

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly





Þórshof

Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.thorshof.com

July 2024

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Words from the Alsherjargothi



Sól is high in the summer sky and AFA activity is in full swing!

Midsummer at Óðinshof was amazing as usual. This year we had the pleasure of having our dear friends and esteemed colleagues, Witan Cliff and Gyðja Catie Erickson attend, along with their two children. The Ericksons are one of the many couples and families that have been built from within the AFA and it continues to be a special pleasure to watch them grow and prosper. It was great to have the Ericksons get to spend a few days with us after the event as well.

Also, in attendance at Midsummer, for his very first time at Óðinshof, was Folkbuilder Nick Rice. Nick spent the entire weekend helping out, as he spends most of his days. I can't express just how much we appreciate all his hard work for us and for our Æsir.

For over a decade, I have heard folks talk about getting a bus to drive scattered members to a Hof for events This year it happened! Many talk about it, but Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein IS about it. Tyler drove himself, his family, 2 apprentice Folkbuilders, and others from the Pacific Northwest down to Midsummer and it was great to have them all in attendance.

Huge thanks to the stellar crew at Óðinshof for making this event such a great success.

Events like this are such a huge part of what we do, and we want you all to be a part of things! That said, come on out to Sigrblót at Sigrheim!

We are building the dream in Jackson County, Tennessee, and we want to see you all there July 19-21. Sigrheim is an amazing property and will become the home to many of us (the Flavels included), as well as Týrshof and the AFA capital in the years to come. I am looking forward to sharing a special time with amazing people and we would love to count you among them!

Together, we manifest Victory!



Matthew D. Flavel
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Words from our Witan

Ásatrú is Your Family's Birthright, Too!



“Asatru is the religion with homework”

“You have to earn your hammer”

“The Gods call who they will”

These three statements can all be misleading.

It is of course good to study history, to study our lore in the Eddas and Sagas and Folklore, to study the runes, language, and all the other things that help to inform our

faith.

It is of course good to act in a way that is noble, brave, kind, and righteous.

It is of course up to the Gods to do as they will, and we can't presume to understand all of their motives, or even any of them.

However, none of these are the defining characteristics of our faith and religion...

Ásatrú means "Belief in the Gods" or more literally "Troth to the Æsir". It is a holy faith in the Æsir. This is faith not only in the sense of "belief" but also in the sense of "trust" or "loyalty". When you say to someone "I have faith in you" it means more than "I believe you exist", it means "I believe you will do right" or "I believe you will succeed".

We know our Ancestors are alive today inside us, our family lines are a river of blood and sweat, of failure and success. Our Ancestors are our direct, physical link to the Aesir. The Æsir are the most ancient blood Ancestors of our Folk. We are, or will be, that same link for our descendants and all their progeny. As you go through life, remember that your reputation belongs to all of us, and especially to your descendants.

The Æsir created the world and gave us life, wit, and vigor. Every Blót we make to the Aesir is a return on this first gift, made from the world created for us by the Æsir. An imperative of our faith is to continue this Gift Cycle perpetually. We should always be mindful that the Æsir started the Gift Cycle and our Ancestors -Ásatrú and otherwise-maintained this Gift Cycle through the successful lives they led. Our existence is proof of this success. Our children's prosperity and faith are proof of our success.

The job of the Goðar of the Asatru Folk Assembly is to represent our Folk to the Æsir when we make Blót. We speak on behalf of the Folk to the Gods. Our Gods are real, they are alive, they exert their will in our world, and they can see us. When a Goði or Gyðia gives a gift, an offering, to the Gods that gift is always in reciprocation for gifts the Gods already have given us. It is made of the gifts they have given us, and it is made by the gifts they have given us. It is a thank-you, and we hope that in giving it that the Gods choose to continue the Gift Cycle with the Folk that the Gods started at the beginning of our world. The Goði or Gyðia is there to receive the gift on behalf of the Folk and to distribute those blessings. This Gift Cycle is the basis of our faith and our Gods and Goddesses are divine, and so piety is not optional even if we cannot be perfectly pious.

In these mixed-up times it is important to remember not only that it is okay to be white, but also that we owe to our descendants the same sturdy roots from which we ourselves have grown. We Ásatrúar are on the side of nature, we are on the side of family, we are on the side of order, we are on the side of light, and we are on the side of life. Live Ásatrú openly every moment. Practice Ásatrú in the light of day. Be a Folkbuilder every day and in every interaction that you have.

How do we do this? Most importantly, build up the Gift Cycle.

Regularly attend Blót offered by our Goðar, and make gifts to the Gods, to the Ancestors, and to the Vættir at home. When you make a gift to the Gods, don't show up as a beggar. Instead, show them what you have done with the world and how you have improved it. Show them your worth, but let them determine if you are worthy.

Remember your place, and remember that these are Gods.

When you make a gift to your Ancestors that you knew in life, speak to them as you did in life. Give them a gift that is personal and relevant to your relationship to them. I have given my Grandfather Hawaiian pizza because I know he liked this in life. Pick a favorite food or beverage, or make something that you use to do together, or any number of other things than maintain that same relationship that existed in life. Let them know how you are doing and what you might need help with.

When you make a gift to more ancient Ancestors whom you didn't know in life, demonstrate a knowledge of them. Documenting your family tree through genealogy is a great way to do this, and when you reach a branch that you cannot trace any further learn the history and way of life of the nation and ethnicity that the branch folds back into. Build a common frame of reference and again let them know your struggles and victories and where some help would be appreciated.

Landvættir (or Land wights) and Húsvættir (or house wights) can be a little bit trickier to interact with since the kinship relationship is not present like it is with the Gods and Ancestors, but there is a shared interest in maintaining Miðgarð in a healthy and orderly way. Make it clear that is who you are to them, a man or woman whose presence in a place will be for good, and for the order that the Æsir established. This will go a long way with Vættir of varying temperaments and varying experiences with people. Don't ask for anything beyond goodwill from the Vættir.

The second most important thing is to build your fame, your reputation.

Building our fame with our Living Folk makes us an example that others want to

emulate, that because of you they want to be Ásatrú. We should be known as “the good neighbor” or the “the good man” as much as we are known as “The Ásatrú Man” or “my Ásatrú neighbor”.

It is okay to be angry at Christianity, but remember that Christian Folk are still our Folk, and they need our help! We need to remind them who they really are.

The collapse of European religious institutions over the past century has led to disintegration of the family unit, to rampant homosexuality, to addiction of all variety, to laziness and unaccountability. But it is also an opportunity. Our Folk would likely not have been ready to return to faith in our Gods had Christianity not faltered as the dominant European religion. Our Christian Folk are not wrong, they have been wronged. They are not the first to wake up, so we need to rouse them. The same is true for those who are halfway there by leaving Christianity but are stuck in some atheistic or secular worldview. We may be in a Wolf Age, but we're also in an age of opportunity which needs spiritual heroes! Some of those heroes are undiscovered in this room right now.

Þórr's reputation among the Jötuns matters. Your reputation among non-Folk matters too! Our faith can be misunderstood easily enough by peoples who do not have informed experience with it. We need to make sure that our reputations are impeccable and that as Aryans, we are the race that all others look up to. We are noble, strong, and just. We are also generous and kind. We respect all living things.

Aryan means noble and we must hold ourselves to a very high standard.

What else can we do?

Volunteer. Be willing to do the work that is necessary rather than the work that is glorious. Know that none of us is the ideal we aspire to but do your best anyway. Perfect and permanent are imaginary but try for them anyway. But don't wait for perfect to be ready to begin. Be willing to make mistakes and to start now.

“Ásatrú is the religion with homework”

Yes, do your homework.

“You have to earn your hammer”

Yes, prove you are honorable.

“The Gods call who they will”

Yes, listen to the call of our Gods.

But always remember that Ásatrú is the birthright of every single one of our Folk, even if they need to be reminded about that birthright. Appreciate the magic and beauty of our Folk and of the Æsir. Don't settle for less, offer the same to your kin. Ásatrú is their birthright, too.

Bring them home!



Witan Clifford Erickson
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Words from our Gothar

Folk Futhark - Part Five



Eihwaz -

This rune's stave, although familiar, is not the one used in the Elder Futhark. It is borrowed from the Younger Futhark, but retains its meaning. This is the rune of transition, of closing a book, of death. All of these meanings can be gleaned from viewing this rune as a man, or as Odin, hanging upside down. That hanged man could be a corpse, or it could be the All-Father sacrificing his lower to his Higher Self to take

up the runes. In divination, this rune is often viewed as the end of something. It is not always a negative rune, but it's certainly one that carries a bit of weight.



Perthro -

This rune's stave is unchanged from its Elder Futhark counterpart. Many people view this as the rune of the "lot cup", or of luck. However, this is an oversimplification. Perthro is placed between the death rune and the life rune for a reason: it is the womb. Where Eihwaz is an end of a chapter, Perthro is the beginnings of the next chapter. Where Eihwaz is the hanged man, Perthro is the fertile womb ready to bring new life into Midgard. It is potential energy, much like Fehu, but more "alive", for lack of a better word.



Algiz -

One of the most recognizable of our Folk's symbols, this stave is unchanged throughout all of the rune rows. This is the rune of light and life, of connection to the Æsir here on Midgard, of being centered and grounded in both the sacred and the profane. The symbol most closely resembles a man or woman with their arms outstretched towards the heavens, as if they are hailing our Æsir in ritual. This is not a coincidence! The symbol can also be viewed as the gifts of Odin, Vili, & Vé being poured into this new

life. Its placement after Perthro is also not a coincidence! Algiz is life and connection and actualization, energy manifest in right action. In divination, this rune is only ever seen as positive. It could mean a new chapter of one's life has begun, or that something or someone will be born into your world, or that you should continue to connect with the Æsir.



Gothi Trent East

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The Folk Remember



Farrin LaSan
Y 11/18/1980 - 6/19/2024 †

Farrin LaSan

Y 11/18/1980 - 6/19/2024 †

Farrin was a sweet girl. She wore her heart on her sleeve and would do what she could to help anyone she could, even if they wronged her in the past. She loved her son very much and was a great mother. She was a good wife, very loving and faithful and got her feelings hurt easily. She smiled, laughed a lot sometimes even when she was sad, most people that met her loved her because she was so kind considerate and sweet. Was 43 years old and her loss is tragic. She will be dearly missed. She wanted to be with her

husband and death in hopes to have a lot of what we shared in life. She is survived by her husband, her son, 13, her sister, her brother and one aunt. She truly was a lovely young lady, and we miss her dearly. Her nickname was mischief because she was always up to it. And we will miss her.

Hail Farrin!

The Folk Remember!

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 \$84,063 on our remaining loan.
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 15.51%.
 - 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

The Hard Work to Prep for Sigrblót



A huge shout out goes to Witan Dan Young, Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea, and members, Steven and Riley, for joining me out at Sigrheim last weekend for a sweltering weekend of solid work. Fences are continuing to come down, grass is getting mowed, brush keeps getting cleared, and the gravestones are beginning to be restored.



We've a bit more to do in preparations for Sigrblót (tickets at <https://store.runestone.org/product/sigrblot-at-sigrheim/>) coming up in just two short weeks, but we'll be ready to welcome our Folk back to Sigheim once again. Hope to see you there!

Support the Home of Victory



Help Sigrheim get stocked
and ready for our Folk!

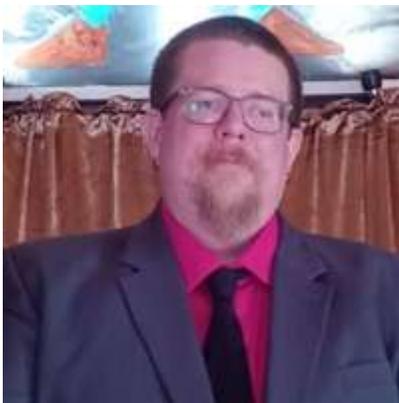
Donate Supplies
from our
wishlist ✨ ✨ ✨
amazon

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

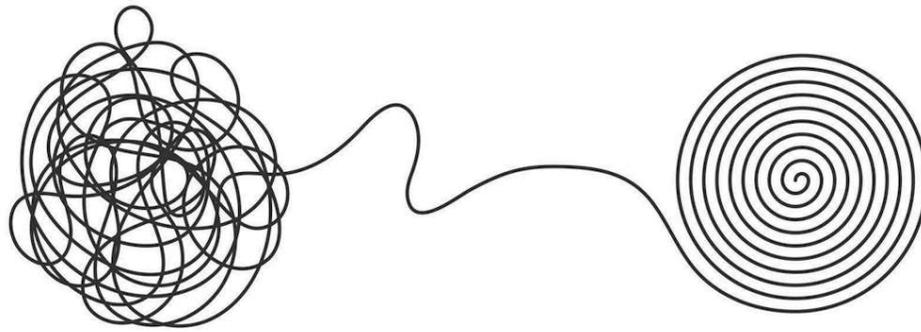


Check out the Asatru Academy at AsatruAcademy.org



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

Order vs. Chaos



Greetings parents and students. If the heading of this article didn't tip you off, I want to talk about order vs chaos.

We have decided that the upcoming school year 2024/2025, our theme will be order vs chaos. What does this mean for our younger students? Well, while our older students can certainly dive into the metaphysical and cosmic aspects of this concept, our younger students can and will learn to discern the obvious benefits of an ordered life and surroundings, vs a chaotic and unordered life. For example: most of the cartoons and children's programs that our kids watch have a clear theme of the hero fighting a villain. Often this takes form of the villain representing chaos, a rebellion against rules and society. The hero puts things in order. Children thrive on routine and tend to not do as well in a disordered lifestyle, and this is a perfect opportunity to teach them, in terms they can understand, about the very large Aryan principle of order vs chaos. Even seemingly small things, like waiting in line, rather than a disordered push to the front with no clear line. This can be used as a teaching moment.

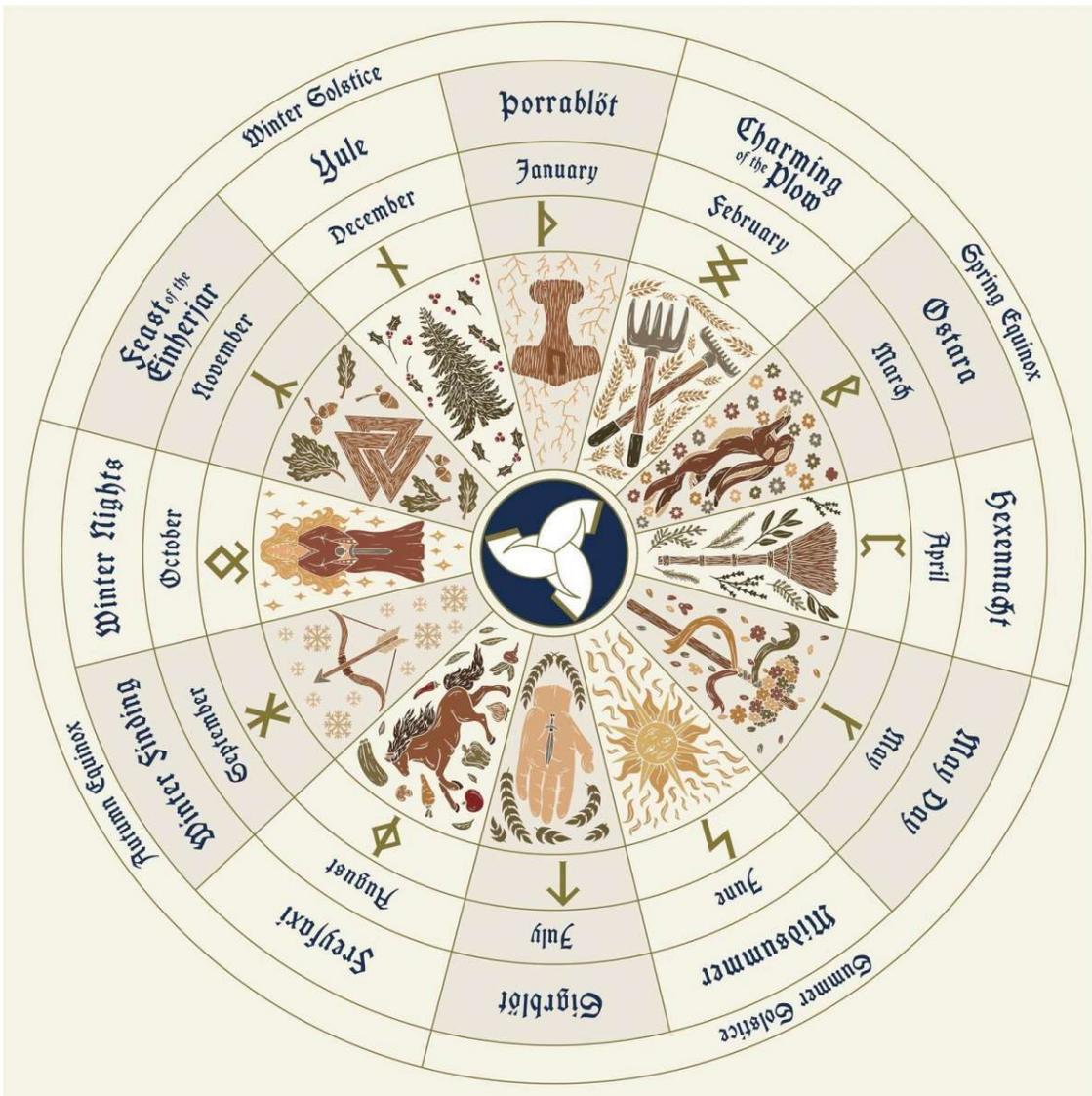
So, our theme for the upcoming academic year will be *order vs chaos*. How will you recognize this is in everyday life? How can we as students and responsible young Aryan boys and girls showcase order and put it to work in our lives? All this will be explored this upcoming year!

We look forward to seeing you all this fall. As a reminder, we will be enrolling K-6th over the course of this summer, to start the school year in September.

Goði Rob Stamm
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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 9	Day of Remembrance for Eyvind Kinnrifi
February 17	Charming of the Plow
March 9	Day of Remembrance for Olvir of Egg
March 19 (observed on 16th)	Ostara
April 9	Day of Remembrance for Jarl Haakon
April 10	Day of Remembrance for John Yeowell "Stubba"
April 30 (observed on 20th)	Hexennacht
May 9	Day of Remembrance for Else Christensen
May 1 (observed on 18th)	May Day
June 9	Day of Remembrance for King Athanaric of the Goths
June 20 (observed on 15th)	Midsummer
July 4	Day of Remembrance for Sveinbjorn Beinteinsson
July 9	Day of Remembrance for Alexander Rud Mills
July 20	Sigrblót
August 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

July



Asatru Holidays - July 2024 - Beinteinsson | Rud Mills | Sigrblót

Days of Remembrance

Sveinbjörn Beinteinsson | July 4th



Y July 4, 1924 - December 23, 1993 A

Sveinbjörn Beinteinsson was born July 4, 1924, and lived as a sheep farmer in Borgarfjörður, a fjord in the west of Iceland. Sveinbjörn was an early practitioner and leader of modern Ásatrú. Sveinbjörn and fellow Ásatrúar founded the Ásatrúarfélagið (Ásatrú Fellowship) on the First Day of Summer 1972 (April 18) and Sveinbjörn was named Allsherjargoði.

Allsherjargoði Sveinbjörn then led the push for the Ásatrúarfélagið to be recognized by the Icelandic government. When Allsherjargoði Sveinbjörn collected the appropriate paperwork from the Minister of the Icelandic Ministry of Justice and Ecclesiastical Affairs, he received vague answers from the minister who did not take him seriously. When Allsherjargoði Sveinbjörn was exiting the ministry building, a thunderbolt caused a major power outage in Reykjavík which left the ministry building and the minister in the dark. Hail Þórr!

After submitting the required paperwork, Allsherjargoði Sveinbjörn still faced opposition. The strongest opposition came from the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Iceland, the head of the state church of Iceland. The bishop took the position that “polytheistic religious organizations founded [in Iceland] would therefore not be protected by the [Icelandic] constitution”. The bishop also criticized Allsherjargoði

Sveinbjörn and the Ásatrúarfélagið for not naming a head of their religion, for not having a set written doctrine, and for not having a house of worship. There were also critics in Iceland who agreed with the bishop that polytheism was illegal in Iceland and that “Christ is enough”. However, Allsherjargoði Sveinbjörn’s arguments prevailed and in May of 1973 the Ásatrú Fellowship was recognized as a church by the government and with this was given legal standing to perform weddings, was given a share in church taxes.

In August of the same year, Allsherjargoði Sveinbjörn led the first legal public Ásatrú Blót since the year 1000 when the Allthing had forbidden Blót and declared Iceland a Christian nation. Allsherjargoði Sveinbjörn went on to lead the Ásatrúarfélagið for twenty more years until he returned to his ancestors during Yuletide of 1993.

Sveinbjörn was also a published poet of several books of Rímur, Icelandic rhymes. He recorded verses of his own and of the Poetic Edda Hávamál, Völuspá, and Sigrdrífumál.

In its early days, the Ásatrúarfélagið was notably Folkish and took ethical positions consistent with Ásatrú. For example in 1975 the Ásatrúarfélagið opposed abortion on the basis that the movement to legalize abortion is “traced to international movements opposed to the Nordic nations and in particular to the Nordic race”. The Ásatrúarfélagið has unfortunately failed to maintain the ideals of Ásatrú that the Asatru Folk Assembly continues to promote today, but Allsherjargoði Sveinbjörn Beinteinsson of the Ásatrúarfélagið remains a hero of our Folk who heard the call of the Æsir at a time when very few did.

Hail Sveinbjörn Beinteinsson!

Alexander Rud Mills | July 9th



Y July 15, 1885 - April 8, 1964 h

Alexander Rud Mills was born in Forth, Tasmania, and lived from 1885-1964. He was the guiding light for the foundations of Ásatrú in Australia.

In 1933 Rud Mills began writing books about our faith and in 1936 he founded the Anglecyn Church of Odin. Mills was able to build a solid Ásatrú community, but during the turbulent times of the Second World war, Rud Mills was bitterly persecuted by his government, and the community that he built suppressed. With no evidence

against him of illegal activity, Alexander Rud Mills was imprisoned. It was nearly a decade before Mills was released and despite all of his efforts, he was unable to revive his church to its former glory.

All was not lost, however. Alexander Rud Mills's many publications and his passion lived on and inspired a new generation. In the 1970s a group of Ásatrú students at the University of Melbourne campaigned to have Ásatrú recognized as a formal religion in Australia, hoping to be able to protect the faith from the same persecution that Mills suffered. It took almost two decades, but by the early '90s, Ásatrú was granted religious status in Australia. Alexander Rud Mills's vision also, notably, inspired Else Christensen, who was a leading voice of Ásatrú in North America.

So, what can we learn from this story?

Alexander Rud Mills didn't live to see the culmination of all of his hard work. When he died Ásatrú was still a repressed faith in his homeland. Even without reward and recognition, he worked until his death, to try and revive the ancient folkway. And he did succeed. Could he have ever imagined how far-reaching his influence would be while he lived? Despite being imprisoned and persecuted for his beliefs, Alexander continued. Even without knowing that his hard work would bear fruit, he continued. He didn't give up in the face of a thankless, and dauntless task. He didn't let his ego, or his own self-importance, stop him from doing what he believed he needed to do. There were no rewards. There were no praises. There was nothing in it for him except the knowledge and the belief that he was doing the right thing for his folk.

Take from this story the need to remember that the bigger picture, even when we can't see it, is so much more important than just ourselves. We do what we are doing for our children and for their children so that when we are gone, they have a foundation strong enough to hold them up and help them build better and stronger.

Alexander Rud Mills is the dedicated hero of Þórshof. For more information and a deeper dive into the life and acts of this Australian hero, check out [Thorshof.com](https://thorshof.com).

Holiday

Sigrblót | July 20th



Sigrblót literally means ‘Victory Blót’ and was celebrated by our ancestors in the early summer months. On the one hand, our ancestors were celebrating their victory over the harsh winter. Life had won. On the other hand, our ancestors performed blot to ask for victory. With the warm weather and the completion of the planting time the men often turned their minds to the duty of man. War. Practically speaking, summer was the better time to organize new campaigns and to set sail.

In our modern times, the vast majority of us are not familiar with war in a personal way. We do, however, all have our struggles. Sigrblót is a time to refocus. It is the time we can use to reorganize our priorities, to figure out the steps we need to take in order to reach our ultimate goals, and to break free from those that we struggle with.

One great way to celebrate Sigrblót is to offer a meal or some other item that you spent time making in thanks for the victory of life. Another option is to sacrifice a bladed weapon to the fire. A nice knife, for example, the blade dulled in battle so that it cannot be used against you (this is symbolic, of course), offered to the fire is a great way to ask our Gods for victory during the coming winter.

A gift for a gift.

Upcoming National Event

Sigrblót at Sigrheim | July 19th-21st



The second Sigrblót at the Home of Victory!

And no other place is it more righteous to celebrate the Victory Sacrifice!

This is time we come together to honor both the summer and to make offering to the Æsir in hopes of their blessing for that which we are striving forth to conquer or acquire for us and our Folk! In times now passed, our Folk would be asking for the Æsir's blessings in battles and raids! And we ask now at this time for them to accept what we have to offer that he may lend his strength to see us victorious in our current endeavors!

Blóts! Feasting! Sumbel! An auction with one-of-a-kind items!

Camping is available on-site (bring your own tents and gear), and there are hotels within 20-30 mins of Sigrheim as well. Some AirB&B's in the area too. You are welcome to come early, stay late, and spend as much time on the land as you'd like. It's open to any of our member Folk!

Notice: this is undeveloped land. We will have Port-a-potties and will make sure drinking water is readily available. However, it is imperative that you plan accordingly. There will be a couple large event tents to gather in. But no other public structures.

Please wear appropriate footwear and be prepared for a hike through the woods and up the ridge if you plan on participating in Blót. If you have any physical restrictions, this particular part of the weekend may cause a challenge or an inability to participate on that particular event. If you have off-road vehicles such as 4-runners, ATV's, etc., they would be a most welcome addition to the weekend and could mean the ability to get those who are otherwise restricted, up the ridge and safely back down again.

Bug spray, sunscreen, coolers, water, snacks, tents, blankets, appropriate clothing and footwear is advised.

If you have any questions about the land, area, or event, please reach out to Folkbuilder Nick Rice at nrice@runestone.org.

Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

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 Sumbl
- * 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

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

A Thanks to Folk Services



I wanted to personally thank all who've helped by giving me a hand up with recent life issues I've faced. A special thanks is owed to Apprentice Folkbuilder Ron Boardman, and Mandy Flavel. Ron convinced me to let Folk Services come through for me in a very difficult time. My faith in the Aesir and Tru Folk has not wavered. Humbling as it

may be, we can let go of excessive pride, asking for help sometimes, not try just to stand alone, like I usually do. The Frith shown to me was unprecedented and gave me a lot of hope. I've donated to Folk Services before and will soon be able to begin paying forward even greater than I received. Thanks once again to the Folk and their generosity.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the AFA!

— Don Ricardo Jr, member

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...

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

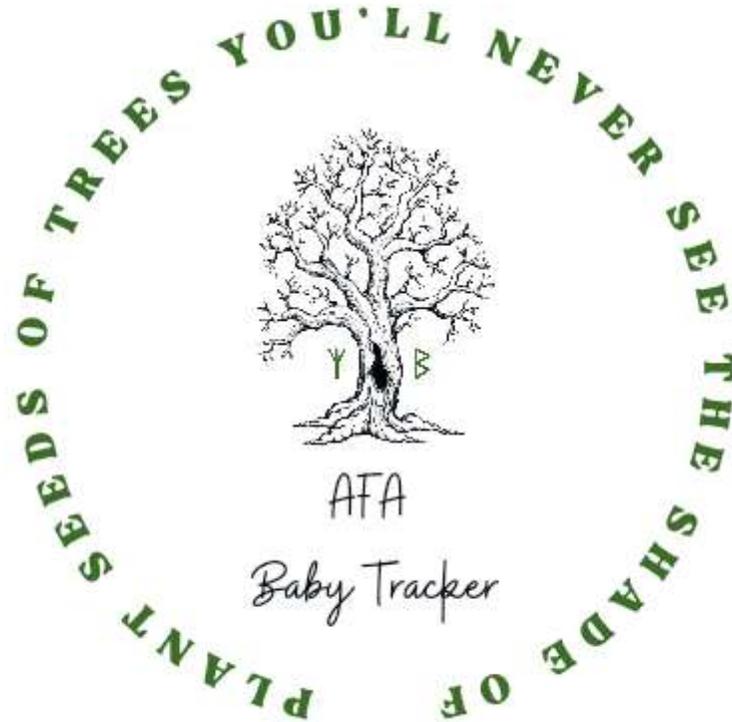
By the example of our Folkmother, Else Christensen, we will also be going into prisons as we are able to. Some of our Gothar and other leadership, will be going into the prisons to hold study groups, lead blot, and encourage continued growth in the folk inside.

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.

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: 16

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

AMcStocker@Runestone.org

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 brown stripes curled up on the left. To its right is a bouquet of strawberries and white flowers with yellow centers, tied with a red ribbon. A small purple flower is also visible near the cat.

Second and fourth Sunday of the month
10 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.**

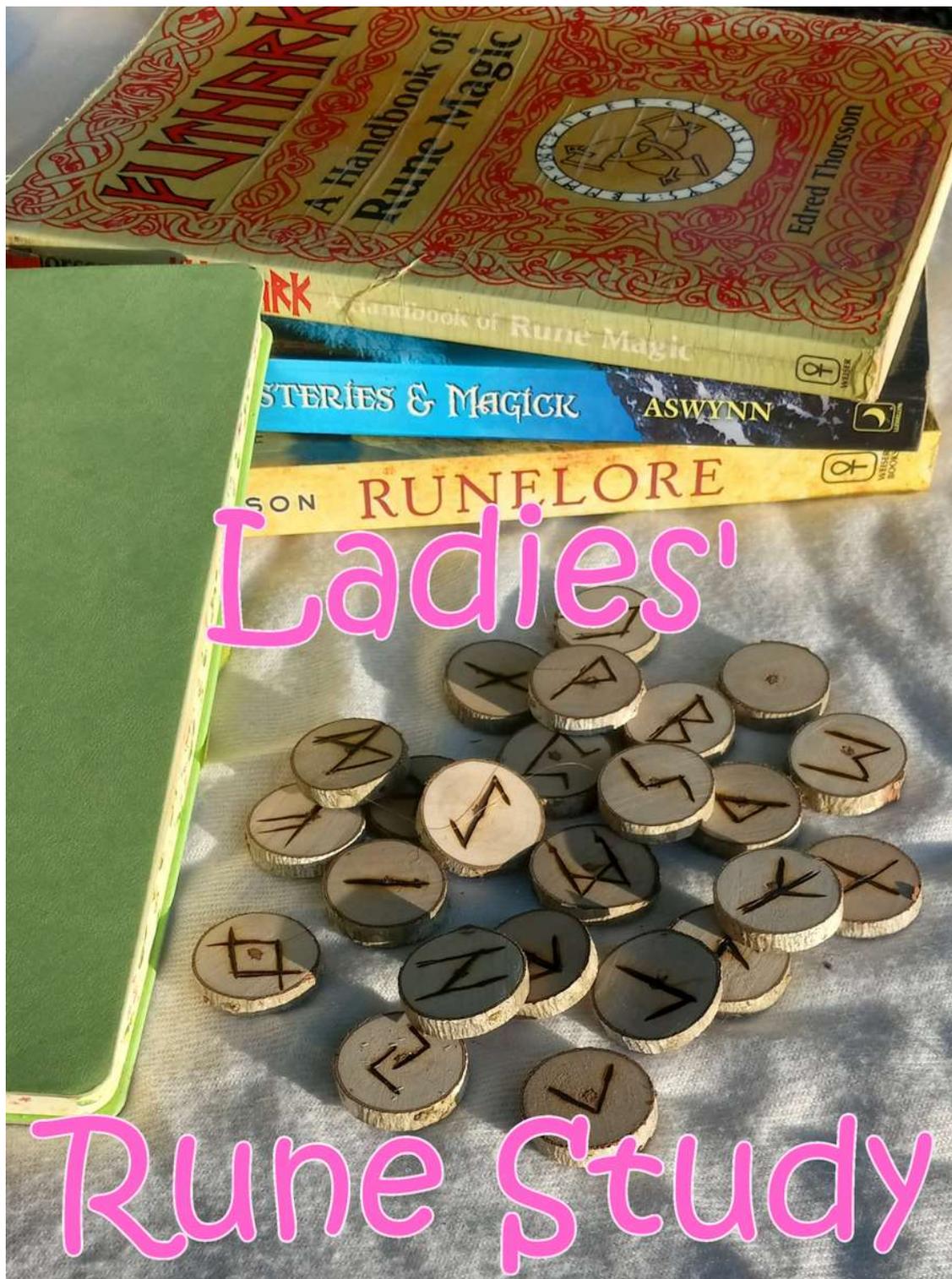


**Free PDF
and meeting link
in Mewe Ladies Group**

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

I hope to see you there!

**Lore Study with
Gothi Jason Plourde
Join us every Monday night**

at

8:00 pm EST

7:00 pm CST

6:00 pm MST

5:00 pm PST

4:00 pm AKST

**Each study begins with trivia questions
from VNS and the previous week's
reading. A winner is announced monthly.**

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

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



Eldri Teams Meetings
for folks over fifty

July 2024

Tuesdays 7/9 & 7/23
5:00 PT, 6:00 MT, 7:00 CT, 8:00 ET

Fridays 7/12 & 7/26
2:00 PT, 3:00 MT, 4:00 CT, 5:00 ET

Enjoying the peace of summer, with a good book in hand.
Contact Gythia Sheila McNallen, sheila@runestone.org

Just for Fun



Again, Folkbuilder Chris McDowell, Apprentice Folkbuilder Hope White, and Apprentice Folkbuilder Brodie Sutherland took the lead! Hail Word Search Victory!

Victory Word Search

Have fun finding all the words and send proof to press@runestone.org!

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M F U N F T           V M D B T K
I T U X G S           L O V E D D
  Q V B E Z A         I X L H P B
    F R C A L U       H P A N E J
      P T S T D H     U D P U S A
        L C F L T O   O M K S Z C
          F F Y F L W E P D I V A
            I F I P J E W J G N C A
              K Q K Z C S L S R L H G
                E C T E A L G B D I W J
                  C X P E G W I L L E A I
                    F N J P G P O K V Z B R
                      H A W V I L T H E B X M
                        Z G R D R A Z M U S V L
                          Q W E D W G K E L O L B
                            P F R V O X N Q B T A K
                              P G C E S C T U I P X O
                                Z V S H S G A C B A K G
                                  H I O A R I E Y H Z M H
                                    D A C W M E Z W X S N O
                                      X I T I P P A B Z K
                                        Z E L O L I C Z W C
                                          D M Z R O O O Q
                                            S Y F F Y W N L
                                              G O A T S I
                                                Z P X L A W
                                                  C E B L
                                                    Y E S Z
    
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- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--------------|
| SIGRBLOT | VICTORY | CHAMPION |
| BATTLES | GOALS | HAIL |
| SOWILO | ACHIEVEMENT | PERSEVERANCE |
| PEACE | | |

Hope you enjoy the July Word Search. As always, the first members to complete the search and submit proof to press@runestone.org will get a shout-out in next month's Runestone! Þórshof and Njörðshof, come on and join the fun!

Name _____ Age _____

JULY READING LOG

Color 1 sailboat for every 10 minutes you read this month (or 1 for each book someone reads to you if you're a pre-reader). Send to press@runestone.org!



My favorite book was: _____

How many minutes/books I read: _____

Here's a reading log to help track that reading in July! Who will read the most? Remember to send it in to press@runestone.org no later than August 3rd.

Folkbuilder Olivia Sutherland

osutherland@runestone.org



Genealogy and Kinship Charts

Join the AFA Genealogy group on MeWe!



Send yours to sheila@runestone.org to get included in our next **AFA KINSHIP CHART**
Deadline: 7/31/24
See how closely you're related to other AFA members. 75 people so far, and counting!



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

Store Spotlight



One of the values espoused by the AFA is Physical Excellence. Well, not only are you gonna be able to feel good, but we're gonna make sure you look good too. Check out our new throwback gym merch!



THROWBACK Sale Ends w/ the Summertide

**Throwback Gym Merch has arrived.
 Tanks! Shorts! Duffle bags! Shirts! Hoodies!
 Available now at Runestone.org/Store**

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

Hop on over and get some fast, as we're only stocking through the summer.



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Þórshof

Food Pantry at Þórshof



Midsummer began with our monthly Food Pantry, as is normal for the Folk at Þórshof. We fed our usual local families. The heat kept the line short, as we fed 8 families. We were joined by Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea early on, driving over from Western North

Carolina, with 2 of his boys. It was really cool seeing his son Ridge helping load cars with groceries at the Food Pantry.



Witan Daniel Young
dyoung@runestone.org

Midsummer at Þórshof



At Þórshof, Midsummer was a joyous occasion as members from North Carolina and Virginia came together to celebrate the peak of the season. The day commenced with a meaningful food drive, showcasing the community's spirit of generosity and support.



Witan Svan spent time with the children, teaching them how to craft pinwheels. Later, we gathered inside the Vé for a poignant ceremony honoring Sunna, Baldr, and Nanna, and bidding farewell and protection to a member preparing for deployment.



Following the indoor ceremonies, the festivities moved outdoors for the traditional fire-jumping ritual. The day ended in a delightful potluck dinner, where homemade dishes were enjoyed by everyone. It was a fantastic event that marked the peak of the year before the gradual descent into the cold, dark winter.



Folkbuilder Robert Shotwell
rshotwell@runestone.org

Midsummer in Full Swing



We had people from all over North Carolina come in, many of which are regulars. We had a lot of babies and toddlers running about until Uncle Svan started teaching them to make pinwheels.

We had put together the sunwheel while Svan taught, and went into the Vé where we held Blót.

During this Blót, we blessed a family whose patriarch is being deployed soon, we blessed them for safe travel and safe return.

We gave blot to Baldr and Sunna and lit the sunwheel. The kids offered their pinwheels to the Need Fire, and we began jumping the Need Fire. Myself personally? Yes, I jumped it, I jumped it with unmatched coordination and athleticism unknown to the rest

of the Folk. Along with Folkbuilders Bethea, Shotwell, and Witan Herul, the children and ladies followed suit.



Many thanks to everyone that participated, we had a great time.

We gathered in Rumph Hall for dinner.

We held a small and intimate sumbel at the end of the night that lasted a couple hours, despite the small turnout. These small sumbels are my favorite, as they allow us to get to know each other better.

I look forward to seeing you all at Sigrblot next month, either at Sigrheim or Þórshof! If you live in the Carolinas, Virginia, or anywhere in Dixie or beyond, come see us at Þórshof!



Witan Daniel Young
dyoung@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		Apr. 20th	Hexennacht	
Sreyfaxi	Aug. 24th	Jul. 27th	Jun. 22nd	May 25th	May Day
Sigrlót			Midsummer		

❖ Winter Nights - subject to change

Fjitsu Moot at Þórshof

Every 2nd Saturday @ 3pm
rshotwell@runestone.org

Support Þórshof



The District Poetry Corner

Claiming Victory



We remember those before us, who paved the way
Who saw beyond their now, who dreamt of our day

We are Aryan, of good and of light
Building a future for our children so bright

Let sun and merriment chase the sad away
For here we celebrate with victory on display

Hail the Gods, Ancestors, and Folk
Now we shrug off the Soul sickness yoke



Erik Lugnet
Apprentice Folkbuilder
elugnet@runestone.org

Stand. Call. Win.



Victory depends on your actions.
Find your center, your truth.
Hold that close, love it.
Keep it close, run with it.

Stand up for who you are.
Fight for what you believe in.
Never compromise yourself.
Never give up and never give in.

Don't ever back down.
Never turn around.
Always stand your ground.

In boca al lupo.
Crepil il lupo.

We say these things on this day.
Look up to the sky, head held high.
Lord Tyr, grant us rightness of action.
You held firm, we'll hold firm.

Folk gather to stand and be proud.
Aryan soul, beaming bright.
Small victories, big wars.
Big victories, small wars.

We'll be here moving ever forward.
Embracing our path, our ancestral call.
Through a price, comes a purpose.

In the mouth of the wolf.
Kill the wolf.



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Indiana

Midsummer Indiana



Midsummer was a blast! We didn't do too much out of the ordinary. Good food, wonderful Blót performed by Jonathan Rock, and physical competition.

The competition involved dips, pull ups, and sled pushing. Even some of the pregnant women stepped up in feats of endurance that would make Freyja proud!



The turn out was impressive, we even got a few members from the far reaching parts of Indiana to participate!

Upcoming Events



Jacob Rutledge
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jrutledge@runestone.org

Upcoming Events

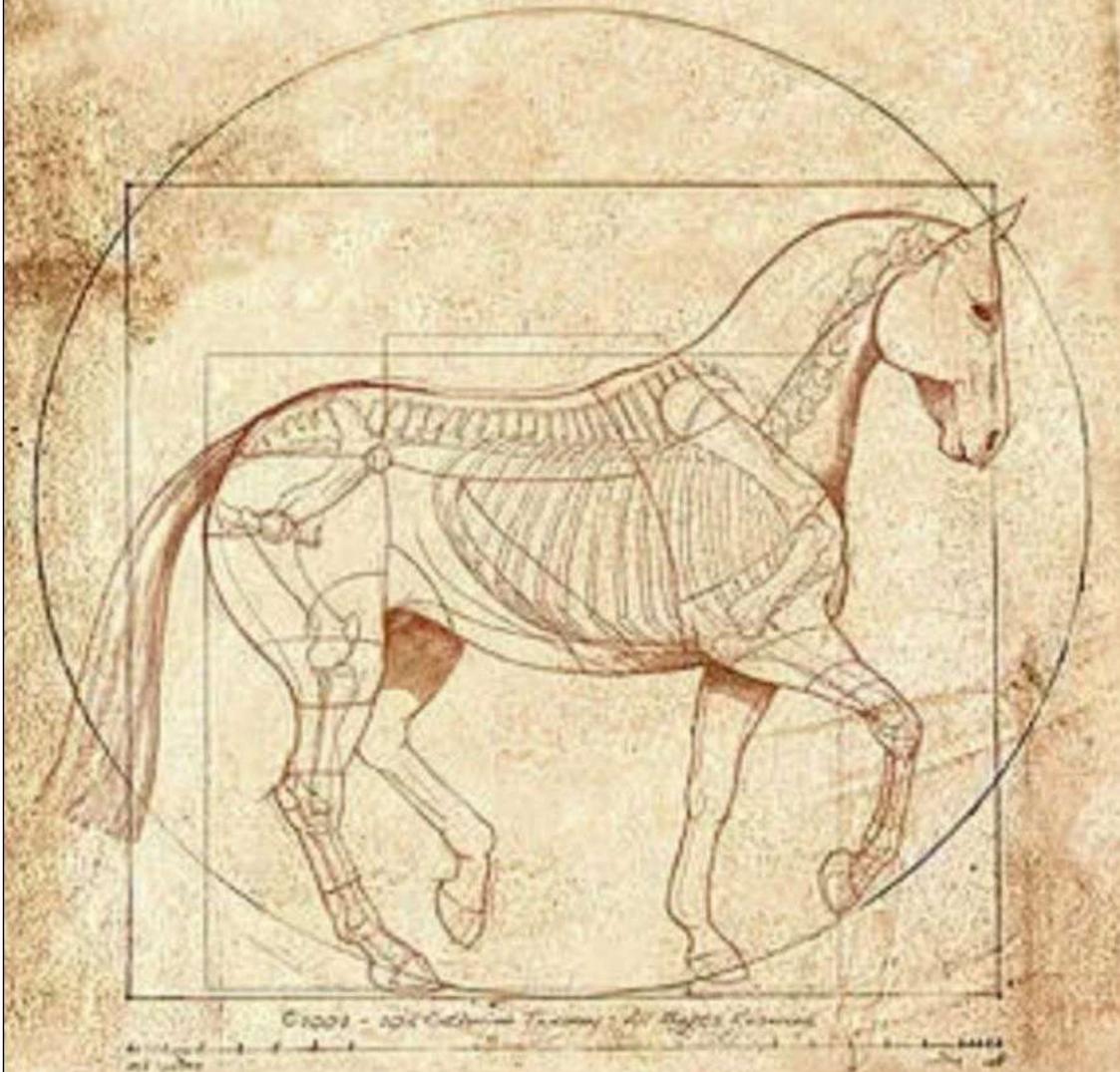
Sigrblót

***July 20, 2024
Fortville, IN***

***JRock@Runestone.org
For details***



Freyfaxi



August 17, 2024

Fortville, IN

JRock@Runestone.org

Folkbuilder Jonathan Rock

jrock@runestone.org



Michigan

Greetings from New Apprentice Folkbuilder Chris Savich!



Howdy all! My name is Chris Savich, and I've been a member of the AFA for some time now. I figured that this was a good time for me to step up and start helping out. I am a lifelong Michigander: a Yooper by birth but a Troll by habitation. I can trace my ancestry 55 generations back to the Allfather (if the genealogies of Alfred of Wessex are to be believed). I enjoy carpentry, although my present lodgings don't allow me to have a proper woodshop. I am a language nerd, knowing a bit of Spanish, a teensy bit of Russian, and some ASL.

Upcoming Events



Chris Savich
Apprentice Folkbuilder
csavich@runestone.org

Michigan Midsummer Camping



Friends and Folk,

I had the good fortune of attending a Midsummer camping trip in Indiana's Hat (the state formerly known as Michigan). This event was a triumph in many ways:

- We celebrated Midsummer and the triumph of the Sun
- We celebrated Baldr and the triumph of his return
- We celebrated the triumph of the Michigan faithful gathering in friendship and brotherhood
- We celebrated the triumph of my stomach, which has finally overcome the tensile strength of my shirt



We threw axes, we told stories, we built bonds.
 There were men there who have suffered,
 there were men there who are suffering still;
 there were men who are already our brothers in the AFA;
 and those who came in friendship and curiosity to explore the way that we do things as
 a church compared to the way they typically practice with their own kinsmen.

We swatted mosquitoes and defended ourselves from the ravenous raccoon hordes
 lurking in the Utengard of our encampment, we listened to music around the
 campfire... and we did these things together.



There were men there from all walks of life, backgrounds, and affiliations; individuals
 who had traversed their state to stand together no longer as individuals, but as members

of one people gathered before our Gods in friendship, thanks and prayer.



Blót ended; eventually our camping trip ended as well; we re-established our individuality as we parted ways and made our journeys back into the world. But I am looking forward to meeting up with those worthy men again some day soon and reuniting as one people beneath the gaze of the Holy Æsir.

Hail always to our Folk and our Holy Gods

Folkbuilder Jonathan Rock

jrock@runestone.org



New Hampshire

Come Home



Long ago one man carried the treasure into the barrow. He was bent under the heaviness of his load. He was the last man of his tribe. His lord and all his people lay dead. They were killed by their enemies in battle. Only he survived, sad without his friends. He knew he would not live for long.

When he had filled the barrow with gold he spoke these words:

'Earth, you must keep the gold of my people. Men could not keep it. They were brave but war-death has taken them all. There is no-one now to polish this golden plate. Who will clean this precious cup? Who will make this helmet shine? This mailcoat will never jingle again hanging from a warrior's shoulders.

My people had many times of joy in the hall. Now there is no happiness from hearing the harp play. No hawk flies through the hall. No horse stamps in the courtyard ready to ride. Sudden and horrible death has put a stop to all.'

So the one left behind by them all spoke his sad thoughts. It was not long before his sorrowing heart stopped and he too died. One day soon after an evil dragon found his way to the hoard. It was his fate to seek out and guard piles of treasure - not that it did him any good.

- *Beowulf*



"I was once young, I was journeying alone, and lost my way; rich I thought myself, when I met another. Man is the joy of man."

- *Hávamál*

Being alone is the bane of joy. The above words are taken from the Beowulf and the Hávamál, though this same theme and instructions are found throughout Germanic

literature. A person alone is adrift, weak and full of sorrow but when they fill their role within their tribe, their folk and their people, they are useful, valued and a real part of their Folk. This completes them. It is the natural way of things.

In today's age, so often you see people isolated from each other. Many times, you see them being told that preferring your own is cruel and evil. It is not. In fact, fostering that attitude is what is cruel and evil. Amplifying that message is one thing that feeds our folks' soul sickness. Fortunately, there is a cure to this. Seek the company of your own folk. We are kin to the Æsir and our souls know this on a gut level. We understand each other on a gut level. We know our body language, our mode of speech, our needs and how to work with each other because of this broad kin connection. In addition, we see each other in the faces of our fellows, both old and young. It is a unique connection that binds and strengthens.

The second part of the cure is to find your role within your Folk community. If you look back up to the Beowulf words, you will see the Last Survivor lament 'Who will clean this precious cup? Who will make this helmet shine?' Giving it a deeper thought, it is not the fact that the helmet and cup will not be cleaned. The Last Survivor could do this easily; his woe is that the men and women whose role, whose function, it was to do these things are no more and the harmony of the natural order is gone. The Last Survivor has his role but without his Folk, he is a wretch doomed to die.



What gives men and women purpose, what makes them whole, is to have a role within their Folk community. We have a drive to be useful. This Folk fellowship gives Frith, protection, value, and a worthwhile life.

If you are reading this Runestone then chances are you have already come home and are a member of the Asatru Folk Assembly. If so, then you see how what I said above is true. We all have a part as the Folk Within to find a role and be complete. Volunteer or at the least attend Moot and Blót our Gods and Goddesses together with your AFA family. Visit your Hof. Together, our Might and Mægen grow.

If you have not signed on to the Asatru Folk Assembly yet, I urge you to be whole, Come Home.

<https://member.asatrufolkassembly.org/signup>

Upcoming Events



July 14 *New Hampshire*

Contact: rboardman@runestone.org

NH Ladies tea Moot. Tea, sweets and fellowship. Ladies only. The menfolk will entertain the young ones at a park to let the ladies enjoy themselves. 14 July



NH Sigrblót. Join the Shirefolk as we host Witan and Gythia Erickson for Sigrblót. This is a chance to share bread and board with senior leadership. You do not want to miss this. Eastern Pennsylvania, northern New Jersey, Long Island, central New York, and all of New England is not too far to travel to Blót with them! 27 July

Ronald Boardman
Apprentice Folkbuilder
rboardman@runestone.org



Midsummer *in the Shire*



It was a rainy day when we ventured over to the Boardman's home for Midsummer. The morning of I was very inspired and painted a portrait of Baldr the brave prince. As I was driving, I asked Baldr to bless us with his radiance and clear the skies in time for our ritual. Upon arrival the sky began to clear, and the sun was shining bright. We caught up with one another and share some brilliant appetizers and treats made by our hosts.



After a good while of chatting and laughing together, it was time for Blót. We called upon Baldr the brave to share gifts with us and to bless us with his justice, bravery and brilliance. After the ritual, we sat around the grill and enjoyed the beautiful day. It was so amazing to see all of the other Midsummer celebrations from across the country. It was amazing to see many of our Folk having as good of a time as we did.



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North Carolina

Appalachian Happenings: Midsummer



This month the Appalachian Folk of eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina gathered together to celebrate Midsummer. This month was a smaller and more intimate gathering, but I think that was just what was needed. The more intimate setting allowed for stimulating conversation and plans for the future to be made. As always, there was delicious food prepared by loving hands, followed by a Midsummer ritual prepared and delivered by our wonderful Hostess, Rachel Kinsler.

As the fire burned on and the Folk started trickling away home, the conversation burned brighter, and fostered a lot of introspection and examination of our group dynamic. Where are we as a kindred? Where do we want to be? How do we get there? We may not have all the answers, but we know we're on the right track, with a heart for service and a genuine joy in each other's company.

In July we'll be gathering at the wild and scenic Nolichucky River for a river day, but I would also really like to push everyone to come out to Sigheim for our second annual Sigrblót. I'd love to see you come out and participate with us then, and for the busy fall calendar that we are feverishly working on. More details to follow soon!

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

Upcoming Events



July

Join us in July for a trip to the Nolichucky River in east Tennessee! Spend some time with us as we cool down and enjoy each other's company.



August

In August we'll be headed to a local Appalachian cultural festival. Join us for dancing, food, games, music, and Frith. Contact Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea for more details.



Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea

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Ohio

Midsummer Ohio



The time was upon us once again, a turning point in our year. While the sun reached her plateau in the sky, her slow retreat would begin once more as it has since time immemorial.

The day was unseasonably hot, well into the 90's and served as a reminder to me of times in the winter where skin, if left unprotected from the harsh cold wind, could lead to the stinging bite of frost.

We held Blót to Baldr, brightest of our beloved Æsir . His radiance that once filled the realms of the Gods, extinguished by that fateful shaft of mistletoe that we all know too

well.

As I looked upon the Folk that were gathered, it dawned on me that a few of us in attendance, myself included have experienced the anguish and the sorrow of losing someone who at one time were our brightest, our most beloved.

Just as the holy Æsir mourned the death of Baldr, we too mourn those whom we have lost. Just as the Æsir wept, we have and will continue to weep. Though the tears were and are plentiful, the bonds so too were and are immense.

It was highlighted by more than one of us that in years past, we stood with dozens more to exchange gifts with the Gods and our ancestors on Midsummer day, yet somehow this Midsummer was more meaningful.

Instead of focusing on the sadness of those that were no longer with us, whether on our side of the veil or not, we focused on those of still here, sharing support, Frith and troth with one another.

When in your eyes the most gleaming, purest, and most cherished part of your Innangard is seemingly no more, seek solace in one another and lend what strength and resilience to your folk that you can.

Just as our lore unfolds to us that Baldr will rise again at the very time that all of the worlds seem lost, we too are able in a way to be present for others when their own personal Ragnarök comes.

I know not what our Allfather whispered to his son, I know only that which I have whispered to others and what they have to me.

In my heart, I believe that those words are what can and will breathe new life into those of us who may appear to be lost, if only we listen.

Never stop whispering to one another and never stop listening.

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Michael Melillo

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Pennsylvania

Small Encounters



As I sat nestled in the foothills of southwestern Pennsylvania, I watched as Sunna began her ascent into the sky. The first rays of the morning drove the light fog from the land and began to awaken and stir the deep forests around me. Looking at my coworker, I nodded, and he nodded back. He was used to my strange morning habit. Walking over the mound of soil that separated the pipeline right-of-way from the forests, I listened carefully to the sounds of the world rising. Stepping into the still darkened wood, I found a small, cleared patch of earth and knelt. Here I closed my eyes and tried to clear my mind. I thanked the gods for the new day, and my ancestors for the

wisdom to succeed ahead. Opening my eyes, I unfocused my gaze and slowly scanned the forest ahead of me. Eventually a rune appeared in the brush. It was this that I would try to meditate on for my day ahead. Climbing out of the woods, I returned to my coworker. "So, what do your Gods say today?" He asks....

The bright Pennsylvanian sky offers no respite against the heat of the day. The dirt right-of-way is baked and hard, and the only water found is in the rivulets of sweat pouring from our bodies. As we walk toward the next welded joint a voice cries out. "Hey Brother!" I look up to see a young welder's assistant waving at me. "What's up bud?" I called back. Smiling the young man asks a favor of me. "Can you ask them gods of yours for some rain or a couple clouds, I been praying all day and ain't had no luck yet." Chuckling I respond, "We can ask them together if you want, they're technically your gods too." "Well hell alright show me how." ...

Standing in the air conditioning at the end of the day is always a welcome sensation. The dirt and sweat across my body are worn like battle hardened armor. Handing over the final weld reports and x-ray images from the day, the job foreman looks at me strangely. "Brother, can I ask you something?" "Sure bud, what do you need?" "Whell I was talking to some of the welders, and they told me you weren't a Christian." "That's right, I'm Asatru." "What's that? Like you don't believe in God or something?" I laugh, "No, I believe in gods, lots of them in fact, and older ones than the Christian one." "What do you mean older?" ...



Driving home for the day, I put Victory Never Sleeps on my Spotify. I admit I'm behind on listening and am only in the 20's, but it makes the hour and a half drive more productive. I think about the little encounters I have each day that I can use as an example of my faith and the power of the Gods. The ways I can wear my hammer proudly for the world to see, and the actions I can take to reunite our Folk. It seems sometimes daunting to go against the status quo and fear the repercussions, but I know that no matter how difficult the tasks before me, I have an army of Folk and ancestors beside me.

The Bridge Builder



*An old man, going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast, and deep, and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fear for him;
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.
“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim, near,
“You are wasting strength with building here;*

*Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again will pass this way;
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide
Why build you this bridge at the evening tide?"
The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today,
A youth, whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm, that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him.*

by Will Allen Dromgoole

I found this poem shortly after the birth of my son, and it struck me deeply. Every challenge I face, I want to make a way for him to cross easier. I feel like every parent wants the path forward to be easier for their heirs. By volunteering to become an Apprentice Folkbuilder, I found the poem to have even more weight and meaning, because now I'm not building bridges simply for my sons, but for all the sons and daughters of our Folk. I'm so honored to have the opportunity to build the AFA and to serve our people.

My name is Ryan K. Fenton II, and I am humbled to be a new Apprentice Folkbuilder in Þórshof district. I live near Pittsburgh, PA, the Yinzer capital of the world, and am beyond excited to help solidify our Folk in the region. I'm struck by how fortuitous that I am for my life to have been brought to this point and place. Pittsburgh is an astounding city full of deep history and culture. European blood runs deep in the Steel City.

I've come a long way to be here with you. Many of my friends call me "Brother," from my year spent living in a monastery in Arkansas, and from my several years as a Methodist Youth Pastor. I also served as a Heathen Scout Leader with the Atchafalya Pagan Alliance. I'm proud to bring the skills and knowledge I learned in those vocations to the AFA and finally use them for the building up of our Folk.

Along with the spiritual aspects of building, I'd also like to share my trade and vocational skills. I by trade am a non-destructive testing technician and would be happy to help mentor any of our Folk who want to start a new career in a degreeless trade. So please reach out to me with anything you've got and if it is within my power to help, teach, or give I will do so.

Upcoming Events



**THERE IS NO WIFI IN THE
FOREST BUT YOU WILL
FIND A BETTER
CONNECTION**



PITTSBURGH METROPOLITAN AREA
SIGRBLÓT

SIGRBLÓT IS A TIME TO REFOCUS. IT IS THE TIME WE CAN USE TO REORGANIZE OUR PRIORITIES, TO FIGURE OUT THE STEPS WE NEED TO TAKE IN ORDER TO REACH OUR ULTIMATE GOALS, AND TO BREAK FREE FROM THOSE THAT WE STRUGGLE WITH.

JULY 20TH TO THE 21ST

VICTORY **FAMILY** **FAITH**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT RYAN FENTON AT:
RFENTON@RUNESTONE.ORG**

Ryan Fenton



Apprentice Folkbuilder
rfenton@runestone.org

Upcoming Events



Date: September 7, 2024

Time: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Erie County, PA

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.



Date: August 24, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: Erie County PA

Please join Witan and Gythia Erickson at our home to worship Lord Freyr!



Witan Clifford Erickson
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Sweden

Midsummer in Sweden



This Midsummer celebration was a good one. One shared with way too many mosquitos. But we have been due a mosquito-summer for some years now. The swallows and wagtails are some of the other beings we share our part of the world with that are surely enjoying it!

We managed to pick a weekend without rain to exchange gifts with Lord Baldr. Whilst the reality of winter is encroaching (though far away for now), I do my best to ensure

our family savors the magical moments of summer to the best of our abilities. This time of light, of life, and of joy.



Make sure to savor the good moments in life. Cherish the time with the Folk. Laugh together and support each other and the AFA. We can, and shall, overcome all the struggles life will throw at us.

Hail Lord Baldr!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Summer song: Fattig Bonddräng, by Astrid Lindgren



During Summertime, there are many songs I like to sing whilst outside enjoying the sun and warmth. This is one of the ones I like to sing the most. It reminds me that despite all the trials and tribulations one encounters in life, hey, we are still alive!

Navigate to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuIX1grFLpY> to hear the song in Swedish, the lyrics in Swedish are provided in the video description.



Summer song: Fattig Bonddräng, by Astrid Lindgren

*I am a poor farmhand but I live despite that
Days come and go while I labor
Harrowing, sowing and plowing, clearing the dung, and carrying
Going behind my oxen, shouting, whistling, and cursing*

*I am a poor farmhand and I chew on my snuff
And when Saturday comes I want to drink
Then when I've gotten lively I'll want to fight someone
I'll also want to rest with a girl of course*

Then Sunday comes, and then our priest wants me

*To attend church but I usually sleep instead
The priest can sleep the Monday away but
For a poor farmhand laboring starts anew*

*And so goes the week all days, all years
I go with my scythe and I plow and I sow
I command my oxen and I harvest my hay
Harrowing, laboring, and slaving away, and eventually, I'll die*

*There stands the poor farmhand before heavens gate
I am a bit scared and sad about all the sins I have committed
One should not drink, be with girls, and fight
The Lord, God in heaven, is disappointed of course*

*But the says the Lord: Poor farmhand, come here!
I have seen your dedication and your unending toil
That's why, poor farmhand, why you are welcome here
That is why, poor farmhand, you shall be close to me*

*And I, poor farmhand, stand so still before God
And then he dresses me in the whitest of shrouds
Now you, say the Lord, is your work at an end
Now you, poor farmhand, you get to rest*

Upcoming Events



Fika Fridays:
26th of July

Come and have a warm cup of coffee with the Lugnets!



Sigrblot:
27th of July

Come and let us give Blót to Victory!



Erik Lugnet
Apprentice Folkbuilder
elugnet@runestone.org

Tennessee

Appalachian Midsummer



The seeds of Frith and connection are flourishing in the soil of Appalachia. Our community is growing stronger and getting together on a regular basis. The sun shines on our growth. However, the sun was not shining the day we celebrated Midsummer. It was overcast the day we got together to celebrate the return of Baldr. Having come off a larger festival for May Day, it was a smaller and more intimate group that met for Midsummer. We grilled all kinds of delicious food and spent an afternoon just chatting. It is these moments of calm and mundane, the sharing of a meal and talking about our lives that allows us to know each other intimately. This is done while intentionally getting together for blot - all that we are doing in building a community is under the banner of Folk and the Gods. We are not just a church that shows up to the local building. We are purposefully fertilizing a dream of a better life, one of connection, reverence and a future for our children. Strangely, a couple of us were out of sorts and wondering if we were in the right headspace to have a meaningful blot. But we did and it was good. There was less plan and more speaking from the heart, it was recognizing this turn in the year, as we rotate from stage to stage and the cycle moves forward. It was beautiful and refreshingly cool, not the smothering heat expected in June. The breeze blew through as we burned our sun wheel and a lovely and grateful sumbel was held afterward. As is always the case, it was so hard to end - we truly enjoy each other's company so much. Plans were made for later in the summer. Freyfaxi will be an epic kindred camping and tubing trip. We are joyful in the sun and fertility of our Folk. Hail Sunna! Hail Baldr!

— Rachel Kinsler, member

Upcoming Events





Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

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