





Þórshof
Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.thorshof.com

November 2024

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Words from the Alsherjargoði



The veil has thinned, and we do well to give special focus to our ancestors. In October, we all started this process with giving Blót to our Dísir. Winter Nights and Dísablót

specifically have always been very special to me and have been where I have had some of my most visceral spiritual experiences. It is not possible to logically convince those who have not shared the experience or who are determined to be unconvinced, but the ancestors are with us, they reciprocate our love and our attention and if we have open hearts and open minds, they have much to share... Once you know, you cannot unknow.

Hail the Álfar!

Hail the Dísir!

Hail the Heroes!



With this in mind, we have been hard at work seeking out our history and preserving that history for future generations. A shining star in this endeavor is apprentice Folkbuilder Chris Savich of Michigan. Thank you, Chris, for your exceptional work! We have been cataloging old publications such as *The Runestone*, we have recently gained access to the very first issues in 1972 through 1980, these will be uploaded to <https://library.runestone.org/library/> very soon! We have also been looking into the heroes of our faith from all times so that they get their proper recognition. A reoccurring theme is that Folk don't realize they are making history until events are long past. We are making history NOW, these are historic times. We must be aware of this and we must make the most of our time in Miðgarðr!

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Announcements, News, & Noteworthy

- 10/12/24 - Freyjalynn Mae Bailey was named before her Gods and Folk.
- 10/12/24 - Milo Freyr Wilson was named before his Gods and Folk.
- 10/12/24 - Ronald Boardman took his Oath as Folkbuilder of the Asatru Folk Assembly.
- 11/6/24 - Goði Þorsteinn Guðjónsson of the Ásatrúarfélagið was recognized as a Heilagur Maðr.
 - His Day of Remembrance will be October 4th.



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Words from our Witan

Minni, The Storehouse of Wisdom and Experience



Last month, we discussed the Hugr, or the logical mind, as part of the many components that make up the Aryan soul. This month, the theme continues as we discuss the Minní, memory.

First, let's define memory. Oxford defines memory as the "faculty by which the mind stores and remembers information, something remembered from the past, a recollection."

As you may recall, last month we discussed the two ravens Huginn and Muninn, who fly over Miðgarðr, relaying the affairs of men back to Lord Óðinn. Huginn (Thought, Logical Mind) and Muninn (Memory).

O'er Mithgarth Hugin | and Munin both
Each day set forth to fly;
For Hugin I fear | lest he come not home,
But for Munin my care is more.
— Grímnismál, stanza 20

The Minní, or memory center, of the soul plays hand in hand with the Hugr, our logical mind. When presented with a situation, we often recall previous experiences to help us take appropriate action. Sometimes it is the recollection of a past situation that ended badly or didn't work out and we alter our course.

There are good and bad memories; some we remember for victories, and others, failures. If you ask yourself which you recall the most vividly, I'd wager that you recall failure much more vividly. Why is this? In my opinion, it is so we don't fall into the same traps that have snared our progress in the past. I sometimes use memories of previous failures or of people who told me I couldn't do something better, and I put it in my fuel tank. To propel me forward. And once I accomplish something special, I'll reflect on those memories and have a feeling that I conquered something; I overcame a negative memory and added a new, better one.

Then, there is ancestral memory. There's déjà vu, the feeling you have been here before, seen this before. This is ancestral memory. As we are the most recent representation of our Blood, we feel what they felt, see what they saw, experience what they did. How do we explain this? I think Stephen McNallen explains it best in his book, *The Philosophy of Metagenetics*. I encourage you to read it.

The collective unconscious is a reservoir of primordial images called archetypes. They are not exactly memories but are rather predispositions and potentialities.

What are these "primordial images," these recollections of a past you were not present for? They are the memory wells that we are connected to through our bloodlines, the experiences of our forebears echoing in our minds, in our souls, in our Minní.

Just as Odin left one of his eyes in Mimir's Well so that he could know the secrets contained in its watery depths we, too, must explore the personal and collective memory. We must come to know those parts of ourselves that are hidden from our sight, including those parts we would prefer not to face!

When done in a psychoanalytical context, this work of self-exploration is best accomplished through Jungian analysis. This is a highly specialized process and most of us are not able to undertake this work for ourselves.

Nevertheless, any of us can gain by becoming familiar with Jung's writings on archetypes, symbols, and dream analysis. You can take this work farther by keeping a dream journal and working with the unconscious content revealed while you sleep.

— Stephen McNallen, *Asatru, A Native European Spirituality*

While Witan Dan is not an expert on Jungian analysis, I do suggest that we keep a dream journal, as sometimes secrets are revealed in this state. Some may feel prophetic,

others are a recall of a forgotten memory, maybe your own, but maybe that of your ancestors.

Our memories are the storehouse of Wisdom. Wisdom is gained through experience, and we store that experience to better inform our present and future.

Some memories are painful, but we must face them with courage and determination in order to drown them out by creating more and better memories. Memories are your history; by creating new memories, we create history. Go out and create history, my Folk.

Hail The Æsir!

Hail The Folk!

Hail The Asatru Folk Assembly!

Hail the memory makers....



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Words from our Goðar

Cosmic Order & Natural Law: Ásatrú Worldview



The two main “forces” that make up our entire cosmos, the two forces whose relationship is what creates entire worldviews, are cosmic order and natural law.

Cosmic order is the Æsir (not initially including the Vanir) in Ásatrú, or Yahweh/Jehovah/Allah in the Abrahamic faiths. It is the “supernatural,” the heavenly, the higher truths of the world.

Natural law is the Vanir in Ásatrú, and simply the natural world in general. It is exactly what it sounds like—nature, land, and sea—basic truths.



As mentioned above, the relationship between these two primordial forces is what makes up the foundation of every worldview. For example, in monotheistic faiths, cosmic order should trample and conquer natural law. This is clear in Christianity, where this world and its laws and machinations are seen as a prison of suffering, nothing more than a punishment for the righteous Christian to pass through in order to get to their afterlife. Think of all of the “be IN the world, not OF the world” bumper stickers you see on the way to AFA events!

In modern atheism or “science” worship, cosmic order is absent, but natural law must still be subdued by man. This life is their *only* life, but nature is still seen as barbaric and evil.



In Aryan faith, and likely many other pre-monotheism faiths, these two forces compliment each other. Cosmic order is “higher” than natural law, yes, but it does not conquer it. It works alongside it, the two both being necessary and integral pieces to the tapestry that is the Nine Worlds. The only time in our stories where cosmic order and natural law clashed is represented by the Æsir-Vanir War, before the Vanir joined the Æsir. This is symbolic of cosmic order’s true relationship with natural law; the two working together, with natural law almost being a part of cosmic order.



Witan Erickson wisely noted once that the worldviews that despise natural law are world-rejecting faiths, while Ásatrú is a world-affirming faith. We recognize that this life is good, that this life is worth living, and that our corner of Miðgarðr is worth fighting for.

The Æsir gave us this world and this life, with all of its creatures and its laws, so that we may make use of it and enjoy its many bounties! We do not hide from nature, and we do not look forward to some sort of apocalypse where our Gods will burn it all down. It is not only possible, but also morally correct, to both worship the Æsir AND love the world they gave us!

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Declaration of Purpose II



II. The preservation of the Ethnic European Folk and their continued evolution

If the Ethnic European Folk cease to exist, Ásatrú would likewise no longer exist. Let us be clear: by Ethnic European Folk, we mean white people. It is our collective will

that we not only survive, but thrive, and continue our evolution in the direction of the Infinite. All native religions spring from the unique collective soul of a particular race. Religions are not arbitrary or accidental; body, mind and spirit are all shaped by the evolutionary history of the group and are thus interrelated. Asatru is not just what we believe, it is what we are. Therefore, the survival and welfare of the Ethnic European Folk as a cultural and biological group is a religious imperative for the AFA.

What does this mean? In my mind this declaration should impact every one of us, impacting us deeply in our genetic memory. If you don't stand up for the continued existence of our Folk and win victories along the way, the entire human population is doomed to an insignificant, gray, and sorry existence. The benefits that our people have brought to the human population is exponential and indisputable in the advancement of the human population. We must remember and preserve at all costs our heritage and history. We are connected by our race and should be nothing less than proud of where we come from as Ethnic European Folk.



This is why we are here now as part of the AFA, to preserve our heritage and faith. As eyes become opened to this truth, we must embrace our race and culture, adapting to the current time we exist in by incorporating a modernity to the ways of our ancestors and practicing Ásatrú, not in the environment of our ancient ancestors, but in today's environment.



So, raise your children to know where they come from and to be proud of their race. Don't hide in the shadows with your faith, speak bright words in support of our Folk in the open so that the world can hear. Don't let fear run rampant in being proud of who we are. Help secure the present so that the next generations should be secure in their existence as a people without worry of destruction by those that would see us disappear into the annals of history.



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Interdependence > Independence



This train of thought began with a post online that ‘Nation > Self’ and to this I agreed and amplified that ‘Interdependence > Independence.’ This sent me down a path that required I completely change my topic for this month’s article because of the foundational nature of this idea to our Folk and our faith.

We have been taught from childhood the importance of independence. Nowhere more so than in America. Most self-improvement ideologies put independence at the pinnacle; relegating communication, teamwork, and cooperation to second class status. Much of today’s focus on independence seems to be a reaction to being dependent.

Having others control us, “define” us, or even manipulate us. Because of this we see people, often for selfish reasons leave their marriages, abandoning their children, forgoing their church, and forsaking all kinds of social responsibility all for the prize of independence. Now fewer people than ever are even dating, let alone getting married and starting a family. And while being dependent is not a good thing - we, as a people, instinctually know independence is only a stepping-stone.

Everyone knows the story of the bundle of sticks as a visual symbol of unity. The Hellene interacts with the world as an individual. He’s a separate person within a community or state. The Germanic individual only exists within the context of the tribe or Folk. He is the very embodiment of the tribe because he knows fundamentally, they are the doers of one another’s deeds. This doesn’t mean that strong wills and even more stubborn heads do not exist among individuals in Ásatrú; what it speaks to is the ever-present sense that kin will find their way to unity.



But how do we get there from here?

We begin our lives completely dependent on other people for our very survival. We must be fed, clothed, and sheltered. But over the years we learn to walk, to drive, to get the things we need; physically, emotionally, and financially. Until one day we are able to take care of ourselves. Something is missing though. We seek a spouse, start a family, join a community. But we are still acting as individuals in these roles by and large, because it has been so ingrained over course of our lives. But there is something older, a natural order that we can tap into and become more than we can ever be through independence.

In the recent past, we would mature and come to appreciate that nature (the Xartus in PIE) was in fact interdependent. Stephen Covey in his book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, calls out this natural order that we know as Ørlög, or primal law. He describes this process of moving from dependence to independence and ultimately our natural state of interdependence as the Maturity Continuum.



If we are physically dependent from a car accident or some other physical limitation – we would need help to get around, or even with basic tasks like cleaning ourselves. If we are emotionally dependent, our sense of worth and security would come from the opinions of others. If you don't like me, it could be devastating. Lastly if we are intellectually dependent, we would need someone to do our thinking for us.

Dependence is the paradigm of – you. You take care of me – it's your fault if I don't get what I need.

Being independent physically, we can make our own way in the world. Mentally we can think our own thoughts, and emotionally, our sense of worth would not be dependent on being liked or how we are treated. Independence is the paradigm of – I. I can do it – I am self-reliant. It is clear independence is greater than dependence. But it's not the goal. It is not how Wyrð is woven. Maybe it is the obviousness between being dependent and independent that keeps people from moving to the next stage of this Maturity Continuum; maybe it's that most people experience this transition at least in the physical sense.

That brings us to interdependence. Interdependence is the paradigm of - Frith. We can do it – we can cooperate – we can combine our luck and create something greater... TOGETHER. Our times focus on the pecuniary aspects of Fehu (f), but to our ancestors it was known to bind men together in great tasks which required steady purpose and unwavering loyalty. When we in the AFA speak of 'connections' in our motto, this is how it manifests; through interdependence.



Interdependence is a mature concept, a concept as old as our Folk. If we are physically interdependent, we are self-reliant, but we also realize that together we can accomplish far more than we could alone. If we are emotionally interdependent, we get our self-worth from within ourselves, but also understand the need for love, for giving, and for receiving love from others. And if we are intellectually interdependent, we realize that we need the best thinking of our Folk to join in solving the problems before us.

Interdependence is an expression of our Folk-soul. After experiencing Blót with your Folk, practice in solitude is magnified from the bond born of sharing ritual and bread; knowing those people are performing these same household rites. This expands to every aspect of our lives, of our families, and of our community... it's about connections.



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More Runic Thoughts



Regardless of what you go through, the very core of who you are will remain. You are made to build from within, and the external assignments from the outside are unnecessary. In fact, to truly build yourself it may be necessary to completely strip away all of that. Become who you are with what you truly are.



There is always the chance for an awakening. Each awakening offers an opportunity to reach up and grab the new. There is always the choice to be better, and those chances are always around you. Nothing can thrive in stagnation, growth and change need to occur. Whether or not you are in control of the change or simply affected by it depends on how you greet the new day.



You can have all of the money in the world, and still not be prosperous. A man who dies alone, dies alone. At the end of the day, your money won't light a candle for you in remembrance.

It's good to be comfortable, don't get it wrong. Money has purpose, but it shouldn't be your purpose. It is a tool, something useful, something to build with. Use it to brighten your future, and ensure that your name lives on.

Hail the Folk!



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The Runestone - A Throwback

Sacred Trees, the Roots of Our Folk



from *The Voice*, August 2018

Donar's Oak, once mightily grew, in the lands of our ancestors. Chopped down by Boniface, much as the sacred Irminsul, and many a sacred grove across Europe succumbed as well. Defaced by those bent on destroying the culture and faith of their ancestors and kinsmen, for the empty promises of an alien cult. The blow of the axes upon the trunks, matched only by the blow of axes upon the unwavering necks of those who refused to submit. But much as the Oak once felled, the old ways have sprouted anew from roots which remained untouched, hidden beneath the surface, biding its time for when the conditions are right. Awaken! Your roots run deep. Our past spouts anew. That which was, is again. From the mighty fecund Earth we spring, reaching towards the heavens, the children of the Sun rejoice! Wotan has risen, and the memories, once thought lost, are stirred. To be forgotten, our fate is not. The Gods of our Folk have been woken from an eon long slumber and shall not be bidden back to sleep. A flame has been kindled from ashes thought cold. Flames once kindled, need only be fed and tended. The foundation, upon which great things are to be built, was laid long ago. We need only be willing to work for it and remain Tru. Let lesser beings wallow in their baseness and be consumed by the status quo as their unbridled egos crash and burn.



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Ásatrú Trúlgmál

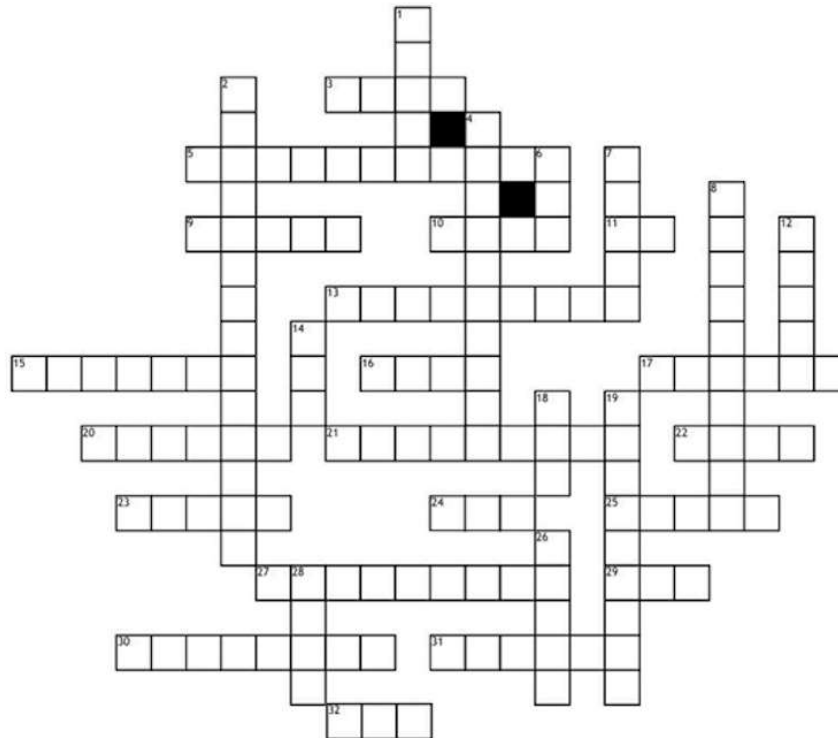


Ásatrú Trúlögmál: The fundamental beliefs of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

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

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

Ásatrú Trúlögmál Crossword



Across

- 3. His name means "Glorious"
- 5. Baldr is the _____ whose light shines in the souls of his Folk
- 9. Aryan means _____
- 10. "shape, skin" - The appearance one projects
- 11. "I" - The self or ego
- 13. "Outer yard, outside the fence or wall" - Aryan Folk who are not yet Ásatrú
- 15. Lofn is a special _____ to those struggling in love
- 16. Of his flesh the earth was created
- 17. Means "Loyal to the Æsir"
- 20. The _____ is the foundation of community
- 21. Víðarr is known as the _____
- 22. The Aryan soul has _____ parts

- 23. Through interaction, our _____ is judged
- 24. "soul" - The fundamental individual identity
- 25. "remembrance" - Memory
- 27. Ása-Þórr is the divine _____
- 29. "lifeless body" - The physical body
- 30. "luck" - Accumulated luck and spiritual potency
- 31. "someone who accompanies" - A protective guardian
- 32. She who protects the thresholds and exemplifies a women's responsibility to set boundaries

Down

- 1. The second son of Odin
- 2. Njörðr's name means _____

- 4. "Inner yard, inside the fence or wall" - united with our AFA brothers and sisters before the Æsir through worship and sharing in the gift cycle
- 6. The best physician, Gylfaginning 35
- 7. He rules over the rain and the shining of the sun per Gylfaginning 24
- 8. _____ is a spiritual currency and has power, felt by friend and foe
- 12. After the first war, these Gods and Goddesses were assimilated into the tribe of the Æsir
- 14. "spirit, breath" - The animating breath of life
- 18. The relationships built by the gift cycle increase as the cycle continues over the course of time. This exchange is expressed in this runic formula
- 19. Órlög means _____
- 26. Her name means "Beloved"
- 28. "mind" - The analytical mind

I know you've read through it, so let's see what you've learned. Show off your skills!

Hail the Heroes of Ásatrú that paved the way!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Hail the Æsir!



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The Quest for Freyshof

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

– Gylfaginning



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

1. We need to pay off Njörðshof.
 - The first of 2 loans have been paid off!
 - We now owe \$74,105 on our remaining loan.
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 9.5%.
 - 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

Support the Home of Victory



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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

Með vitani, vinna Sigr



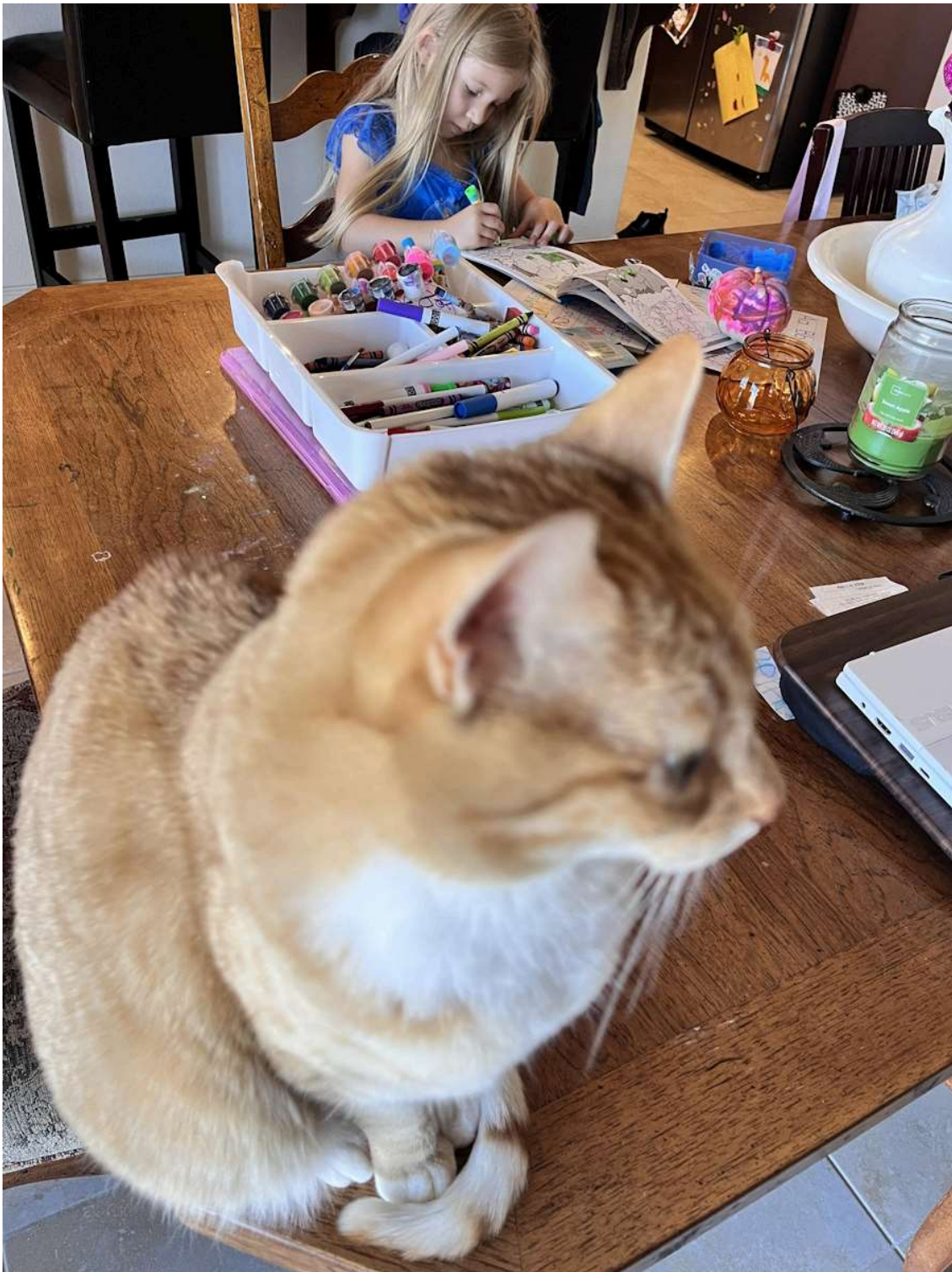
Through knowledge, victory!

Check out the Asatru Academy at AsatruAcademy.org



We've also got merch over at the [Runestone Store](http://RunestoneStore.com)! Go check it out!

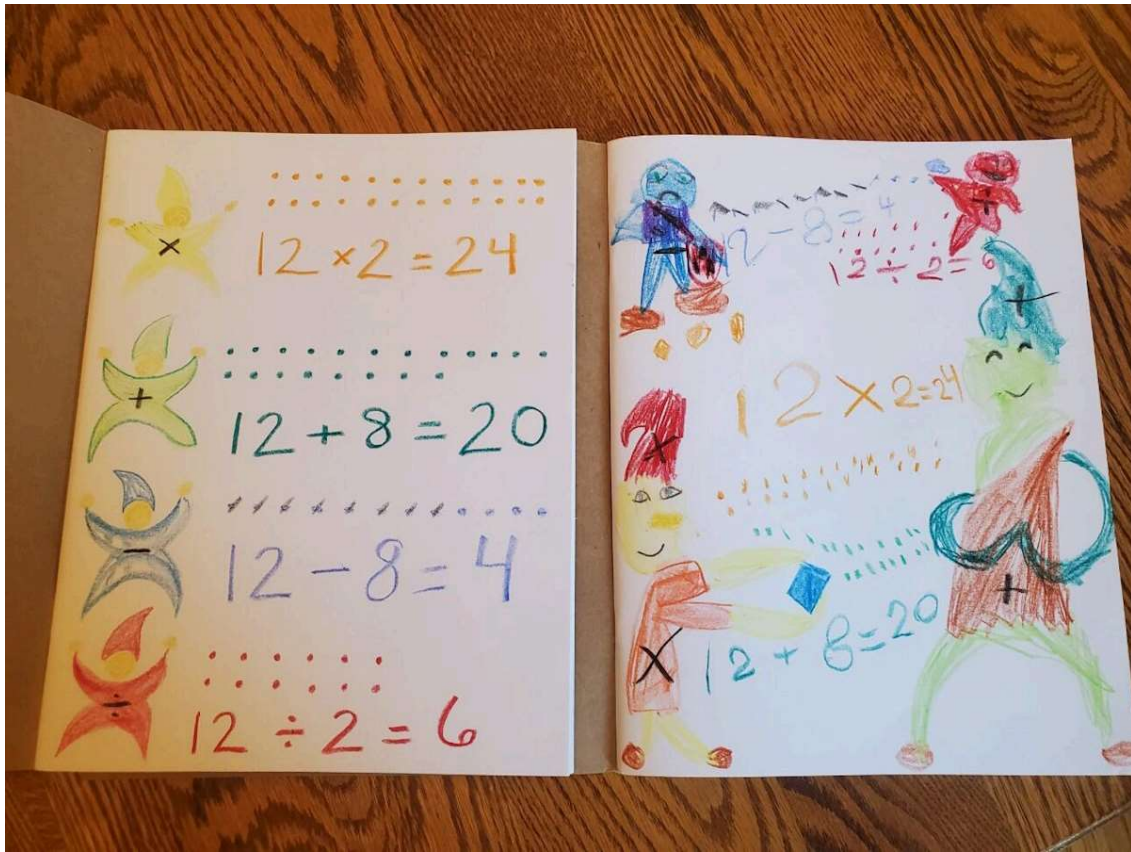
Academy Kids are Hard at Work!



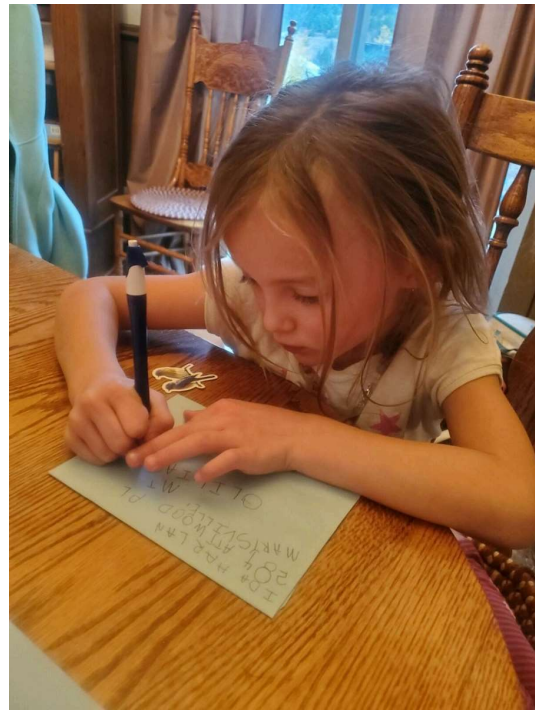
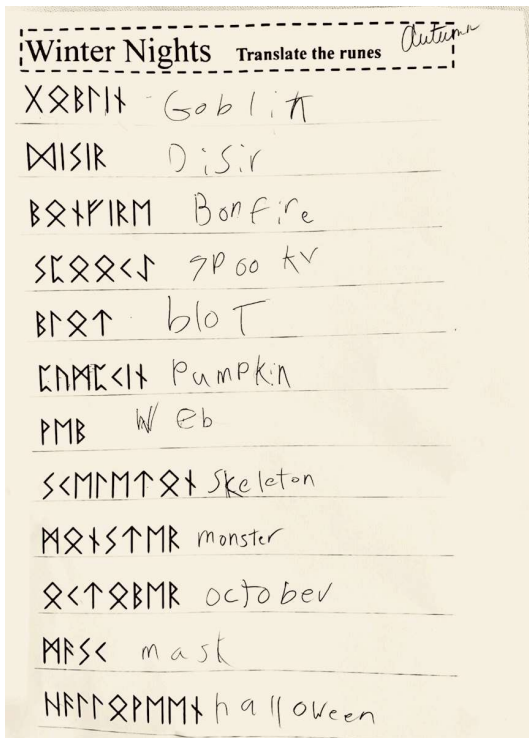
Fall time greetings parents and students!

All our wonderful students have been working hard and learning this Fall, and we are so proud of them! Remember to get out there and enjoy the crisp Fall air! A very important part of Waldorf philosophy is experiencing and being outside! Soon our thoughts will turn to Yuletide and all the wonderful activities and family time that comes with it. We generally recommend our students take time off from school over

Yule and enjoy family and focus on spirituality. There is certainly a lot of it during this time!



Of course, we will have Yule-themed activities and schoolwork if you choose to use it. But spend this time making family traditions, enjoying the traditions of your family's unique Aryan ethnicity, whether that be Krampus, the Yule elf, Frau Holle, the Yule lads, Zwarte Piet, etc. An easy search will find a great deal of traditions from your ancestors' homeland, many of which are not explicitly Christian or are older traditions with a Christian veneer that can easily be peeled away.

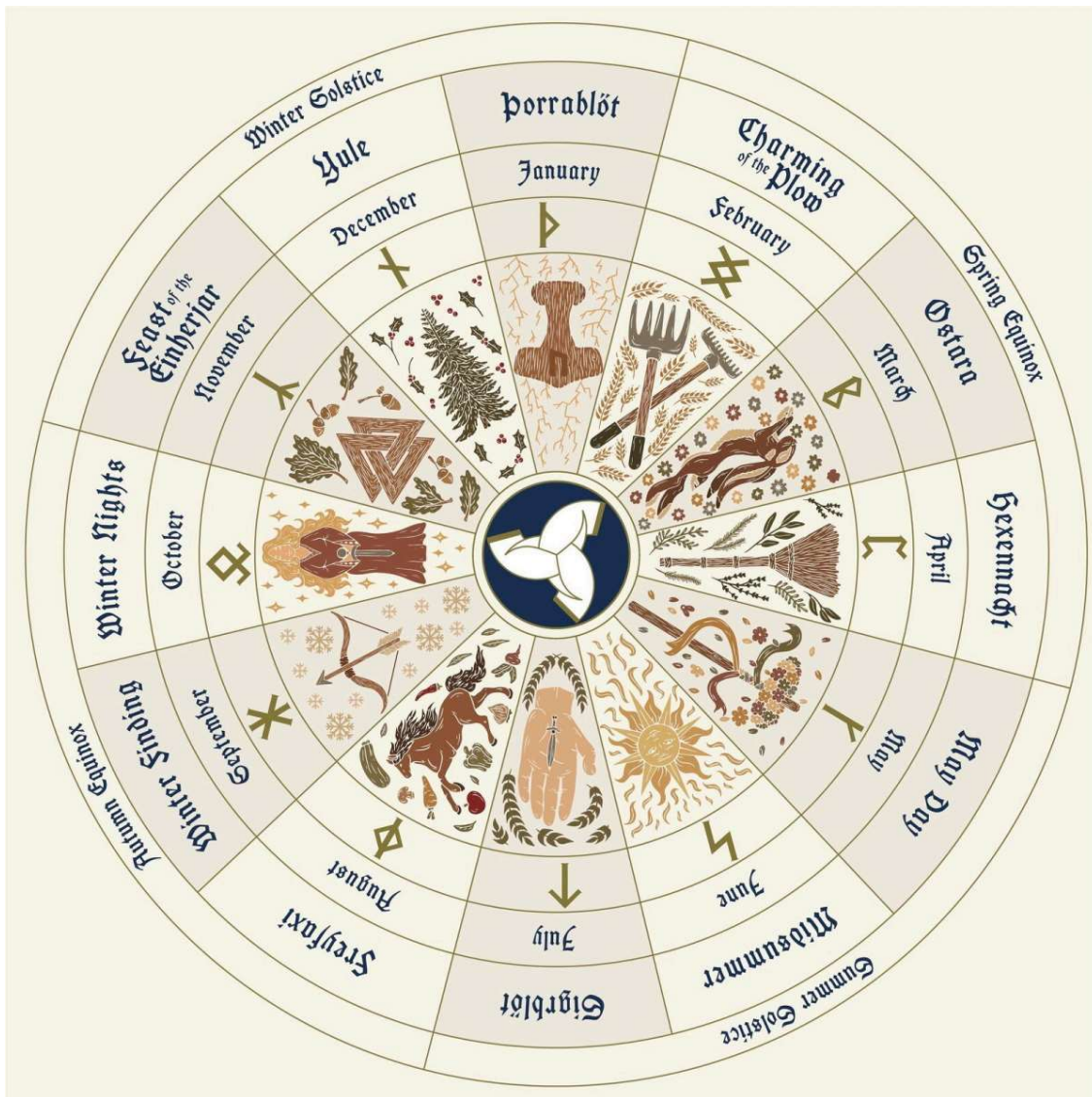


We hope all our students are doing well and are enjoying school! As always, feel free to reach out to myself or any of our staff. We now have two ladies who are focused on making sure your family is comfortable in the homeschool process and are there to help you and answer questions. Rachel Kinsler and Folkbuilder Heather Young are fantastic ladies and have your answers! Rachel specifically is a very experienced homeschooler and has a great wealth of knowledge and ideas to help you be successful.



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Remembrance & Holy Days



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

2024

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

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

November



<https://youtu.be/DNXUueB6S0s>

Day of Remembrance

Queen Sigríðr of Sweden | November 9th



Queen Sigríðr of Sweden, also known as Sigríðr the Haughty, was a proud and noble Ásatrú woman who knew her worth and kept true to her loyalty to the Æsir.

She had the honor of marrying the powerful King Erik the Victorious of Sweden, earning her the title of Queen of Sweden. With this marriage, she became the most powerful woman in all of Sweden, even acting as regent after King Erik's untimely death. She was described by Snorri Sturluson as "the wisest of women and prophetic about many things."

Because of her great reputation and wealth as a dowager queen, she was highly sought after by many nobles throughout Scandinavia. One of these was her foster brother Harald, who decided to visit her on his way to raid in the Baltic Sea region. After they shared a feast, Harald became sullen and embarrassed when Queen Sigríðr mentioned that her power in Sweden was comparable to his in Norway. After ruminating on this for some time, Harald decided to officially propose marriage to Queen Sigríðr, as a marriage between the two would give him power over most of Scandinavia.

She rejected his offer, as he was already married to a woman named Asta. However, Harald insisted this did not matter as he believed Asta was not worthy of a man of his station. Queen Sigríðr stuck to her guns, riding away to her castle. Harald followed her home with a retinue of soldiers, and they arrived to find another suitor—Vissavaldr of Garðaríki. Queen Sigríðr housed them in the same quarters, fed them large amounts of drink, and then ordered her men to burn down the quarters and kill any survivors. This was meant to send a message to all petty kings in the area who would seek to marry her for the wrong reasons.

Queen Sigríðr was later being wooed by Olaf Tryggvason of Norway, a familiar figure to many of our heroes and the same Olaf who had forcibly converted his own Folk in the name of Christ by means of threat, torture, and murder, but she eventually agreed to marry him. To celebrate this, Olaf sent her a "gold" ring that he had won in some conquest, but Queen Sigríðr's goldsmiths discovered that it was only gold plated, making Queen Sigríðr distrust Olaf. When he later arrived in Sweden, he informed her that she must abandon the Æsir and convert to the foreign faith of Christianity in order for the marriage to be fulfilled. She immediately rejected this offer to betray our Gods, saying:

“I shall not abandon the faith that I have previously held, as have my kinsmen before me. I shall also make no objection to your believing in whatever god you like.”

As expected, this enraged Olaf, and he first insulted her age and beauty then struck her across the face with a glove. Queen Sigríðr reacted as calmly as possible and told him that his actions “may very well cost him his life.” She already had reputation for being prophetic, and sure enough, Olaf the Christian was later killed by a united front of both Christian and Ásatrú Scandinavians at the Battle of Svold in September of the year 1000.

Queen Sigríðr is an example to all of our Folk for her unwavering loyalty to the Æsir, her Folk, and her noble ancestors. She is especially an example to the noble women of our Folk, as she remained steadfast and undaunted in her faith and personal convictions. She refused to marry any man who was not worthy of her station, as well as any man who would force her to abandon her longstanding troth with the Æsir!

May all of our people stand with our Gods, and may we all reclaim and retain our nobility no matter what lies ahead of us!

Hail Queen Sigríðr of Sweden!

Hail Syn!

Holiday

Feast of the Einherjar | November 11th (Observed November 16th)



One of the most recognizable motifs in Ásatrú is that of the Viking warrior. Helm, sword, beard, and blood—boys and girls have long been mesmerized by the stories of Valkyries and the eternal feasting and fighting of the Einherjar in Óðinn's hall, Valhalla. Pop culture has taken the Berserker and the Valkyrie and remade them hundreds of times.

Our ancestors lived in a different time, when fighting wars and general “viking” was necessary for survival. For a warrior, to die in battle was the greatest honor. Today, war is not necessary in the same way. Most people scoff at war, urge their children to “do better” or “be better.” For those of us who practice Ásatrú, however, we recognize the importance and the value of the warrior. More important still, is the importance and the value of those who have fallen, the Einherjar.

Once a year, we set aside a day specifically to honor the Einherjar. We raise a horn to the fallen warriors to thank them for fighting for our people and our freedom. One way to celebrate is to set a place at the table for the Einherjar. Serve them the same food you are eating for dinner. Pour them a glass of wine or beer. When you are done, leave the plate outside under a special tree in offering. Another way to celebrate would be to visit the graves of veterans at a local cemetery and help to clean them up. Leave some decorations or a small flag.

You don't have to have any veterans in your immediate family. It is a guarantee that somewhere down your ancestral lines you have family who fought in war, and just as likely, that some of them didn't return from the front lines. It is in your blood. So, raise that horn and raise it high. Remember our fallen.

Hail the Einherjar!

Hail Óðinn!

Upcoming National Event

Feast of the Einherjar | November 8th-10th



Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



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

Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



Goði Nathan Erlandson
nerlandson@runestone.org

Winter Nights XIII - A Recap



<https://youtu.be/RddutYgfSXo>

On the weekend of October 13th, the Asatru Folk Assembly held our thirteenth Winter Nights national festival, this year at Othala Acres in New Hampshire! We had travellers, not just including Alsherjargoði Flavel, make over 900 miles to attend and even an international traveller from Canada.



On Friday, after Folk had started to arrive and make camp on the hill, Folkbuilder Mike Melillo led us in introducing the Folk to and welcoming the Ancestors, Wights, and Gods to our meta-ritual. Winter Nights, and all of our Ásatrú festivals, really are one large ritual each. We then learned and discussed the Alfar and Disir in a presentation led by Folkbuilder Jon Rock. After supper, Alsherjargoði Flavel led us in a rousing Blót to Lord Óðinn. We could see his eye in the sky after the Blót, so we know that Odin saw the assembled Folk.



After breakfast on Saturday morning, the children defeated the adults in a pool-noodle battle. We don't know how they did it, but the children must have a powerful battle-magic because our blows would not slay them, but their strikes felled us almost instantly. No matter how many times the adults rose up, the children could not be defeated. We adults plan to win next year, but the children remain unconvinced.



Next the ladies went inside for a private discussion on women's roles and culture in Ásatrú. Meanwhile, the men gathered for tests of strength and to share some mead. Four of the young lads of 5 and 6 years old were able to lift a very heavy steel anvil using teamwork! After lunch, Folkbuilder Mike Melillo led a discussion on home altars and home practice, which in many ways followed up directly on the previous days' presentation on the ancestors. The ladies then studied Osteomancy, or bone throwing divination, with Gyðja Catie while the men made preparations for the upcoming Folk Services. In those Folk Services, we welcomed two new babies to our Folk- Freyjalynn Mae and Milo Freyr! We also had the pleasure to accept the Folkbuilder Oath from our host, Ron Boardman. Ron has gone above and beyond, and I know he will continue to serve our Folk and Gods with piety, dedication, and distinction.



During supper, Witan Erickson awarded the benefit raffle prize of \$235 to our friend from Canada, Dimitri. Folkbuilder Boardmen conducted the benefit auction which raised over \$2500. The generosity of our Folk allows all children to attend for free, for family tickets to be especially low, and for all of our event tickets to be a great value.

After supper, Gyðja Erickson and Witan Erickson led the Folk in Blót to our Disir and Alfar. As Gyðja Erickson explained before the rite, our ancestral mothers and fathers are complimentary just as we living men and women are complimentary. They, and we, do not operate in a vacuum. This was the first Winter Nights where we have made Blót to the Disir and Alfar together as one rite, and it was well received by the Folk and, I believe, by those ancestors. More than one grown man was brought to tears.

To end Saturday night, we had Sumbel together in Folkbuilder Boardman's beautiful Blót house.



Sunday morning started with brunch as folks were breaking down tents and making some goodbyes. Folkbuilder Jon Rock led us in a Wayfarer's Blót to invoke Þórr's protection and to give Þórr's blessing for the journey home, as well as blessing the Folk's Mjölknir pendants. And with that the Folk headed home to Canada, Nevada, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, Michigan, and West Virginia.



Thank you to everyone who attended, we truly enjoy your company and are honored to worship with you. Gyðja Catie and I would like to give special thanks to Folkbuilders Jon Rock, Mike Melillo, Tyler Sagert, and Ron Boardman, and most especially to the unsung heroes of this event—Jessica and Lily. We see all you do to support Tyler and Ron, and this event couldn't have been a success without you!

Maybe we will see you there next year? Look for information about Winter Nights XIV, in New Hampshire for a second year in 2025, very soon!



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

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

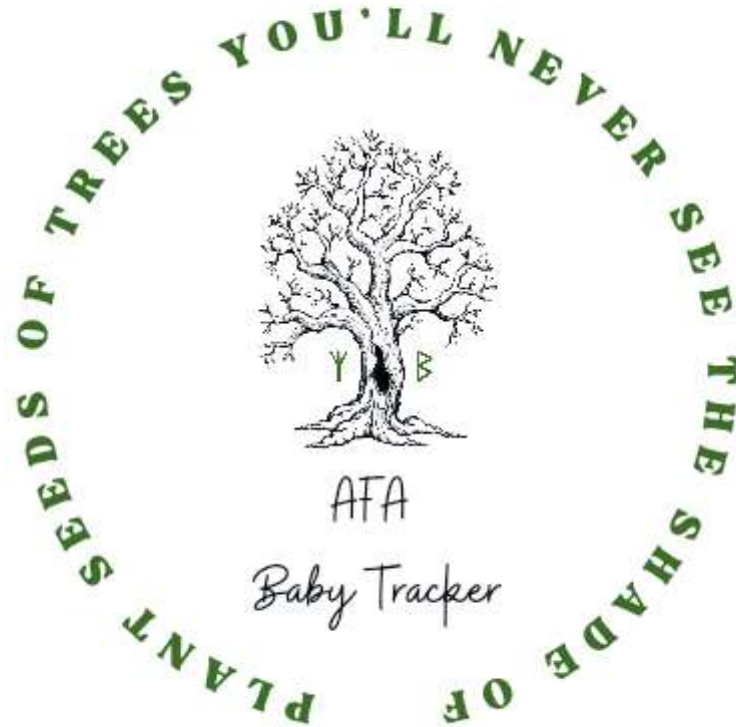
By the example of our Folkmother, Else Christensen, we will also be going into prisons as we are able to. Some of our Gothar and other leadership, will be going into the prisons to hold study groups, lead blot, and encourage continued growth in the folk inside.

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.

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: 25

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 McStocker with any and all questions!

AMcStocker@Runestone.org

SISTERS SUNDAY CHATS



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



2024 AFA Reading Challenge!

50 books in 52 weeks!

Contact Folkbuilder Ali

Clausen for details

aclausen@runestone.org

AFA Reading Challenge Meetings



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

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

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

Ladies Book Study

Revolt Against the Modern World

by Julius Evola

Starting

July 11th

7 pm CST

**We will meet
every Thursday.**

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



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

For more information contact

Witan Brandy Fassett

Folkbuilder Sara Ault





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

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

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

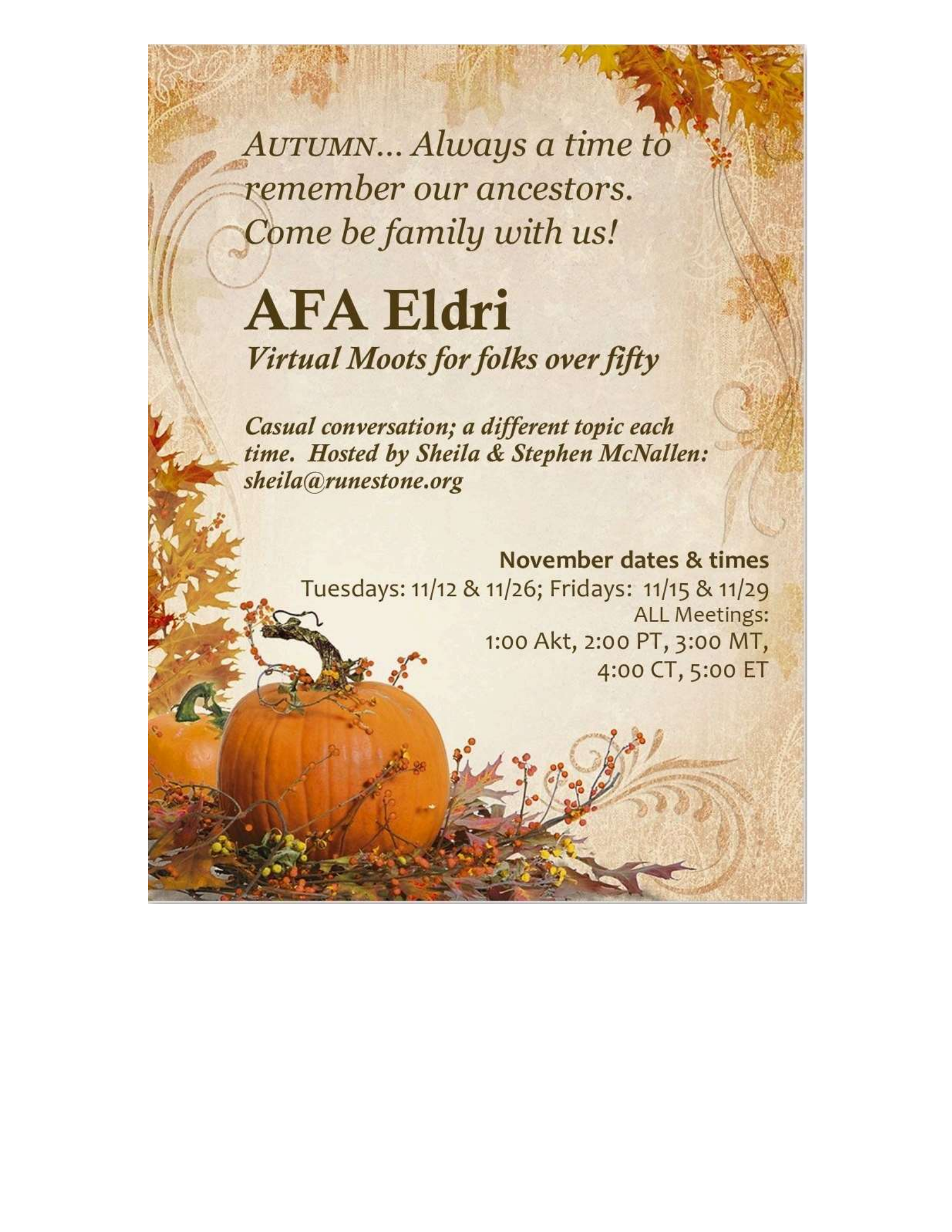
4:00 pm MST

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**



*AUTUMN... Always a time to
remember our ancestors.
Come be family with us!*

AFA Eldri

Virtual Moots for folks over fifty

*Casual conversation; a different topic each
time. Hosted by Sheila & Stephen McNallen:
sheila@runestone.org*

November dates & times

Tuesdays: 11/12 & 11/26; Fridays: 11/15 & 11/29

ALL Meetings:

1:00 Akt, 2:00 PT, 3:00 MT,
4:00 CT, 5:00 ET



Just for Fun

The Poetic Edda

UKZNELNÖRGNEADIVKALTAFOGKÞGNTÞÖÚZHNYBÖ
 BSGÐÐTKÖHYZINDRÖÖGBVÍNNRIMVYÍDHBZÍJSÁÖ
 UGHÁRBARDŚLJÓÐEASKHNÐEÍTBOÖÐÞOAUÞÐÁOSN
 ÅKIZGHLVFLDGVÖLNÓVBÖGÞLTNMIŁTIKÚHAIDSR
 ÞÐÖÞZÖPPEÁÐÞAPHULBZIDÞPGAUJÖAHZÁEÍÖRDIO
 FÍVANMGYÐMÚAAKÞEDANJÁTASRGFDNÚŁKYÚURPF
 KRBMHJTIOSEÐLUVÖLSMBGEMÖESAEÍGYKÓRAÚÍN
 PISBTVÞŚJIFTZTTIMGLŚJDBNIILRAÖGHGVZNR I
 BMVÁBÖEYLNTÚGSÖÁÐVAÖNÓNGNNGKHÞÍRÓKRAGA
 LIJÖEFÍMRREBZELJNAÁKINURÖSVÚHEÐEGÚÖRDD
 UÁIÁLBFOAÍZHÍLSFFÍHSVRIRÞIGYÍÖMUIPHGBI
 ÚPMSNUÖVLKVGÞBÖBKNBJÐIGVÐÁMGJÖÐDPZÖRTV
 YYVSÐKNÖÖSÚINVGŚÖRIAÖNDASIELÖRRÖŁSTÁÐK
 LÚÓÍIHMDSEVRGDÞÚÞÁRSERHASLUÚÚGÖSÚPSTPR
 RÁÓÖÍÐEIAÞÞÖBÞÍYÁKALAUVKHLÖNÓÚÁGMÖÖRFA
 DAMAOVMZMRÚTÖYAIVÁÁGNÐVADUAJRÍGSÞULAJN
 FDMŚDÖPAÖDKYNRGIBMDÐÞIUNRRNÓFIJAZÍFMOÚ
 DIÚUIEUPHSLVRDÞTAÓIHÐOYAKÐODFREZÓTÍRIR
 ÁÖDUANKVENÁÐIUMLTNVAÁHLVDESFIÖÐÖÞGDZÖÞ
 PRSBZRFJPOMAAÐTRGÖÍJKÁIELÁMSINMÍRGÐÐÖU
 HKHHNÁDÁÖKAAOAAASHÐFPMÐJLUÖRÁOYGÖŁDYHRG
 EDIRFSÁŚFSVOVZBÖRPTŚAMTAMÍŚFPNSŚHUFDPN
 ŁDSLAJÞŁROÁÁÐARFHNGÍFTKGOOBÖRSAUBÍLHRD
 RÚÓÖÁFÁBIDHFNŁJDÚANILDLŚJÞÐNÖOURPALMSÚ
 ELGYFMNÖJFLASÍHDDÞÖÖAOLVEPAKDGVLGENAFÞ
 IÞBZÞFSAUTIABYÞÞRVHÞBKÐMŁDFFPHSLÖÖZÍABD
 ÐÐÚÁÚPESGYLIBÞÍIKHÁAHÓIÐISUÍMZRRBVEMI Z
 BSAÚFRRPÍAÞAVVÐZZŚSRVMÖVÐJGKIGUSHNOVOI
 RÐMÚZZEOÖVLÖŚJDJDEÍÐUÞKBKÖDJDPJGYJÞRTÚ
 YDFFANGYLRLDABOVNKUÖÐŚIMÖRAÓFPJUBEAI ZN
 NDÍBLTUMÞÁRARPNNUÞÞVMEJÁÞOAMJRJBLFFZVÓ
 HAGNULFINPÁRDÓADÞRÞYOÁŁÁMSINDŪRÞFAVYR J
 IKKYBIIÁÖPDTÖMÐRÞTRHIFIHÖLEÐÚBYGBÚIÚFN
 LSZRNVÁETHMÓÁHIRÞAORONLSGFVURZNPŚRMDG
 DTOGUDRŪNARHVÖTRNVŁÁMUFÍRDRGISÐYOOUÖÐÓ
 AIIJFJRZOÞFTGYFDOSKISÞJÍBÞÖÞGLKUGEMETD
 RÁBKAAOAMMAKSNIHADIVKRAÐRUGISŪOSGOŪÁYA

- Völuspá
- Hávamál
- Vafþrúðnismál
- Grimnismál
- Skirnismál
- Hárbarðsljóð
- Hymiskviða
- Lokasenna
- Þrymskviða
- Völundarkviða
- Alvissmál
- Baldurs draumar
- Gróttasöngur
- Rígsþula
- Hyndluljóð
- Svipdagsmál
- Grógaldur
- Fjölsvinnismál
- Hrafnagaldur Óðins
- Sólarljóð
- Helgakviða Hjörvarðssonar
- Helgakviða Hundingsbana I
- Helgakviða Hundingsbana II
- Frá dauða Sinfjötla
- Grípisspá
- Reginismál
- Fáfnismál
- Sigrdrífumál
- Brot af Sigurðarkviðu
- Guðrúnarkviða I
- Sigurðarkviða Hin Skamma
- Helreið Brynhildar
- Dráp Niflunga
- Guðrúnarkviða in forna
- Guðrúnarkviða in þriðja
- Oddrúnargrátr
- Atlakviða en Grönlensku
- Atlamál en Grönlensku
- Guðrúnarhvöt
- Hamðismál



Where The Old Gods Dwell



This heartfelt folksong was written to honour our Gods and to inspire our Folk to keep pushing forward with nobility and purpose. With every chord and verse, it encourages us to hold fast to our values, overcome challenges, and strive for lasting victory. Sung with passion by Celine_Faye, it's a tribute to our unity, resilience, and timeless connection with the Gods.

Sang by Celine_Faye

Written by Folkbuilder Ryan Skinner



<https://youtu.be/2zE0gqcNW0Y>

Where the Old Gods Dwell

[Verse 1]

Out in the woods where the old Gods dwell,
We find our path on the ancient trail.
With wisdom sharp as Óðinn's eye,
We live by the stars and the evening sky.
Our oaths are few, but in our core,
We guard them tight like Þórr's mighty roar.

[Chorus]

Simple life, with noble ways,
Underneath the heavens' gaze.
Ásatrú, we stand tall,
With the land, one and all.

[Verse 2]

By Freyr's blessing, fields we sow,
In nature's rhythm, our hearts grow.
In harmony with the earth so vast,
We learn from stories of the past.
Stand by duty, protect the kin,
In unity, let life begin.

[Chorus]

Simple life, with noble ways,
Underneath the heavens' gaze.
Ásatrú, we stand tall,

With the land, one and all.

[Bridge]

With each new day, we greet the Gods,
From dawn till dusk, we bring their praise.
A future bright, with tales of yore,
In honour bound, forevermore.

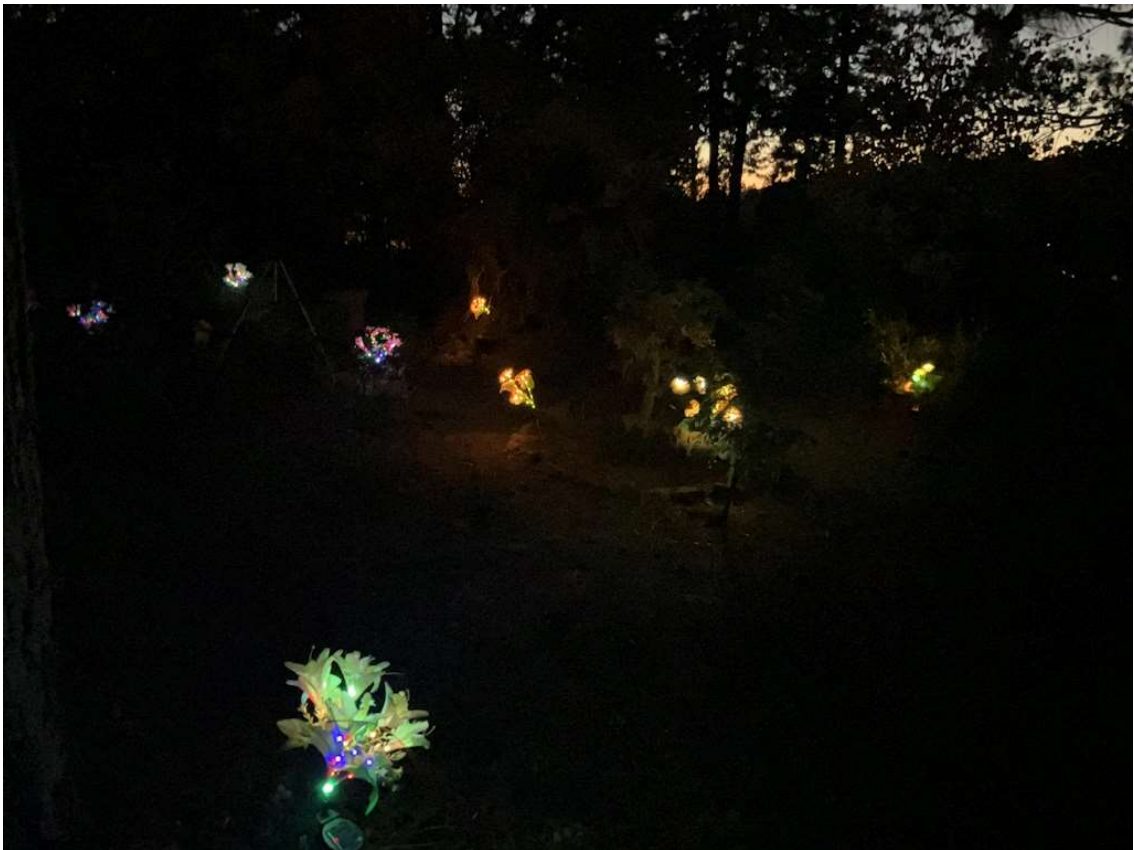
[Chorus]

Simple life, with noble ways,
Underneath the heavens' gaze.
Ásatrú, we stand tall,
With the land, one and all.



Folkbuilder Ryan Skinner
rskinner@runestone.org

**Bill's Ásatrú Blótferð
of Nearly 10,000 Miles**



Thorgrunn's Grove at Óðinshof
(Photo Credit: author)

In the September 2024 issue of *The Runestone*, Goði Trent East's article, 'Blótfærð -- Ásatrú "Pilgrimage," and Why It Matters' jumped out at me. I was eating dinner in my car in North Carolina. Goði East explained what I was in the process of actually doing. I was about 6,000 or 7,000 miles into my own Blótfærð (rough translation, a "sacrificial journey") to visit all of the Asatru Folk Assembly's Hofs and Sigrheim.

Based in California (and hopefully soon, in Nevada), I have been a member of the AFA for over a decade and a half. I recall when the AFA had no Hofs. I'll never forget the excitement of donating towards the purchase of Óðinshof, and then going to it for the first time, in 2015.

The last few years in AFA have been so exciting with the acquisition of the newer Hofs and Sigrheim. For a year or two, I have been thinking about visiting the other three Hofs and Sigrheim. I decided to combine this with attending a high school reunion back East and visiting people in the Midwest and South.

The Blótfærð started in mid-August by going to Óðinshof. It was the day of Goði Thorgrun Odden's funeral. Thorgrun was a brave man, a loyal friend, and a wise mentor!



Bill's Blótfærð route shown in blue highlighter (may look green). The route is clockwise, starting in California. Detours in pink (reddish) highlighter, due to fire blocking I-80, and to evading a hurricane(!). Planned, but not taken, paths in orange

highlighter.

(Map and Photo Credit: Bill's Blótferð map by author. Base map of the United States, the interstate highways, and the capitals of the States, from GISGeography.com, US-road-map.)

The map shows my departure from Óðinshof on Interstate 80 (upper blue/green line) heading east. Because of a fire blocking I-80, I had to take awful Highway 50 over the Sierra Nevada mountains, and nearly got hit by a truck that went over the yellow double lines on a very narrow, two-lane, curvy, steep road.

My first destination was Baldrshof, via Interstate 80 from California to Nebraska and then north on I-29 towards Minnesota. But in Nebraska, the “service engine soon” light came on. Baldrshof Leadership helped me, even at this southern reach of the Baldrshof District! By telephone, Folkbuilder Jessie Shaffer and Goði and Folkbuilder Coordinator Nathan Erlandson gave me advice about the car, and Folkbuilder Allison McKee, advice about the locality. After getting the car fixed, I took a side trip to meet Ali and Folkbuilder Chris McDowell. It was such a pleasure to meet them!

Finally reaching Minnesota, Folkbuilder Jessie Shaffer went way out of her way to meet me at Baldrshof, so that I could go inside, and also to visit with her and her darling children. It was a great evening, and she kindly made us all dinner. Baldrshof is so beautiful! Baldr shines in the mural! Jessie's spectacular, giant Sonnenrad decorates the floor.



Ancestors' alter at Baldrshof, including photo of the late Goði Thorgrun Odden in the center

(Photo Credit: author)

Via side trips, I visited Witan Brandy Fassett and Goði Nathan Erlandson. Brandy gave me insights about Baldr, and incidentally, demonstrated her wisdom, courage, and inner strength! Nate inspired me deeply with his thoughts on the virtue of perseverance, his fitness level, and his understanding of Baldr's story!

The next big event was the high school reunion on the East Coast, which turned out great.

The next religious destination was Þórshof. There, I was mesmerized by the emotion in Þórr's face in the mural. Folkbuilder Robert Shotwell coordinated with me for the visit. Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea conveyed the spirit of deep piety of this Hof. It was great meeting them and others in the Hall!

At Sigrheim in Tennessee, I had a great visit with Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice, who does so much to care for Sigrheim. Driving along this vast property, I came upon the statues of Steve and Sheila McNallen, and Nick waiting patiently in his truck. Sigrheim is full of possibilities! Tennessee was my favorite Southern State that I traveled through, with its beautiful mountains and friendly people. A good choice for Sigrheim's location!



Statutes of Founder and Alsherjargoði Stephen A. McNallen and Gyðja Sheila McNallen, fire pit, and behind them, the hill where Tyrshof will be built
(Photo Credit: author)

I next visited Njörðshof in Florida, which was a powerful experience. Besides that, this is a special site with characteristic Florida vegetation. Special thanks to Witan and Lawspeaker Allen Turnage! Later by text, Jessie joked with me hoping I had the chance to “feed the gator” at Njörðshof, but I hadn’t known there was an alligator there.



Njordshof has a beautiful setting, including this area and pond in the front. Alligator did not come out for the photo.

(Photo Credit: author)

I intended to visit people in Texas. However, a tropical storm was forecasted to turn into a hurricane (Category 2) the next day, right where I intended to drive (orange highlighting on map). I had to evade the hurricane! Traveling north through Alabama (pink highlighting on map), my car pretty much outran the hurricane, which was traveling at 17 mph northward. The rain and wind did catch me in Tennessee and Arkansas, as I turned westward on Interstate 40 towards home.

Finally, I had the bittersweet experience of coming home to failing, tragic California, a month from when I left. The next weekend, I completed the Blótferð loop by attending Winter Finding at Óðinshof. However, the trip's drama was not over. On Sunday morning, the car battery needed a jump. Folkbuilder Ryan Skinner (with truck) and member Mike (with jumper cables) kindly solved the problem.

You'll notice a theme in this article: how the AFA Leadership came through for me! Everywhere I went, AFA Leadership was there to help make things work, to inspire me, and to visit and learn about each other. Special thanks to Folkbuilder Jessie Shaffer for the Baldrshof visit (which was the most time I spent at any of the three Hofes); along with her wit, wisdom, and laughter!

Altogether, the Blótferð was nearly 10,000 miles of driving. I went through 29 States. A lot of such a trip is rather mundane: driving, eating, sleeping, getting gas, adding oil to your car. But it's worth it! (Fortunately, I enjoy driving!) On your Blótferð, expect adversity, beauty, and surprises.

Like Goði East, I encourage you to go on a Blótferð. Perhaps, as for me, at the end of it, you will realize even more than you did before, that the AFA Folk provide sustenance to each other. That the Gods and Goddesses are present in your life and their lives. That there is fulfillment to be found with these people, these places, the ancestors, and the Holy Powers. And that you wish this fulfillment for the unawakened Folk. You want more of the Ethnic European Folk to come Home to Ásatrú. Moreover, you wish this fulfillment for the children of present and future Ásatrúar, and it gives you joy to see children being brought up following the Old Ways.

— Bill, member, California

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

Þórshof

Food Pantry at Þórshof



On October 26th, during our Winter Nights celebration, we had our monthly food pantry.

It's so nice that we have served this community long enough that we are on first name basis with many in Linden.

It's always such a rewarding experience to be able to help our neighbors, and an experience we look forward to each month.

Smiles are always exchanged, the grateful faces of these folks shine with appreciation for the work we do.

A quick note about December, in addition to our regular food pantry, we are hosting our annual toy drive for the winter holidays. We look forward to seeing you there, and look forward to having as many volunteers as we can put together.



Witan Daniel Young
dyoung@runestone.org

Winter Nights at Þórshof



This month, we celebrated Winter Nights at Þórshof. It was a smaller and much more personal event. We started with the community food outreach program. Next, we had a class with Witan Svan, where he quizzed us on our knowledge of the Gods and Goddesses. After the class, we gathered in the Vé for a Blót to the Disir and the Alfar.

We hailed our ancestors, Galdered Othala, and sang a song that Witan Svan brought back from Winter Nights in New Hampshire.



At the conclusion of the Blót, we gathered in Rumpf Hall and sat down to a delicious potluck dinner, enjoying ham, stews, breads, and other amazing food prepared by our members. As the last plates were cleared, we cleaned up the hall and concluded the event, bringing an end to another incredibly fulfilling and much-needed spiritual gathering with the Folk at Þórshof.

Folkbuilder Robert Shotwell
rshotwell@runestone.org



Upcoming Events at Þórshof

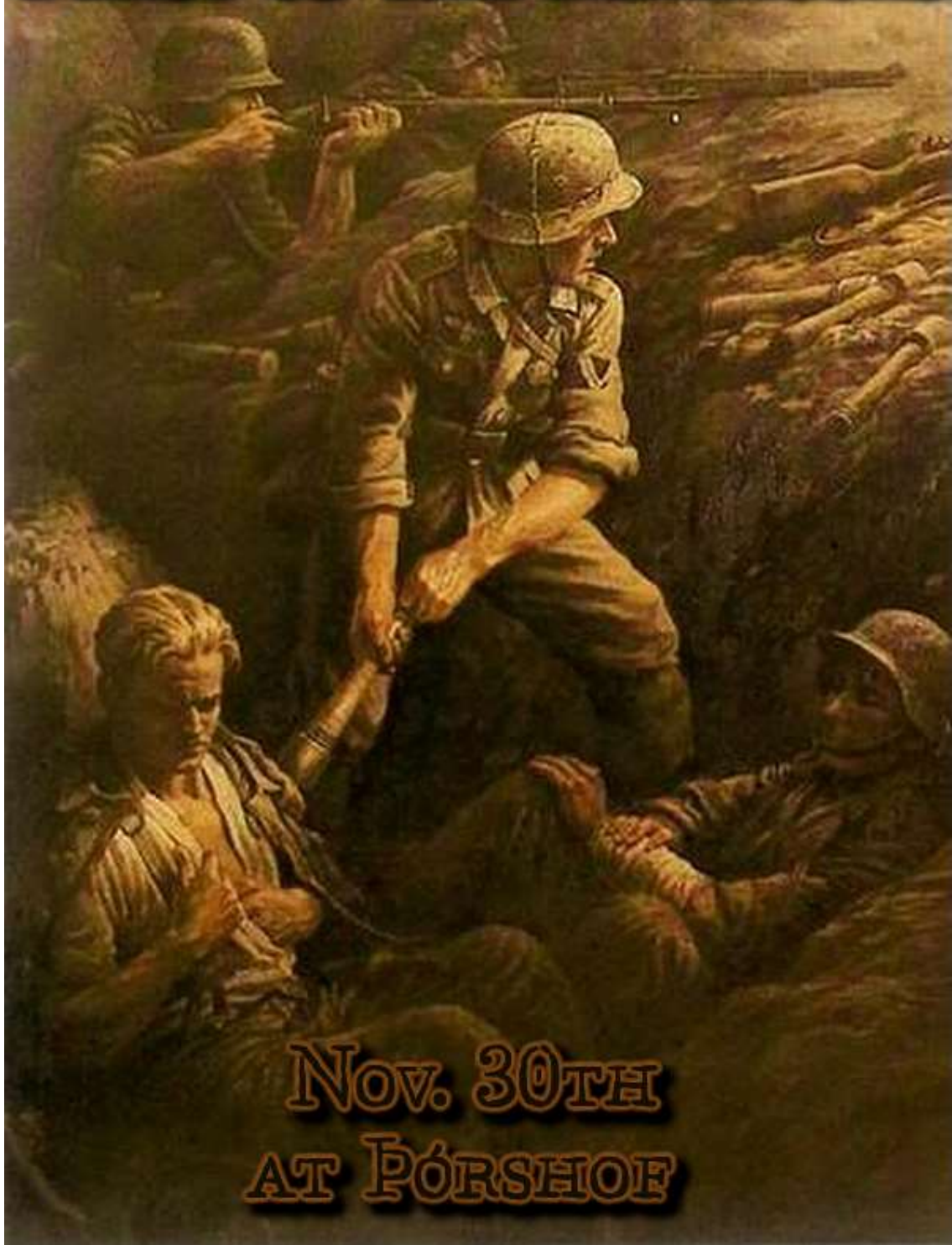




**Fujiſeu Moot at
þórshof**

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

FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR



NOV. 30TH
AT ÞÓRSIOF

Þórshof

Monthly Members' Meeting

Tuesday, November 26th at 8pm Eastern

Yule

Gyðja Catie Erickson

Egill Skallagrímsson

Witan Svan Herul

Thanks Giving

Gyðja Sheila McNallen



Links Emailed and Posted to MeWe
Contact any Folkbuilder for assistance

Pórshof - North

Monthly Members' Meeting

Last Thursday of the Month at 8pm Eastern

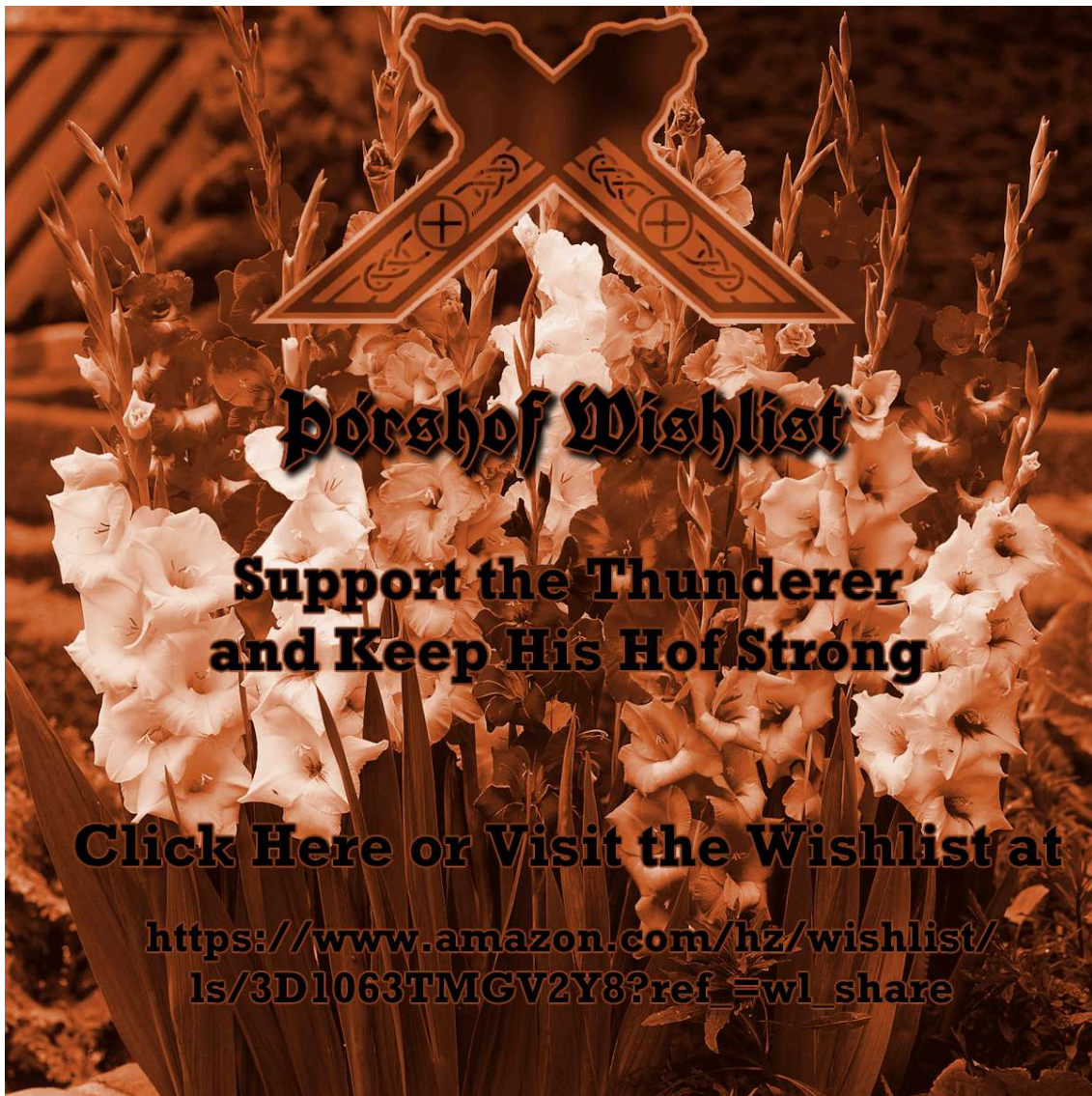


Links Emailed and Posted to MeWe
Contact any Folkbuilder for assistance





Support Þórshof



The District Poetry Corner

Tigge Tagge Igelkott / The Hedgehog



Tigge Tagge Igelkott

A Popular Swedish Rhyme

Tigge tagge igelkott
äter både stort och smått
för att bliva fet och rund
före vintervilan.

Tigge tagge igelkott
kilar kring och har så brått
för att finna sig ett bo
nu till vintervilan.

Tigge tagge igelkott
sover sedan riktigt gott
drömmande om sol och vår
under vintervilan.

The Hedgehog

A Poetic Translation

Hedgehog, hedgehog, prickly ball,
eating things both big and small,
so you can grow fat and round,
before your winter slumber.

Hedgehog, hedgehog, in a hurry,
about the forest floor you scurry,
to find yourself a nest,
now for your winter slumber.

Hedgehog, hedgehog, down you creep,
into your nest to soundly sleep,
dreaming of the sun and spring
during your winter slumber.

— Laura, member, Sweden

Going East



Once our wheels all went into Vermont
ðe shades of ðe shadow-casters shot alive
like flames afflickerin and aflittin, ðe branches
all lit up wiþ light, luscious and brightsome
oranges and oðer awesome arrangements
of colors, like crimsons cutting þrough
ðe skyline, separated by streaks of greens,
and paleish patches of pauses from yellows

brough an ocean of orange all around.
Before ðis fariŋ to fair New Hampshire
I'd laughed when I'd listen to languishment about
"ðe Leafers" and ðeir loutish ways, but lo and behold,
I found myself to be a friend of ðeir fancy ðat weekend.
Frankly, it was ðe farðest fariŋ eastward
ðat eider of us had ever done,
and while ðe way was work to tread,
me and my missus did make it, and joy
was ðe gold to us gifted for goiŋ afar.



Chris Savich
Apprentice Folkbuilder
csavich@runestone.org

Feathered Friends



In crisp winter noon small birds take to wing
Each year feathered critters to me thus sing

Good Sir, Good Sir, today is so cold
Any food you give we will value like gold

So a handful of seeds I throw on the ground
In seconds there are guests cheering around

Good Sir, Good Sir, alive we are still
Thanks to your help and our very strong will

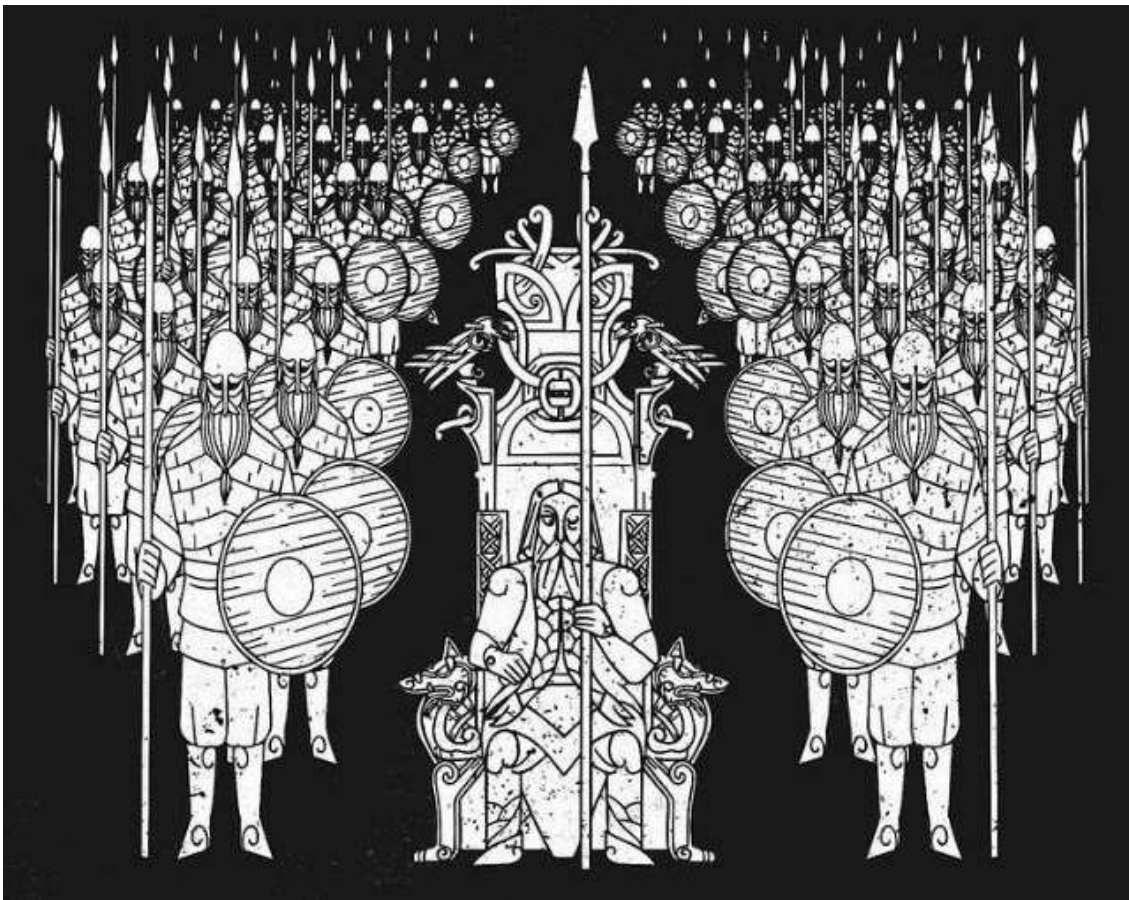
We count down the days to warmth and to light
For spring bringing hope and beauty so bright

Good Sir, Good sir, we must take our leave
The sun in winter gives the shortest reprieve'



Apprentice Folkbuilder
elugnet@runestone.org

Harri. Hero. Honour.



Falling dusk.
Ancestors call.
Silent halls.
Alfar rise.

Veil grows thin, the autumn fades,
The honored dead in shadowed glades.
Warriors brave and fathers wise,

Guide us now through darkened skies.

In Valhalla's halls, they stand with pride,
With Óðinn's hand and swords at side.
To fallen kin, we raise our mead,
To memory's light, to word and deed.

Alfar bold, in honour's name,
Through mist and night, we feel your flame.
Of strength and valor, there is song,
At altar's sacrifice, we carry on.

Heroes might, we bow and praise,
To those who walk the Aryan ways.
The path you forged, the blood you gave,
In twilight's shroud, your spirits wave.

With feasting to the Einherjar,
A fire burns, the world to char.



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Indiana

Indiana Winter Nights



This month we celebrated Winter Nights in Indiana. Among other things, this holiday was significant in that it was the first moot officially held at our new location. We enjoyed snacks, drinks and camaraderie and then performed our Disir and Alfar Blót in the new space before our impromptu Ancestor's Altar.

It was by no means our finest holiday celebration; the space is unfinished, we were without kitchen or adequate lighting, etc. but we chose to "practice the way we intend to play" and it helped us to begin working the kinks out of the traditions and practices that will inform how this new space impacts our worship.

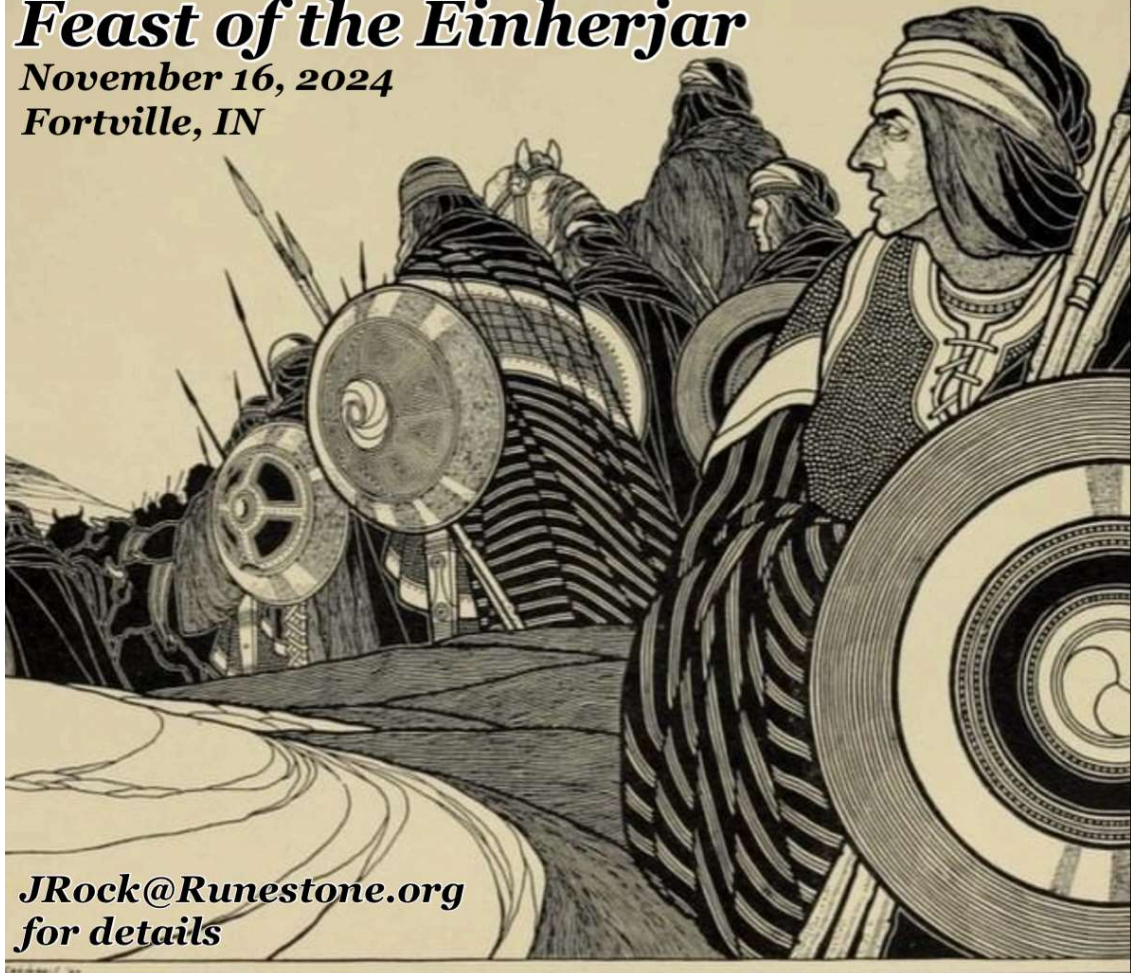
Of utmost importance we continued to build and strengthen our bonds with one another, our Gods and our Holy Ancestors.

Upcoming Events

Feast of the Einherjar

November 16, 2024

Fortville, IN



JRock@Runestone.org
for details

Yule Celebration!



December 21, 2024
Fortville, IN

JRock@Runestone.org
For details

polliadesign



Folkbuilder Jonathan Rock

jrock@runestone.org

Massachusetts

Upcoming Events

Western Mass Einherjar Moot



Nov 10 – Western MA

Contact: rboardman@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Ronald Boardman

rboardman@runestone.org

Michigan

Michigan Restaurant Moot



Friends and Folk,

Michigan's October Moot was held in a lovely restaurant serving only the finest American cuisine. The building had vaulted ceilings that were oddly high for a place that sells burgers, so we speculated that it was possibly a former church. Turns out that we were wrong, it was just a strangely spacious restaurant. My fried chicken sandwich was so good, and the conversation was so pleasing, that I completely forgot to take a picture of the odd interior design, so you'll just have to take me at my word for it.



The restaurant was near a local park, so we headed that way. A short trail led us into the forest, and took us to a short wooden walkway roofed with tree branches out onto what I believe was technically a bog. We held Blót to the Dísir and poured out the offering into the wetland. The second picture is a result of me failing to setup my phone-camera's timer correctly, but it has the flag betterly displayed.

Hail the Gods, hail the Folk, hail the AFA, and hail the Dísir!

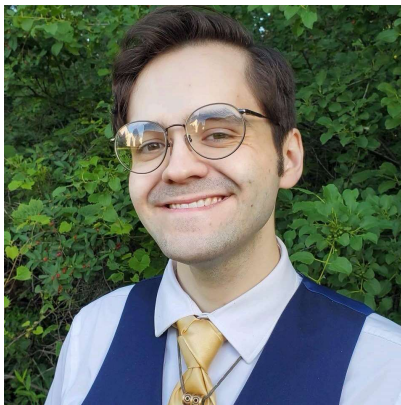
Upcoming Events





*Michigan
restaurant moot
12/07/24*

*Contact Apprentice Folkbuilder
Chris Savich for details!
csavich@runestone.org*



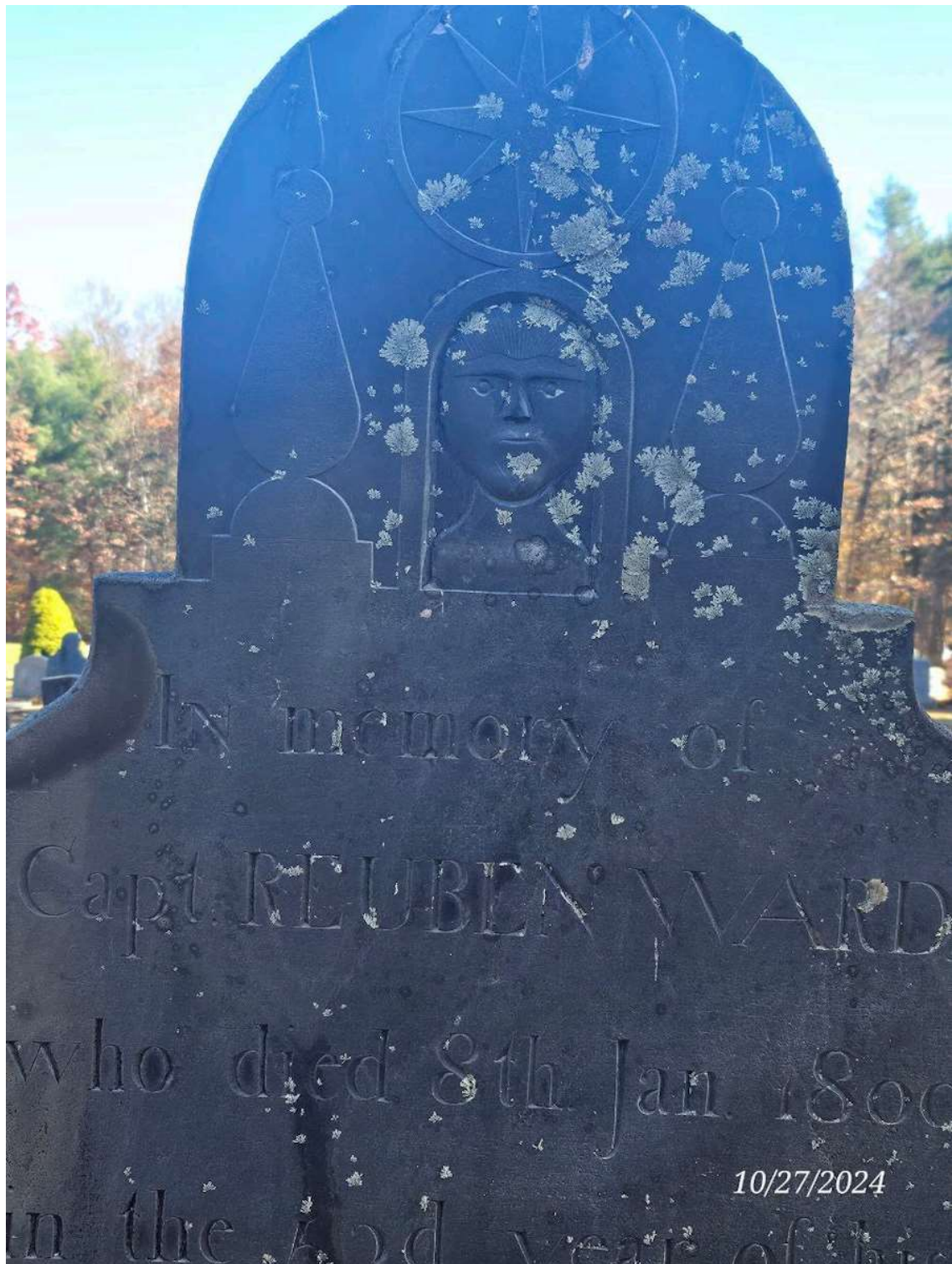
Chris Savich
Apprentice Folkbuilder
csavich@runestone.org

New Hampshire

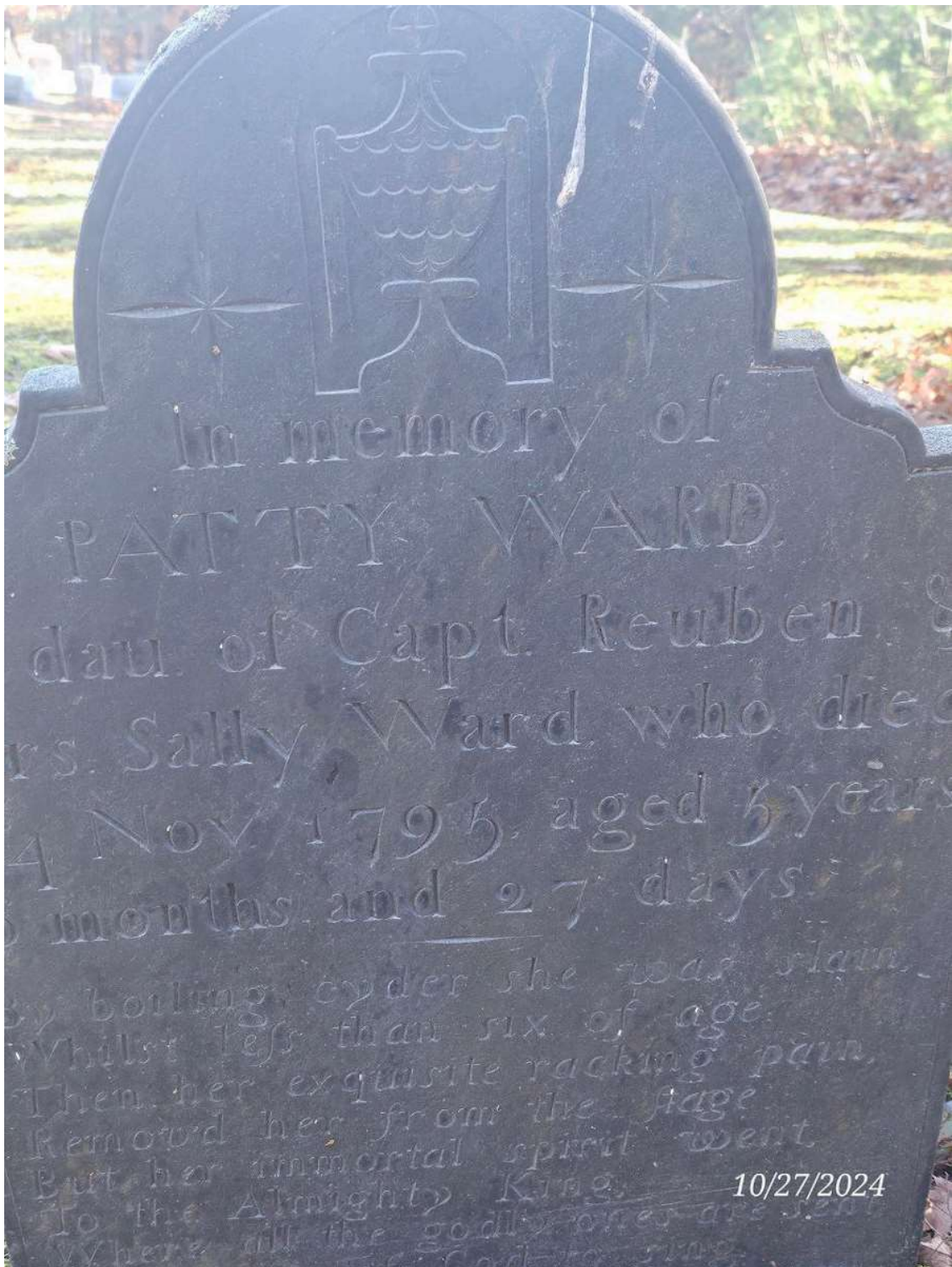
NH Hallows Graveyard Moot



On the 27th of October, in a Colonial Era graveyard here in southwest New Hampshire, a few of us AFA members gathered to socialize, get into the spirit of the season and hail the Victorious Dead for Hallows. We brought benches and table, different cheeses from goat to cow cheese and quality salami to enjoy. It was light fare for a day that wound up being brisker than anticipated.



This graveyard is special to my family as the original builders and settlers of my town and the house I live in are buried there. You will see a picture here of Rueben Ward's headstone standing where it has for over 200 years. Look at the craftsmanship and imagery. Right next to Mr Ward's is a smaller stone of one of his daughters. Patty Ward was her name, and while boiling cider had it spilled on her, which caused her death. It is heartbreaking to see her stone and know her ending at such a tender age in 1795.



With respect, we setup next to their graves. We ate, told their tales, and began to feel a bit more merry. Sunna reaching her height for the day helped as her cargo brought more warmth. As she climbed out of the trees and sent the shadows fleeing, personal stories of our heritage began to come out. This is often common at AFA events, but it held something extra while being spoken in a cemetery. The children enjoyed the sun and walking amongst the headstones. I hope it is a memory they recall in their older years and understand.

A few of the ladies spent some time aside doing witchy things, including trying out an EMF and found some interesting results in the newer part of the graveyard. You'd have to ask them about that. As the hours passed, we noted that out Folk in Europe were having a Teams meeting so we joined them to say hello for a few minutes. It is always good to talk to them.



All things must end, and today was no different. So, ale held high, we were simple and hailed the Victorious Dead, the Asatru Folk Assembly, and the Folk. We emptied the ale out into the ground that holds our ancestors, cleaned and packed up, then headed home after warm farewells.

Memento Mori is real. But until then, also remember that there is life before death, and today we brought life and hopefully happiness to the resting place of our dead.

Upcoming Events

New Hampshire



Porrablót

18 Jan - Southwest NH

Contact: rboardman@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Ronald Boardman
rboardman@runestone.org

Winter Nights in NH



What an amazing time! It was truly a blessing to have Winter Nights in the great Granite State.

It was an action-packed weekend of brilliant rituals, activities, and bonding. It was truly impressive to see the dedication of those who traveled from afar to join us.

A huge shout out to Ronald Boardman and his family for their hospitality and a huge and well deserved congratulations to Folkbuilder Ronald Boardman for taking his Oath!

I know this event is a good omen of things to come in New England!

Thanks again to everyone who came and made this event possible!

Please join us this month in Concord, NH for a toast to the Einherjar!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the AFA!

Hail Victory!

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Tyler Sagert
tsagert@runestone.org

North Carolina

Appalachian Happenings: Helene - A Tale of Horror and Hope



During the last week of September, southern Appalachia received over a foot of rain, followed by the most devastating storm we've ever seen, Hurricane Helene. Our two largest rivers, the French Broad and Swannanoa, reached unprecedented heights, destroying everything in their paths. Countless lakes either burst their dams or forced engineers to open the flood gates, adding to the devastation. The extraordinary amount of rainfall caused entire mountainsides to break loose, causing massive landslides that killed dozens of people. The high winds snapped and uprooted trees and downed almost every power line in the region. Entire communities were cut off from the outside world when bridges washed away and landslides destroyed roads. Some communities built along riverbanks cease to exist, without as much as a foundation visible.



The aftermath of the storm was almost as devastating as the storm itself. Hundreds of thousands of people lost power, and several thousand are still without power as you're reading this. The lack of power caused groceries to spoil on the shelves and gas pumps to be inoperable. Local distribution centers were destroyed, making resupply impossible for the few grocery stores that were able to get power restored. For about a week, if you wanted fuel for your generator (if you were prepared enough to even have a generator), you were forced to wait in line for hours just to find out that there was no more gas, and another truck wasn't due until the next day. Every road and highway in the area was blocked with downed trees and utility poles, making travel impossible

until citizens cut up the trees. Once the major roads were clear, it was possible to make the 2- or 3-hour round trip to an “unaffected” area possible to resupply.



Adding to the chaos, cell towers were also affected. There was a roughly 36 hour period after the storm when cell phones had no service at all. This led to panic among the family and friends of those trapped by the storm. With no way to establish contact with loved ones, it was easy to think the worst; coverage from mainstream media showed only the worst of the devastation, if it covered the event at all. When some cell service was finally restored, it didn't last long. For about a week, our phones would work for 24-36 hours, then be down again for another 24-36. In an age where we have become dependent upon immediate contact with our friends, family, and emergency services, this caused a panic in and of itself. Compounding this frustration was a complete ignorance of just how severe the storm was in surrounding areas. We truly had no idea how our neighbors “across the holler” were doing.



In the midst of all of the devastation and heartbreak, hope shone through. In my brief communication windows, I was able to make contact with my Gođar and some of my closest AFA friends, expressing to them how urgent and dire the situation was. We were able to quickly rally support and set up a disaster relief fundraiser, to which many of you donated. In a very short amount of time, we were able to raise adequate funds to procure much-needed supplies and tools, and to fund a relief operation. Within 4 days, the first volunteer, Somerled of NC, arrived on my doorstep. He was followed by Jace of Georgia a few days later, and Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein of Montana arrived 2 days after Jace. The following weekend saw James of South Carolina and Tom of Indiana arriving to help. With this crew of industrious AFA men, we were able to have a real impact on the local community. Some volunteers were only able to stay for a few days, but Tyler and Tom stuck around for over a week each. Tyler dedicated 10 days and Tom 2 weeks, traveling to the hardest-hit areas and affecting real change. We were able to rescue two farms, restore water, deliver supplies, remove trees, mitigate storm damage, and clear toxic mud from buildings so that they could be gutted and rebuilt. All of this was possible thanks to YOU, whether you donated, prayed, or spread the word and put out the call to action. Appalachia thanks you, my community thanks you, and I thank you.



10/23/24 Victory Never Sleeps, Episode 120 - Carolina Hurricane Relief
<https://youtu.be/LmV9rv60VNE>

Another thing that is important to talk about is community and the principle of Innangarðr. This region is already famous for our hospitality and self-reliance, but the way that this community pulled together and helped each other blew me away. Everywhere I turned, I saw neighbor helping neighbor. There were many people that came from neighboring states (or as far as Montana) to assist in the relief effort, but overwhelmingly, the people that were clearing roads, recovering bodies, reuniting loved ones, and distributing supplies and meals were locals. The government presence on the ground has been minimal, especially in the first 10 days. FEMA and the military arrived on the scene to find passable roads, temporary bridges, cleared landslides, and countless distribution centers that had already helped tens of thousands of people. WE take care of US. Over and over, I heard people talking about Innangarðr, even without knowing the term. Folk would tell me about how they cut their way out of their driveway first, then checked on their neighbors, then started to focus on their community. Countless times I heard our Folk talk about the concentric circles in which they worked.

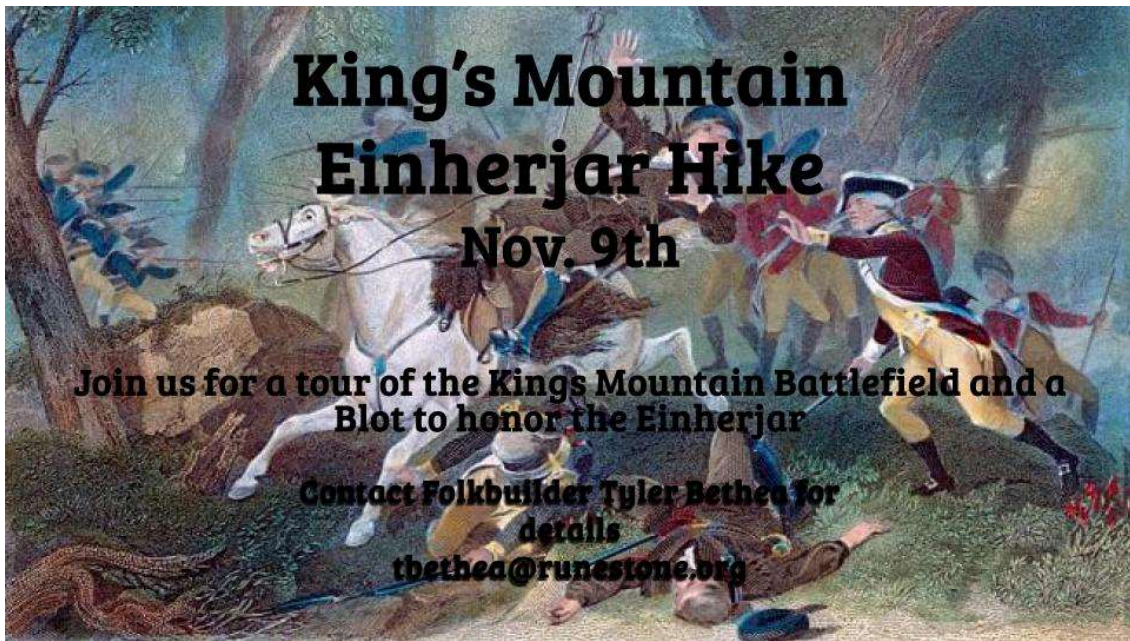


Hurricane Relief Work
<https://youtu.be/4ueEnl0Thnw>

These mountains will never be the same. The landscape has irrevocably changed; rivers have new courses, mountain sides are exposed, and communities have washed away. I have shed countless tears while witnessing the devastation in the knowledge that nothing will be the same. But I have also never been more inspired and hopeful than when witnessing my people pull together. We will rebuild, we will overcome, and we will be stronger than ever.

Hail the Aesir! Hail the Folk! Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!
And HAIL APPALACHIA!

Upcoming Events



King's Mountain Einherjar Hike, November 9

Join us at the King's Mountain battlefield on the border of North and South Carolina as we tour the battlefield that saw so many Appalachian men defend their homes. We will take a walk amongst the trees, slowly climbing the mountain as we reflect upon the sacrifices of those men and discuss what it means to be an Einherjar. Once we reach the summit, we will tour the monuments before heading into the woods for Blót to honor the fallen and celebrate Odin World Prayer Day. Our second annual trip, this will be a rain-or-shine event, so please dress accordingly.



Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea

tbeta@runestone.org

Ohio

Ohio Winter Nights

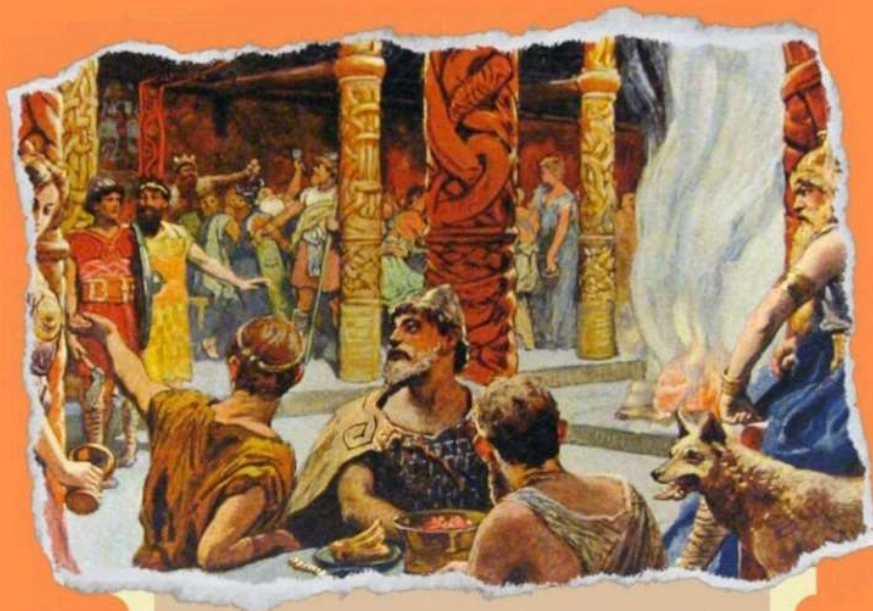


Another month, another gathering. I was honored to host Winter Nights Ohio, along with our own Folkbuilder Mike Melillo. A sunny October day, good food, and wonderful company created a Frithful atmosphere. It has been a difficult year for me, but being able to serve our Folk has been a boon for me, and I thank you all for your adherence to the Æsir and our Folk. Old members and new members alike gathered, for something that is more important and beautiful than I can hope to convey to you all. Every gathering you attend, every conversation, and every bond forged with one another adds to the Well and helps to spin a fate worthy of our ancestors. These aren't just parties for a club, these are gatherings of those Tru to the Æsir, and more important than you know on this plane. With endless negativity in the current world, something very special happens when AFA members meet. We bring our Folk closer to the light, and heal the transgressions imposed by an unhealthy society. Folkbuilder Melillo provided us with a heartfelt Blót and officiated a deep and sincere Sumbl. These things hold an even deeper importance. I thank you all for your presence in this church, and I admire your willingness to understand and rekindle our relationship with the Æsir and

Ancestors. You are important and I look forward to meeting as many of you fine Folk as I can. Until then, or until next month, Hail the Gods, Hail the Folk, and Hail the AFA.

Upcoming Events

Feast of the Einherjar, Ohio



NOV, 16TH

2:00 PM, POTLUCK

Contact Folkbuilder Joe
Drotos, or Mike Melillo



Folkbuilder Joe Drotos
jdrotos@runestone.org

Pennsylvania

Trunk or Treat Outreach



The last of the warm autumn winds blew north from the Ohio and Allegheny rivers, keeping the evening horde of costumed children comfortable. The excitement in the air was electric, as the children, each dressed uniquely, travelled from car to car to claim their treasured candy. Our vehicle, decorated with false cityscapes and candy filled pumpkins stood in line with multiple other spooky stands and festive tables. Joined by my family and a few friends, we wasted no time in sharing candy and information about our Faith.

One of the great surprises of the Trunk or Treat event, was being greeted by multiple, and excited, children shouting, “Hey Unc!” Due to the location of the event, I was happy to see many of the young men and women who have taken part in our unhoused outreach. Filling their candy bags with a bit extra, these young men and women, all hovering around the 15 to 17 age ranges, were excited to see me and helped remind me of the necessity of our outreach.

Bringing Warmth to Yinz

PITTSBURGH METROPOLITAIN ASATRÚ

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR

Our outreach is designed to help provide items of necessity to the unhoused and underprivileged members of our community.

rfenton@runestone.org



OBJECTIVES

Our objective is the help feed, clothe, rehabilitate, and educate the unhoused population in our community, We do so through warm food deliveries, clothing drives, and regular religious meetings. It is our hope to spread the practice, development, and dissemination of our ancestral faith. We as an outreach program are woefully underfunded, and in desperate need of donations. We use 100% of all funds to acquire warm clothing from various sources, to help provide warm meals when available, along with small amounts of non-perishable foods, and to provide hard to access hygiene items.

SOLUTION

If we can increase our donations by any amount we can continue to help provide resources to our underprivileged Folk. We can continue in our mission of spreading Asatrú to Folk who have no knowledge of their ancestral inheritance. We can help to restore our community, banish alienation, and establish natural relations among our Folk.

As part of our outreach we can foster the innate sense of self-reliance and responsibility within our people. Bring to them knowledge of our 10 most noble virtues and create stronger bonds between our Folk and the Æsir.

BENEFITS

- 1. Building a greater name for the AFA**

By publicly doing good works for our community we build for ourselves a greater legacy and spotless reputation.
- 2. Provide community influence**

we are able to provide more influence within the community by the strength of our reputation, and display the glory and strength of our faith, ancestors, and gods.
- 3. Returning Folk to their native faith**

We help to show our lost Folk, the true path to glory, and educate them on the faith that is a natural part of their DNA. We remove the barrier of ignorance with the light of the Æsir.

AT A GLANCE

CHALLENGES

- Large Unhoused Population
- Lack of funding
- Ordinance and local law

BENEFITS

- Fulfillment of the first Purpose
- Adding glory and honor to the AFA



RYAN FENTON
Apprentice Folkbuilder

“Fire is needful to him who is come in, and whose knees are frozen; food and raiment a man requires, who o'er the fell has travelled.” - Óðinn

With winter cold on our heels, it's my hope we can expand our outreach and help keep these children warm this winter. Our unhoused outreach has provided warm meals to 153 people, and provided roughly 30 coats, and as many hats and gloves. This may not seem like large numbers compared to the size of America's unhoused population, but even one meal and coat can mean the difference between life and death for a member of our Folk. Since the devastating destruction of the recent storms in the south, our unhoused population has almost doubled with people seeking safety and refuge from their losses.

Alone I am unable to feed and clothe everyone in our community, but together with our Folk, I know we can accomplish a great deal. If you feel like donating to our Unhoused cause please check out our GoFundMe campaign at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/wont-you-be-my-neighbor-pittsburgh-asatru> or use our QR code located on our flyer. Every little bit helps.

Upcoming Events

THE NOVEMBER

Virtues Conference

11.23.24 // NOON

4899 WILLIAM PENN HWY, MURRYSVILLE, PA 15668



EMAIL APPRENTICE FOLKBUILDER RYAN
FENTON AT [RFENTON@RUNESTONE.ORG](mailto:rfenton@runestone.org)



Ryan Fenton
Apprentice Folkbuilder
rfenton@runestone.org

GETTYSBURG NATIONAL PARK 3RD ANNUAL FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR



JOIN US!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, JOIN US AT GETTYSBURG NATIONAL PARK FOR A DAY OF HISTORY, FRITH, AND A BLOT TO HONOR OUR FALLEN HEROS.

WITH DINNER TO FOLLOW



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE REACH OUT TO GYTHIA CATIE ERICKSON

CM.ERICKSON@RUNESTONE.ORG

Join us for our 3rd Annual Gettysburg Feast of the Einherjar!

We are thrilled to be going back to Gettysburg to tour the battlefields, build Frith with our Folk, and to preform Blót on the ground our ancestors gave their lives to defend. Bring some snacks, but plan on dinner after we have finished touring Gettysburg! We hope to see you there!



Gyðja Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org

Upcoming Events

ULLR FEST



ULLR FEST

**MONROE COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9th
4:00 - 9:00 PM**

**RSVP TO
JILLIESTORM@YAHOO.COM**





**Outdoor Swedish Holiday Market
and Traditional Concert**

**Saturday, December 7th
Noon - 4 pm**

Philadelphia, PA

RSVP to jilliestorm@yahoo.com



Yuletide Faire

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Saturday, December 14th

1:00-4:00 pm

RSVP to
jilliestorm@yahoo.com



Lebanon County, PA

Yuletide Hikemoot

Swatara State Park

12.14.24

Contact rfenton@runestone.org or
sixteenthlfwfd@yahoo.com for more info

Sweden

Meditations by the Hearth



Over the past five years, I have been slowly learning how to tend the fire in the wood burning stove in our home, which we use almost exclusively for heating. Finally, this year, as I have become more capable, and as our children have grown more independent, I have started to start and keep the fire by myself.

Throughout the process, I have been impressed at how much of an art tending a fire is. It requires timing, attention, skill, and intuition gained through experience. As I have developed my ability to tend the fire, I have gained a deeper appreciation for the hearth and its spiritual connotations. It has become a central part of my devotion to Frigg.

The hearth is the heart of the home. It fills the home with warmth, light, and cheer. It has long been a symbol of the home and woman's role in it. For generations of our Folk, the hearth was a place for preparing meals, warming frozen hands, gathering for stories, and working in the dim glow during the long, dark winter. Its light has beckoned many a weary traveler in from the cold.

The need to keep the fire alive binds us to the home as someone, traditionally the woman of the household, needs to stay close enough to be able to add logs to the fire. This is one of the manifestations of the feminine virtues of constancy and devotion. But it also connects us to the world outside, as we must gather and chop wood, and fetch the wood from outside.



Sometimes when we come to the hearth, we find nothing but dying embers. With a little kindling and the right technique, we can breathe life into the fire again. First with short, gentle breaths, then with a long breath from deep within. It is a delicate procedure, which is analogous to a woman's spiritual ability to breathe life into things.

But how does all of this relate to life in the modern age, when most of us heat our homes with furnaces or other modern technologies, and when many women work outside the home? While tending a fire can be very rewarding spiritually, and of course very cozy, we do not need to keep a fire in our hearth to fulfill our spiritual role as the keeper of the hearth.

We can recognize that we, as women, are the heart of the home. We are a steady and powerful presence in our homes, which we fill with our energy and intentions. Through our Frithweaving and hospitality, we are capable of filling our families and our guests with a sense of warmth, comfort, welcomeness, and joy. In our spiritual endeavors, our intuition can guide us as we work to light new fires, and breathe life into embers. Though we may not do it by the hearth, we continue to nourish our families and pass on the stories of our Gods, our ancestors, and our Folk.

Keep the home fires burning!

Hail Frigg!

Hail the Hearth Keepers!

Hail the AFA!

— Laura, member

Winter Nights in Sweden



The day of our Disablót this year was rainy and slightly misty. It helped to create a very cozy atmosphere as we gathered in our home to prepare family recipes and tell stories in honour of our Disir. We thanked them for the many blessings they have given us, and we gave them gifts of our own. Perhaps the most important gift we offered them was to invite them to share in the warmth and joy of our home. To share in our lives and the lives of our children. We hope to honour them by living nobly and by upholding their memory and traditions.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Disir!

Hail the AFA!

Upcoming Events



Feast of the Einherjar

17th of November

Norrbotten, Sweden

rsvp @ elugnet@runestone.org

Feast of the Einherjar

17th of November

Join the Lugnets as we honor the Einherjar!



Remembrance Dinner

Egill Skallagrímsson

9th of December

Norrbotten, Sweden

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

Skallagrímsson Remembrance Dinner

9th of December

Join the Lugnets as we dine in honor of Egill Skallagrímsson!



Jul

15th of December

Join the Lugnets as we celebrate Jul!



Erik Lugnet
Apprentice Folkbuilder
elugnet@runestone.org

Tennessee

Winter Nights in Tennessee



It's a magical, glowing, amber time. The smell of damp leaves, the brilliance of scarlet trees, the evening of the year. With the national event so very far for us, Appalachian Hearth Kindred planned to have a celebration for Winter Nights locally. What a time it was! Attendees drove the curving Tennessee roads from Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia and from across time zones to join us. The weekend began on Friday with a

cozy lasagna dinner, a Blót and Sumbl. We tested out mead from a new recipe and determined that it definitely needed aging. Local homemade ice cream joined the baked cookies. This was a particularly meaningful Sumbl for me as I honored my late mother on her birthday. People talked around the fire into the night before retiring to an AirBnB. The following day, the rest of our Folk arrived. During the afternoon, we broke into men's and women's groups to have deep discussion of the ancestors we intended to honor that evening. We were to speak their names over the fire, but we wanted to spend more time sharing their stories. The women talked of their Disir, the men their Alfar. We had the daughter of a new local member come and she instantly joined in our camaraderie. This was a special time, connecting to those that came before us, sharing our loved ones and honoring the feminine and masculine distinctly.

Our feast was spectacular with pulled pork, slow-cooked beef roast, roasted turnips from the garden, homemade rustic sourdough bread. We celebrated two birthdays with cake and a number of gorgeous desserts. Many especially remarked upon the cranberry tart. Then it was time for Blót. Last year was such a powerful and memorable Winter Nights. Many of us so loved Witan Dan Young's Alfar Blót that we decided to continue the tradition and hold both. Tyler Bethea led an Alfar Blót and that led directly to my Disir Blót. We stood in a circle before the newly built stone Horgr and hailed our beloved ancestors, connecting those names to the stories shared earlier. As our Sumbl showed, family was strong here. Some of us were family, some were as good as. The web of Wyrð being stitched within this group was strong.



The final day began with coffee, muffins and wonderful breakfast casseroles. I cannot fully convey the Frith and brotherhood that took place. Discussions and bonding lasted hours. This was such a success for the Folk; even though many of our regular attendees and even Kindred members could not make it to this event, we were numerous and powerful. I cannot imagine what our picture would look like had we been able to have all our regulars as well.



What I find most valuable from this experience became apparent when talking with my husband after cleanup - the inter-generational connection. How so many of our Folk desperately need community, to be seen, heard and understood. To be cared for. For the women to have more hands and hearts to help shoulder women's work, for the men to break through their mistrust and suspicion to be enveloped into the Innangarðr of the menfolk. We saw how much people need love, hospitality and the sense of home and belonging. We in Appalachia endeavor to become that.

May your hearts be full!

Hail the Folk!

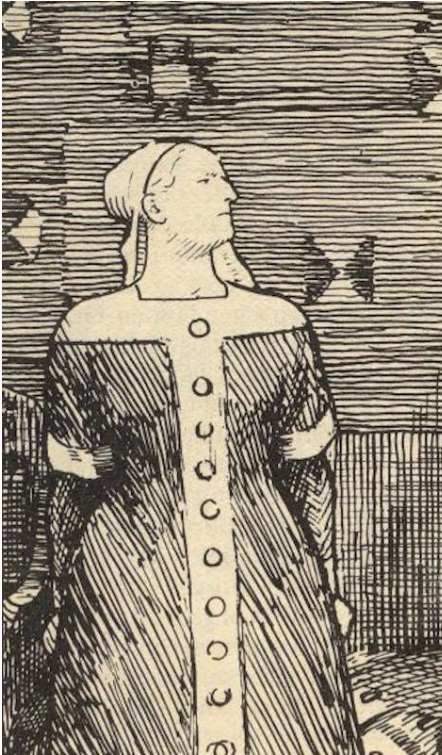
— Rachel, member

Upcoming Events



TENNESSE IS THE HOME OF SIGRHEIM
AND THERE'S AMAZING THINGS
HAPPENING EVERY MONTH!

CHECK OUT THE DEDICATION SECTION
ABOVE FOR MORE INFO



Remembrance Dinner
for Queen Sigríð

November 9th
630 pm

RSVP to
nrice@runestone.org

German Deli and Bakery Moot



Clarksville, TN

Sun. Dec. 8th at Noon

For more info, email
nrice@rune-stone.org

Remembrance Dinner
for Ggill Skallagrinnsson

Dec. 9th at 630pm

RSVP to
nrice@runestone.org



The Second Annual
12/25 Chinese Food Dinner

Cookeville, TN

RSVP w/
Folkbuilder Nick Rice
nrice@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Vermont



**Winter Wassail
Moot**

14 Dec - Woodstock. VT

Contact: rboardman@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Ronald Boardman
rboardman@runestone.org



Virginia

Upcoming Events



*Devil's
Marble-Yard
Moot*

NATURAL BRIDGE STATE PARK, VA
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH - 1:00PM

CONTACT
SHERUL@RUNESTONE.ORG



Witan Svan Herul
sherul@runestone.org



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