

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly





Þórshof

Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.thorshof.com

August 2024

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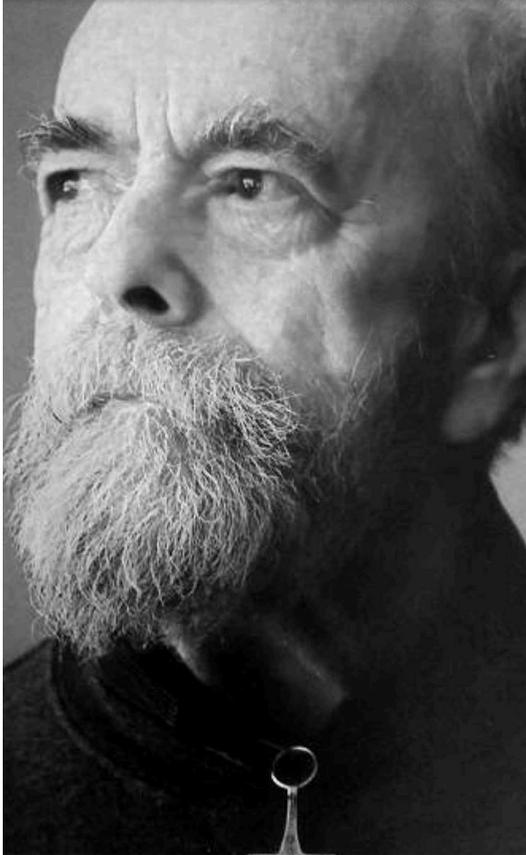
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[Words from the Alsherjargothi](#)



Event season is in full swing! The big Airline/Microsoft fiasco prevented me from attending the second annual Sigrblót at Sigrheim. Needless to say, I was disappointed but even more so as it turned out to be such a great event. Thank you to all the folks who stepped up to run the event and make it such a success!

I am excited for this year's Freyfaxi at Baldrshof from the 16th to the 18th, this will be the first time Mandy and Aubrey will get to experience this amazing Hof that we are all so proud of! All who are reading this should consider joining us!

Goðar Beyond Death

Recent events have given me much to think on and some very important ideas have crystalized. We know that our dead loved ones live on after death. A fundamental element of Ásatrú is engaging our ancestors in the gift cycle. Our ancestors know us and love us. We interact with our ancestors, and we know our ancestors interact with us. As we continue to think of our ancestors, to celebrate them, and to care for their interests after they die, certainly they love, care for, and celebrate us beyond the veil. This is at the heart of our understanding of Álfar and Dísir.

So to with our departed Goðar!

We now have two of our Goðar on the other side of the veil. Goði David James and Goði Thorgrun Odden were devout Ásatrú Goðar in life and enthusiastic leaders of our Asatru Folk Assembly. Why would their death change this? It would not. It did not.

The meaning of sacrifice is to "make sacred," to transfer something across the veil. We place thought and intention into the offering, and we send that message to spiritual forces beyond. Sometimes this is sent to dead heroes or ancestors, more often this is sent to the Æsir. We now have two of our Goðar looking out for us in the world beyond, two of our Goðar to represent us and our AFA to the Æsir, to the ancestors, and to all forces beyond our sight and experience. This is profound to first consider, but should

have seemed such natural common sense in retrospect. What an amazing service these men provide for our AFA Family!

We have two of our Goðar serving beyond the veil, able to take care for us, able to take care of our members who have passed, able to interact with the ancestors and spirits, even the Gods, on our behalf and in such a very special, very different way than we can on this side of the veil!

As always, you are encouraged to reach out to our Goðar, they are there to serve our Gods, our Folk, and our Church...in life and in death.

Loyalty is eternal!



Matthew D. Flavel
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly
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Words from our Gothar

Why Do We Have Hofis?



The short answer is—because of the tireless work of our previous Alsherjargoði, current Alsherjargoði, and the current Witan.

The longer answer is a bit deeper and gives us a good look into the differences between Internet “pagans” and real Ásatrúar.

We often hear the argument that “our ancestors worshipped in groves, nature is our church”. This comes from a quote from Tacitus’ *Germania*, where he says that the Germans and Celts had many sacred groves where they performed rites. However, this is an observation from the Iron Age, and Ásatrú has evolved quite a bit since then, even before its revival by Founder McNallen.



Danish historian Saxo Grammaticus paints us a picture of the Ásatrú temple in Uppsala, Sweden, where rites were officiated and sacrifices were made to Óðinn, Þórr, & Freyr. This is well-known even by the same people who claim that “nature is our church”, even though Uppsala existed during the Viking Age, which is typically the favorite period of Ásatrú for these people.

Another example of an Ásatrú temple comes to us from England, in the region of East

Anglia. King Redwald, likely owner of the famous Sutton Hoo helmet, had a temple specifically dedicated to three of the Æsir- likely Óðinn, Þórr, & Freyr. There is also a story of a temple dedicated to Óðinn in the region of Northumbria, in modern-day southern Scotland, which was desecrated by the Christian conversion under King Edwin.



Ásatrú has evolved, just like our Folk have evolved. Our Iron Age ancestors only had groves simply because that was what felt the most pious at the time, until they realized the power of a whole temple dedicated to the Æsir. Fast forward to today, and the AFA uses social media and livestreams to reach more of our people in the name of the Æsir.

Would our ancestors condemn us for using everything in our power to help dedicate more of their Folk to their Gods? Would they condemn us for using motor vehicles to travel to AFA events? Would they condemn us for taking pictures of all the smiling men, women, and children?

No, they would not, and anyone who says otherwise is mistaken. Ásatrú is the faith of

our people—past, present, and future. The AFA will not allow Ásatrú to stay so far in the past that we lose touch with it. Our Folk will march into the future, bringing our traditions and the Æsir with us!



Gothi Trent East

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Victory, The Tenth Noble Virtue



Victory does not come to those faint of heart, not true Victory. Many may still succeed in their pursuits when choosing an ignoble path or taking short cuts, but for true Victory to be gained, there must be great effort involved, right action, and nobility of character. Every day we must strive to be Victorious in all that we do by approaching the day's obstacles with right action in the forefront of our mind. Cheating, cutting corners, or deceiving may get you what you want, but at the cost of our Nobility, Integrity, and Honor. That is not Victory, that is weak, miserly, and unbecoming of our Folk.

We all face setbacks at time, we all face failures, and upset in life. Without these character-building outcomes from time to time, we cannot appreciate true Victory in our endeavors. True Victory is forged from building on lessons and experience, effort, and Perseverance. With Wisdom and Courage, Victory comes to those that are flexible, bold, and relentless in their Honorable pursuits whether is on the battlefield, raising our children, and everything in-between.

No plan ever survives first contact with the opposition. Victors must be able to adapt, fall back when needed, learn and build off setbacks and unexpected challenges. Learn to lean on your brothers and sisters when things seem overwhelming, cherish those painful uphill battles, for it's those battles that build the foundation for Honorable Victory for yourself and your Folk. When your brother or sister is Victorious, you share that Victory as they do when you reach Victory in a pursuit.

A sword to become a sword is first burned and beaten, shaped and forged in order to become the weapon it was meant to be.

When setbacks occur don't feel sorry for what has happened, let it fuel you to continue to push forward gaining wisdom and strength in the process. Seek Victory in all that you do and don't settle for less. Be relentless in seeking Victory for our Gods, our Folk, and our Church.

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat. — Theodore Roosevelt

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

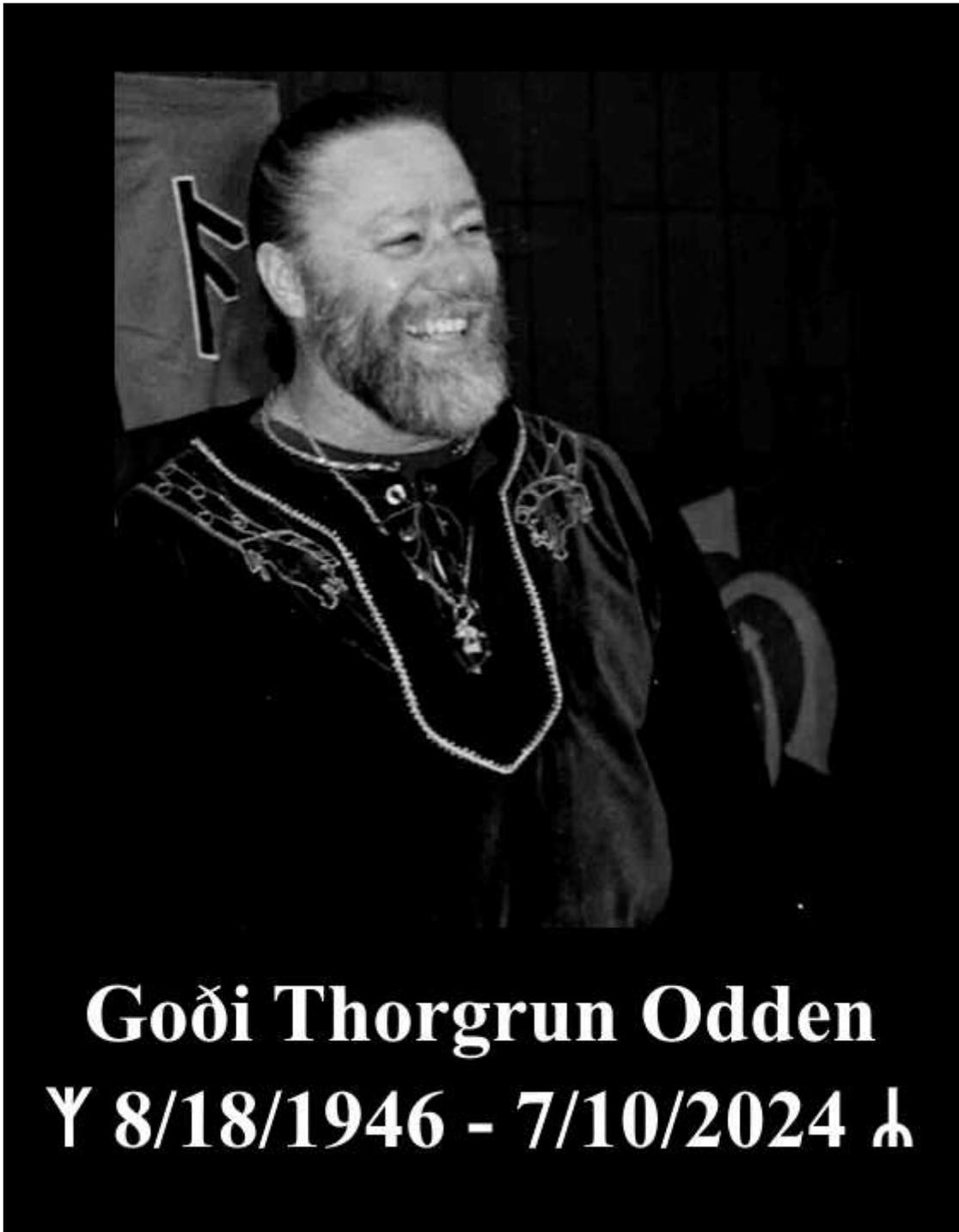
Hail the AFA!

HAIL VICTORY!



Gothi Nathan Erlandson
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The Folk Remember



Thorgrun was one of the very first members of the Asatru Folk Assembly. Since the beginning, he and his wife Katie have been side by side with the McNallens blazing the trail that we all follow today. Thorgrun has left a profound impact on all the lives he has touched and on our AFA which he spent so much of his life building. There is much more to tell of his contributions and his story in the coming months, but for now we honor his passing and cherish the memory of the time we shared.

Hail Goði Thorgrun Odden!
The Folk Remember!

Memorial Service for Goði Odden



Memorial Service
Goði Thorgrun Odden

18 August 1946 ~ 10 July 2024



Sunday, August 18, 2024

Óðinshof Cemetery
8408 LaPorte Road, Brownsville, CA 95919

Join family and friends as we celebrate the life of
THORGRUN ODDEN,
beloved and esteemed member of our Folk.
The graveside rite, led by Founder and Gythia McNallen
will commence about 12:30.

Refreshments will be served inside the Hall, where we'll
make toasts, tell stories, and enjoy a slideshow showing
his life and his loves as a Freyrsgoði.

RSVP please: sheila@runestone.org
530-575-8692

Ásatrú Trúlögmál



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

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

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

Hail the Heroes of Ásatrú that paved the way!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

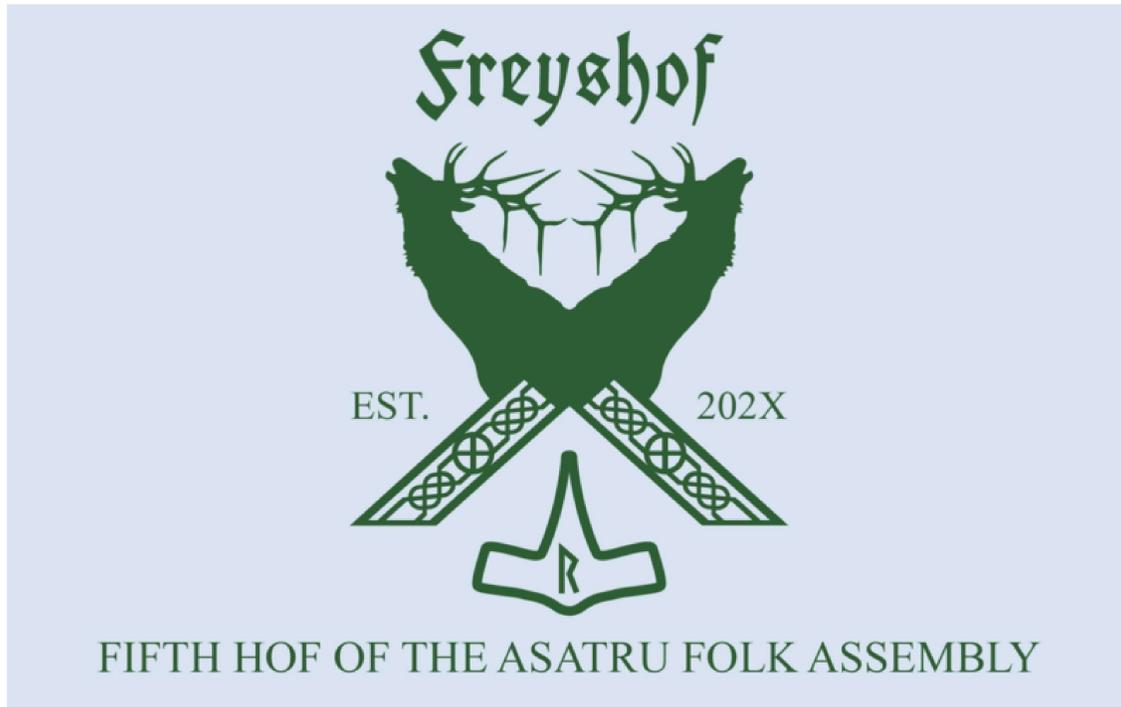
Hail the Æsir!

The Quest for Freyshof

“Njördr in Nóatún begot afterward two children: the son was called Freyr, and the daughter Freyja; they were fair of face and mighty. Freyr is the most renowned of the

Æsir; he rules over the rain and the shining of the sun, and therewithal the fruit of the earth; and it is good to call on him for fruitful seasons and peace. He governs also the prosperity of men.”

– Gylfaginning



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

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 \$82,235 on our remaining loan.
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 9.88%.
 - This is membership dues/Hoftollar plus other donations.
3. We need to locate a suitable property.
4. We need to find lenders and build a war chest.

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

Hail Freyr!



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Sigrheim: Home of Victory

Sigrblót at Sigrheim II : A Recap



Nestled deep in a holler between a bunch of western Appalachian hills on 70-acres of gorgeous land dedicated to our Æsir, the high holy Gods of our Aryan Folk-conscious. That's where this all took place last month. A whole smatherin' of industrious hard work mixed with some dedicated perseverance leading to a solid display of Victory. That's how I'd describe the second annual Sigrblót hosted at Sigrheim.

A "fun" global IT snafu leading to a whole bunch of travel delays had myself,

Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea, and the Appalachian Hearth Kindred having to throw-out the playbook, call a few audibles, maybe throw a deep pass or two, but in the end, we were able to truck it in over the goal line, score the touchdown, and most definitely, have a real nice event.



Everything promised, we delivered. Beautiful, gorgeous land vibrating with energy and might, a full weekend of multiple rituals and Blótar, really tasty meals filled with enough food for a small army, amazing talks and conversation, and all the Folk-time you could shake a stick at.

A big shout-out goes to Gyðja Catie Erickson and Goði Trent East for coming in for the fourth-quarter substitutions on such short notice. The assists were much appreciated, even just for moral support if anything.



Remember, Sigrheim is OURS! And you're always welcome. We're sorry if we missed you at Sigrblót, but we'll be back for another big 'un next year, and in the meantime...Sigrheim is always alive with activity. I'm there multiple weekends a month and am just a call away if you wanna stop by "off-script." We also gather for holy days every single month. Come on out for Freyfaxi. Lend your hand and let's give Blót to Freyr!

Hail the Æsir!
Hail the Folk!
Hail the AFA!
Hail Týr!
And Hail Victory!

Support the Home of Victory



Help Sigrheim get stocked
and ready for our Folk!

Donate Supplies
from our
wishlist ✨ ✨ ✨
amazon

Thank You!

click here

Upcoming Events





Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
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Victory Never Sleeps



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

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

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

Catch us LIVE with new episodes on Wednesdays at 8pm Central / 6pm Pacific on YouTube, Twitter, Entropy, 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](#).



TEES, TANKS, SWEATERS!

MUGS! HATS! STICKERS!

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



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AFA Asatru Academy



Check out the Asatru Academy at AsatruAcademy.org



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

School Starts Soon!



Hello Folk,

We at the Academy are very excited that the new school year starts very soon! This fall, we welcome students in kindergarten through 6th grade! We are very proud of our continuing students, and we really hope you'll join the Academy if you aren't already enrolled.

I want to ensure to our parents and potential students that our academic program is rock solid, and that homeschool is not as scary as it may seem. Traditional brick and mortar school is a 6-8 hour days, and many parents may be fainting thinking they have to instruct for 6-8 hours a day at home. That just isn't the case. In public school, very little of those hours are actual instruction, and it is all mostly just social engineering anyway. Many parents also do not realize that, really, everything you do is an opportunity to get instruction time. From going to the grocery store, to playing in the park. These everyday mundane tasks can be used to teach math, science, nature, etc.

The academic backbone of our Academy is the Waldorf method. Our Academy provides all the Waldorf material to our students, free of charge. For a little bit of background, Waldorf is a traditionalist, developmental-based academic program. Across the country, there are private Waldorf schools, and their homeschool curriculum is tried and true for decades. We use this to anchor our program, and then edit it to fit an Ásatrú education. We also add in religious material written by our Goðar, plus tons of fun activities and videos. This provides an all-around academic and religious education for our youth to ground them and solidify them in our faith, and also gives them a quality education that they can use and be proud of.

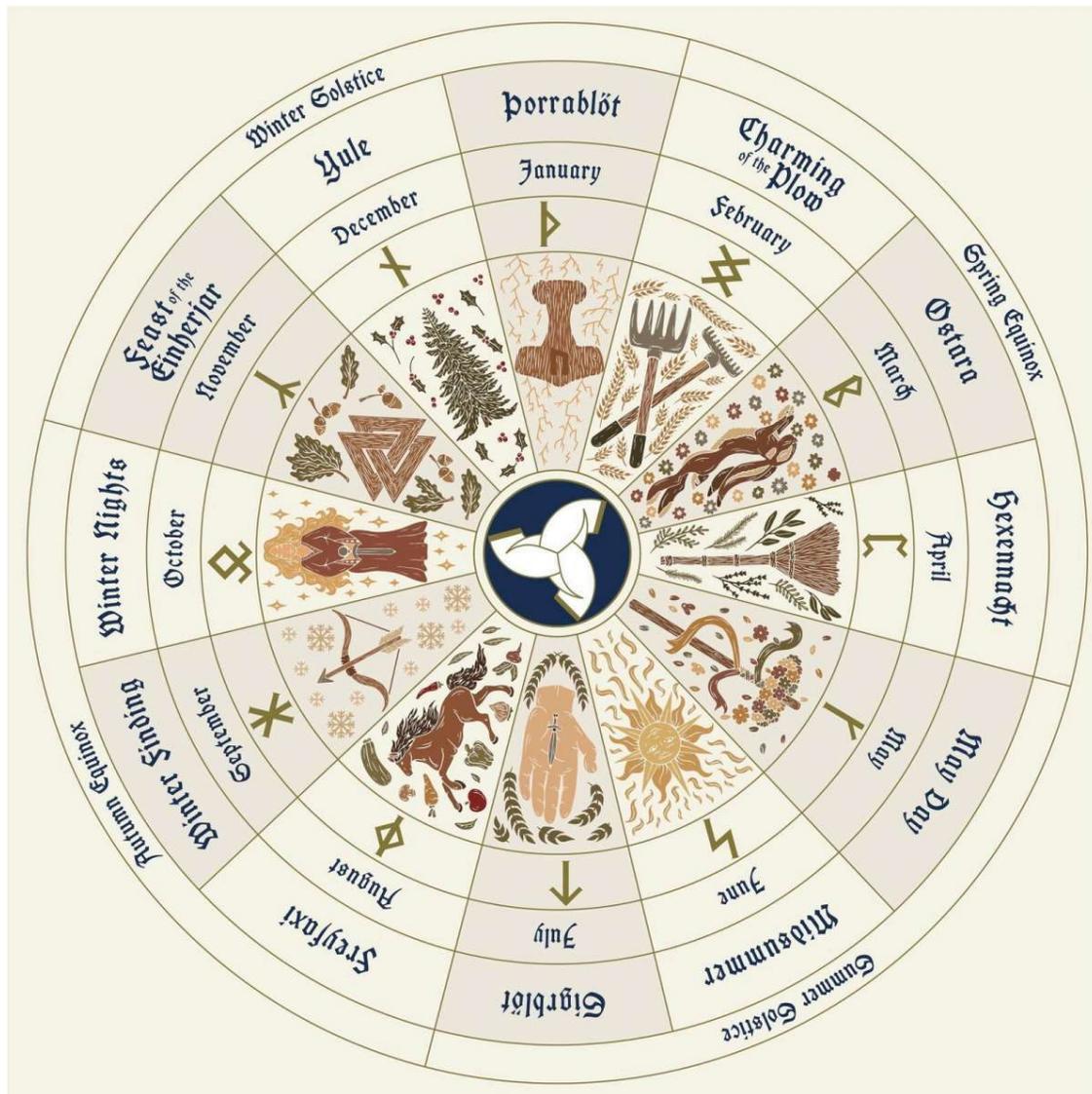
The Academy staff is dedicated to your home school success. We have experienced home schoolers, a former schoolteacher, a former professor, and very knowledgeable Folk in our staff that will help you every step of the way.

We are proud of our program, hope to see you enroll, and are excited to see our students return!



Goði Rob Stamm
Dean of the Ásatrú Academy
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Remembrance & Holy Days



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

2024

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

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

August



Asatru Holidays - August 2024 - King Osric | King Radbod | Freyfaxi

Days of Remembrance

King Osric of Deira | August 1st



634 *h*

King Osric of Deira was one of the shortest-lived kings of any of the 7th century CE collection of kingdoms that made up what was later to be known as England. At the time, there were seven kingdoms, known as the Heptarchy. One of those kingdoms was Northumbria, which was originally divided into the two kingdoms of Bernicia in the north and Deira in the south. These two kingdoms would first be united during the reign of King Aethelfrith, who reigned from 593 to 616 CE. The two kingdoms were in a near constant state of war with each other for centuries, which led to great instability in the region.

To tell King Osric's story, we first have to tell the story of Edwin of Northumbria. Edwin was the son of Aella, the first known king of Deira. Upon Aella's death, a certain Aethelric assumed power in Deira. Who Aethelric was is unclear, but he may have been the father of Aethelfrith, who is listed as the King of All Northumbria by the year 604. During the reign of Aethelfrith, and for reasons unknown, Edwin was sent into exile. He was fostered first in the kingdom of Gwynedd (modern day southern Wales), and then later turned up around the year 616 in East Anglia, under the protection of King Raedwald. That same year, Aethelfrith was defeated in battle by Raedwald, who installed Edwin as his client king in Northumbria.

With the support of such a powerful overlord, Edwin would go on to unite Northumbria again, which put the kingdom under the control of a native of Deira for the first time, something considered "outside the normal tendency." Edwin would go on to take over most of England with Raedwald for the next decade, until the death of Raedwald around 625.

After Raedwald's death, Edwin sought to secure even more power for himself through marriage, and sought the hand of Aethelburg, sister of Eadbald of Kent. Eadbald agreed on the condition that Edwin convert to Christianity, believing that doing so would convert the Northumbrians just as his parent's marriage had converted Kent. Eadbald himself holds the dubious distinction of being the first Anglo-Saxon king to convert to Christianity.

It should be noted that this time period in English history, in regards to faith and religion, was tumultuous. Christian monks of every stripe were working hard to convert the kings and other nobility, in their aim to have all kings bend the knee to their new master. Edwin himself was characterized as being unsure of conversion, and even after his marriage, he still sought the advice of his counselors about the matter. The account of this meeting by the "venerable" Bede is widely cited and includes the famous story of Coifi, a "pagan" priest, who, when asked what he thought of the new faith and its rules, stated that they "may be worthwhile, since no one has been more dedicated to the old gods, and he has gained no benefit from them." Another counselor agrees, and Edwin makes his decision to convert. Coifi then asks to be the one to destroy the old pagan temple, since he now knows the "true god" has given him knowledge, and doing so will set a good example to the public. He asks for a horse and a spear, rides to the doorway of the temple and profanes it by casting the spear into it. We aren't given any insight into why this profaned the temple, but there were associations made by historians to connect it with the spear that pierced Jesus.

Edwin went on to become the most powerful king among the Anglo-Saxons, until the

year 632, when a coalition of one of his foster-brothers from his time in Wales, Cadwallon, and the mighty Ásatrú king, Penda of Mercia, defeated his forces and killed him at the Battle of Hatfield Chase. This battle took place sometime in the autumn of 632 or possibly 633, sources are unsure. What we do know is that shortly after his death, his vast kingdom was split up, with Northumbria once again divided. Bernicia would go to his nephew, Eanfrith, son of his sister, Acha. Deira would go to Osric, his cousin, son of his uncle, Aelfric.

This brings us to the autumn of 633, with King Osric and King Eanfrith ruling their respective sub-kingdoms, having themselves superficially accepting the new faith. However, according to Bede and other historians, they promptly dropped the facade of being “good Christians,” and reverted back to their native faith, Ásatrú. Their rule would not last a year, with Osric falling to the same Cadwallon that had helped to slay Edwin, after he attempted to besiege him in a fortified town. According to Bede in his “Ecclesiastical History of the English People,” the year that Eanfrith and Osric ruled their sub-kingdoms was so abhorrent because of their return to Ásatrú that their reigns were effectively erased and added to the reign of Oswald of Bernicia. Oswald was a staunch convert and was later made a Saint.

While we don’t know much about the life and thoughts of Osric, we should still speak his name and remember him. At a time in our history when one’s faith could be and often was a matter of life and death, Osric chose to spend the brief time that he had in power to reinstate the Æsir to their proper place.

So let us remember King Osric of Deira, a short-lived champion of the Æsir, but a champion nonetheless!



Hail Kind Osríc of Deira!



Hail King Osríc of Deira!
Hail the Honored Dead!
Hail the Óðinn!

King Radbod of Frisia | August 9th

Y 648 - 719 ᚱ

Radbod, known as the greatest King of the Frisians, spent his life tirelessly fighting against the subjugation of the Franks. While his predecessor, Aldegisel, had accepted Christian conversion easily, Radbod was unwilling to stray from his loyalty to the Æsir.

On the verge of accepting baptism, Radbod turned to the Priest presiding and asked if his ancestors would be waiting for him in the Kingdom of Heaven. Upon being told that his Ásatrú ancestors were burning in Hell Radbod refused the baptism, expressing that he would rather burn in Hell with his Ásatrú ancestors than live in Heaven with beggars.

His rule, 680 – 719 CE, was spent fighting against the Frankish rule and banishing Christianity from his land. Despite losing to Pepin of Hertal on several occasions Radbod never gave up. While never successful in his lifetime, his successors continued the battle for many years after his death.

What can we learn from this story?

Radbod was not bolstered in his mission by success. When he looked back he did not see win after win, but quite the opposite. What Radbod could see, however, was the long line of his Ancestors stretching back to the first in his line. He saw them and he was proud of them and of their faith. Rather than disappointing them, King Radbod did his very best to make them proud and to continue their legacy.

Our culture, our society, as a whole, is under attack. They would have us turn our back on our families and on our Folk. They would have us turn our backs on Ásatrú and our Ancestors. They would see the death of the traditional nuclear family and of the dedicated community. Everything from the books we read to the shows we watch looks to tear down the idea that our Folk should grow stronger together.

Like Radbod we should look behind us to see the long line of our Ancestors standing behind us, supporting us. We should then look forward to the bright future for our children and their children, a future that we should fight for tirelessly, no matter how many times we might stumble along the way.

Hail King Radbod of Frisia!

Hail the Honored Dead!

Hail the Ancestors!

Holiday

Freyfaxi | August 17th



Though Freyfaxi is, in name, a modern holiday the celebration around which it is centered is much older. Dedicated to Freyr, our ancestors celebrated the first harvest of the season. The most common offerings during Freyfaxi included the sheaves of wheat, or other grains, and freshly baked loaves of bread. Less common was the sacrifice of a horse in honor of Freyr.

The beginning of the harvest season marked the beginning of hard work and dedication. Every harvest of the season was necessary to the survival of each family, of the community. This hard work ensured that there would be food to see them through the long winter months.

Those seeds that we planted after Mayday and tended so carefully for the last few months have grown and some of them should be bearing the fruit of all of that labor. Take some time in the garden, as you pick the first offerings of your plants, to thank Freyr. Share with him some of that first harvest, along with bread and ale. Celebrate the God of Vitality and abundance with your family and Folk.

Hail Freyr!

Upcoming National Event

Freyfaxi at Baldrshof | August 16th-18th



Join the gathered Folk for Freyfaxi at Baldrshof 2024!

This weekend will include:

- * 9 total meals
- * Daily Fika
- * 5 Blots
- * High Sumbel
- * Daily Dedications and Devotions
- * Ceremonies of the Folk
- * Discussions, Workshops, and Classes
- * Men's and Women's Spiritual Groups
- * Tournaments and Games!
- * Crafter's Tables
- * Auction
- * Children's Activities

Freyfaxi is Baldrshof's yearly showcase event and serves as the primary fundraiser for operation and support of the Hof.

Contact any member of Baldrshof Leadership for accommodation recommendations or

questions about travel arrangements.

Children's Tickets are FREE, however please include a ticket for each child in order to properly prepare for meals and children's activities!

All non-member guests must be pre-approved with proper background checks to ensure the safety of our folk and children. Please contact leadership for more details.

Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



Witan Brandy Fassett
bfassett@runestone.org

Freyrs Harvest Feast | September 20th-22nd

FREYR'S HARVEST FEAST SEPTEMBER 2024





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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

Any questions please feel free to reach out.

Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein
theinlein@runestone.org

Winter Nights XIII | October 11th-13th



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

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

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

Things to know:

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

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

Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Feast of the Einherjar | November 8th-10th



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

Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



Gothi Nathan Erlandson
nerlandson@runestone.org

A Folk Services Campaign

Help Fritz Jump-Start His New Lease on Life



Hello Asatru Folk Assembly:

My name is Jeffrey Hull – also known as Fritz Maes.

Perhaps some of you recognize me from various AFA online meetings or know of my books about runes or chivalry (*Gothic Runes*, *Other Masters Fencing*). I also assisted Stephen McNallen in editing his book, *The Spear*.

I live in Washington State and was welcomed into the AFA in June 2020. This decision allowed me to make dynamic friends and find insightful peers. Since joining, I have enjoyed the morale-boosting Frith of the AFA. That said, personal misfortunes now threatened me with homelessness.

However, I am on the verge of turning my poverty into **Victory**. I have the chance to leave a foul and unhealthy residence and move into a decent and healthy dwelling. Along with that, I have a viable job starting in two weeks. This new positive situation will afford me the chance to be part of my son's life again. We recently reunited after many years apart and will be living in the same town where he attends college.

Yet, to achieve this victory I dearly need some financial help. I want to turn my life around and eventually repay the AFA for their generosity. If you would aid me in this great endeavor, I would be truly grateful to you all.

Best Regards,
+ JH/FM

If you'd like to help our Folk in need, please consider donating to [Folk Services](#).

Be a Doer



We need you to volunteer for the AFA!

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

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

Baby Blanket Project

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

This project has been going strong since 2020 and has been a resounding success! The Ladies of the AFA have knitted, crocheted, and sewn beautiful baby blankets for over

120 of our littlest folk, with more on the way. They've been delivered everywhere from Alaska to Florida to California to Sweden!

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



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

Folk Services



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

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

AFA Folk Services is intended to provide modest, one-time monetary grants to AFA members in dire need of basic services. It is also to be a source for referrals and

information to help members get help beyond what the AFA can directly provide. For more information, please email folkservices@runestone.org.

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

Thanks in advance!

Photo Donations

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



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

Eir's Blessings



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

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

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

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

Last Will and Testament

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



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

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

Please make your will **today**.

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

Allen Turnage
PO Box 16027
Tallahassee FL, 32317



Witan Allen Turnage

aturnage@runestone.org

AFA Prison Ministry



The importance of this AFA Prison Ministry is so much more than just for those who are actually incarcerated, it benefits not only them as followers of Asatru but their families and loved ones on the outside as they will see the noticeable change in their demeanor and demand that our faith commands for them to lead a noble life. We all are future ancestors and will help them be examples of our faith and not be a burden or a product of recidivism.

We are compiling letters from prisoners that are Educational, Empowering, and Encouraging along with special spiritual writings from our Gothar to create a quarterly newsletter to be distributed to inmates, institutions, and jails. Our mission is not about providing free books or literature to bored prisoners who simply want free stuff. We intend on making real-world change for the better of our folk.

""No packed rooms in the prisons; in each institution I have only a few people; occasionally about a dozen, but 5-6 is more common. I certainly do not want the Fellowship to be a club for cons, or ex-cons; the advantage is that when in prison the inmates have time to discuss and digest what they read, a point that often is lost to people on the outside in the hubbub of daily concerns" - Else Christensen

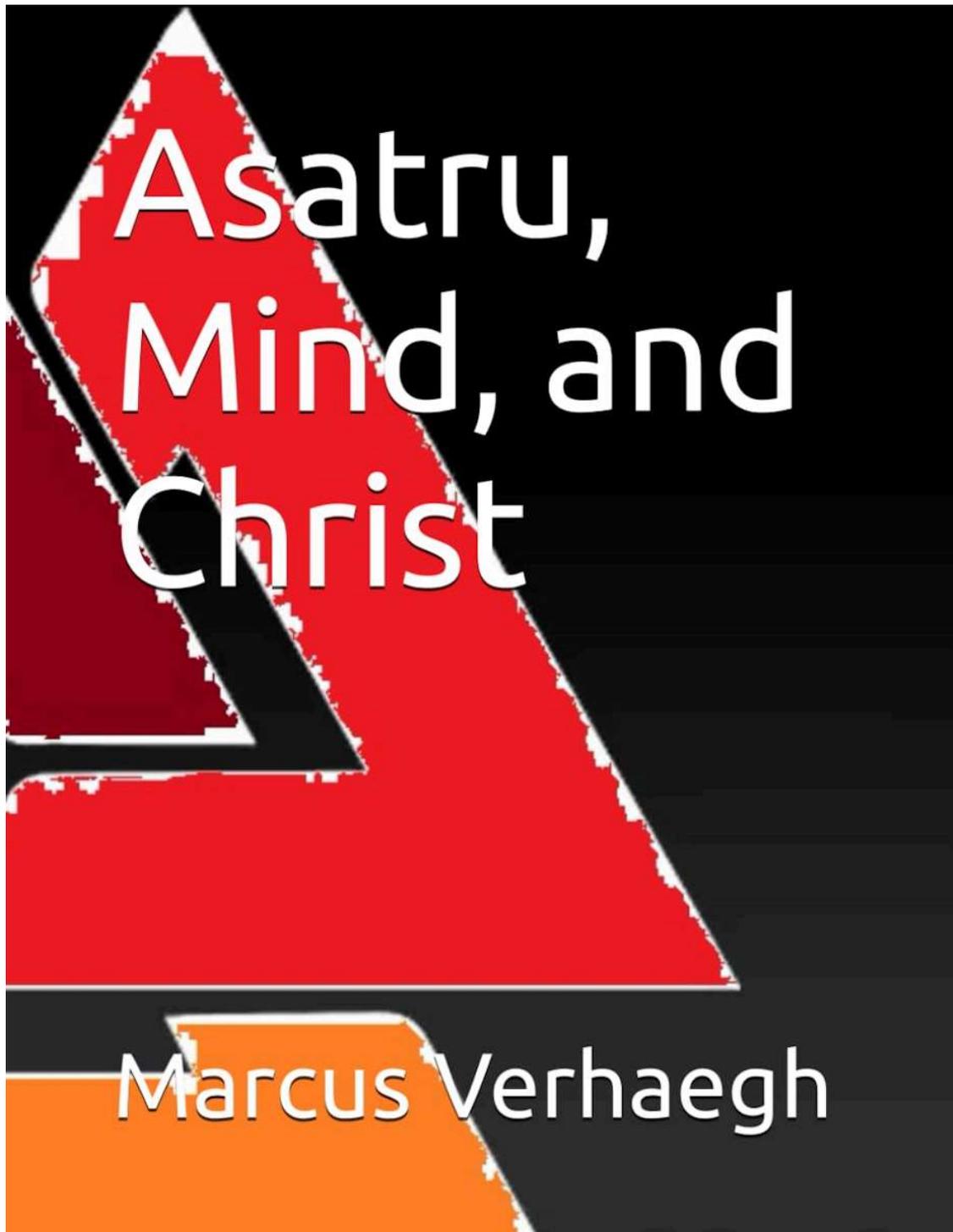
By the example of our Folkmother, Else Christensen, we will also be going into prisons as we are able to. Some of our Gothar and other leadership, will be going into the prisons to hold study groups, lead blot, and encourage continued growth in the folk inside.

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



Or if you'd like to donate to this ministry, there's a donation earmark set up on our site [here](#). The donations will be used to get small ritual items and books into the prisons and the hands of our Folk inside.

**Artisans of the AFA
Support Our Folk**



A big shout out and congratulations to Marcus Verhaegh!

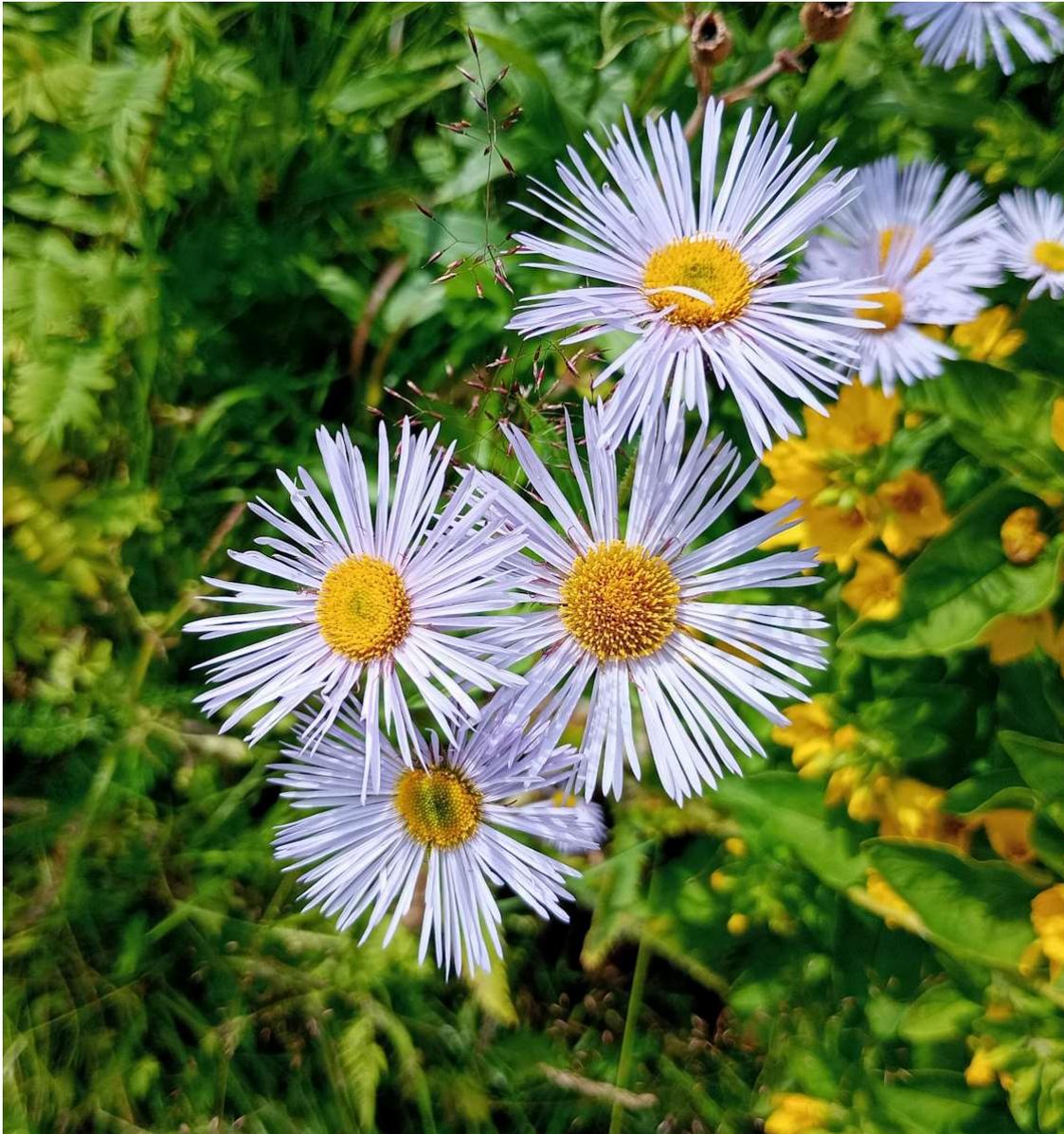
This past month, one of our own Óðinshof members, Marcus, self-published a book about Asatru! This is a huge accomplishment, one that so many of our Folk only dream or talk about doing one day. Marcus' book, *Asatru, Mind, and Christ* discusses many questions surrounding Asatru religion from his knowledge and perspective. Marcus holds a doctorate degree in philosophy and has spent many years teaching in this field. The book is a fascinating and concise read. It is available for purchase now on [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

"Not a "how-to" book but a man's journey in understanding the nature of the folk-soul and why Asatru is the only really option." — Gyöja Sheila McNallen

Hail Marcus Verhaegh!

Hail Victory!

A Boast to AFA Leadership



I want to take a moment to Hail the leadership of the AFA.

I have never in my life, and don't think I ever will, come across a group of such dedicated people as those in AFA leadership. The devotion of everyone, the time and

passion dedicated to the Gods, Ancestors and the Folk is awe-inspiring.

Everyone's unique strengths and talents at the discretion of the Alsherjargothi, can we do anything but win?

I am honored to be part of AFA leadership. You all inspire greatness, nobility and piety. I hope to continue to serve everyone current, and any future members of leadership for a very long time.

If you who are reading this are not part of leadership, but feel a stirring in your being, letting you know that you have talents and skills that could serve the AFA in a leadership capacity, reach out! With your will, piety and the support of everyone else in leadership, there is no limit to the great deeds you could accomplish for the Church.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Doers!

Hail the AFA!



Erik Lugnet
Apprentice Folkbuilder
elugnet@runestone.org

Ancestral Culture and Culture

Corn Dollies



Corn Dollies are a traditional European craftwork(that seems to have echoes of idol making) that is made of dried stocks of grain. Corn, in the old days and in Europe was the term used for all grains i.e. wheat, barley and others. Today the term corn, in the Americas, refers to maize or Indian Corn that many use today.

Corn dollies are dried stalks of grain woven into different shapes depending on the regions they hail from. Continental German, Scandinavian and English all have rich traditions in making Corn Dollies.

It is said that in Arch Heathen days into the 1800's Germany, the last sheaf of grain was said to be left standing for Sleipnir by Grimm but other sheafs of grain throughout Mother Europe would be twisted, braided and fashioned into designs so the spirit of the grains or the wights of the crops could reside in the Corn Dolly until next year's planting in which the Corn Dolly would be sowed back into the land. All the dark months long the Corn Dollies, holding the wights of the corn, were kept in places of honour in the people's homes or even barns.

August starts the beginning of the harvest season and it is appropriate to fashion these Corn Dollies out of respect for our past and for the chance to show honour to the wights of the lands until springtide.

The following are directions for a simple Corn Dolly you can make with the folk and family during Freyfaxi or maybe Winter Finding.



1) Get yourself a wheat sheaf from any craft supplier and then remove 3 suitable stalks that are about even in length and thickness to each other.

2) I have been taught that you should soak the stalks for a day and that should make them pliable but I have not found that to be true so instead, starting up under the wheat head and working my way down to the end of the stalk, I simply squish the stalk between my fingers until the whole stalk is a bit pliable and not so stiff. Don't go overboard as you can ruin the stalks.



3) Place three stalks together and tie with thread the three stalks together right under the wheat head. Make sure they are even.



4) Braid the three stalks all the way to the end of the stalk as you would your daughter's hair and once at the end, you tie the stalk together again, so the braid does not come undone. Both ends should be tied with thread, and you now have a single woven strand of three stalks. This is also how you would make a simple rope, by the way. Clever fingers would be able to make a better-looking braid which would give a better finished product but judging by my clumsy braid and the final product, even most of us could make a passing Corn Dolly.



5) Now we twist the woven strand into a shape and secure it with ribbon. I like red. The one you see here is a type of 'Countryman's favours' Corn Dolly. There are fantastic variations and types of Corn Dollies to choose from or to inspire your own.



6) Put it in a place of honour until spring and then put it in the ground ritually.

Hail the Spirits of the Harvest!

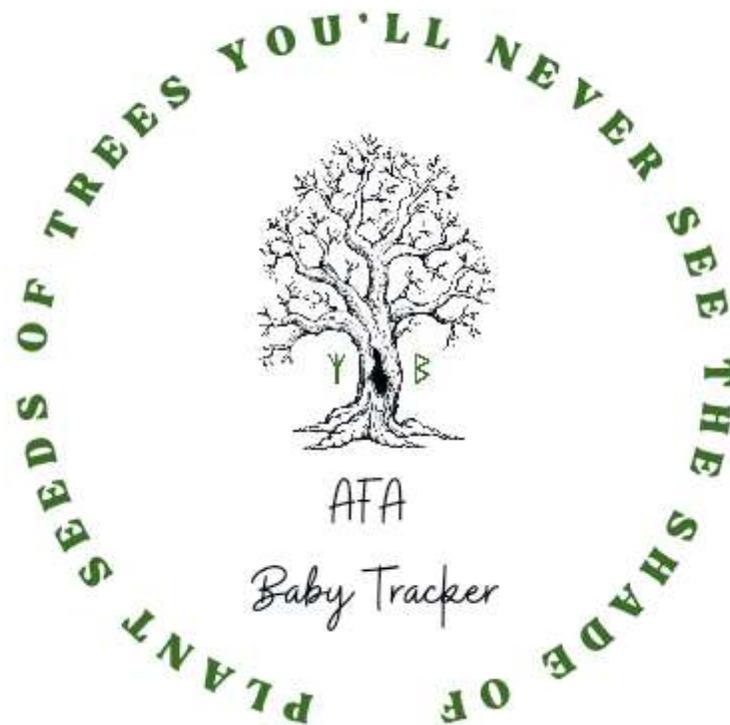
Ron Boardman



Apprentice Folkbuilder

rboardman@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: 21

Online Events and Meetings



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

AMcStocker@Runestone.org



The graphic is set against a dark brown background. At the top, the words "SISTERS SUNDAY CHATS" are written in a light pink, rounded, sans-serif font, arching over the central illustration. The illustration features a white cat with yellow and orange stripes, curled up and sleeping. To the right of the cat is a bouquet of flowers, including white daisies and red strawberries on green stems. A red ribbon is tied around the base of the bouquet. Below the illustration, the text "Second and fourth Sunday of the month" is written in a light pink, serif font. Underneath that, "to am central" is written in a smaller, light pink, sans-serif font. Finally, "Contact Folkbuilder Ali Clausen and Apprentice Hope White for details" is written in a light pink, serif font.

SISTERS SUNDAY CHATS

Second and fourth Sunday of the month
to am central
Contact Folkbuilder Ali Clausen
and
Apprentice Hope White for details



AFA Reading Challenge Meetings



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

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

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

Ladies Book Study

Revolt Against the Modern World

by Julius Evola

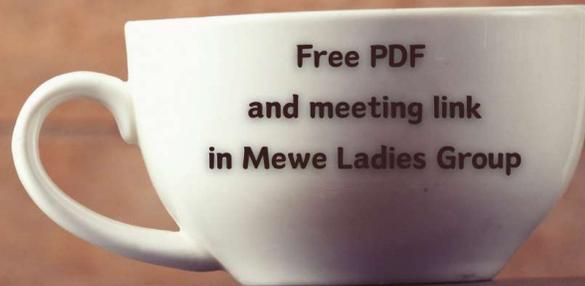
Starting

July 11th

7 pm CST

**We will meet
every Thursday.**

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



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

For more information contact

Witan Brandy Fassett

Folkbuilder Sara Ault





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

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

I hope to see you there!

Lore Study with Gothi Jason Plourde

Join us every Tuesday night

at

6:00 pm EST

5:00 pm CST

4:00 pm MST

3:00 pm PST

2:00 pm AKST

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

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



Fridays Aug 9th and 23rd @ 2pm Pacific

Tuesday 20th @ 5pm Pacific

Contact with any questions you might have — Sheila@Runestone.org





Just for Fun

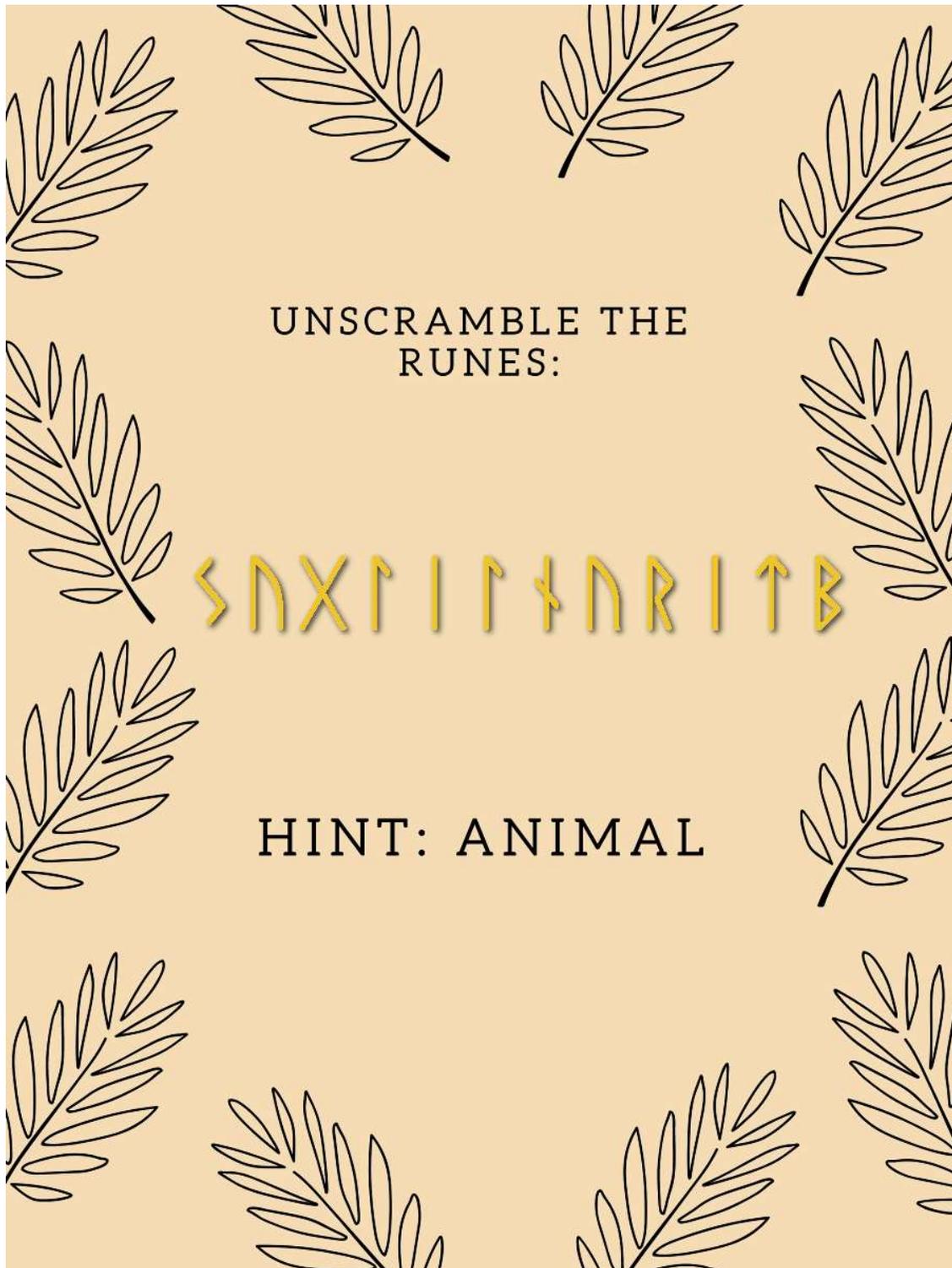
July was a hot and fun one! We are sending a huge shout out to Autumn and Bryson for being super readers, each reading 500 minutes this past month!



Autumn read *Asatru: A Native European Religion*, and Bryson read *My Side of the Mountain*. Congratulations, Autumn and Bryson!!! Keep on reading!



Guess what? None of the adults were able to solve this past month's puzzle! That's okay; hopefully they were all busy reading good books and having too much fun enjoying their summers, too! We'll try something easier this time.



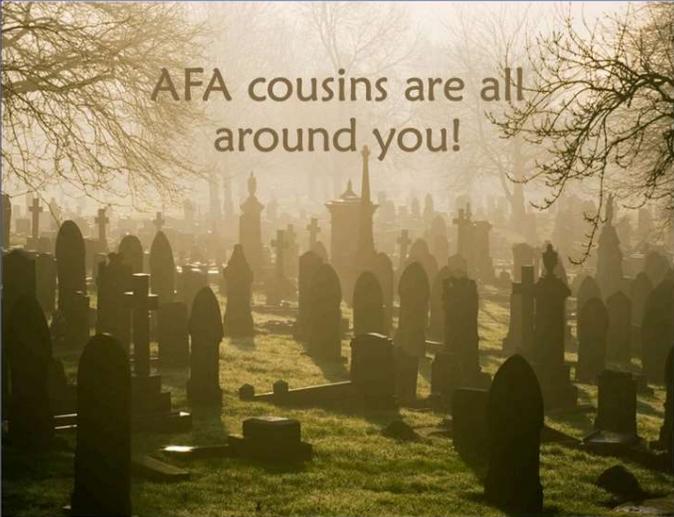
Unscramble the Runes! The first member to unscramble the mixed up runes and send it and its meaning to press@runestone.org will get a huge shout out next month! You can do it! Have Fun!



Folkbuilder Olivia Sutherland
osutherland@runestone.org

Genealogy and Kinship Charts

Join the AFA Genealogy group on MeWe!



AFA cousins are all
around you!

Who are your closest cousins in the AFA?

DNA tested? Get a Gematch Kit # to be added to the next AFA KINSHIP CHART

Deadline: 8/10/24

CONTACT
sheila@runestone.org
Gythia Sheila McNallen



Gythia Sheila McNallen
sheila@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



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

We're on one mega hot streak releasing new merch. Awesome designs drop every week, and we're prepped to keep it going. There's always something new, but many of these designs won't stay up forever! Don't miss out!

Store Spotlight

MERCH DROP



New Designs All the Time!

Check out Runestone.org/Store weekly so you don't miss one!

Check out [Runestone.org/Store](https://runestone.org/Store)



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Þórshof

Food Pantry at Þórshof



One of the jobs, and joys, of being good stewards and neighbors is being a part of the community, looking out for it, and lending a hand. With that, it is such a pleasure to know that we are out there every month, even in our sleepy little town, helping to provide much-needed food for those in need.

Looking around the AFA, our Folk stand tall and strong, determined make a positive impact wherever we go, and Þórshof is happy to do our part.

Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org



Sigrblót at Þórshof



On Saturday, 7/27/24, we gathered at Þórshof to celebrate Sigrblót, a significant event marking victory in our community. The day began with our regular food pantry, where we provided support to those in need in the surrounding area.

The celebration commenced with a storytelling session led by Witan Svan. He recounted the tale of Týr, renowned for his bravery and sacrifice. His act of offering his hand to bind the chaos of Fenrir served as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made in protection of our Folk.



Witans Svan and Young performed a Blót to honor Týr, during which we Galdred the rune Tiwaz and hailed the Æsir and Vanir. A special highlight of the event was the Vow Renewal of the Bain family. This touching ceremony reaffirmed their commitment to each other and to the values that bind our people together.

As the ceremonies concluded, we moved into Rumpf Hall for a delightful potluck. Many members brought delicious dishes to share. The day wrapped up with conversations among fellow members of our Folk before everyone said their goodbyes, marking the end of another wonderful event at Þórshof.

Folkbuilder Robert Shotwell
rshotwell@runestone.org



Upcoming Events at Þórshof

Þórshof 2024 Calendar

Yule		Þorrablót	
Seast of the Einherjar Nov. 30th	Dec. 20th-22nd	Jan. 27th	Feb. 24th Charming of the Plow
❖ Winter Nights Oct. 26th			Mar. 22nd-24th Ostara
Winter Finding Sep. 28th	Aug. 24th	Jul. 27th	Apr. 20th Hexennacht
Sreyfaxi	May 25th	Jun. 22nd	May Day
Sigrblót		Midsummer	

❖ Winter Nights - subject to change



 Witan Daniel Young @danielyoung14
9 hours ago • edited

Come to the hof this weekend for a lesson on Jujitsu with Folkbuilder [@Robert Shotwell](#) Bobby is a black belt in multiple disciplines and is a great teacher. All skill levels are encouraged to join us. RSVP to rshotwell@runestone.org

Support Þórshof



The District Poetry Corner

Live Up to Your Name



Rejoice all, for life is good!
Count your blessings and strive to do good
It is our calling, it is what you should

Aryan means Noble, literally our Folk's name
Our actions elevate us and bring us fame
A shining future for our Folk is our aim

Hail the good deeds we have sown
All the right action we have done
Hail the future so bright to come

Hail!



Erik Lugnet
Apprentice Folkbuilder
elugnet@runestone.org

Boar. Wheat. Stag.



Harvest bread.
Horse and boar.
Piercing stag.
Freyr stands proud.

Wheat tall in fields, a golden sea,
A whispering wave, a bounty, a sheath.
Gullinbursti boar, with bristles bright,
Heralds through the dawn's golden light.

Ingvi-Freyr, lord of fertile grace,
Bless this earth, life's embrace.



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Indiana

Bike and BBQ Moot



It was a muggy summer evening at the clubhouse of a motorcycle club in Indianapolis! BBQ was smoked and served the whole day: chicken, pork butt, and ribs served with a nice cold brewskie!

A couple of our guys made further inroads into this community by volunteering to help the MCs with the event. Kids were playing with Nerf guns, everyone talked about their

bikes and got a lot of us thinking, "Dang, does the AFA need a motorcycle club?" Time will tell, haha!



Jacob Rutledge
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jrutledge@runestone.org

Indiana Sigrblót



Friends and Folk,

This Sigrblót the great state of Indiana gave thanks to Holy Týr. We celebrated our victories and shared our plans for the victories that await us; victory in business and relationships, victory in family and faith, victory over those who seek to oppress and denigrate our Folk the path we journey toward our higher selves...

True to form for those of us here in the Hoosier-state, we engaged in some physical events; burpees, bear crawls, stretcher drills etc. and shared some food and Frith with one another.



...the victory that comes from sitting in the shade of a tree drinking a cool beverage and pretending like you don't realize there is a burpee contest going on... (among my greatest victories)...



... aaaand whatever sort of victory it is when you take turns strapping one another to a stretcher and then racing around the yard as I stand watching you and eating bratwurst (I believe there is a Greek name for it).

Regardless, of the nature of our victories: whether they seem monumental, redundant, humorous or trivial, they are more than simply our own.

Our victories belong to our Folk, the belong to the story of our ancestors and they belong to the glory of our Gods and the life-tale that they have initiated to run through history as our people march across this Earth.

Think upon your victories, even the petty ones; celebrate them, share them with your

Folk, our ancestors, and our Gods; plot and plan that you should have greater and more numerous victories and study and honor the lessons that you have learned in the defeats you endure along your journey.

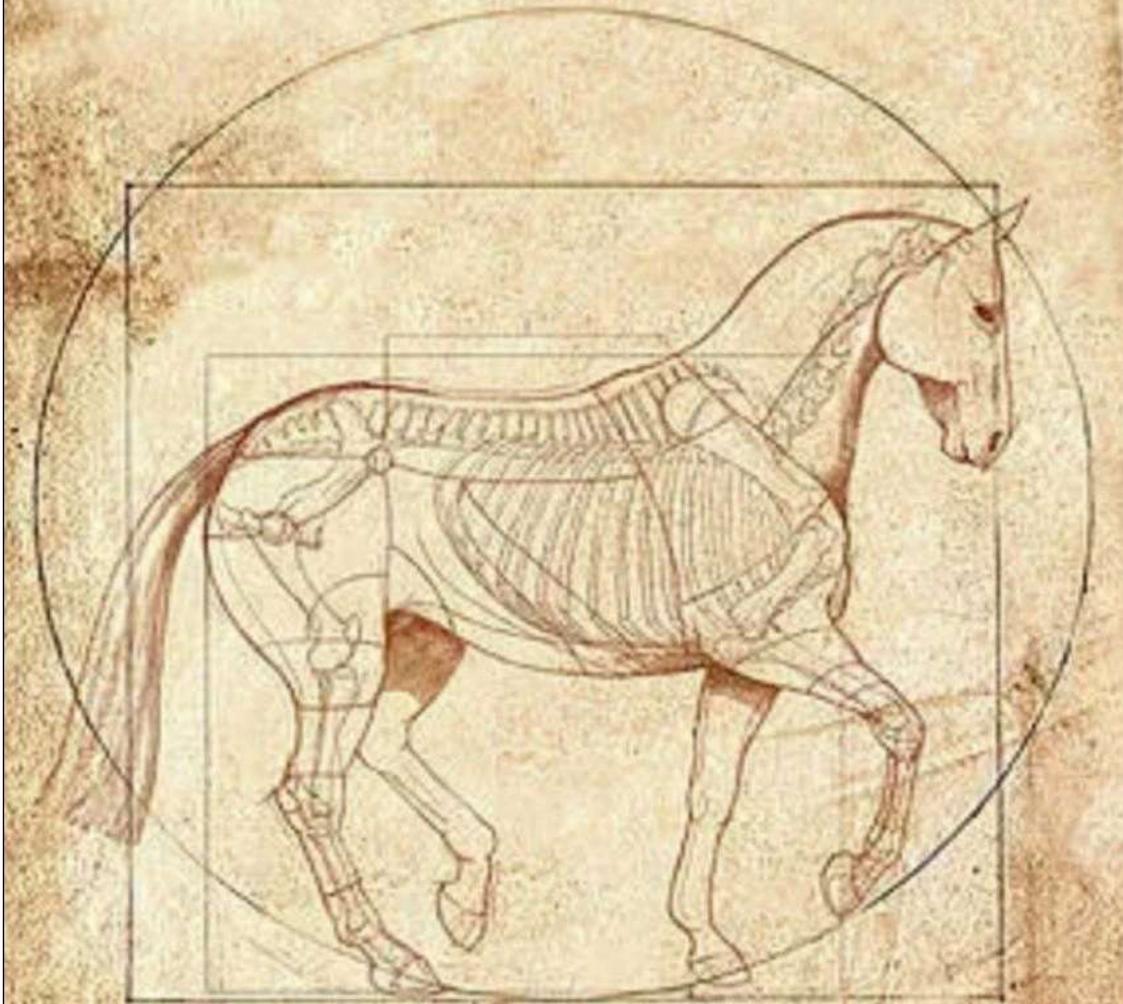


Too soon our time on this planet is finished; while here, it is your responsibility to collect the victories that life affords so that you may someday lay them at the feet of our Gods and show them that your time here was not wasted.

Happy Sigrblót my friends, I hope to celebrate our coming victories together, both often and soon.

Upcoming Events

Freyfaxi



August 17, 2024

Fortville, IN

JRock@Runestone.org



Folkbuilder Jonathan Rock

jrock@runestone.org

Massachusetts

Upcoming Events



German Restaurant Moot

August 25 Western Mass

Contact: rboardman@runestone.org



Ronald Boardman
Apprentice Folkbuilder
rboardman@runestone.org

Michigan

Sigrblót Michigan



Friends and Folk,

I hope all of your Sigrblótar went well! Here in Michigan, for my first Moot, my wife and I hosted a little gathering at the beach for local Folk. We fired up the grill, cooked some hotdogs, and had a lovely little picnic with coleslaw and potato salad. Then, we tried and failed at not getting sunburnt, cooled down in the lake (man it was a hot day), and had some fun swimming



After we finished a refreshing dip, we spent most of the day discussing Ásatrú with the gathered Folk. We closed the gathering out with a Sigrblót to Lord Týr in a lovely little clearing.



Everyone enjoyed the location and perhaps we'll return to it, but there are many more beaches in Michigan to visit!

Upcoming Events



*Mid-Michigan
beach and lake
moot 2*

*Contact Apprentice Folkbuilder
Chris Savich for details
csavich@runestone.org
08/25/24*

*September 2024
Michigan beach moot
(One last hurrah before fall!)*

*Contact Apprentice Folkbuilder Chris Savich for details
09/08/24
csavich@runestone.org*



Chris Savich
Apprentice Folkbuilder
csavich@runestone.org

New Hampshire

Upcoming Events



Freyfaxi Moot

August 10

New Hampshire

Contact: rboardman@runestone.org

1/1

Winterfinding Restaurant Moot



Sept 21 Concord, NH

Contact: rboardman@runestone.org



Oct 26 Southwest NH

Contact: rboardman@runestone.org



Ronald Boardman
Apprentice Folkbuilder
rboardman@runestone.org

Victory in the Shire



After my wife and I put our kids to bed we were talking about how excited we were for Sigrblót the following day. We were inspired and decided to get creative and make some art for Týr. We went to our separate creative corners and begin to channel our feelings for Týr into our pieces.



It is always a glorious and special occasion to gather with the Shire Folk. But this holiday was extra special because we were joined by one of the greatest families in the AFA the Ericksons in addition to our outstanding Folk here in the Shire. We had an amazing time catching up, talking about anything and everything. It was a beautiful day, sun shining bright. After snacking and chatting it was time for Blót.



We gathered together and were led into the ritual space hallowed by Folkbuilder Ron's brilliant song. As the ladies worked their magic the men entered the space sun wise and in good spirt. Witan Erickson was at the helm of the ritual. The ladies joined us in the circle and Witan Erickson proceed with a powerful and energizing Blót to Týr, asking him to bless us with victory in all of our endeavors. After receiving the blessings of Týr we concluded the Blót and gathered back at the house.



Before supper it was time for fun! A battalion of children armed with the most fierce and true wood weapons challenged me to a fight. I stood strong for as I could, but I was soon overwhelmed and defeated by this band of tenacious warriors. I live to see another day, albeit with more splinters in my body than before.

We then shared an amazing meal together and Sumbel. It was a fantastic time, and I can't wait to see you all again! A thousand thanks to our brilliant hosts the Boardmans, a big thanks to the Ericksons for making the trip up, and also a big thank you to all of the Folk who attended.

Sig Týr!
Hail Victory!



Folkbuilder Tyler Sagert

tsagert@runestone.org

New York

Buffalo Brunch Moot



We did it! This month, we drove over a thousand miles for a Moot!

Well, not SOLELY for a Moot. Driving all the way from Nebraska, our road trip destination was in the perfect spot to meet up with a member in New York. Coffee, sandwiches, and just getting to really know someone we had only really talked to online. That's one of the great things about the AFA. We went halfway across the country, and it was like catching up with an old friend.



Folkbuilder Cody Clausen

cclausen@runestone.org

North Carolina

Appalachian Happenings — At the Heart of It All



This month, I'd like to do something a little different: Sigrblót at Sigrheim was a great success; there were powerful rituals, great discussions, hearty meals, and an intimate Sumbel. At the heart of it all was a woman weaving Frith, taking pictures, giving hugs, and making sure everyone was comfortable and provided for. If you were at the event,

or at any of the moots in eastern Tennessee in the past two years, you know exactly who I'm talking about: our very own Rachel Kinsler.



Rachel has taken it upon herself to be the hostess of many of our events and is the glue that holds our region together. A mother of two incredible kids, we lovingly call her our “Folk mom”. She gives of herself constantly; from cooking delicious feasts to carrying kids around and always having a snack or sunscreen or bottle of water readily available, she almost never asks for anything in return, except for a hug or a selfie every once in a

while. When we say, “hail the givers” or “hail the doers,” we’re talking about people like Rachel.



The Frith that Rachel has woven between the members in our region is cause enough for praise, but it isn’t limited to southern Appalachia. Rachel and her family travel as much as they can, with regular appearances at Njörðshof, Þórshof, Sigrheim, and the national Winter Nights event. She never visits a Hof or an event and just sits back to enjoy herself; she continues to weave Frith everywhere she goes, making the AFA stronger as she goes. I hope you get to meet her soon, and I’m sure you’ll agree that she is an excellent model for a mother, a wife, and an Ásatrú woman. Thank you, Rachel, for all that you do for us. We wouldn’t be the same without you.

Hail Rachel Kinsler!

Hail the AFA!

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea
tbethea@runestone.org

Ohio

Sigrblót Ohio



Sigrblót, a recognition and celebration of Victory!

Nothing worth having comes without some measure of sacrifice and we honored Lord Týr this day!

Often when we think of victory, it is in a grandiose way. Whether receiving a promotion at work, triumphing over a serious health issue, or achieving greatness through final conquest on the field of battle.

While all the aforementioned are certainly great examples of victory, we sometimes fail to give enough thought to those smaller, seemingly minute instances in which victories are achieved on a daily basis.

Learning a new skill, nailing that chocolate chip cookie recipe, or completing a home improvement project can and should all be seen as victories as well.

We reflected on victories of our Gods, our ancestors, and those of each other, large and small.

Nothing worth having comes without some measure of sacrifice and we honored Lord Týr this day for he knowingly gave his sword hand in order to bind the chaotic devourer Fenrir.

Whether your victories come on a grand or modest scale, celebrate them for none are won without personal sacrifice in order to attain them.

Hail Victory!!!

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Michael Melillo
mmelillo@runestone.org

Upcoming Events

Contact Folkbuilder
Joe Drotos for details.
330-322-9136



Folkbuilder Joe Drotos

jdrotos@runestone.org

These victories are victories, I feel, of duty. We see this exemplified in the story of Lord Týr, and Fenris-Wolf, and again among our ancestors in the Battle of the Alamo.

This great victory is one that is recalled in the great battle cry, “REMEMBER THE ALAMO!”. You may be saying that the Battle of the Alamo was a defeat and all the men who fought their died, and technically you are correct. The Great Republic of Texas was “defeated” at the Alamo, however, the brave men who embodied the very spirit of our Lord Týr, were victorious. The legendary men who stood in defense of those walls from February 23rd to March 6th, 1836, held within them the flame of our great Aryan spirit. One of the most notable of these great men was Davey Crockett, a true embodiment of the European Spirit and our Faith. He had a life full of mythic deeds, great bear hunts, expeditions into the vast untamed wilderness of early America, spoke out against injustice, and finally, knowing the odds, gave his life in defense of the freedom he never once took for granted.



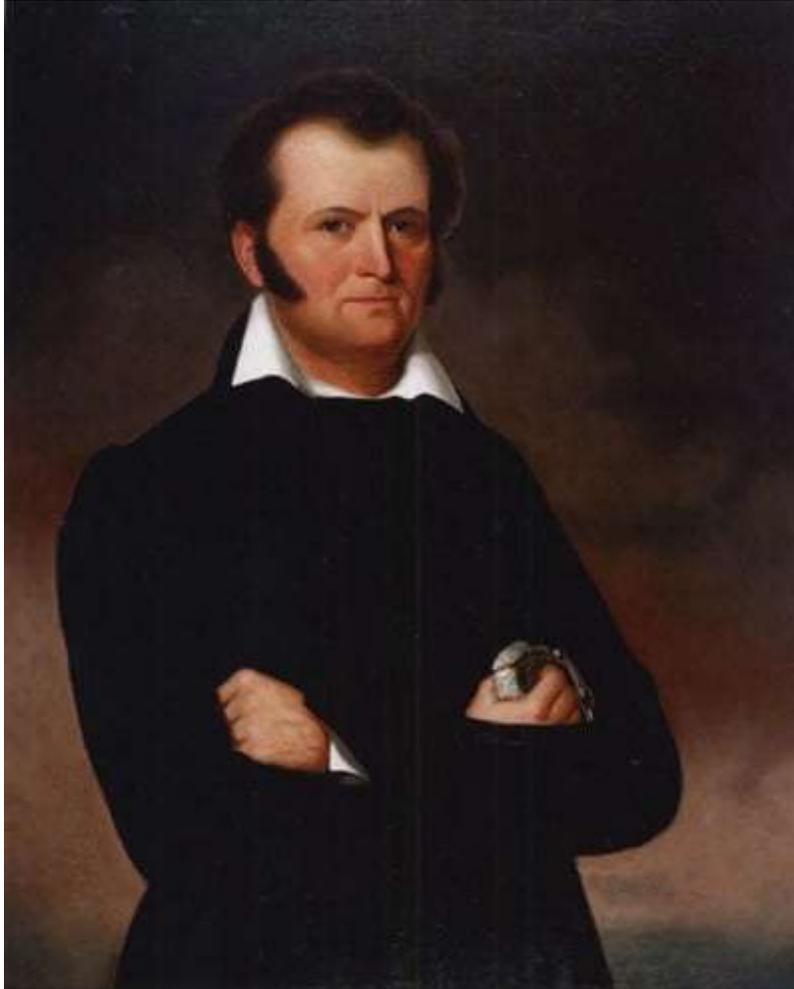
Crockett was already a mythic man by the time of the Alamo. Having fought in the Creek War, and later served with distinction in the House of Representatives, Crockett was known far and wide as a just and honorable man. Embodying the words of Óðinn “When you see evil, call it evil. Bring attention to such treachery, and show your enemies no peace.” Hávamál 127, He stood against President Jackson and the Indian Removal Act. Because of his outspoken morals he failed to be re-elected the following year, and is quoted saying

“I would rather be beaten
and be a man than to be
elected and be a little
puppy dog. I have always
supported measures and
principles and not men. I
have acted fearlessly and
independent and I never
will regret my course. I
would rather be politically
buried than to be
hypocritically
immortalized.”
Davey Crockett

Crockett did win his seat back, only to lose it again at the end of the same term, marking his end in politics. After this he set his sights on Texas. Leaving behind his home, and comforts, he sought out new adventures in the unknown and a place for his family to belong. However, in order to legally settle in Texas, Crockett had to take a solemn oath of allegiance and sign on to serve with the Texas militia. This noble course would eventually lead him to the Alamo, where he valiantly did his duty and fought with honor.

Upon arriving at the Alamo, Crockett found himself in great company, and invaluable

counsel in the form of two more great ancestors, Colonel William Travis, and the legendary Jim Bowie. Travis, refused to forsake his duty of defense and reject any call to surrender despite the overwhelming odds. Bowie, is honored in the blade that still carries his name, known as the American short sword, he would use it to terrible effect in the coming days. Crockett expressed an interest in the legendary blade, saying that the mere sight of it was enough to make a man sick before breakfast. Both men were said to have shared a mutual respect, and Bowie was glad to have Crockett alongside him, not only for his fighting capabilities, but also for the energy and spirit he raised in the men.



The battle of the Alamo would soon begin. Mexican General Santa Anna was marching his men north with the goal of taking all of San Antonio and suppressing the Texan Rebellion once and for all. His invasion crossed paths with the Alamo, and the General remarked that the Alamo had, “the greatest concentration of cannons west of the Mississippi river.” It was a challenge he could not ignore, and on February 23rd, 1836, Santa Anna marched toward the Alamo with 5,000 men. He began laying siege to the old mission for thirteen days, before beginning his final assault. Understanding the bleak chances of success, Colonel Travis sent riders to request assistance from the Texas government. His final letter, emphasizes his steadfast resolve,

“The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, our flag still waves proudly from the walls. I shall never surrender or retreat.”

Colonel William Travis

It is here that the bravery of our ancestors shines brightest. For Colonel Travis, Jim Bowie, and Davey Crockett, gathered the garrison together, and offering every man the choice to surrender should he chose and not be thought a coward for it, no man left his station. They all chose to look Fenris-Wolf in the eye and do their duty. Vastly outnumbered, our brave ancestors held their post against siege for thirteen excruciating days before the final push on March 6th. At 5:00am, Mexican forces snaked their way toward the mission in silence before alarm could be raised. The next hour and a half saw the toughest, grittiest and dirtiest fighting on Midgard. Davey was cornered in the barracks of the fort and was surrounded by no less than sixteen Mexican corpses, fighting like a rabid mountain lion, until he was finally subdued. That day over 183 of our bravest ancestors embodied the truest spirit of our Lord Týr, and even in death achieved valiant victory. Their sacrifice for duty and freedom rallied the blood of our Folk and soon, General Santa Anna would be defeated as he was surrounded by the great battle cry, “REMEMBER THE ALAMO!”

Often, we see our defeats as only defeats and cannot see the longer reaching

consequences of what happens. If we remember, however, to face every challenge like our ancestors, and live up to the noble virtues to which we prescribe; then no defeat is truly a defeat. For others will see our struggles and see the nobility and honor with which we face them, and we can become, much like our glorious ancestors, the battle cry of victory.

Upcoming Events

RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

PITTSBURGH METROPOLITAN
AREA



08.31.2024

START AT 10:30-18:30 | 112 RENAISSANCE LANE WEST NEWTON, PA 15089
Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$12 for children, 5 and under are free.
As you wander down the village streets and pathways of the Pittsburgh Renaissance Festival, experience a 16th Century Medieval Amusement Park!

MORE INFORMATION: RYAN FENTON RFENTON@RUNESTONE.ORG





Pittsburgh Irish Festival

SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2024 9AM

THE PITTSBURGH IRISH FESTIVAL,
INC. CELEBRATES THE IRISH
EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA.

**Carrie Blast Furnace National Historic Landmark
801 Carrie Blast Furnace Blvd
Pittsburgh, PA 15218**

Tickets are \$22 for adults, 12 and under free
Parking is \$12 at the gate

For more information email Ryan Fenton at
RFENTON@RUNESTONE.ORG

Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area



Ryan Fenton
Apprentice Folkbuilder
rfenton@runestone.org

Upcoming Events



Join the Ericksons as we revel in the rich traditions of Scotland during the Highland Games and Scottish Festival! We'll be getting there in the morning to enjoy the entire day. Afterwards, we invite the Folk to our home for Blót, supper, and Sumbel.

Event details

Date: September 7, 2024

Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Erie County, PA

Host: Witan Clifford Erickson



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

South Carolina

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Heather Young
hyoung@runestone.org

Sweden

Sigrblót in Sweden



The beginning of summer has been quite hot and dry, which has given way to rain, rain and more rain. It is giving me high hopes for a fantastic mushroom picking year! The last few preparations for moose hunting are being made, and our days are filled with as much time outside spent in the beauty of summer as we possibly can fit in, before it ends.

This Sigbrlót we made an offering of homemade pastry, and berries to Lord Týr. We gave thanks for the great victories the AFA has, and continue to amass, and asked for his continued blessing in our endeavors of growing our Church.

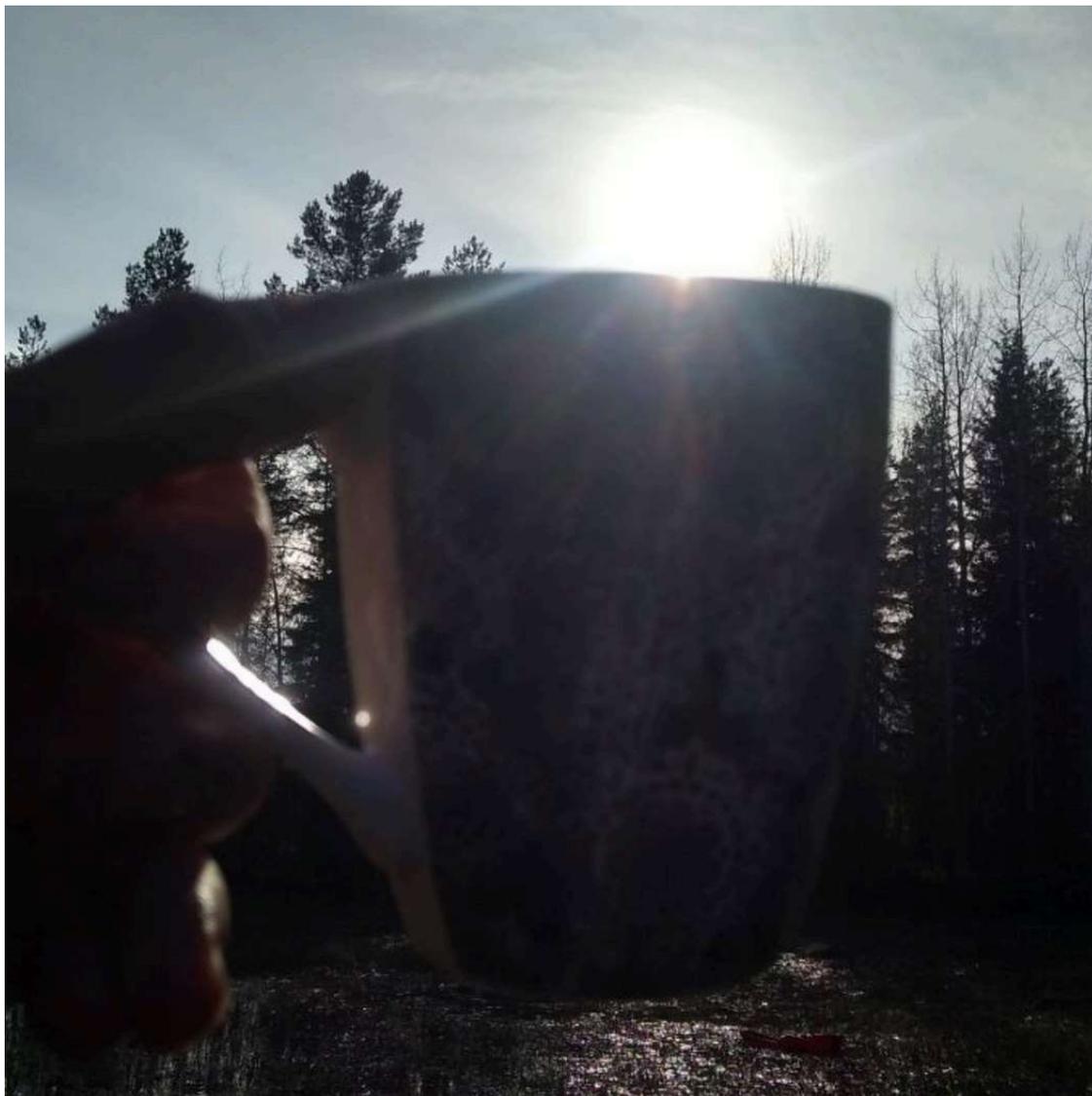
Summer is coming to an end. Now darker nights and cooler temperatures await.

Hail Týr!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Upcoming Events



Fika Friday

23rd of August

Come and have a cup of coffee with the Lugnets!



Freyfaxi

24th of August

Come and let us celebrate the harvest!



Erik Lugnet

Apprentice Folkbuilder

elugnet@runestone.org

Tennessee

A Visitor Approaches



Our Folk are a roaming sort. Whether we're travelling for business, pleasure, or piety, we're often on the road. I'm sure you know that we have some awesome AFA members spread far and wide. If you're going out, make sure to let a Folkbuilder know. We would love to help you get connected and meet more of the Folk.

I've had the pleasure now to meet up with the Cosgrove's on two occasions now as they've been travelling often and passing through Tennessee. They're not the first either. I'd reckon 3-4 other out-of-state members have stopped by for food, Frith, and Hospitality. Don't leave the Folk hanging.

Get out there, explore, and make some friends. We're family, y'all.

Upcoming Events



**Remembrance Dinner
for Prince Hermann
of the Cherusci**

**Sept. 9th
630 pm**

**RSVP to
Folkbuilder
Nick Rice
at
nrice@
runestone
.org**



**Remembrance Dinner
for Hoskuld and
Meister von List**

Oct. 8th at 630pm

RSVP to nrice@runestone.org

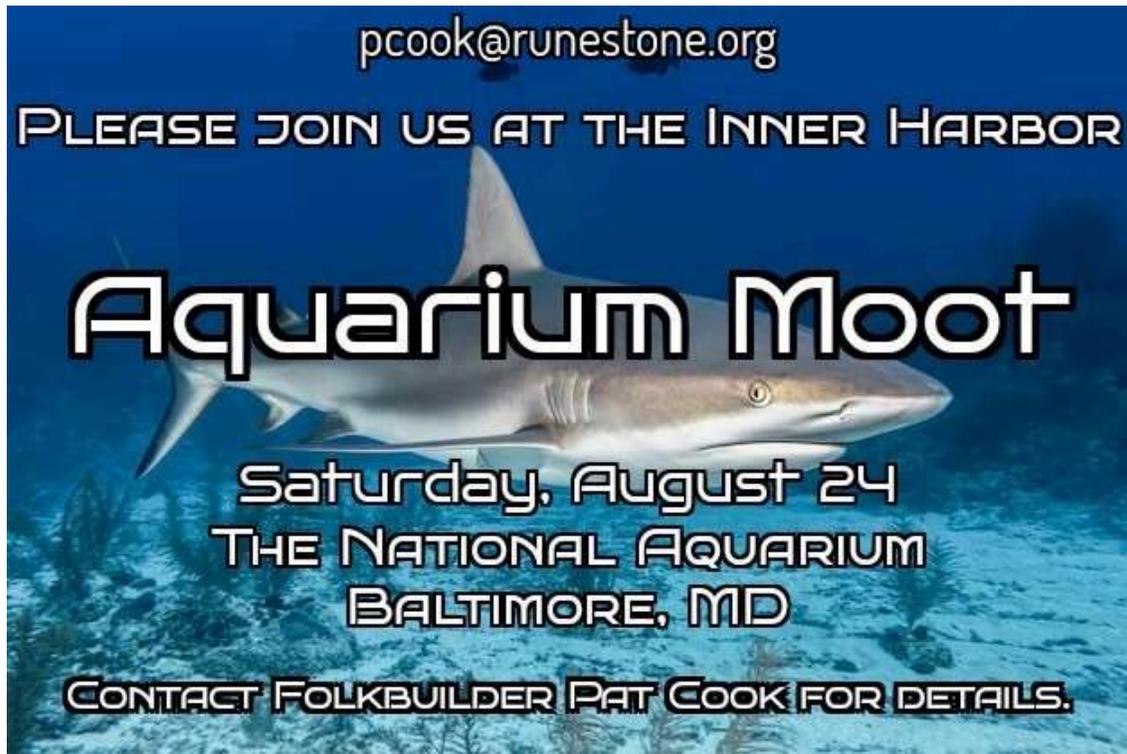


Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

nrice@runestone.org

West Virginia

Upcoming Events



pcook@runestone.org

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE INNER HARBOR

Aquarium Moot

Saturday, August 24
THE NATIONAL AQUARIUM
BALTIMORE, MD

CONTACT FOLKBUILDER PAT COOK FOR DETAILS.



All good things must end.

WINTER FINDING

EASTERN WW, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21

Bring your ancestral photos and relics to honor together.

Contact Folkbuilder Pat Cook for details.
pcook@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Patrick Cook
pcook@runestone.org



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