



Þórshof
Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.thorshof.com

March 2025

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Words from the Allsherjargoði



In the month of March, we honor the conquering dawn goddess of our Folk, Austrá (Ostara/Easter). Austrá's cleansing light is unstoppable. Rising in the east, her radiance spreads across land and sea, darkness flees from her presence. Spring is a time for

cleansing and renewal. Now is an auspicious time to clean your home, clean your heart, and clean your mind. Cast out that which is clutter, that which is dark and that which is unworthy of pride. We all build up grudges, resentments, bad habits, things which distract us, and things which drag us down hindering our ascend. Cleanse yourself of all that is unworthy and useless. Reach up towards your highest potential. Greet the dawning of spring unburdened and with a heart of joy!

I am eager to see you all at Þórshof as we honor our dawn goddess. This is always such a great event and our Þórshof Folk are truly some of our very best. Wherever you are, as the season turns, honor Austra with your Folk and with your family. Take the time to let the light in and embrace the spring refreshed.

Hail Austra!

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the AFA!

Announcements, News, & Noteworthy

- 2/22/25 - Alexander Casto took his oath as a Folkbuilder for the Asatru Folk Assembly



Matthew D. Flavel

Allsherjargoði, Asatru Folk Assembly

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Words from our Goðar

Declaration of Purpose V



V. The promotion of true diversity among the peoples and cultures of the Earth

The world is not one uniform, unvarying mass. All peoples are, and by right ought to be, distinct and unique. Each and every culture should relish those differences and be free to work out their own destinies. Only in our uniqueness can our respective Gods fully manifest. The AFA supports the efforts of all cultural and biological groups to maintain their identity and opposes the cultural Marxists who would reduce all of humanity to an indistinguishable gray mass.

One of the most valuable assets this world has is and always has been a wide variety of species and cultures that make them all unique. This uniqueness makes each race and culture important in its own regard and at a macro level. Each race ought to be able to relish their origins and unique spirituality. In this, the preservation of these individual cultures and their origins must be at the forethought of our minds in each and every race. Our origins are much like a tree. You can cut the branches and survival is likely, but destruction of the roots means the end. And so, it is with us. We must nurture the roots of our people, speak of their deeds, and invite those honored ancestors into our lives.

We are meant to honor and be proud of our ancestry and the individual unambiguous racial identity our forebears held in the highest regard. A grey culture of no note or history is the destruction of all significance each race has brought to this world and still carries with it.

Fight against the ambiguity and destruction of your race and your people. Wake and be

proud of your heritage. It is unique, and our true diversity must persevere now and in generations to come.



Goði Nathan Erlandson
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On Blótferð and Bucket Lists



On Blótferð and Bucket Lists w/ Gyðja Sheila McNallen
<https://youtu.be/60tOZRIL0Rs>

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Ásatrú Trúlgmál



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

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

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

Hail the Heroes of Ásatrú that paved the way!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Hail the Æsir!



Matthew D. Flavel

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The Quest for Freyshof

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

– Gylfaginning



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

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 \$52,895 on our remaining loan.
- We need to raise our monthly donation average by 9.3%.
 - This is membership donations and 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





April 26th
Hexennacht at Sigrheim



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

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

Með vitaní, vinna Sigr



Through knowledge, victory!

Check out the Ásatrú Academy at AsatruAcademy.org



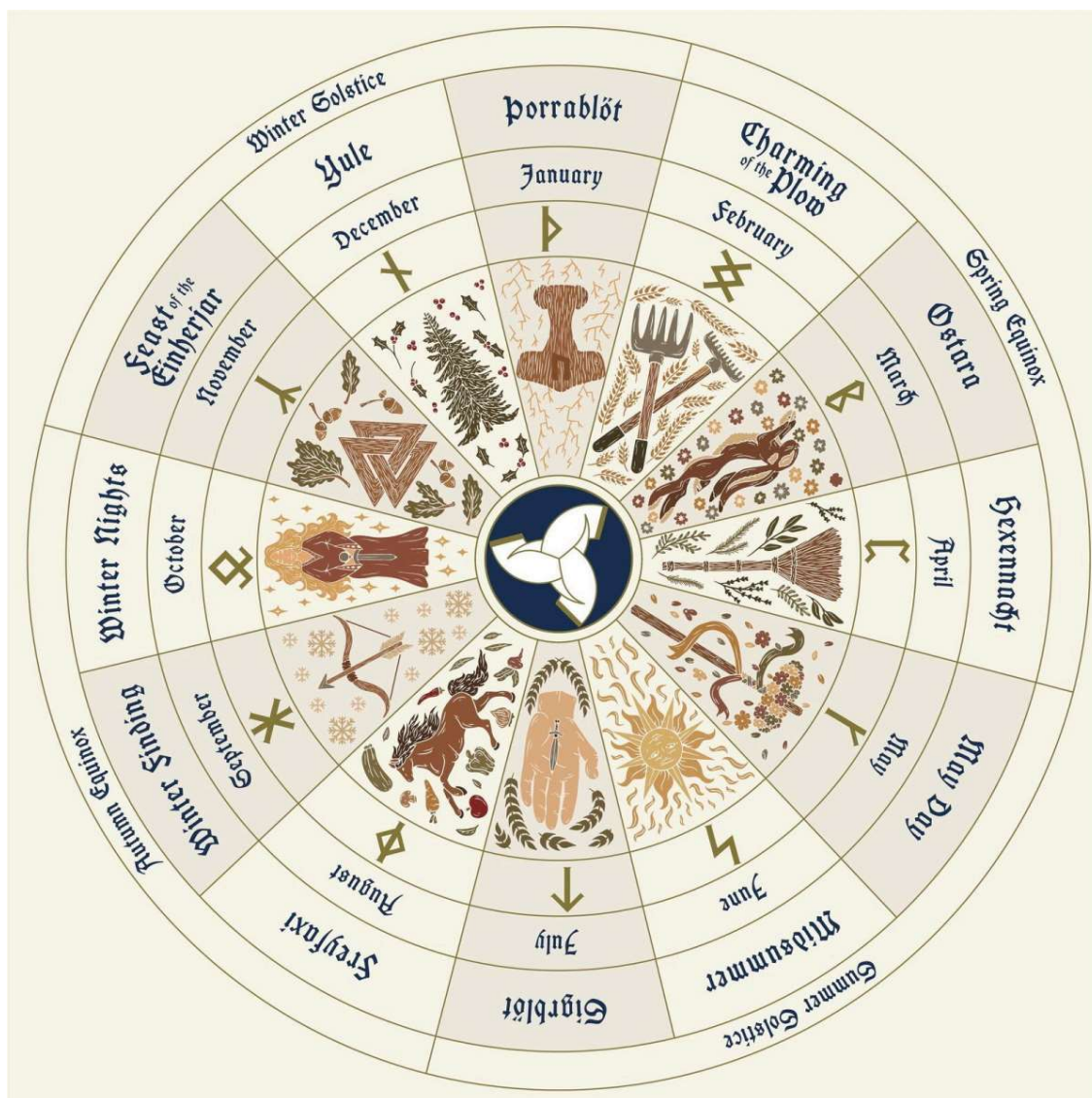


For many people, even though February is the shortest month, it is the longest slog to get to the finish line of winter. Months of darkness, cooped up indoors, the continuous cycle of germs... only to be hit with yet another snowstorm, is enough to try anyone's patience. At the end of February, seven planets have aligned for a wondrous celestial event. Cold months make for the clearest skies. Spring does come, though. The days are longer, about two more minutes every day. We have just celebrated Charming of the Plow which is the beginning of the garden rituals. The daffodils begin to poke through. Be heartened and refreshed. It can be so easy to get into those doldrums and have the cozy winter education time become stale. This is an opportunity to start some seedlings indoors, to search for new buds on the trees. There is so much variation across our vast country as to when these signs appear. Enjoy the transition as the world wakes up again and inject that fresh energy into homeschooling. Make the most of the last days of bread-making and snowmen and think ahead to coming projects. Spring is coming! The Goddess of the Dawn approaches!



Rachel Kinsler
Homeschooling Coach, Ásatrú Academy
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Remembrance & Holy Days



[Holy Days | Asatru Folk Assembly](#)

- > January 9 - Goði Rauðr 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 - Goði Ölvir 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) <

March



Day of Remembrance

Goði Ölvir of Egg | March 9th



Goði Ölvir of Egg, who lived in the early 11th century and died in 1021, was a Goði in the region of Trondheim, Norway. Since this story takes place 20 years after Olaf Tryggvason was deposed, Christianization was all but complete in Norway. The Norwegians still remaining faithful to the Æsir did so in secrecy, as they would be tortured and killed if they were discovered.

King Olaf II of Norway, often referred to as “Saint Olaf,” began to hear rumors of Ásatrú gatherings in Ölvir's region of Trondheim. As the Goði of the area, Ölvir was sent to appear before the king and explain himself on two separate occasions. Both times, he carefully convinced Olaf that these were not Ásatrú gatherings, but simply great feasts and secular community events. Olaf appeared convinced, but told some of his spies to keep an eye on Trondheim and Ölvir.

Olaf's spies later informed him that an Ostara gathering was being prepared in Trondheim, and the king had heard enough. He set out with five ships and 300 men towards Trondheim. They arrived in the dark, and successfully ambushed Ölvir and all of his Folk brave enough to have kept their Troth to the Æsir. Ölvir and many of his people were tortured and killed, stamping out Ásatrú for the next 900 years.

Ölvir's story is inspiring in a way different than those of Goði Rauðr the Strong or King Redbad of Frisia. Ölvir unfortunately had to hide his people's love and worship of the Æsir, and he had to lie to Olaf for the good of his Folk. Since our Folk have always been a noble people, we do not like to be dishonest or hear that our heroes have ever been dishonest. However, it's important to remember that the Hávamál tells us to repay kindness with kindness, but to also repay treachery with treachery.

Ölvir was not deceiving a friend, or even a good man, but a despotic king pushing a foreign faith on his own subjects. Ölvir lied for the good of his Folk, and for their dedication to the Æsir, and would then go right back to being proudly Ásatrú and officiating rituals for his community. His piety and devotion never wavered, and even when hiding his Ásatrú from the murderous king, he adhered to advice given to us by the All-Father.

Let this tale be an inspiring one to all of our Folk, so that we may be Ásatrú even when it's inconvenient!

Hail Goði Ölvir of Egg!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Holiday

Ostara | March 20th



Observed March 15th

Hail Ostara, conquering Goddess of the Dawn, radiant Lady of Spring! You ride boldly out of the east, conquering all before you! May your light chase away the darkness! May your warmth banish the cold!

Ostara is the celebration marking the beginning of Spring. The cold, dreary days of winter are finally coming to an end. The sun is warming the frozen soil. Life is once stirring from the depths. Ostara is a celebration in every way. Our ancestors celebrated life and the survival of another long winter. They celebrated the birth of lambs, calves, and horses. They celebrated the blossoming fertility of the world around them.

In today's fast and hectic world now is a good time to stop and take a deep breath. Let the sun warm your face and take the time to thank the Gods and the Ancestors for seeing you through another cold winter. Shake off the influences of the winter blues. Now is the time to get your hands dirty.

The small plot of the garden that you planned for during the Charming of the Plow is almost ready for planting. Keep that soil turned and soft. Keep fertilizing it. It is too cold to plant seeds directly into the ground, but this is a good time to begin your seeds inside. Plant them and keep them warm. Set yourself up for success. If you are not working on a garden then you should be moving from the planning stages of your Charming of the Plow project into the beginning of the active stages. The winter months are stationary by nature, but winter is over. Now it is time to leave the introspection in favor of action. With industriousness, we can change the world. Start small and move always onward.

Upcoming National Event

Ostara at Þórshof | March 21st – 23rd



It's that time of year again, a time of renewal, of regeneration, a time to renew and rekindle the flame. Ostara at Þórshof will be held on March 21-23, and this year we want it to be bigger than ever. Expect to see the Allsherjargoði, Matthew Flavel, Lawspeaker Allen Turnage, AFA Witan members Cliff Erickson, Svan Herul, and myself, Daniel Young. Goðar Trent East and Bodi Mayo, and Gyðja Catie Erickson will also be in attendance.

Planned speakers are Lawspeaker Allen Turnage, who will be speaking on the importance of financial excellence, Goði Bodi Mayo and Witan Herul will also be telling stories for the kids and adults. Folkbuilder Nick Rice will be giving a presentation on Alexander Rud Mills, and Gyðja-Apprentice Heather Young will be hosting a ladies group.

All meals will be covered for each ticket bought; kids are free. Please register as soon as possible so we can properly plan for meals.

This is my favorite time of year, when the Earth begins to turn green again, the mornings are crisp, and the day begins to get warmer. I look forward to seeing you all as we celebrate the return of Spring, the renewal of life, and the breaking dawn.

Hail Ostara!



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

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Midsummer at Óðinshof | June 27th – 29th





Gyðja Sheila McNallen

sheila@runestone.org

Charming of the Plow - A Recap



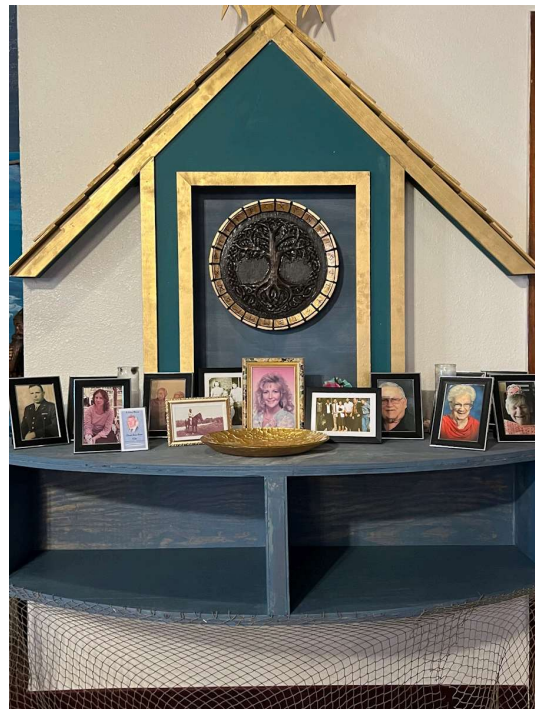
Charming of the Plow at Njörðshof 2025

<https://youtu.be/wXuQhE7vfzI>

Njörðshof's national event was a huge success! I would like to thank my local leadership and much of the Florida membership for their unwavering support in making our Hof and District shine so bright: Goði Bodi Mayo, the Lawspeaker, Folkbuilder Alexander Casto, Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman from Óðinshof, Folkbuilder Jordan Wells, Kristy Rogers, Folkbuilder Tracy Adler, Nick & Pam McCloskey, the Flavels, the Ericksons, and the McNallens!



Here's a brief summary of everything you missed if you were not able to attend this spectacular event!



Thursday- leadership arrived at the Hof to put the finishing touches on a few things, such as the Ancestor and Heilagmaðr altars. We also did some minor cleaning in preparation for people's arrival on Friday.



Friday- yours truly led the Folk in our traditional event-opening Greeting of the Æsir Blót. This was followed by a lore and song recitation featuring the talents of the Lawspeaker, Witan Erickson, and Jordan Wells. We then had a delicious dinner prepared by Sierra Chapman and Pam McCloskey. The first night of the event was closed out by the Allsherjargoði performing a powerful Blót to Lord Njörðr!



Saturday- we arrived for breakfast, followed by a Gefjon Blót led by Gyðja Anna Plourde. After this, our founder Stephen McNallen gave a talk on his history and the founding of the AFA. This was followed by lunch, and then a Q&A panel with all of the clergy in attendance. Next, the Lawspeaker led the Folk in a Blót to Holy Freyr and blessed the plow, as well as blessing the tools and hands of the Folk.



Following this central event, the Allsherjargoði asked Alexander Casto if he would like to swear his Oath to the Asatru Folk Assembly, and he gave his Oath gladly! Next, the men and women separated to do their respective activities. The women held a baby shower for my wife, which we are so thankful for. Meanwhile, I led the men in ushering a boy onto the path of manhood. I gifted him an arm ring that I've had for nine years,

and the Lawspeaker gifted him a knife. Every man present shook his hand and gave him advice, and then we put him to work by having him burn some fallen trees, demonstrating that our men work for the Folk! Afterwards, we all sat down to an amazing dinner prepared by Pam McCloskey and her excellent team. This was followed by a great auction, and a very meaningful High Sumbel.



Sunday- we gathered for breakfast, and a very motivational Blót to Lord Þórr by Goði Bodi Mayo. We then said our "southern goodbyes," taking much longer than we needed to while bidding farewell to friends from all over the country. My wife and I joined the Flavels, Ericksons, Sierra, and Alexander in St. Augustine for dinner before heading back north to Georgia, and that was the end of our event!



Thanks again to my whole team here at Njörðshof, as well as Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman, for making this event our best one yet! If you've read this article and would like to experience one of these national events, you are in luck because Ostara at Þórshof is a few weeks away! March 21-23 in Linden, North Carolina! Contact any AFA leadership to get tickets for this amazing event!



Goði Trent East

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Gothar Spotlight



Goði Nathan Erlandson
Folkbuilder Coordinator
Ordained Freyfaxi 2023
Mentored by Witan Daniel Young

I can define Goði Nathan Erlandson with 3 words. Driven, committed, and most of all, loyal. Nathan's journey has been a whirlwind of success, hard work, and a stubborn determination to achieve more than yesterday. Not one to ever rest on his laurels, Nathan is always fighting for the best way for us all to succeed, always willing to try something new.

Nathan began his journey after joining the Asatru Folk Assembly in 2020, taking his Folkbuilder Oath on Midsummer in 2021. But he wasn't finished. He had more yet to

do, more to accomplish, more to contribute.



Nathan was a natural fit for our clergy program. Though his path had its obstacles. I began to mentor Nathan after Winter Nights in 2021. He and I didn't really know each other, but after some time, and earning each other's trust, we became good friends. One thing I noticed right away was how determined Nathan is. A deep thinker, a man that leads from the front. He was and remains heavily involved in the management of his Hof district and is often involved in Hof projects. In 2023, Nathan emerged as one of our most dependable leaders in the AFA.

I was scheduled to fly to Baldrshof for Freyfaxi in 2023, but a health scare kept me from being there. At least in person. Nathan had taken his Ordination Oath there, and though I couldn't be there in person, I was watching via video chat and there were a few tears shed as I watched him don his stole.



Nathan has gone on to be appointed to his position of Folkbuilder Coordinator, an easy decision by our Allsherjargoði. When the topic came up in a Witan meeting, no other

names were even considered. It was clear to all of us that Nathan was the right man for the job.

Goði Erlandson is a top 5 hardest working person in AFA leadership. I have a feeling he is a long way from being finished. We're better with him at our side. I am proud of his accomplishments as a Goði and a man, but I'm most happy to call him my friend.

Hail Goði Nathan Erlandson!



Witan Daniel Young

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Folkbuilder Spotlight

Thank you Sr. Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher



March 2025 marks Sr. Folkbuilder Gallagher's 14th year in the Asatru Folk Assembly! Happy AFA-nniversary!

For those who know Jason, you already know that he is the heart and soul of Baldrshof district. There were very few people who were more instrumental into making Baldrshof: Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly a reality. His dedication to making Ásatrú accessible to his Folk and tirelessly helping to bring his Folk home has shown his deep devotion to his church and the Æsir.

The collage consists of 18 individual photographs:

- Top Row:**
 - A man and a woman smiling for a selfie outdoors.
 - A man in a blue shirt interacting with a young child outdoors.
 - A person wearing a large, red and black costume mask with a white beard, standing indoors.
- Second Row:**
 - Two men standing indoors, one in a blue vest and the other in a black vest.
 - Three men sitting at a table indoors.
 - A man in a blue vest standing indoors.
- Third Row:**
 - A man with a beard and glasses standing indoors.
 - A man in a red shirt and black vest standing in front of a blue and white circular backdrop.
 - A man in a blue vest standing indoors.
- Fourth Row:**
 - A woman and a man standing indoors.
 - A man in a red shirt and black vest standing indoors.
 - A woman and a man standing indoors.
- Fifth Row:**
 - A man in a blue shirt standing outdoors next to a large wooden carving.
 - A man in a black shirt making a hand gesture indoors.
 - A man in a blue shirt standing on a beach holding a red flag.
- Sixth Row:**
 - A man in a blue shirt standing indoors.
 - A man in a blue shirt and a woman in a car.

— Győja Anna Plourde, Florida

Jason Gallagher is a great friend, always doing what he can to lift our spirits up. His love for the Æsir, his Folk, and the AFA shows no bounds. Jason Gallagher is one of the most hospitable Folk and has a great sense of humor.

— Folkbuilder Chris McDowell, Iowa

Of all the most recognizable faces of the AFA, until last summer I had met all of them except Jason Gallagher. My family had the privilege to attend Freyfaxi at Baldrshof and we finally got to meet him. And he did not disappoint. Jason is one of the most dedicated, loyal members of the Asatru Folk Assembly. He is charisma personified. His wit, charm and enthusiasm is unmatched in our community and he is one of my favorite members. I am happy to call him my friend and my brother. From being at the food pantry to being the guy who reaches out....Jason is as dependable as they come. Strange thing... he is never around when the Masked Folker shows up....coincidence?

— Witan Daniel Young, South Carolina



Jason Gallagher is a constant source of positivity, a living embodiment of Hávamál Stanza 69- joyous in life and brave in duty. You would be hard-pressed to find anyone who dislikes Baldrshof's Senior Folkbuilder.

— Goði Trent East, Georgia

Jason Gallagher is the epitome of reliability, dedication to his Folk, the Æsir, and unwavering loyalty. As a Folkbuilder for the AFA, Jason's dedication and loyalty, work ethic and piety is the example for others to follow.

— Goði Nathan Erlandson, Minnesota

Jason Gallagher is a true testament to the power of perseverance. Despite the constant pain he endures, he faces each day with unwavering strength and determination. His dedication to our Gods is profound, as he embraces their teachings to navigate life's challenges and uplift those around him. Jason's commitment to his Folk is equally inspiring; he fosters a sense of community and belonging that brings us all closer together. I am incredibly proud to call him my brother.

— Folkbuilder Bruce Perron, Wisconsin

My friend Jason Gallagher: Long before I met him in person, he was an AFA legend.

The awesome guy up in Minnesota who has been a member forever. Jason has been a stalwart AFA fixture in this area for a long time. Always quick with a joke, a smile, and always wanting to help. Jason is one of the most hospitable people you will ever meet. When he is at Baldrshof, the whole place shines brighter. He has great taste in music too!

— Goði Rob Stamm, Iowa

Jason Gallagher; the OG, the endlessly pursuant seeker of the Masked Folker: my first point of contact with the AFA in 2020. My Folk soul was on fire and begging to find home. When I did, he didn't miss a beat, and within 20 minutes, we were on the phone, and I was becoming a member; and he was just as excited as I was. That passion and intent is not something that can be taught, it is simply something that is or is not. Jason is one of the most resilient, humble, and supportive beings I have ever had the honor of knowing. My children gravitate toward him, they can feel is sense of wonder encompassed in a cloak of security and protection. I am so proud to have this man as a friend and am honored to call him my brother. Hail Jason

Gallagher!

— Folkbuilder Ashley Erlandson, Minnesota



Jason Gallagher is Legend. Before the Hof was, there were gatherings for the Holy Tides at Mr. Gallagher's house in Minnesota. It was at one of these gatherings that I met that man who would become one of my closest friends. He is famous for his warm hospitality. Many, including myself, have come home to the AFA because of him. Jason is the definition of what a Folkbuilder should be. I don't bestow the title of Brother lightly, but I am so incredibly blessed to call this man my Brother.

— Folkbuilder Sara Ault, Wisconsin

Well, I've known Jason Gallagher the better part of a decade now and he's been nothing but steadfast and honorable - and he's been the only Folkbuilder that I've ever needed. He is 100% dedicated to the AFA that is for sure and you really couldn't ask for a better guy! He's a good man and as a friend - loyal to the end. Hail Jason

Gallagher!!
— Bo, member, Minnesota



Witan Brandy Fassett
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A Folk Services Campaign

Be a Doer



We need you to volunteer for the AFA!

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

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

Baby Blanket Project

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

This project has been going strong since 2020 and has been a resounding success! The Ladies of the AFA have knitted, crocheted, and sewn beautiful baby blankets for over 120 of our littlest folk, with more on the way. They've been delivered everywhere from Alaska to Florida to California to Sweden!

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



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

Folk Services



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

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

month, imagine the possibilities!

AFA Folk Services is intended to provide modest, one-time monetary grants to AFA members in dire need of basic services. It is also to be a source for referrals and information to help members get help beyond what the AFA can directly provide. For more information, please email folkservices@runestone.org.

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

Thanks in advance!

Photo Donations

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



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

Eir's Blessings



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

Do you have a health concern and need a little extra energy? Are you battling with a mental illness like depression or PTSD? Is your baby having a hard time

with teething? If you've answered yes at all, reach out to us. Once a month women of the AFA will get together to perform healing rituals all across the globe. If you would like to be included, please send a message to let us know!

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

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

Last Will and Testament

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



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

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

Please make your will **today**.

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

Allen Turnage
PO Box 16027
Tallahassee FL, 32317



Witan Allen Turnage
aturnage@runestone.org

AFA Prison Ministry



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

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

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

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

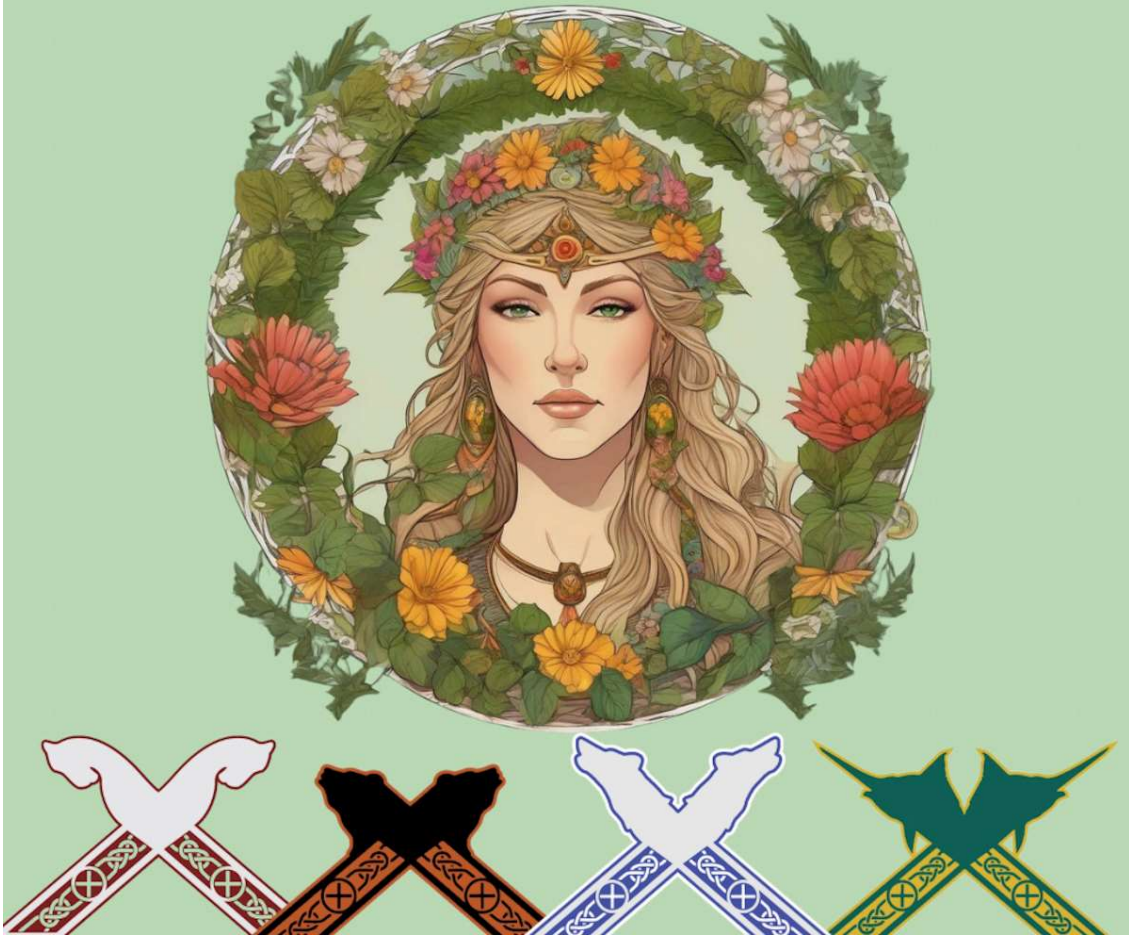
If you have a loved one who is incarcerated or know of someone who is Folkish and will benefit from this ministry, please contact us at prisonministry@runestone.org.



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

Ancestral Food and Culture

Feasting with Folk



This month, I am featuring two recipes. One from Folkuilder Ryan Harlan and his wife Rachel out of Óðinshof district, and one from Þórshof member Angela Gurrisi.

Folkuilder Ryan Harlan's Venison Steak Smothered in Onions



- 2lbs venison steak, cut 1 inch thick
- 2 large onions, sliced
- Flour, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, pepper, paprika
- Butter and oil to sauté onions
- Sliced mushrooms
- 1 cup water
- Beef bouillon
- Worcestershire sauce

Roll steaks in seasoned flour. Heat butter and oil in heavy skillet. Sauté onions in butter and oil. Add mushrooms and sauté until soft. Set aside. Brown meat on both sides, cooking until medium-rare. Let rest. Add 2 heaped teaspoons of flour to juice in pan to make a roux. Add bouillon to make a gravy. Season to taste. Add few dashes of Worcestershire sauce. Add mushrooms and onions to the gravy. Serve on or with your steaks.

Angela Gurrisi's Great Grandma Smith's Krum Kaka



Angela sent me her grandmother's recipe book and the cover written in sharpie said page 13!! I scroll over to page 13 and there are notes all around this recipe saying, "This is the one!" So, I figure what better recipe to share than one that brings excitement! I will attach a photo of Krum Kaka and will be attempting this later this month.

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup flour
- 1tsp vanilla
- 1 cup cornstarch
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1/3 cup cream

Tools:

- Krum Kaka iron (for authenticity but I'm sure if you had something similar it would work just the same)
- wooden dowl for rolling once cooked

Begin by beating 4 eggs, 1 cup sugar and vanilla together. Once creamed add in 1/2 cup butter and 1/4 cup cream until combined. In a separate bowl, sift 1 cup flour and 1 cup cornstarch. Slowly add into mixture beating until fully incorporated.

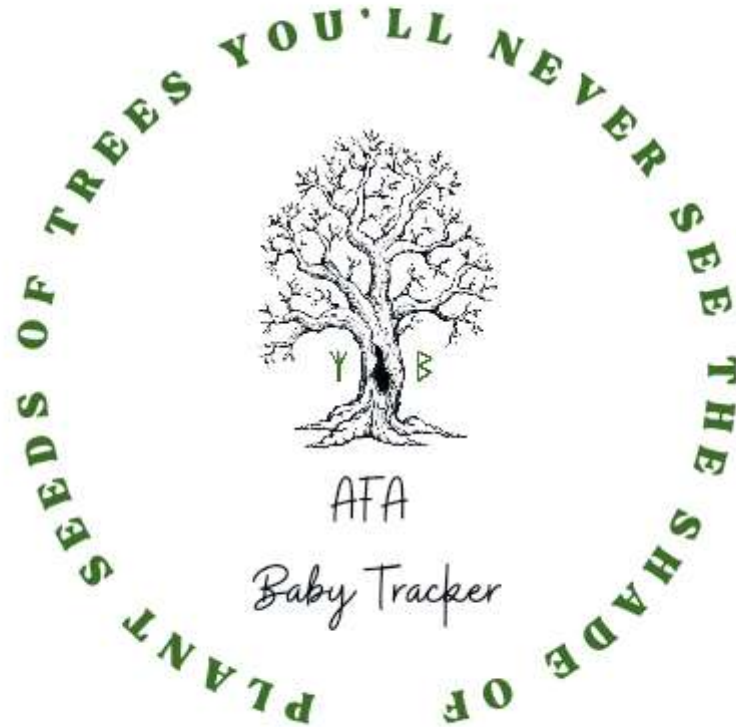
Drop large teaspoon full onto iron and let cook. Ensure iron does not get too hot. Once cooked remove from heat and use wooden dowel to roll into shape whilst still hot. Fill with whatever you desire; whipped cream and fruit seeming to be the most common. Enjoy!



Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman

schapman@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 2025: 3

Online Events and Meetings

VIRTUE RECOVERY MEETING



THURSDAY 7PM CST
(5PM PST, 8PM EST)

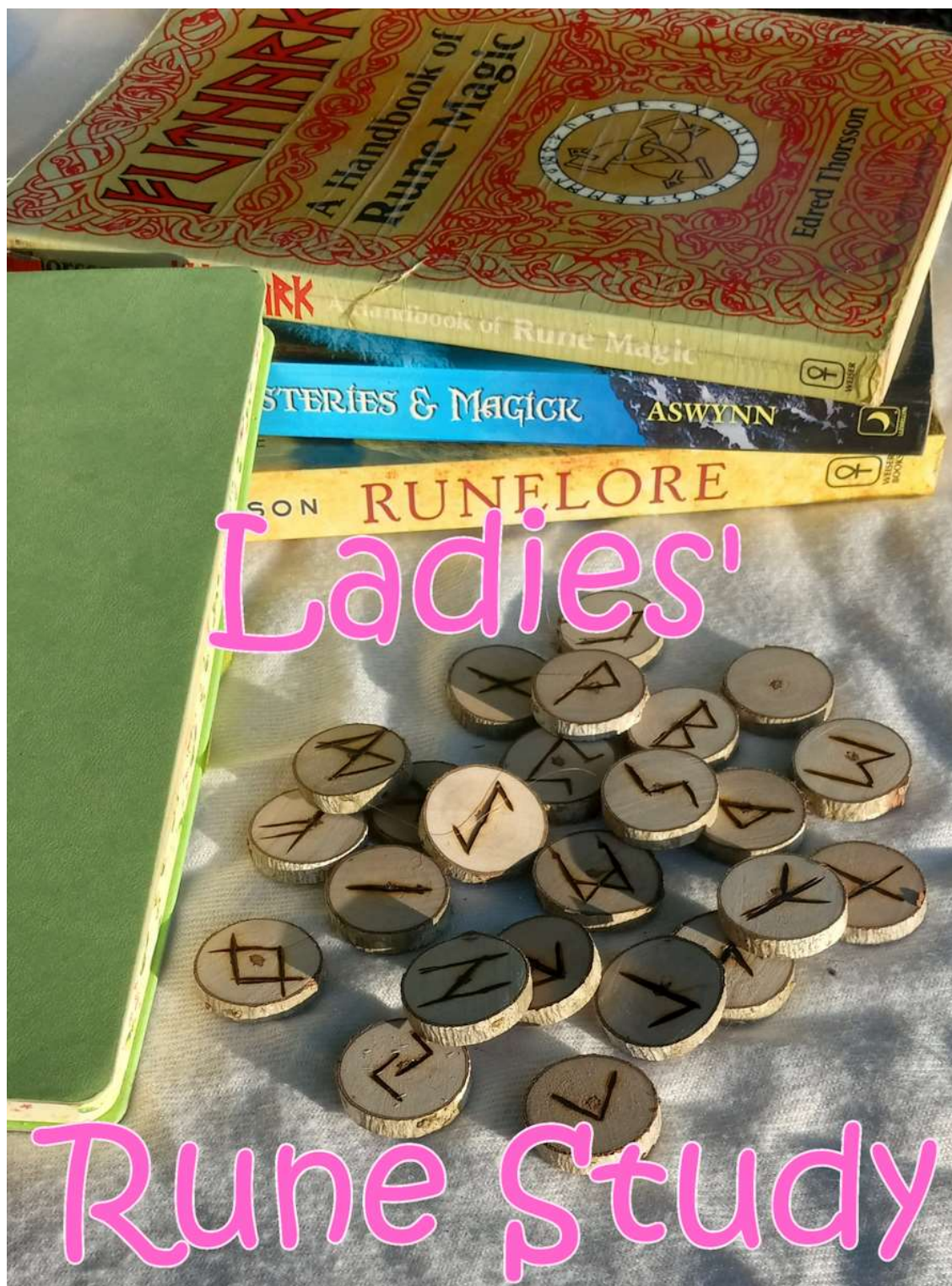
Being our most virtuous selves is not always the easiest task. As a community, we are home to many that have or are currently, struggling with addiction. Many traditional 12 step meeting, though so very respected, do not fall in line with what we as a people believe. Specifically, any step pertaining to the divine will or requesting the removal of any shortcomings. So, we run what we are calling the Virtue Recovery Meeting. Since we are an international organization, the best way for us to do this is 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

SISTERS SUNDAY CHATS



Second and fourth Sunday of the month
10 am central

FOR MORE INFO: BFASSETT@RUNESTONE.ORG



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

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

I hope to see you there!

Lore Study with Gothi Jason Plourde

Join us every Tuesday night

at

6:00 pm EST

5:00 pm CST

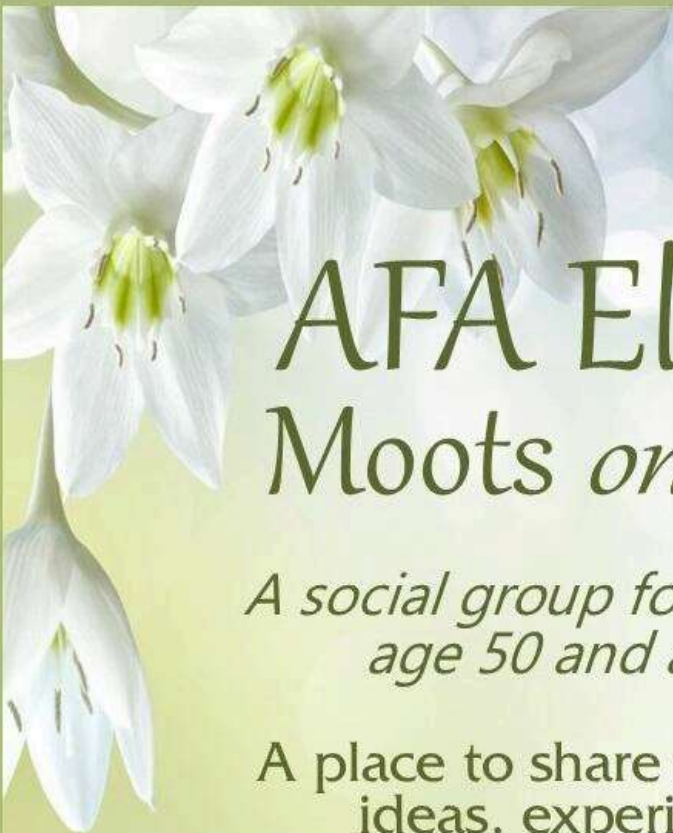
4:00 pm MST

3:00 pm PST

2:00 pm AKST

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

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



AFA Eldri Moots *on Teams*

*A social group for members
age 50 and above.*

A place to share memories,
ideas, experiences,
and the joys of life ~
in caring conversation.

Tuesday

5:00 PT, 6:00 MT, 7:00 CT, 8:00 ET

March 18th

Hosted by Gythia Sheila McNallen

McNallens Pub

a virtual meetup
at our home and yours

Friday, March 21st

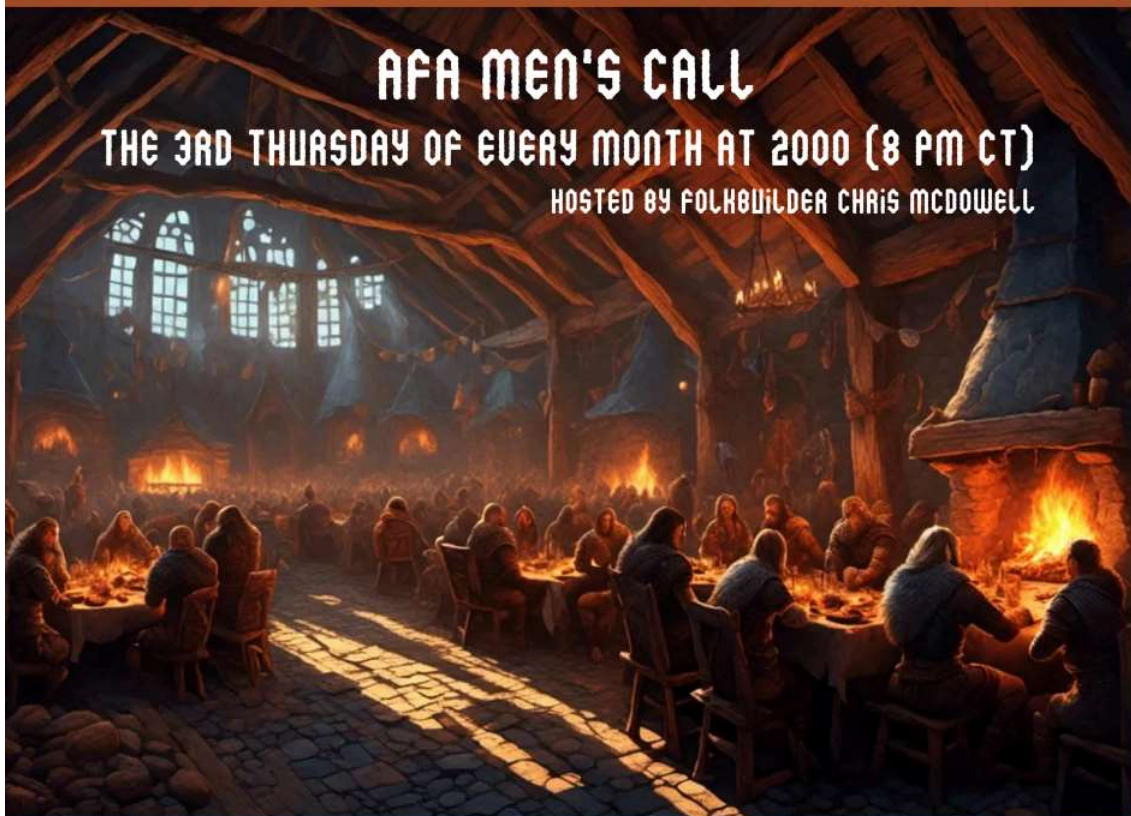
6:00 PT, 7:00 MT, 8:00 CT, 9:00 ET

Topic: Folk Music Memories

AFA MEN'S CALL

THE 3RD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 2000 (8 PM CT)

HOSTED BY FOLKSBUILDER CHRIS MCDOWELL




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

Just for Fun

Ostara

Spring Fun!

Spring is Everywhere!



Signs of spring have sprung out everywhere, in the water, ground and in the air!

Read the clues to fill in the signs of spring:

In the Air

breeze
baseball
umbrella

In the Ground

marbles
flowers
nest
caterpillar
buds
green
grass

In the Water

tadpole
sprinklers
watering
fishing
puddles
blooms
turtles
melt
flooding

1. wind riding toy
2. feathered fliers
3. rain protector
4. light wind
5. America's pastime
6. arch of colors
7. color beyond the clouds
8. bright energy for plants
9. wet "gift" from clouds
10. strong breeze, gust

1. plants with petals
2. butterfly before transformation
3. flavor of syrup cooked from tree sap
4. classic game to play on the dirt
5. shelled protection for baby animals
6. home for birds
7. color of new plant growth
8. blades of these carpet yards
9. parts on a stem or branch where petals start
10. parts of a plant that can grow into a new plant

1. snow, ice change into liquid
2. casting a lure into the river
3. wear boots and step in these
4. don't track _____ into the house
5. shelled amphibians come out from hibernation
6. splash water onto your flowers, vegetables, grass
7. many rivers and streams overflow, causing _____
8. ocean plants gather to form groupings called _____
9. a _____ can is used to spray flowers
10. baby frog before it grows legs

Feel free to send completed puzzles to press@runestone.org for a shout-out in the next issue!

AFA Church Ladies

AFA Church Ladies Meeting

Sunday, March 9th

Sunday, March 16th

10 am central

Link will be posted in the
AFA Ladies Group on MeWe



If you are one of our lovely AFA Ladies who would enjoy volunteering to work on various projects for the AFA while socializing with your sisters, please consider joining the AFA Church Ladies Group! We have several volunteer needs ranging from transcription and administrative, to building activities for our youth! Please contact Witan Fassett at bfassett@runestone.org if you have any questions or would like to be part of this wonderful group of Church Ladies!



Witan Brandy Fassett

bfassett@runestone.org

Sister's Egg Project



It is time once again to begin our Sister's Egg group exercise and practice. We encourage all our AFA ladies to participate. Bringing women home to the AFA is the focus of this exercise and project.



- Step 1: Hollow out an egg. Small hole in the top, larger hole in the bottom. Blow out the inside of the egg. Rinse out well and let dry.
- Step 2: Decorate the egg with imagery you associate with the AFA and our sisters. This can be as simple or as intricate as you choose. Galdr, chant, or sing a rune or sequence of runes as you do this. The Folk Kom Hem chant would also be appropriate.
- Step 3: Write the goal you wish to manifest in this case, "Sisters, come home" on to a piece of paper that you can roll up and place inside the egg. Meditate with this intention in your hands, see your sister's coming home to the AFA. When done, roll up and place inside the egg.
- Step 4: Fill this egg with herbs, flowers, or other things you feel appropriate. I will be using dried roses, crushed pine incense, rosemary, and lavender. Use what works well for you!
- Step 5: Seal the egg. Using glue and small piece of cartstock, cardboard or even a coin, seal up the bottom of the egg.
- Step 6: Create a sacred "nest" or designated place on your Altar for this work.
- Step 7: Each day, hold the egg (or the nest if you choose to do several) and sit with this work. Focus your energy and will on the success of each goal. See the process of it happening to successful completion.
- Step 8: During your May Day celebration, crack open this egg and offer it to the ritual fire (bury in offering space if fire option is not available). Release your intention and will that you have grown and nurtured into Midgard.

Our start date to officially do this as a group is March 9th and the "hatching" of our sister's egg will be May 1st. Please post pictures of your eggs in the Ladies Group on

Mewe or send to sault@runestone.org.



Folkbuilder Sara Ault

sault@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

MERCH DROP



AFA and Hof Flags, In Stock Now, [Runestone.org/store](https://runestone.org/store)



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Þórshof

Food Pantry at Þórshof



We held our monthly Food Pantry earlier in the day before our Charming of the Plow festivities, and as always, the Herul Family and local membership gave of their time and efforts to bring a semblance of relief to those who needed it.



Witan Daniel Young
dyoung@runestone.org

Charming of the Plow at Þórshof



This month we celebrated Charming the Plow at Þórshof, the Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly. We had a small but intimate group, who gathered to celebrate Freyr and Gerð. As has become tradition across the AFA, we blessed the tools of trade with the Folk, along with the Plow. Witan Herul cut a furrow in the earth behind the Hof, and in it, offerings and goals for the coming year were planted. This tradition has taken root at every Hof in the Asatru Folk Assembly. When you celebrate this holiday, cut a furrow into the ground, offer mead, ale, bread, or whatever you want to. But also, write your goals for the year on small pieces of paper, and plant those into the furrow. Cover it back up while chanting the rune INGWAZ. The rune of encapsulation, the rune of hidden potential. Now it's up to you to fulfill those goals, and share those accomplishments at Freyfaxi, the first Harvest Blót.

It was a beautiful day, filled with good company, joyful children, delicious food, and meaningful time spent with the Folk and our Gods.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at Ostara this month, held on March 21-23 at Þórshof, the Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly.



Witan Daniel Young

dyoung@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Þórshof

Þórshof





Dawn's Shining Light

Gara at porch

March 21st-23rd
Linden, NE



Our members can play a big role in
building AFA activity in their region

**COME ON!
HELP US REACH OUR
FOLK!**

Folkbuilders will assist planning your moot.
venue & event ideas - flyers - promotion

Public notices list a Folkbuilder as the
contact person, not you.
The goal is 3-persons or more. That's easy.

Contact Heather Young or Nicholas Rice for more info

Monthly Members' Meetings

Pörshof - North

Monthly Members' Meeting

2nd Thursday of the Month at 8pm Eastern



Links Emailed and Posted to MeWe
Contact any Folkbuilder for assistance

Þórshof

Monthly Members' Meeting

Last Tuesday of the Month at 8pm Eastern



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

Support Þórshof



The District Poetry Corner

Awaken



Awaken
by Viktor Rydberg
(After Ole Vig)

Awaken, Nordic hearts,
out of your long winter slumber!
Listen once more to the voices,
which speak of great deeds!
Wake, wake up to life,
you who struggled bitterly with death,
dawn's banner waves bright red,
rise and follow her destiny!
Wake up and search industriously
in the warriors' barrows so high,
in the great monuments,
the spirit raised for our eyes!
Wake up to sight and sense
for the great, for the sweet,
which can melt woman's heart,
which can conquer the heart of the hero!
Hear the deep sounds from the North's
Childhood days' Balder's meadow,
The battle trumpet, Heimdal's horn,
The twang of Brage's silver harp!

Hear, it is the lullaby the Norn
Once sang for the folk's ear
And the heart of a Nordic child
is still gladdened to hear
Listen, listen from deep within the mountains
is heard a tone, not yet gone by
from the old Vala's harp,
the battle song, the skald's song!
The wind's chant in the ash's crown,
the whisper by Balder's pyre,
Freja's sigh, the clashing of swords
resound still in our mother tongue.
Wake up and behold clearly,
how our fathers here in the North
strove for more than honor
and for more than splendor on earth,
yes, for more than Valhalla's joy
and a place in the father's house -
to die alongside gods-
the last battle for the light!

VAKNEN!

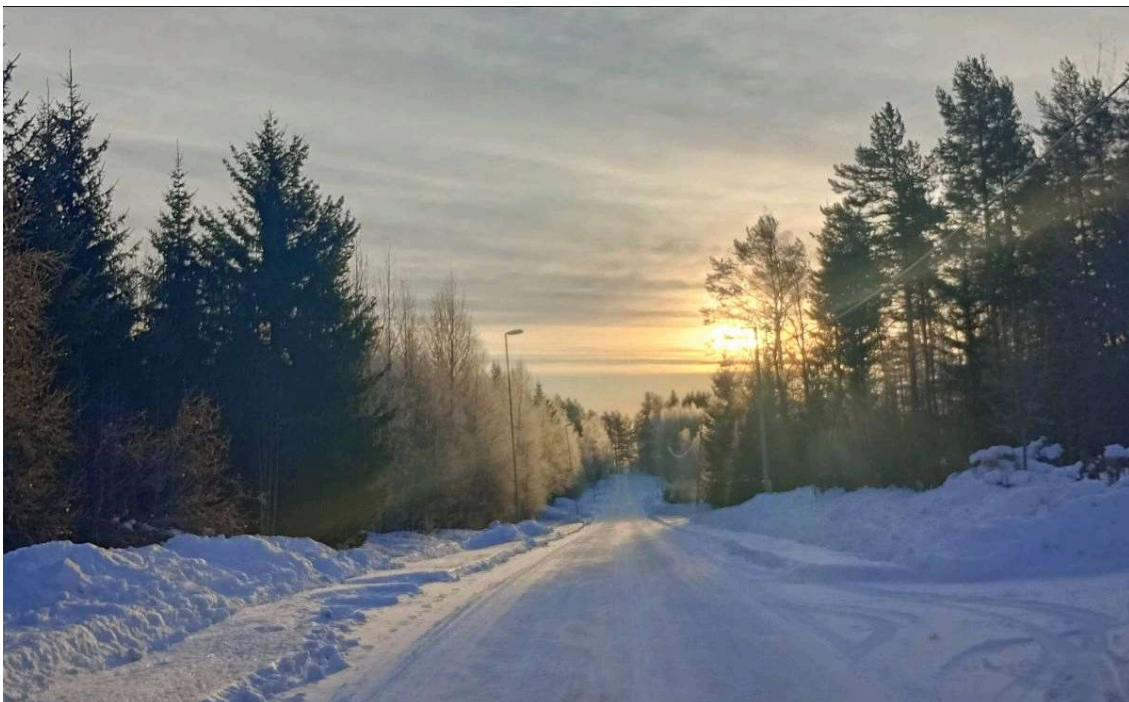
by Viktor Rydberg
(Efter O. Viig.)

Vaknen, Nordens alla hjärtan,
ur den långa vinterdvala!
Lyssnen åter till de röster,
som om ädla bragder tala!
Vaknen, vaknen upp till livet,
I som drogens hårt med döden,
morgonrodnans fana svajar,
upp och följ den hennes öden!
Vaknen upp och leten idogt
i de kämpekummel höga,
i de stora minnesmärken,
anden ställde för vårt öga!
Vaknen upp till syn och sinne
för det stora, för det ljuva,
som kan smälta kvinnohjärtan,
som kan hjältehjärtan kuva!
Hör de djupa ljud från Nordens
barndomsdagars Baldershage,
kämpeluren, Heimdalshornet,
silverharpans klang hos Brage!

Hör, det är den vaggsång, nornan
fordom kvad för folkets öra
och ett nordiskt barnahjärta
ännu glädes av att höra.
Lyssna, lyssna, djupt ur fjällen
hörs en ton, ej än förgången,
från den gamla Valas harpa,
kämpevisan, skaldesången!
Vindens kvad i askens krona,
viskningen vid Baldersbålet,
Frejas suck och svärdens stålklang
ljuda än i modersmålet.
Vaknen upp och skåden klarligt,
huru fädren här i norden
strävade till mer än ära
och till mer än glans på jorden,
ja, till mer än Valhalls glädje
och ett rum i fadershuset -
till att dö vid gudars sida
den sista strid för ljuset!

— submitted by Laura Lugnet, member, Sweden

Golden Spring



Bright Lady of spring, our hearts you do fill.
With song, joy and laughter, and plenty of will.

The return of the Sun, is a sight to behold.
The light from her rays, turns everything gold.

Grand plans we have made, which we soon put to test.
Our spoils may be great, if by our Gods we are blessed.

Receive our gifts, Ostara, bringer of warmth .
Inertia of winter, begone!
There is a Summer to be won.



Erik Lugnet
Apprentice Folkbuilder
elugnet@runestone.org

Þingin in ðe Snow



I'm tryin' somepin' new: ðis one will rhyme.
Pardon ðe novelty, but if you've got ðe time,
about winter and life changes, let me muse,
and if it's lame, be gentle when you break ðe news.

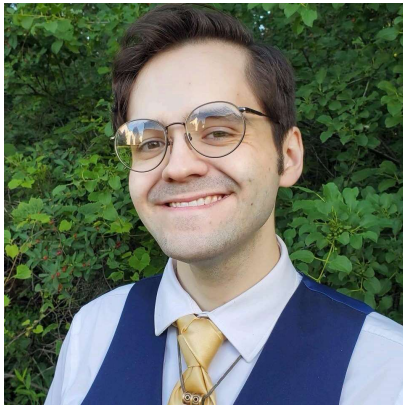
Ðe snow's comin' down in little flutters
and ðe wind is blowin' against ðe shutters
and my wife is complainin' ðat her feet are cold
(which is a cuteness ðat will never get old).

I love ðe winter, when everythin' is still
and held snugly in ðe season's chill.

It lends a calmin' effect to life's speed,
and escape from anxiety; from worry I'm freed
as ðe snowflakes sway in ðe sky
and time slower slips by.

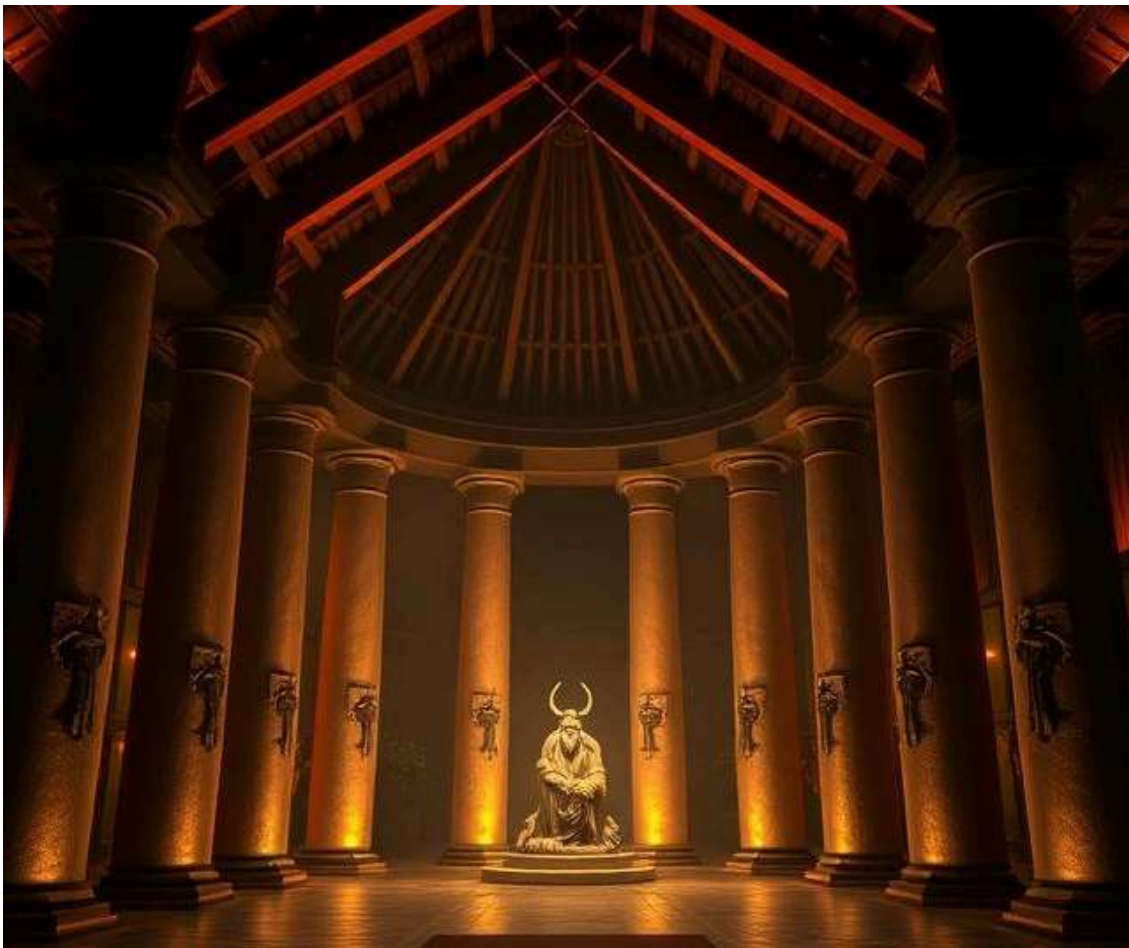
Ðere's more time to pink pins prough,
about babies, buyin' houses, movin', true,
but also about life and livin',
and which pins are worp givin'
our time when we haven't enough of it.

Sorry, I'm ramblin', I'll just shove it.



Chris Savich
Apprentice Folkbuilder
csavich@runestone.org

Virtuous to Victory



Courage stands tall in the face of despair,
Truth speaks aloud though none wish to hear.
Honour walks straight on the path of the just,
Loyalty stays when all turns to dust.

Discipline shapes both the body and mind,
Hospitality welcomes the weary and kind.

Industrious hands weave fortune and fate,
Self-reliance stands where the doubters wait.

Perseverance endures through trial and pain,
Victory comes to the bold who remain.

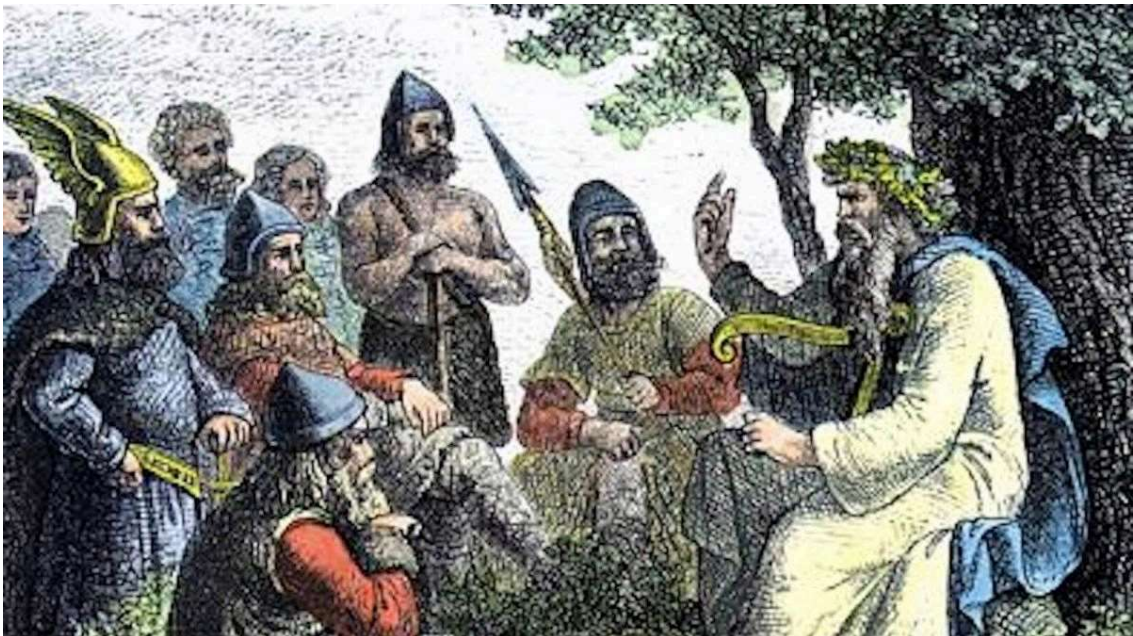


Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

nrice@runestone.org

Indiana

Return to Glory



In the ancient past, families gathered around the hearth fire to listen to the travelling bard spin his yarns. Stories were the main medium for Folk to learn news and spread experiences and spiritual tales. For long generations, the bard and the skald were the only media available to people, and their skills were legendary. Many people believed the bard and skald gained their divine inspiration from some God or Goddess, a divine

muse. Poets could make or break a man with their words, and their influence over reputation was impressive. These were valued and honored people in the ancient past, upheld by kindly aristocratic benefactors who knew that a good bard meant good genealogies and a good reputation. Nowadays, poetry has taken a back seat to podcasts and short-form memes. This change is unlike any other - it was swift and complete, and few bards remain today.

If we want to see our people return to glory, then our children must learn the ancient stories once more. Our sons must hear the deeds of their fathers spoken by their mothers and sisters. Daughters must grow to love the household. One day, we will have our homes again, and the stories we will tell shall reverberate through the ages! Hail the poets! Hail the Æsir!

Upcoming Events



Aidan McMillan
Apprentice Folkbuilder
amcmillan@runestone.org

The Ever-Charming Plows of Indiana



Friends and Folk,

As we gathered on a cold day in February to give thanks and celebrate Dísaping (Charming of the Plow) with our friends and families, I was reminded not only of the time ahead of us; for which we pray and make offering in hopes that we may continue to harvest the blessings of our Gods, but also of the time already past. As we move forward to reap new yields of prosperity, my mind turns toward those blessings that we have already received, the fruitful seasons which have brought us to this point so that we might continue forward toward new horizons. We have grown and we continue still to grow. We are a people growing in strength and seriousness, grown in numbers, growth in theology and growth in our continue relationship with the Æsir.



In the parlance of agriculture, for which the charms of Dísapíng was first celebrated, we are not wild and untilled soil, nor even fallow ground; we are a rich and fruitful field, growing richer each season. One day, as our yields continue their increase, the blessings of our Gods combined with the toil of our hands will cause our abundance to flow well beyond the borders of our current fields and nourish the entirety of our Folk, worldwide and into perpetuity. Roll up your sleeves and join us.

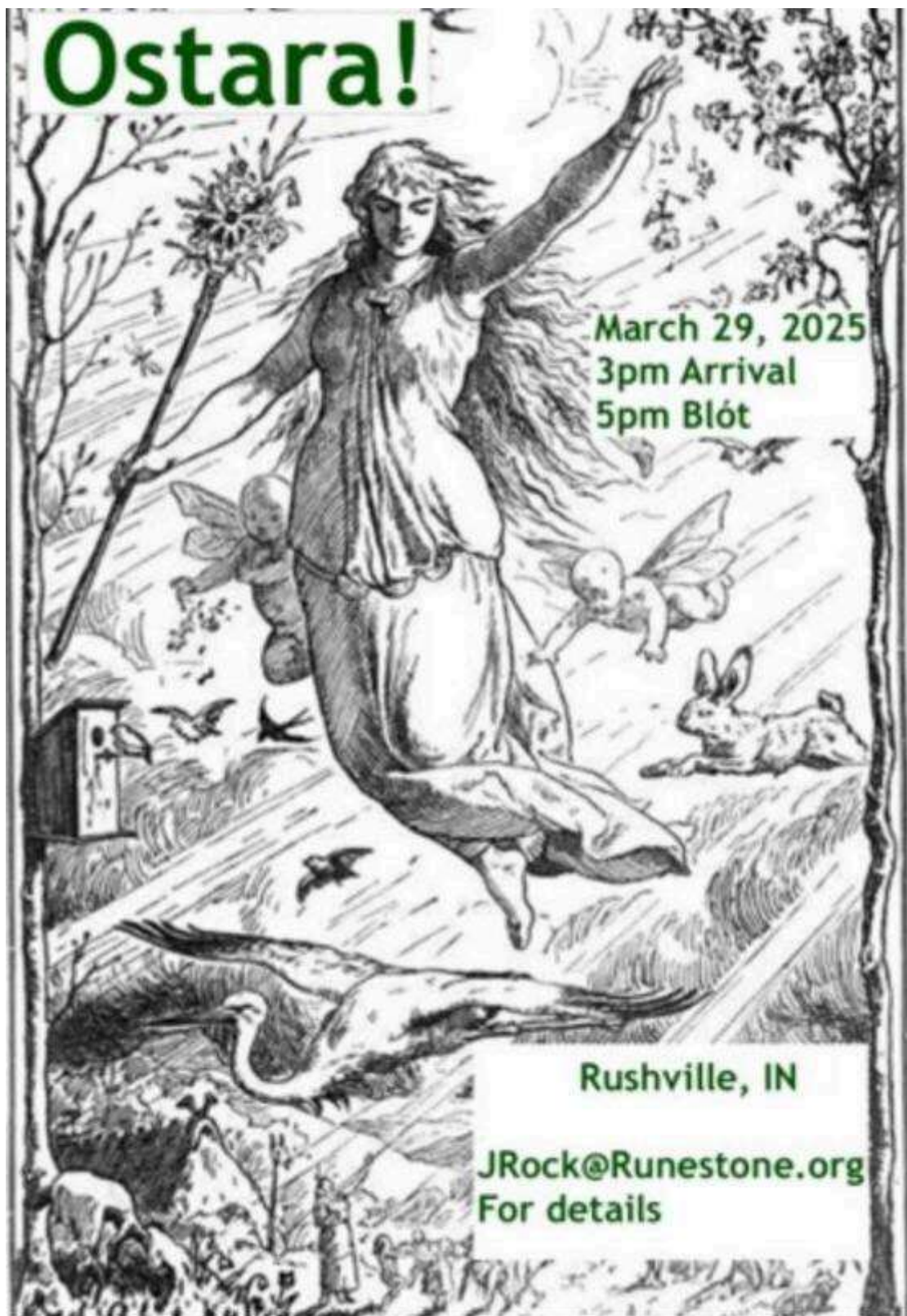
Upcoming Events

Ostara!

March 29, 2025
3pm Arrival
5pm Blót

Rushville, IN

JRock@Runestone.org
For details





Folkbuilder Jonathan Rock
jrock@runestone.org

Michigan

The Food was Great, and the Company was Pleasant

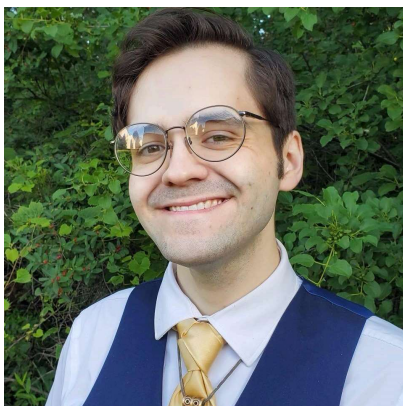


Friends and Folk,

Michigan's 2025 February Moot was held at a lovely restaurant in Michigan's capital. It was a fantastic fish joint on the shores of a lake, which shockingly made it very cold outside. But we persevered! My wonderful wife had a viking burger, an unplanned but pleasing coincidence. I myself had fish and chips, which as per tradition consisted of fried fish and hush puppies. The food was great, and the company was pleasant.



We performed Blót on the shores of the freezing cold lake, with ice fishermen in the distance. My wonderful wife asked the Gods and Ancestors to bless our hands and tools for the coming year, and we headed back to our cars to regain our body heat. All in all, it was a blast.



Chris Savich
Apprentice Folkbuilder
csavich@runestone.org

New Hampshire

NH Charming of the Plow



On the twenty third of February, we held Charming of the Plow for AFA members here in New Hampshire. As is the norm, members from throughout New England attended. Originally it was supposed to be held the previous week, but the region was under a fresh blanket of frozen crusty snow on top of a half a foot of powder. Instead of cancelling, we simply postponed. It is important to come together and worship the Æsir together in harmony at the appropriate times. It shows a level of piousness to adjust a schedule and make time to Blót the Æsir.

So, come they did and as the warm greetings were exchanged, people settled in for the usual cheeses and crackers as well as chips and dip. Conversation went around and a few smaller conversations formed as the sacral feast was prepared then served. The AFA Meal Prayer was spoken and then we dug in. Roast pork with an excellent sweet mustard coating, onions and potatoes were served up as well as a Dutch Oven full of chili with cornbread on the side.

As we ate, we spoke of Charming of the Plow and its significance and its place on the wheel. We spoke of the agricultural year and exerting our will. We spoke of existing customs still practiced in England where blessing or charming of plows still occur.



After the meal, we processed down the Blót House and passed under the eyes of our God Posts. With the weather and the snow, we decided to Blót inside and hail the Æsir and Ancestors in the woodstove warmed hall. And that is what we did. Ladies blessed the mead, the Æsir were invited, heart hand horn, a Galdr of Ingwaz and asperging the Folk was followed by wassailing the contents of the Blót Bowl on the plow and the God Posts. It was good and right.

The day waned and Folk found their way home while others stayed later for excellent conversation but even that ended and Charming of the Plow ended on a good note.

Upcoming Events

The poster has a dark red background. In the center is a square image of a white rabbit sitting on a red background with green leaves and white flowers. To the left of the rabbit, the word "Ostara" is written in a large, white, stylized script font with a black outline. Below the rabbit image, the text "15 MAR | SOUTHWEST NEW HAMPSHIRE" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text "Contact: rboardman@runestone.org" is written in a yellow, bold, sans-serif font.

Ostara

**15 MAR | SOUTHWEST
NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Contact: rboardman@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Ronald Boardman

rboardman@runestone.org

North Carolina



In February, we held an event at my home to commemorate our heroes and to celebrate the Charming of the Plow. It was an incredibly intimate event that turned out to just be the members of the Appalachian Hearth Kindred, so we took this rare opportunity of it being just us to have discussions on the kindred's current and future status, and to bring in a new member.



After we had introduced everyone to the new baby, the men hit the grill to prepare dinner while the ladies wove their Frith with the kids. After a delicious meal, the men went back outside to prepare the fire for ritual. We prepared pieces of paper where we wrote down goals and aspirations for the new year, the seeds we would see come to fruition before we gather again for Freyfaxi. These slips of paper were burned in offering to the holy Freyr during Blót.



Once Blót was concluded, we made our way back inside and got set up for Sumbl. With all of the new baby craze, I didn't get the chance to celebrate this month's Heroes on their respective Day of Remembrance, so we honored them both at the start of Sumbl. I read the Runestone.org writeups on Eyvind Kinnrifa and King Eanfrith of Bernicia, and we talked about each of them and what a stark contrast in the struggles we face as Ásatrúar today compared to what they had to suffer through. We hailed the Heroes and launched into Sumbl proper.



Sumbl concluded, we said goodbye to most of our guests with the exception of our good friend Alsey “Uncle Coleman” Miller, one of our son’s favorite people in the AFA. Alsey stayed the night for the cheap price of a promise of breakfast the next morning and a hard-hitting gym session.

We had a fantastic weekend, and it was a great way to kick the year off with one of our

more traditional moots. I hope you'll join us at our house again for Hexennacht on April 20th!

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea
tbethea@runestone.org

Upcoming Events



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



Folkbuilder Robert Shotwell

rshotwell@runestone.org

Ohio

Charming of the Plow



Another smaller and intimate Moot, but wonderful as always. Great food including ribs and meatballs, plus some stew. All of which were delicious. A cold but beautiful as always Blót was officiated by our own Mike Mellilo. Farm implements were blessed as well as my truck. Gods knows it could use it. Those who know me get that... Gosh. There are such wonderful Folk in Ohio and I wish the best for all of those who could not attend. We all have our own hurdles to jump, from sickness to other unlucky demanding pursuits. I have high hopes for this summer and cannot wait to see as many of you as possible. If all goes according to plan I'll have tractor rides, and goats to pet for the wee ones this year. Not to mention a brand-new giant griddle. We will be well fed. Through all ebbs and flows, Ohio continues to move forward, and some of the most wonderful people I have met have availed us of their company. I look forward to much more, and hope to see you around the Maypole. Hail the Gods, Hail the Folk, and Hail the AFA!



Folkbuilder Joe Drotos
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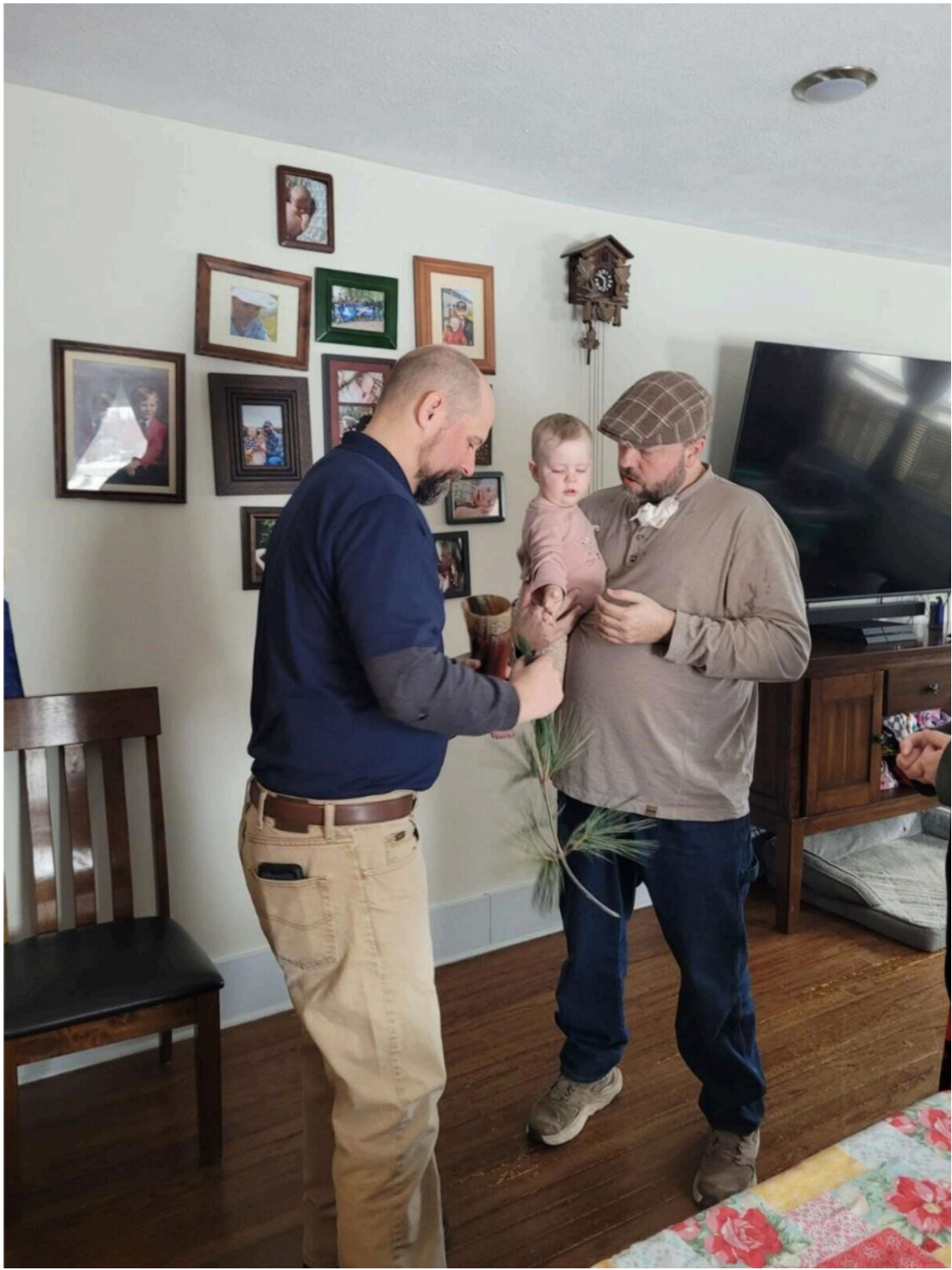


Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Dísafing



Families and friends gathered in Erie County, Pennsylvania to celebrate Dísafing, our Charming of the Plow. It was still bitterly cold and snowing out, so we made Blót to Gefjon indoors. The children offered fruits, and we all offered our intentions for the coming year, and our hands and any tools brought were blessed asking for Gefjon to aid us in productivity and fertility this year.





At this time of year in the north, we are ready to burst out of our homes as the ice starts to melt and hopefully soon life begins to grow again. Gardens are being planned, projects such as fences, decks, landscaping, all the exterior repair and beautification of our homes and land are on our minds. Our potential should be readying to germinate and so we'd best have our affairs in order and be ready for the busy times ahead!



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

South Carolina

AFA Carolinas in February



This has been a busy month for the Young household. Dan and I have logged hundreds of miles to bring Ásatrú to the Folk. We hosted a dinner at our house for Rig's Blood Kindred members from the Carolinas, which lasted until 3:00 in the morning.



We participated in a workday at Þórshof to get ready for Ostara, and hopped in the car to head to Winston-Salem to celebrate a pre-wedding party with our kinsmen Craig and Jennifer, along other members of our Kindred. Dan gave Blót to Þórr that he bless the union of our close friends.



We also celebrated the 16th Birthday of our youngest daughter, Lauren, and did so with friends and family, including the youngest daughter of our kinsmen Brian and Tiana. Lauren is the primary motivation behind our coming home to Ásatrú, and we are grateful for it.



Speaking of Lauren, it's been our goal as an Ásatrú family to increase our own personal practice at home. Dan has been doing weekly Lore studies with the family, including my grandkids. This month we've studied *Alvíssmál*, *Völuspá*, and *Rígsþula*.

I am currently on the road to visit another Kindred sister, Madison East, whom I haven't visited in some time now. This time of year, we emerge from the darkest time and join our Kin-fence to prepare for the Spring, to relight the Folk Flame.

This is an amazing point in time for us all, to be on the foundation level of this ever-growing faith together. We are grateful, and we give thanks to the Æsir for bringing us home!



Folkbuilder Heather Young

hyoung@runestone.org

Sweden

Charming of the Plow in Sweden



This month our family gathered to celebrate Charming of the Plow by offering Blót to Gefjon. We asked Gefjon to bless our tools, as well as our hands and minds, so that we may be industrious and tenacious so that we may enact our wills over the coming year. It has become tradition in our family to include a pastry with Danish origins in our

offering to Gefjon. As we read Gefjon's story this year, we reflected that her success in taking land was not only thanks to her industriousness, but also because she dared to ask for something that might have seemed audacious or ridiculous. This is an important reminder to us not to assume that we will fail before even trying. Our potential for victory is much greater if we have the courage to ask for opportunities, and to pour our efforts into those opportunities that we are given.

Upcoming Events

Remembrance Dinner

3/9 Olvir of Egg

4/9 Jarl Hákon Sigurðason

4/10 John Yeowell

Norrbotten, Sweden

rsvp @ elugnet@runestone.org

Ostara

23th of March

Norrbotten, Sweden

elugnet@runestone.org

Hexennacht

20th of April

Norrbottn, Sweden

elugnet@runestone.org

Erik Lugnet

Apprentice Folkbuilder

elugnet@runestone.org



Tennessee

Upcoming Events

**Day of
Remembrance
Dinner Plot**



**9th of Every Month
630pm | Cookeville, TN**

RSDP to nrice@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org





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