





**Þórshof**  
Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

[www.thorshof.com](http://www.thorshof.com)

**January 2025**

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## Words from the Allsherjargoði



With overwhelming pride, I announce that the Asatru Folk Assembly is 30 years old! It is truly astounding to see the progress we have made over the last 30 years. It is also immensely inspiring to see the amazing possibilities in the next 30! I was reminded recently by Witan Erickson that Ásatrú is a living religion and that is something very special in our world. We all know this, but I don't think we stop to realize the implications of it. Ásatrú is the story of us, as individuals, and us, as a people, and our relationship with the Æsir. This is an active, LIVING, relationship. We are currently building reputation in the halls of our ancestors AND in the halls of Ásgarðr. Our Gods are watching us and sharing with us in this amazing journey we are on. We have an exhilarating and profound task before us—to bring our Folk home and to build the religion of Ásatrú to its maximum glory. We do this through action. We do this through

devotion. We do this together. This is the time when heroes rise, and legacy is made.  
Now is the age of Victory.

May the Æsir see into our hearts!  
May they hear our words!  
May they know our deeds!  
May they find us worthy!  
May we always make them proud!

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



One amazing thing about the growth we have had over the years is how much we can accomplish when we work together. We have members with every different passion and every different skillset you can imagine. What's more, many passionate and skilled members want to help the AFA and don't know how. I want to work hard to get these amazing people mobilized!

- We need Folk with social media and digital marketing skills. We need folks who know about search engine optimization. We need folks who know how to work algorithms to get the AFA in front of as many eyes as possible. The biggest reason we are not bigger is that such a schooling number of our folk don't know about us!
- We need CAD/construction/engineering/architect folks to help us build a solid and real plan for our construction of Týrshof. The sooner we get a detailed plan,

the better off we are.

- We need history/library/writers to help with the history projects that are a big priority for us.
- We need judges/lawyers/paralegal folks to build a staff for our Lawspeaker to make sure we get the very best from utilizing the system we are in.
- We need grant writers to....find and write grants.

We can do so much when we are working together! Anyone who wants to volunteer for the above activities or for anything else, please email me at [mattflavel@runestone.org](mailto:mattflavel@runestone.org)

## Announcements, News, & Noteworthy

- 12/21/24 - Frank Walter Nelson was named before his Gods and Folk.



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## Words from our Witan

*Hamr, The Projected Self*



In this month's edition of The Runestone we will discuss the Hamr, The Projected Self.

The word itself translates to "shape" or "skin." It also the root word of Hamingja.

Many tie the idea of Hamr to shape shifting. But what does that mean? I think this more layered than that and will warrant much more discussion.

The Hamr will also travel in dreams, or during sleep. It can take the shape of an animal; it can take the appearance of the self also. It is also connected to “ghosts.” The Hamr can sometimes remain after death, and will sometimes be seen by us, in the physical realm, often after the Lík has experienced trauma. The sixth sense or second sight can perceive the Hamr. (Check out [Victory Never Sleeps, Episode 43, “The Soul”](#)) Allsherjargothi Flavel refers to the Hamr as “the non-corporeal projection of self.” I have a story to share regarding the Hamr.

Some of you may have heard this story, I shared this on VNS last year. On July 30, 2023, I suffered a massive heart attack. I had been flown by helicopter to the biggest heart hospital in South Carolina. While on that helicopter I prayed. Prayed to Óðinn, Heimdallr, Þórr, Frigg, and my ancestors. Once I arrived at the cath lab, and the procedure was underway, my dear friend Svan appeared at my bedside. I was overcome with emotions when I saw him. I was telling him about how I got there, all the symptoms I had, the flight over. He sat with his arms crossed on my hospital bed, and I could see his tattoos on his forearms. He was just nodding while i was talking.

I asked him if I was going to die, and he simply said “no”, put his hand on my shoulder and squeezed it. He walked out of the room. After the procedure was over, I saw my family, and I told my mother something to the effect of “don’t worry, Svan said I wasn’t going to die.” When my mom told my wife what I had said, Heather thought I had my phone. I did not.

Svan was at home in Virginia Beach while all this was happening. He had been sleeping in after the trip to Þórshof the previous day. Once I had left surgery, he awakened and called Heather immediately. He has no recollection of his astral visit to my side.

Later, Svan and I spoke. I asked what he thought about his appearance at my bedside, and he began to explain the Hamr to me. It’s my opinion that his Hamr had traveled to be at my side during a traumatic event and bring comfort. I was and I remain eternally grateful for this moment in time that will be burned into my memory forever. I’m often overwhelmed with emotion when I see Svan at AFA events.

The mechanics of the Hamr remain mysterious to me. But I have seen the Hamr work in other ways as well. Sometimes it shows up in a more mundane way. Sometimes not.

What we know as “ghosts” are often a reflection of the Hamr. Ghost comes from the word *guist* which translates to guest, visitor. Often, we tell stories about ghosts in a scary way, we treat them as something to be feared. This should not be the case in most

circumstances. If I were to see the “ghost” of my grandfather, I would not be afraid. It would be a privilege to spend a moment with him in whatever state he may appear. Stories of ghosts at battlefields abound across the world. It’s as if the trauma of these deaths is imprinted upon the land. This is the remnant of the Hamr left behind in the mundane world.

Examples of the layers of Hamr are as thus—there is the astral, the part that travels during the dream state, there is the ghost upon the field, an imprint of the Hamr left in Miðgarðr, and there is the projection of the Wode Self (that which you are trying to become). This is the side of the self you want others to see, what you want to people to perceive. How we relate through body language is an example. This is something we also perceive in others. We men use posture to convey a message to each other and the opposite sex. Women of course do the same thing. A change in posture, gait, or facial expressions are a way of signaling to our fellow man. This is maybe the most mundane expression of Hamr.

Maybe you have been in a strange place, maybe a drinking establishment. A large man is standing nearby. He isn’t “showing out” like cursing or making verbal threats. But his posture is aggressive, he “gets taller” around other men, perhaps has his chest puffed out, signaling he is here to make trouble. This is also Hamr, and when we pick up on these signals, they are hard to describe. “How did you know he was going to act out?” Because I was picking up his signaling. Being able to perceive the Hamr, the skin another person is wearing has saved lives, has prevented trouble more time than we can count.

The berserker is a historical example of the Hamr. Berserker means “wearing bear skin” and men in the Viking Age did in fact wear the skin of a bear or wolf (Ulfheðnar). But it means so much more than that. They became the bear, became the wolf. They had borne an ecstatic frenzy, swing wildly and skillfully and tearing the enemy apart as they became something else. Enemies who watched on were stricken with fear and often retreated as a result.

In *Heimskringla*, we read that King Harald had sent a “troll wise man” to Iceland to see what he could tell him about the land. He (the troll wise man) went in the shape of a whale, and when he arrived, he could see the land wights of Iceland. This is yet another example of Hamr from our ancient past. He projected himself through the astral in the shape of an animal, and in that state, he could see the Landvættir of the island.

How do we use Hamr in our spiritual practice? One way is being deliberate in the way you present yourself. Are you presenting the person you are? The person you want to

become? How many times have we heard the phrase dress for the job you want, not the job you have? This also a mundane version of Hamr. Picture yourself in the highest form in your Wode Self (this is also part of the Soul Complex and will be discussed in a later article). What does that look like? Now carry that on the outside, wearing that skin as it were, to project it to the world.

Meditation. In some meditation practice you are picturing yourself in a setting in your mind. What you “see” as yourself is the Hamr. How you move in and out of places in this state, this is exercise for the Hamr when it travels in the dream state. As for the astral travel, again, keep a dream journal, write down experiences in the dream state, as they are hints of different parts of the soul, including the Hamr.


Join me in the next Runestone as we discuss Sál, The Shade Self.



Witan Daniel Young  
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*Strengthening Your Asatru Practice in 2025*





# January 2025

January 1st  
Óðinn

January 8th  
Frigg

January 15th  
Freyja

January 22nd  
Sága

January 29th  
Ancestors

Happy New Year to all of our Folk of the Asatru Folk Assembly!

If you have spent any amount of time with me (in person or on calls), you know that I feel that helping the Folk create and maintain a personal relationship with our Holy Ása, as well as giving our Folk ways to worship individually and as a family in their own homes, is a duty that I hold near and dear to my heart.

This year I invite our Folk to join me in a year of celebration and dedication to the Æsir, Ásynjur, and their kin.



# February 2025

February 5th  
Þórr

February 12th  
Sif

February 19th  
Jörð

February 26th  
Ancestors

My family and I dedicate Wednesdays as a day of intentional spiritual practice and devotion, with each one dedicated to someone different, helping us to connect with them as a whole and individually. Your family (or individual) celebration could be as simple as an offering by yourself in the morning or as complex as a full feast and lore reading with your family in the evening.

I invite each of you to share your thoughts, experiences, pictures and memories of these devotional Wednesdays with us in the Spiritual Excellence Group on MeWe. If you choose to do so, I will share those each month here in the Runestone!

Here is to a victorious 2025, full of all the best for our Folk and our Church!



Witan Brandy Fassett  
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## Words from our Goðar

### *Planting Seeds*



As 2025, and the 31st year of the Asatru Folk Assembly, comes riding in from the east, we should take a moment to both reflect on our past and plan our future. This article will be a bit shorter than my usual work but carries a more important message.

Many of the great endeavors of our forebears were for the purpose of “planting

trees,” so to speak- trees whose shade they would not enjoy themselves, but that their descendants could sit in and create yet another generation of artistic and industrious innovation for more descendants. Our ancestors won these victories not for themselves, but for their tribe, or often for the Folk in general.

In 2015, Allsherjargoði Stephen McNallen accomplished the unthinkable by acquiring and dedicating Óðinshof, the first Hof to one of the Æsir in 1000 years. He did this not for himself, but for the Folk.



In 2020 through 2022, Allsherjargoði Matthew Flavel honored the mandate of the All-Father and established three more temples to mighty Þórr, bright Baldr, and joyous Njörðr. He did this not for himself, but for the Folk.

In December 2022, then-Goði-now-Witan Daniel Young did the groundwork to acquire Sigrheim, a parcel of land symbolic of the AFA's larger success, a promise of our bright future in troth to the holy Æsir. He did this not for himself, but for the Folk.



As we head into 2025, keep these in mind. Remember that we do this for our people—past, present, and future—so that they may continue to survive and thrive and be honored by future deeds. What seeds will you plant with your deeds? What trees will grow from your victories? What fruits will your Folk harvest? The best time to answer these questions is now!



Goði Trent East  
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*Declaration of Purpose III*



III. Issuing a call to all our brothers and sisters of the Ethnic European Folk to return to this, their native religion and way of life



We call our kin to rejoin the great family of men and women who honor the sacred ways of our holy Gods and Ancestors. Ásafolk are not always eager to proselytize; however, we know that our brothers and sisters will all be healthier and happier once they have returned to the religion that expresses their unique cultural and genetic heritage, a heritage that is a part of them as surely as blood and bone. The restoration of our ancient ways, and the building of a secure future for our religion and our people, is our call and our destiny. Let us have an “Ingathering of the Folk!”





This is how we regain the strength of our culture and heritage. This unified heritage we share from our Aryan ancestry cannot be lost to the annals of history. Look at it like an Ash tree. You can cut branches over and over again and the tree will remain. To cut the roots would be to destroy the tree. It is the same with the folk. To cut our roots away would be the end of our people, the end of the very foundation our ancestors fought and battled to ensure over millennia, which ensured a future for you.



Every white man, woman, and child belongs with the Gods of their ancestors, belongs with their Folk. To return our Folk after a millennia and more of deception, guilt, and shame is no easy task.



The feeling of being with one's cultural tribe cannot be replaced with a foreign people's beliefs and gods. This runs through our veins, is incorporated into every aspect of who we are, and we owe it to ourselves to come home, regain our ancestral might and meign growing stronger as more of us come home. It is up to each and every one of us to work towards that end, now so in the current state of our society more than ever.



Goði Nathan Erlandson  
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*Woes of Winter*



## WOES OF WINTER A Time for Thorrablot

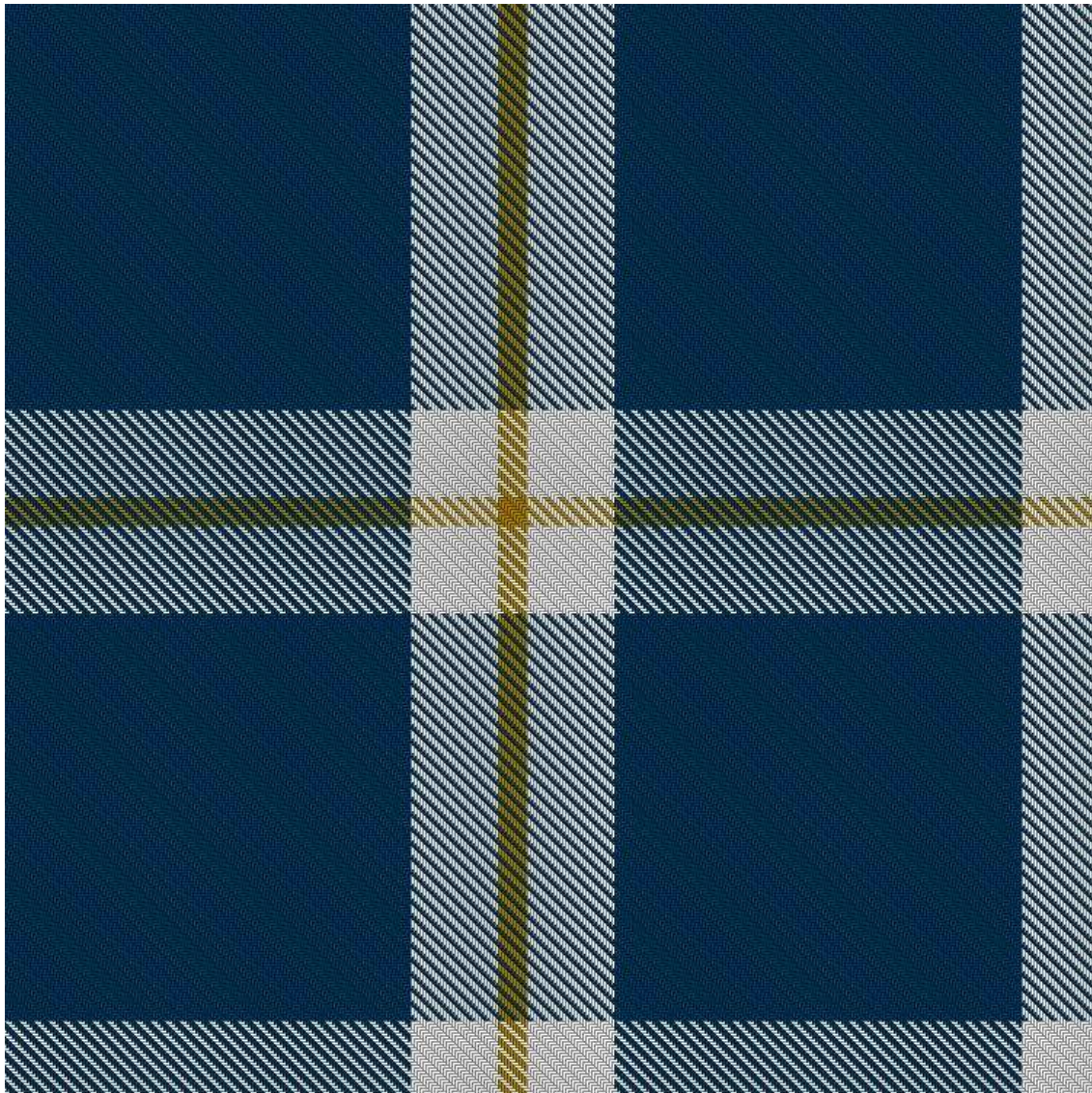
When I learned about Ásatrú in the early 1990's, every other guy was named Eric or Erik, and Thor was the god that most called upon. My husband would lead a small group of us into an old apple orchard for Blót. Warm days found us outdoors until long after sundown, toasting the Gods in Sumbel. Allfather Óðinn was always there in the shadows, but hearty Þórr was the model for most men. Our gatherings took place when the weather was warm and predictable, except for Yule. It was THE winter event in the early days of the AFA.

I reflect on this today as we put together the annual calendar for each Hof. For every month, events and holy days are clearly marked for all to see. In January, there is always Þorrablót, making a perfect topic for our December District Meeting here in Óðinshof District. Our guest speakers, Lawspeaker Turnage and Goðar Mayo and East, shared their knowledge of this celebration. Though it's often assumed to be named after the god, Þórr, it is not! "Thorri" means frost, so "Frost-Blót" is the correct translation. But further discussion brought forth an interesting correlation. When one considers that the Hammer-wielder fights his foes, the Frost-Giants, it's totally appropriate to honor Þórr at this time.

Everyone who has known malaise that comes with dark, dreary winter months may

assume that our far-northern ancestors felt this as well. Living with conditions of dwindling food supplies while the outside world remained frozen amidst never-ending gray twilight, the best antidote for depression was to come together and find joy in fellow man. And so we do that today.

Porrablót is our time to put the past year behind and make this a day of social interaction with games, dancing, stories – and anything that lifts the hearts of the Folk. I see this as a time we draw on our various European cultures and traditions, touching the souls of those who came before. At Óðinshof, ethnic dishes to add to meals are encouraged. We'll be offering a genealogy workshop, digging deeply into our personal roots and sharing lineages by showing off Scottish-tartans, coats-of-arms, and family crests. Our greater AFA family includes all those ancestors back into the mists of time. If you're disappointed to find no DNA link to the Scots, know that the Asatru Folk Assembly has its very own official tartan.



For those of you unable to come to Þorrablót, find some ways to honor Þórr and your ancestors who overcame the obstacles of winter weather. First of all, Blót to Þórr and make offerings to the Dísir and Álfar. Spend one day working on your family tree. Give attention to your family altar. Take on a new craft or hobby. Reach out to long-lost relatives and friends. Teach someone a game or read a book aloud. Prepare an unusual recipe. Take a winter walk and note the starkness of the season. Reach out to someone who needs a warm “hello.” Don’t let January be a time of inaction. Put the Might of Þórr into your efforts, making this a month of value; of personal accomplishment.



Gyðja Sheila McNallen  
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## Ásatrú Trúlögmál



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

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

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

Hail the Heroes of Ásatrú that paved the way!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Hail the Æsir!



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## The Quest for Freyshof

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

– Gylfaginning



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

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

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

- We need to pay off Njörðshof.
  - The first of 2 loans have been paid off!
  - We now owe \$60,370 on our remaining loan.
- We need to raise our monthly donation average by 10%.
  - This is membership dues/Hoftollr plus other donations.
- We need to locate a suitable property.
- We need to find lenders and build a war chest.



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

Hail Freyr!



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## **Sigrheim: Home of Victory**

*Support the Home of Victory*



Help Sigrheim get stocked  
and ready for our Folk!

Donate Supplies  
from our  
wishlist ✨ ✨ ✨  
**amazon**



Thank You!

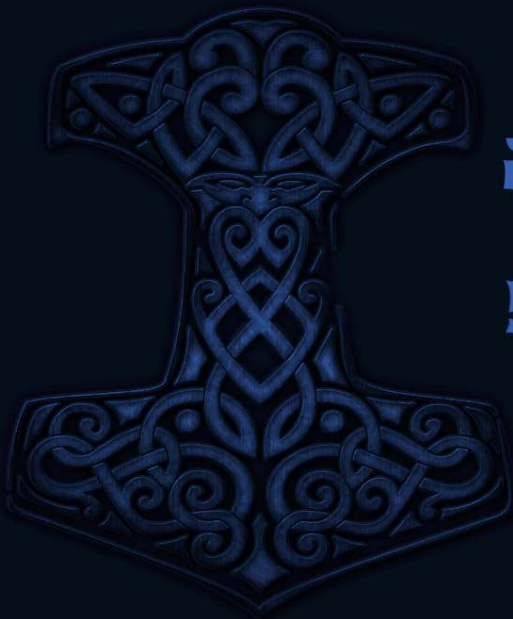
[click here](#)

*Upcoming Events*

# Sigrheim

Yule			Þorrablót		
Seast of the Einherjar	Nov. 8th	Dec. 27th	Jan. 11th	Feb. 8th	Charming of the Plow
Winter Nights	Oct. 11th			Mar. 8th	Ostara
Winter Finding	Sep. 13th			Apr. 26th	Hexennacht
Freyfaxi	Aug. 9th	Jul. 25th-27th	Jun. 14th	May 3rd	May Day
		Sigrblót			Midsummer

2025



## Þorrablót at Sigrheim

Sat., January 11th  
230pm

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



Sigrheim  
Shed Raisin'  
Work Day

January 25th | 10am



Charming of  
the Plow  
at Sigrheim

February  
8th

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

Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

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



## Victory Never Sleeps



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

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

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

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

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



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## AFA Ásatrú Academy



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



Happy New Year from the Ásatrú Academy!



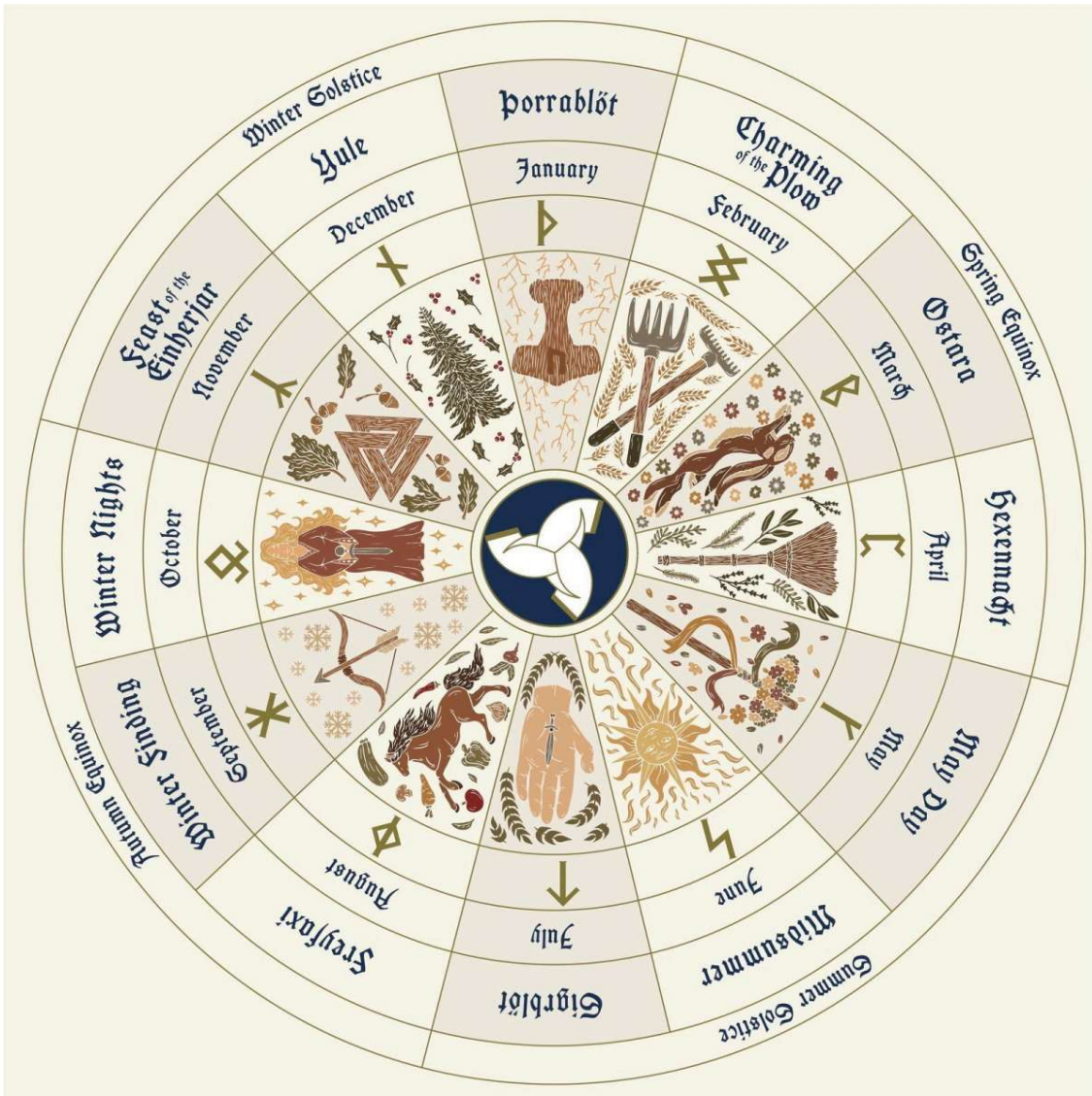
Here's to another semester of stories, projects, learning, fun, ... and COOKIES!

Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice  
Comptroller, Ásatrú Academy  
[nrice@runestone.org](mailto:nrice@runestone.org)





## Remembrance & Holy Days



- > January 9 - Raud the Strong <
- > January 18 - King Blót-Sveinn of Sweden <
  - > January 18 - Þorrablót <
- > February 1 - King Eanfrith of Bernicia <
  - > February 9 - Eyvind Kinnrifi <
  - > February 15 - Charming of the Plow <
    - > March 9 - Olvir of Egg <
- > March 20 - Ostara (observed on March 15) <
  - > April 9 - Jarl Hákon Sigurðarson <
  - > April 10 - John Yeowell "Stubba" <
- > April 30 - Hexennacht (observed on April 19) <
  - > May 1 - May Day (observed on May 17) <
  - > May 22 - John Gibbs-Bailey "Hoskuld" <
  - > June 9 - King Athanaric of the Visigoths <
- > June 20 - Midsummer (observed on June 21) <
  - > July 4 - Sveinbjörn Beinteinsson <
  - > July 15 - Alexander Rud Mills <
    - > July 19 - Sigrblót <
  - > August 1 - King Osric of Deira <
  - > August 9 - King Radbod of Frisia <
    - > August 16 - Freyfaxi <
- > September 9 - Prince Hermann of the Cherusci <
  - > September 12 - Else Christensen <
- > September 22 - Winter Finding (observed on September 20) <
  - > October 4 - Goði Þorsteinn Guðjónsson <
  - > October 5 - Meister Guido von List <
- > October 15 - Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen <
  - > October 18 - Winter Nights <
  - > November 9 - Queen Sigríðr of Sweden <
- > November 11 - Feast of the Einherjar (observed on November 15) <
  - > December 9 - Egill Skallagrímsson <
- > December 20-31 - Yule (observed on December 20) <

## January



Asatru Holidays - January 2025 - Raud | King Blót-Sveinn | Þorrablót  
<https://youtu.be/4lcMOWZ09Oc>

## Days of Remembrance

*Raud the Strong | January 9th*



999 ʁ

<https://www.runestone.org/raud-the-strong>

In January, during the time of Þórrablót, we honor Raud the Strong, whose shrine is at Njörðshof. His story takes place during the last decade of the 10th century, when

Christianity was finally sinking its claws into Scandinavia.

Raud was a Norwegian warrior, landowner, sefarer, wizard, and Goði during the reign of King Olaf Tryggvason, who is infamous for his relentless subjugation of his own Folk in the name of the foreign Christ. Olaf spent his reign (995-1000 CE) traveling through Norway, torturing and killing brave Europeans who would not forsake their troth with the Æsir.

Eventually, Olaf the snake made his way to Raud's part of Norway, and he engaged in a sea battle with Raud's vessel, which was larger than any in Olaf's fleet. His fleet defeated Raud in the naval battle, but Raud's reputation as a wizard proved to be true, as he was able to escape to safety by sailing against the wind, which was largely unheard of in this part of Europe at that time.

Although Raud managed to escape to one of his settlements in the Godøy Isles, Olaf tracked him down under the cover of darkness and stole him from his bed. Once he and Raud were face to face, he tried to bribe Raud by letting him keep all of his lands and offered to be his best friend, so long as he would renounce the Æsir and embrace Christ. Raud immediately refused, dauntless even in the face of doom, mocking Christ and Christianity and Olaf himself.

Olaf became angry and would hear no more. He ordered the brave Goði to die a horrible death, and so a snake was forced down Raud's throat, eventually gnawing its way out through his side and killing him. Olaf then seized Raud's wealth, lands, and famous ship for himself. The rest of Raud's men were either baptized or killed in a similarly disgusting fashion.

Raud the Strong was dedicated to the Æsir from his first breath until his last, facing down death with his loyalty to his Gods and Folk unbroken.

May we ALL strive to remain loyal to the Æsir, even when surrounded by serpents!  
May Raud's name and glory burn like a torch through the darkness of doubt!

Hail Raud the Strong!

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the Ásatrú Folk Assembly!

*King Blót-Sveinn of Sweden | January 18th*





1087 †

<https://www.runestone.org/king-blot-sveinn>

Blót-Sveinn's story starts with the rule of his sister's husband, King Inge of Sweden. These events take place in the mid-to-late-11th century, when Christianity had spread its influence over nearly all of our Folk, including the Scandinavians.

According to our main source, the Icelandic Hervavar's Saga, King Inge was a Christian, but his people were still Ásatrú. When Inge took the throne, his people hoped that he would renounce the foreign Christ and give Blót to the Æsir at the temple of Uppsala, on behalf of the Swedish kingdom. Inge refused to do so and was then rightfully deposed by his people who wanted to keep their troth with the mighty Æsir.

His brother-in-law, who we now know as Blót-Sveinn, told the Folk of Sweden that he would take up the throne and give Blót to the Æsir for the sake of the Swedish people. The people joyfully proclaimed him King of Sweden, and thus returned to being an Ásatrú nation. However this glorious moment was short-lived, a few years later Inge returned to Sweden with a small retinue of men and lit King Blót-Sveinn's home on fire, killing him. Although Ásatrú was once again suppressed in Sweden by force, King Blót-Sveinn's courage is something to be remembered and celebrated.

What can we learn from this story?

As modern day Ásatrúar, we can take much inspiration from the King's example. He managed to be both an aristocrat, as well as someone who could relate to his people and give them what they wanted and needed. He fearlessly stood in the way of rampaging Christianity, even publicly giving Blót to the Æsir at Uppsala on behalf of his Folk. He did not let sociopolitical pressure or greed for the Christians' coin stop him; rather, he pressed forward with both piety and strength. Had he not been felled by the underhanded work of Inge, he would certainly have been a mighty leader of a mighty Ásatrú Sweden for many prosperous years!

Let us all reflect on this and take courage into our modern lives, just like King Blót-Sveinn!

Hail King Blót-Sveinn!

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the AFA!

**Holiday**



*Þorrablót | January 18th*



<https://www.runestone.org/thorrablot>

Þorrablót is an Icelandic midwinter festival dedicated to, as the name describes, Þórr. Þorrablót is named after the Icelandic month of Þorri from the historic-calendar and ran from mid-January to mid-February. Though Þorrablót is a relatively modern social

celebration in Iceland, there is a reference in the Flateyjarbók that states that the Kvens offered a yearly sacrifice to Þorri at mid-winter. Typically, Þorrablót is celebrated by gathering together and eating many of Iceland's traditional foods and by singing, reciting poems, and telling stories.

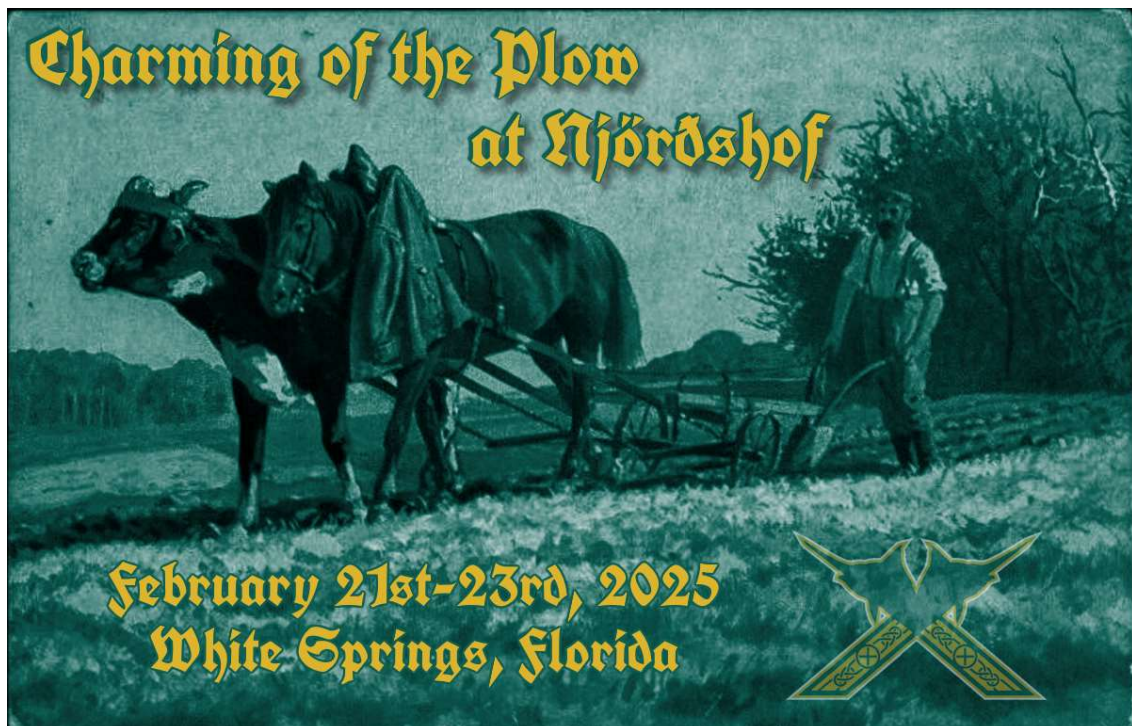
Some good ways to celebrate Þorrablót include eating traditional Icelandic foods, such as Hákarl (putrefied shark), Blóðmör (blood suet, filled sausage/black pudding), Hrútsprungur (ram's scrotum with testicles), Lundabaggi (sheep's fat), or Svið (burnt sheep's head).

Don't worry! If these are unavailable, or simply not to your taste, eating goat and goat products such as goat cheese or goat milk are also appropriate options.

Called by some as the cabin fever holiday Þorrablót is a great way to liven up the doldrums of mid-winter. So take some time to light a fire and make merry. Have the Folk tell stories or recite poems about Þórr. Eat, drink, and enjoy the company of Folk and family.

## Upcoming National Event

*Charming of the Plow at Njörðshof | February 21st-23rd*



Come join the Folk at Njörðshof for our third annual Charming of the Plow, being held February 21st-23rd! This is our Hof's national event, so we will have great food, multiple rituals, auction, and more!

Get your tickets at <https://store.runestone.org/product/charming-of-the-plow-at-njordshof/>!



Goði Trent East  
[teast@runestone.org](mailto:teast@runestone.org)

*Ostara at Þórshof | March 21st– 23rd*



Ostara at Þórshof, an Asatru Folk Assembly national event, is scheduled for March 21-23 at our very own Þórshof in Linden, North Carolina!

There will be fun and games for the children, classes for the adults, and good memories to be made. We have an assortment of different activities for people of all ages in attendance. Classes to be held will cover a wide range of topics. Meals are included in the ticket!

As always, we will be having an auction of unique and one-of-a-kind Asatru-related items. All auction proceeds go to help fund these amazing events. We ask anyone who would like to donate to this great cause to please donate an item to the auction or bring your cash to bid! Anyone wanting to set up a vendor table at this event please feel free, all we ask is a donation of a commensurate item to the auction.

Get your tickets at <https://store.runestone.org/product/ostara/>!



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

## A Folk Services Campaign

*We Won't Let Winter Blues Keep Our Member Down*



Ohio member Brittney Haas has fallen on difficult times. Her electricity has been cut off, and she is having trouble catching up. During the winter, we all know this can be a big problem. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Feel free to donate to help Brittney out at <https://store.runestone.org/product/we-wont-let-winter-blues-keep-our-member-down/>.

## 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.

## 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!

## 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!

## 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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.

## **Artisans of the AFA Support Our Folk**

*Folk Art Engraving*



Folk-made crafts for the Folk! Engraving custom designs for wall plaques, altar adornments, Yule tree decorations, keychains, bookmarks, and more. Folk Art Engraving also creates acrylic stencils and designs folkish apparel including hoodies, sweatshirts, t-shirts, and beanies with paint, vinyl, or printable vinyl.



For custom designs created by you to be engraved or placed on clothing, email us at [folkartengraving@gmail.com](mailto:folkartengraving@gmail.com). Check out our Facebook page by searching for Folk Art Engraving, products can also be found on the AFA Marketplace chat. Feel free to also message me on MeWe or send me an email.





Home-based crafters in Northern Iowa.

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

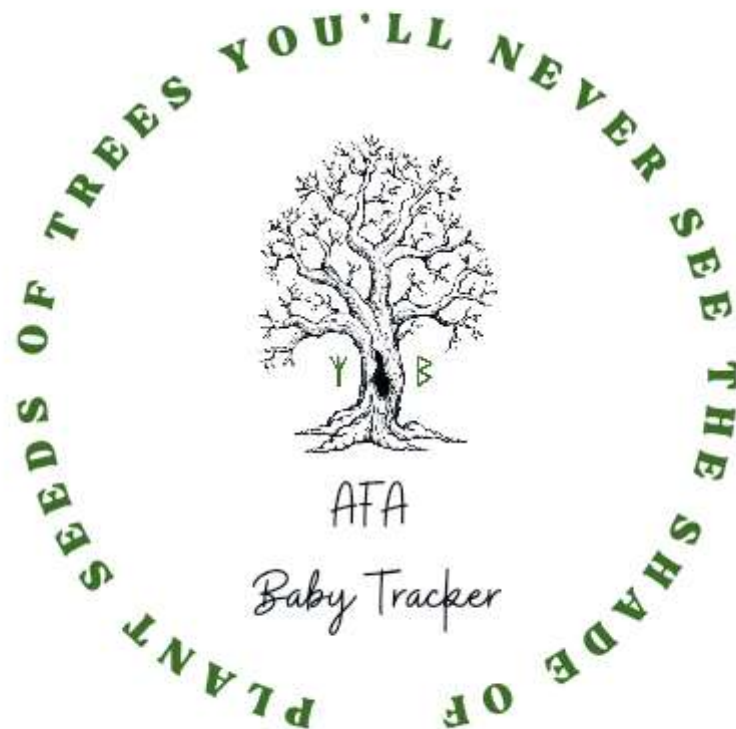
Hail Victory!!!



Folkbuilder Christopher McDowell

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

## Baby Tracker



To show the growth of our Folk we present to you an ongoing baby tracker. We have been keeping track of how many children have been and are born within the AFA from



2022 and onwards. The ongoing tracking is proof that we are building something sustainable for the future of our Folk, which is a place for these children to grow up within and a place where they can feel proud of who they are!

Total babies born in 2024: 27

## 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 Erlandson with any and all questions! [aerlandson@runestone.org](mailto:aerlandson@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, hand-drawn, sans-serif font, arching over the central illustration. The illustration itself is a collection of botanical and animal elements: a white cat with yellow and orange stripes is curled up on the left, surrounded by green leaves and a purple flower. To the right is a large, detailed illustration of a strawberry plant with green leaves, white flowers, and several ripe red strawberries. A red ribbon is tied around the base of the strawberry plant. Below the illustration, the text "Second and fourth Sunday of the month" is written in a light pink, serif font. Underneath that, "10 am central" is written in a smaller, light pink, serif font. At the bottom, "Contact Folkbuilder Ali Clausen" is written in a light pink, serif font.

SISTERS SUNDAY CHATS

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



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)**





**AFA MEN'S CALL**  
**THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 2000 (8 PM CT)**  
HOSTED BY FOLKSWILDER CHRIS MCDOWELL

\*Link can be found on MeWe in AFA Men and sent out via email

**Just for Fun**

# Ása-Pórr

Á H V C T R F R E I Ð A R T Ý R Ö F N Ó X T N F  
W X L Ó S A R H I A B G R Í Ð A R V Ö L R Ý Þ Í  
O C Á T T I Ð W Ð T A N N G R I S N I R X Þ G Í  
K A Ý S O N O T Ö G X H A P A K C O U R A G E S  
R Á K T R S Ó V E U R R Ð P S X U J P Þ N W W T  
N J Á S M I R P L G Ý J F H U A A C O S K X B A  
P I Á N S L C G L L J Á Ý G L R Ó J H E G S U N  
T Þ F R H C Ö Á I Ý Ö R V G L Ó C Ð Ý Ó V B O N  
N R F I N Þ S Þ I Í Ð N G A D Ö R S I C Ö S P G  
Ö Á H S M S L D F G Ö G R Ý I T P R B N N A R N  
Ö L R K Ý A A T S P Ð R M T M Ó Ð I I E N R P J  
I Í E H M X O X B I C E Í T M V Á Ý M Ð I J G Ó  
K W I X F H Ö D A G L I G H T N I N G E I Ö D S  
Ó H Ð P W M M E Ý M G P Í W W A I H N M U R S T  
U Ö M B U D E I N F E R V A B M T F F R N Ð I R  
D Ð A J V B A G Ð U E K X R K C W M R W O L F B  
D G R R Ö Ð S U I G Ý K Ð D E V Ó U K A R J H F  
Ð V R Ó O L Ð A N N A D S E J I X V O R Ö Ö G P  
U M F Á O E N X X D G R J R Ö X M U M R Í M P B  
X A V T N Ó L I P G V J Ð G T V G Ý V I O L M O  
M G Ý U J S V B R U J K Ö R T J R Ö L O Þ Ð J Í  
M N V Ó P J I G R P J C I R N B W C X R Í S K U  
R I Í P F L P Á N Ó T X I V Ð J Ö T U N B A N E  
L C K Þ R U Ð R A A T N Ó G E T H U N D E R G Þ

Courage  
Gríðarvölr  
Hlórriði  
Hreiðmarr  
Járgreipr  
Járnsaxa  
Jörð  
Jötunbane  
Lightning  
Magni  
Mekingjörð  
Miðgarðr  
Mjöltnir  
Móði  
Oak  
Rains  
Reiðartýr  
Sif  
Storms  
Tanngnjóstr  
Tanngrisnir  
Thunder  
Veurr  
Warder  
Warrior  
Óðinn  
Þruðr



Feel free to send completed puzzles to [press@runestone.org](mailto:press@runestone.org) for a shout-out in the next issue!

**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)

## **Þórshof**

**Food Pantry at Þórshof**





This month we donated to 13 families in Linden, NC at Þórshof. We are doing good work here, with several families becoming regulars. It's appreciated that Witan Herul and his family have taken up the responsibility to take care of our neighbors here. We are always greeted with smiles and gratitude as we carry out this work.

We are always in need of more support, donations, and volunteers. Please reach out to Witan Herul, Witan Daniel Young, or any of our Folkbuilders at Þórshof if you are able to lend a hand.

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

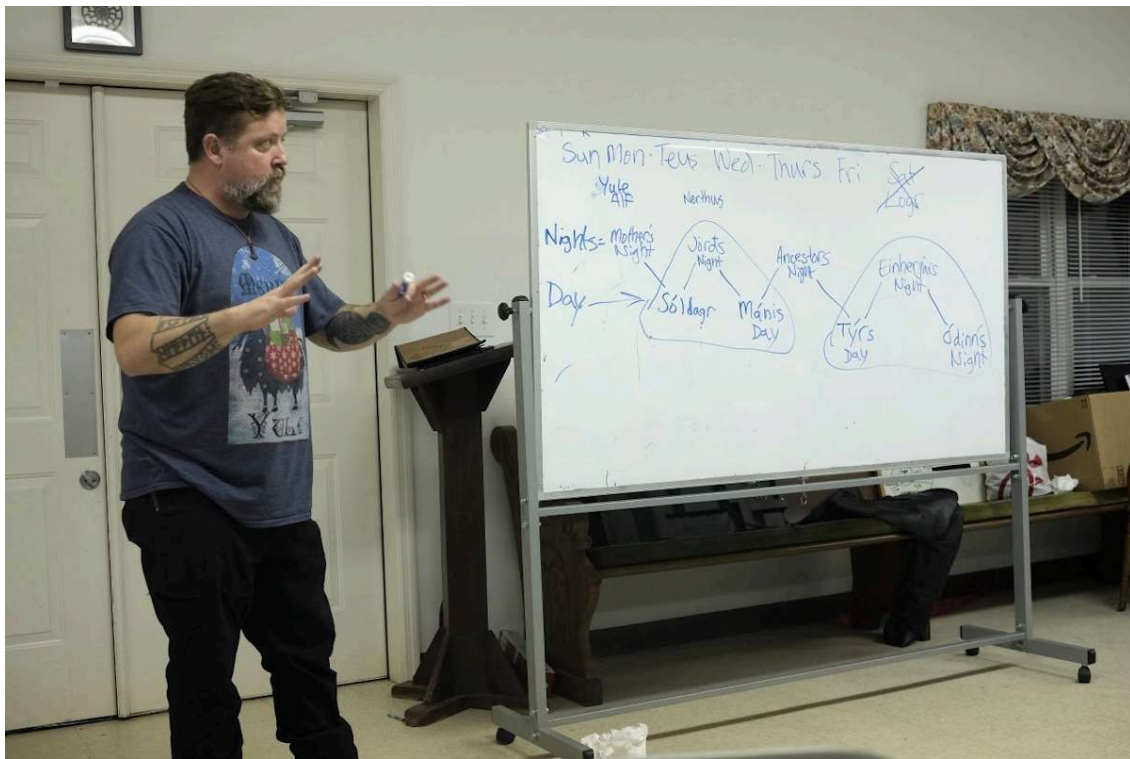


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## Yule at Þórshof



Yule is such a special time of the year; friends and families gather together over food and beside fires and hearths and enjoy each other's company. We recount the events of the past year and make plans for the coming year. We see Folk that we perhaps only see once a year, and participate in a gifting cycle with each other. Yule is definitely a top contender for favorite holiday for most of our Folk, and nowhere is that more evident than at Þórshof. If you've never had the privilege or the opportunity to attend, I'd like to encourage you to plan to join us next year.



One of the highlights of Yule at Þórshof is Witan Svan Herul's class on how he celebrates the holiday. This has led to a majority of the Þórshof Folk adopting his Yule traditions, personalizing it here or there along the way. A huge part of that begins on Mother's Night, when we light the Yule Log inside the Vé. The log is lit with candles at the end of Blót, when each person who so wishes steps forward and lights a candle for a person they wish was in attendance with them. We speak their names' aloud and insert the candle, making them a part of the ritual. We then process out to our fire ring and light the first bonfire using the flame of the Yule log. As the flames take over, we all share hugs and merry shouts of "Happy Yule!"



Another key component to our annual Yule celebration takes place on Saturday morning. Witan Svan always cooks a delicious breakfast, after which we distribute toys to the local community. Folkbuilder Heather Young puts in a lot of work ensuring that we have plenty of toys to hand out, and this year was no different. This year we also had the honor of helping a young couple that had lost their home in a fire; not only did we gift them toys, but we also put together a box of non-perishable food items and toiletries to help get them through a few days until more long-term help could be found.



This year, we had a break from our typical Saturday afternoon sunwheel construction and instead had a sermon from Witan Young. For those that are not familiar, Witan Young is a fiery orator when he gets ahold of a subject. In this instance, he brought a lectern into the Hof and proceeded to preach to us in true Dixie fashion about spiritual, mental, physical, and financial excellence, ending with the subject of gift-giving and children. We talked about how it is important to involve the kids in the gifting cycle early, as this is a foundational concept in Ásatrú practice. I brought up how, since my two older sons have accumulated a significant piggy bank, they wanted to shop for each member of the family and give them gifts. It was quite heartwarming watching them comb through the store trying to find that perfect gift for each person. They weren't big gifts, but they came from the heart and really spoke to how they perceive each individual member of the family. I later sat my boys down and talked to them about how this was very similar to how we approach the Æsir; in my house we have almost always tailored our gift to the individual God or Goddess we are gifting to, largely based on our conception of their personalities or from what we have read in the lore.



Saturday evening, following an impassioned Blót by Witan Young, we sat down to a bountiful spread that was largely prepared by the Folk that had traveled the farthest to be with us over the weekend. Joshua and Carrie Dent drove all the way from Florida, and Carrie worked tirelessly in the kitchen to prepare us a delicious meal of ham, lamb, and an assortment of side dishes. It always amazes me how much our Folk are willing to come together and pitch in to make sure that the kitchen stays clean and the Folk are fed.



Immediately following dinner, we launched into an auction that featured a plethora of hand-carved items such as bowls, spatulas, and a gorgeous wall-mounted altar piece, all provided by another Njordshof member, Gilbert Page. There were also beautiful hand-drawn canvas pieces, elderberry syrup, and other generously donated items. In total, we raised over \$1,800 for the Hof, which will help fund the several concurrent restoration projects we have ongoing. Thank you to everyone who donated, both time and money. Hail the givers!



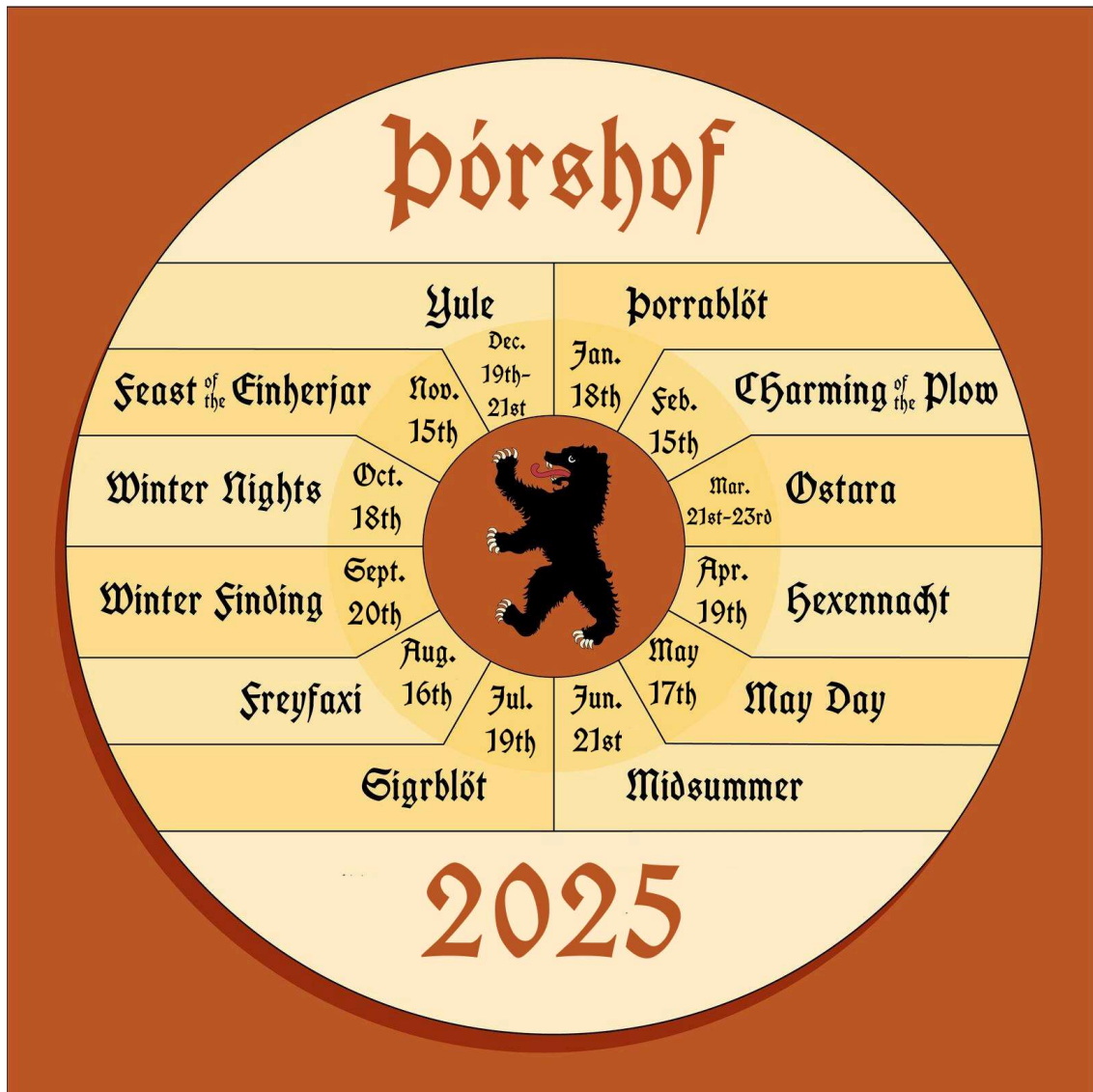
Sunday morning, we wrapped the event up with breakfast and a few gallons of coffee over many warm conversations before heading into Wayfarer's Blót, which ended with everyone giving out hugs as we processed out of the Vé. As we filtered back into Rumph Hall, the desire to stay was palpable. It's always hard to leave, especially after such a fun and wholesome weekend. As I cleaned up the Vé and changed the letters back on the sign, I reflected on the conversations, the rituals, the bonds that were made and the bonds that were strengthened. We like to say that Ásatrú is life-affirming, that life is good. This weekend was good, and it's weekends like this that make every hard time and every sacrifice we make to get there worth it.



Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea

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

## Upcoming Events at Þórshof





þorrablót

at

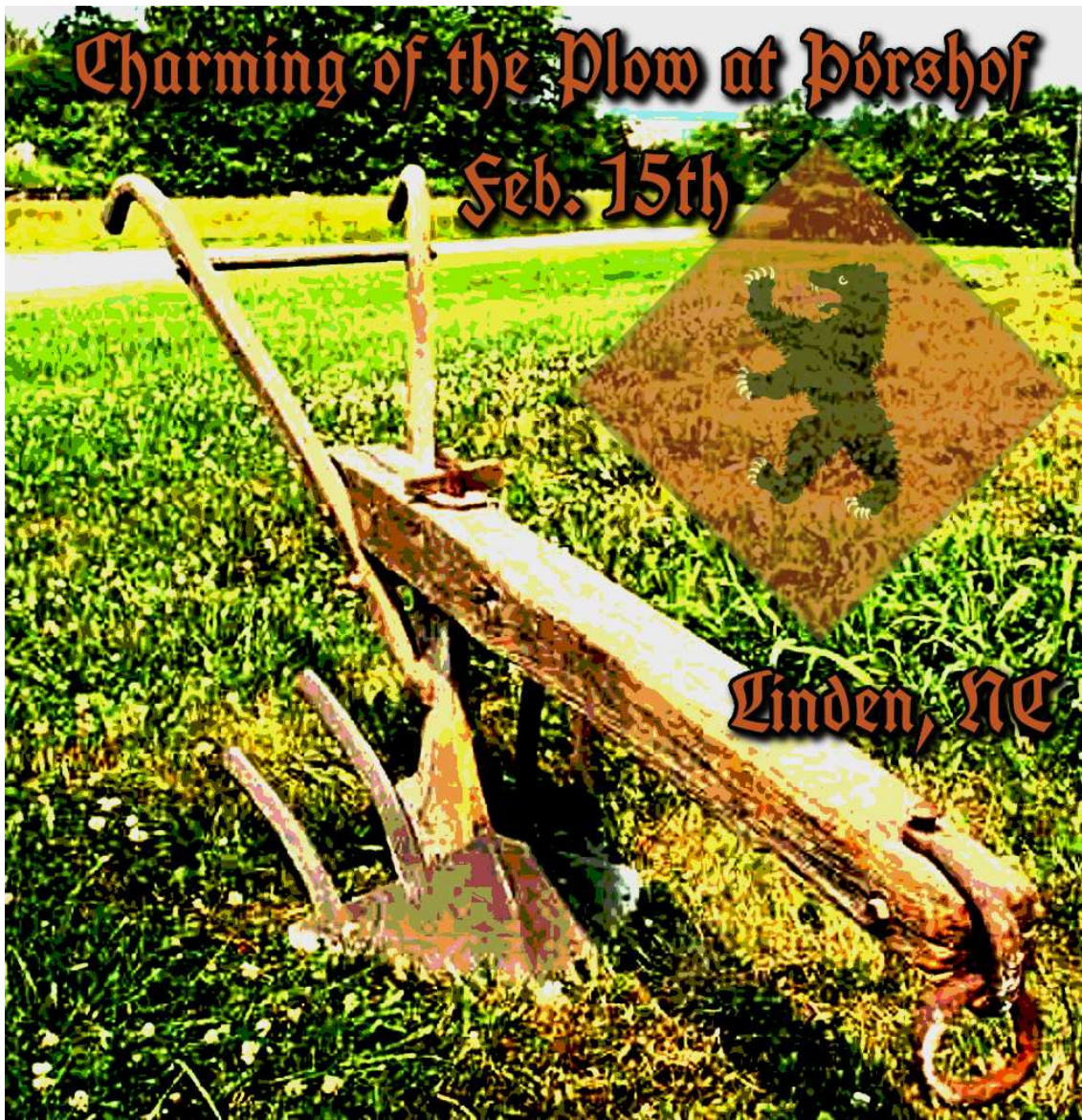
Jan.  
18th



Linden,  
NC

þórhöf

**Charming of the Plow at Pörshof**  
**Feb. 15th**



**Linden, NE**



**Dawn's Shining Light**  
**Qafara at Pörschhof**

**March 21st-23rd**  
**Linden, NC**



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## **Monthly Members' Meetings**

# **Þórshof**

## **Monthly Members' Meeting**

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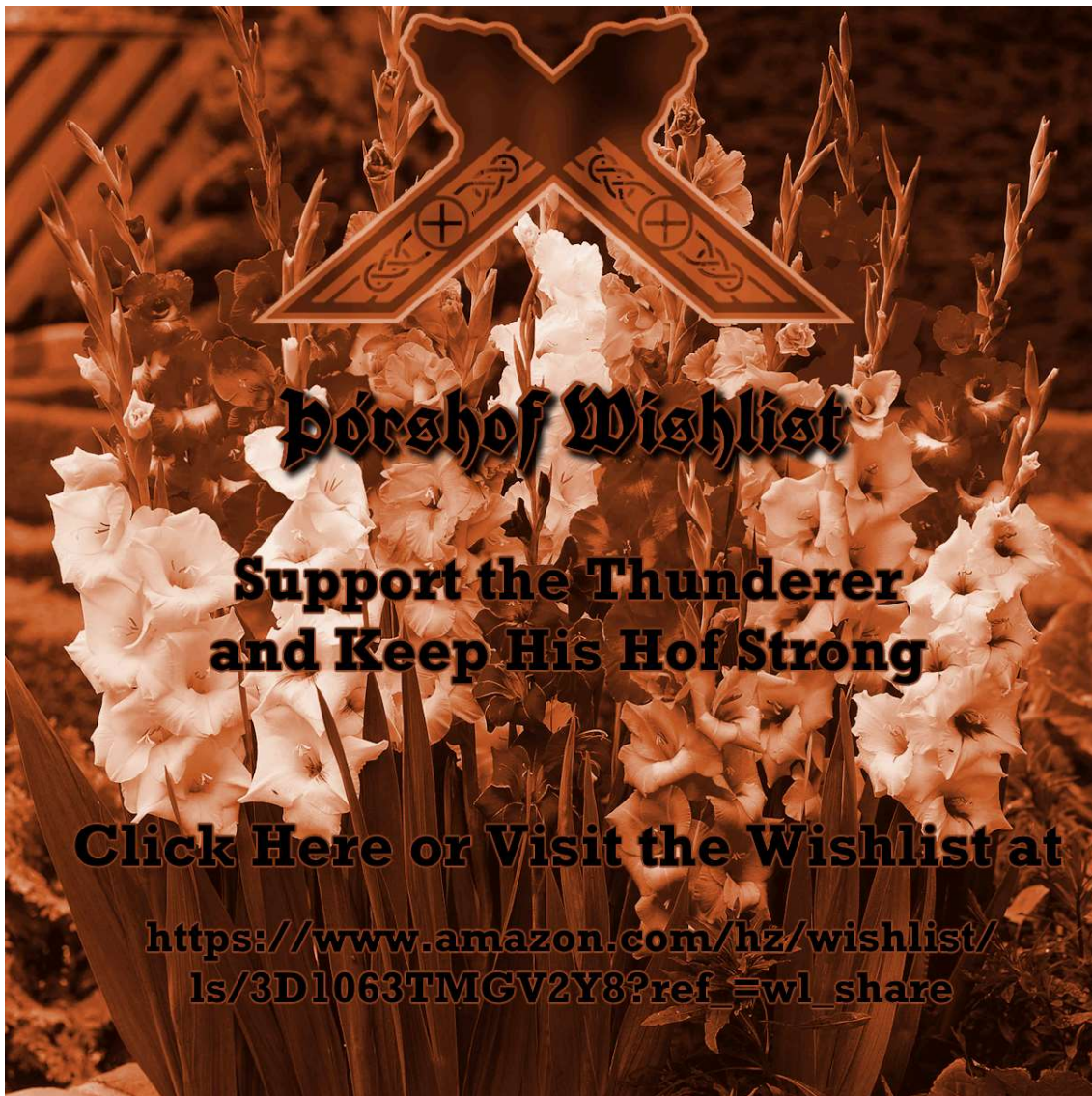
**Tuesday  
January 28th  
8pm Eastern**



**Links Emailed and Posted to MeWe  
Contact any Folkbuilder for assistance**

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**Support Þórshof**



The District Poetry Corner

*December News*



It sucks being sick and wantin' for snow  
on a Yule wiþ yellow grass; but yet  
ðe fineries of family makeup for ðese failin's;  
my gaðeriñs were good, and I hope y'all's were great.

Ðe prizedest present is passin' ðe day  
wiþ lots of loved ones loungin' in ðe hall;  
keepin' kin togeðer closely  
is the greatest gift ðat we can be given.

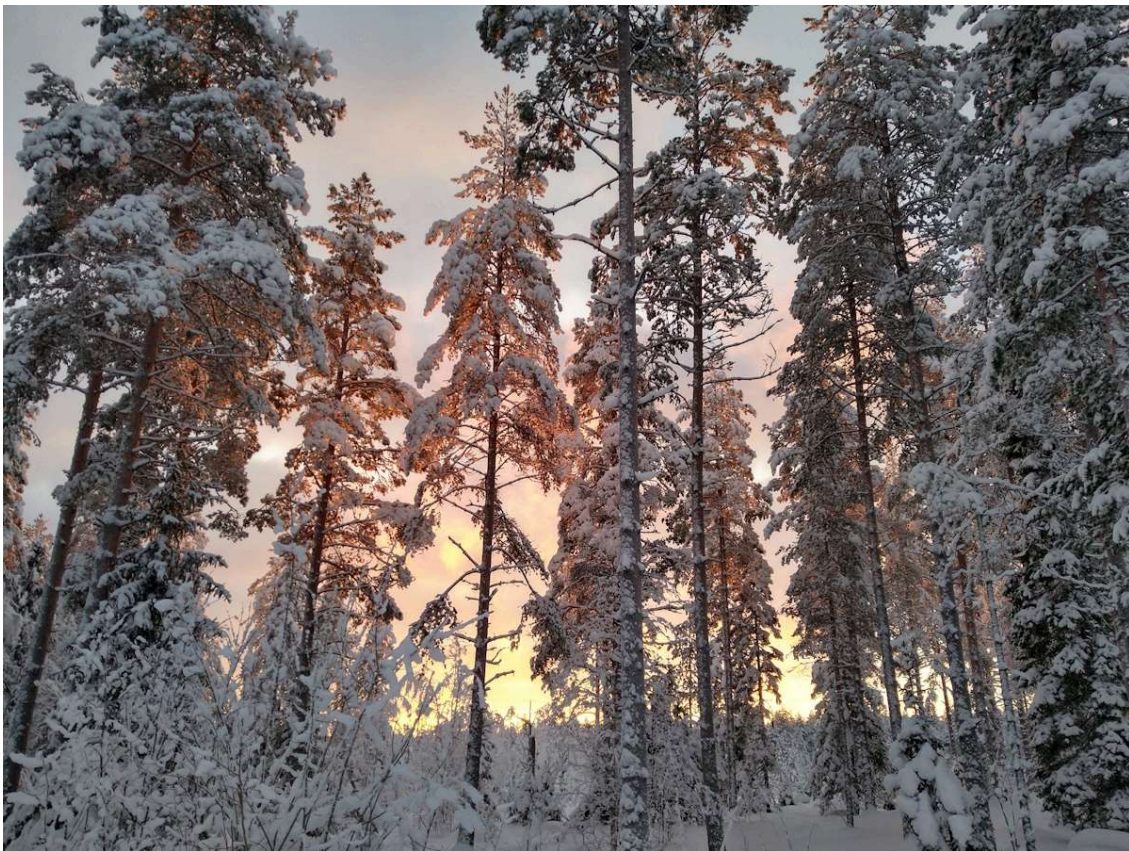
Now I've been given ðe gift of a greatenin' of kin,  
so I've got an announcement to give to ðe gaðered,  
an official announcement of our family's future:  
my wonderful wife is workin' hard  
on a little prince or princess ðat she's pregnant wiþ.

Our darlin' is due for comin' down to Midgard  
in June, ðe season of ðe summer solstice.



Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[csavich@runestone.org](mailto:csavich@runestone.org)

*Dare*



Dare to do and gain great fame  
Most other people will hide in shame

Dare to stand firm before peddlers of spite  
Their life is all bark, there is no bite

Dare to be Aryan, noble and bright  
It's the way of our Folk, it is what is right



In the spirit of Þórr, go out and be bold  
The world awaits you, let your story be told



Erik Lugnet  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[elugnet@runestone.org](mailto:elugnet@runestone.org)

*R-r-r-r-r-r-ataoskr*



Chattering paws, a squirrel in flight,  
Darts up the trunk from morning to night.  
Its tail a flick, its voice a cry,  
Between the branches and roots nearby.

"Up above!" it shrieks with glee,  
"Why won't you listen to what's beneath the tree?"  
And down below, it scolds the ground,  
"Why let the leaves make all the sound?"

Up and down, it stirs the air,  
A tiny herald, swift and rare.  
A nagging squirrel, its mission clear,  
To spark the words we hate to hear.



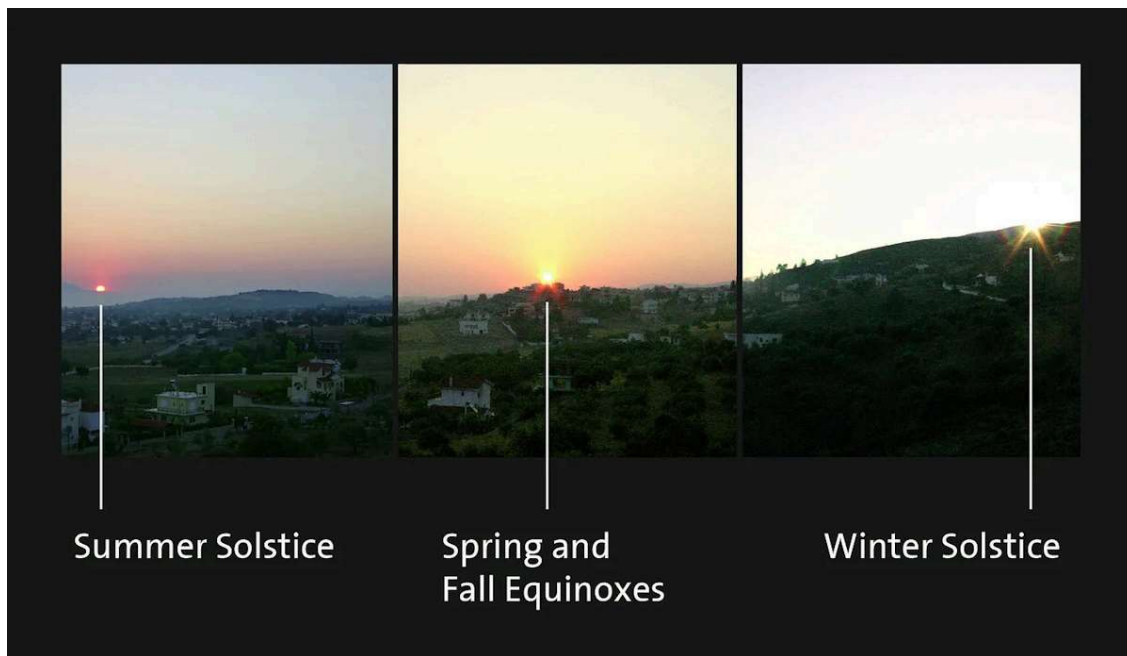
Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

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

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## Indiana

*Arising, Becoming, and Passing Away*



Something about this phrase has been on my mind this past month; in fact, it's been on my mind all year, and I think I have finally figured out why. I first learned of this phrase from Meister Guido von List, who wrote about it in a very esoteric sense, which I will omit. This phrase connects to the Indo-European tripartite scheme, which appears in our pantheons, in our soul formation, and in other various cosmological aspects of our religion. However, I think it has everything to do with seasons, and with the passing of time - the sun rises, becomes the light of the sky, then it passes away over the horizon - so too does a child rise, to become an adult, to then pass away after their elder years are finished. Since we are the mundane offspring of the divine All-Father, we are also related to the other divine figures, including Sunna. Humans rise, become, then pass away. We are born, we mature, then we grow old and die, just like the sun.

Yet, this is not a final end. We are reborn, just like the sun. When spring passes to autumn, then autumn to winter, we know that a new spring is just around the corner. This is how I view my life, like a cycle passing from one stage to the next, knowing full-well that I will repeat the cycle again one day in blissful harmony with the order of things. Each generation passes the torch to the next generation - so too does each day pass the torch to the next day. This recurring cycle wax and wanes throughout our very lives, and through the divine movements of the cosmos. We have the Aesir to thank for that, and our ancestors.

*The polar sun arose with newborn creation,  
and the gods were brought forth in cooperation  
between cosmos and void, and sun and earth,  
the mother and the father, the life and dearth.*

*The stone-father arose with kiln and jadeite hammer,  
and his words were brief, without halt or stammer,  
his arms were thick and his stature, strong and stout,  
in war against farmers and hunters did he shout:  
"I am the stone-lord and I will never fall,  
long will I live in my earthen hall!"*

*The solar deity became a bronze conqueror  
and the apex was reached in bloody rancor  
as father and mother battled for children  
who were fast becoming lost and forsaken.  
The bronze-son became the new master,  
and his chariots and horses were faster  
and his words were poetic and present,  
this he shouted to his foes without lament:  
"I am the bronze-lord, behold my axe and mail,  
I am the favored son of the gods we hail!"*

*Passing away, these ancient forms did fade,  
and now there dwells a lingering maid,  
an old sun with a pale face.  
She watches her children's children's children  
and knows she cannot embolden  
them to greater action.  
So, the sun passes away beyond that dark horizon,  
signaling for a new creation  
to arise in full completion,  
while she passes away.*



Aidan McMillan  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[amcmillan@runestone.org](mailto:amcmillan@runestone.org)

## *The Gifts of Yule*



Friends and Folk,

Everyone knows that Yule is a special time of year. For many of us it is our favorite: the decorations, the food, the fellowship, gifting, personal and religious reflection as the year ends and a new one begins.



Here in Indiana, as elsewhere, we revel in all of these things. There are few things that would make someone feel “good” about missing the majority of the holiday festivities with our friends, family, and Folk of the AFA.





However, this Yule, I found that reason. We celebrated a fantastic Yule with our fantastic Hoosierborean brothers and sisters, but I was largely absent from the festivities, gaining the greatest gift that one can receive during any Yuletide.



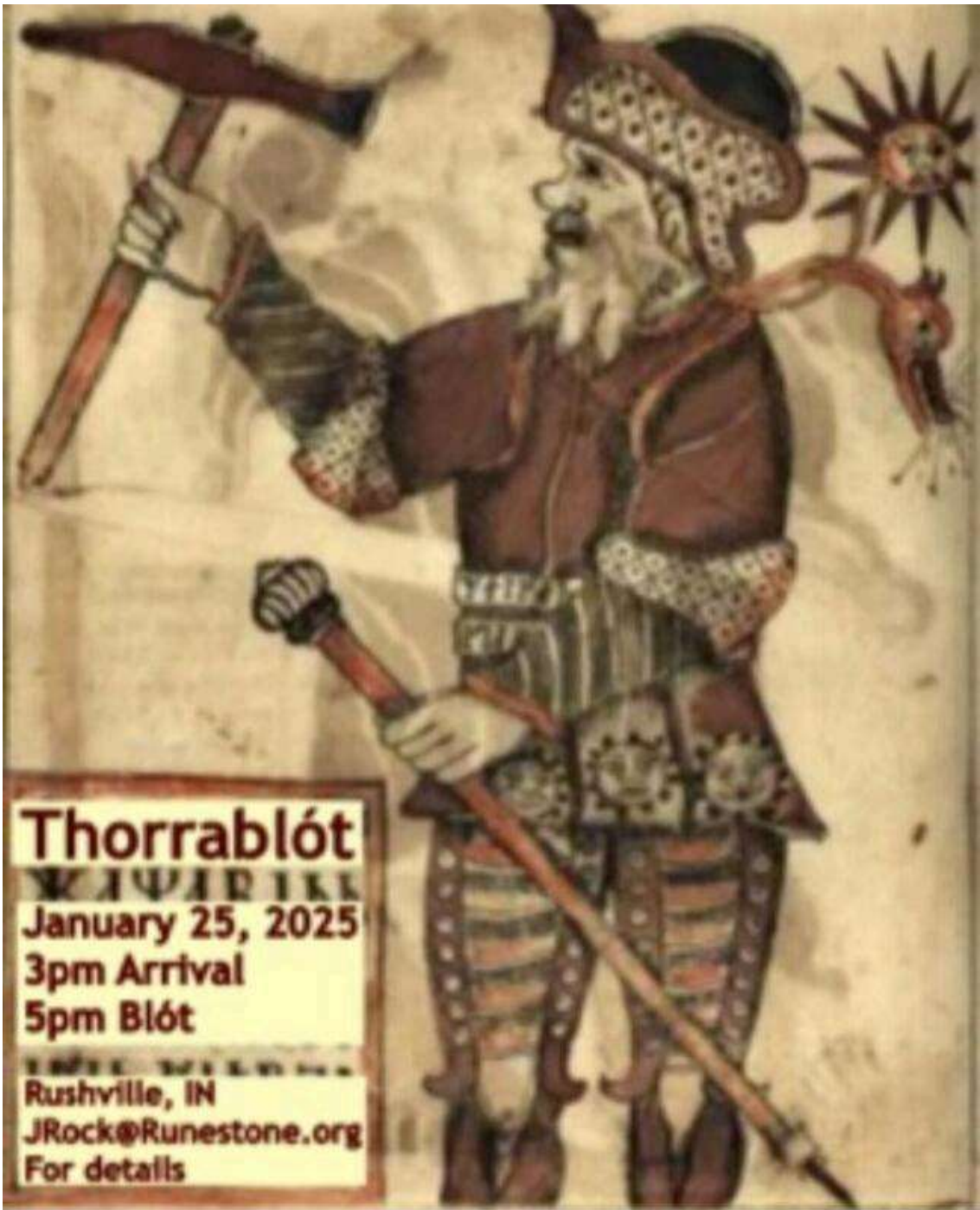
Two AFA members also had to miss the party (coincidentally, my daughter and her husband, that married last Ostara at Þórshof) as they received and shared the gift of a daughter, my granddaughter, little Guinevere.





Yule is a magical time, birth is a magical event, and we are, as ever, a church of magical journeys. I look forward to those times the future year presents us, and I hope that it is as bright for you and yours as I anticipate it being for us here. Merry Yule everyone, and a happy New Year!

### *Upcoming Events*



## Thorrablót

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January 25, 2025

3pm Arrival

5pm Blót

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Rushville, IN

JRock@Runestone.org

For details

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Rushville, IN



February 22, 2025  
3pm arrival 5pm Blót

[JRock@Runestone.org](mailto:JRock@Runestone.org)  
for details



Folkbuilder Jonathan Rock  
[jrock@runestone.org](mailto:jrock@runestone.org)

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Michigan

*December 2025 Moot Report*



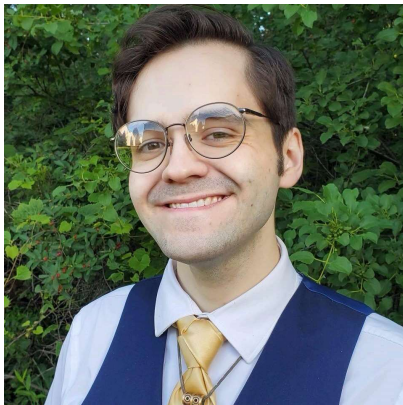
Michigan's December moot was small, just me and a fellow denizen of the mitten checking out a new restaurant. It was lovely and will remain on the list of places to come back to. We had fun chatting, and the weather, while snowy, was suitable for our travels. If any of you happen to find yourself in the mitten, let me know and perhaps we could come back for burgers! I'm not sure what's wrong with the bear's eyes, but the problem could be caused by him in fact being a beaver.

### *Upcoming Events*

A photograph of a snowy city street. In the foreground, a person is shoveling snow from a dark SUV. To the left, an orange SUV is parked. The street is covered in snow, and several other cars are visible in the distance. Pedestrians are walking on the sidewalks. Buildings line the street, and traffic lights are visible. The sky is overcast.

*February 2025  
Midmichigan  
snowy restaurant moot*

*Contact Apprentice Folkbuilder Chris Savich  
for details  
02/09/2025  
[csavich@runestone.org](mailto:csavich@runestone.org)*



Chris Savich  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[csavich@runestone.org](mailto:csavich@runestone.org)

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## New Hampshire

NH Yule



New Hampshire celebrated Yule on the 8th day of December. Happily and significantly, we had a fairly fresh covering of snow on the ground which added to the sense of the season. It was cold but not too cold and it was perfect for Yule.



As is normal for an AFA Blót or Moot, genuine happy greeting always brighten the faces and moods of those who attend. Hands are clasped and a hearty hug chase away the time between the last visit. Cheeses were laid out, including some excellent blueberry lemon and cinnamon orange goat cheeses. Admittedly, while tasty and devoured, the blueberry lemon felt more like a summer treat, for the obvious reasons. Smoked salmon, crackers and even Weihnachtsplätzchen were laid out such as Pfeffernüsse, Lebkuchen and Spekulatius. While the conversation flowed from topic to



topic, the Swedish Meatballs came out and once Lawspeaker Turnage's AFA Meal Blessing was recited, the sacral feast was served. It was served and then eaten right up.



The day was getting on and to the Blót House we went. We lit a fire to warm the hall and then we held Sumbl. Carried by my wife, round the horn went three times and haleful words went with it. It was good to hear the Æsir be hailed and toasted in a warm building peopled with pious AFA men and women. Knowing the cold is outside

while inside we were hale and cozy always highlights the importance of the Innangarðr both spiritually and physically.



All things must end as did AFA NH's Yule. Clapsed hands and warm embraces once again dominated the well wishes of each. Plenty of Glad Yule and Happy Yule words were spoken amidst the fare-wells. In no time, we shall meet again which will be Þorrablót, the 18th of January.

### *Upcoming Events*

New Hampshire



Porrablót

18 Jan - Southwest NH

Contact: [rboardman@runestone.org](mailto:rboardman@runestone.org)



Folkbuilder Ronald Boardman  
[rboardman@runestone.org](mailto:rboardman@runestone.org)

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North Carolina

*Upcoming Events*



Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea  
[tbethea@runestone.org](mailto:tbethea@runestone.org)

*Upcoming Events*



# Furitsu Moot at Þórshof

Every 2nd Saturday @ 3pm  
[rshotwell@runestone.org](mailto:rshotwell@runestone.org)



Folkbuilder Robert Shotwell  
[rshotwell@runestone.org](mailto:rshotwell@runestone.org)

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**Ohio**

*Upcoming Events*



Folkbuilder Michael Melillo  
[mmelillo@runestone.org](mailto:mmelillo@runestone.org)

## *Ohio Yule*



It's been a while since I had Yule at my home, and this year I was honoured to be able to do so. Many old friends were able to make it, and it was a delight. When you're here for a while you'll see many ebbs and flows. Have great times and down times. See some folks regularly and miss them for a while, but what really matters are the bonds we make and the time we have together. This year reminded me that we may not always

share a table but the space in our hearts for our Folk is always there. All that matters is that we make the best of the time given to us. It's not about the specific setting or the particular variables that come together at any specific event, but the bonds formed and Frith weaved. We had the usual food and conversation, but every year is different, and I look forward to many more years with all of you. Endless conversation and catching up prevented me from achieving a proper picture, but that day lives in my heart along with every other memory I make with you fine folk. Until next time, Hail the Gods, Hail the Folk, and Hail the AFA.



Folkbuilder Joe Drotos  
[jdrotos@runestone.org](mailto:jdrotos@runestone.org)

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## **Pennsylvania**

*An Erickson Yuletide*





We hope everyone had a wonderful and restful Yuletide. Ours was a family-focused Yuletide this year, with both me and my wife having off for the full duration and with family visiting for a big part of Yuletide. We want to share our family's account of how we celebrated our Yuletide.



### *1st Day of Yuletide*

We began our Yuletide celebration at sundown on Mothers' Night by lighting a candle, representing the hearth fire, to Frigg and the Dísir. We processed through the house lighting a candle from this same flame in each room with a Jera Galdr. The kids banged pots and pans to drive away any bad energy that may have built up over this year, and we swept that all out the door after lighting the last room. After this we decorated our Yule tree and enjoyed a quiet evening together.

The first day was spent making perogies for Eoghan's holiday party at martial arts (5 hours of perogies, in fact!).



### *2nd Day of Yuletide*

We spent the first part of the evening at Eoghan's martial arts party. Once home, Catie and the kids made 3 sunwheels while Clifford got our fire ready. It was a very cold night. We made our offerings to Sunna with hope that our flames would help light her way back to us. We carried an ember from Sunna's fire inside and used it to light our Yule log candles. The children got ready for bed and made their offerings to the Yule Wights in hopes that he will bring small gifts again tomorrow morning.



### *3rd Day of Yule*

Tonight, we lit our candle to Nerðus. Typically, Nerðus' Night is the night we make our yearly decoration. Last year, we did salt dough ornaments, so this year we painted a few things instead. We lit our candles and remembered Nerthus and the warm growing days we hope to "see soon." The kiddos left their offerings in the Yule Wights cozy nest and headed to bed, ready for tomorrow.



#### *4th Day of Yule*

We lit our candle to Máni tonight, to thank him for his long travels through the sky. Grandpop and Uncle Bobby arrived this evening and helped us cut the cookies which Catie baked. We made our offerings and tomorrow we will wake up to gifts from our ancestors.

The next morning, it was a very busy day as we decorated the cookies and went to the mall for pictures with Santa, who everyone knows is a Yule Wight along with Jack Frost and others.



### *5th Day of Yule*

We lit a candle to our Ancestors and opened presents that the Yule Wight brought us from our Ancestors. We told stories about this who gave us our gifts (we all got cozy PJs this year) and enjoyed our time together. At bedtime, the kids make their offerings.

The next morning it was December 25th. Because so much of our families are Catholic and celebrate Christmas, we spend this day with our extended families. We literally call it family day on our little calendar. This serves a few purposes. First, we don't alienate or families. We participate in a way that is recognizable to them. We exchange gifts with them, and we have our big holiday feast. Second, when our children encounter their non-Asatru peers they aren't going to feel so alienated, having also received some gifts on the same day that so many receive their gifts exclusively. We understand that children sometimes need that common ground, but we also try to give them reasons to love and be excited about Asatru.



### *6th Day of Yule*

Tonight, we feasted, thanks to Catie's mom, who took over the cooking the roast this year. The children opened so many presents from their grandparents and gifts mailed from other family. We lit our candle and made offerings to Týr, who gave up his hand for the greater good. We remember from his knowing sacrifice that sometimes what is right is not what is easy. The Yule Wight received his gift for the night, and the children eventually succumbed to sleep after fighting the good ol' sugar induced fight!

The following day was a bit of an off day. Alice woke up sick and spent the day reading with a fever and cough. We also enjoyed a very competitive game of "Mouse Trap"!



### *7th Day of Yule*

In the early evening the fellas went out to our local nature center for a lights and model train extravaganza. Once they were home, we lit a candle to honor the Einherjar! Alice wasn't still not feeling well so she was upstairs resting when Eoghan lit all the candles for this evening. He remembered all our nights of Yule so far and was able to give a good explication of the Einherjar to his dad. He left an offering in the tree for the Yule Wight on Alice's behalf. He was very thoughtful trying to take care of his sister.

The next morning, we took a trip to Presque Isle and the Tom Ridge Environmental Center before Grandpop and Uncle Bob headed home. Good, fresh air and sunshine.





### *8th Day of Yule*

In honor of Óðinn, we held a family book exchange. In the future we will buy each other books, but for now we took a trip to Barnes & Nobles. It's been soon long since we have been in a purpose bookstore that we found it quite overwhelming and ended up choosing an extra each book for the kids. The kids had a hard time choosing, but in the end, they were able each make their choice. We hope to foster this excitement for reading for a long while.

After a traditional dinner at the Chinese buffet, we headed home and lit our candles and made our offerings to Óðinn. The Yule Wight was given his gifts and then to bed!



### *9th Day of Yule*

On the 9th night of Yule, we light a candle to Ullr and we were all (except Catie) starting to feel under the weather. We had an early dinner, lit our candles, made our offerings, and all settled in for a bedtime movie before bed. Sometimes, we can't do things exactly to plan, so we have to be okay with a little "making it up as we go."



### *10th Day of Yule*

On the tenth night of Yule, we light a candle to Þórr, our son's favorite of the Æsir!

Today is the day we eat and play in honor of Þórr. While the kids were outside playing in the rain, Eoghan decided he had been blessed by Þórr and needed to Blót to him. So, he and Clifford sat down and discussed the structure of Blót before writing one

together. We then all went out to our oak tree, and Eoghan performed Blót to Þórr. Definitely a proud mom moment!



### *11th Day of Yule*

On the 11th night of Yule, we light a candle to the Landvættir! We walk the property and clean up trash that has accumulated, particularly among the road and the creek. We believe in the working relationship between the Land Wights and ourselves, and part of the gift cycle includes taking care of their spaces. Excitement ebbs as we come close to

the end of the Yuletide season. Soon enough the Yule Wight will go the way of Santa, and the family movie nights will be more infrequent and less cozy.

On the following day, Catie and the kids went to Build-a-Bear with their Gammy who had gotten them each a gift certificate for Yule.



*12th Day of Yule*

On the 12th and last night of Yule, we light a candle to Freyr! We thank him for his hard

work, and we look forward to his coming abundance! Eoghan made it up to midnight to cheer in the new year, and now both are happily snoring in their beds.

The next day as the sun set it with it the close of the Yuletide. At sunset we held Blót to Freyr, each giving an orange imbued with our thoughts of the previous year's successes, the goals we wish strive for this year, and our gratitude for Freyr's' abundance, both past and future. Snow fell as we offered our oranges and we burned our Yule log filled with the families energy from the year. The trunk of our Yule tree will be cleaned and kept in a high place, a reminder of the potential that we should nurture. It will become our Yule log next Yuletide.



To close we each pulled a rune for the year ahead. Looks good to me!

### *Upcoming Events*



Gyöja Catie Erickson  
[cm\\_erickson@runestone.org](mailto:cm_erickson@runestone.org)



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

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## South Carolina

### *Upcoming Events*





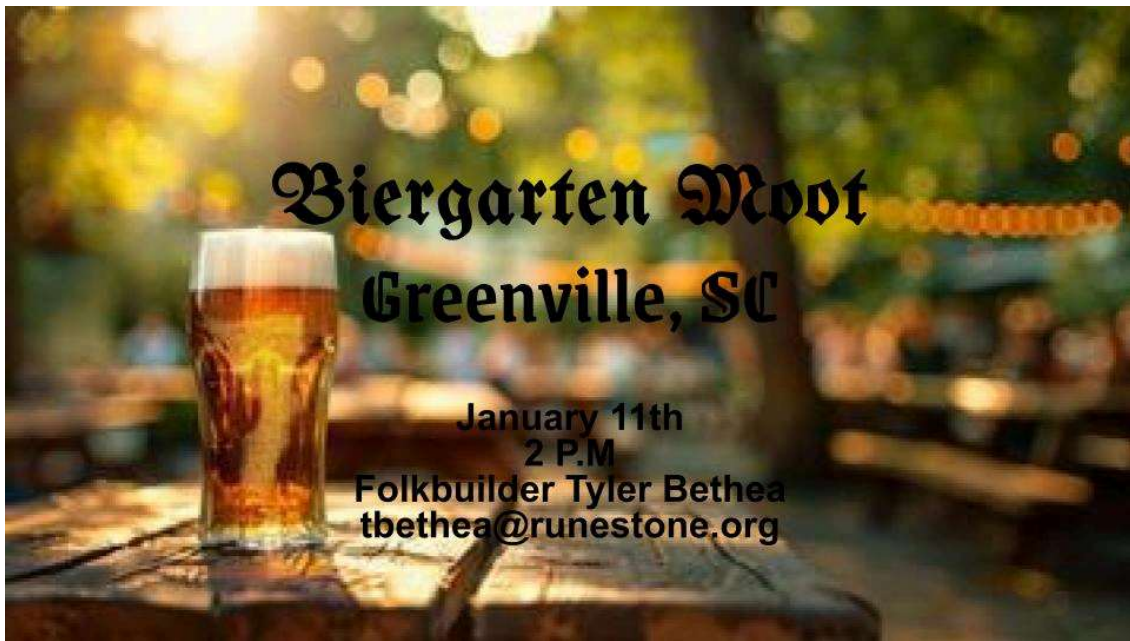
Craft Axe Throwing Moot  
Spartanburg, SC  
January 25th  
5pm

Contact Apprentice Folkbuilder James Anderson  
[janderson@runestone.org](mailto:janderson@runestone.org)



James Anderson  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[janderson@runestone.org](mailto:janderson@runestone.org)

*Upcoming Events*



January: Join us for the WURST Moot in the entire AFA at the Biergarten near Greenville, South Carolina on January 11th. Find relief from the bitter cold of an Appalachian winter with a stein of good German beer, schnitzel, kartoffeln, or the WURST food of your choice! (Ok, I'll stop.) Seriously, it's going to be the WURST time, and you should join us. Reach out to Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea for more details or to RSVP, so we can let them know how many are coming. Prost!



Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea  
[tbethea@runestone.org](mailto:tbethea@runestone.org)

*SC Twelfth Night*



Heather and I hosted Twelfth Night at our house in Camden. We had members from as far as South Georgia, Eastern North Carolina, and NW Georgia in attendance.

Twelfth Night is a good time for taking Oaths, making amends, and planning the next year. We did all of those and more. We accepted a new member into our Kindred, Rig's Blood.

After we accepted our kindred sister's oath, Goði East lead us in a rousing Blót to Lord Baldr, after which we lit a thunder cross of candles to welcome the new year. This is especially important, that we welcome the Sun, and the promise that it holds.

We held Sumbl and maxed out the space in our living room, as toasts to Gods, Ancestors, and Heroes were made.

At the stroke of midnight, Goði East and I joined Relentless, the official sword of the Asatru Folk Assembly with its hand-crafted sheath.

2025, we have declared the year of Kenaz in Rig's Blood Kindred. We intend to light a torch and carry that torch out of the darkest part of the Winter and carry into the light of 2025. We hope that you choose to the same. Be that spark of inspiration, that beacon of nobility. Share the illumination that is Ásatrú.

The Young Family wishes you all a victorious New Year.

Light the Torch!



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

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## Sweden

*2025, a Year of Courage*



<https://youtu.be/7KKCZP8Au0M>

With the start of the new year, I wanted to share a song that inspires courage. It is a song written in Swedish in the mid 1800's in Finland by Josef Julius Wecksell. Josef

Julius Wecksell is regarded to this day as one of the most prominent figures in Finno-Swedish literature.

Let us go into 2025 with courage to be ourselves, to be Ásatrú.

Har du mod att gå ut i livets strid  
Och dig hålla där som en man?  
Har du mod att ställa dig framom din tid  
Och dess villor, om du det kan?  
Har du mod att offra ditt hjärteblod,  
Din timliga lycka och fröjd  
För sanning och rätt då, yngling god,  
Träd in i vår krets förnöjd!

Har du mod att tro på din skönaste dröm  
Trots det verkligas hånande röst?  
Har du mod att som droppen i djupaste ström  
Söka väg genom klippans bröst?  
Då låtom oss svärja ett fostbrödralag!  
Och offra det ande och blod,  
Och kraft som kamp få vi nog en dag,  
Om vi äga det sanna mod!



Translation:

"Have you courage to enter the battle of life,  
And stand your ground as a man,  
Have you courage to stand before your age,  
And its falsehoods, if you can?  
Have you courage to sacrifice the blood of your heart,  
Your passing joy and happiness,  
For truth and what is right – then fine young man,  
Tread into our ranks content!

Have you courage to believe in your grandest dream,

In spite of the mocking voice of reality?  
Have you courage to, like the drop in the deepest current,  
Seek a way through the heart of the cliff?  
Then let us swear a fraternal brotherhood,  
And offer it spirit and blood,  
And the power and struggle will be ours one day  
If we possess true courage!"

### *Jul in Sweden*



This December, we observed Yule on December 15th, just a few days before Mother's Night. In a prelude to our family's celebration of the twelve nights of Yule, we gathered at our altar to offer Blót to the Yule Father. We asked that he fill us with reverence, mirth, Frith, and gratitude as we prepared to revel in his return to his throne, the light's victory over darkness, and the coming of the new year.

Here in Northern Sweden we have fewer than three hours of daylight on the winter solstice, so we feel strongly the anticipation of the return of the light. On the solstice and the days that followed, our voices rang out in song, and we were filled with a sense of triumph, hope, and joy at the sun's victory and return.

Gott Nytt År! May we find many victories in it.

# **Remembrance Dinner**

**1/9 Raud the Strong**

**1/18 King Blót-Sveinn**

**2/1 King Eanfrith**

**2/9 Eyvind Kinrifi**

**Norrbotten, Sweden**

**rsvp @ [elugnet@runestone.org](mailto:elugnet@runestone.org)**

Join the Lugnets at our home in honour of our Heroes!



# Þorrablót

25th of January

Norrbotten, Sweden

rsvp @ [elugnet@runestone.org](mailto:elugnet@runestone.org)

Join the Lugnets on January 25th as we do Þorrablót!

# Charming of the Plow

16th of February

Norrbotten, Sweden



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

Join the Lugnets on February 16th as we do Charming of the Plow!



Erik Lugnet  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[elugnet@runestone.org](mailto:elugnet@runestone.org)

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## Tennessee

### *Upcoming Events*

Day of  
Remembrance  
Dinner Plot



9th of Every Month  
630pm | Cookeville, TN

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

Nashville



Bierhaus  
Moot

January 18th  
6pm

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



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

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## Vermont

*Vermont Winter Wassail*



On the 14th of December, we New Englanders continued our Yule-Tide Festivities by meeting in Woodstock Vermont for the annual Winter Wassail. This has been going on for 20 years and is a 3-day event where the whole town is decorated and geared up for. There are events going on throughout the weekend, but we came for the highlight, which is the parade.

Now Wassail is a word you've more than likely've heard and more than likely know the meaning, but some don't. Wassail is from its Old English root words 'hál wes þú' or 'wes

hál' which is simply a greeting or parting formula to say 'be whole' or 'be healthy'. The Scandinavian cognate is 'ves heill'. 'Hál wes þú' was also used in the sense of saying cheers of proxit. Without getting too deep in the tall grass on this, it later became associated with singing to apple trees to ensure a good harvest in the winter and also to the mulled cider drunk and poured out to those same trees during the ritual/custom. Until very recently, it was very common in England to Wassail the Apple Trees and scattered areas throughout the Anglo-Sphere continue it to this day even some inside the AFA. One last point, Wassail, the drink and carols, also became tied to Yule traditions. I think now you understand why this event is called Winter Wassail.



So, we found ourselves at the town commons, which was the centerpiece spot for the weekend. There were vendor booths selling all sorts of local artisan crafts from black iron to fiber arts. One very popular vendor was selling hot cider and hot wassail which went down very well in the brisk, very brisk air. We made a tight circle and held our cups of cider and wassail aloft and in normal voices toasted, or should I say wassailed the Æsir right there in the commons with hundreds of our folk walking around. There was caroling at another part of the commons and during 'Deck the Halls', I was flooded with a feeling of Wunjo, of joy. This was an ancient rite going back to the earliest days



of our Folk and it was continuing around and within us. Cheer and goodwill was everywhere. Hail to Yule indeed.



Soon enough the parade started and it was fully a parade of horse and wagons complete with people in Victorian-wear. It was fantastic and with what seemed like 60 horses, the smiles were non stop. The children especially were in awe.



After the parade, we crossed back to the commons where a bonfire was lit right there. That heat was quite welcome by then. People were offering to take pictures of compete strangers on the photographed's phone to commemorate each person's day and there were no trust concerns. It was a right good traditional day.



We finally looked at decorations in one of the hotels and called it a day. We retired to a Brewery for dinner and wended our way home. Wasail!



Folkbuilder Ronald Boardman  
[rboardman@runestone.org](mailto:rboardman@runestone.org)





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