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April 2025

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Donate to the AFA

Words from the Allsherjargoði



This month, I am proud to announce the establishment of the Hofgoðar. The scope of the AFA mission, as well as our capacity, has greatly expanded over the years. The increased membership, leadership, and geographic spread has created a need for single Goðar of distinction to have the authority and responsibility to lead their district. The Hofgoði is entrusted with the authority and responsibility for their respective Hof, directing the district leaders, and caring for the needs of the district members. In some cases, this has been the de facto arrangement for some time, in others this is a new concept. These ladies and gentlemen are of the highest character, their reliability and capability are undeniable.

Hail the Hofgoðar!

There is a palpable momentum so far this year, we are moving forward, and we are winning. Dreams of victory inspire our minds, plans for victory enliven our conversation, deeds towards victory occupy our hands, conviction for victory fills our hearts. Keep dreaming, keep planning, keep DOING, be proud!

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Announcements, News, & Noteworthy

- 3/22/2025 - Steorra Bethea is named before her Gods and Folk by Witan Daniel Young
- 3/22/2025 - Tyler Bethea is awarded the Folkbuilding Excellence Award for 2024
- 3/22/2025 - Nicholas Gunn took his oath as a Folkbuilder
- 3/22/2025 - Heather Young is ordained as Gyðja
- 3/22/2025 - Jonathan Rock is ordained as Goði
- 4/4/2025 - Gyðja Sheila McNallen is named Hofgyðja of Óðinshof
- 4/4/2025 - Witan Daniel Young is named Hofgoði of Þórshof
- 4/4/2025 - Witan Brandy Fassett is named Hofgyðja of Baldrshof
- 4/4/2025 - Goði Trent East is named Hofgoði of Njörðshof



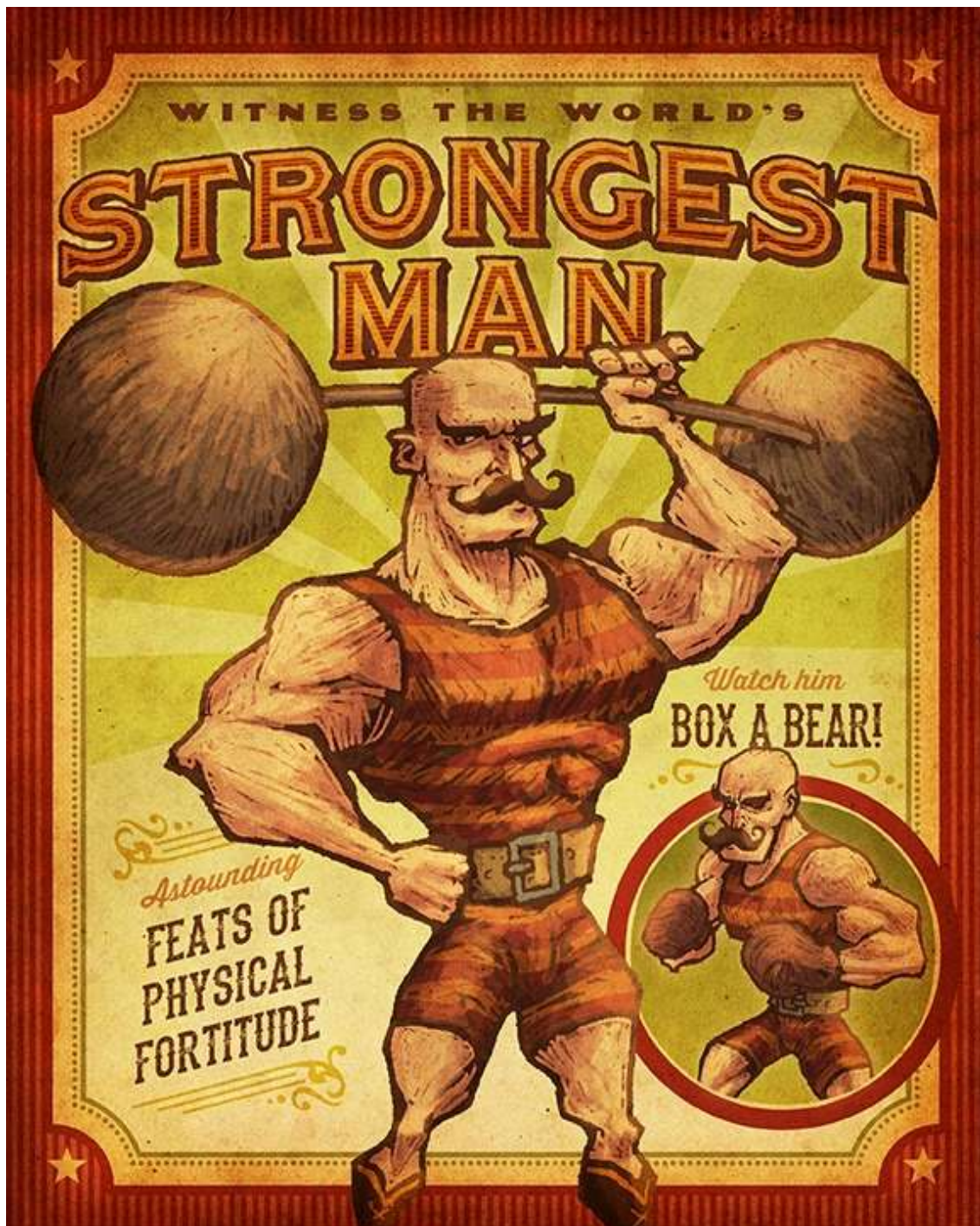
Matthew D. Flavel

Allsherjargoði, Asatru Folk Assembly

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Words from Our Goðar

Declaration of Purpose VI



VI. The fostering in our people of a deep sense of responsibility and self-reliance

Ásatrú promotes strong, vigorous, people who are the masters of their own destiny. Though many may stand against us, we are no one's victim. Our Æsir would see us victorious; they would have us follow their example and grow in power, awareness, and responsibility, exercised in wisdom.

Ásatrú, aka the Asatru Folk Assembly, is a calling to those that instinctively embrace strength and vigor. Dressing up and prancing around like we are still in the time of our

pre-Christian ancestors is an insult to the Æsir and our Ancestors. Our ancestors embraced advancements in all areas of their lives. Blood memory is there in all of our Folk. The majority, however, aren't sure where or how to get there or may not even know what it is, just that it's there. We are not a people that has ever embraced weakness and mediocrity. Not until recent times, after millennia of conditioning to take our strength away as one of, if not the most advanced races on the planet, based off of the advancements the Aryan race has contributed to the world, has this lethargy really been noticed. Those that stand against us ARE the problem with this world, and to their dismay we will keep growing stronger and victorious, set by the examples of the Æsir and our Ancestors, neither of which tolerated self-hate, weakness, or being a victim. They honored strength, wisdom, and growth in all areas of life. Always value strength over weakness.

Der Stärkere hat immer Recht.

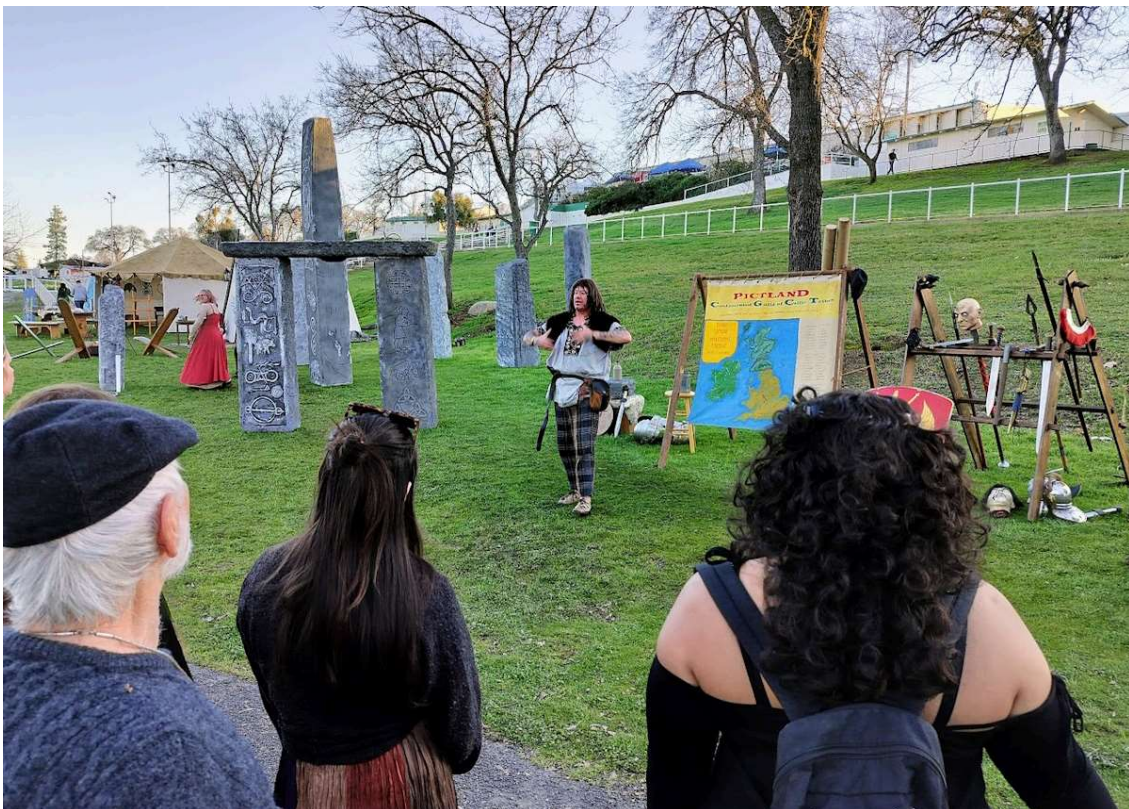


Goði Nathan Erlandson
nerlandson@runestone.org

Saxons, Vikings, and Celts – Oh MY!



A book by famed British geneticist, Bryan Sykes, *Saxons, Vikings, and Celts*, chronicles his years of collecting and analyzing DNA samples from remote areas of the British Isles, Orkneys, and Ireland. His following book, *Blood of the Isles*, carries the subtitle “Exploring the genetic roots of our tribal history.” For those of you seeking knowledge of your Northern Isles ancestors, these scholarly books would be a valuable resource.



But if you want to tap into the culture of those ancestors, take a step backward in time by attending Celtic Festivals, Highland Games, or Renaissance Faires. This is akin to our forebears attending market-day in a local village. Vendors, live music, food, entertainers, farm animals, and games of challenge create a menagerie of sights and sounds. For those with Scottish heritage, the clans are well represented down a line of white tents, each displaying maps, tartans, and images of their proud roots. On the outskirts, you'll find a "living history" encampment, featuring European cultures ranging from the Picts to 18th century warfare. You'll always find a Viking group with a camp representing the lifestyle of a millennium ago.

I can't promise that you'll be pleased with everything you find at these events. Expect to see costumes with ample cleavage and lots of kilts. (You can't have too many kilts!) Some men look "oh, so dapper" in their Elizabethan outfits or feisty as pirates right off the ship. There will be Viking-types strutting around in LARP-mode. This reenactment seems overdone and silly based on our AFA norms, but it's there to entertain. Remember such events are open to everyone -- whatever their ethnicity, personal values, or worldview. But in general, these venues have proven to be good locations to gather with Folk.



Calaveras Celtic Faire! That is what we did in early March. We made our way down the flank of the Sierra Nevada mountains where rolling hills mimic those of Ireland. When we arrived, it wasn't long until we met up with other AFA Folk for a Guinness and conversation. The day had its delights. The marketplace was filled with woolen imports and jewelry, heritage foods, weaponry, and herbal creations to name a few. Live music on multiple stages went from lilting airs and Irish jigs to bombastic drumming and Celtic rock. It can feel intense or mellow, depending on where you are.

Do your research. For you, contests like jousting or caber-throwing might be the top of your list. Or it might be the sheep-herding demos, Scottish pipe-bands, or the traditional March of the Clans.

There is something waiting for you. Give your ancestors free rein to guide you. Leave knowing, in our 21st century way, that you are taking snippets of YOUR PAST home with you.



Gyðja Sheila McNallen
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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

Allsherjargoði, Asatru Folk Assembly

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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 \(runestone.org\)](http://runestone.org)

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

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

- We need to pay off Njörðshof.
 - The first of 2 loans have been paid off!
 - We now owe \$46,344.01 on our remaining loan.
- We need to raise our monthly donation average by 7.9%.
 - This is membership donations and Hoftollr plus other donations.
- We need to locate a suitable property.
- 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!

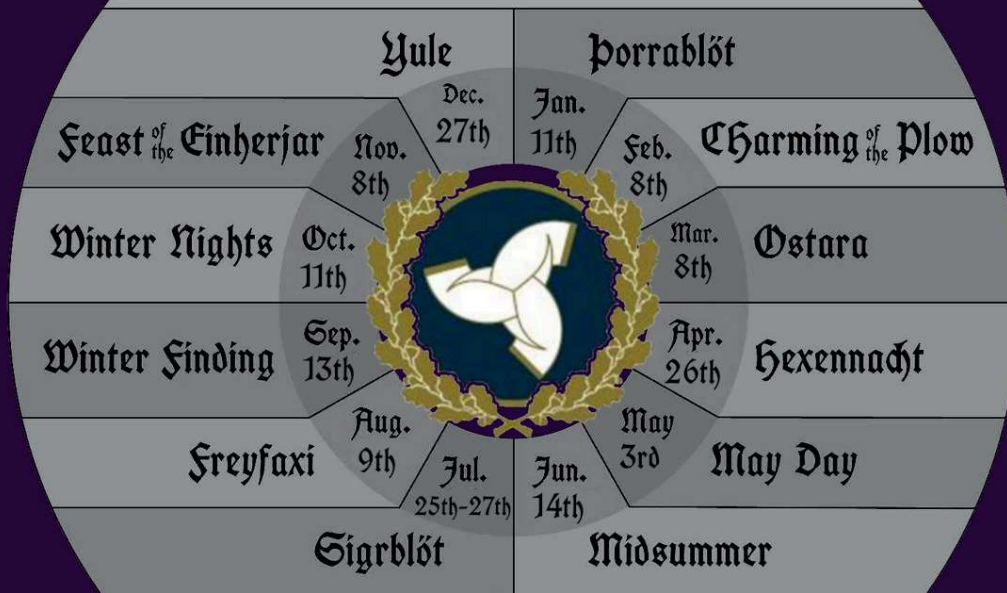
Donate Supplies
from our
wishlist ✨
amazon

Thank You!

click here

Upcoming Events

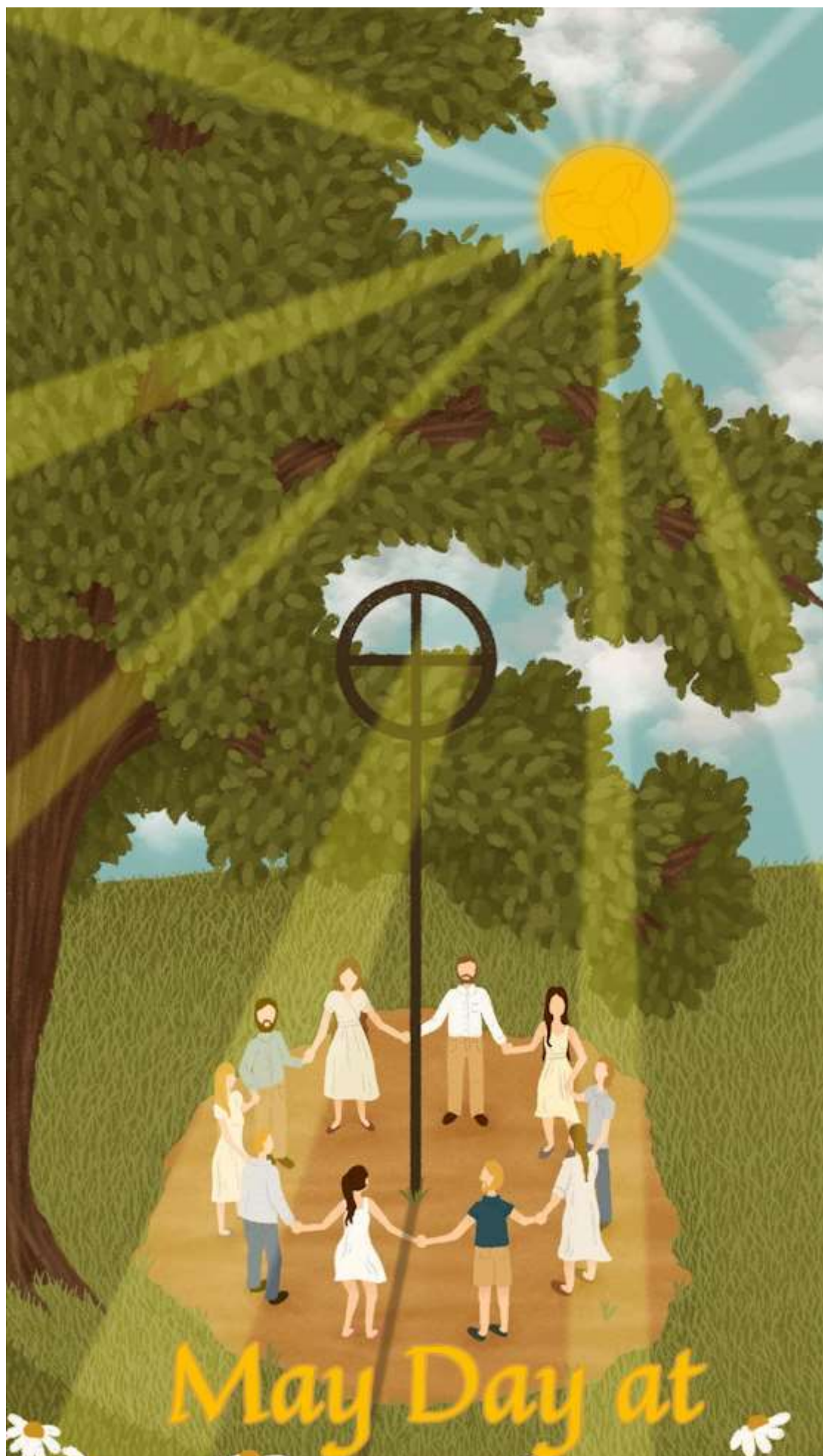
Sigrheim



2025



April 26th
Hexennacht at Sigrheim





Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Victory Never Sleeps



Victory Never Sleeps, a weekly podcast produced by the Asatru Folk Assembly, hosted by Alsherjargoði 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, 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](#).



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AFA Ásatrú Academy



Check out the ÁsatrúAcademy at AsatruAcademy.org

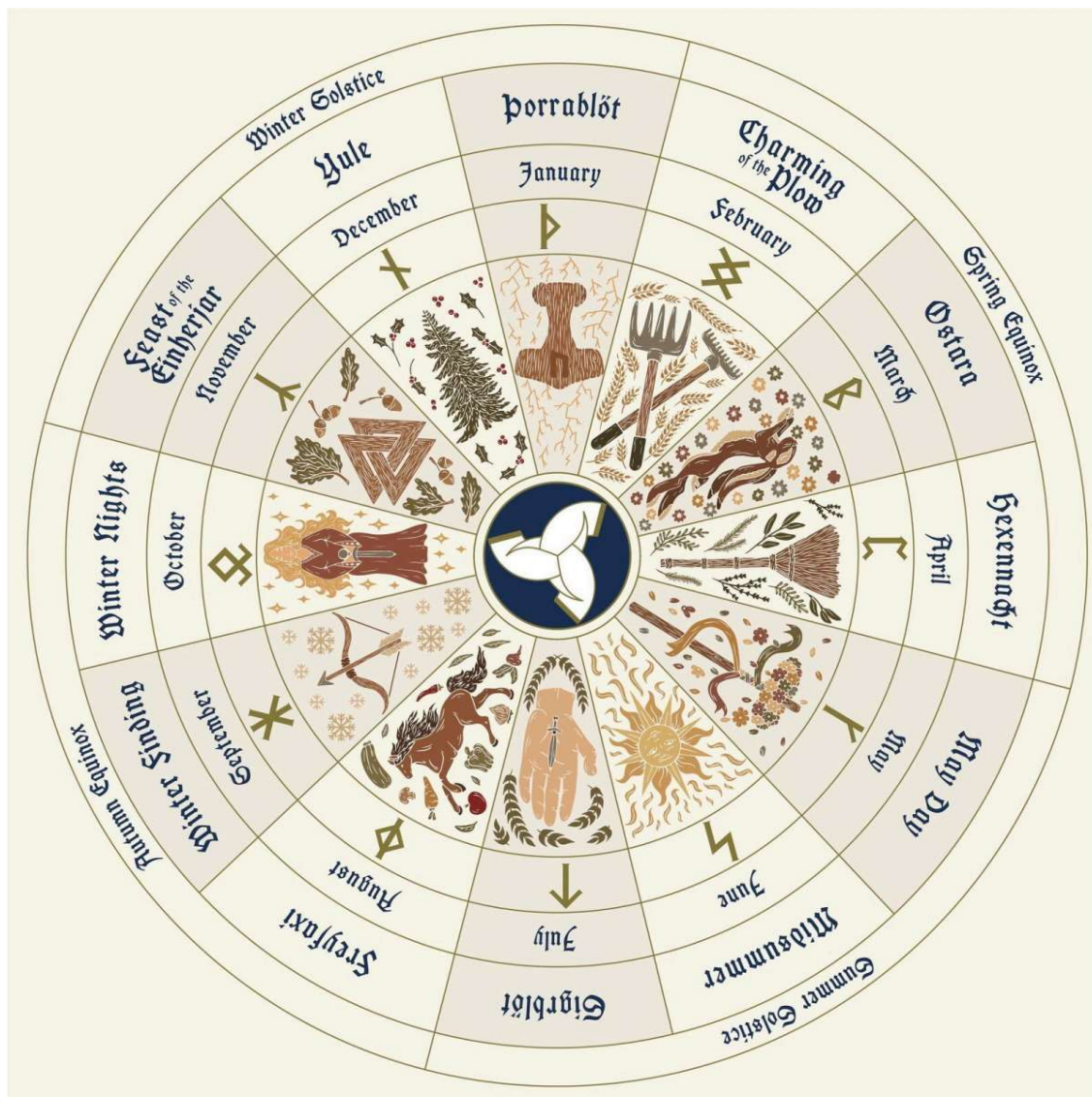


Spring has sprung! Austr's light has burst with the dawn and new beginnings are all around us. As we come into our final months of the school year, I'd like to invite all parents to read this and consider new beginnings. For so many people, homeschooling seems like a daunting undertaking. So much anxiety about homeschooling comes from the fear of the unknown. I wish to take away that fear. Perhaps it is a matter of how to fit it into your schedule if there is no parent at home during the day. Perhaps it is the idea of the costs of materials or feeling alone. For some, it is simply more than they think they can take on as the responsibility of educating our children is so momentous. I would ask you to consider, even if you choose not to take the path at this time, how we can help your families. Our staff members have worked very hard to put together a program, it is free for the usage. Many AFA families may not be aware of the degrees to which you can make use of this material. You may well be aware that there is a complete curriculum available. Did you know that you can keep your kids in public school, yet supplement those academics with lots of age-appropriate religious activities? If you are wondering about seeking more learning opportunities for your children, you can dabble in our booklists or craft projects. Whether or not our families graduate their children through the Asatru Academy, our main goal is the wholesome, healthy life of our Folk. Any steps that our people can take to promote our history, culture, and relationships with the Gods within our homes falls under schooling. Please know that you can reach out to us and discuss what any of these options would look like. Even if you are a family that has both parents working and it seems impossible, let us help you get the most from what we can offer your family. There are many options out there. I am here to coach you in your schooling endeavors, to lessen the fear of the unknown. Please reach out if you are even curious about what homeschooling looks like. We are here for you!



Rachel Kinsler
Homeschooling Coach, Ásatrú Academy
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Remembrance & Holy Days



Holy Days | Asatru Folk Assembly.

- > January 9 - Goði Rauðr the Strong <
- > January 18 - King Blót-Sveinn of Sweden <
 - > January 18 - Þorrablót <
- > February 1 - King Eanfrith of Bernicia <
 - > February 9 - Eyvind Kinnrifi <
 - > February 15 - Disaþing <
 - > March 9 - Goði Ölvir of Egg <
- > March 20 - Austrá (observed on March 15) <
 - > April 9 - Jarl Hákon Sigurðarson <
 - > April 10 - John Yeowell "Stubba" <
- > April 30 - Nornanótt (observed on April 19) <
 - > May 1 - Sumarmál (observed on May 17) <
 - > May 22 - John Gibbs-Bailey "Hoskuld" <
 - > June 9 - King Athanaric of the Visigoths <

- > June 20 - Miðsumar (observed on June 21) <
- > July 4 - Sveinbjörn Beinteinsson <
- > July 15 - Alexander Rud Mills <
- > July 19 - Sigrblót <
- > August 1 - King Osric of Deira <
- > August 9 - King Radbod of Frisia <
- > August 16 - Freyfaxi <
- > September 9 - Prince Hermann of the Cherusci <
- > September 12 - Else Christensen <
- > September 22 - Haustblót (observed on September 20) <
- > October 4 - Goði Þorsteinn Guðjónsson <
- > October 5 - Meister Guido von List <
- > October 15 - Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen <
- > October 18 - Vetrnætr <
- > November 9 - Queen Sigríðr of Sweden <
- > November 11 - Einherjablót (observed on November 15) <
- > December 9 - Egill Skallagrímsson <
- > December 20-31 - Jól (observed on December 20) <

April



Asatru Holidays - April 2025 - Jarl Hákon | Stubba | Nornanótt
<https://youtu.be/uzMEBAUcvZA>

Days of Remembrance

Jarl Hákon Sigurðarson | April 9th



Y 937 - 995 A

Hákon Sigurðarson (937-995 CE), also known as Hákon Jarl or Jarl Hákon, gained his title of jarl in 961, after his father was killed by Harald Greycloak. He was the Jarl of Lade, Trøndelag, and Hålogaland in Norway. Adam of Bremen claimed that Jarl Hákon was descended from Ivar the Boneless, and Hákon himself claimed to be descended from the All-Father, as he was a devout Ásatrúar.

After the death of his father and his elevation to the title of jarl, he warred with Harald Greycloak for a time, until being forced to flee to Denmark. Once in Denmark, he and Harald Bluetooth managed to defeat and kill Harald Greycloak. After Greycloak's defeat, Bluetooth gave Jarl Hákon fiefs in Denmark. After defeating Greycloak's surviving brothers, Jarl Hákon ruled Norway as one of Bluetooth's vassals.

In 973, Hákon went south to Denmark to help Bluetooth fight off Otto II of the Holy Roman Empire. Despite this help, Otto managed to fight off their combined forces and Germany retained its influence over Denmark. Following this, in 975, Bluetooth convinced Jarl Hákon to accept Christ and be baptized, and to take clergymen with him back to Norway in order to convert his Folk. However, when a perfect wind came along

for him to return to Norway, he ordered the Christian clergy to stay ashore. He returned to Norway, his loyalty to the Æsir intact.

On the face of it, this story may look like a betrayal by Jarl Hákon, but consider the words of the Hávamál: “to a friend be a friend, but with an enemy, swap lies for lies.” Once Bluetooth forced baptism onto Hákon, he had no choice but to break his allegiance and leave Bluetooth’s Christian clergy behind.

Twenty years later, in 995, a disagreement erupted between Jarl Hákon and his Folk in Trøndelag. At the same time, the infamous snake known as Olaf Tryggvason arrived in the area, likely to convert the area to his foreign faith. Jarl Hákon’s support from his Folk ran out, and he was murdered by his friend and servant, Tormod Kark. Kark betrayed his lord in the hopes that Olaf would reward him, but he was decapitated for the crime of betraying his master.

Jarl Hákon was a man who helped his allies when called, navigated the politics of northern Europe with skill, and kept his troth with the Æsir even when his lord forced him to be baptized in the name of Christ. If not for the treachery of Tormod Kark, he may have stood a chance against Olaf the traitor.

On the ninth day of April, we honor both his strength as a ruler, and his devotion to both his Folk and our Gods. Even though it only lasted an extra 20 years, he managed to keep the torch of Trøndelag’s Troth with the Æsir alight. May we all be steadfast in our devotion, dauntless in our piety!

Hail Jarl Hákon Sigurðarson!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

John Yeowell “Stubba” | April 10th



Y April 10, 1918 - September 25, 2010 A

John Leslie William Yeowell, better known as Stubba, was born in England on April 10th of 1918. We know precious little about his family or early life.

Most of our knowledge of him comes from his military service and role in the Royal Stuart Society. In the military, he served in the Spanish Civil War, the Indo-China War, and in Burma in the 40s and early 50s. He retired from military service in 1954.

As far as his role in the Royal Stuart Society, he was elevated to the position of Vice President and was said to be seventh in line for the throne of Great Britain if the Stuart line were ever restored to power. He was so treasured by this society that, upon his death, they performed his funeral service.

After his time in the military, he discovered Ásatrú and met John Gibbs-Bailey, also known as Hoskuld. Hoskuld had experience with various early Ásatrú groups over the

previous 30 years, and introduced Yeowell to the religious teachings of that time. Throughout the 1960s, the two men stayed in consistent contact and cultivated knowledge on the faith of their ancestors. In 1973, they formed the Committee for the Restoration of the Odinic Rite, the predecessor to the modern Odinic Rite.

During these early years with the Committee, John Yeowell adopted the name Stubba, which he took from a Saxon chieftain who had ruled in the area now known as Whitechapel.

As the Committee of the Odinic Rite started to find its footing, Stubba played an integral role in creating Ásatrú doctrine with what little knowledge they had at that time. This included helping Hoskuld create the Nine Noble Virtues; Hoskuld had come up with a list of eight, and Stubba added a ninth one. These virtues, along with Allsherjargoði Flavel's addition of Victory, are still used by the Asatru Folk Assembly to this day! Many of our Folk, AFA or not, strive to live their lives by these virtues.

As Hoskuld's time in Miðgarðr began to come to a close in the 1970s, Stubba became much of the face of the Odinic Rite. He became the first Director of their Court of Goðar, leading important efforts in bringing his Folk back to their troth with the Æsir. He assisted in the publishing of the *Raven Banner*, the first Ásatrú publication in the United Kingdom.

Stubba led the Court of Goðar until 1989, when he retired from leadership to focus on writings, recording of Ásatrú music, and research. He wrote and published several books in his lifetime, but perhaps more notably, he wrote a letter to the Australian government requesting information and photographs of Heilagmaðr Alexander Rud Mills. He had nearly completed a manuscript regarding this, but there is no known copy in existence.

Stubba passed from Midgarðr and joined his ancestors on September 25th, 2010. He was given a funeral by the Royal Stuart Society, followed by an Ásatrú ceremony where he was honored at the famous White Horse Stone — resting place of Horsa, one of the first Saxon chieftains to set foot in Britannia.

Stubba was a warrior, a student of our Folk's history, an author, and a pioneer of our ancestral faith. He was part of the tip of the spear in leading the British Folk in reforging their loyalty to the Æsir, and the Asatru Folk Assembly will honor him forever!

Hail Stubba!

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Holiday

Nornanótt | April 30th (Observed April 19th)



Nornanótt (Hexennacht)

When the ground was thawed and the colder weather was beginning to give way, it became necessary to move the cattle from the winter fields to the summer ones. Nornanótt, traditionally, was a festival celebrating this very thing. The main focus of the holiday was the bonfire. The men would all gather and build the large need-fire. They would then walk the cattle through the smoke to bless them before rehoming them for the warm months. Often the men would call on Freyr during Nornanótt, asking for fertility and abundance.

While the men were off blessing the cattle, the women gathered together for their own festivities. They had their own bonfires, and it was during this time that the women often burned herbs and practiced their local magic or Seiðr. As the men called on Freyr, the woman would often call on Freyja.

After the separate celebrations, men and women would come together and continue the festivities.

We in the AFA celebrate this day as Nornanótt instead of the more common “Walpurgisnacht.” Walpurgisnacht is named such because it is the night before the Christian feast day honoring Saint Walpurga, who was credited with healing and repelling witches—certainly not something for our Folk to celebrate.

Men and women celebrating separately and then coming together are one of the main features of Nornanótt, as well as the bonfire. A good way to celebrate the holiday might include the men building the bonfire while the women practice communal Seiðr. When they are finished, the men and woman can join together around the bonfire. The women can throw herbs into the fire, and, asking for the blessings of Freyr and Freyja, the men, women, and children can each take turns walking through the smoke.

Hail Freyr!

Hail Freyja!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Upcoming National Events

Midsummer at Óðinshof | June 27th – 29th



Tickets at [Runestone.org/Store!](https://runestone.org/Store!)

Come and tread the hallowed Hall of the High One! Come celebrate Midsummer at Óðinshof from June 27th-29th!

Midsummer is the premier event of the year at Óðinshof! We have pulled out all the stops this year to bring you great speakers! Bountiful feasts! And as always, you can expect to feel the very heartbeat of the Asatru Folk Assembly when you walk the grounds, step inside the ritual circle of and enter the Hall of Óðinn! There is no better place to gather with your Folk and celebrate Midsummer this year! Come home to the heart of the Asatru Folk Assembly for a Midsummer you won't forget!

Don't wait! Get registered today!

Members, take advantage of our Early Bird Special! Don't wait and have to pay more at the door!

You're invited to Midsummer, Óðinshof's signature event of the year! Please join your Folk from across all the districts as we celebrate and honor our Gods and Goddesses at the very First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly. This weekend will be a summer "spiritual retreat" for all our Folk coming from near and far. It will be filled with inspirational rituals, scrumptious and hearty meals, healing music, warm sunshine, laughter, motivating conversations, and fun activities for all ages!

- Camping onsite at Óðinshof is free and includes the use of outdoor hot showers.
 - Additional lodging options in the greater Brownsville area also be available.
- Guests (non-members) must be approved prior to the event.
 - Please contact any of the Folkbuilders in advance to assist with this process.



Since 2016, AFA leaders and members have come to Midsummer at Óðinshof for three days of spiritual enlightenment and personal interaction. We offer the same thing to you this year with rituals and ceremonies, insightful talks, outdoor fun and games, children's activities for all ages, live music, and much more. A highlight is the annual auction to fund our Óðinshof renovations. Vendors are welcome as well.

As an AFA national event, this is our main fundraiser of the year. Your ticket guarantees delicious meals and the option to camp for free. Our spacious piece of land has camping sites with showers, plus room for RVs and trailers.

This is Year 30 since the AFA received official religious-status in California, and ten years since we purchased this fine old building. As much as anything, it will be a time to celebrate this milestone – First Hof in 1000 years! Every event is unique, but 2025 will be remembered forever!

We make every effort to keep this affordable with ticket prices the same as 2024!

<https://store.runestone.org/product/midsummer-at-odinshof/>

Send us your questions. We can help you with lodging options and transportation to-and-from the regional airports. Would you like to have a special family-rite performed such as a wedding or baby-naming? Reach out to me or any of our local Folkbuilders.

Óðinshof, 8408 La Porte Road (PO Box 124), Brownsville, CA 95919

Tickets at [Runestone.org/Store!](https://store.runestone.org/)



Gyðja Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org

Winter Nights XIV | October 10th – 12th



Tickets at [Runestone.org/Store!](https://runestone.org/store/)

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

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

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

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

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

Things to know:

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

Member Family – Weekend: \$135

Member – Weekend: \$90

Member – Day pass: \$45

Guest – Weekend: \$120

Guest – Day pass: \$60

Child – Weekend: Free

Child – Day pass: Free

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

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

Tickets at [Runestone.org/Store](https://runestone.org/Store)!



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Ostara - A Recap



Coming Home | Ostara 2025
<https://youtu.be/QkXpKz2jq1U>

What many of you don't know, but the folks at Þórshof do know, is that Ostara begins immediately following our Jól celebration. That's when the fliers get made, we set the ticket prices, the Hof gets an extra hard scrub down. Decorations are bought and packed away, the grounds get extra attention. This year was no different. It all began in January at Þorrablót.

Craig and Jen did their part, Matt and Nadine, Myself and Heather, and the Herul Family. Folkbuilders Rice, Bethea, and Shotwell begin their campaign of sending links, text messages, and emails.

Ostara began like most National Events do, with leadership night on Thursday. We held a leadership Sumbl, and fellowshiped before the event kicked off on Friday. Allsherjargoði Flavel, Witan members Cliff Erickson, Herul, myself, and Lawspeaker Allen Turnage along with Gyðja Catie and Folkbuilders from across the country gathered in fellowship



Friday started off with Welcoming the Æsir performed by Goðar Student Nick Rice. This begins the meta ritual of the weekend. This is where we leave the mundane behind and keep our minds and eyes in the spiritual. We next gathered in Rumph Hall, our fellowship hall for a discussion on not only the holiday but also the Goddess Ostara. This was led by Goðar Student Mike Mellilo of Ohio. Mike has been involved in Ásatrú for decades and his experience and wisdom was on full display during this discussion. We then had a beef stroganoff supper prepared by Gyðia Catie Erickson (one that was specially requested by yours truly).

Next up was Þórr Blót performed by our Allsherjargoði, Matthew Flavel. If you have not experienced a Blót by the High Priest, you are missing out. With every “Hail Þórr!” the rafters of the Temple of Þórr rattled with the over 80 voices of the assembled Folk. It is my hope the Thunderer was pleased with our offerings. After we all caught our breath, we gathered in the Vé for a discussion on Gimlé and creating a better future for our children in Troth with our Gods. Friday night finished with an awesome recital of

the creation story with Goði Bodi Mayo. Bodi is an incredibly gifted speaker and storyteller and that was on full display.



Saturday began with Greeting the Dawn with Witan Svan. We greeted Ostara as she made her way from the East, revealing herself with her warm embrace. After this, Ceremonies of the Folk began. I was given the distinct honor to perform a baby naming for Steorra Bethea, daughter of Tyler and Emily Bethea of North Carolina. This is my favorite rite as a Goði of the Asatru Folk Assembly. Gilbert Page was then Oathed as a member of Rig's Blood Kindred. Following that, the Allsherjargoði bestowed the Folkbuilder Excellence Award to Tyler Bethea of North Carolina. Tyler has been an exceptional Folkbuilder for the AFA since he started in 2022. Tyler is a dear friend of mine as well, so this meant a great deal to me personally. Folkbuilder Nick Gunn of Óðinshof District was Oathed as a full Folkbuilder. Nick, despite flying in from Washington, was a tremendous help at Ostara, showing why he is a star out west.

Next up, two new Goðar were ordained. Jonathan Rock of Indiana, and Heather Young of South Carolina. Jon is a tremendous example of what we are about in the AFA. Always quick with a joke, Jon is also a very pious man and a dear friend to all of us. Heather (yes, I am biased) is the example of what a Friðweaver should be in Ásatrú. Heather is a motherly person, so quick to give of herself without asking for anything in return. Seeing her take her Ordination Oath meant as much to me as when I took my own.

We then had our Ostara Egg Hunt. Children from all across the AFA participated, and hearing them laugh and play was awesome.

Now it was the Main Event. Ostara Blót. We gave Gifts to the Goddess of the Dawn, in Blót, performed by Witan Clifford Erickson of Pennsylvania. The Galdr session reverberated throughout the Hof in a powerful and beautiful way. The acoustics of Þórshof are quite striking. After the ceremony in the Hof, we processed outside to our offering tree. We poured out our Gifts and celebrated the coming of Spring. Cliff did an amazing job. Flowers blooming, bees buzzing.... Ostara is indeed shining her light upon us down in Dixie.

After a supper of cottage pie prepared by Gyðia Young and the Camerons, we held our auction, led by Goði Jon Rock. Goði Jon's charisma was on full display as we laughed our way to a record-breaking auction, where we raised over \$8,000 for Þórshof! The generous donations made will help us in a major way in 2025! We'd like to thank all who donated items, and those who bid their hard-earned resources. We cannot thank you enough!

We held Sumbl in the Vé after auction. We thanked and hailed our Gods, Ancestors and Heroes. During round 3, two gentlemen performed songs of devotion that were given a standing ovation. We need more of this. Music has played an important part of worship since the dawn of our race. If you are a musician, and would like to contribute to what we do, please reach out to us!



Ostara '25, a dawn celebration
<https://www.youtube.be/JOFRZOhx058>

I'd be remiss to not mention the generosity of members of the Odinic Order, who gave gifts to the Hof and our Allsherjargoði during Sumbl, including a \$1000 endowment. Thank you, Tyler Heinlein, Tyler Bethea and their brothers for their contributions to making this event a success.

Sunday.... Time to say goodbye. Folkbuilder of the Year and Goðar Student Tyler Bethea performed Wayfarer's Blót before we departed. Blessed with safe travel, we all made our way back home. During this event, Heather and I usually transport Allsherjargoði to and from the airport, and the conversation on the way back was all about how amazing this event had gone.

Thank you to each of the 97 AFA members and guests who came out and supported us this year. Next year we hope will be even better. In the meantime, come celebrate Hexennacht at the Hof with us in April.

Hail Ostara

Hail Þórr

Hail the AFA



Witan Daniel Young

dyoung@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.

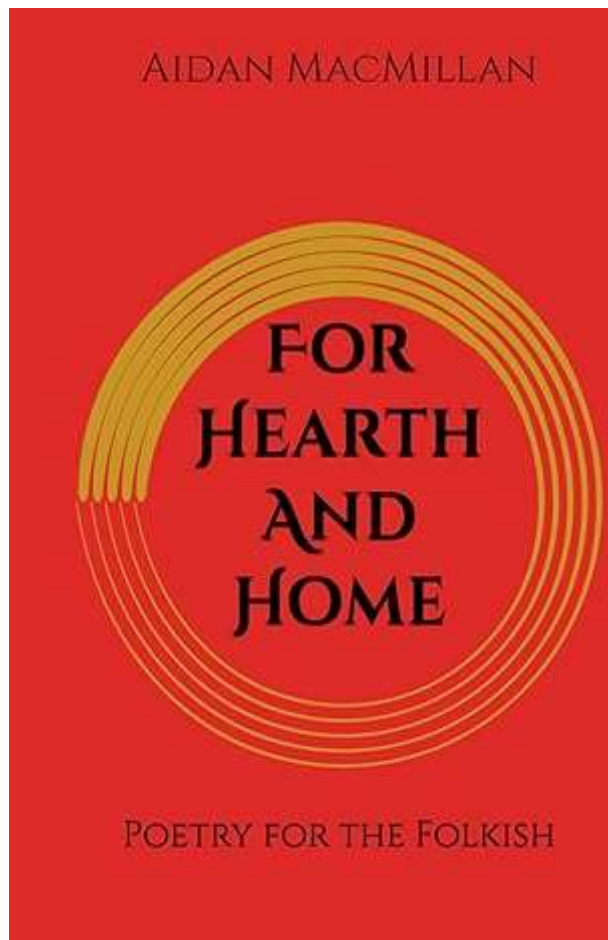
If you have a loved one who is incarcerated or know of someone who is Folkish and will benefit from this ministry, please contact us at prisonministry@runestone.org.



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.

Artisans of the AFA
Support Our Folk

For Hearth And Home: Poetry For The Folkish by Apprentice Aidan McMillan



Get a copy here > <https://a.co/d/5vDjmUe>

Folkish Europeans often lack artistic outlets and expressions in the modern world. This book is a humble addition to the great legacy of European art and literature.

Poetry is an act of expression that draws from the deepest well-springs of memory and experience. Europe and America have rich tapestries of memory and experience to pull inspiration from, so pull up a log, sit by the fire, and read modern lays about ancient days.



Aidan McMillan
Apprentice Folkbuilder
amcmillan@runestone.org

Ancestral Food and Culture

Feasting with Folk



Amber's Sausage Potato Soup



This month's recipe comes from the wonderful District of Baldrshof! Amber Phillips has sent in a plethora of recipes that will be sprinkled throughout our cookbook! This month, we are showcasing her "Sausage Potato Soup" recipe to fit one more warm hearty meal in before we start making our way into the warm spring and summer

months. Plus, its fast and simple! What more could you ask for?

Ingredients:

- 1 package smoked sausage sliced
- 7 cups beef stock
- 5 cubed red potatoes
- 1 tsp pepper
- 1 med sliced onion
- ½ tsp savory
- 4 ribs chopped celery
- Bag frozen peas
- 1 tsp salt

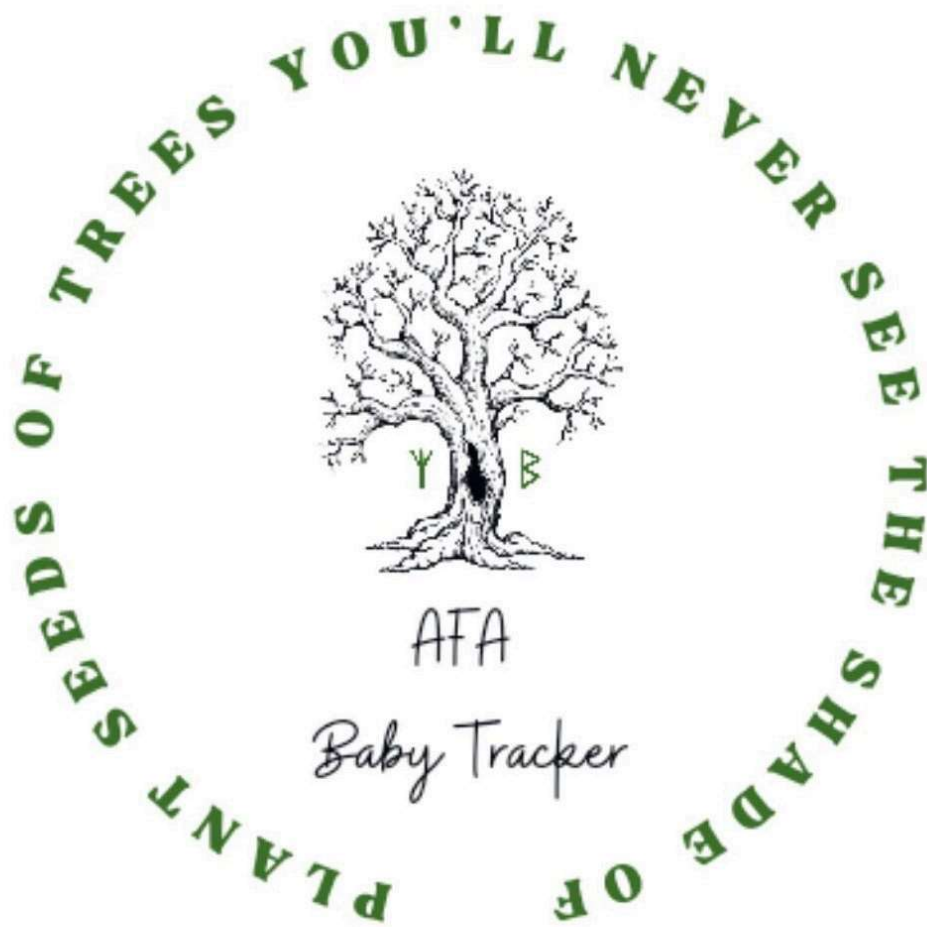
Instructions:

Cook sausage, onion, salt, and pepper until brown. Add stock and bring to boil. Add potatoes and simmer about 20 minutes. Add peas and simmer for about 10 minutes or until hot.



Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman
schapman@runestone.org

Baby Tracker



To show the growth of our Folk we present to you an ongoing baby tracker. We have been keeping track of how many children have been and are born within the AFA from 2022 and onwards. The ongoing tracking is proof that we are building something sustainable for the future of our Folk, which is a place for these children to grow up within and a place where they can feel proud of who they are!

Total babies born in 2025: 7

Online Gatherings

VIRTUE RECOVERY MEETING



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

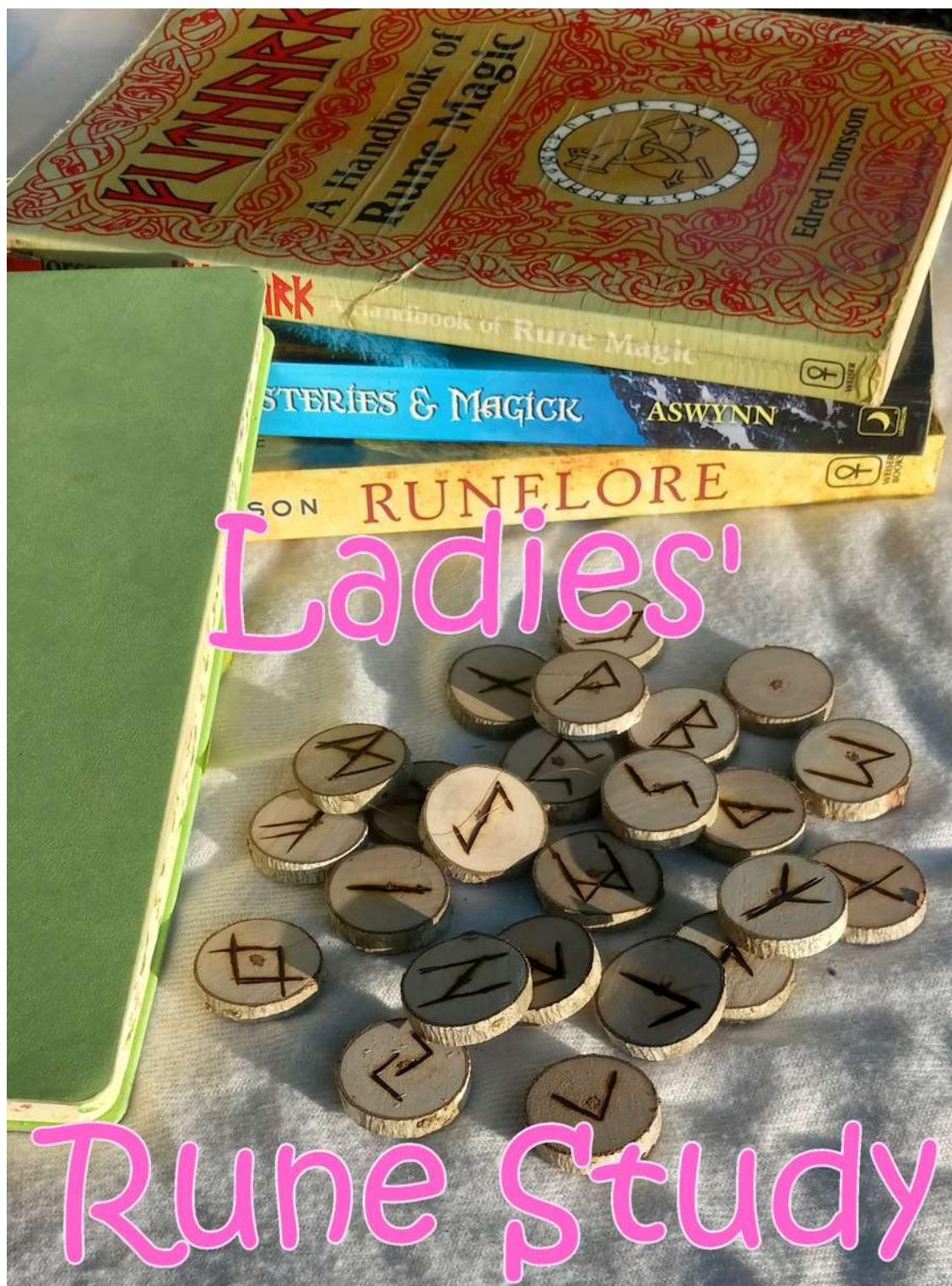
Being our most virtuous selves is not always the easiest task. As a community, we are home to many that have or are currently, struggling with addiction. Many traditional 12 step meeting, though so very respected, do not fall in line with what we as a people believe. Specifically, any step pertaining 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 Erlandson with any and all questions! aerlandson@runestone.org

SISTERS SUNDAY CHATS



Second and fourth Sunday of the month
10 am central

FOR MORE INFO: BFASSETT@RUNESTONE.ORG



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**

McNallens Pub

Virtual Meeting

Saturday, April 26

6:00 PT, 7:00 MT, 8:00 CT, 9:00 ET

DISCUSSION:

**Tales & Tips For Doing
Family Research**

OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS!

Info: sheila@runestone.org



TOPICS:

Witchy Women; Rites of Spring

ELDRI MEETINGS

Tuesdays:

5:00 PT, 6:00 MT,

7:00 CT, 8:00 ET

April 8

April 22

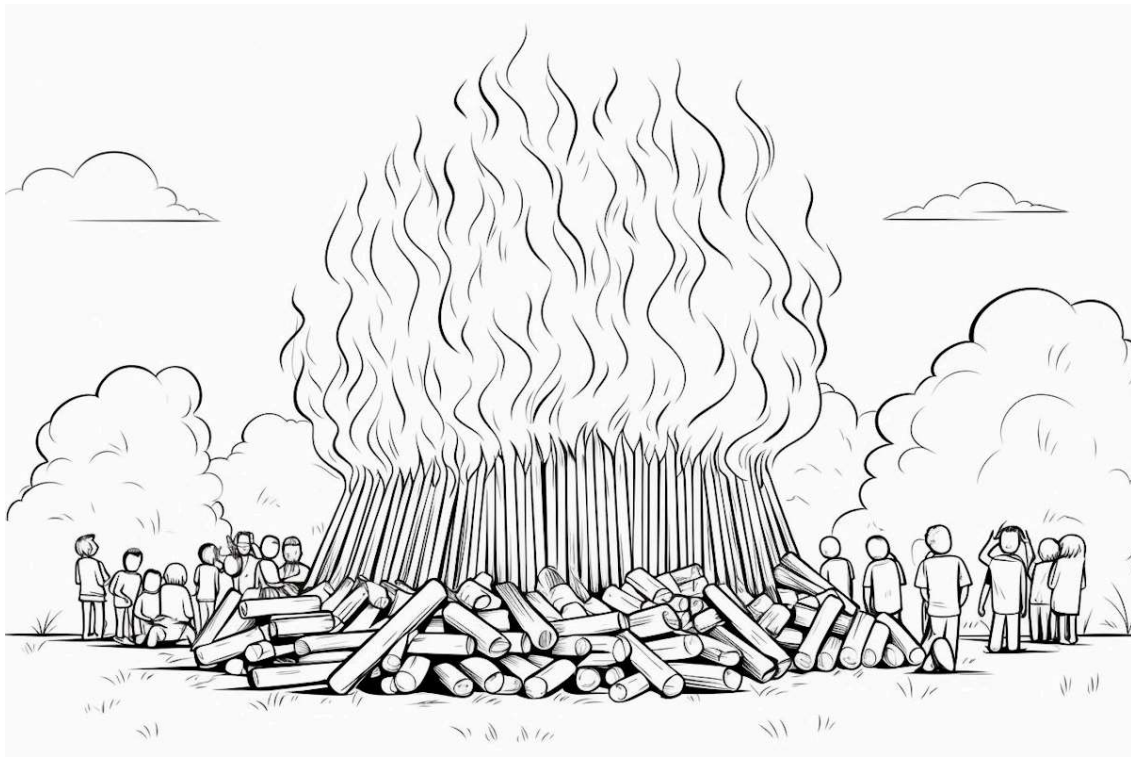
FOR OUR AFA FAMILY, AGES 50 + OVER

Hosted Gyöja McNallen
sheila@runestone.org





Just For Fun



Feel free to send completed puzzles to press@runestone.org for a shout-out in the next issue!

Sister's Egg Project

SISTER EGG PROJECT



It is time once again to begin our Sister's Egg group exercise and practice. We encourage all our AFA ladies to participate. Bringing women home to the AFA is the focus of this exercise and project.

Step 1: Hollow out an egg. Small hole in the top, larger hole in the bottom. Blow out the inside of the egg. Rinse out well and let dry.

Step 2: Decorate the egg with imagery you associate with the AFA and our sisters. This can be as simple or as intricate as you choose. Galdr, chant, or sing a rune or sequence

of runes as you do this. The Folk Kom Hem chant would also be appropriate.

Step 3: Write the goal you wish to manifest in this case, "Sisters, come home" on to a piece of paper that you can roll up and place inside the egg. Meditate with this intention in your hands, see your sister's coming home to the AFA. When done, roll up and place inside the egg.

Step 4: Fill this egg with herbs, flowers, or other things you feel appropriate. I will be using dried roses, crushed pine incense, rosemary, and lavender. Use what works well for you!

Step 5: Seal the egg. Using glue and small piece of cardstock, cardboard, or even a coin, seal up the bottom of the egg.

Step 6: Create a sacred "nest" or designated place on your Altar for this work.

Step 7: Each day, hold the egg (or the nest if you choose to do several) and sit with this work. Focus your energy and will on the success of each goal. See the process of it happening to successful completion.

Step 8: During your May Day celebration, crack open this egg and offer it to the ritual fire (bury in offering space if fire option is not available). Release your intention and will that you have grown and nurtured into Midgard.

Our start date to officially do this as a group is March 9th and the "hatching" of our sisters' egg will be May 1st. No worries if you haven't started yet. There is still time to join in with your sisters anytime before May 1st. Please post pictures of your eggs in the Ladies Group on MeWe or send to sault@runestone.org.



Folkbuilder Sara Ault

sault@runestone.org

AFA Walk-a-thon



Get ready to move for the AFA Walk-A-Thon!

Lace up your boots, grab your pedometers or smartwatches, and let's get stepping! For a \$25 donation to the AFA Fund with the note "Walk-A-Thon," you'll be entered to represent your district in a friendly, fitness-focused challenge!

https://store.runestone.org/product/general_fund/

Which Hof will rise to the top? The district with the most steps or miles walked will win the pot added to their general fund. We'll use a simple conversion: 2,000 steps = 1 mile.

To participate:

- Walk throughout April
- On April 30th by 11:30 PM PST, post a screenshot of your step total

The winning Hof will be announced on Victory Never Sleeps, May 7th.

Let's get out there, get active, and show our pride, one step at a time.

Ready? Set. Go!

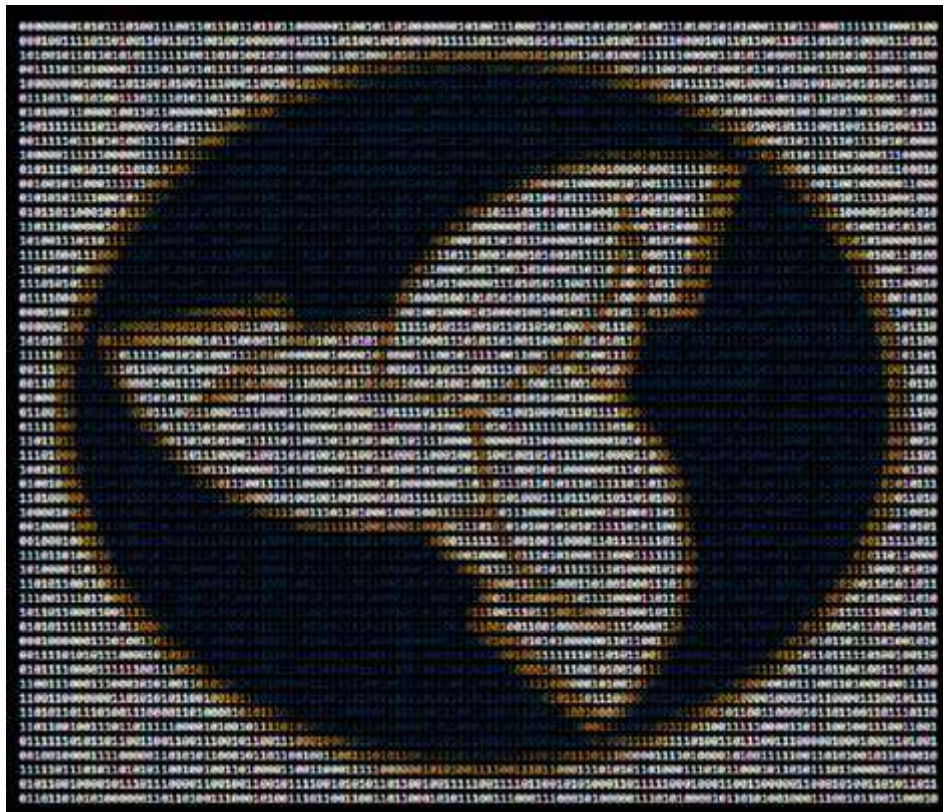


Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman

schapman@runestone.org

AFA Stemcells

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



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

The goal of STEMCELS is to help AFA members learn the skills needed for technical positions and help them find gainful employment using our professional network.

We currently have mentors in General Software Engineering, Data Engineering, and Embedded Engineering, including some with Silicon Valley experience. We will be holding an information session to help you decide if any of these disciplines are right for you. The session will include:

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

If this interests you or if you're interested in becoming a mentor, please send an email to stemcels@runestone.org. We will announce the date of the information session soon!



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Calling All Folk Photographers





Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

nrice@runestone.org

Baby Blanket Project

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

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



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

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

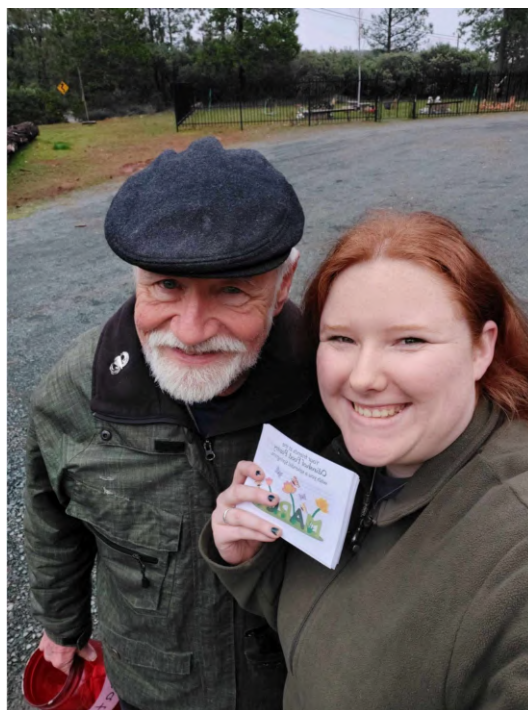
Óðinshof

Food Pantry at Óðinshof



Rain or Shine – the Food Pantry must go on!

The freak snowstorm that hit Brownsville the day before Ostara left no trace by Sunday. In fact, the day was clear and cool -- and we were ready. Tables were quickly set up with bags for sixty families. One of those families was a lady who takes in foster children, making a family of ten!



Our volunteers are one key to our success. This month's dream-team included charming Hanna, a new member who joined Steve in going car-to-car with warm welcomes. This monthly routine ensures that everyone has a personal, and very positive, conversation with one of our Folk.

This month, our steady stream of cars received food for 57 households representing 154 individuals.



Gyöja Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

Austra at Óðinshof



Happy April, Óðinshof Folk!

What a wonderful Austra celebration we had last month! Truly a snow-touched springtime celebration. The energy was fantastic, the company even better, and even though folks had to navigate some unexpected spring snow, it felt as though the conquering Goddess of the Dawn herself was radiating joyful warmth upon us all day. Hail Austra! Gyðja McNallen started the morning with a beautiful Greeting to the Day, incorporating Victory-bringing words from Sigrdrífumál. Introductions were made, coffee and pastries were shared, and folk settled in for a day of Frith and fellowship.

THE EASTER FIRE

Across the heath I walked, the heath so wide and vast,
And solitude whispered sullen words in my ear,

I whispered of times dead and gone, when the aurochs still roamed,
When eagles circled high in the sky above the marsh,
When the wolf, the fierce one, left death runes in the sand,
When the elk, the strong one, was still felled by the hunter's hand.

Before foreign ways turned good into evil,
And noble Wodan and Frigga were yet highly honored;
When manly courage, and not just worldly wealth, held sway,
When the hero maintained his right with drawn sword;
Not with cowardly words and cheap oaths;
This the deathlike solitude secretly taught me.

Our Gods were once called love and power,
Power to procreate, love to make pleasure bloom.

Our law was terse, our law was this:
Redeem love with love, and hate with hate.
A loyal hand to every man who proved a friend.
A bloody hand to the wight who approached as an enemy.

Different times passed across the heath,
Wodan's sacred woods fell prey to the treacherous axe;
Frigga, the loving lady, was turned into a witch,
Every holy stead dishonored as a loathsome site.

Wodan's noble raven was called now the gallows' bird,
Frigga's roguish little owl insulted as a savage corpse's hen;
And thirteen, that sacred number of secrets
Was at once a number of misfortune and fear.

Among the oaks stood a single thatched-roof house,
From the mossy gable, horses stretched their necks;
Beneath it a heart-shaped opening was cut for the owls,
In keeping with a friendly age-old custom.

On the grey door, the sacred circle was displayed,
carved and colored as in the days of old.
And the good sun-rune right beside,
Just like the forefather's earnest, unyielding ways would have it.

On either side of the black wall of the hearth
Wodan's battle horse boldly reared up:
As if it wished to whinny to me with all its strength:
Even now I carry Wodan still, my friend, and you still trust Frigga.

I walked on further across the twilight land,
Behind which the sun sank down, round and red.
On the other side across the brownish march
A glowing red flame rose toward a starless sky.

The white smoke billowed up before the pitch-black forest,
Until it slowly disappeared in the evening clouds,
And I stood and stayed, gazing at the fire's glow
And listened to the girls' cheering and the young boys' shrill shouts,
And I laughed and thought:
Despite it all, the joyful ways of our ancestors
Have been kept alive by my people.

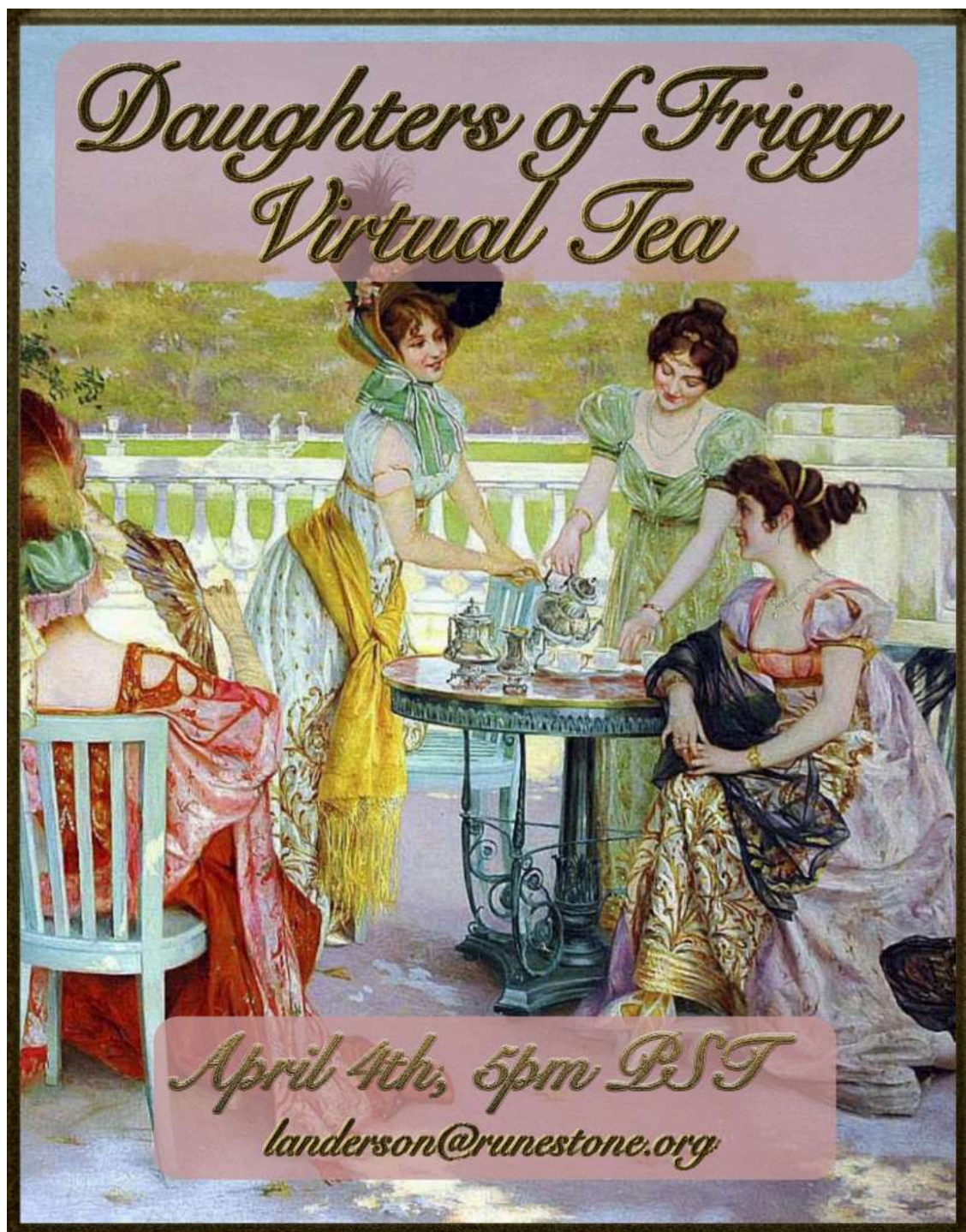
Still they honor their Gods in the beautiful way of their forefathers,
With glowing embers and white swirling smoke.
Still it remains as it was in ancient times,
Blue of eyes and mind, light in heart and hair.
They have kept their bodies and spirits yet strong,
Still healthy are their limbs, their blood and marrow.

Across the heath I walked, the heath so wide and vast,
And solitude whispered joyful words in my ear.

Ostara in the South 2021
Pórhof, Linden, NC

"Easter Fire" by Hermann Löns, 1866-1914

While the planned presentation by Gyðja McNallen on writers Jack London and Hermann Löns had to be postponed due to the snow interfering with the Starlink, you can still join us at the Jack London State Park Moot on April 13th in Glen Ellen, CA and learn all about him! Please contact Gyðja McNallen for more details, this is sure to be a memorable day.



Before lunch, Gyðja McNallen shared some thoughtful insights on Volunteerism with the folk gathered, as well as important updates from our district. I also had the pleasure of speaking briefly about our upcoming Nornanótt holy tide (Hexennacht), and reflected on the guided 'Austra's Garden' meditation we shared during the recent Daughters of Frigg Virtual Tea. Our virtual meetings are on the first Friday of every month at 5 PST, I hope you can join us! The link and more details can be found in our Daughters of Frigg MeWe group, and please feel free to contact me for more information.



Thank you to Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman for prepping our kitchen for success the day before, and to all our amazing kitchen helpers throughout the day. Lunch was delicious as always, featuring bratwursts, hot dogs, salads and chips. Gyðja McNallen made some wonderful spiced hot mulled wine. We all enjoyed the beautiful new kitchen floors, thanks to the hardworking volunteers from our recent work weekends. Hail our industrious brothers and sisters! If you would like to help beautify our temple to Lord Óðinn, please contact Hof Steward and Apprentice Folkbuilder Daniel Odom.



In the afternoon, Folk gathered together outside for a holy Blót in honor of Ostara. Gyðja McNallen led us in a beautiful ceremony, and as is our custom, the women called the Folk home. At this powerful time of year, as we move from Winter to Spring/Summer, we celebrate the triumph of light, life and fertility over dark, death and stagnation. The snow-kissed air was chilly, but our hearts and spirits were full of warmth and hope as we gathered around the roaring fire, truly embodying the victory we seek to celebrate.



Throughout the day, there was plenty of cheerful socializing, adventures, and delightful crafts for the kids. It is always such a joy to see all the children of our folk building the bonds with each other that will last far into the future. Womenfolk and menfolk gathered separately for some afternoon activities and socializing. During the Ladies Tea, we had great fun in the kitchen dyeing eggs using natural ingredients like blueberries, beets, yellow onion skins, turmeric, and purple cabbage. They turned out great! The Men's Team, guided by Founder McNallen, enjoyed words of wisdom and meaningful conversation about the importance of morning rituals, taking action, and the insights from the recommended book, *The Telomere Effect*.



The afternoon was filled with joy, laughter, and excitement as the children enjoyed story time, playing, an egg hunt, and a special appearance from the Ostara Bunny! We captured the joy of our gathering in a group photo, and then moved on to a very memorable candlelit rite of Sumbl in the dining hall. We had decided to hold Sumbl before dinner instead of later in the evening, because it would allow some Folk to participate who usually are not able to, because they need to start their trip back home after dinner.

Dinner was a celebration of seasonal abundance in itself, featuring corned beef and cabbage, macaroni and cheese, baked chicken, an assortment of salads, and, of course, the colorful eggs we dyed earlier in the day. The festivities were accompanied with beautiful music from our talented brother Paul, and we celebrated a special birthday with cupcakes for Aeric Odom after dinner. Later, we held a lively auction to raise needed funds for our Hof, and gathered together for the Food Pantry bagging, embodying our faith community's spirit of generosity and care



A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the day run smoothly—from setup to cleanup and all the countless acts of kindness in between. Your contributions truly make our gatherings successful and joyful. This Austrar celebration was a beautiful reminder of life's cycles, the power of renewal, and the strength of our faith community. Let's carry this vibrant springtime energy forward, nurturing our growth and supporting one another along the way. We are all looking forward to Nórnannott and hope to see you there!

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



Lauren Anderson

landerson@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Odinshof

Óðinshof





HEXENNACHT at Óðinshof

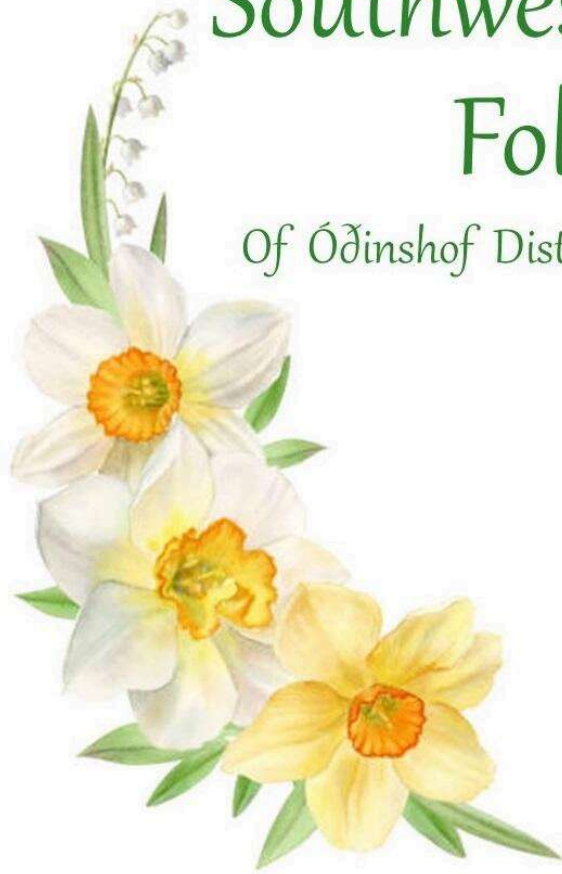
April 19th

Please RSVP! Gyðja McNallen - sheila@runestone.org

Monthly Virtual Members' Meetings

Southwest Folk

Of Óðinshof District



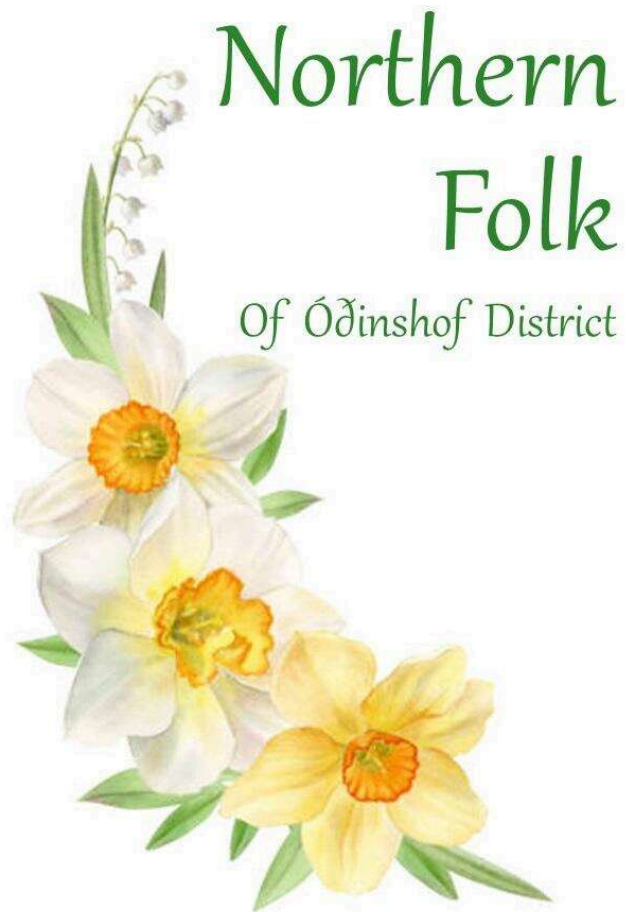
VIRTUAL MEETING

**Monday,
April 14th
6:00 PT, 7:00 MT**

**We invite all
members in ...**

**AZ, NM, CO, HI,
SoCal, Oceania**

**Hosted by :
Gyðja Sheila McNallen
Folkbuilder
Erin Harrison**



Northern Folk

Of Óðinshof District

VIRTUAL MEETING

**Thursday,
April 17th
6:00 PT, 7:00 MT**

**We invite all
members in the
northern latitudes.**

Hosted by :
Gyðja Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

*Request our regular
Teams link*

ÓÐINSHOF MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

GODI EDITION

M
A
Y
D
A
Y



SPEAKERS:
GODI ROCK:
LORD FREYR
GODI
ERLANDSON:
MAY DAY
WITH
SPECIAL
QUEST:
FOUNDER
MCNALLEN

APRIL 25TH 7PM PST
6:30 PM “HANG OUT”

Óðinshof Wish List



Wish List
FOR ODINSHOF

CLICK TO SEND ODINSHOF
SOME WISHES!

Óðinshof Member Ritual Requests

Member Ritual Requests



Baby Namings (Ausa Vatni), Coming of Age Rites, Wedding Ceremonies, Vow Renewals, and Óðinshof Cemetery Funerals are special rituals that our members may request to have conducted at Óðinshof!

How to Submit a Request?

Please email all relevant information (your name(s), ritual type, requested Gothar, proposed date for ritual, etc.) to Folkbuilder Olivia Sutherland osutherland@runestone.org.

Each request will be evaluated, and we will follow up with you about accommodating your request.

Thank You,

Olivia

Olivia Sutherland

Folkbuilder

osutherland@runestone.org

Óðinshof Leadership



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: Olivia Sutherland or Sheila McNallen

Arizona

Upcoming Events Events

GERMAN LUNCH MOOT



Phoenix, AZ

For more info: schapman@runestone.org

MINI TRAIN RIDE MOOT

YUMA, AZ APRIL 13TH 10 AM



RSVP:

SCHAPMAN@RUNESTONE.ORG

Australia

Upcoming Events



California

March Óðinshof Work Weekend



The arrival of spring brought not just the turning of the seasons but a renewed dedication to maintaining and improving our holy stead. Over the course of the March Óðinshof Work Weekend, a solid group of Folk came together to put in the hard work necessary to keep our Hof and its grounds in excellent condition.



From the moment hands met tools, the transformation began. We raked and burned mountains of brush and pine needles, clearing the land and ensuring that the Hof remained well-kept and fire-safe. Stacks of wood were neatly piled for future use, ensuring warmth and purpose for seasons to come. The old fire pit was carefully disassembled and repurposed into a raised flower bed that will now bring new life and color to the grounds. Tulips and other flowers were planted in the Goddess Pole area, bringing beauty and reverence to the sacred space.



Thorgrun's Grove and the cemetery received much-needed clearing and cleaning, honoring those who have passed and ensuring the land remains a place of respect and remembrance. Structural improvements were also a key focus as we pulled the side of the shed off, installed a window, and prepped it for painting.



In the midst of our efforts, we paused to honor the divine. A midday Nerðus Blót was led by Gythia McNallen, grounding us in the sacred and reminding us of the blessings that come with caring for the land and each other.



In a significant step forward for connectivity, an upgraded Starlink satellite system was installed, greatly improving communication at the Hof, an invaluable addition given the area's typically poor signal. Inside, the kitchen and common areas were thoroughly cleaned and organized, ensuring that the heart of our gathering place remains warm and welcoming for all who visit.



Hard work was well rewarded as we shared a tri-tip and vegetable dinner, enjoying the fruits of our labor together as a folk. The weekend was a resounding success. The work was hard, but the camaraderie, purpose, and devotion made it more than worthwhile. With every improvement, we not only strengthened our Hof but deepened our bonds as

a Folk. There is no doubt that when we work together with determination and purpose, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

Upcoming Events

A poster for the Guardian Trail Hike. The background is a dark green textured surface. At the top, the title "GUARDIAN TRAIL HIKE" is written in a white, hand-drawn, all-caps font. Below the title is a central image of a window with light-colored wooden shutters. The window looks out onto a landscape with a blue sky, a distant mountain peak, and purple flowers in the foreground. Overlaid on the window image is the text "(4.5mi, 800ft climb, 3 hours)" in a cursive font at the top, and "APRIL 12TH" in a large, white, hand-drawn, all-caps font in the center. Below the window, the text "NEAR CHICO, CA" and "RSVP REQUIRED" is written in a white, hand-drawn, all-caps font on the left, and the email address "RSKINNER@RUNESTONE.ORG" is written in the same font on the right.

GUARDIAN TRAIL HIKE

(4.5mi, 800ft climb, 3 hours)

APRIL 12TH

NEAR CHICO, CA
RSVP REQUIRED

RSKINNER@RUNESTONE.ORG

Lost Coast Moot

June 8th - 11th

Challenge yourself on the legendary Lost Coast Trail!
Join us on a 4-day hike along the rugged coastline.
This trek is not for the faint-hearted, but if you're ready to
push your limits and walk alongside like-minded folk,
this is your opportunity.

Day 1: Mattole Beach to Randall Creek (8.5 miles)

Day 2: Randall Creek to Big Flat (8.1 miles)

Day 3: Big Flat to Black Sands Beach (8.5 miles)

Day 4: Shelter Cove Recovery

I'll be hiking alongside my wife.

If you're up for the challenge and camaraderie, reach out!

Contact: RSKINNER@RUNESTONE.ORG

Bring your strength, your resolve, and your spirit.
Victory Never Sleeps!



Folkbuilder Ryan Skinner

rskinner@runestone.org

Rock Painting Moot



This month I was supposed to host a rock painting moot here in California, but unfortunately when I had planned it, everything was set to work out, but at the last minute my son's T-ball team decided that they were going to permanently change the time of their games. The gracious host of where we were going to host the Moot at let me change the time to accommodate this SNAFU and all my attendees were awesome and also agreed to the time change. The day rolls around and were at T-ball when all of the sudden one of the kids (who I swear will play in the major leagues one day) sent a ball flying and my son caught the ball with his face. Well now we had to take him to urgent care to make sure he is okay. My lovely Óðinshof peeps wasted no time in just picking up without me and carrying on. I stopped by briefly to drop off some supplies and let everyone know how much i appreciate them before rushing back home to attend to my son. The ladies of Óðinshof are so talented and made such beautiful designs. I'm very sad I didn't get to join in and enjoy it with them. But it's okay!

Upcoming Events

Daughters of Frigg Book Club



April 27th 3pm
Hávamál 1-80 Bellows Translation
Schapman@Runestone.org

Next month we are going to have a lady's day full of Frith and fun thrift shopping, maybe attending a bridal expo, then going to dinner and having our Daughters of Frigg book club, where this month, we are focusing on stanzas 1-80 of the Hávamál, Bellows translation. If you are in the northern California area (or just want to make the drive!) reach out to me and I'll give you all the details!



Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman

schapman@runestone.org


Lauren Anderson

landerson@runestone.org



Upcoming Events

Jack London State Park
NEW DATE!
Sunday – April 13, 2025



GLEN ELLEN, CA
Contact Gythia McNallen for information
sheila@runestone.org



Gyðja Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org



Colorado

Colorado Austrá



In the foothills of Pikes Peak region in Colorado, we held an amazing Austrá event. Seven wonderful Folk gathered to celebrate the day.

We painted eggs with runic symbols, and we also drew a rune prior to the Blót for us to contemplate the "seeds" we wanted to sow in our lives. The runes we drew are biodegradable, and we'll be using these same runes to use in next month's event.



After our Blót, we had a delicious feast with homemade foods brought by all. Much merriment was had. We ended the evening with many rounds of Sumbl with mead from one of our local mead-makers and some mead brought from out of state.

Upcoming Events

COLORADO

Nornanótt

APRIL 19, 2025

BAILEY, COLORADO - 3PM

POTLUCK, CRAFTS, BLOT, SUMBEL

RSVP - eharrison@runestone.org



Erin Harrison
Apprentice Folkbuilder
eharrison@runestone.org

Idaho

An Apprentice Introduction





Hi, It's Matthew Gosney, your new Apprentice Folkbuilder here to help guide us through the Ásatrú faith, fellowship, and the occasional existential crisis—because if I can survive a master's in Theoretical Mathematics and Physics, I can probably handle a Moot potluck signup sheet. I spent years in the military, where I learned discipline, strategy, and how to look calm while chaos erupts, then pivoted to researching laboratory medicine before landing as a professional researcher and writer. I'm fueled by pizza—cake's my sworn enemy—and a deep love for this community, where I hope to inspire us all to grow closer to the Æsir, how to choose strength before weakness, and to improve your condiment choices, such as picking Valhalla's favorite: Ranch. Blue Cheese is evil—those of you know whom I'm talking about.

Married to my better half (she reads all my drafts... hint, hint.), I'm also the proud father of three older daughters who keep me on a budget and two younger sons who keep me sprinting. My life's been a wild equation—part soldier, part scientist, part scribe—but helping our community feels like the solution I've been solving for. When I'm not scribbling notes or dodging crackers, I'm all in for building something meaningful with you all. So, grab a slice of pepperoni, not cake (or blue cheese), and let's make this journey a good one—because if I can wrangle five kids and a hatred for dry dessert, I'm pretty sure we've got this.

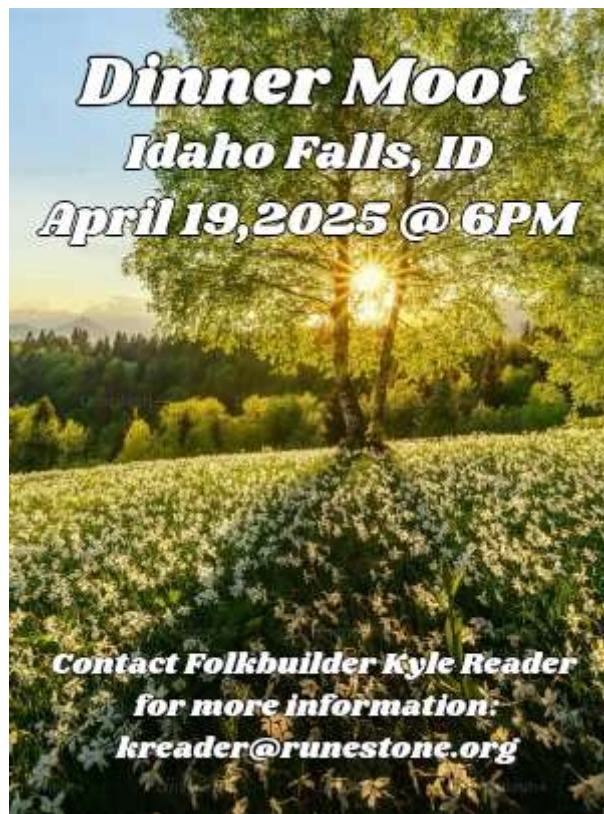
Upcoming Events



Matthew Gosney
Apprentice Folkbuilder
mgosney@runestone.org



Upcoming Events



Our next moot will be at my home on April 19th. I will be cooking up an amazing dinner and ask all who come who would like to bring something to share with the rest of the Folk to please do so. I know we are spread far in this area but don't let that stop you from making the trip here, I promise you won't regret it. it's always a great time, some amazing conversation and all-around great Folk. My home is also open to all who need to stay the night due to the longer distances traveled, and I make some amazing breakfast burritos for a little more incentive. I can't wait to see everyone who is able to make it.



Folkbuilder Kyle Reader
kreader@runestone.org

Montana

Twitterpated



Being the father of two little girls has its advantages. I must be adaptive and keep a critical eye on the world as a result of their constant questions. It means that instead of understanding that boats float, I can teach someone what buoyancy is, how displacement works and more. I've learned that there is so much I don't know because now suddenly I need to know the answers for those girls.



I've come to the realization that if I cannot explain something to young children then I don't actually know it. This has become a razor for me.



The second gift I've received from my daughters is the chance to relearn how to see the world through a child's eye. There is wonder in all things and that wonder doesn't go away. Sure, we may become callous and not see the forest for the trees but that does not stop the world, nor should it. What a sorry place this would be if the office drama or financial woes of an adult could stop the brook from singing or the light from dancing off morning dew.



The world comes in perfect combination of divine order and natural cycles. The wildness of nature follows unbreakable rules that we cannot escape and even in the most brutal expressions of this there is beauty.



While I find beauty in these moments of harsh reality and in the long nights of the deadened winter, I rejoice ever so in the new dawn we experienced with Austra. The ground warms beneath our feet, and the radiant light comes back to Midgard with verve. Admittedly, this process is more pronounced further south of Fólkvangr, but despite our spring snow flurries, we see the change in the air. And that change permits travel.



Leaving my babies at home with their mother always costs me opportunities to watch them grow, a cattle run is no place for toddlers. So, despite their refusal to stop growing, and with the break in weather, I took off down south to pick up cows for Fólkvangr's fields.



During this trip I missed my girls dearly and knew that over the next three thousand miles there would be much they wouldn't see. Upon my return, there would be an expectation that I come bearing tales of my experience and so I strove to see the world around me as it passed by with intention. I allowed myself to see the beauty of the world for what it was, one of the earliest gifts the Æsir gave.



My path for cattle took me less than one hundred miles shy of Þórshof and there I could see friends, family and participate in Austra. The choice was self-evident. I would visit the house of Asa-Þórr.



While waiting for the weekend to arrive, I got to experience the hospitality of the Bethea family once more. It truly was like coming home. I had spent nearly a month on that couch before, with piles of supplies filling the living room that Tyler and I would load up and dole out for the hurricane relief less than six months prior. We had occupied half his house and turned it into a distribution hub, command center and barracks.



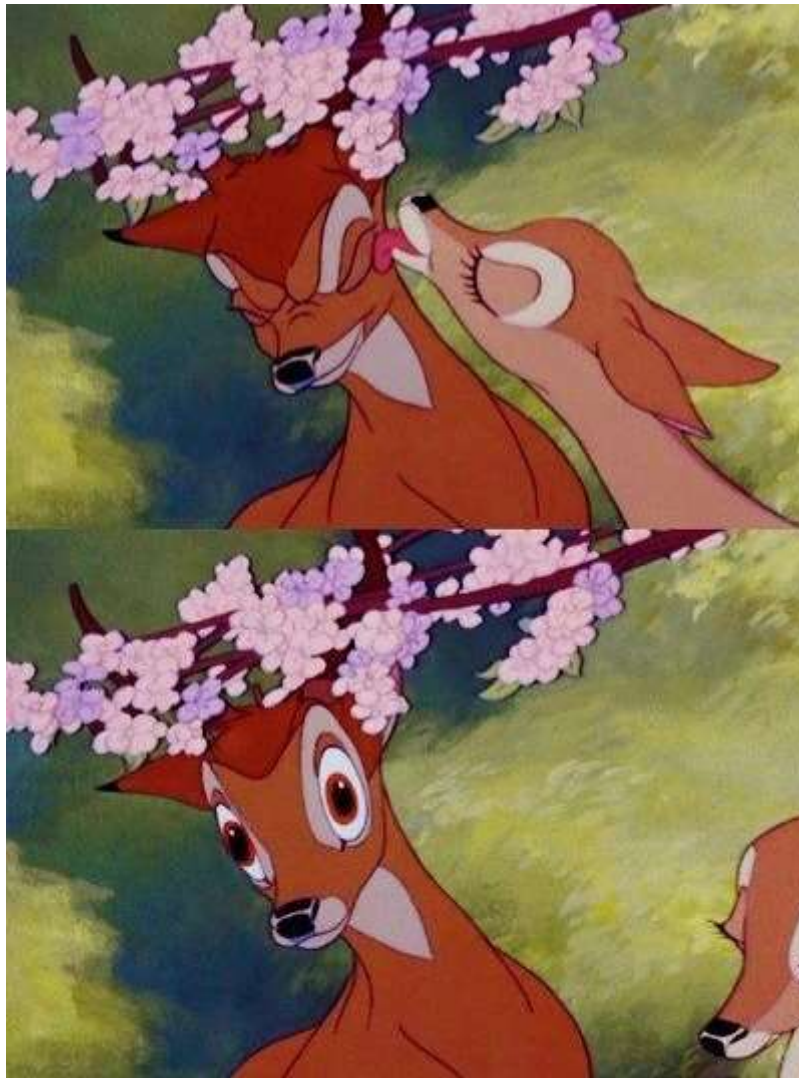
This time around I got to experience his home in a more conventional setting. His boys went to and from school on the bus and the sides of the road did not contain piles of debris and downed trees. Appalachia is still healing and there still isn't the sort of support a decent nation would provide its citizenry, but things are better, and I can see where we made our impact. When my kids asked how "Uncle Buffets" home is, I told them how the oak trees still stand strong just like the people.



Then they asked about the Hof, and I got to explain what it's like. I told them about the land and how cotton Carolina is different than the mountains. I described the road that leads to the Hof. I spoke to them of the woods that stretched behind the fields. I taught them that my first place I go to is the grave of Phillip Bethea to speak to my brother's ancestor. I do this before anything else, even if others have to wait. This is the custom my children will follow. From there I tell my girls of the Hof itself, from how the light fills the Vé, and to how Svan's brushwork brings the Striker's exploits to life.



I tell them how it feels to stand on that aged wood floor, the power the Hof holds, and the strength and love our Gods provide us.



That love was felt that weekend in a very special way. I mentioned earlier that my children provide me great advantage in seeing the world as it truly is. It was because of my desire to share with them some of the memories of my own childhood that we watched Bambi together and in that film, I was provided a child's lense that I could use for Austra. The wise owl in that animated classic explains to the young critters gathered around him about a very important concept he calls being twitterpated. Owl explains what twitterpating is all about and he says, "Yes. Nearly everybody gets twitterpated in the springtime. For example: You're walking along, minding your own business. You're looking neither to the left, nor to the right, when all of a sudden you run smack into a pretty face. Woo-woo! You begin to get weak in the knees. Your head's in a whirl. And then you feel light as a feather, and before you know it, you're walking on air. And then you know what? You're knocked for a loop, and you completely lose your head!"



What a wonderfully accurate way of describing it that most adults have allowed themselves to have forgotten! That springtime love that strikes so quickly was in the air. I could see it amongst infatuated new couples, some forming that weekend. I could see it rekindle in those married couples who've stood together through thick and thin.



Everywhere I went that weekend, I saw the happiness of work shared with loved ones, heard the giggles of young women swooning over their new beaus and small gestures of love from married couples reminding each other that even though the years come and go nothing can shake that feeling they hold for each other.

They were truly twitterpated and why shouldn't they be?

Surrounded by good company and the merriment of a grand gathering on the beautiful

Hof grounds, there is tremendous cause for celebration. The warmth of the event and the love our people share is without compare, and I am so proud to have been able to be there amongst you fine people. Thank you all for letting me bring back the stories of Austrá to my girls and the opportunity to delight in the sight of twitterpated love. Hail Austrá!

Upcoming Events

FÓLKVANGR GATHERS



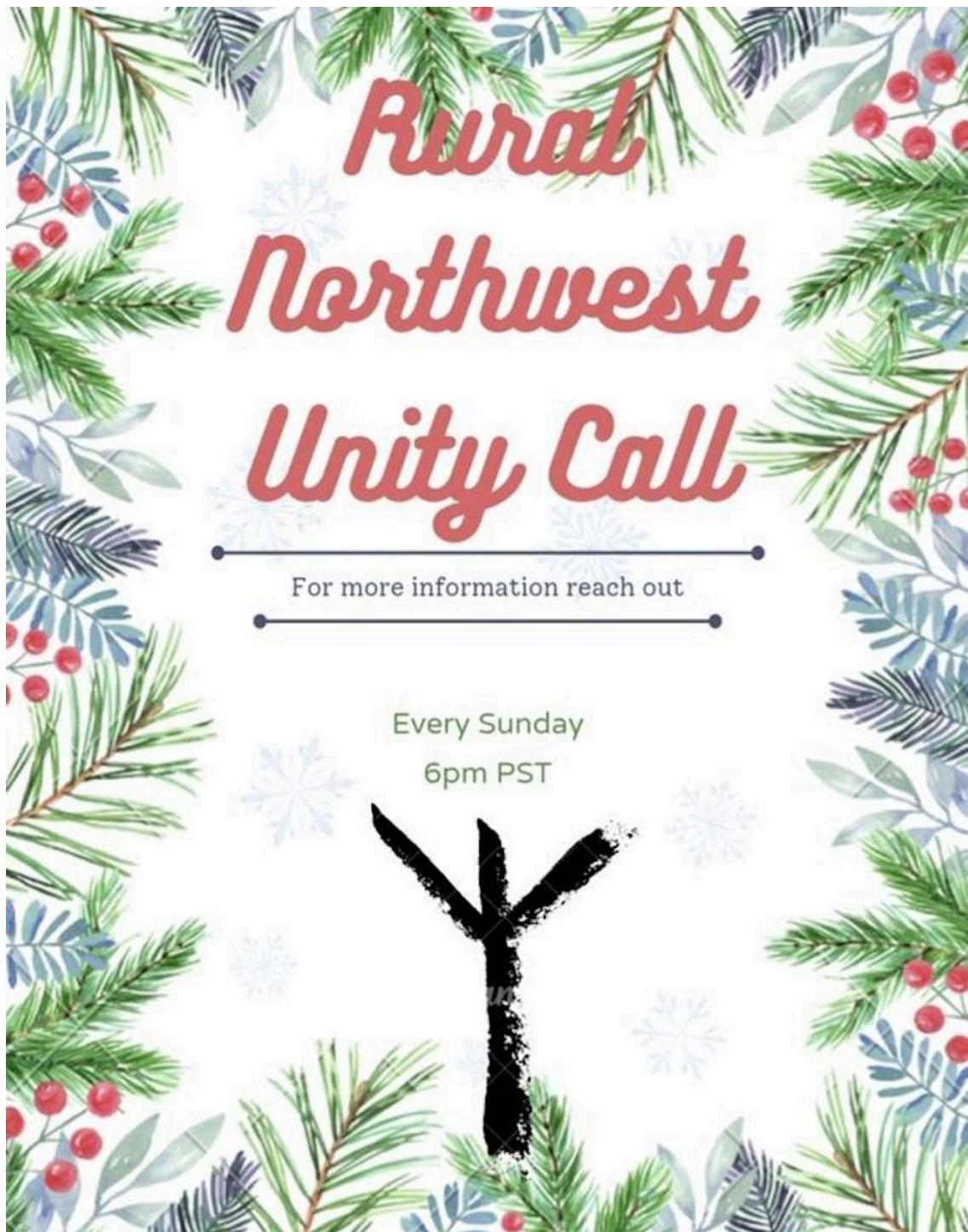
FOR A DAY OF
REMEMBERANCE IN
HONOR OF JARL HÁKON

APRIL 9TH, FÓLKVANGR MONTANA

STUBBA SUPPER



FÓLKVANGR, MT
6PM APRIL 10TH



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein
theinlein@runestone.org

It's Been an Eggstra Special Kind of Month in Montana



Our day of remembrance for Goði Ölvir of Egg, as well as an Óðinn Blót, was held on March 9th. Around a small fire, we recounted his story and honored his life, as well as his sacrifice to our Folk and our Ancestral beliefs. We toasted the High One and thanked him for the victories in our lives, both big and small, and asked for the continued victory of our Folk. Back indoors we enjoyed a meal together, planned out our Austrá celebration, and enjoyed the evening.



Our Kindred Austra was held the weekend of March 21st to 23rd. The last few years we've spent this holy day at a local hot spring. This year, we took the opportunity to try something new and rented a cabin near Georgetown Lake, located near to the historic mining towns of Anaconda and Phillipsburg. Just like our past two years, Austra was accompanied by a bit of weather. As we woke to greet the day with the Valkyrie's Prayer, we found it had snowed a few inches overnight, and at that moment was a minor blizzard. Undaunted, we stepped outside and greeted the day as the snow blew, and laughing just a bit at the experience. Shortly after we stepped back in and thawed a bit, the clouds left, and the sun came out to greet us back.



Breakfast was welcomed and thoroughly enjoyed, as we watched the clouds depart. Games and conversations followed until it was time for Blót. Outside, the birds had begun to sing in the trees, and wind which had been blowing snow hours before had become a gentle breeze. We hailed our Dawn Goddess, the bringer of Spring, and gave

thanks for the return of fertility to the land, renewal of life, and the coming of warmer months ahead. Afterwards, we retired from the outdoors and began working on dinner and preparing for a book discussion. A month ago, we chose to cover Beowulf as a Kindred. Many of us had read the book at least once, some of us many times, but for others it was their first time. The decision was made to cover the book in several sections, allowing for ample time to study and make notes. The discussion was fantastic, with many levels of understanding and insight into one of our people's best poems, and many more discussions to follow. Study time ended, and we enjoyed each other's company well into the night. The next day, we packed up and headed for home, with a small side trip to Phillipsburg to take in the quaint little town, its historic buildings, and its famous candy shop. All in all, it was another amazing weekend, well spent together!

Upcoming Events



April 9th, Day of Remembrance for Jarl Hakon.
Hexenacht/May Day TBD.



Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan

rharlan@runestone.org

Nevada

Dinner at My House



By the time this comes out, we have had our April dinner. Thank you to those who attended, we had a great time. This month we were joined by a new member in Reno for his first time. We look forward to seeing everyone at our May Dinner on May 24th. As it stands now, the McNallens plan to attend, as well as a member all the way from Utah!

Upcoming Events



BRING STUFF

Allsherjargöðic *Dinner*

MAY

DRINKS AT 1:00 **24** DINNER AT 3:00

RENO, NV





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

Washington

The Light of Our Dawn



My decision to make the pilgrimage down to Þórr's temple for Austra wasn't entirely spur of the moment, I'd been planning this journey in some form since about last fall. North Carolina is a state I've never been before and I'm always maybe just a little too eager to check those off my list whenever the opportunity presents itself. It had been repeatedly expressed to me by our fine Southern folk that if I needed a reason to visit Þórshof, Austra was that reason. And I trusted them, because it's only natural that I should. They're good people. You know who you are. This was hardly a decision made in isolation. Wyrð goes as it will, innumerable signs however small, revealed themselves to myself and others that the Nornir ordained this trip to happen when and where it did. The mood was consistently light, as the turning of summer should be. An excess of great conversations with great people were to be found in spades. But there

was a weight underpinning the entire experience, and that was the weight of commitment and duty that comes with binding myself to this church for life.

I'd been ruminating on the significance of Oaths well before I placed my left pointer and middle finger upon Relentless to swear my Oath as a Folkbuilder. Any act of binding one's Hamingja to that of others runs the risk of damaging not only the individual souls of all parties involved, but the folk soul collectively should that act be spurned or disregarded in some fashion. Any genuine oath is something that should be afforded a great deal of introspection before taking, and I rightfully view them as something incredibly sacred. For better or worse, a man is only as good as his word. It is with very little hyperbole that I say I believe I was born into Midgard in the time and place I was to fulfill my role in guiding the Folk home. The AFA and the people I've met through it have given me an intensity of meaning and purpose in life that simply wasn't present before I joined. As cliché and cornball as it sounds, I really do want to give that back to our Folk who hear the call of their blood in these times. We're on the cusp of a new age, a new dawn if you will, and I'm honored to be a part of it. It's only fitting that this oath was taken under the auspices of the radiant Goddess of Dawn. I don't think it impious or untrue of me to say she poured out her blessings on all in attendance that weekend.

I sincerely look forward to serving my Gods and my Folk to my fullest capacity as your newest appointed Folkbuilder. I truly mean that.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Hail Victory!

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Nick Gunn

ngunn@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.

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 depression or PTSD? Is your baby having a hard time with teething? Please reach out to us about these important concerns!

Once a month, women of the AFA 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, please 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

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.

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!

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





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