



## Óðinshof

First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

[www.odinshof.org](http://www.odinshof.org)

October 2024

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## Words from the Alsherjargoði



We are our DEEDS!

This month I would like to take a moment to remind everyone that Ásatrú is about what we do. I had the honor of attending Freyr's Harvest Feast in Montana and it was great to see ideas and dreams become action and accomplishment. This event has been hosted on Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein's homestead. I have heard countless people talk about homesteading and I am proud to see that Tyler has actually done it and continues to do so. We all shared a wonderful weekend in a space he and his associates have built and are building. Dreams became deeds.

We all have things we dream on and ways we want our lives and our futures to be different. Far too few of us take actions to build those dreams and shape our lives and

futures. Tyler dreamt of a homestead and a meadery. Some may have similar dreams; many will doubtlessly have wildly different dreams. With effort and persistence, we can all shape our reality to more closely fit our dreams, piece by piece, brick by brick. I am reminded and inspired to always work to make Victory happen.

As we celebrate the Autumn and the harvest, let's nurture our dreams and make firm plans on the deeds necessary to make those dreams reality. We are building dreams of generations together as a Folk and as a church; teamwork makes the dream work.

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



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## Words from our Founder





Founder Steven McNallen

## Words from our Witan

### *Soul Complex, The Hugr*



It has been quite some time since we visited the topic of the Soul. I began these articles last year, and in late July 2023, I had a serious health scare that derailed me a bit. It's been a year since that ordeal and I'm happy to share that I have made a full recovery. Let's pick up where we left off.

We left off with the second soul component, the Ek. (For a refresher of my previous articles on the subject, there's a reposting of it on the Runestone.org blog at [LINK](#).) There we discussed the importance of a well-trained and healthy ego, versus a weak and untrained one.

Next, we are discussing the Hugr, the logical mind. As before, we will be using Founder Stephen McNallen's *Asatru, A Native European Spirituality* as our reference.

Pronounced "h yewer," of note to remember that the g is silent. It is the logical mind, or active thought.

"In the Northern Lore, Odin has two ravens that fly forth every day and report back to him at night. Their names are Huginn (Thought) and Muninn (Memory). They represent two soul components, called the hugr and the minni."

Stephen McNallen, *Asatru, A Native European Spirituality*

Founder McNallen goes on to describe the two soul components from a psychological view as left brained and right brained. Hugr is conscious thought, in the moment, the ability to have discernment. To break down situations or topics and come to a logical conclusion. It is thinking, counting, reasoning, judgement and is linear.

We are often driven by emotions. Our people, especially in this modern world, react with a hair trigger when a topic or event sets them off in an emotional way. It's far less often that we take a step back and give the situation some thought and reason. We see this far too frequently.

Don't try to suppress your emotions, but do not let them drive you. When faced with a hot topic or a heated moment, it's best to take a step back and think before you speak or act. This will help in relationships with your significant other, your friends and colleagues, your brothers and sisters in Ásatrú. Use your Hugr for reason and understanding before you react. I think we could all be better in this regard.

This is especially true when dealing with your Folk. The benefit of the doubt is often not given, and that leads to hard feelings and often results in the dissolution of a relationship. Let us try to avoid that.

"To learn objectivity, pick an issue on which you have strong feelings. Now study the other side of that issue - not pouring through it with the idea of refuting the arguments, but challenging your preconceived notions."

Stephen McNallen, *Asatru, A Native European Spirituality*



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## Words from Our Goðar

### *The Life and Times of Thorgrun Odden, 1946-2024*



<https://youtu.be/11OF31Vnasg>

Timothy Edward Thompson was born on August 18, 1946 in Inglewood, California, the only son of Laverne “Tommy” Thompson and Mandalie Bulgrin. Generally called “Timmy” by his friends, we all knew him as Thorgrun Odden.

He was always a country boy at heart, as they moved to rural Colorado and then back to southern California. Eventually, the family came north where his father started building homes.

While in a Santa Cruz drugstore, the pretty young clerk caught Tim's eye. It was mutual, and in no time, Timmy Thompson and Katie Fuhs were a twosome with all the passion and promises of youth. They married on September 9, 1969, just before he joined up with the California National Guard during the Vietnam War years. He also worked alongside his dad, doing carpentry and learning "the trade."

Life was good. Work was plentiful, and they soon had two children, Josh and Rebekah. However, a family crisis occurred when Bekah was diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis while still a toddler. They searched for answers and medical advice from the best in the field, but there was no silver bullet to prevent the life-long pain and crippling that came with her illness.

Thorgrun was always fascinated by American and European history. He began collecting works like the Poetic and Prose Eddas, plus the saga stories based on his own Scandinavian roots. He knew that the family name was changed to Thompson upon arrival in the US. In an old family photograph, a young child identified as his great, great grandfather is where he learned the name that he took for his own. In 1985, Timothy Edward Thompson, became his true self, Thorgrun Edward Odden.

During the early 1980s, Thorgrun came across a magazine advertisement posted by Stephen McNallen with the words "ODIN LIVES!" He signed up for *The Runestone* but would be many years before the two men would meet at an Asatru Alliance Althing in Wisconsin.

Thorgrun built Katie's dream home in the forested hills near Santa Cruz where he set up his woodland Vé encircled by redwoods. Strange things happened there. He came back on consecutive days to find the ground torn up at the site where he did ritual. Realizing this was the work of a wild boar, he left offerings and made his troth to Ingvi Freyr. He soon established the Gullinbursti Kindred, using the name of Freyr's boar.

As Goði of Gullinbursti Kindred, Thorgrun attended an event called "Gathering of the Gothar" at the desert homestead of old-timer Kirby Wise. He came back with vivid details about the event and the assortment of odd characters. This event is where he was officially ordained among other Goðar. His article was published in a 1996 edition of *The Runestone*, a classic piece you can read today found in the [Runestone Library](#).

During those early years of the Asatru Folk Assembly, Thorgrun was there for the ebb and flow of the AFA. Times like the Kennewick Man era were dynamic and exciting. Other times left us dismayed in our fellow men. Thorgrun was steadfast -- never wavering in his loyalty to the Æsir or the principles of the AFA.

In time, he and Katie moved to Nevada County to live near their daughter's family. Grandparent-life was great, but times changed after the death of their daughter and the two grandchildren relocated to Reno with their father.

Thorgrun's last construction project was overseeing the building of the McNallen home in Nevada County. In time, Thorgrun and Katie moved into a travel trailer next to Óðinshof. The mornings were his time to set out sprinklers and do general upkeep. Known for his generosity, clients of our Óðinshof Food Pantry knew they could reach out to Thorgrun when their cupboards were bare. Children of Óðinshof will forever remember him as Papa Yule, the kindly wanderer who would stride through the door, holding his staff and jingling bells. Then he would hand out the wrapped presents amid the excited chatter of little Folk who sat before him.

Significant to those who call Óðinshof home, it was Thorgrun who contacted the realtor who would lead us to the old Grange Hall in Brownsville. That act changed the lives of us all. In the manifestation as the First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly, he brought in his towering god-poles, Óðinn – Þórr – Freyr, that finally had a permanent home. Over time, he donated other items to the Hof from his personal collection as a Goði.

Besides fruit trees, Thorgrun planted rare conifers at Óðinshof in an overgrown area next to the cemetery. Through the efforts of our Folkbuilders, it has become a sacred spot now called Thorgrun's Grove. It already feels like a healing-place with a waterfall and bench for quiet contemplation. We all hoped it would be Thorgrun's place of recuperation, but that wasn't meant to be. It will forever be Thorgrun's place of peace and healing for others.

Thorgrun lived out his last years as an emissary of Freyr, his task to bring abundance, wisdom, and peace to this place he called home. His will-to-live could not override the timing-out of his body. Thorgrun passed to his Ancestors with Katie by his bedside, on July 10th. His Memorial Service took place on his 78th birthday, August 18, 2024.

Alsherjargoði Matthew Flavel wrote a brilliant piece for the August Runestone, one that I've shared with many people. He commemorates Thorgrun's life as an AFA Goði, and also Goði David Byron James who passed through the veil in 2014. Once a Goði, always a Goði. In this world and beyond.

Thorgrun's Grove will be a main beautification project at Óðinshof for years to come. His spirit and dreams reside there more than any other place. May he continue to inspire us to further the work he began in Miðgarðr.

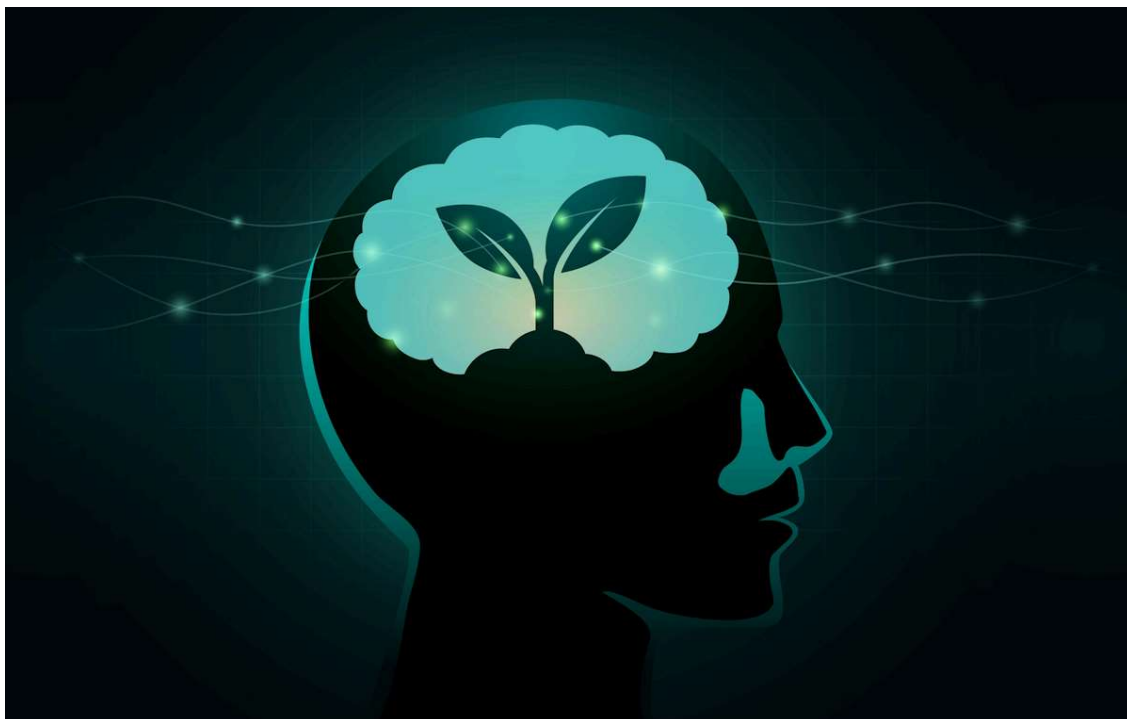


We appreciate all of the family members who came to celebrate his life: grandchildren Abigail Roth and Benjamin Roth from Reno; Thorgrun's sister, Cheryll McKowan and her granddaughter Willow; son Josh Thompson and his wife Theresa from Turlock; Katie's sister-in-law Lola Fuhs , with her daughters, Jessica and DeAnna who drove out from Wisconsin.



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*Survivor or Conqueror: A Change in Perspective*



When our parents brought us into this world, they did so with the understanding that life is good, but never easy. Everything that the Nornir have woven for us will inevitably have some impact on us—either positive or negative. These events build up and become an integral part of who we are, for better or for worse. However, we can mitigate some of the negative impact by changing the way we think about negative

events, the way we react to future events, and even the frame in which we view ourselves.



How we view ourselves in our mind's eye is so much more important than we might think. We are all something of a "character" in our own heads. Maybe your character is a winner or a loser, a genius or a moron, a warrior or a poet, a champion or a couch potato.

I urge you to think on how you view yourself, and to ask yourself what negative events contributed to this perception of yourself.

When looking at these negative events, do you see them as defeats? As missteps? Or as trials?

If you see unfortunate events in your life as defeats that you simply suffered through, I would encourage you to change that. If you are still here and reading this and standing with the Æsir and the AFA, then you are not defeated. You are more than a survivor, and your mindset must reflect that.

View your negative experiences as trials that you conquered, or at least learned from. Every new day is another chance to grasp victory, to reforge a part of yourself in the fires of struggle.



Shed the “survivor” mindset, the self-pitying and self-fulfilling prophecy! Don the armor of the conqueror, with your loyalty to the Æsir as your weapon! Every day is a mountain to climb and a skill to gain! Your ancestors did not give us this life so that we could merely trudge through it with our heads down!

Goði Trent East

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*The Wild Hunt: The Aegis of Óðinn*



The Wild Hunt is well known among Ásatrúar. The army of the dead, the Einherjar, led by Óðinn upon the fall storms when the veil between the living and the dead is at its thinnest. Tales of armies of the dead stretch across time from its undoubted Indo-European origin, to the troops in ancient India of the Maruts led by Rudra, to the Mesnie Hellequin of the Middle Ages, and even in more modern times, Tolkein draws upon this lore for the dead men of Dunharrow.

Over the centuries, there have been many names for this ghostly troop, and even more tales; the Furious Army, the Wild Army, along with the Wild Hunt and the Mesnie Hellequin. This is one of the more recent terms for this procession of spirits that roamed the European countryside. In France, it came to mean people who assembled to commit acts contrary to good character, but that probably just meant there was a whiff of paganism.

Originally the Wild Hunt was associated with the coming of Autumn and the thinning of the veil, but in the 13th and 14th centuries, and with the predominancy of Christianity, it was said the host came in troubled times to rouse the fighting spirit.

One of the first to see the connection between the leader of the Wild Hunt and Óðinn was Jacob Grimm. He studied the Furious Army and the Wild Army of the regions to the east of the Rhine, and in their leader, he saw a form of Óðinn that had been downgraded by Christianity to the rank of a ghostly figure.

People have also seen other gods as the leader of the Wild Hunt, but they do not hold up. One is Þórr, because of the storms always associated with the coming of the Furious Army. But this connection is misplaced, due to that the storm is not associated with the leader, but with the troop of the dead. There is a long association with the dead and storms. In Switzerland, people still say “the Turscht is on the hunt” or “it is as if the Turscht was hunting” when a strong autumn wind blows or a heavy winter rages. In the Thun region, the passage of the Furious Army is accompanied by a great rumbling, and when the Waldhooli blows his horn, the weather is going to turn foul.

Another god associated with the Wild Hunt is Freyr, but this connection is even more tenuous than Þórr. With a painting by Lucas Cranach the Elder called Melancholy from 1532 depicting a Furious Army lead by a figure on a wild boar and the pig being one of the most often cited ghost animals, the connection falls apart when you realize the rider of the boar in the painting was a woman with a spear.

Of the animals associated with the Wild Hunt, none is more prominent than the horse. The Infernal Throng often consists of warriors and horsemen, and as the god of war and the owner of Sleipnir, Óðinn is right at home in this context. The horse’s role as psychopomp is well attested and ancient. Sleipnir literally carries Óðinn to Helheimr and back. His function as the master of Jöl, through his knowledge of necromancy and other magical practices, solidifies his role at the head of the Furious Army.

In closing, I’ll note how Otto Hofler, like Grimm, proposed “the priority of the ecstatic worship over mythic legend is the reflection of secret German ecstatic cults” and the

reflection of the rites binding warriors within a brotherhood, placed beneath the ægis of Óðinn.

So, whether it's another winter or turbulent times, when you hear the horn on the wind, the Furious Army is moving, and our Folk are roused to meet the challenges ahead.

Hail Óðinn!



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*Runic Thoughts*





Life is meant to be a ritual. Not a grandiose show with snakes and gibberish, but an exchange with the Divine that rebuilds our inner temples. We saw that we indeed had a home, and we started walking toward it. Day by day we build that inner sacred space. We are becoming the people that we once were, openly seeking a relationship with OUR Gods. When that cycle built itself up enough, we turned that outwards. We sought physical temples and sacred spaces. In front of the world, we praised the Gods of our ancestors, and revived our Folksoul. Our ritual continues, and we are coming home.



It seems that there is always something occurring that we don't like. Be it on a micro or larger level, there's always going to be something that riles the masses. The easy thing to do is to allow the indignation around you to seep in and carry you off in a dust cloud of temporary feelings. The noble thing to do, however is to stand where you are. Stay solid and upright. This is what our people need. Become the iron, as opposed to the dust.



This is not a solo venture. For us to fully realize who we are, we need to get out of our own space, and enter the space of the Folk. The Folk are bigger than just one, we are stronger, and we rise faster together.

Being among the Folk makes us better. It breaks us out of our own headspace, and shows us how our world can be. Whenever we gather to raise a horn and exchange gifts with our Gods, we are where we need to be. There is no substitute for that.



What's in your blood?

Our blood contains the building blocks of who we are and the people that came before us. It contains our history, the rich tapestry of your personal heritage. It is not something to merely throw away in a fit of blackpilled pique. Take these gifts, and use them to build something more valuable than anything else. With this blood we build our future.



A healthy spine supports the entire physical body. If any portion of that series of bones falls into disrepair, your overall well-being will suffer. The same can be said for your spiritual spine. Maintain your resilience and strength emotionally and spiritually as you would the physical. Standing up straight is more than a physical ability. It is vital to maintain that mental and spiritual uprightness when faced with challenges.



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## The Runestone - A Throwback

*Abide No Strife and Build Bright Flame*

from *The Runestone*, October 2021



Everyone who joins the Asatru Folk Assembly agrees to the [Declaration of Purpose](#), the [Statement of Ethics](#), and the [Law of the Hall](#). From my own personal experience and from speaking with so many fellow AFA members through the years, I know that the Declaration of Purpose is what inspires Folk and that the Statement of Ethics is our foundation. These differentiate us from the outside world; they define what makes us Ásatrú.

But we don't talk about the Law of the Hall often enough. This document is not primarily about how we deal with the outside world or what sets us apart from it, even in positive terms. It is primarily about how we deal with one another. In fact, it is an ethical demand of what we OWE to one another as members of an Innangarðr.

Abide no strife in the hall or between kin. One must be able to speak one's mind candidly, but disagreements must never exceed the bounds of respect or courtesy. All within the hall are brothers and sisters and are to be treated appropriately.

Build bright fame, not dark disdain, for those who dwell in the hall. Our deeds and words must be such that the reputation of the Asatru Folk Assembly, and of Ásatrú as a whole, grows more glorious because of our presence. Do good to your kin, grow in your might and main...and when we disagree among ourselves, let it be done out of the sight of others.

We can all do better at these. They seem obvious but are tremendously difficult. Social media is socially flawed. It doesn't matter what platform, or whether its public or private. Social media is inherently anti-social because it doesn't communicate nuance or feelings. Let's all commit to being very careful with it. When we get angry or offended by something on social media, reach out directly to the person and remember they are kin, a brother or sister.



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## Ásatrú Trúlgmál





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

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

We have known for a long time that a clear expression of the fundamental beliefs of the AFA was needed and recently, we took the first steps in presenting that in a clear and straight forward way. Please know this is the first step and is by no means all-encompassing. The intention here is to express the very fundamentals of our religion in one place, in a way that is easy for our AFA family to reference as well as a document to explain our religion to those who ask: "What is it that you guys believe?"

Hail the Heroes of Ásatrú that paved the way!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Hail the Æsir!



Matthew D. Flavel

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# The Quest for Freyshof

*“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:

1. We need to pay off Njörðshof.
  - The first of 2 loans have been paid off!
  - We now owe \$78,841 on our remaining loan.
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 6.9%.
  - This is membership dues/Hoftollar plus other donations.
3. We need to locate a suitable property.
4. We need to find lenders and build a war chest.

Freyshof

EST. 202X

Freyshof Fundraiser

Click Here to Donate Today

FIFTH HOF OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

67.82%

Paying off Njörðshof is the first step

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*



Sigrheim

Fund

Click Here

Help Sigrheim get stocked  
and ready for our Folk!

Donate Supplies  
from our  
wishlist ✨ ✨ ✨  
amazon

Thank You!

CLICK HERE

*Upcoming Events*

A sign for Sigrheim WORK DAYS. The text 'Sigrheim' is in purple, 'WORK' is in orange and brown, and 'DAYS' is in green, blue, and pink. The sign is set against a background of a dirt path and green trees. A grey box on the right contains the text: 'Every ~~First~~ Weekend of Every Month starting May through the Fall'. At the bottom, it says 'RSVP U1/ NRICE@RUNESTONE.ORG'.

Sigrheim  
WORK  
DAYS

Every  
~~First~~ Weekend  
of Every Month  
starting May  
through the Fall

RSVP U1/ NRICE@RUNESTONE.ORG

Winter Nights at Sigrheim



October 19th at 830pm

RSVP to  
[nrice@runestone.org](mailto:nrice@runestone.org)



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

[nrice@runestone.org](mailto:nrice@runestone.org)

### *Upcoming Events*



Sigrheim Family Camping Trip, November 23-24

Please join us as we camp out at the Home of Victory, Sigrheim! We'll be camping out in the lower field, hiking along the old road to the summit and future home of Týrshof, and exploring an old cemetery. We also have a good bit of work planned; we will be clearing some downed trees, cleaning up headstones, and digging a set of steps, so also come ready to work. Let's lend Folkbuilder Nick Rice some helping hands while doing service to our Folk and the Æsir.



Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea

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## Victory Never Sleeps

Victory Never Sleeps, a weekly podcast produced by the Asatru Folk Assembly, hosted by Alsherjargothi Matthew Flavel alongside weekly guests. The show doesn't stop until the questions stop rolling in. Come listen and learn about a variety of topics and truths relevant to our modern Asatru Folk.



Aesir. Virtues. Heroes. Doctrine. Beliefs. Cosmology. Runes. Holidays. Literature. Lore.

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

Catch us LIVE with new episodes on Wednesdays at 8pm Central / 6pm Pacific on YouTube, Twitter, Entropy, Odyssee, VK, Rumble, and Twitch. Audio versions drop on Spotify, Apple Podcast, iHeartRadio, and Amazon Podcasts on the Friday after the new episodes air.

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



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

Matthew D. Flavel



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## AFA Asatru Academy



Check out the Asatru Academy at [AsatruAcademy.org](http://AsatruAcademy.org)



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

*Letter from the Assistant Dean*



Autumn is upon us; and our Ásatrú Academy children are ready to explore all the delights of the coming season. The Waldorf curriculum supports the crafting, nature experiences, cooking, and stories that we associate with fall-culture, Halloween, and our own Winter Nights celebration in honor our ancestral mothers.

As my personal introduction, much of my attention is given to Óðinshof District, but I'm officially an Assistant Dean of the Ásatrú Academy program as well. Having taught in the public school system for thirty years, I support the need for parents taking the lead in their children's education. Ásatrú Academy does exactly that. Parent can choose the full Waldorf curriculum option, or the adjunct AFA religious instruction which is there for all enrollees.

Academy Dean and Goði Rob Stamm alongside Witan Brandy Fassett are making sure that we have the necessary documents for legal compliance in states where our families

live. This is a complex project for our staff who are compiling documents to help all parents meet state homeschooling requirements and deadlines.



Another focus is to have Ásatrú Academy staff known as Education Coaches, communicating regularly with our families, on whatever schedule works best for the parents. My role is to add supplemental materials to our current curriculum to meet state mandates and requests by parents. Adding to our religious education offerings will be continual process.

If you have the time and the background to support an aspect of Asatru Academy, talk to one of our staff members. One goal is to add to our [library](#) of Storytime videos, including adding videos for some of our older grade levels. Folkbuilder Nick Rice can tell you exactly what we're looking for. [nrice@@runestone.org](mailto:nrice@@runestone.org)

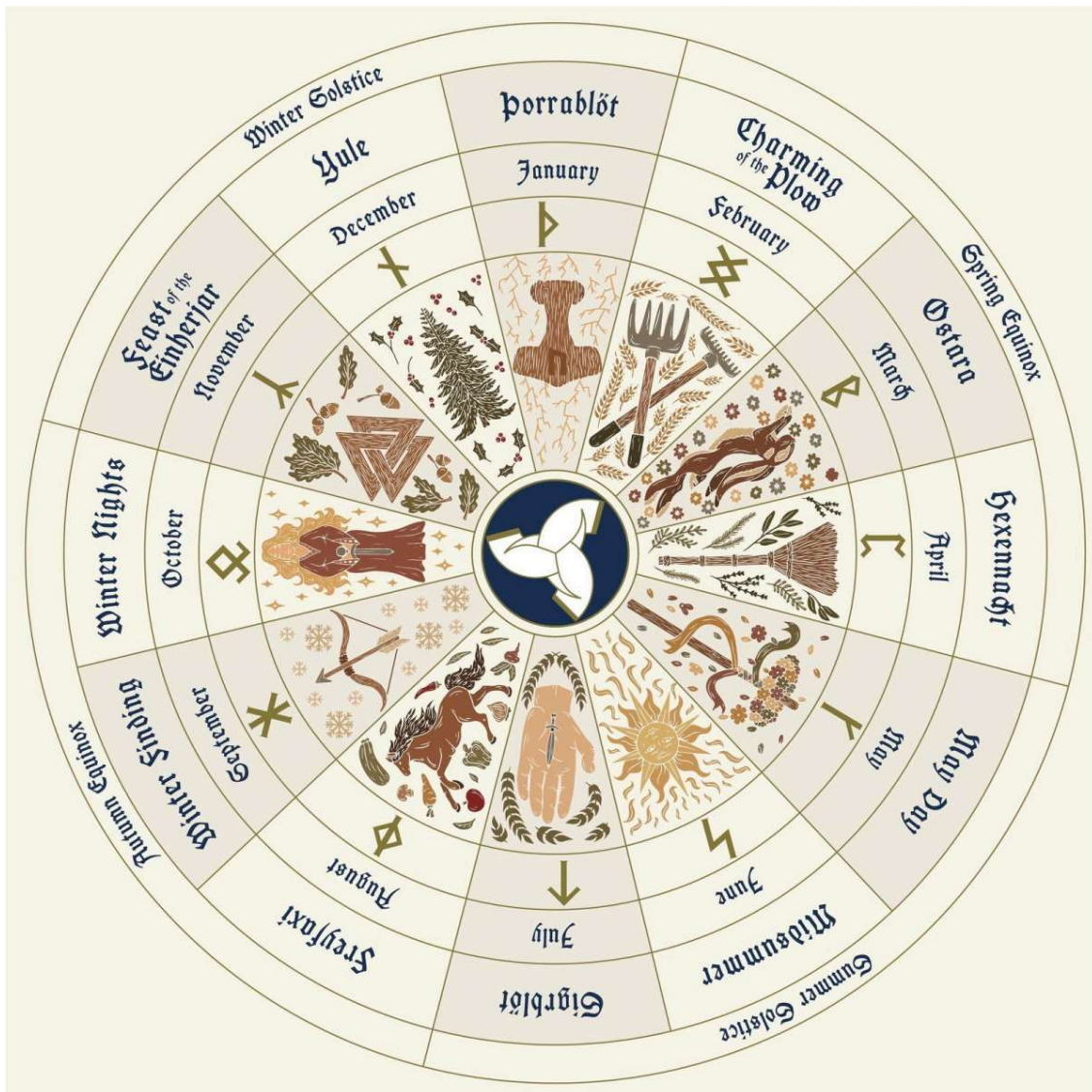
Thank you for supporting our program and encouraging our families to participate. Our enrollment is up to 38 students in grades K-6, but we do have room for more. Talk to

us! Email us at [academy@runestone.org](mailto:academy@runestone.org) or feel free to use the Contact Us form at [AsatruAcademy.org](http://AsatruAcademy.org).



Gyðja Sheila McNallen  
Asst. Dean of the Ásatrú Academy  
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## Remembrance & Holy Days



**2024**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Observance</b>
January 9	Day of Remembrance for Raud the Strong
January 20	Porrablót
February 1	Day of Remembrance for King Eanfrith of Bernicia
February 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 17	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olvir of Egg
March 19 (observed on 16th)	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 10	Day of Remembrance for John Yeowell “Stubba”
April 30 (observed on 20th)	Hexennacht
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
May 1 (observed on 18th)	May Day
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric of the Goths
June 20 (observed on 15th)	Midsummer
July 4	Day of Remembrance for Sveinbjorn Beinteinsson
July 9	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills
July 20	Sigrblót
August 1	Day of Remembrance for King Osric of Deira
August 9	Day of Remembrance for King Radbod of Frisia
August 17	Freyfaxi
September 9	Day of Remembrance for Prince Hermann of the Cherusci
September 22 (observed on 21st)	Winter Finding
October 1	Day of Remembrance for John Gibbs-Bailey "Hoskuld"
October 9	Day of Remembrance for Meister Guido von List
October 15	Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen
October 19	Winter Nights
November 9	Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigríð of Sweden

Date	Observance
November 11 (observed on 16th)	Feast of the Einherjar
December 9	Day of Remembrance for Egill Skallagrímsson
December 20	Mother's Night
December 20-31 (observed on 21st)	Yuletide

## October



Asatru Holidays - October 2024 - Hoskuld | von List | McNallen | Winter Nights  
<https://youtu.be/pMtXssPfZas>

## Days of Remembrance

*John Gibbs-Bailey | October 1st*





Y May 22, 1913 - January 1, 2003 𐌺

John Gibbs-Bailey, better known as Hoskuld, was a very private man. There are no known photographs of him, and even those in the highest positions within the Odinic Rite knew very little about his personal life. His birth date, as well as the date of his death are not commonly known. Despite this lack of information, the legacy of Hoskuld is one that continues to impact Ásatrúar today.

While we do not have much information about his life, it is commonly known that Gibbs-Bailey had an interest in organized Ásatrú since at least the 1930s. Throughout the years, Gibbs-Bailey realised that in order to truly organize Ásatrúar, he would need a strong foundation and doctrine. Gibbs-Bailey met John Yeowell in the late 1950s, and in 1973, they founded the Committee for the Restoration of the Odinic Rite.

During the early years of the Odinist Committee, Gibbs-Bailey held a more public role. He began to use the name Hoskuld, one he had adopted from the name of Hoskuld Dalla-Kolson, an Icelandic Goði who lived in the tenth century CE.

It was also during this time that many of Hoskuld's ideas on doctrine were recorded. The most notable examples of this being the Nine Noble Virtues. Although Hoskuld had been working on the Nine Noble Virtues for many years by this point, it was not until his partnership with Stubba that they took on their current format. Prior to this, there were only eight virtues, and they were not in the same order used today.

In the late 1970s, it was decided amongst the two founders that Stubba would begin to take on a more public facing role and Hoskuld would step back from the spotlight. In 1980, after Stubba renamed the organization The Odinic Rite, Hoskuld was named the

first treasurer. Not much else is known about the life and deeds of Hoskuld after this point.

Despite the lack of biographical information, we can still learn from the life of Hoskuld. The very Virtues by which we live our lives as Ásatrúar was first compiled by Hoskuld and form a foundation for all those of our faith.

On October 1st, 2023, the AFA marked the first official celebration of a Day of Remembrance for John Gibbs-Bailey, known as “Hoskuld.”

Hail Hoskuld!



Folkbuilder Ali Clausen  
[aclausen@runestone.org](mailto:aclausen@runestone.org)

*Meister Guido von List | October 9th*



‡ October 5, 1848 - May 17, 1919 †

Born in October of 1848 in Vienna, Guido Karl Anton List was the son of a prosperous middle-class family who traded and worked in the Leather goods industry. Raised a Roman Catholic, List found his love of mythology and history early in life, often acknowledging that his belief in the Æsir, and Óðinn in particular, developed during these young years. A scholar, painter, and writer, his big ambition was to live his life

doing the things he loved. His father, however, pressured him strongly into taking over the family business.

In his spare time, he continued to write and paint. He also took part in several leisure sports clubs, such as rowing and mountaineering. During one of his many trips List purportedly left his group to spend a solitary midsummer atop Geiselberg hillfort. Here, it is said, he reaffirmed his belief in Óðinn. Upon the death of his father in 1877 List abandoned his family business in favor of pursuing his writing passion.

Despite being an avid believer of Óðinn, he married his second wife in a Protestant ceremony in 1899. This didn't hamper his writing or his influence, however, and by 1902 when his writings took on a different direction, he was a prolific and well-known voice in the nationalist and Volkish movements.

It was in 1902 that von List had his great epiphany. After a cataract surgery left him blind for eleven months, List was left with much time for reflection and meditation. During this time he discovered the Armanen runes. He called this set of runes the Proto-language of the Aryan race. It was through these runes that von Lists occult ideas and writings evolved.

The popularity of his ideas exploded amongst the wealthy, middle class of Austria and Germany at the time and the Guido-von-Gesellschaft was born. The von-List society further evolved and on the Midsummer of 1911, the inner group called the High Armanist Order was created. While the main group focused on his occult and political ideologies, the inner group was dedicated to the worship of Óðinn through his writings and sacred pilgrimages.

With food shortages after the war and old-age creeping up on him, von List's health deteriorated and in May of 1919 he passed away at the age of 71. His body was cremated and buried in an urn in the Vienna central cemetery, Zentralfriedhof.

Among his many novels, plays, and political manuscripts it was his first dedicated occult manuscript, "Das Geheimnis der Runen" or "The Secret of the Runes," that really sets Guido von List up as a forefather of modern Ásatrú, influencing many including the Ásatrú hero Alexander Rud Mills.

We can never anticipate when the spark of inspiration will lead to the flame of an idea. It's easy to look at that inspiration and say that it isn't real, or it's just the imagination going crazy. With faith, however, our limitations can be cast off. Have faith in the Æsir. Have faith in our Ancestors and in our Folk soul. Have faith in yourself. Each one of us can accomplish great things if we work hard enough and maintain our faith.

Guido von List is the dedicated hero of Óðinshof. For more information and a deeper dive into the life and acts of Meister von List, check out [Odinshof.org](http://Odinshof.org).

Hail Meister Guido von List!

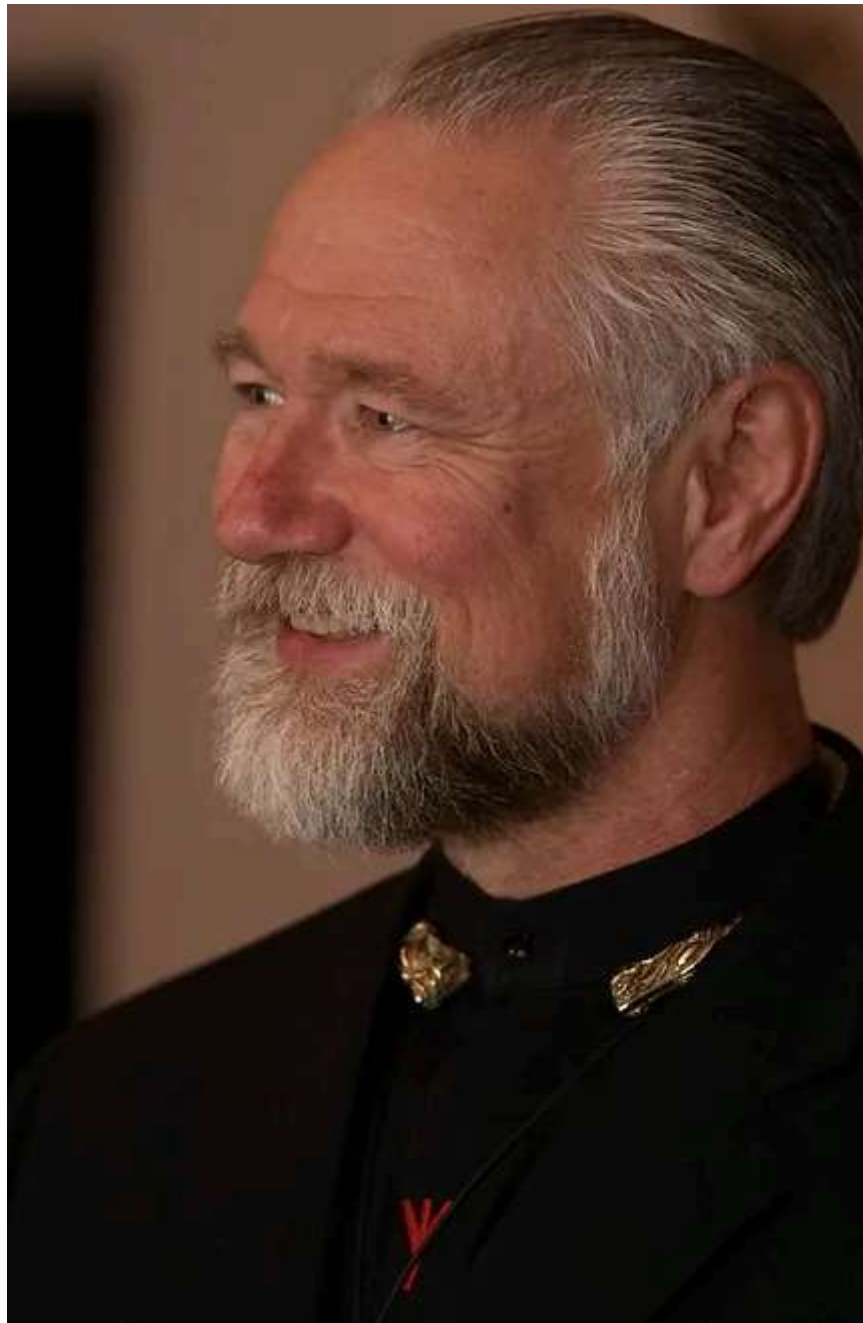
Hail Óðinn!



Gyðja Catie Erickson  
[cm.erickson@runestone.org](mailto:cm.erickson@runestone.org)

## Happy Birthday

*Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen | October 15th*



"Anyone who has raised a horn in honor of our ancestral Gods, has done so because of, or in spite of, Stephen McNallen."

Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel. Ostara In the South, March 2020

This month we celebrate the birth of our Founder, Stephen McNallen. Before he became the Father of Modern Ásatrú, before he started a religious movement on his own, before the Kennewick Man, he was born in a small rural town in Texas in 1948.

"On a more intimate level, I chose my parents well: My father was a hard-working, Irish Catholic oil hand who had come to Texas for the oil boom some years earlier,

and my mother was a loving, kind, and intelligent woman who – significantly – bought me the books I wanted and read them to me.”

Founder McNallen developed an interest in pre-Christian religion in college after reading the book *The Viking*, by Edison Marshall. In 1968 or 69, he dedicated himself to worship the Gods of Europe. In 1969-70, he founded the first Ásatrú church in the new world, The Viking Brotherhood, which gained tax exempt status in 1972. He began writing and distributing *The Runestone* which was hand typed and copied on a mimeograph machine.

“At first it was a private thing, but then I began quietly promoting the religion – which at that point I simply called “Norse paganism,” as I had no name for it. I really was starting from scratch. About the time of my graduation from college, I started a minuscule publication called *The Runestone*. I cranked it out on a mimeograph machine (!) – the first run was eleven copies. Within a year or so – August 29, 1972 – I had received recognition of the Viking Brotherhood as a tax-exempt religious organization.”

After reading Magnus Magnusson’s book, *Hammer of the North*, where first heard the word Asatru, Founder McNallen began to use and promote his religious ideal as Ásatrú, rather than Odinism.

At some point during his time in the US Army, Founder McNallen began to adopt the belief that Ásatrú was a religion of the peoples of Europe, rather than being a religion for all, thus adopting Folkism. In 1976, after being discharged from the Army, he renamed the Viking Brotherhood to the Asatru Free Assembly. in 1987, Steve dissolved the Free Assembly.

After seeing what American Ásatrú had developed into, which denied that Ásatrú was a uniquely ethnic faith, Mr. McNallen stepped back into the Ásatrú scene. Establishing the Asatru Folk Assembly. The emphasis on Folk to differentiate from the universalist lie that threatened to take hold of our ancestral faith.

“It flourished. Over the years it grew, and I wrote *Asatru: A Native European Spirituality*, which defines my convictions and purpose. We purchased a permanent building which became Óðinshof – our first temple to the Gods. The AFA has since expanded to include four Hofos in the USA and continues to grow. In 2016, after leading the Asatru Folk Assembly for 20 years, I turned it over to a younger generation and started the next phase of my service to my Gods and to my Folk.”



In the years since Mr. McNallen retired, he has remained an active participant at Óðinshof with charitable giving and contributing in any way possible.

It is often said that we stand on the shoulders of giants, and none are more giant than that of our Founder, the First Alsherjargoði.



Thank you, and Happy Birthday, Mr. McNallen, from all of us in the Asatru Folk Assembly.



Witan Daniel Young  
[dyoung@runestone.org](mailto:dyoung@runestone.org)

## Holiday

*Winter Nights | October 19th*



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.



Gyðja Catie Erickson  
[cm.erickson@runestone.org](mailto:cm.erickson@runestone.org)

## Upcoming National Events

*Winter Nights XIII | October 11th-13th*



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

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

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

**Winter Nights Ætt**    Troy, NH    Oct. 11th-13th



**Friday**  
 12:00 Arrival  
 13:00 Lunch  
 15:00 Welcoming of the Gods  
 16:00 Presentation by Folkbuilder Jon Rock  
 17:00 Blot by Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel  
 19:00 Supper

**Saturday**  
 08:30 Breakfast  
 10:00 Adults vs kids battle  
 11:00 Women's Group / Men's Group  
 12:00 Lunch  
 13:00 Presentation by Folkbuilder Mike Melillo  
 14:00 Osteomancy with Gythia Catie Erickson  
 15:00 Folk services  
 17:00 Auction  
 18:30 Supper  
 20:30 Disir Blot  
 22:00 Sumbel

**Sunday**  
 09:00 Breakfast  
 11:00 Wayfarer's Blot

Things to know:

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

If you have any questions or concerns, please email [cerickson@runestone.org](mailto:cerickson@runestone.org)

Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



Witan Clifford Erickson  
[cerickson@runestone.org](mailto:cerickson@runestone.org)

*Feast of the Einherjar | November 8th-10th*



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

Get your tickets [HERE!](https://runestone.org)



Gothi Nathan Erlandson  
[nerlandson@runestone.org](mailto:nerlandson@runestone.org)

## Freyrs Harvest Feast - A Recap

*The Dream is Alive at Folkvangr*



Over the last four years, Freyrs Harvest Feast has become the flagship event of the Pacific Northwest, and it's been an honor to go from being simply a guest to part of the crew behind the scenes making it happen. Essentially a Winter Finding celebration under a different name possessing a unique charm all it's own, each of the Feast's respective three days is dedicated to one of the Vanir, with Freyr's day in the middle

being the most prominent. The 2022 iteration at Camp Easton on the shores of Lake Couer D'Alene was my first ever AFA event, and where I met the people I now consider my best friends, so it's safe to say this particular event holds a special place in my heart. Though the number of scheduled events was dialed back to a certain degree, the general consensus from everyone I've talked to seems to agree with my assessment that this was the best one so far (as much as I'm able to judge; I missed the very first one).



As far as any of us on staff were concerned, the Feast really began about a week prior to it's scheduled opening day. Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein made the journey all the way out to Spokane to assist myself and Chad Reis in carving a god pole out of a downed pine tree in my yard. None of us had any woodcarving experience, decorative or otherwise, and the Óðinn pole in question turned out fantastic all things considered. Initial carving was done in roughly eight or nine hours split between the three of us. Once that was done, we threw it in the back of Tyler's pickup and made the five hundred some odd mile journey out to Billings to gather the rest of the supplies, and from there it was a straight shot back to Folkvangr. The rest of the week was spent putting the finishing touches on the Meadery and helping put out a fire down the street that may or may not have been the result of someone failing to take proper welding precautions. The world may never know.



For those of you that have never been to Eastern Montana, it still feels to this day like the edge of the known world. With its vast, almost Martian expanses of relatively untouched steppe land, labyrinthine canyon networks and the most spectacular lightning storms I've ever seen, it's Miðgarðr in a more primal state than what most of us are accustomed to these days. It really is the perfect setting to celebrate and give thanks to the Gods of Natural Law.





Our Alsherjargoði as well as Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea from North Carolina joined us for the festivities this year, and it was an honor as well as a blast to have them both out and I can only hope they return in the coming years. Powerful rituals, great conversation, fantastic Folk in a one-of-a-kind setting. I want to thank everyone who came out and everyone who made this event what it is. Freyrs Harvest Feast is here to stay, so make it out if you can. It's not going anywhere anytime soon.



Nick Gunn  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[ngunn@runestone.org](mailto:ngunn@runestone.org)

*Victory at Freyrs Harvest Feast*



Having taken some time to reflect since Freyrs Harvest Feast ended this year, I have concluded that this year marked the fourth year as the best so far. Many small changes over the years have taken place to make the event structure itself optimal and this contributed to our success this year.



Even more obvious, the changes to the venue site have had major positive impacts to the feast as well.



Our first year was around ten of us and we had rented a campsite for the night and the dining hall for the day at an old summer camp. The first day we had a few activities, gave blot to Njörðr and ate brats by the water. The next morning, we gave thanks for the harvest. Most of us had barely gardened but for me the harvest had been remarkable. On less than an acre we gleaned ten families' worth of produce. Foolishly, not a single item of that harvest made it to the table that half weekend. Instead, people ate snacks from their cars the next morning, we discussed Lord Freyr, and we packed up and went home. It was hardly an illustrious occasion, but it got me thinking bigger and better for the following year.



Our second year we did a major overhaul. Three whole days and we rented out the Hall, the kitchen and some cabins. We had a much larger attendance. Our activities evolved to include workshops, and we formalized the Viking games to include rules and a prize. That year Freyrs Harvest Feast took the form it's known for. It was a great time despite some difficulties of the venue shutting water off for the year. We put out a Thanksgiving feast turkey and all without running water anyway. It stamped our area with an attitude of resourcefulness and an indomitable will.



When I purchased my homestead there was much to do. Outbuildings were filled with trash from the previous owner. I had to establish, fence, and develop the field for my livestock. The land was a mess and the structure that has since become my meadery was a steal skeleton completely unfinished and unfurnished. But it gave us a beautiful opportunity.



The third Freyrs Harvest Feast could now be hosted on an Asatru Folk Assembly member's property and so we did. We had a massive trucker tent for a roof when the unexpected and out of season storm smashed down on us. Some tents flooded, those set up correctly did not. The place was certainly a work in progress, but the event came out great regardless. We were fortunate enough to have Founder McNallen and his wife Gyðja McNallen join us and bring their wisdom to our event. We had refined our workshops. The food now saw a fair bit of attendees' produce added to it. It was the second year Aaron Simbeck out of Washington had provided all the seafood requirements from his hooks and nets. It was beautiful what we put together as a community with how little time and resources we had. But the biggest factor is we had done it together and independently.



As I said before this year was the best yet. It's true the event site looked wonderful, especially compared to our humble beginnings. The construction of the meadery has afforded us a pleasant and cozy space to gather. A vast roof overhead replaced the Tarps and painted and decorated walls kept the wind out better than open space and desire ever could. We were graced with both good weather and our Alsherjargoði, Matt Flavel himself. Our Vé space has a new God Pole, and our Blótar were as beautiful and powerful. These are all good things, but they are not the reason this year was the best yet.



The reason is simple, you guys were. It may seem cheesy but it's true. The event was a gathering of a family. This family was one built of mutual vision. It was a family forged from our labors together over the past years. The victories we experienced came from our joint labors and joint generosity.





As such, it was the extended family coming to the hall for a big harvest meal. We joked like only old friends could, shared stories of the year, and boasted our feats. We competed and we collaborated. We shared advice to young bucks and received some more from our elders.



The event was described as cozy, and I do not for a second feel like that is inaccurate, but I'll add a word: intimate. Everyone there behaved as family and shared from the heart. High Sumbl showed grit and vulnerability in equal amounts as people spoke from the heart. Our group discussions were of substance and everything we did we did together as a big family. I couldn't ask for better.



If you haven't been to Freyrs Harvest Feast you've missed out. It's a statement of fact. More so if you haven't committed to getting involved with the AFA in the real world you are missing out. Ásatrú is in the real world and these events are where we grow together. These events take strangers that share belief and forge tight bonds where we realize we are a people who share blood and our Gods. Victory doesn't happen from the basement. Victory happens at Freyrs Harvest Feast, and I can't wait to share the next year's victories with you all.



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein  
[heinlein@runestone.org](mailto:heinlein@runestone.org)

# Folkbuilder Spotlight

*Folkbuilder Jesse Parton | Arkansas*



Folkbuilder Jesse Parton isn't someone working quietly behind the scenes. He is on the front lines every single day for our folk and the Æsir. He is not someone who I have to ask, "if you haven't heard of, or if you don't know Jesse", because he makes himself known every day to our Folk. Jesse has found a tremendous talent in bringing our Folk home and supporting the Church of the Æsir.

Jesse Parton is one of the strongest Folkbuilders I have ever seen, in terms of drive and will to succeed for the church. He is seemingly always on the road, getting the folk together and either hosting or attending moots that he has helped organize. His passion and dedication is inspiring to everyone he meets. I'm very glad he's a part of our church.

— Goði Bodi Mayo

I first met Jesse not too long after he joined the AFA. He was exuberant, hungry to learn, and eager to get involved.

Fast forward a couple of years and Jesse is still exuberant, hungry for knowledge and eager to get involved.

When I hear folks say "I'd go to that event, it's just too far away," I often think of Jesse. Folkbuilder Parton logs miles every week. One day he's in TN, next week, Baldrshof in MN, then he's in Texas. Distance isn't an obstacle for him, and his dedication can't be measured in miles. He works tirelessly behind the scenes, building the folk. He does all this because he loves it, not because it's expected.

I like to claim to be the Founder of the Jesse Fanclub. I'm very proud of his accomplishments and look forward to seeing what he can accomplish later in life.

The bar has been raised, thanks in large part to Jesse Parton.

— Witan Daniel Young

Jesse Parton has been a constant help in building our AFA family since the very day he joined as a member over three years ago. From being an extremely helpful member at Þórshof, to the pious and hardworking Folkbuilder he is today, he never stops chasing the goal of bringing all of our Folk home to the Æsir.

— Goði Trent East



Goði Nathan Erlandson  
[nerlandson@runestone.org](mailto:nerlandson@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](mailto: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.

# Ancestral Food and Culture

## *Köttbullar*



As the leaves begin to change and the air turns crisp, October invites us to gather around hearty meals that warm the Folk Soul. This month, I'm sharing a family recipe which encapsulates the essence of autumn as we celebrate Winter Nights: Swedish Köttbullar (Meatballs) with Lingonberry Sauce.

Swedish köttbullar, or meatballs, have become a beloved staple at many of our events and is a comforting way to welcome the fall season.

For the Meatballs:

- 1 cup breadcrumbs
- ½ cup milk
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 pound ground beef
- ½ pound ground pork
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ½ teaspoon allspice (or nutmeg)



- ½ teaspoon garlic powder (optional)

For the Gravy:

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 cups beef broth
- ½ cup heavy cream
- Salt and pepper to taste

For Serving:

- Mashed potatoes
- Lingonberry sauce (available in stores or homemade)

1. Prepare the Meatballs:

- In a small saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the chopped onion and sauté until soft and translucent. Let it cool slightly.
- In a bowl, combine the breadcrumbs and milk, allowing the breadcrumbs to soak for a few minutes.
- In a large mixing bowl, combine the ground beef, ground pork, sautéed onions, soaked breadcrumbs, egg, salt, pepper, and allspice. Mix until just combined; do not overmix.
- Shape the mixture into small meatballs, about 1 inch in diameter.

2. Cook the Meatballs:

- In a large skillet, heat a bit of oil over medium heat. Add the meatballs in batches, cooking until they are browned on all sides and cooked through, about 8-10 minutes. Remove and set aside.

3. Make the Gravy:

- In the same skillet, melt the butter for the gravy. Whisk in the flour and cook for a minute until it forms a roux.
- Gradually whisk in the beef broth, stirring constantly to prevent lumps. Add the heavy cream and bring to a simmer. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

4. Serve:

- Plate the meatballs over a bed of creamy mashed potatoes, generously drizzled with gravy. Serve with a side of tart lingonberry sauce for a perfect balance of flavors.

### A Cultural Connection

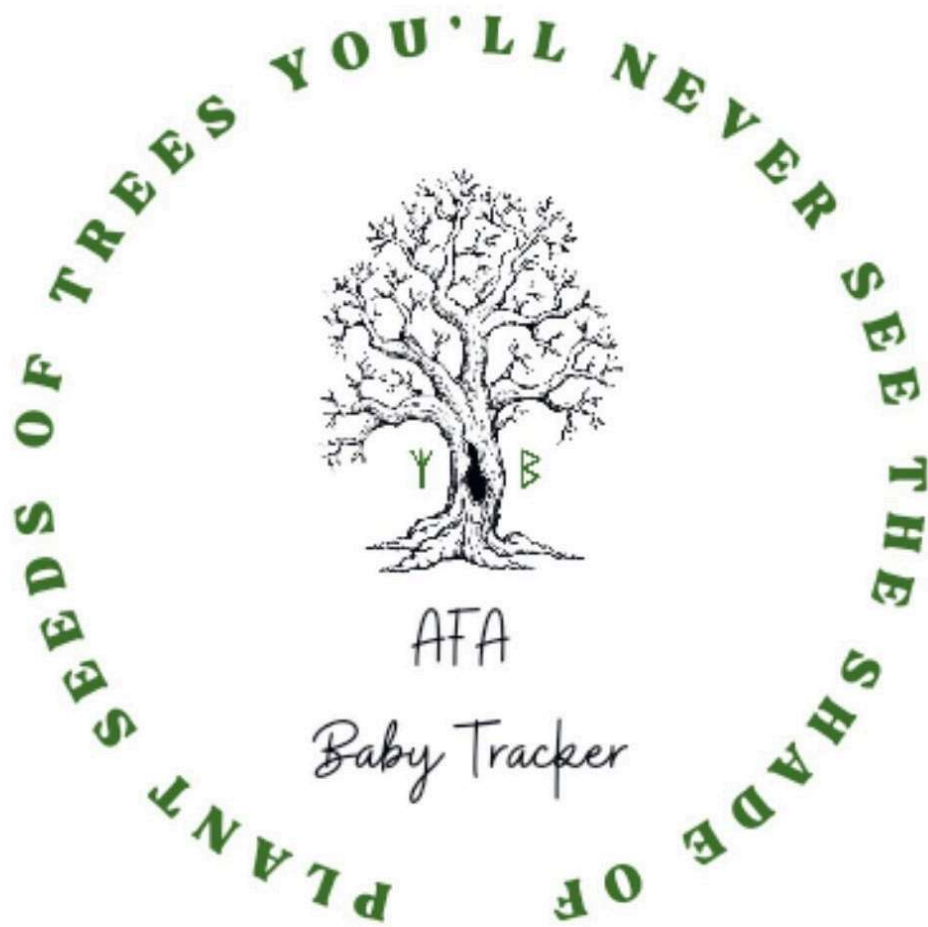
Köttbullar is not just a dish; it's a symbol of Swedish hospitality and tradition. Often enjoyed during family gatherings or festive occasions, these meatballs evoke a sense of warmth and togetherness. In Sweden, they are commonly served with pickled cucumber and creamy sauce, showcasing the balance of savory and tangy that defines Nordic cuisine.

As October unfolds, let's embrace the flavors of fall with this comforting dish that brings family and folk to the table. Whether you're enjoying a cozy evening at home or hosting a moot, Swedish köttbullar with lingonberry sauce will surely warm your heart and satisfy your taste buds.



Folkbuilder Bruce Perron  
[bperron@runestone.org](mailto:bperron@runestone.org)

## Baby Tracker



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

Total babies born in 2024: 24

## 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 via online. We hold our meetings every Thursday at 7pm Central. Join us!! Feel free to reach out to Folkbuilder Ashley McStocker with any and all questions!

[AMcStocker@Runestone.org](mailto:AMcStocker@Runestone.org)

# SISTERS SUNDAY CHATS



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



# 2024 AFA Reading Challenge!

50 books in 52 weeks!

Contact Folkbuilder Ali

Clausen for details

[aclausen@runestone.org](mailto:aclausen@runestone.org)

# AFA Reading Challenge Meetings



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

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

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

# *Ladies Book Study*

**Revolt Against the Modern World**

**by Julius Evola**

**Starting**

**July 11th**

**7 pm CST**

**We will meet  
every Thursday.**

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



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

**For more information contact**

**Witan Brandy Fassett**

**Folkbuilder Sara Ault**







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

Contact with any questions you might have — [aplourde@runestone.org](mailto: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](mailto:jplourde@runestone.org)**

# Eldri *Virtual Moots*

TUESDAYS October 8th & 22nd 5:00 PT

FRIDAYS October 11th & 25th 2:00 PT

*Topics relate to the season*

Gythia Sheila McNallen  
sheila@runestone.org

Use the Tinyurl link:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yc289cn8>

*Open to All*

McNallens Pub

Saturday, October 26

5:00 AkT 6:00 PT 7:00 MT 8:00 CT 9:00 ET

TOPIC: Something cool!

Just For Fun

# Winter Nights

Translate the runes

XQBFI

DISIR

BQTFIRM

SCQQ<J

BQAT

LNAC<IT

PMB

S<MFMATQ

MQTSTMR

Q<ATQBMR

MFSC

NFMTQPMIT

Here's an oldie but a goodie from a Winter Nights' past. Who can translate these runes? Impress us with your runic knowledge, and send in your words to

[press@runestone.org!](mailto:press@runestone.org)

Have a wonderful Winter Nights, All!



Folkbuilder Olivia Sutherland  
[osutherland@runestone.org](mailto:osutherland@runestone.org)

Won't You Be My Neighbor?



**Pittsburgh  
Metropolitan  
Asatru**



**Asatru Folk  
Assembly**

## Won't You Be My Neighbor?



On behalf of **Pittsburgh Metropolitan Asatru** and the **Asatru Folk Assembly**, we are asking for your help in taking care of our precious Folk. Downtown Pittsburgh is currently home to people who need our help. We are currently working to supply the unsheltered Folk living near the mighty Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers with the very basics of survival. **We can't do this without help.** Currently, thanks to generous donations we are able to provide healthy meals once to twice a week. However, with winter fast approaching the Steel City, we know that simple meals won't be enough. **With your help**, we hope to be able to provide warm socks, coats, undergarments, and gender specific hygiene products.

### Homeless Population Statistics

<b>Total Population</b>	<b>1,026 people</b>
<b>Emergency Shelters</b>	857 people (84%)
<b>Unsheltered</b>	169 people (16%)

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Annual Census

- **White adults** were more likely to be unsheltered (57%) than adults of other races
- The unsheltered adult population skewed slightly younger than those who were in shelter; **a third of sheltered adults were 55+** (vs. 13% of those unsheltered).
- **Veterans** made up a small percentage of both the sheltered (7%) and unsheltered (5%) populations.
- There were 93 unique households and they tended to be **younger families**, most adults were under 45 and **60% of the family shelter population was under 18.**

You can use the QR code to donate directly at the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Asatru GoFundMe page or go to:  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/wont-you-be-my-neighbor-pittsburgh-asatru>

For more information and other ways you can help please email  
Apprentice Folkbuilder Ryan Fenton at:  
[RFenton@Runestone.org](mailto:RFenton@Runestone.org)



So for the past month or so, I've been working on helping our unhoused Folk in Pittsburgh with meals a few times a week. I'd like to start to expand those efforts, especially with the coming Winter fast approaching. If that feels like something you would like to help be a part of or support, please reach out and we can work to help our Folk together.

If you're not local, there's still plenty of ways to support the work. Reach out!



Ryan Fenton  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[rfenton@runestone.org](mailto:rfenton@runestone.org)

## Aiding Our Appalachian Brothers and Sisters



We often speak of Victory. While we justly celebrated our harvest and comradery, a storm began to brew. By the time our esteemed guest Tyler Bethea came home from visiting us in Montana for Freyrs Harvest Feast, it had transcended into an approaching hurricane. This storm, Hurricane Helene, destroyed many areas of the Appalachian region of western North Carolina.

The damage from the storm has included catastrophic flooding, mudslides, and tornados. The number of missing individuals, as well as those who were not fortunate enough to make it has yet to be tallied as rescue crews attempt to evacuate those stranded. Among those stranded are some members of the most vulnerable communities including injured, elderly, disabled, and small children. There are many poor & rural areas with very limited resources. Devasting flooding has compromised power grids as well as water resources. Communication is crippled & many residents are reliant on air evacuation. Members of the community are in dire need of various supplies for survival.

It is in these moments our people can shine as the best example of Aryanity we can be, or we can show ourselves lacking empathy for our folk brothers and sisters caught in the devastation.

The Odinic Order of the Ulfhidnar is sending members of our Fraternal organizations, all proud members of this holy church of the Ásatrú, the AFA, down to North Carolina to work with the local members to help with the rescue and recovery of those souls trapped, injured, missing and in need of proper burial.

We will be handing out medical supplies, water and treatment tablets as well as kid care packages designed to bring light back to the children's faces. These people of our folk in many cases have lost everything and we intend to ease the burden as much as we can.

I am asking those of you reading this to lend a hand if you can. I understand many cannot make the trip or perform the work needing done, so I ask a second thing of you. Help fund this mission. I will be in North Carolina soon and parsing out supplies to those in need as well as working on the rescues and recoveries. Aid me in our work by keeping the supplies coming. Financial donations can be made at <https://store.runestone.org/product/hurricane-relief/>. We can talk to see about arranging physical donations too. If you want to help, please contact me or Tyler Bethea and we will make sure to put your generosity to good use where you can make a profound difference in survivors' lives and help make sure the death toll doesn't climb.

I spoke of Victory earlier and I meant it. Victory needs right action to continue, join me in turning this tragedy into our next Victory.



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein  
[theinlein@runestone.org](mailto:theinlein@runestone.org)

**AFA Physical Excellence**



*AFA Men's Squatober Challenge*



Squat! Don't worry about how, just get it done! Log it daily then go squat some more.

*The district with the most squats by month's end wins a free hof gym tank sent to a random dude.*

Challenge runs October 1st-31st.

We're already started, but it's not too late to join in!

Gentlemen, now's the time to show off and add to your district's numbers. Ya might even win a free shirt!

Log your squats at [http://tinyurl.com/squatoberAFA!](http://tinyurl.com/squatoberAFA)



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice  
[nrice@runestone.org](mailto:nrice@runestone.org)

# Calling All Folk Photographers

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



**We'd love to see 'em. Send to [Photos@Runestone.org](mailto:Photos@Runestone.org)**



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

[nrice@runestone.org](mailto: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](mailto:babyblanket@runestone.org) today! Thank you!

## Óðinshof

### Food Pantry at Óðinshof



Building our Hamingja, Month-by-Month. The Interfaith Food Ministry in Grass Valley has been our Óðinshof Food Pantry supplier for over four years. As we work closely with their administrators, I see their need for grant-funding as food donations decline due to the wretched economy. From the beginning, I've provided monthly reports as a general follow-up to our distribution. They could have rejected our request for food since Óðinshof is not in Nevada County. In fact, we serve residents in the distant parts of Yuba and Butte counties.



Over time, our reputation has grown due to our respectful demeanor and detailed records I send every month. We are given full access to fill our carts, the only “partner” church that is given that privilege as their food stores diminish. The director of the IFM said he wants to come out some weekend to watch us in action. Keep in mind, every other non-profit is Christian-based. We look forward to his visit.

It’s easy to see why people make the journey to Óðinshof for the main event of the weekend, but there are many who now make plans to stay overnight to help with the food pantry. The process begins with Thursday food pickup and doesn’t end until Sunday about noon with the food donations being handed out.

Thursday morning, we loaded our car with hundreds of pounds of food at the IFM and made the fifty-mile trip to the rugged hills of Yuba County. Our Hof Steward, Daniel, met us to unload the boxes and flats into shelving on the stage.



Following Saturday night dinner, Daniel directed the set-up for the food bagging. A hundred paper-bags purchased on Thursday (10 cents apiece) were marked A or B, so the filling could begin. With deftness, the team of men and women tore open boxes to begin filling bags, while others “staged” the filled bags for easy access Sunday morning. Everything always goes smoothly under Daniel’s direction.



Sunday morning, cars began lining up at 9:00 as we finished our breakfast and set up the outdoor tables. Bags were brought out; Steve grabbed the donation jar; I took the check-in document as we made our way car-to-car with hearty “hellos.” Another successful distribution began.



The Óðinshof Food Pantry for September served 61 families representing 122 individuals. This month's team included our new members from Vacaville and Fresno as well as our stalwart leaders and their families. Special thanks go to Folkbuilder Olivia Sutherland for directing August's distribution while I was tied up with Thorgrun's memorial service. In September, Folkbuilder Ryan Skinner stepped right in to take over when I had a sudden emergency. We are a team like no other.



Gyöja Sheila McNallen  
[sheila@runestone.org](mailto:sheila@runestone.org)

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**Winter Finding at Óðinshof**



Winter Finding was a beautiful event, but aren't all events at Óðinshof?

The day started with a beautiful Greeting to the Day led by both Founder and Gyðja McNallen. The menfolk worked tirelessly doing minor improvements around the Hof like restringing the outdoor lights and raking the ritual circle.





I worked in the kitchen with the help of Courtney and Lauren preparing a nice minestrone soup, because what reminds you of winter more than a nice warm soup? The day was still fairly warm, so a light soup was perfect.



We processed outside and had our Greeting to the Gods followed by a beautiful Ausa Vatni for the Preciado Family.



What a precious ceremony! Hail the Preciado Family!



We then went out front and took our group photo, which was a very full photo even when some members hadn't arrived yet! We went inside, hailed Óðinn, and mingled for a bit. Then, we split off into our separate groups to do our ladies' tea and a men's talk, while a few of us taught archery lessons to the children.



The women gathered around the Freyja Pole, which had recently moved to accommodate more ritual space. We had a beautiful talk and then we circled around the pole holding hands and lit a candle to Eir for our valued long-time member Krystal who has been going through some very tough times. (If you would like to donate to help Krystal, her GoFundMe can be found at <https://gofund.me/19f765ee>).



We then gathered together and got ready for Ullr Blót and Blessing of the Tools, while Apprentice Daniel Odom and his wife prepared a delicious fettuccini chicken alfredo dinner.



The night ended with us filling bags for the food pantry the next day and a nice Sumbler to close out the night.

Thank you to everyone who helped us make this event a success and stayed over to ensure the food pantry ran seamlessly!



Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman  
[schapman@runestone.org](mailto:schapman@runestone.org)

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## Upcoming Events at Odinshof



# UPCOMING EVENTS




## 2024 Events at Oðinshof

January 20	<i>Thorrablót</i>
February 17	<i>Charming of the Plow</i>
March 16	<i>Ostara</i>
April 20	<i>Hexennacht</i>
May 18	<i>May Day</i>
June 22	<i>Midsummer</i>
July 20	<i>Sigrblót</i>
August 17	<i>Freyfaxi</i>
September 21	<i>Winter Finding</i>
October 19	<i>Winter Nights</i>
November 16	<i>Feast of the Einherjar</i>
December 21	<i>Yuletide</i>

RSVPs are required. All guests must be preapproved.

On event weekends, Oðinshof is usually open from Friday through Sunday. Those events include a **Sunday** morning food pantry distribution and community outreach on Sundays. We invite you to stay for the whole weekend.

All proposed events are on the third weekend, except for MIDSUMMER which is the premier event for the Oðinshof district. It's been moved to the fourth weekend to allow the food pantry to proceed as normal.



Óðinshof District's  
**Southern Folk**  
**Virtual Moot**

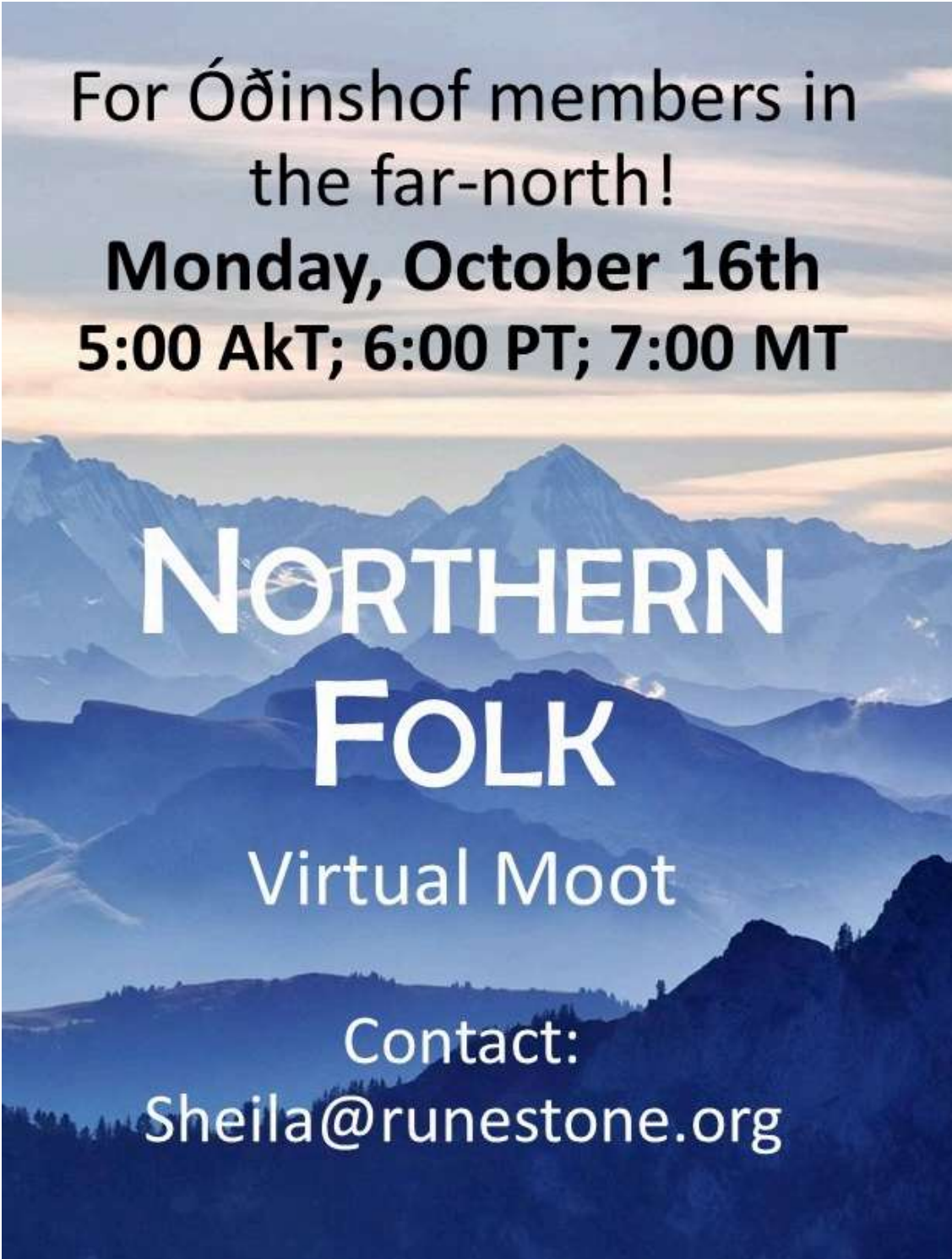
**October 7, 2024**  
**6:00 PT**

If you live in SoCal, AZ, NM, CO, NV, UT,  
HI or Oceania; join us on a Teams meeting.

Hosted by Sheila McNallen; [sheila@runestone.org](mailto:sheila@runestone.org)

Copy & paste the ink  
<https://tinyurl.com/yc289cn8>





For Óðinshof members in  
the far-north!

**Monday, October 16th**  
**5:00 AKT; 6:00 PT; 7:00 MT**

# NORTHERN FOLK

Virtual Moot

Contact:

[Sheila@runestone.org](mailto:Sheila@runestone.org)

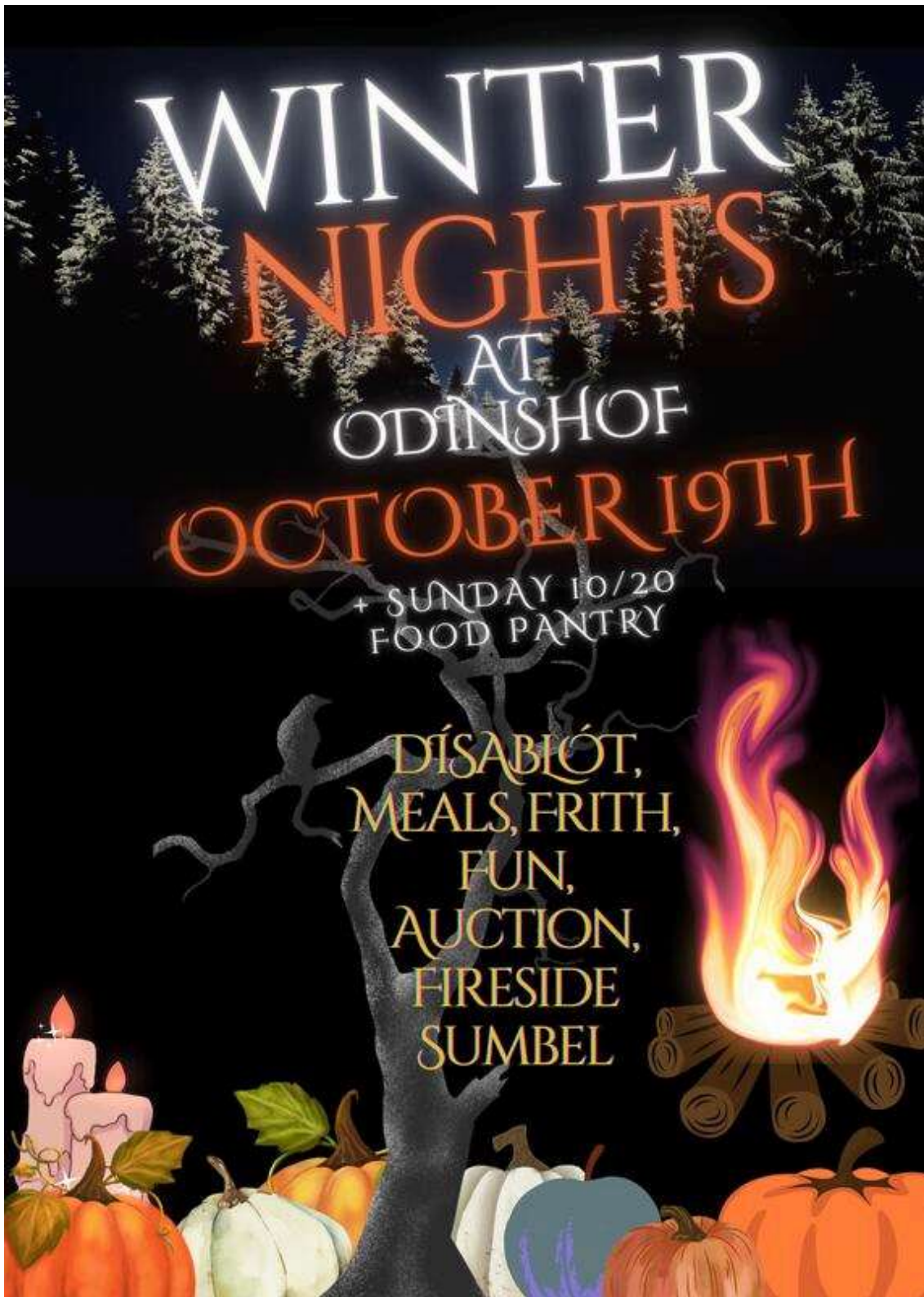
# WINTER NIGHTS

AT  
ODINSHOF

## OCTOBER 19TH

+ SUNDAY 10/20  
FOOD PANTRY

DÍSABLÓT,  
MEALS, FRITH,  
FUN,  
AUCTION,  
FIRESIDE  
SUMBEL





# ODINSHOF MEMBERS MEETING

FALL TRADITIONS  
AND MORE!

OCT  
25TH

630 PST HANGOUT  
700 PST MEETING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

+ SUNDAY 11/17 FOOD PANTRY



Honoring Our  
Warriors

Álfablót

Spiritual  
Activities

FEAST  
OF THE  
EINHERJAR  
AT ODINSHOF

Music

Feasting

Fun

**HOSTED BY  
DAUGHTERS OF FRIGG**



# **WINTER CLOTHING SWAP**



**AT FEAST OF EINHERJAR\*  
11/16/24**



**PLEASE BRING A LABELED BAG  
OF "GENTLY USED" WINTER  
CLOTHES TO SWAP AT THE HOF**

**(LABEL BY SIZE, "GIRLS MEDIUM",  
"BOYS 3T", ETC.)**



**\*Any bags not swapped by Folk will be gifted  
to the Brownsville community at Yule. Jackets,  
sweaters, and children's items are ideal.**

**Questions? Ask [Olivia osutherland@runestone.org](mailto:olivia.osutherland@runestone.org)**



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**Óðinshof Wish List**



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## **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](mailto: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](mailto:osutherland@runestone.org)**



## Óðinshof Leaders

### GOTHAR

Alsherjargothi Matthew Flavel  
Witan Brandy Fassett  
Cythia Sheila McNallen  
Gothi Nathan Erlandson

mattflavel@runestone.org  
bfassett@runestone.org  
sheila@runestone.org  
nerlandson@runestone.org

### FOLKBUILDERS

Lou Nickerson (AZ)  
Olivia Sutherland (CA)  
Ryan Skinner (CA)  
Sierra Chapman (CA)  
Kyle Reader (ID)  
Ryan Harlan (MT)  
Tyler Heinlein (MT)

lnickerson@runestone.org  
osutherland@runestone.org  
rskinner@runestone.org  
schapman@runestone.org  
kreader@runestone.org  
rharlan@runestone.org  
theinlein@runestone.org

### APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDERS

Brodie Sutherland (CA)  
Daniel Odom (CA)  
Nick Gunn (WA)

bsutherland@runestone.org  
dodom@runestone.org  
ngunn@runestone.org

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

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**Arizona**

*Additional Arizona Events*

**GERMAN  
LUNCH  
MOOT**



**1st Sundays  
at 12pm**

PHOENIX, AZ

CONTACT: [OSUTHERLAND@RUNESTONE.ORG](mailto:OSUTHERLAND@RUNESTONE.ORG)

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**California**

*Work Weekend*



Back for more, huh? Well, allow me to tell a tale of work weekends past. A tale of Frith, of duty, of kicking it with the Bros, a tale of an Óðinshof Work Weekend!

There I was! Hauling SIX THOUSAND POUNDS of steel and hydraulic lines behind my classic 1998 Chevy Silverado. The cab was packed to the gills with sleeping bags and my family. Climbing a grade and losing speed, the roads were narrow, bumpy and winding...but we had a mission to accomplish, a job to do.... a leach field to dig up!

It was a Friday at 3:30pm, and we had just picked up the mini excavator from Del Mar Rentals (no affiliation) in the neighboring town of Oroville. (Side note: Del Mar is a fantastic place to rent from. The staff are very knowledgeable, and they have a great selection of equipment to suit your needs.) Now, I'm not from Yuba County, so I didn't know there's basically two ways to reach Óðinshof from Oroville, an easy way.. and a steep, windy, narrow, bumpy way.. I'll leave you to guess which route I took..



Long story short, we successfully white knuckled our way to Óðinshof. Upon arriving, we were greeted by Opa Jim and Magnetic Mike, already hard at work hand digging the first 5 feet of the leach field...which just happens to sit under Katie and Thorgrun's trailer, so it was hand digging on all fours.



Now, I'm a not even an amateur excavator operator on the best of days, but Mike, being a man among men, is an awesome operator and was able to dig down and reveal the leach pipe with speed and ease. It was around this time that Dan the Man Odom joined our lofty legion of leach field lobotomists, and we discovered--to our surprise--that, not only is the leach field somewhat...dare I say...poorly constructed from the previous owners, but, for about 10 feet it was jam packed full of roots from a tree standing 40 feet away!



Under the knowledgeable direction of Opa Jim, we made the appropriate repairs to keep the leach field functional and back filled the trench. Thankfully, by this time, the one and only mountain climber, trail hiker, FOLK BUILDER Ryaaaaan Skiiiiiner! rolled in with pizza and Gatorade, just the ticket for a group like ours. We ate, drank, and chilled the rest of the night before retiring to our tents and sleeping under the starry sky.

In the morning, we broke our fast and got right into it. Dan was working on the crown moulding, ripping boards, and milling them to absolute perfection!



With the mini excavator rented for a full 24 hours and the Folks present reaching the conclusion we wouldn't be able to replace the leach field and that the patch job would be our best bet till another work weekend, we decided to look around to find what other thing we could do with such a useful tool.

Well it didn't take long for us all to look around the beautiful Óðinshof grounds and reach the conclusion that our lovely Goddess pole was sitting a bit too close to the fence. After having held a beautiful ritual there at Family Camp, it was clear the ritual space needed to be altered. We agreed among one another that moving the Goddess pole and its circle about 10 feet further from the fence would provide ample space for future ritual practice. After getting the green light from Gyðja Sheila McNallen, we proceeded to take our time and, with much reverence and respect, dismantle and reconstruct the sacred space to its new location. Here's where Mike's heavy equipment

operations skills came in clutch again; he recognized how there was a bit of a leveling issue and used the front blade of the excavator to push and drag the space around the Goddess pole flat and smooth.



Bobby Popcorn and “Wild Man” Paul Stevens joined the party and turned to painting the children’s bus stop that sits out front of Óðinshof. I recently learned that the old bus stop, with its flaking and fading paint, is a legitimate, still-in-use bus stop where children are dropped off and picked up before and after school. I am personally thankful the men were able to take care of that project because it needed to be done.





Not all the work done at this work weekend was carpentry, leach fields, and painting. Folkbuilder Olivia Sutherland joined into the fray by organizing the multi-use room cupboards and bringing order to an often overlooked and neglected portion of the Hof. So often bits and pieces, odds and ends, just magically migrate into those cupboards never to be used again... well, no more! Everything in there is ordered and clean now. She also restructured the whole decorations closet, with its many drapings and trappings, for all the holy events of the year.

It was a really great and productive weekend, our Folk took time out of their busy lives to make our holy temple to Allfather Óðinn even greater! Hail the Doers!



Do you ever say to yourself, "Gosh, I wish there was a group of guys that I could hang out with while we do home improvement projects." Or, "Wow, how do I put these amazing skills I have to use?"... Well, you're in luck! We here at Óðinshof are looking for Folk like you to join our team!

If you have skills in..

- Walking and Talking
- Moving Things
- Painting (spray, brush or finger)
- Swinging a Hammer
- Being Cool
- Anything...Literally, Anything.

Then, check MeWe or contact your local Folkbuilder, and join us for an Óðinshof Work Weekend today!

Brodie Sutherland  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[bsutherland@runestone.org](mailto:bsutherland@runestone.org)



*Another Day, Another Project*



My first real event with the AFA was Midsummer 2020. I had made the drive to Apple Hill for a moot once or twice and attended a few Work Weekends, but I had never been to an event at Óðinshof. That year, the turnout was huge, the vendors were great, and I got covered in poison oak. Midsummer for me, and I'm sure many, is the one time of year that I look forward to the most. All year, I think about projects to focus on for Midsummer or what items to create for the auction. The attendance is more exciting than anything though. "How many do you think we will get this year?", is a common topic around Óðinshof. Seeing our Folk drive in or carpool or fly in from across the country really is an awesome site. Those guests deserve our best efforts, and, more importantly for me, I need to show the AFA what Óðinshof can do. Unfortunately, in recent years, the topic of conversation regarding Midsummer has shifted to, "What are we going to do about the heat?" For the last few years, the site of Folks huddling around the shade or fanning themselves in the Hall while dripping in sweat are all too common. Open doors let in a breeze--along with the flies. Fans provide cooler air, but

they drown out anyone trying to have a conversation. What about installing an AC unit? Well, what about it?



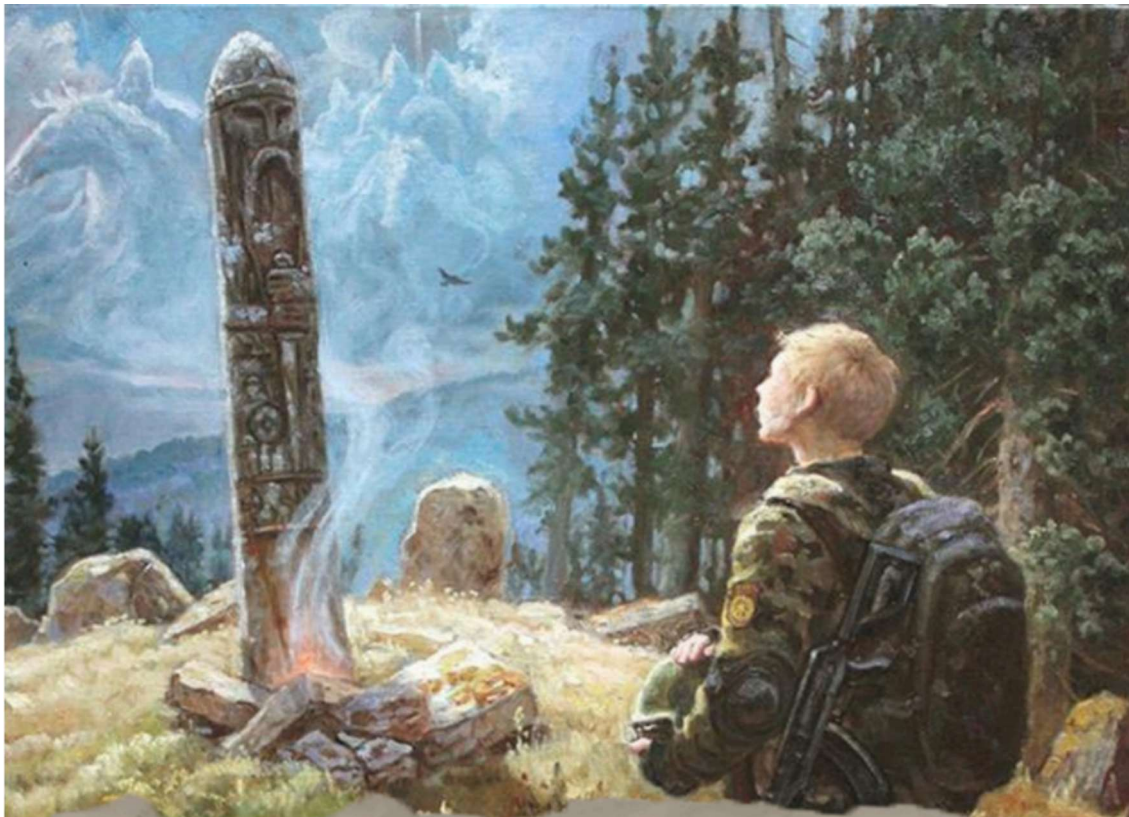
We had been discussing our options regarding a modern cooling and heating system for the last few months. Of course there are viable solutions, for a price. Our budget started around \$2,000 dollars and crept up to \$3,500 relatively quickly. Trying to balance efficiency with cost is a tricky thing. What do we need, what do we want, and what can we afford? After a few months of discussion, we decided that a fundraiser would be the best option, allowing us to purchase a much-needed upgrade that would not only work but work well for the foreseeable future. However, before I could post the fundraiser, I was approached by a member who wanted to help out but requested that there be no public recognition for their actions, so I will respect that going forward. This member is usually quiet, reserved, and not someone I would imagine as wanting to get involved to this degree. This individual told me that they wish they could attend more Work Weekends and get involved with the operations around the Hof. Unfortunately, with the commute and work schedule, it's been challenging. "I know it's not the same as dedicating time, but please think of my donation as a replacement for my time," said the member. To my shock, this member gave our Hof exactly what it needed to get our project underway. After months of pricing, research, and pinching pennies, we now had the flexibility to get something we desperately needed!



Chris DeHuff, an Óðinshof regular brought his HVAC company out to the Hof, where he and his boss gave us a very fair price. Within a week of seeing the property, they had materials ordered and in hand and were ready to install. Within one week, we went from, "Maybe we can get it done...", to "We are on the way out to get it done!" I want to personally thank Chris DeHuff for the research he did regarding our needs. He spent hours checking prices and gathering solutions to this problem long before we had the funds to do any of it. Also, Brodie Sutherland, who already does so much for us, gave up yet another weekend to make the 3-hour drive to the Hof to get 100 feet of wire drug through the attic. I believe this was three weekends in a row he has made that drive.



A member was also there to help us feed wiring and pick up the piles of trash created by this project. All in all, it took many minds and many hours to get the Hof something it needed. Thank you to everyone involved. I look forward to future Midsummers at Óðinshof, and I hope you will help me in recognizing the Folk that do so much for all of us.



PARADISE, CA OCTOBER 12

**SPORTING MOOT**

**Day at the range**

- FUNDAMENTALS OF MARKSMANSHIP
- RANGE OPERATIONS AND SAFETY

RSVP REQUIRED FOR PARTICIPATION  
[dodom@runestone.org](mailto:dodom@runestone.org)

Daniel Odom  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[dodom@runestone.org](mailto:dodom@runestone.org)



*Winter Finding Doers Speech*



(Speech was delivered at dinner during Odinhof Winter Finding).

"Ladies and gentlemen of our Folk,

At this moment, I would like to recognize those who embody the spirit of sacrifice and unwavering commitment. Those who give their blood, sweat, and tears for the future of our Church and the security of our children do not merely walk among others—they stand above them. These are the doers, the ones who don't shy away when the work gets hard but lean into it with all their might.

This past weekend, we united to face challenges that demanded more than just will—it

required action. We rented an excavator, dug up a leach field, made a temporary yet effective repair, and moved an entire God pole. Hours were spent in the heat, working when others couldn't. Each of us was driven by something greater than ourselves. But it wasn't just the physical labor—it was the sacrifice of time, those precious, irreplaceable moments with our families, all in service to our Folk.

I want to take a moment to honor a few individuals whose sacrifices stand above the rest.

Apprentice Folkbuilder Brodie Sutherland is a man of deep honor. Brodie spent countless days, often alone, working to bring Thorgrun's Grove up to par. He gave not just physically, but by sacrificing valuable time with his young family. His commitment is one we hold in the highest regard, and it demonstrates the kind of dedication that propels us forward as a people.

(AFB Sutherland was presented a hand-engraved folding knife for his deeds, given by his Folk.)

Folkbuilder Olivia Sutherland is someone I cannot praise enough. Her dedication is unparalleled. She is a mother, a leader, and an inspiration. I don't know a single person with a family who sacrifices more time for the betterment of our community than Olivia. Working alongside her is an honor, and her tireless efforts inspire us all to push further, do more, and give of ourselves in service to our Folk.

Lastly, I want to formally recognize Apprentice Folkbuilder Daniel Odom. Over many weekends, Daniel has dedicated himself to ensuring our Hof is as it should be, with meticulous attention to detail. Recently, he worked on the kitchen trim and verified that the AC unit we plan to install will be both effective and cost-efficient. I hold Daniel in high regard, especially for the sacrifice of time with his young family to serve our community. His dedication is deeply appreciated by all of us and deserves to be honored.

To all the Doers—the ones who give when others can't, who step up when the moment calls for it, and who understand that through sacrifice, we build something greater than ourselves—I say thank you.

It is through your hands and hearts that our Folk grow strong.

Hail Brodie! Hail Olivia! Hail Daniel! Hail the Doers!"





Folkbuilder Ryan Skinner  
[rskinner@runestone.org](mailto:rskinner@runestone.org)

*Fall at the Freyja Pole*



For some time now, our Freyja Pole has lovingly and longingly watched over Óðinshof. She has certainly been loved. However, due to her location, she has not consistently received the attention and appreciation that she should. Over the past several months, Daughters of Frigg have been working their magic to change this.

At Midsummer Tea, our ladies took turns stringing golden beads to create Freyja a gorgeous necklace and crowned her with a floral hair wreath. We later gathered around

her for a Sumbl, building Frith among our ladies and using the Goddess Pole as a focal point.



(Freyja at Midsummer 2024)

At Family Camp in August, our children gathered around to honor Freyja in a very special and heartfelt Freyja Blót. Leading this Blót, I chose to incorporate natural items and our own uplifting voices through song. Freyja seemed to shine brighter than ever, feeling the warmth and taking in the adorable voices of youth singing sweetly to her.



(Freyja at Family Camp, August 2024)

At this time, we truly noticed that the Freyja Pole was situated a little too close to the fence line to be practical. We were just a bit crowded. Therefore, during the September Work Weekend, some of the men of Óðinshof worked together and used a mini excavator to gently move the base of the Goddess Pole forward about ten feet. Freyja is far more accessible now.



As the stone circle was being reassembled around her, I was compelled to provide Freyja with a new crown for beginning this season in a new place. With the children's help, I collected some fallen pinecones and acorns from around Óðinshof. These would be perfect to incorporate into Freyja's new autumnal crown. Then, I found a pretty little bird, just a few steps away from the Freyr Pole, who had left Miðgarðr and its beautiful blue coat of feathers behind. This was the most appropriate gift, I thought. I carefully intertwined each of the feathers with the acorns and pinecones to craft her crown.



Freyja looked simply radiant!



At Winter Finding, our ladies gathered around Freyja for our Ladies' Tea. We drank lemonade, ate cookies, and shared stories. Then, we planted colorful fall mums all around the Freyja Pole.



Several of the children helped us with the planting and watering-in of the mums.





After planting, one of our ladies delicately lit a special white candle she'd brought from home. She placed it in the natural notch of a stone at the foot of Freyja. Together we called upon the Goddesses to help one of our beloved members with her health.



I invite and encourage everyone to go visit our beautiful, knowing, and fashion-forward Freyja! Bring an offering, or just spend some time reflecting there. It is a wonderful, encouraging, sacred site at Óðinshof.

Hail to our lovely Freyja!

*Night Trains*



Seventeen of our dear Óðinshof Folk met up at the end of September for a unique nighttime showing of one of the largest model railroads in the United States. Folks arrived early and chit-chatted while the children played in a field doing cartwheels and exploring. We all went into the show together and were immediately awe-struck by the huge display. With 4,300 feet of hand laid track on more than 175,000 individual ties, this was an extraordinary sight. There was so much to take in from the realistic mountainous terrain, canyons, hills, valleys, bridges, tunnels, buildings, trucks, buses, people, and of course TRAINS! Most of the structures modeled the 1950's period

of transition from steam to diesel motive power in the U.S. Nearly every kind of train was represented including fictional trains such as "Thomas the Tank Engine". The many mini features were designed, constructed, and hand-painted by local volunteer craftsmen spending countless hours, with additions being added over the span of several decades. One of the old-timer volunteers gave us a little history on the development of the tracks and his involvement. He shared how it gave him great joy watching the waves of folks coming through, stating he'd seen "at least 4, maybe 5 generations of children of families" coming through to enjoy the trains.

Volunteers sitting above it all were watching a giant light switchboard and moving the trains throughout the various towns and scenes. It was a very organized process so that the many moving trains never crashed with one another and sustained our attention by pacing and racing all around.



During our Moot, we experienced two engineered thunderstorms! The lights in the building slowly faded for a beautiful sunset and we experienced trains in the dark. Light rain sounds came from all directions. Then, BOOM! Thunder and lightning came down over the model train tracks. The trains continued their journeys throughout the "nighttime". After a few minutes, there was a break and slowly the sun rose back up into the sky accompanied by a victorious musical number.

Throughout the show, children and adults were intently looking around to spy the 29 hidden objects on the train scavenger hunt. We were avidly looking for things like “16 dinosaurs, Smokey the Bear, 2 sea serpents, a train wreck, an apartment fire, and Papa Yule”. We eventually found them all!

It was such a great time! We spent the full two hours at the show then parted ways with sleepy children amongst us. We were happy to host the Odom boys overnight at our home. The children had a fun sleepover. In the morning, Brodie and the Odoms caravanned together back up the state. Brodie went to install an electric panel for Óðinshof’s new HVAC system, which will make for a more temperate Hof during extreme weather months!

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Moot. Hope to see you at our next one!

### *Upcoming Events*

A promotional poster for a pumpkin patch event. The left side features a photograph of a long, straight row of pumpkins in a field under a bright sun. The right side is a solid orange background with white and green text. The main title 'PUMPKIN PATCH' is in large, bold, green letters. Below it, the activities 'GAMES...TRAIN RIDE...ZIPLINE...FOOD...FUN!' are listed in white. The date and time 'Sunday, October 13 1:30 PM' are in green, and the location 'Solano County, CA' is in white. At the bottom, there is a call to action in white: 'RSVP if you can make it!' followed by two email addresses: 'osutherland@runestone.org' and 'bsutherland@runestone.org'.

Please RSVP to join us for some pumpkin patch fun! Contact us for meet up details.



Folkbuilder Olivia Sutherland  
[osutherland@runestone.org](mailto:osutherland@runestone.org)

### *Weavings of a NW Road Trip*



Planning a personal jaunt to the northwest came quickly when I realized it was the best way to guarantee an AFA Moot in Oregon. Besides, having lived in Oregon for ten years when my children were babes, I enjoy those rare trips back up north. So, after reaching out to current members, former members, and new prospects, my husband and I left for what would be a four-day trip to rediscover the north.

The main destination was Oktoberfest in a small town south of Portland. I'd heard that Mt. Angel offered "the best Oktoberfest outside of Munich, Germany." Who could say no to that? However, our first stop was in southern Oregon to share a visit with one of our AFA Eldri Folk, Melinda. She was waiting for us as we pulled up. Then, we headed to Medford's busy downtown where we enjoyed milkshakes at a 1950's burger place.

What a fun interlude.

After a night in Grants Pass, we arrived in Mt Angel about noon. This was no fancy celebration but had the feeling of a county fair with hundreds of people lining the downtown streets. The town's name speaks of their Catholic roots, of which they're very proud. Mt. Angel was founded by a Bavarian immigrant in the 1870s, followed by Benedictine priests and nuns who arrived from Germany in 1880 to establish a monastery and abbey. Catholic or not, in 2024 it was a pleasant street-fair with families enjoying the trappings of traditional German culture.

For us, it was our chance to meet two men who had reached out via an email to Óðinshof, both looking for an Ásatrú community near Portland. Along with two previous AFA members, the six of us found our way to the Prostagarten where we drank golden beer and shared stories at a crowded picnic table. Eventually, we went to a nearby restaurant for some fine German fare before saying our farewells. We will nourish those contacts.

Instead of heading home to California as originally planned, we went north into Washington on Sunday morning. An old friend of ours had recently moved to Aberdeen but was without transportation to make the trip to Mt. Angel. His move was a turning point in his life necessitated by health issues. We knew we couldn't come this far without visiting Mike. In years past, we'd been to Aberdeen at least four times for various AFA events. This time was different. This was an act of love.

There was a poignancy to this trip north, and that is okay. We gained new friendships and refurbished old friendships -- as time changes us all. It was a time to look back and relish those good memories but also to look forward to that "which may be," -- knowing this could be the working of the Nornir.



Gyðja Sheila McNallen  
[sheila@runestone.org](mailto:sheila@runestone.org)



## Idaho

### *South East Idaho Winter Finding*



We had a smaller turnout for our Winter Finding moot this time, but it was still a blast. We held Blót to Ullr, ate smoked hamburgers, and talked about what we can still accomplish in the last few months of this year. It is always a great time when we can have Folk over.

### *Upcoming Events*



# *Disirblót*

# *Dinner Moot*

*Idaho Falls, ID*

*October 18, 2024 @ 6PM*



*Contact Folkbuilder Kyle Reader  
for more information:*

*[Kreader@runestone.org](mailto:Kreader@runestone.org)*

On October 18th we will having our Disirblót Moot. We hope you all can come enjoy the wonderful company of our Folk. I know we are spread pretty far in this area, but don't let that stop you from making the trip here. I promise you won't regret it. My home is also open to all those who need to stay the night due to the longer distances traveled, and I make some amazing breakfast burritos for a little more incentive.



Folkbuilder Kyle Reader

[kreader@runestone.org](mailto:kreader@runestone.org)

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## Montana

### *Upcoming Events*



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein

[theinlein@runestone.org](mailto:theinlein@runestone.org)



### *Western Montana*



On September 9th, we gathered together for our monthly Óðinn Blót and day of remembrance. We had the pleasure of having a visitor, an AFA member from Ohio, with us this time. She was here visiting "the last best place." We were glad to meet you, Mary Jane! Atop the mountains, we gave Blót to Óðinn and to Prince Hermann of the Cherusci. Unfortunately, the view was obscured by smoke from the many wildfires burning in the region. We didn't let that damper our spirits or mindset, however. Frith, great company, and honouring our hero and Allfather was still a great time!



On September 29th, we held our Ullr Blót at the Kreutzer residence. Among friends both new and old, we gave Blót to the Giver of Glory, the Best of Archers, He who is unmatched on ski or snowshoe. Although hunting season has been going for nearly a month now, many of us have not been able to pursue our quarry quite yet. Our weather has been warm, and the animals have not yet become as active as they should, but we give gifts to our God of the Hunt in hopes that we might be successful and provide meat for our families. Hunting is one of the most primal activities that we can engage in--immersing us fully in nature, taking in every sound, smell, and sign, thinking and planning, patiently waiting or stalking, and putting ourselves in the moment. Anytime I go afield, I think about the juxtaposition of our modern society, where choices are abundant and our every need is conveniently arranged on shelves and where instant gratification is the norm, and that of our ancestors with their struggles, how their choices were limited to what was available from season to season, and having to gather, catch, or kill that which was needed for survival. Around a small fire and a longbow, which we sacrificed, we put ourselves into that mindset--a place where our very survival depends on one's luck and skill in the hunt, as we asked for success and blessings upon the tools which we use to accomplish this. Hail Ullr!

### *The Loss of a Friend*



Sometime at the end of the last glacial maximum, our hunter gatherer ancestors began to domesticate wolves. Gaining the trust of a wild animal, teaching it, and breeding it for specific traits. They created an animal which was unique. A hunting tool, a protector, a friend.



The first evidence of what we would consider a true modern dog was in a burial in Bonn-Oberkassel Germany. On the eve of WWI, two skeletons were uncovered during quarrying operations in the region, and a dog was buried with them. Initially it was believed to be a wolf, but later genetic testing showed otherwise. It was further shown that these bones dated back to at least 14,500 years ago. As Europeans, our bond with dogs runs deep. So, if you have a furry companion, give them an extra treat and a belly rub when you read this, and think about how deep it really goes.



Farewell Tag! Run with your ancestors, just as I hope to one day run with mine.

*Upcoming Events*

**ODIN BLOT AND  
GUIDO VON LIST REMEMBRANCE**



**HELENA MT, OCTOBER 9TH.**

**ODIN BLOT AND DAY OF  
REMEMBRANCE FOR QUEEN SIGRID**



**NOVEMBER 9TH, HELENA MT**





Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan  
[rharlan@runestone.org](mailto:rharlan@runestone.org)

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## Nevada

### *Alsherjargođic Dinner*



Our September Alsherjargođic Dinner was a great time as usual. Two California members made it over for their first time and we were joined by the McNallens, which is always such an honor. The weekends we host are never the same because I have been traveling to AFA events around the country, but I am glad so many of our AFA family

are able to share a meal around our table. We look forward to seeing those of you who can make it for our October dinner on the 26th!

*Upcoming Events*





Alsherjargoði , Asatru Folk Assembly  
[mattflavel@runestone.org](mailto:mattflavel@runestone.org)

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## Washington

### *Upcoming Events*

**Distillery Moot**

Saturday, Oct. 12 Contact Appr. Folkbuilder  
Spokane, WA Nick Gunn for details



Nick Gunn  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[ngunn@runestone.org](mailto:ngunn@runestone.org)

*Upcoming Events*

# Men's Duck Hunt 1

Bring your Shotgun and Decoys  
Cause we're Hunting Ducks!!!

Arlington WA  
October 26th

Contact  
Folkbuilder  
Heinlein for details



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein  
[theinlein@runestone.org](mailto:theinlein@runestone.org)

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:aturnage@runestone.org)



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