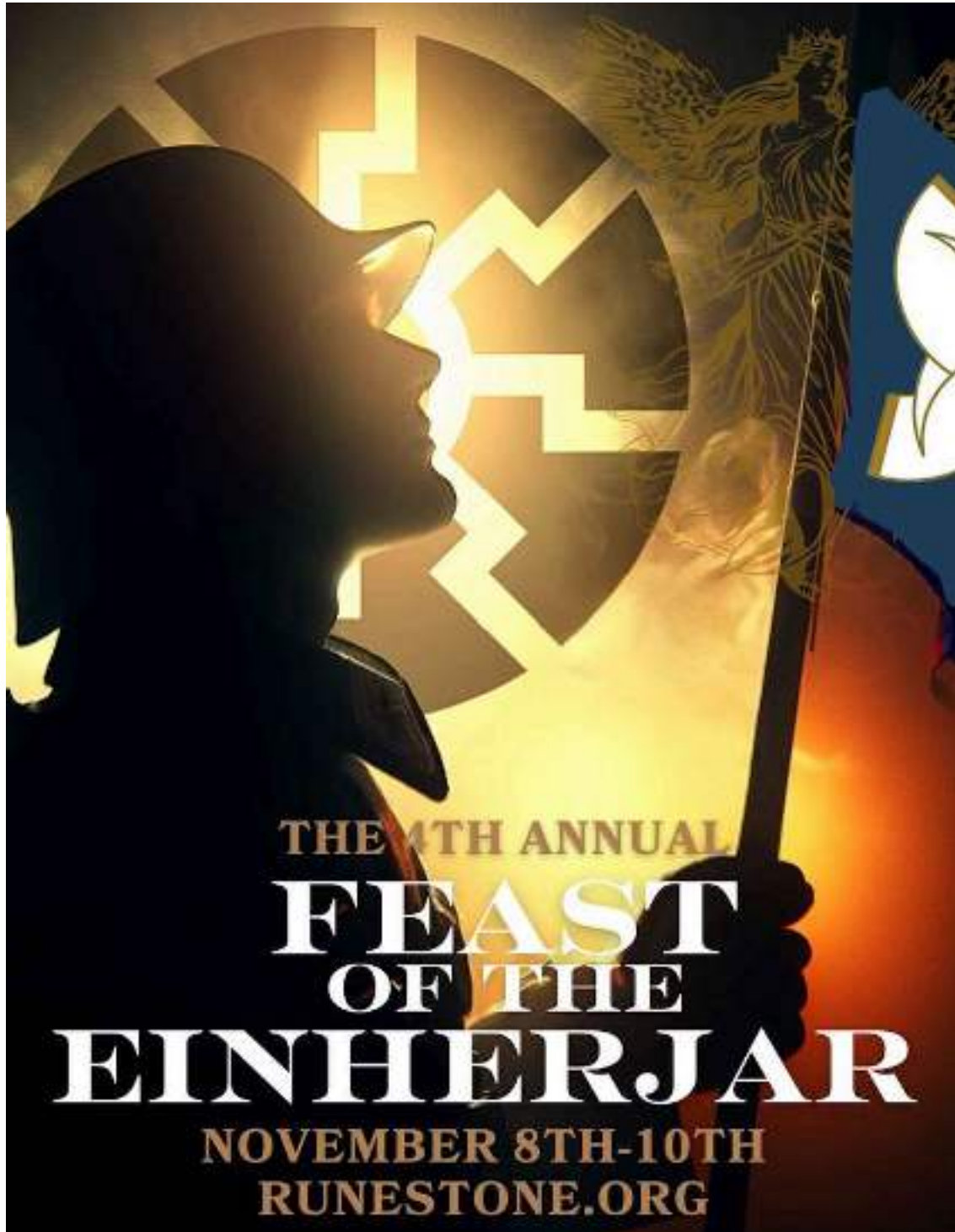
Upcoming Events



Witan Brandy Fassett
bfassett@runestone.org

South Dakota

Upcoming Events





Gothi Nathan Erlandson
nerlandson@runestone.org

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Hiking Moot



Wisconsin hiking moot today. We took the Parnell Trail in Kettle Moraine State Park. Started the trek with a rune pull Algiz. Along the trail we stopped and held a ritual to Óðinn.



We each left of an offering. Mine included the AFA website written on the back of a Wotan Erwache Effigy. Today was a great day and I'm thankful for Xavier coming out.

Thought and Memory



Hugin and Munin
Fly every day
Over all the world;
I worry for Hugin
That he might not return,
But I worry more for Munin.
 —*Grímnismál*

Huginn and Muninn. Óðinn's ravens. Huginn roughly translates into thought and Muninn into memory. Why might Óðinn be more worried about losing memory or thought?

Our day-to-day thoughts are so heavily influenced by the circumstances of the world around us. They change over time and even though out or day. They depend on the things we see before us, our interactions, or lack of them. Memories are our connection

to the past, the ancestors and even our Gods. Think of the earliest point in your life that you remember, the stories your Grandpa told you about his Granddaddy, that recipe your Mom taught you that her Mom taught her, or even those traditions that have always been part of your family going back generations. This is your connection. To lose those memories and never pass them on to the next generation would break that connection. This is the importance of speaking of the stories of those who have passed and saying their name.

Let me tell you about Lorainne Flaim. My Mom became pregnant with me in 1970. A time when being a single mother was just not done. Being the oldest of 10 children, my Mom decided to tell her parents she was going away to college. She returned a year later with me in tow. Although it seems impossible, I have a vague memory of waiting in a car and seeing a pretty lady run down the steps of the house we were parked outside. She embraced me and treated me as her youngest daughter. From that moment on, we had a special bond. Eventually my Mom moved out of her parent's house and married my Dad who adopted me as his own. I still spent almost every day by my Grandma. She was a wonderful woman, who taught me how to cook for an army and respect traditions. As a teenager, I went through a stage of rebellion against my parents....just as most teenagers do. I ran away and lived on the streets of Indiana. One day I was tired, running out of cash, and wanted to be home; so I took everything I had left and bought a bus ticket back to Wisconsin. I got off the bus not sure who I was going to call or where I was going to go. Right there in front of me was my Grandma. I was shocked and broke down. She brought me to her house and I lived with my Grandparents for a bit. One night I asked her how many times she had gone down to the station to see if I was on a bus and she told me, just the once because she knew I was coming home. Eventually I would go back to my parent's house, but that bond with my Grandma continued. She even knew I was pregnant with my first son before I did. I was with her when she passed and even today when I speak about talking to my "Grannies" during rituals, she is one of the three I am speaking about. I will forever share stories of my Grandma Flaim with my children, grandchildren, and others. She was amazing and will never be forgotten.

Hail Lorainne Flaim!

*Cattle die
And kinsmen die,
And so one dies one's self;
One thing now that never dies,
The fame of a dead man's deed.
—Havamal*

Our Gods are concerned about the bigger picture. Things like the AFA and the white race. That is not to say that we shouldn't reach out to them in time of need, but it's our ancestors who care about your day to day life. Your Grandma cares if you ate today, if you get that job, or if your children are safe. Talk to her and start building that relationship. Engage your Ancestors in the gifting cycle, ask for their guidance, and seek their wisdom.

Share their memories. Say their name. Honor them through bright words and deeds. And they will live on forever, never forgotten. The connection never broken.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the AFA!

Upcoming Events

**Join us September 28th
at 3 pm
in Monroe, WI
for an early dinner
at a historic site.**

**Contact:
Folkbuilder Sara Ault
for
more information
and exact location.
sault@runestone.org**



Folkbuilder Sara Ault
sault@runestone.org



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