

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly



Óðinshof
First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.odinshof.org

November 2025



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Words from our Allsherjargoði



Life is good! So many great things are happening all around us. Autumn is a very special time of year, especially for those of us aware that our ancestors are closer to us at this time. The more we incorporate Ásatrú into our lives, the deeper we feel the presence of our gods and, particularly, our ancestors with us. It is exceptionally

touching to see that develop in our children. During the "holiday season," I encourage us all to make a special point of reaching across the very thin veil to connect with the ancestors—tell their stories, share their pictures, cook their recipes. Don't just remember them; take the next step and make offerings to them, speak TO them and WITH them.

Hail the Ancestors!

A great deal of excitement is in the air in anticipation of the Freyshof dedication coming up December 6th. This is truly a once in a lifetime occasion. AFA members and leaders from far and wide are converging on Austintown, Ohio to be there as we dedicate the Hof and present it as a gift to Freyr. If you are able, I would encourage you to come and share this very special occasion with us... you will not regret it.

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Announcements, News, & Noteworthy

- 10/11 - Lucile Anne Savich is named before the Æsir and her Folk.
- 10/31 - King Sexræd will be honored each year with a Day of Remembrance each year on November 18th.
- 10/31 - King Sæward will be honored each year with a Day of Remembrance each year on December 18th.



Matthew D. Flavel
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Words from our Witan

Sál, The Shade Self



This month we discuss the Sál, the Soul, as it pertains to Ásatrú. The Old Norse word for soul comes from the Proto-Indo European word *sóhiwl*, and from this root we get the Latin *saevus*, the Proto-Celtic *saitlom* (life, age), the Proto-Slavic *séila* (strength, force, soul). Interestingly, the Proto-Germanic cognate *saiwiz* (sea, ocean) comes from the same root. This possibly stems from the belief that certain bodies of water were dwelling places of the dead and unborn.

This is the part of the self that is the **true self**. That which exists when no one is

looking, no one except the Ancestors and the Gods. Beneath the Hamr, beneath the masks we wear for any given situation, is the Sál.

“But I don’t wear masks, Góði Dan!” Yes, we all do. We wear different masks for different situations with different people all the time. I don’t present myself the same way with my wife as I do my 2-year-old grandson. By the way, wearing a mask isn’t deceptive, nor is it dishonest. It’s a projection, a “skin” (Hamr), which is a component of the self.

But at day’s end, when we approach our Gods and our Ancestors, in prayer and even in the next life, it is the Sál, the shade self that is at play. In the afterlife, it is the Sál that stands before the Ancestors, is judged and accepted or rejected to pass into the Ancestral Halls.

If judged poorly, the fate you face is the Vargr on Náströnd—that is what is devoured and totally destroyed. The Sál is no more.

If judged to be worthy, it is the Sál that joins the Ancestors, or perhaps ascends to the Gods.

Sál is the totality of the soul, all wrapped up into ... what makes you unique. It is the sum total of the self.



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The Thinning of the Veil



The holy tides of Ásatrú are largely celebrated when they are due to the seasons and the changes they bring, as well as how our ancestors treated these times. I often preach to my Folk at Njörðshof about this, especially during these colder months of September through February. I always make sure to emphasize that these colder months are the most auspicious time to honour, and speak with, our ancestors.

This is because these colder holy tides take place when the veil between our world and Helheim is at its thinnest- Sól's warm light does not reach us quite as well during this season and thus cannot strengthen the veil between worlds. On a more exoteric note, the cold also tends to bring our people inward (or at least we SHOULD draw inward!). It brings us together around the fire, often to share meals made from family recipes, and to pass around stories from simpler times. This setting and climate naturally make us reflect, both on our lives and the lives of those who came before us.

Because of these factors, our people have used this time of year to go out of our way to pay more attention and give more love to our noble ancestors. Whether they were conquering Celts, sword-swinging Saxons, victorious Vikings, or any of our Folk across space and time, we use this season in particular to speak their names over the

horn and among our kinsmen, allowing them to hear their praises sung once again in Miðgarðr.

At the time of writing this, Vetrnætr has just passed and Einherjablót is on its way, but I encourage anyone reading this at any point in time to make sure that you honour your ancestors, ESPECIALLY during this auspicious time of year.



In September, when the first chills creep in and the nights get cold, think back on your male ancestors who worked for a living so that you would not have to work quite as hard.

In October, as the mornings begin to stay cold just a bit longer than you think they should, think back on those stalwart female ancestors who raised noble men and women, tending the hearth and home so that you knew what love and warmth felt like from your first breath.

In November, as the black wind blows cold sooner and sooner with each passing day, think back on the warriors of our people, those men who gave their all so that your other ancestors could have the right to survive and thrive.

In December, as the cold fully surrounds our days and Jól approaches, remember ALL of those ancestors! Tell stories of ALL of them, hail them on this side of the veil with

the rest of your Folk so that they may be sure to hear it from their place in the next life!

Hail the noble ancestors of the Aryan people, now and forever!



Witan Trent East

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Words from our Goðar

A Prayer to Sunna



Hail Sunna, golden-haired one, driver of the celestial chariot!

You who rise each morning to banish the shadows, who paints the world in glowing hues of gold and amber, our Folk greet you with open hearts. Your radiant light touches the land and life awakens. The birds sing your praise, the flowers turn their faces to your warm gaze, and Miðgarðr itself seems to smile under your brilliance. You are the great pursuer of darkness, the bringer of warmth, the promise of a new beginning. Bright Lady, we ask that you share a spark of your boundless, radiant joy.

Let your golden rays pierce the clouds of our own hearts, chasing away any shadows of sorrow and doubt.

Let your gentle warmth melt any frost of weariness or cynicism that has settled upon our spirits.

Help us to see the beauty in our paths with the same clarity that you illuminate the world.

Fill us with your vibrant, divine energy, that we might face our days with spirits as

bright and unwavering as your own.

May we always joyfully outpace the wolf behind us, as you do each day!

As you journey across the sky today, may we carry your radiant light within us, a beacon of warmth, happiness, and love for ourselves and for those we meet. Thank you for your strength and life-giving glow, and the beautiful, profound joy of a sunlit day.

Hail Sunna! 𐌺 𐌸



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Honor the Fallen



Five hundred doors there are and forty more
I een, in Valhall's walls
Eight hundred fighters through one door fare
When to war with the wolf they go.
— Grímnismál, stanza 23

I want to talk about honouring our fallen warriors and how that relates to spiritual understanding of the Einherjar.

The warrior ethos is a significant part of ancestry and spiritual practice. We can all agree that those who die on the battlefield should be held in the highest regard and remembered this November's Veterans Day and Einherjablót. Of those many fallen warriors on the battlefield, Óðinn chooses a select few to become Einherjar, sending Valkyries to claim them to join their brothers in Valhøll, feasting and fighting until Ragnarök.

That is the most widely known way to be counted with the Einherjar throughout our history. That is because it is only recently that we've been needed to fight on a variety of battlefields. Modern times, a very, very small window in our history, has brought our Folk to new stages such as social media, a hundred political fronts, and a variety of created societal structures, etc. With that we must talk about what does it mean to be a warrior for your Folk. It doesn't only encompass the stereotypical battlefield anymore. Can one who fights on these untraditional fronts still be chosen to join the Einherjar? It definitely bears asking the question and opening discussion to reflect this in modern times because death while engaging on these modern fronts is extremely unlikely. So, then we have to discuss a delayed ascension possibility. This is certainly a possibility in my mind, however I would not presume to know by what criteria Óðinn selects those he wants for the final battle.



The Æsir have seen to it that we continue to exist as a race, which says that we are expected to continue to grow, advance, and fight to preserve our Folk as times change. Now Óðinn will choose who he sees fit for what he needs, we also can't say what Ragnarök will look like, so the point being is why not, why not fight each and every day in your respective areas of expertise like you could join the Einherjar. You may just be someone Óðinn decides is needed.

Always honour those that have died selflessly on a physical battlefield, though do not forget those warriors for the Folk that have passed by other means. Raise a horn to our fallen warriors this November, say their names and reflect on their deeds. Raise a horn to the Einherjar, those elite chosen warriors that prepare and will fight selflessly alongside the Æsir.

"There are many slain warriors in Valhalla with many more yet to come."

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Perseverance



Hard work is a cure for depression and anxiety.....

Our Ancestors evolved through time by their ability to meet challenges head on. Our brains were designed to be stimulated. We have gone from farming to factories to office jobs. A comfortable life without challenge. Our brains start to look for stimuli to fill in the gaps that lack of challenge has caused. Through auto/visual stimuli, such as social media, we look for that "thing" that might be the missing piece of us falling short and into laziness. We need mental and physical challenges to give our brains what it needs to be whole. The challenge should be tough and uncomfortable but something that is accomplishable. Think of challenges as a spectrum. On one side is too little, this will leave us feeling lazy, and on the other side is burnout, which will leave us feeling more depressed. The middle is where we want to keep ourselves. This is doing the challenge till it gets to feel like a drag, pushing yourself a little further into it, then resting until you are so well rested that you feel restless, then starting the process again. This has a direct upside of getting the work done but also an indirect feeling of accomplishment that helps get rid of those feelings of anxiety and depression. When these challenges are a part of your deeper meaning and purpose in life, everything hits different. Mindfully working on purposeful things is the bees' knees. So, find work that you want to do. Push yourself until just past the point you don't want to, then rest well until you start to feel restless. Repeat. This will put you in a better place.

Our tenth noble virtue is Victory. We need to continually achieve victory in our lives, for our Folk, and in turn for the AFA. When we challenge ourselves to all the areas of excellence, push ourselves, rest, and repeat, we keep ourselves moving forward. Constant Victory! Victory brings a set of positive consequences. We will always be a winner if we keep in that challenge loop moving forward. We will make our Gods and Ancestors proud! We will leave something better for our children and grandchildren.

Hail Victory!

Hail the AFA!

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Three Little Words



Frith. Abundance. Stewardship.

Three little words. For the ladies of the Asatru Folk Assembly, these three words represent three of the traits that we strive to embody as Aryan women. For the ladies of Freyshof, however, these three words carry more weight. They are the three words chosen to describe the ladies of our district.

As with the four Hof's before us, the Gyðjur were tasked with choosing three feminine

words to represent the women of the district. For Óðinshof, Gyðja McNallen chose generosity, joy, and resilience. For Þórshof, Gyðja Young chose integrity, hospitality, and strength. For Baldrshof, Witan Fassett chose devotion, purity, and fidelity. And for Njörðshof, Gyðja Plourde chose prosperity, perseverance, and pride.

It is easy to see why the Gyðjur each chose their words, for they are the natural embodiment of their district's traits. Who among us could look at Gyðja McNallen and not recognize her generosity? Or Gyðja Young and her hospitality? Gyðja Plourde is the very definition of perseverance. But these words mean more than that for their districts. In some ways, these words represent the struggles faced before the Hof existed, things that were lacking. More than that, however, these three words represent the feminine ideal of each Hof. These are three qualities that we hope our women will strive to represent at the Hof, in their homes, and in every aspect of their lives.

For Freyshof, our feminine ideals are Frith, Abundance, and Stewardship.

All women are inherently Frithful. It is in our blood, but like all things, Frith is not automatic. It requires work. It requires awareness and intention. In the same way that feeding your body poison wrecks your body, so too does feeding your mind and spirit negativity erode your ability to be Frithful. May the ladies of Freyshof strive, always, to actively choose positivity and Frith.

All women have the ability to encourage abundance. Yes, we hope to have abundant wombs and abundant gardens where possible, but as the mothers that raise our children, the wives that care for our husbands, and the women who build the homes, we are so much more. Where men build the infrastructure of the world, women create the communities that operate inside of them. The men build the house, but the women make it a home. When we aren't literally creating life, we have the ability to facilitate, encourage, and grow abundant comfort, abundant joy, abundant courage. May the ladies of Freyshof strive, always, to create abundance in all things for their families and for our community.

All women are naturally stewards. While being a steward is not strictly a female role, it does present itself differently than it does for men. To be a steward, one chooses to take on the care of a thing that is not their own. As a feminine ideal, stewardship most commonly presents as care for the community. It means choosing that community and doing everything you can to help keep that community healthy, happy, and connected. It can mean reaching out to a woman who is having a hard time post-partem just to listen or perhaps making a meal for a grieving family. It can also mean taking pride in a place and choosing to take care of it even when tired. May the ladies of Freyshof strive,

always, to stand as faithful and ardent Stewards of Freyshof district and the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Frith. Abundance. Stewardship.

With so much joy and enthusiasm, I have spent all the weekends watching the future Hof take shape. I have watched as our women are already stepping up and taking part in creating the physical space, but also the feminine space that is future Freyshof. And it is with absolute pride in these women that I share these three words with you.

Frith. Abundance. Stewardship.

I look forward to building the feminine future of Freyshof with all the ladies of our district and of the Asatru Folk Assembly!

And for anyone who might be curious, a slight sneak peek at things to come: Our Hof flower is the Red Clover, and our Hof bird is the American Robin!



Gyðja Catie Erickson
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Naming the Faith



For our ancestors, our faith was nameless, as it was alive and a part of us to the depths of our soul. There was no need for a name when it's a part of you and everything around you. Eventually, our ancestors' nations got swept up by a theocratic political movement which made our existence as we knew it murky. Until just over 50 years ago, when

Óðinn reached down to Founder Stephen McNallen and gave him a blessing and mandate to reawaken our Folk and bring his children together again. Our language and the way we interact with the world became more sophisticated with our understanding and control over it. Our faith needed a name to solidify and express what we are in the 21st century. So, Founder McNallen named it Ásatrú. Ásatrú meaning Trú to the Æsir, or more specifically when lived & practiced, comes to mean loyalty to our Gods. Many have attempted to call themselves or their organizations "Asatru," which unfortunately at best is an intellectual fallacy, or worse, outright blasphemy towards our Gods. The reason? Simple. The Father of all our Gods and the creator of our Folk, came to Stephen McNallen and poured his might, main, and desire for our Folk into him. Then in turn, Founder McNallen poured that might and main into the church known as the Asatru Folk Assembly, carrying out Óðinn's ongoing mission. Founder McNallen built the greater church of now numerous Hofs, igniting a Folk Soul that shines across the globe. Óðinn has placed a seat for himself at the forefront, and his wisdom continues to guide us today. Therefore, if an individual is not apart the Asatru Folk Assembly, they are not Ásatrú. Even if they have belief in our Gods or even partake in our traditions and rituals, they fail at following the Allfather's direction. In a more mundane example, claiming you're Ásatrú without being a part of the home where our Gods bless, visit, and inspire us, and charged their champion with building, would be akin to putting on your favorite teams football jersey, and claiming you were a part of the team when they win a Superbowl. The reality is you're not going to get a Superbowl ring or trophy. It's not possible without being the man in the arena and standing side by side with the team when glory calls. Life is going to always have its ups and downs as it places things into our well, and as they return to the surface. As it is stated in the Hávamál, "the joy of man is man." We are stronger together in the face of adversity, victories taste sweeter together, and the God's notice those who are worthy and loyal most! During our season of thanks, togetherness, and hospitality, let your heart be full of steel, confidence, and joy that your home within the Asatru Folk Assembly is also a home of the Gods by their blessings and decree. When going through hard times or faced with judgment for your faith, steel yourself with the knowledge your Gods are with you and favour those who choose to endure and "do." As they choose the Asatru Folk Assembly, their home on Miðgarðr, so many years ago.

Goði Jason Plourde

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The Runestone - A Throwback

Kin: Church and Nation



Below is an essay on kin, written by the Herald of the Allfather, Steve McNallen. It is separate from his essay on the Value of Kinship, which will come later.

The Asatru Free Assembly was the institutional predecessor to the Asatru Folk Assembly. At the time that this was written, we were small, fragile, scattered, and weak. Having land was a pipedream, organizing men and women was hard, and the idea of having a central church that could actually accomplish things by way of course rather than Herculean personal efforts was out of reach. To cope, some even said that they didn't want that: that it was "our way" to be low to the ground, simple, and unassuming.

So, each scattered member would be a seed for community, until we could organize more coherently. Since 1983, through the Herald's efforts, things have changed: the value of centralization and hierarchy have become apparent. Technology allows for the honing of small numbers of dedicated men into an elite corps that can achieve great things: even more can be accomplished with many men. We have five hofs, and the land for a sixth. We no longer have to lie to ourselves about what we want. We can have victories. We can win. The Herald set the stage for that. In 1983, decentralization was necessary for this emerging church and nation to survive; now, in 2025, centralization is a powerful tool for this emerging church and nation to thrive. But, those seeds eventually bear fruit, across the USA, and world. They grow into mighty trees, centers that communities rally around. You can be a part of this church and nation: if you are a White man or woman, it is your birthright, and we invite you to join your brothers, sisters, and ancestors in this church and nation.

I had to manually transcribe this one from 1983's Fall Runestone. The image below, however, is from the cover of 1982's Spring Runestone; Substack [and *The Runestone*] demands an image, so it gets one. I tried to match the formatting of the original article as closely as Substack will allow. All spelling and grammar are original. If I erred in transcribing this work, I apologize.

Hail the Gods, hail the Folk, hail the Herald!



Folkbuilder Chris Savich
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Kin



The world in which we live is generally hostile to the values of Asatru. Our gods and goddesses are attacked by atheists and monotheists alike, our ancestors are branded as savages or scoundrels, our rights as a people are trampled while those of others are exalted, our culture is bastardized even as we watch. We are a fighting outpost of the Folk, surrounded by those who are either indifferent or trying to bring us down. Nevertheless, we are strong - made formidable by our allegiance to the noble values of our forebearers.

One such value, one which gives us unity and mutual support, is kinship. We are not isolated individuals, atomized and alienated, but rather are members of an organic body, a sort of tribe. Isolated, we could be overwhelmed by the media – supported society of the general culture. United in kinship, we sustain each other and present a cohesive alternative to the produce-and-consume system that lies outside our ranks.

The Asatru Free Assembly promulgates a religion, to be sure, but we also promote, and live, a world-view based on kinship. The A.F.A. is an emerging nation within a nation - not a new nation-state, but rather a nation in the sense of the Sioux or the Iroquois nations. The organic Folk community is just something we practice every day, not just talk about.

How do we do this? We help each other! As people bound together by ancestry and

religion, we know that our loyalty to each other has higher priority than devotion to the general culture. We support each other materially, financially, socially, and spiritually. Where our members are spread thin, this is difficult - but we do our best to fulfill our kinship obligations. Where we are closer together, as we are in Northern California, we can do more for each other. People in Wotanwald and Home Kindred, for example, are continually helping each other by sharing meals, loaning vehicles, passing along clothing, and generally being "family". We care - and act on that care.

We have a plan. We want this network of A.F.A. kindreds to expand and interconnect until it provides a complete alternative social, economic, and religious structure to the prevailing one. Why should we support a system that is antithetical to everything we believe in? Why should we shovel our money, time, and brainpower into a monster that wants to absorb us into a one-world monoculture and dissolve our people and traditions in a grey global glob?

The road to self preservation and freedom is the Ingathering of the Folk, the "retribalization" of our kind. The Asatru Free Assembly is working now to build this new tribal nation - one step at a time. Individuals link up with each other, via mail or in person. Families create households dedicated to our heritage. Families or groups of individuals become kindreds, the kindreds in a particular geographic region band together as a tribe, and so on. We build a nation from the grass roots upward rather than from the top down, for two reasons - because it produces a system that is resistant to tyranny, and because it is something we can start building NOW, without waiting for further development or for anyone's permission. With every new A.F.A. member and each new A.F.A. kindred, this nation takes greater definition.

There will be enough of us to make a better world for us and our progeny - a world where we can create an alternative to the captive media, where we can provide for our own with pure, uncontaminated food, where we can educate our children rather than turning them over to the conformity-makers; where no Asatruarar is out of a job. And you can help build this world.

If you share our beliefs, if you care about all we are trying to preserve, this A.F.A. calls you to participate in this history-making endeavor. We call you to a rootedness in the Folk that can banish alienation and loneliness and give you a personal role to play in the events to come. The old gods beckon, welcoming those who seek them back to the bosom of the tribe!



Founder Steven McNallen

Ásatrú Trúlgmál



Ásatrú Trúlgmál: 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!



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Upcoming Events





Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
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Victory Never Sleeps



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

Æsir. Virtues. Runes. Beliefs.

Doctrine. Cosmology. Literature.

Holidays. Heroes. Lore.

Help [support](#) the stream and keep the cameras rolling!

Catch us LIVE with new episodes on Wednesdays at 8pm Central / 6pm Pacific on YouTube, Twitter, Odyssee, VK, Rumble, and Twitch. Audio versions drop on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, iHeart Radio, and Amazon Music no later than the Friday after the live show.

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

Matthew D. Flavel

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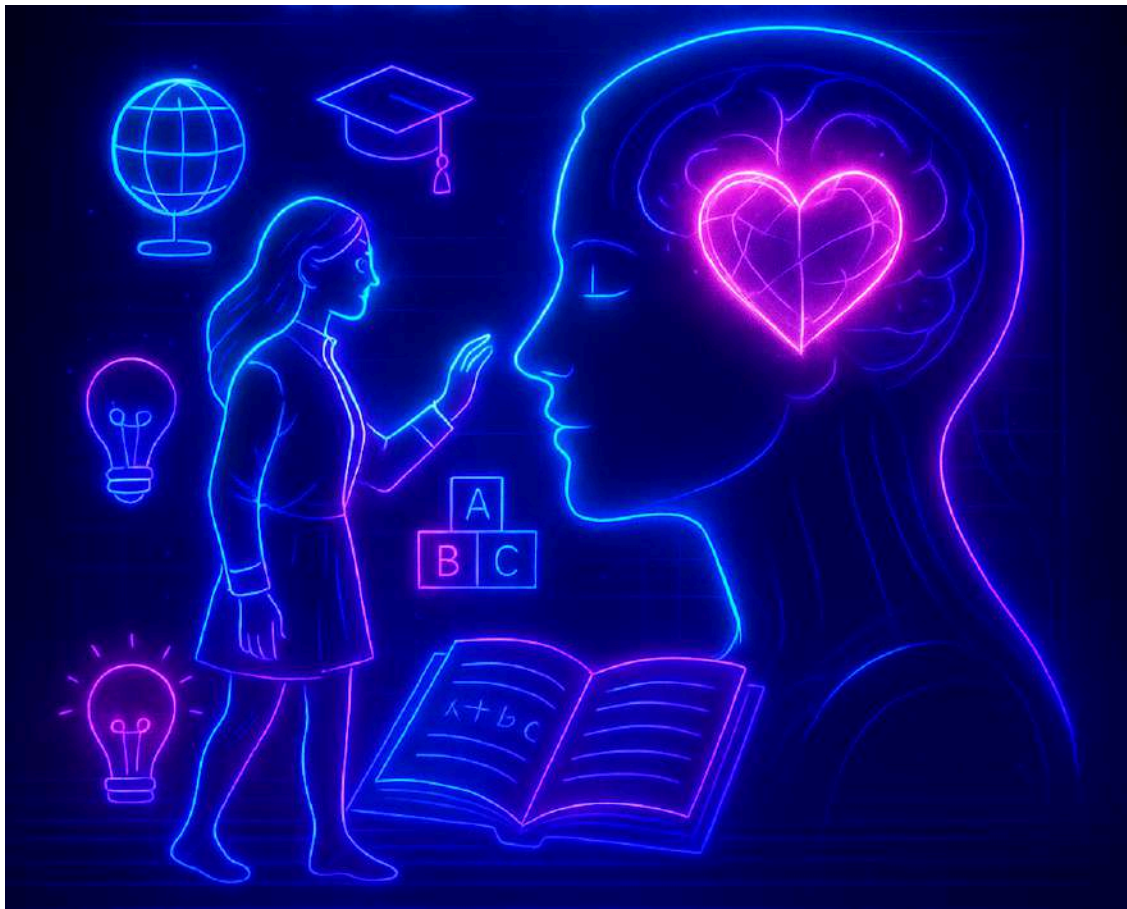


AFA Ásatrú Academy



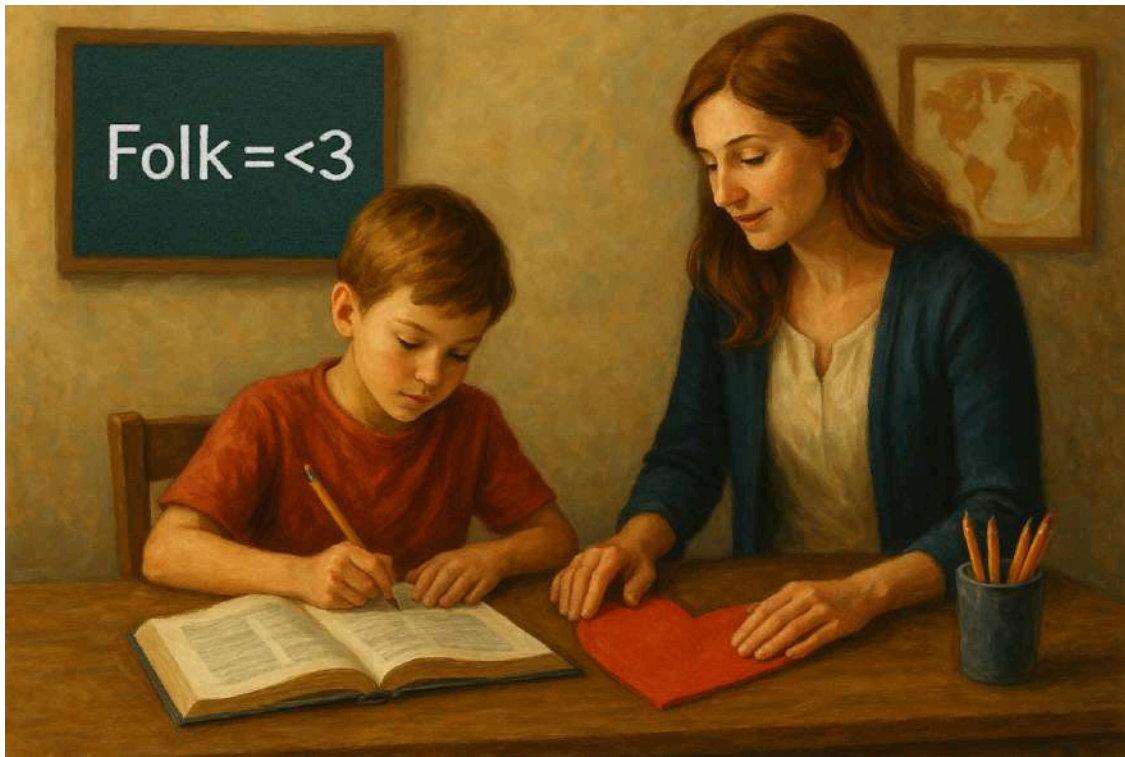
Check out the Ásatrú Academy at AsatruAcademy.org

Correcting the Debasement of Heart and Character



There is a quote attributed to Aristotle that says, “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” One of the primary reasons that families decide to take the path of homeschooling their children is the debasement of the heart and character that takes place in modern public education.

Education is concerned with scholarship, with absorbing information and then applying it to our lives. How do we process the data? What matters the dates and details of history if we cannot learn about motivations that led people to take the actions they did? We can understand formulas and how to multiply, but we must be judicious in applying that to how we spend, budget, and invest our money. Understanding the biology of a creature can be a beautiful or terrible thing — how do we treat or mistreat that creature.



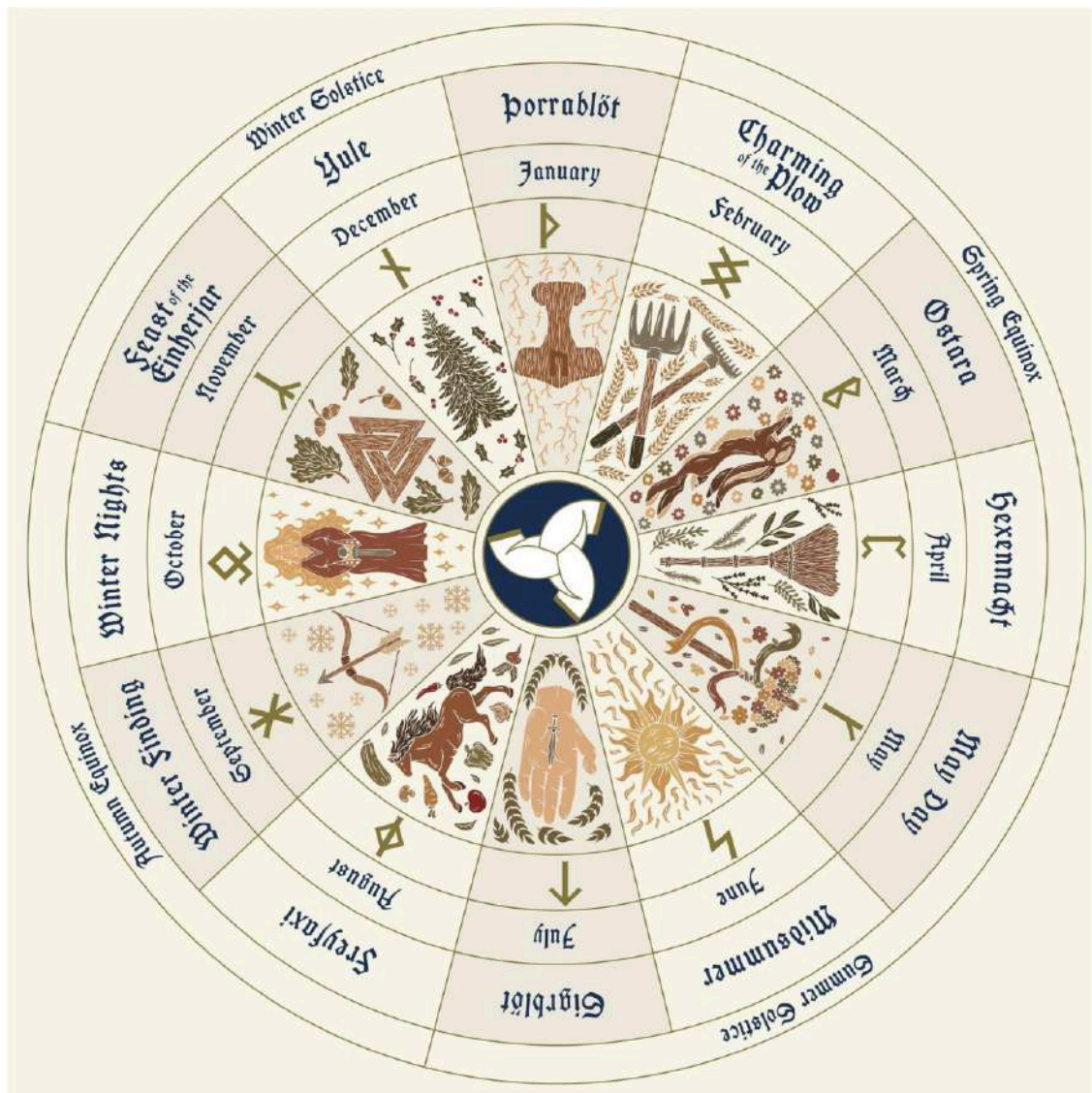
Information in a vacuum sans character and ethics is a path of chaos and immorality. There is a balance to be kept between sober decision making and depth of feeling. Educating the heart is essential in the upbringing of our children. ALL parents are teaching their children matters of the heart, though sometimes it is simply through the lack of cultivation. We model character every day. Regardless of how equipped or intentional a parent feels about their capacity for teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic, we are instructing them through our lives in matters of the heart.

Let's all be intentional about that and cultivate nobility of our Aryan children. Hail the Folk!



Rachel Kinsler
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Remembrance & Holy Days



Holy Days | Asatru Folk Assembly

2025

- > January 9 - Raud the Strong <
- > January 18 - King Blót-Sveinn of Sweden <
 - > January 18 - Þorrablót <
- > February 1 - King Eanfrith of Bernicia <
 - > February 9 - Eyvind Kinnrifa <
 - > February 15 - Disaping <
 - > March 9 - Olvir of Egg <
- > March 20 - Austrá (observed on March 15) <
 - > April 9 - Jarl Hákon Sigurðarson <
 - > April 10 - John "Stubba" Yeowell <
- > April 30 - Nornanótt (observed on April 19) <
 - > May 1 - Sumarmál (observed on May 17) <

- > May 9 - Járnskeggja <
- > May 22 - John “Hoskuld” Gibbs-Bailey <
- > June 9 - King Athanaric of the Visigoths <
- > June 13 - Erik Klasson <
- > 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 <
- > October 23 - King Aoric <
- > October 27 - Ragnvald Odiakarl <
- > November 9 - Queen Sigríðr of Sweden <
- > November 18 - King Sexræd <
- > November 11 - Einherjablót (observed on November 15) <
- > December 9 - Egill Skallagrímsson <
- > November 18 - King Sæward <
- > December 20-31 - Jól (observed on December 20) <

November



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_KNxmqDBUw

Days of Remembrance

Queen Sigríðr of Sweden | November 9th



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hail Queen Sigríðr of Sweden!
Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

King Sexræd | November 18th



Holiday

Einherjablót | November 11th (observed November 15th)

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

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

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

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

Hail the Einherjar!

Hail Óðinn!

Upcoming Special Event

Dedication of Freyshof | December 6th



You are cordially invited to the dedication of Freyshof, the Fifth Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly, on Saturday, December 6, 2025 in Austintown, Ohio. Please join us for this once in a lifetime event, the dedication of an Ásatrú temple to one of our Holy Æsir, Lord Freyr.

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

Please RSVP at – <https://store.runestone.org>



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Winter Nights XIV, a Recap



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3abQn0WTLhY>

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 Ásatrú 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 Goðar and other leadership, will be going into the prisons to hold study groups, lead blot, and encourage continued growth in the Folk inside.

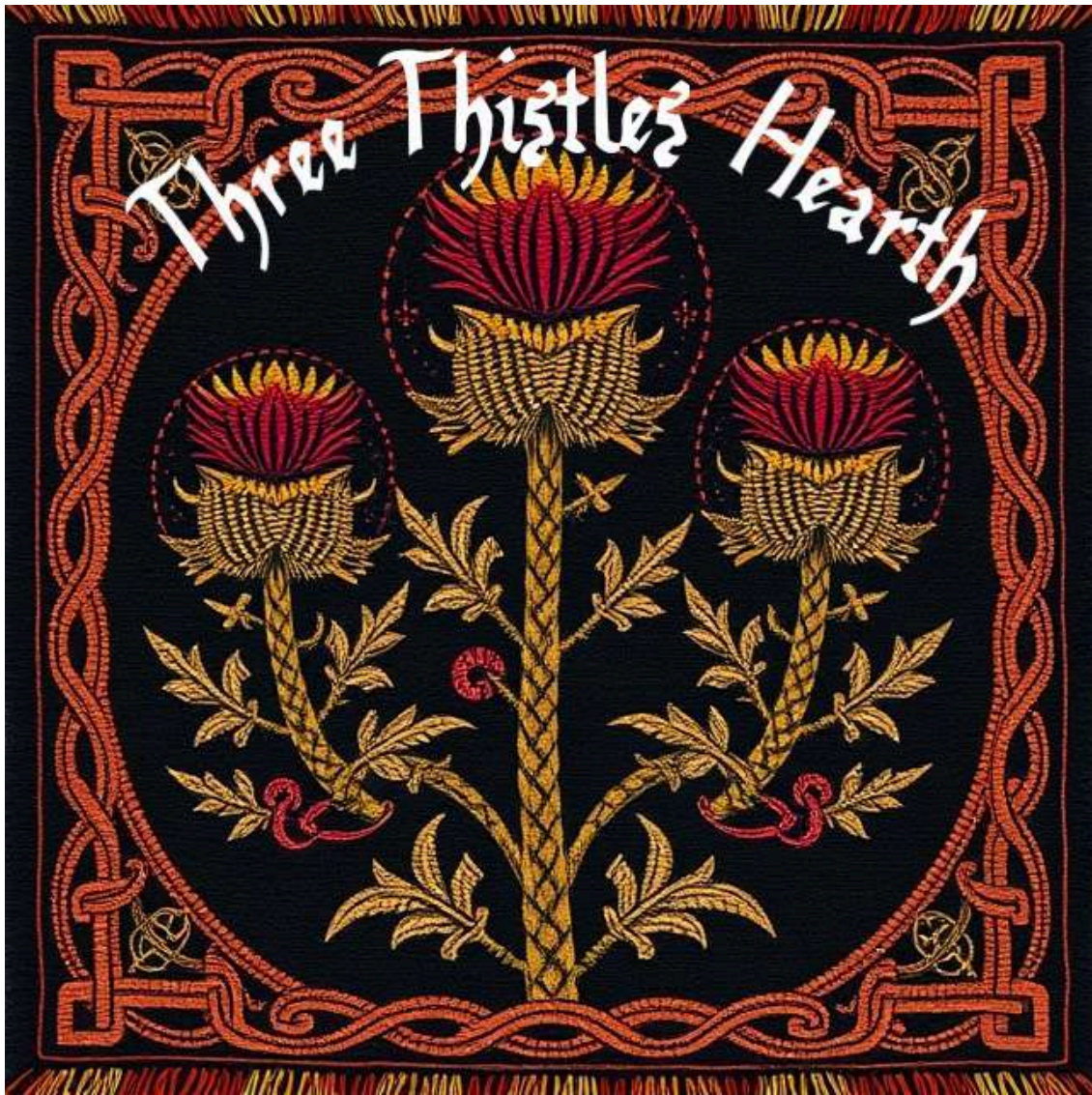
If you have a loved one who is incarcerated or know of someone who is Folkish and will benefit from this ministry, please contact us at prisonministry@runestone.org.



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

Three Thistles Hearth



Hello, my name is Genasee. I am honored, and blessed, to be able to share my craft with all the Folk!

New wares cycle in periodically, and I will be offering home decor soon.



Always open to custom work and collaborations!

Let's connect:

Etsy: <https://threethistleshearth.etsy.com>

Email: iii.thistles3@gmail.com

— Genasee, member, Idaho

Ancestral Food and Culture

Elderberry Syrup for the Cold & Flu Season



We all know the winter often brings on colds, flu, and other bugs that affect our health.

Here is an easy, chemical free herbal supplement you can all make at home.

- 2 cups of dried elderberries
- 4 cups of water
- 1 cup of honey

1. Place the dried elderberries into a pot with the water on the stove and bring it to a boil.

2. Immediately after it boils, lower the temperature to low and let it simmer from 40 minutes up to an hour.
3. Strain this liquid using a mesh strainer or a cheesecloth into a glass jar and add in the 1 cup of honey.
4. Stir until the honey has dissolved.
5. Let it cool on the counter before you place it into the refrigerator.

This will store in the refrigerator for about 2-3 months.

Dosage - Adults = 1 Tablespoon a day. Kids = 1 teaspoon a day.

If you're actually unwell, you can take these dosages up to 4 times a day.

You can find dried elderberries here - <https://mountainroseherbs.com/elder-berries>

If anyone is interested in the eBook, Herbal Support for the Cold & Flu Season, email me and I'll send it your way.

May you all have a healthy winter season!



Erin Harrison
Apprentice Folkbuilder
eharrison@runestone.org

Yorkshire Pudding (Popovers)



- 3 large eggs at room temperature
- 1 1/2 cup whole milk at room temperature
- 1 1/2 cup flour
- 1 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Cooking spray
- Muffin tins

These are traditionally made with special popover pans, but muffin tins work just as well.

1. If eggs and milk are not at room temperature, bring to temp by submerging eggs in *warm* water for 10 minutes and heating the milk till just warm. Preheat the oven to 450 degrees Fahrenheit with the muffin tins on the lowest rack.
2. Measure out the salt and flour.
3. Whisk eggs and milk together until frothy, about 1 minute. Add the dry ingredients and whisk together until the batter is the consistency of heavy cream and there are some lumps left.
4. Remove the tins from the oven and spray with cooking spray. If using muffin tins, only use the outside cups and reduce baking by 5 minutes. Fill about 3/4 full and bake about 20 minutes, then reduce heat to 350 degrees and continue to bake until golden brown and dry to the touch, about another 20 minutes.

5. Remove from the pan immediately and poke a small opening in the side of each pudding to let the steam escape. Serve hot. Good with roasts or jam and tea.



Annika Peterson
Apprentice Folkbuilder
apeterson@runestone.org

AFA Reminder Texts

GET AFA TEXTS STRAIGHT TO YOUR PHONE



REMINDERS, DAILY SPIRITUAL,
PRAYER REQUESTS

CONTACT SIERRA AT
schapman@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman

schapman@runestone.org

Online Events and Meetings

Lore Study with Gothi Jason Plourde

Join us every Tuesday night

at

6:00 pm EST

5:00 pm CST

4:00 pm MST

3:00 pm PST

2:00 pm AKST

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

**For more information
reach out to Gothi Plourde
jplourde@runestone.org**



AFA Ladies Book Study

MEAD CUP MONDAYS!

LADY

WITH A MEAD CUP

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

LADY WITH A MEAD CUP

TRITUAL, PROPHECY AND LORDSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN WARBAND FROM LA TENETO THE VIKING AGE



Michael J. Enright





Eldri Virtual Meetings

A place for members age 50 and above to gather and chat

"Thought and Memory"



Tuesdays

November 11 & 25

5:00 PT - 6:00 MT

7:00 CT - 8:00 ET

Hosted by

Hofgyðja Sheila McNallen

Sheila@runestone.org

AFA MEN'S CALL

EVERY 17TH OF EVERY MONTH @ 6PM PST

HOSTED BY FOLKBUILDER NICK GUNN

AND APPRENTICE AIDAN MCMILLAN

6PT, 7MT, 8CT, 9ET

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

Just for Fun



Blessed Einherjablót to you all!

Einherjablót

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

ODINN
 HERO
 RAGNAROK
 EIKTHYRNIR
 SPARRING
 MEAD
 VETERAN
 BATTLE
 EINHERJAR
 VALKYRIE
 FEAST
 TRAINING
 NOVEMBER
 ASGARDR
 VIGRIDR
 VALOUR
 HONOUR
 HEIDRUN
 SAEHRIMNIR
 WAR

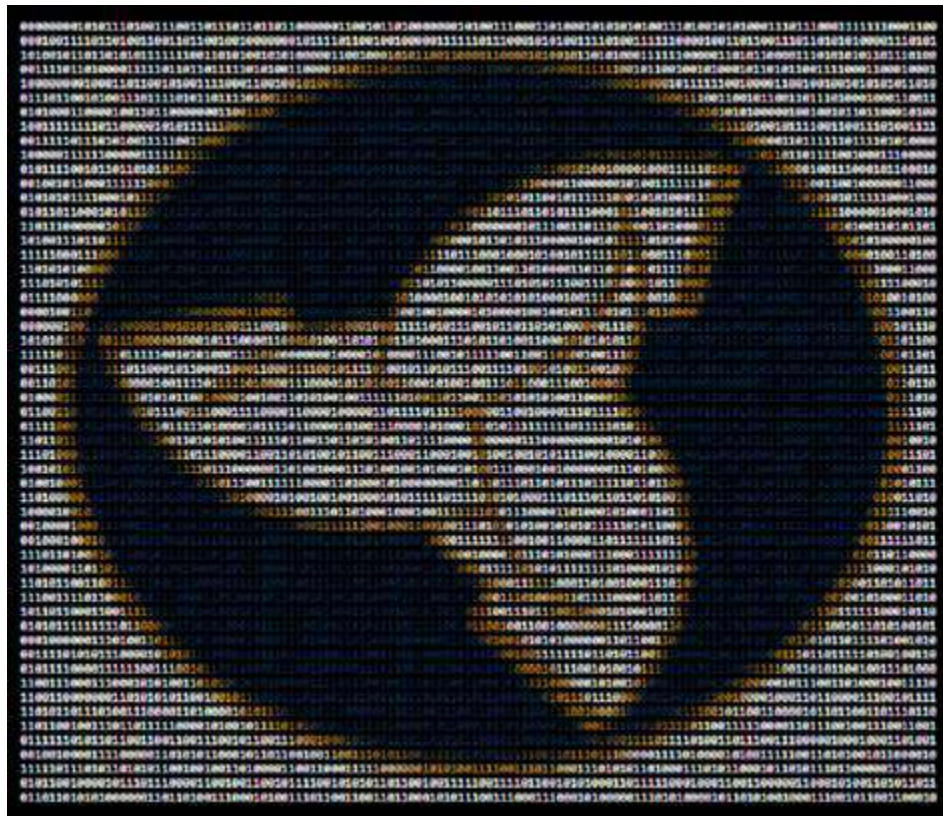
Feel free to send your colored creations or finished puzzle to press@runestone.org for a shout-out in the next issue!



Enjoy! Hail the Einherjar!

AFA STEMCELS

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



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

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

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

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



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Journey to Belize



Well after planning this move 4 years ago, and putting up our house and farm up for sale 2 years ago, we finally sold. We decided we wanted to move to Belize in Central America, so we can farm all year, live healthier, eat good clean food, and raise our 5 children in a safer, freer country.

About 6 months before we sold, we bought 63 acres right near the border of Guatemala, sight unseen, and had a crew of locals start the process of putting roads in, clearing land, and planting fruit trees. It is extremely hilly with flat valleys, but super fertile, clean water, and very far out there.



After we sold, we packed up our entire life into a 40-ft container and an old 1976 RV, and hit the road. We traveled from Manitoba, Canada, through North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas. Along the way we stopped at Mt Rushmore and a few other spots, but mostly pounded through due to the RV being old and needing work.



We finally made it to Texas, sold the RV, and bought a camper. Our good friend brought our truck and car down towed behind the truck and met us in Texas. We stayed in Texas for a few weeks, sorted out logistics, and then tried to cross at Brownsville, but due to massive corruption at the Mexican border, we had to turn around and figure out what we would do next.

So we hired a company through Transmigrante to drive our vehicles through Mexico into Belize, and we flew down. We arrived in Belize on September 6th, and got sorted out in AirBnBs. I drove out to our property, and tried to get the camper there, but the road was horrible, and too steep to allow us to get up there.



So we bought 50 acres near the Mennonite enclave of Spanish Lookout, and its great farmland, and we will be subdividing the front section into 10 x 1 acre parcels to allow others to join us.



Our original plan and vision is to create an off-grid homestead for our Folk who wish to live here, to come down with us and live off the land in a lush tropical setting. Or to allow our Folk a place to vacation, stay free in the guest motel we are building, and relax and enjoy the country.

We are still in the beginning parts of our ultimate goal, but thanks to the steady hand of

Týr guiding us on our path, things are starting to settle out and pieces falling into place.

This journey has been stressful, angst filled, and busy. But through it all, it has created memories, taught us the highs and lows, and showed us where our strengths and weaknesses lie.



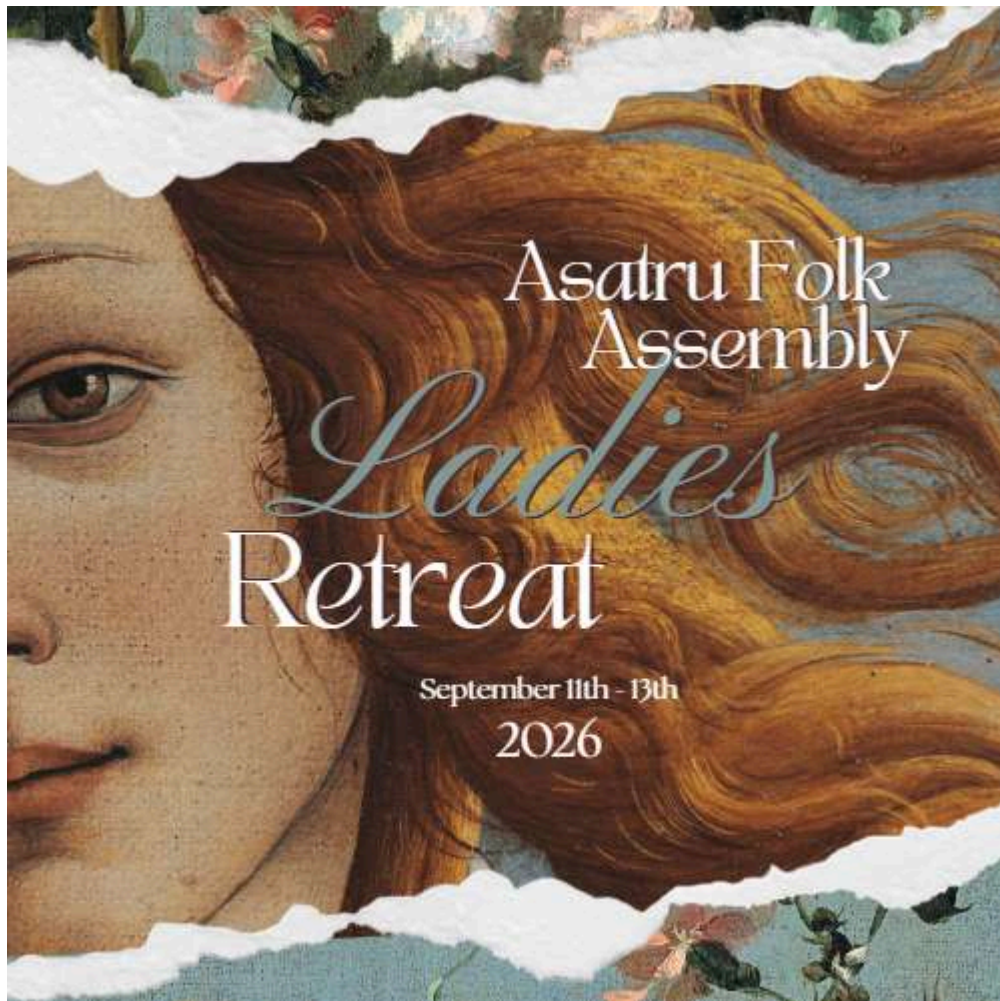
The Gods definitely test us, and I feel like we need to get out of our comfort zones, because when we don't test ourselves, and expand our horizons, something within us sleeps and never awakens to the possibilities of other things.

I will try to update you all as our journey progresses.

Hail the Gods, Hail Týr and Hail the AFA!!

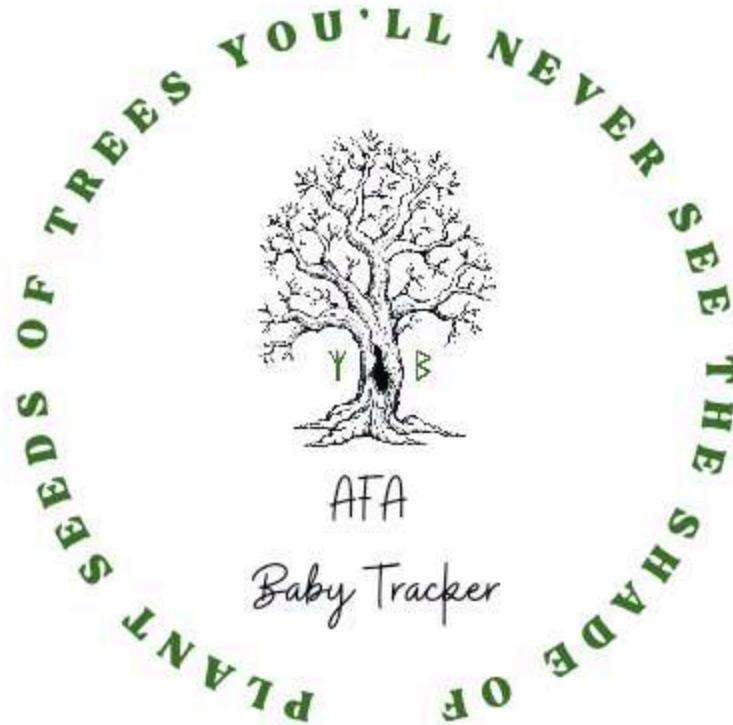
— Sydorenko Family, members

2026 Ladies' Retreat





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: 19

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!

Store Spotlight





Dropping in the store within the next week! Keep your eyes peeled!

Get this beautiful keepsake calendar that showcases the AFA Family that we have all built! Our Holy Days and Days of Remembrance are represented.

Bookmark [Runestone.org/store](https://runestone.org/store) and check back soon!



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Óðinshof

Food Pantry at Óðinshof



One Sunday per month, folks from nearby rural communities come to us looking for food to fill their empty shelves. We do our best, but over the past few months, the filled bags are smaller and lighter. No one is sure how much food will be available in November due to the government shut-down, but we'll bring in what we can.



What was great about October was the number of Óðinshof volunteers! Lots of folks stayed until Sunday, enjoying a casual breakfast, then heading into the hall to fill the bags. The process was simple and swift. When we were done, the tables were emptied of bags with 59 families fed, representing 168 individuals.



This November, we hope to carry on the tradition of a turkey for each family.

Simultaneous to the food pantry, a number of AFA volunteers will be picking up trash near the Yuba River as we resume Adopt-a-Highway.

It's clear that challenging times are ahead; all the reason to live by our Óðinshof motto: Do Right and Fear No One.



Hofgyðja Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

Vetrnætr at Óðinshof



When the Veil is thin—We feel it. Mid-October is a time of transition as nature's colours intensify and the weather FEELS unsettled. We gather at Óðinshof for stronger bonds with our Folk and Gods and to reflect on our wants and needs as winter draws close. As the Gods are real, so are our Ancestors. We sense that departed loved ones are listening and watching as the veil between us grows thin. From our end, we reach out to them through our rituals.

The decision to honour all our Ancestors for Vetrnætr—fathers and mothers—is something new. For this year's celebration, we gathered in the ritual circle twice. A late morning Blót was for the Álfar, our Fathers, with the evening ritual being a Dísablót for our Mothers. As the Gyðja leading each Blót, I made a clear distinction of the masculine and feminine energy that encircled us. We each called out the names of beloved ancestors to be with us and then exchanged gifts with those Holy Powers.



For the social part of the day, children's Halloween activities were planned for the afternoon. We began with a Treasure Hunt to become familiar with our Hof and

property. The treasure was a pile of pumpkins just waiting to be painted. In the kitchen, apples were dipped in hot caramel and then rolled in toppings like candy-bits and sprinkles. Instead of a costume parade, a pumpkin-shaped pinata was filled with candies of all kinds. Watching the kids' antics as the pinata bounced around drew people in like a magnet.



The day included a Ladies' Tea and a Men's Moot. With or without tea, the women cherish this time of sharing personal stories of dreams and challenges. A strong sense of sisterhood has developed from our teas. The Men's Moot took place at the picnic tables

where Folkbuilders guided their topics for discussion. All were encouraged to return for Einherjablót in November where Óðinn's warriors and heroes of our Folk are remembered.



Guests arrived throughout the day, so it was no surprise to count seventy-four people at dinner. The Kitchen-Ladies did a fine job preparing both our meals. As dessert was served, the last event of the day was an auction to fund our monthly events. The bidding was lively and fun as always, earning us many hundreds of dollars. Our next auction

will be in December as part of our Yuletide celebration. Donations of auction items are always needed -- and always appreciated.



By any measure, this was a very large, complex, and successful gathering. I wish to thank all of our local leaders who are working as a team to create quality events every month.



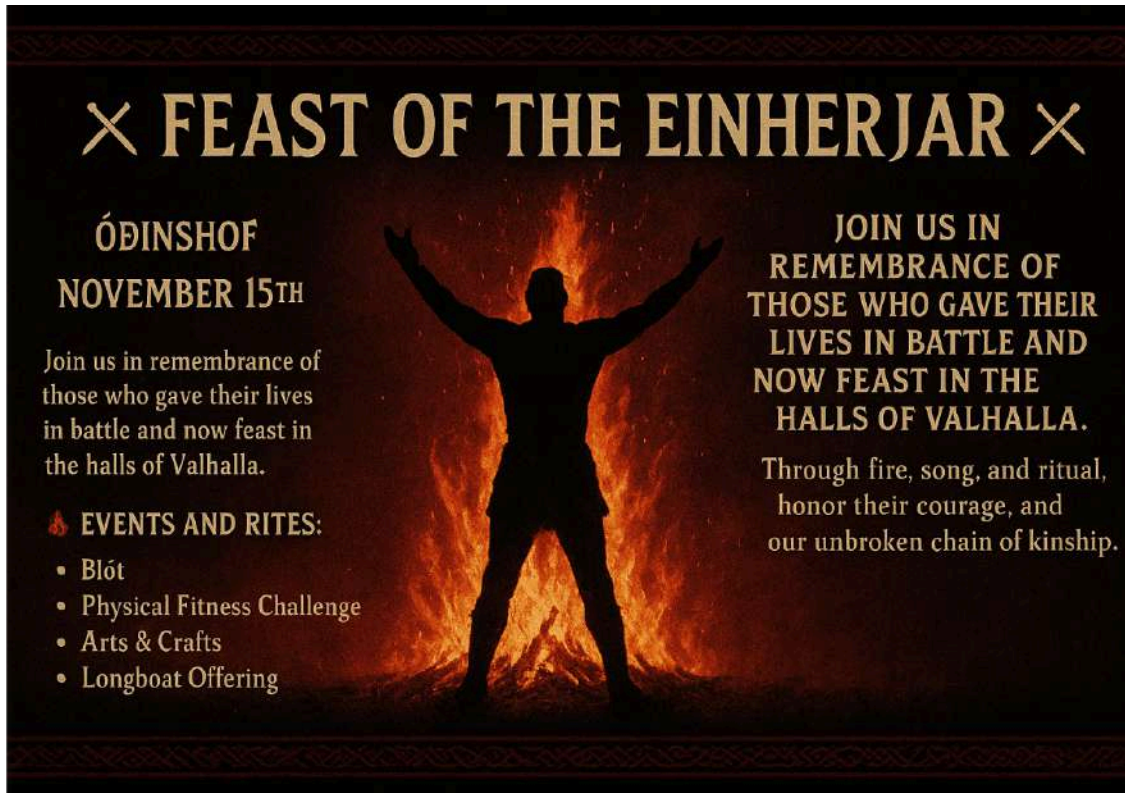
Hail the Aesir! Hail the Ancestors! Hail the Folk! Hail the AFA!



Hofgyðja Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Odinshof





× FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR ×

ÓÐINSHOF
NOVEMBER 15TH

Join us in remembrance of those who gave their lives in battle and now feast in the halls of Valhalla.

🔥 EVENTS AND RITES:

- Blót
- Physical Fitness Challenge
- Arts & Crafts
- Longboat Offering

JOIN US IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN BATTLE AND NOW FEAST IN THE HALLS OF VALHALLA.

Through fire, song, and ritual, honor their courage, and our unbroken chain of kinship.



BAKING MOOT
1ST SATURDAY OF THE
MONTH 9 AM
@ ÓÐINSHOF

RSVP TO SCHAPMAN@RUNESTONE.ORG

Scheduling for Einherjablót



Greetings Óðinshof!

I sincerely hope the start to the winter season is treating you well. Below you will find a brief overview for Einherjarblót at Óðinshof this year. Please reach out for questions, comments, or concerns. Take care, and I hope to see you soon.

- **Freyja Blót**

The line is held as nights grow long,
 Freyja waits, through smoke and song.
 Feather-cloaked she'll make her way,
 To choose her slain, on this day.
 Munin tells of falcons' grace,
 Whisked away to greener place.

- **Óðinshof Champion**

A series of games will be held to determine our Óðinshof Champion. Our champion will have the last word over our offering to the Einherjar. This challenge entails one minute of push ups, one minute of sit ups, and a timed 200m sprint; as well as marksmanship, axe-handling, and archery. If you would like a chance to be named Champion, please bring a change of clothes for the physical portion of the competition.

- **Einherjar Blót**

Bring gifts, totems, or trinkets of remembrance to place on our Einherjar alter, or to add to our Longboat offering.

- **Grog Ceremony**

Pictures of the fallen, totems for family members, or homemade gifts for the Gods may

be placed on the alter before the Grog is made. If you wish to participate in the making of our 2025 Grog, please bring a beverage of your choice, and a picture or totem of your chosen warrior. Your chosen beverage does not have to be alcoholic in nature.

- **Dinner and Awards**

As winter peaks over the horizon, swords and shields are stored away. The time has come to recognize the deeds of the warriors among us. A reflection on the previous year's battles, and proper due given to those who have earned recognition amongst their Folk.

- **Songs**

Those interested in our Feast of the Einherjar songbook, please send me an email. (dodom@runestone.org). I will be happy to send you an updated copy of our prepared songs. This year, we have a new addition, which I will attach below.

Leave Her Johnny

I thought I heard the Old Man say
Leave her, Johnny, leave her
Tomorrow you will get your pay
And it's time for us to leave her

[Chorus]

Leave her, Johnny, leave her
Oh, leave her, Johnny, leave her
For the voyage is long and the winds don't blow
And it's time for us to leave her

Oh, the wind was foul and the sea ran high
Leave her, Johnny, leave her
She shipped it green and none went by
And it's time for us to leave her

[Chorus]

I hate to sail on this rotten tub
Leave her, Johnny, leave her
No grog allowed and rotten grub
And it's time for us to leave her

[Chorus]

We swore by rote for want of more
Leave her, Johnny, leave her

But now we're through so we'll go on shore
And it's time for us to leave her

[Chorus]

Leave her, Johnny, leave her
Oh, leave her, Johnny, leave her
For the voyage is long and the winds don't blow
And it's time for us to leave her

In closing, it is my hope that this celebration allows room for somber reflection, and raucous excitement. As a warrior knows when to attack, and when to defend; we too will roar with laughter, and when necessary, lower our heads in respect. Be well Óðinsfolk. Never forget that we are here not because of past niceties, or the grace of others. We are here because hard men and stern women brought us here. Now, it's our turn.



Daniel Odom
Apprentice Folkbuilder
dodom@runestone.org

Hof Steward's Address



Óðinshof kicked off November with our first official workday since I took over the position of Hof Steward. There's a lot to be done moving forward, however we got down to the basics with organizing everything as much as possible. We cleared out the storage room.



While it's still a work in progress, organization and tidying up will be the main focus going forward. We also took the time to relocate the ancestor's altar after reviewing the suggestion box. Thank you to everyone who came out and lent a hand.

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Alexander Casto

acasto@runestone.org

Óðinshof Suggestion Box



We'd like to hear from YOU! Whether it's a big project, something minor that needs attention, or just things we can improve your experience at Our Holy Temple to Lord Óðinn, we need your input on what you like, what you dislike, and what we can do to elevate you and your family's experience here.

It's my goal and obligation as the caretaker of Óðinn's Hall to make this the place you not only want to come visit during the Holy Tides, but also a place you feel welcomed

and at home.

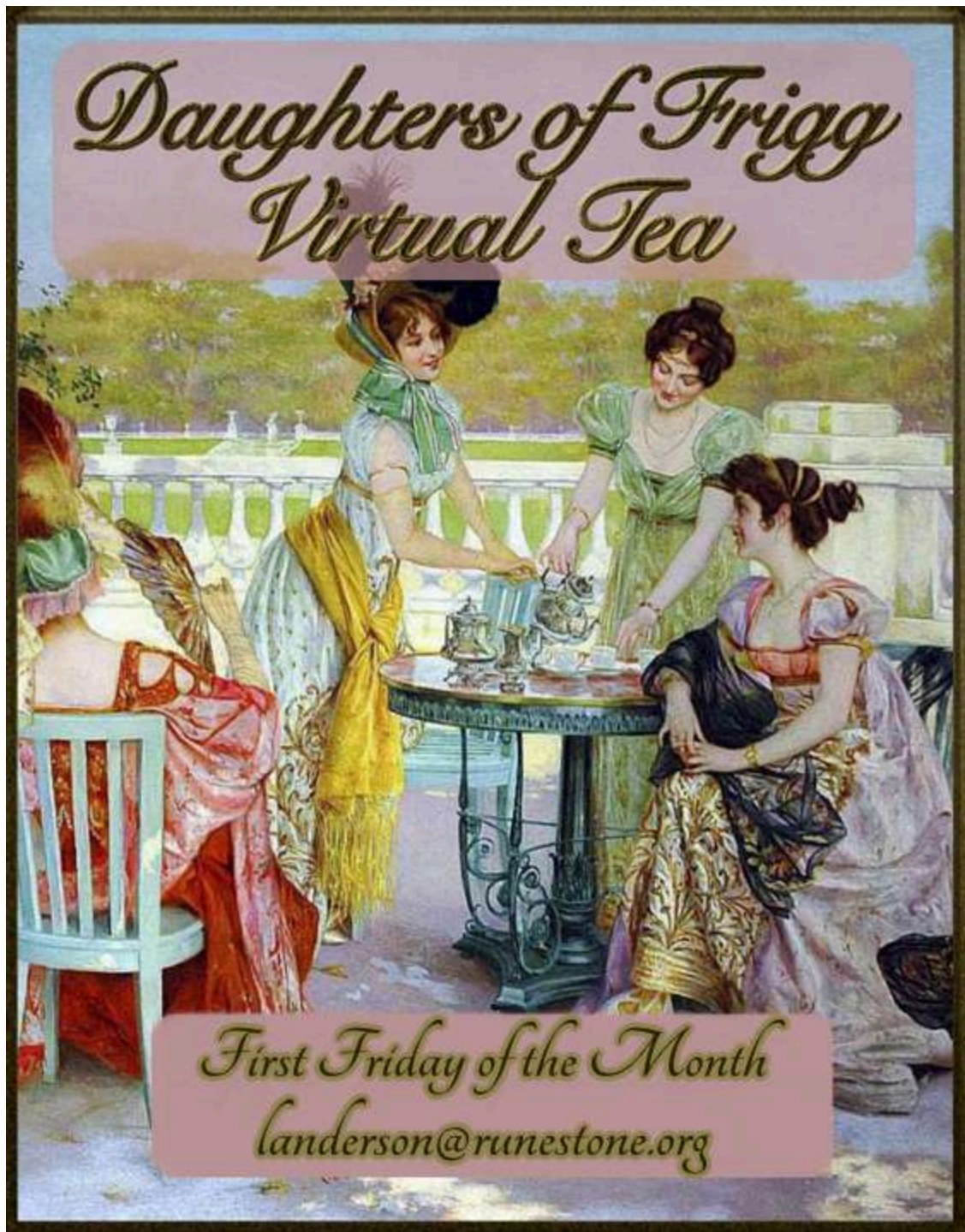
If you have any suggestions, comments, or concerns about the Hof, please use the suggestion box located in the Hall or contact me directly at acasto@runestone.org.



Folkbuilder Alexander Casto

acasto@runestone.org

Monthly Virtual Members' Meetings





Monthly Members' Meeting

Óðinshof

Monthly Members' Meeting

Last Friday of the Month at 7pm Pacific



Links Emailed and Posted to MeWe
Contact Any Folkbuilder for Assistance

Óðinshof Wish List



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 Goðar, proposed date for ritual, etc.) to Gyðja Lauren Anderson landerson@runestone.org. Each request will be evaluated, and we will follow up with you about accommodating your request.

Members and Moots



Arizona

Additional Arizona Events

GERMAN LUNCH MOOT



Phoenix, AZ

For more info: schapman@runestone.org

Australia

The Call Home



There are times when the path pulls us away. Work, stress, comfort — all those things that tell us, “You can skip it this time.” Before we know it, the weeks stretch on, and the connection we once felt begins to fade. It’s easy to drift. It’s harder to admit that we miss the warmth of belonging.

But the Gods have their ways of calling us back. It might come as a quiet moment in the wind, a song that stirs something old, or a small reminder that faith isn’t about perfection — it’s about returning. Each of us has felt that pull, that whisper: “You know

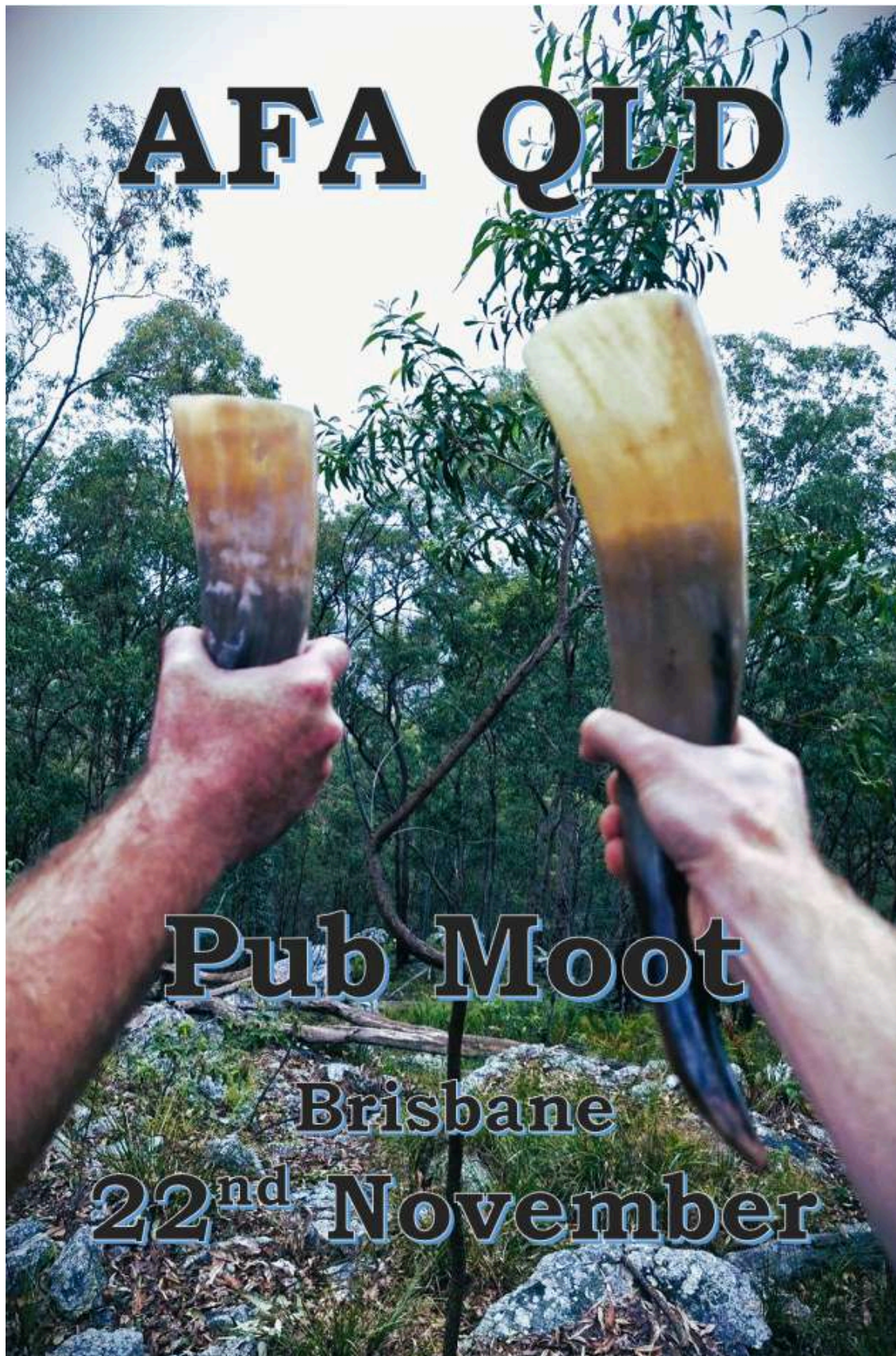
where you belong.”

The Church isn’t just a building or a name. It’s a hearth that burns with the shared fire of those who’ve walked this path before us — our Folk, our ancestors, our Gods. When we step back inside, after time away, that warmth doesn’t question or accuse. It simply welcomes us home.

I’ve learned that every time I stray, I return stronger. The distance teaches me how much I need the light. The silence reminds me of how much I value the song. The longer the winter, the sweeter the return of the sun.

If you’ve drifted lately, don’t feel guilt — feel gratitude. The road back is open. The Gods never forget their own. Take one step, light one candle, speak one prayer — and you’ll find that the path has been waiting for you all along.

Upcoming Events



Chris McDonald



Apprentice Folkbuilder
cmcdonald@runestone.org

California

Upcoming Events

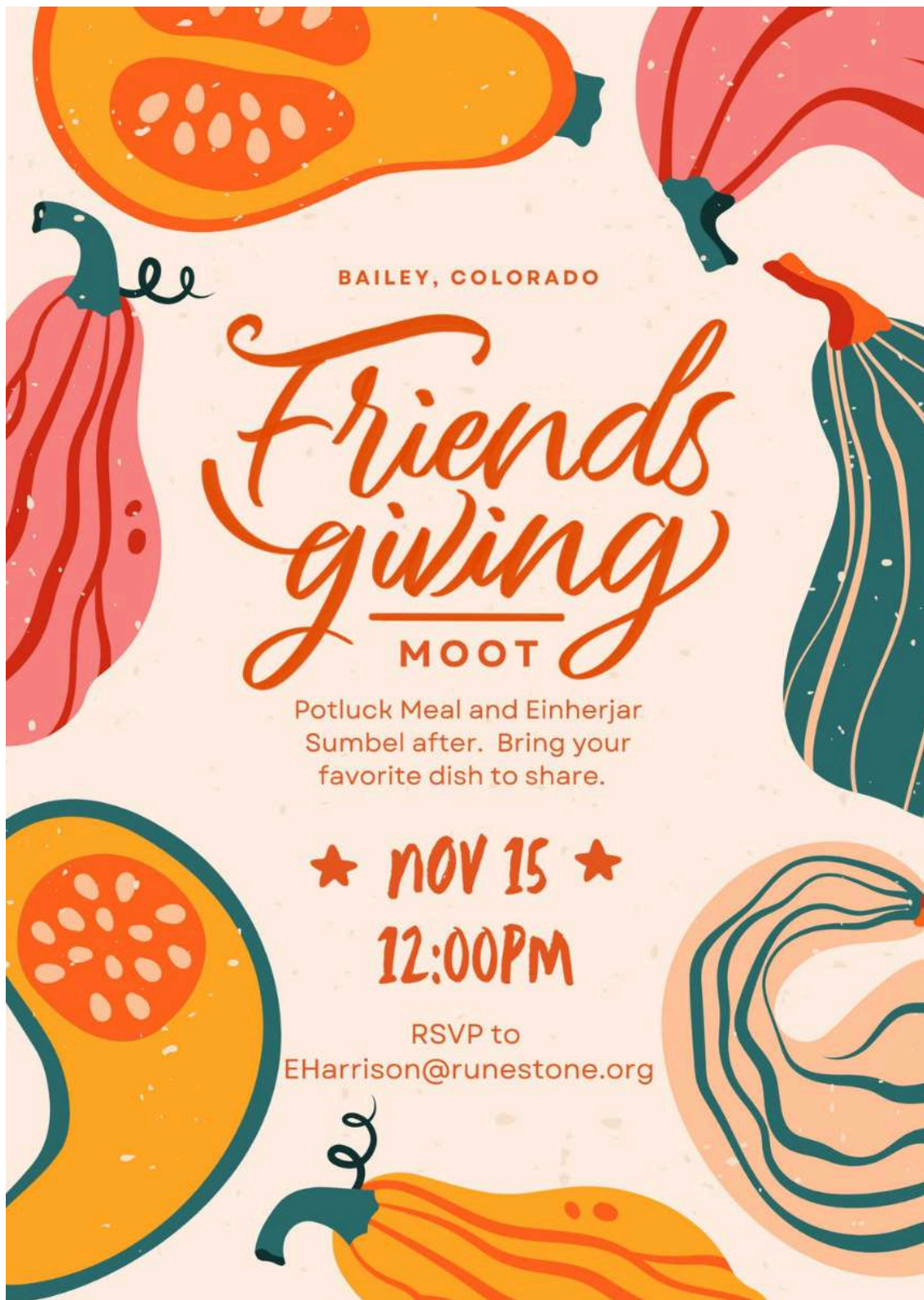




Gyðja Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

Colorado

Upcoming Events



Erin Harrison
Apprentice Folkbuilder
eharrison@runestone.org



Idaho

Upcoming Events



Annika Peterson



Apprentice Folkbuilder
apeterson@runestone.org

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Nick Gunn
ngunn@runestone.org

Montana

Honoring the Einherjar

This month, millions of Americans celebrated Columbus Day and the discovery of America. This was met with the typical "indigenous" people's celebration and the screeching denouncing of our Aryan forebears. But, there was also a resounding undercurrent of pride, echoed in cries of "conquered, not stolen". For the first time in my life, it seemed that the majority of people were taking pride in the accomplishments of our ancestors, standing tall and acknowledging our conquest of this land. This inspired me, to say the least.

By the time you are reading this, many of you will be preparing to celebrate the Einherjablót and honour our battle dead. Those of us out here at Fólkvangr will be celebrating by holding Blót at the horse grave on the site of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, where the 7th U.S Cavalry made an incredibly heroic last stand against a

determined enemy. In Pennsylvania, others will visit Gettysburg. When I was stationed at Fort Stewart, we would hang wreaths on trees planted for fallen soldiers in our division.



Why do we do these things? Why do we celebrate these men? Why honour men who, in some cases, fought in support of causes we do not believe in? The answer is simple, two-fold, and symbiotic: we are deeply inspired by heroic deeds, and they fight out of a zealous love for their kith and kin. Even in brother wars as divisive as the American Civil War, great heroism and nobility can be found on both sides, and the common soldier in both armies fought to preserve his way of life and advance his culture. This is noble and worthy of honour.

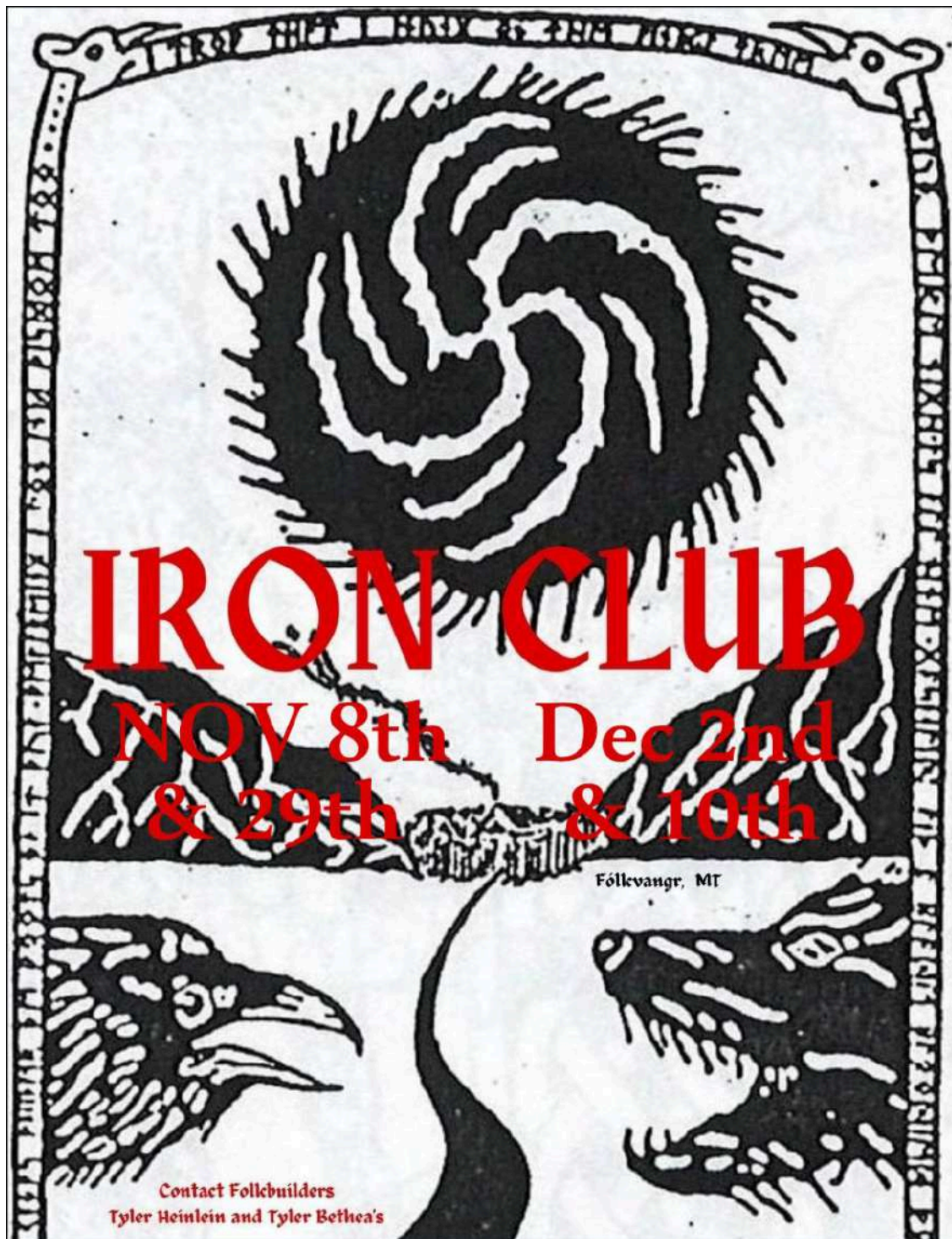


When we look back at the discovery, settlement, and founding of America, we see unmatched grit and resolve, and an unquenchable thirst for more. Americans are not separate from Europe: we ARE Europe. We are the sons who hungered for more. We are the sons of warriors, sailors, farmers, and nobles who dared venture ever westward, seeking glory, land, independence, and wealth. Be proud of your ancestors, beam with pride at their conquests, and honour the Einherjar with me on November 11th.

Hail the Einherjar!

Upcoming Events







Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea
tbethea@runestone.org

Og Hvar Varstu? Three years in the Valley



Fólkvangr.

The project I started less than three full years ago has been one of many difficulties and steady progress. When a project breaks the mold of what is conventionally accepted, the safeguards fall away. From being over one hundred miles from a proper hardware store to having to work remote, there are challenges to the construction of this community.

These difficulties only sweeten the prize. At the end of our efforts, I will be able to look back and say despite all of these obstacles, we succeeded. But what does success for the Fólkvangr Project look like?



The Fólkvangr Project is an intentional community made up of members of our church. It is a place where we acquire adjoining land and build real world infrastructure. It is a place where my neighbors are aligned with my faith and my worldview. It is a place where my children can be raised safely and in our ways. Furthermore, it is a place where we can live healthy, happy and piously.

Our first year my wife and I moved onto our initial twenty acres, we had thrown a rod in the jeep and it was towed seventy miles to the nearest shop. We were thirty miles from the nearest town with no car, no cell service, and of course, no running water. By now dear reader, you will have most likely become familiarized with the story of our first winter and the frozen river I had to cross on foot in order to retrieve water. It was a frigid winter full of hard work, but we made plans by the light of the fireplace for that spring.

When the ground thawed, we got to work. The property had a small cabin we had stayed in as well as a few sheds that were full to the brim with trash the previous owners had left. We began to clear and clean the buildings. We moved our livestock into a small feed lot we set up. I plumbed the house and we began to establish work stations around the homestead.



By year two, we had a meadery almost fully constructed and several acres of pasture fenced and things were starting to pick up speed.

Heading into year three, we made tremendous progress. We acquired another twenty acres and we built a barn. We brought in guernsey cows and fenced in the property. On the main lot, we similarly fenced in the twenty acres and built out a robust Icelandic sheep flock using our original breeders as the nexus of it.



Then, I bought another twenty acres less than a month later. We had help with the down payment from the Cameron Clan. They supplied a loan for the down payment to make it happen and I want to take the opportunity to thank them for their contribution. While I am at it, I'll brag that we paid it off already too. It really goes to show what working together can accomplish.

That effort brought the Fólkvangr Project up to sixty acres, three completed cabins, a score of outbuildings, a meadery with its brand new metal roofing sitting ready for install, a cabin under way, and a full size home under construction as I write this.



While this is tremendous progress, the biggest boon we have accomplished out here is that we have five households in the community now. The plethora of moots is here to stay because when you live in a community like we have built, every day is an opportunity to gather together.



Now its true, we have lost people along the way. My dear friend Alan Wittenberg passed away at the age of seventy-four. He was a brilliant scholar and writer, a kindred member. He was the living hero of the Odinic Order of the Ulfhidnar, and he was a tenured member of our church. He will be honored on November 30th at Fólkvangr for all that are able to make the drive.



Even though we miss Alan greatly, I know that he sees the work that we are doing. He sees the work we are putting in and how his legacy is continued through it.

In less than three years we have built a functioning dairy farm and ranch, built a community of families with kids running around under the big sky, and have begun a long road to Victory. What will Ten years bring?

Og Hvar Varstu?

Upcoming Events





FÓLKVANGR INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE TWELVE DAYS OF YULE



HOSTED BY THE ODINIC ORDER OF THE ULFHIDNAR

- Mother's Night - Dec 20th
- Solstice Bonfire - Dec 20th-21st / Dusk 'til Dawn
- The Wild Hunt - Dec 22nd / Lore, Food, & Mead
- Winter's Back is Broke - Dec 23rd / Feast & Drink
- Day of the Tomte - Dec 24th / Stories, Food, & Friends
- Day of the Gift Cycle - Dec 25th / Fireside Gift Exchange
- Father's Night - Dec 26th / Celebration of Fathers & Masculinity
- Day of the Vanir - Dec 27th / Celebrating Nature's Revival
- Day of the Æsir - Dec 28th

- Day of the Ancestors - Dec 29th
- Day of the Landvættir - Dec 30th
- Yule Feast - Dec 31st



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein
theinlein@runestone.org

Lilla Ullevi Happenings





October came and with it we got our first snow of the season. On the 12th of the month, we received more than 12 inches of snow. Since then, we've had a few dusting and intermittent flurries, but Winter hasn't truly arrived yet. We have our wood supply stocked. Now, if I could just put an elk in the freezer, we'll be in great shape!



Our first event of the month was our combined Day of Remembrance for Goði Guðjónsson and Meister von List on October 9th. That following weekend on October 11th, my daughter Ida had her first soccer tournament, and her team took first place in their age group! Congratulations, Ida!

Our Vetrnætr celebration took place on October 25th. Our Kindred was joined at the MacDonald residence by the Maurer family for dinner, honouring our Ancestors, and Frith. Sumbl closed out the lovely evening.

Upcoming Events

MONTANA EINHERJABLÓT



NOVEMBER 8TH

RSVP: rharlan@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan

rharkan@runestone.org

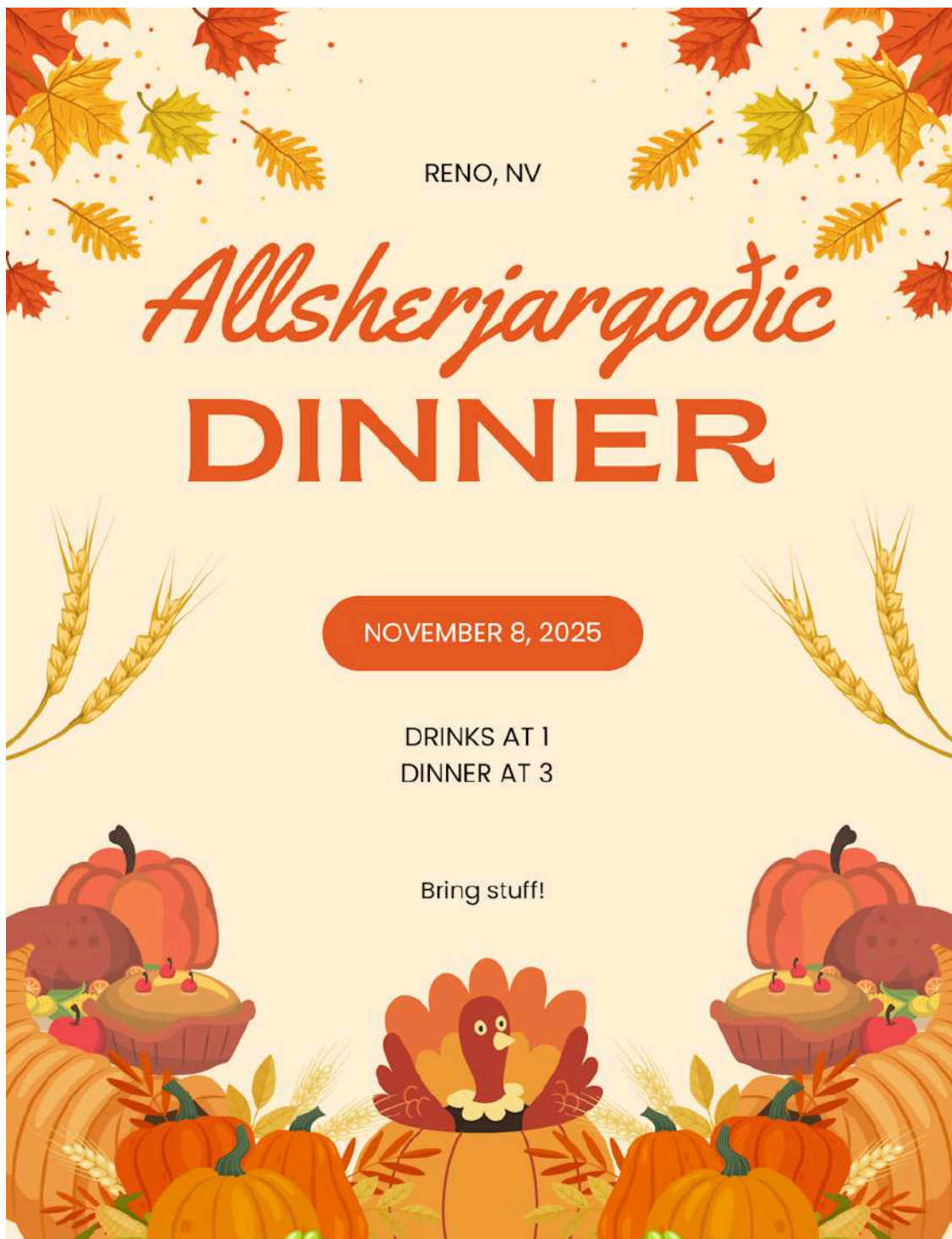
Nevada

Allsherjargöðic Dinner



Thank you to all who came out for our October dinner! We wish Dan and Marta the best on their move and new chapter in Idaho! We invite you all to join us for our November dinner on 11/8. We are expecting to be joined by our newest local member and her family as well as the McNallens making the trip over the mountains to join us!

Upcoming Events



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

Upcoming Events



Oregon

Upcoming Events

Washington

Rain Couldn't Stop Us

October was a wonderful month for get togethers here in the inland Northwest, and the crowning event was a potluck and Blót on the 25th hosted by the Weins family.

Even though the weather was drizzly and grey, we all had a good time chatting, getting to know new people, and eating warm, hearty food. The Weins' were friendly hosts, happy to show everyone around their property and provide hot tea to ward off the chill. They also had bunnies!

The heavier rain didn't put a damper on the Blót to Freyr and the Ancestors led by Folkbuilder Nick Gunn. If anything, it added a wonderful atmosphere to the proceedings and made the small Blót fire more poignant. Although not all of the approximately 13 people who attended participated in the ritual, it was still a good sign for what the future will hold.

Right before twilight, the rain cleared for the first time all day, and a double rainbow appeared, adding a beautiful end to a wonderful day.



Annika Peterson
Apprentice Folkbuilder
apeterson@runestone.org

East of the Sun, Pt. 2

Continuing from where I left off last month, me and Annika beelined for Tennessee immediately on the heels of Haustblót at Thorshof. The Battle of the Landvaettir was a really cool tradition I was previously unfamiliar with, and though part of me wanted to participate, my gut told me this was something that should be left to the locals. In this instance, I am simply an observer. We said our goodbyes and navigated the labyrinthine East Coast highways in the dark to the Kinsler family abode, which we arrived to sometime right around midnight. The hospitality of these people can't be overstated, and they more than live up to the reputation that precedes them. The following day was spent in good conversation with two Blótar led by Rachel, after which we parted ways and drove back towards Virginia. If any of you happen to read this, I want to thank you once again for being amazing hosts and I reckon we'll cross paths again before too long.

Monday was spent decompressing back in Lexington and finishing up the remainder of

the packing, which really wasn't a lot by that point. Most of it was done before I showed up, but there were some loose odds and ends that needed to be boxed up or shuffled around. Most of the day we just spent relaxing and mentally preparing ourselves for the drive ahead. Tuesday morning, we cut through foggy mountain roads to pick up the moving van a couple towns away. I want to preface everything which follows by saying neither of us bothered to give the van a name during our entire trip, and any attempt to do so retroactively just fell flat. The thing was too new and well-maintained to have much of a personality as such, which is objectively speaking a good thing, but the fact we didn't name a vehicle we spent so much time in still eats at me a little. We'd finished loading it up by early afternoon and we hit the road immediately after. Our first destination was Rushville, Indiana where we'd arranged to meet up with the illustrious Goði Rock and Apprentice Aidan MacMillan at Victory Hall that night. We're on a bit of a time crunch now, with two and a quarter states to snake through in eight hours. Everything here is entirely unfamiliar territory to me and I loved every second of the drive.

West Virginia is a state I need to come back to at some future junction. We didn't get many chances to stop but the whole place is absolutely breathtaking. From a purely visual standpoint, I think it was my favorite leg of the journey. Ancient rocky crags in every direction covered in dense, verdant woods was all we saw. That description would also fit where I'm from in a lot of ways, but this was something wholly different than the Northwest. Had I been able to stop and stay longer, I'd be able to articulate it better and I hope one day to do that because this place called to me. Just awe-inspiring. The one real stop we made there was in Point Pleasant at the northern tip of the state. Unbeknownst to me, this is the epicenter of Mothman sightings and the town's whole tourist industry revolves around him. I heard a lot of good things about the Mothman museum but we realistically only had time to stop and get gas and a bag of chips with the local cryptid on the bag. My assumption was that they'd be some sort of special Mothman flavor, but to my dismay, they were just regular old barbecue chips. My disappointment is immeasurable and my day is ruined.

Crossing over into Ohio, we get hit with a couple consecutive brief thundershowers before dusk sets in. Our van had impressive gas mileage for a vehicle of its size and weight so there wasn't a need to stop anywhere in the state, but I admittedly liked what I saw from the freeway. Ohio tends to get a lot of flak but I know there's good people there. Drive-thru convenience stores are a novel concept to me so that was a cultural point of interest from the little I got to see. Some of the towns as we drove through the western part of the state had some great old buildings to look at as well, West Alexandria in particular stood out to me in that regard. It was about here that the corn began, and Hoosierborea lay ahead not too far.

It took shockingly little time to reach Rushville once we crossed the state line, and passing by the castle of a courthouse at the center of town, we were greeted by the aforementioned Goði Rock and Aidan as they unloaded a mattress from the back of a truck for me and Annika to sleep on. I got nothing but good things to say about the Folk in Indiana. It was ten o'clock on a weekday and they still showed up to open up a place for us to stay for the night and hang out for a bit even though every one of us was dead tired. I love these guys. We were later joined by Apprentice Jacob Rutledge after being showed around the place. The ritual space in the attic of Victory Hall is unique and really atmospheric, and I'm hoping I'll be able to attend a Blòt there the next time I decide to return to the corn. Me and Anni crashed out for the night and in the morning set out for Des Moines.

Most of the places we drove through in Indiana had character. Once the wind turbines started to appear though, I have to admit things began to get hazy. Once we cross the majestic Mississippi into Iowa, things start to take a turn for the artificial and utilitarian in a really noticeable way. From the river to Des Moines I could count on one hand the buildings that weren't grey-toned Neomodern commercial structures popping up along the highway to break up the flow of the corn ocean. There are probably some wonderful parts of Iowa that I'm not privy to, and I have no intention of slandering an entire state based on my relatively short time spent in it. From my initial impression though, all things considered, Iowa is a spiritually alien place to me on a primal level and it puts me on edge. Des Moines put me in an uncharacteristically foul mood, and the one night we stayed there was enough for the both of us. The golden dome on what I assume was the state capitol was my favorite part, that was neat.

By this point, we've reached the halfway point of our trek across the continent and I still have a good chunk to cover but in the interest of brevity I'll split this story into one more installment. Stay tuned, folks!

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

Calling all Folk Photographers

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



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...

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



Lawspeaker Allen Turnage
aturnage@runestone.org



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