





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

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

**October 2024**

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## Words from the Alsherjargoði



We are our DEEDS!

This month I would like to take a moment to remind everyone that Ásatrú is about what we do. I had the honor of attending Freyr's Harvest Feast in Montana and it was great to see ideas and dreams become action and accomplishment. This event has been hosted on Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein's homestead. I have heard countless people talk about homesteading and I am proud to see that Tyler has actually done it and continues to do so. We all shared a wonderful weekend in a space he and his associates have built and are building. Dreams became deeds.

We all have things we dream on and ways we want our lives and our futures to be different. Far too few of us take actions to build those dreams and shape our lives and futures. Tyler dreamt of a homestead and a meadery. Some may have similar dreams; many will doubtlessly have wildly different dreams. With effort and persistence, we can all shape our reality to more closely fit our dreams, piece by piece, brick by brick. I am reminded and inspired to always work to make Victory happen.

As we celebrate the Autumn and the harvest, let's nurture our dreams and make firm plans on the deeds necessary to make those dreams reality. We are building dreams of generations together as a Folk and as a church; teamwork makes the dream work.

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



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**Words from our Founder**



Asatru - Winter Nights & the Disir  
<https://youtu.be/KL2Xcv8IEekIEek?si=d57OUROxKDuYa5V1>



Founder Steven McNallen

## Words from our Witan

*Soul Complex, The Hugr*



It has been quite some time since we visited the topic of the Soul. I began these articles last year, and in late July 2023, I had a serious health scare that derailed me a bit. It's been a year since that ordeal and I'm happy to share that I have made a full recovery. Let's pick up where we left off.

We left off with the second soul component, the Ek. (For a refresher of my previous articles on the subject, there's a reposting of it on the Runestone.org blog at [LINK](#).) There we discussed the importance of a well-trained and healthy ego, versus a weak and untrained one.

Next, we are discussing the Hugn, the logical mind. As before, we will be using Founder Stephen McNallen's *Asatru, A Native European Spirituality* as our reference.

Pronounced "h yewer," of note to remember that the g is silent. It is the logical mind, or active thought.

"In the Northern Lore, Odin has two ravens that fly forth every day and report back to him at night. Their names are Huginn (Thought) and Muninn (Memory). They represent two soul components, called the hugn and the minni."

Stephen McNallen, *Asatru, A Native European Spirituality*

Founder McNallen goes on to describe the two soul components from a psychological view as left brained and right brained. Hugn is conscious thought, in the moment, the ability to have discernment. To break down situations or topics and come to a logical conclusion. It is thinking, counting, reasoning, judgement and is linear.

We are often driven by emotions. Our people, especially in this modern world, react with a hair trigger when a topic or event sets them off in an emotional way. It's far less often that we take a step back and give the situation some thought and reason. We see this far too frequently.

Don't try to suppress your emotions, but do not let them drive you. When faced with a hot topic or a heated moment, it's best to take a step back and think before you speak or act. This will help in relationships with your significant other, your friends and colleagues, your brothers and sisters in Ásatrú. Use your Hugr for reason and understanding before you react. I think we could all be better in this regard.

This is especially true when dealing with your Folk. The benefit of the doubt is often not given, and that leads to hard feelings and often results in the dissolution of a relationship. Let us try to avoid that.

"To learn objectivity, pick an issue on which you have strong feelings. Now study the other side of that issue - not pouring through it with the idea of refuting the arguments, but challenging your preconceived notions."

Stephen McNallen, *Asatru, A Native European Spirituality*



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## Words from our Goðar

*The Life and Times of Thorgrun Odden, 1946-2024*



<https://youtu.be/11OF31Vnasg>

Timothy Edward Thompson was born on August 18, 1946 in Inglewood, California, the only son of Laverne “Tommy” Thompson and Mandalie Bulgrin. Generally called “Timmy” by his friends, we all knew him as Thorgrun Odden.

He was always a country boy at heart, as they moved to rural Colorado and then back to southern California. Eventually, the family came north where his father started building homes.

While in a Santa Cruz drugstore, the pretty young clerk caught Tim’s eye. It was mutual, and in no time, Timmy Thompson and Katie Fuhs were a twosome with all the passion and promises of youth. They married on September 9, 1969, just before he joined up with the California National Guard during the Vietnam War years. He also worked alongside his dad, doing carpentry and learning “the trade.”

Life was good. Work was plentiful, and they soon had two children, Josh and Rebekah. However, a family crisis occurred when Bekah was diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis while still a toddler. They searched for answers and medical advice from the best in the field, but there was no silver bullet to prevent the life-long pain and crippling that came with her illness.

Thorgrun was always fascinated by American and European history. He began collecting works like the Poetic and Prose Eddas, plus the saga stories based on his own Scandinavian roots. He knew that the family name was changed to Thompson upon arrival in the US. In an old family photograph, a young child identified as his great,

great grandfather is where he learned the name that he took for his own. In 1985, Timothy Edward Thompson, became his true self, Thorgrun Edward Odden.

During the early 1980s, Thorgrun came across a magazine advertisement posted by Stephen McNallen with the words “ODIN LIVES!” He signed up for *The Runestone* but would be many years before the two men would meet at an Asatru Alliance Althing in Wisconsin.

Thorgrun built Katie’s dream home in the forested hills near Santa Cruz where he set up his woodland Vé encircled by redwoods. Strange things happened there. He came back on consecutive days to find the ground torn up at the site where he did ritual. Realizing this was the work of a wild boar, he left offerings and made his troth to Ingvi Freyr. He soon established the Gullinbursti Kindred, using the name of Freyr’s boar.

As Goði of Gullinbursti Kindred, Thorgrun attended an event called “Gathering of the Gothar” at the desert homestead of old-timer Kirby Wise. He came back with vivid details about the event and the assortment of odd characters. This event is where he was officially ordained among other Goðar. His article was published in a 1996 edition of *The Runestone*, a classic piece you can read today found in the [Runestone Library](#).

During those early years of the Asatru Folk Assembly, Thorgrun was there for the ebb and flow of the AFA. Times like the Kennewick Man era were dynamic and exciting. Other times left us dismayed in our fellow men. Thorgrun was steadfast -- never wavering in his loyalty to the Æsir or the principles of the AFA.

In time, he and Katie moved to Nevada County to live near their daughter’s family. Grandparent-life was great, but times changed after the death of their daughter and the two grandchildren relocated to Reno with their father.

Thorgrun’s last construction project was overseeing the building of the McNallen home in Nevada County. In time, Thorgrun and Katie moved into a travel trailer next to Óðinshof. The mornings were his time to set out sprinklers and do general upkeep. Known for his generosity, clients of our Óðinshof Food Pantry knew they could reach out to Thorgrun when their cupboards were bare. Children of Óðinshof will forever remember him as Papa Yule, the kindly wanderer who would stride through the door, holding his staff and jingling bells. Then he would hand out the wrapped presents amid the excited chatter of little Folk who sat before him.

Significant to those who call Óðinshof home, it was Thorgrun who contacted the realtor who would lead us to the old Grange Hall in Brownsville. That act changed the lives of



us all. In the manifestation as the First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly, he brought in his towering god-poles, Óðinn – Þórr – Freyr, that finally had a permanent home. Over time, he donated other items to the Hof from his personal collection as a Goði.

Besides fruit trees, Thorgrun planted rare conifers at Óðinshof in an overgrown area next to the cemetery. Through the efforts of our Folkbuilders, it has become a sacred spot now called Thorgrun's Grove. It already feels like a healing-place with a waterfall and bench for quiet contemplation. We all hoped it would be Thorgrun's place of recuperation, but that wasn't meant to be. It will forever be Thorgrun's place of peace and healing for others.

Thorgrun lived out his last years as an emissary of Freyr, his task to bring abundance, wisdom, and peace to this place he called home. His will-to-live could not override the timing-out of his body. Thorgrun passed to his Ancestors with Katie by his bedside, on July 10th. His Memorial Service took place on his 78th birthday, August 18, 2024.

Alsherjargoði Matthew Flavel wrote a brilliant piece for the August Runestone, one that I've shared with many people. He commemorates Thorgrun's life as an AFA Goði, and also Goði David Byron James who passed through the veil in 2014. Once a Goði, always a Goði. In this world and beyond.

Thorgrun's Grove will be a main beautification project at Óðinshof for years to come. His spirit and dreams reside there more than any other place. May he continue to inspire us to further the work he began in Miðgarðr.

We appreciate all of the family members who came to celebrate his life: grandchildren Abigail Roth and Benjamin Roth from Reno; Thorgrun's sister, Cheryll McKowan and her granddaughter Willow; son Josh Thompson and his wife Theresa from Turlock; Katie's sister-in-law Lola Fuhs, with her daughters, Jessica and DeAnna who drove out from Wisconsin.



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## *Survivor or Conqueror: A Change in Perspective*



When our parents brought us into this world, they did so with the understanding that life is good, but never easy. Everything that the Nornir have woven for us will inevitably have some impact on us—either positive or negative. These events build up and become an integral part of who we are, for better or for worse. However, we can mitigate some of the negative impact by changing the way we think about negative events, the way we react to future events, and even the frame in which we view ourselves.



How we view ourselves in our mind's eye is so much more important than we might think. We are all something of a "character" in our own heads. Maybe your character is a winner or a loser, a genius or a moron, a warrior or a poet, a champion or a couch potato.

I urge you to think on how you view yourself, and to ask yourself what negative events contributed to this perception of yourself.

When looking at these negative events, do you see them as defeats? As missteps? Or as trials?

If you see unfortunate events in your life as defeats that you simply suffered through, I would encourage you to change that. If you are still here and reading this and standing with the Æsir and the AFA, then you are not defeated. You are more than a survivor, and your mindset must reflect that.

View your negative experiences as trials that you conquered, or at least learned from. Every new day is another chance to grasp victory, to reforge a part of yourself in the fires of struggle.



Shed the “survivor” mindset, the self-pitying and self-fulfilling prophecy! Don the armor of the conqueror, with your loyalty to the Æsir as your weapon! Every day is a mountain to climb and a skill to gain! Your ancestors did not give us this life so that we could merely trudge through it with our heads down!

Goði Trent East

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*The Wild Hunt: The Aegis of Óðinn*



The Wild Hunt is well known among Ásatrúar. The army of the dead, the Einherjar, led by Óðinn upon the fall storms when the veil between the living and the dead is at its thinnest. Tales of armies of the dead stretch across time from its undoubted Indo-European origin, to the troops in ancient India of the Maruts led by Rudra, to the Mesnie Hellequin of the Middle Ages, and even in more modern times, Tolkein draws upon this lore for the dead men of Dunharrow.

Over the centuries, there have been many names for this ghostly troop, and even more tales; the Furious Army, the Wild Army, along with the Wild Hunt and the Mesnie Hellequin. This is one of the more recent terms for this procession of spirits that roamed the European countryside. In France, it came to mean people who assembled to commit acts contrary to good character, but that probably just meant there was a whiff of paganism.

Originally the Wild Hunt was associated with the coming of Autumn and the thinning of the veil, but in the 13th and 14th centuries, and with the predominancy of Christianity, it was said the host came in troubled times to rouse the fighting spirit.

One of the first to see the connection between the leader of the Wild Hunt and Óðinn was Jacob Grimm. He studied the Furious Army and the Wild Army of the regions to the east of the Rhine, and in their leader, he saw a form of Óðinn that had been downgraded by Christianity to the rank of a ghostly figure.

People have also seen other gods as the leader of the Wild Hunt, but they do not hold up. One is Þórr, because of the storms always associated with the coming of the Furious Army. But this connection is misplaced, due to that the storm is not associated with the leader, but with the troop of the dead. There is a long association with the dead and storms. In Switzerland, people still say “the Turscht is on the hunt” or “it is as if the Turscht was hunting” when a strong autumn wind blows or a heavy winter rages. In the Thun region, the passage of the Furious Army is accompanied by a great rumbling, and when the Waldhooli blows his horn, the weather is going to turn foul.

Another god associated with the Wild Hunt is Freyr, but this connection is even more tenuous than Þórr. With a painting by Lucas Cranach the Elder called Melancholy from 1532 depicting a Furious Army lead by a figure on a wild boar and the pig being one of the most often cited ghost animals, the connection falls apart when you realize the rider of the boar in the painting was a woman with a spear.

Of the animals associated with the Wild Hunt, none is more prominent than the horse. The Infernal Throng often consists of warriors and horsemen, and as the god of war and the owner of Sleipnir, Óðinn is right at home in this context. The horse’s role as psychopomp is well attested and ancient. Sleipnir literally carries Óðinn to Helheimr and back. His function as the master of Jöl, through his knowledge of necromancy and other magical practices, solidifies his role at the head of the Furious Army.

In closing, I’ll note how Otto Hofler, like Grimm, proposed “the priority of the ecstatic worship over mythic legend is the reflection of secret German ecstatic cults” and the

reflection of the rites binding warriors within a brotherhood, placed beneath the ægis of Óðinn.

So, whether it's another winter or turbulent times, when you hear the horn on the wind, the Furious Army is moving, and our Folk are roused to meet the challenges ahead.

Hail Óðinn!



Goði Lane Ashby

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*Runic Thoughts*





Life is meant to be a ritual. Not a grandiose show with snakes and gibberish, but an exchange with the Divine that rebuilds our inner temples. We saw that we indeed had a home, and we started walking toward it. Day by day we build that inner sacred space. We are becoming the people that we once were, openly seeking a relationship with OUR Gods. When that cycle built itself up enough, we turned that outwards. We sought physical temples and sacred spaces. In front of the world, we praised the Gods of our ancestors, and revived our Folksoul. Our ritual continues, and we are coming home.



It seems that there is always something occurring that we don't like. Be it on a micro or larger level, there's always going to be something that riles the masses. The easy thing to do is to allow the indignation around you to seep in and carry you off in a dust cloud of temporary feelings. The noble thing to do, however is to stand where you are. Stay solid and upright. This is what our people need. Become the iron, as opposed to the dust.



This is not a solo venture. For us to fully realize who we are, we need to get out of our own space, and enter the space of the Folk. The Folk are bigger than just one, we are stronger, and we rise faster together.

Being among the Folk makes us better. It breaks us out of our own headspace, and shows us how our world can be. Whenever we gather to raise a horn and exchange gifts with our Gods, we are where we need to be. There is no substitute for that.



What's in your blood?

Our blood contains the building blocks of who we are and the people that came before us. It contains our history, the rich tapestry of your personal heritage. It is not something to merely throw away in a fit of blackpilled pique. Take these gifts, and use them to build something more valuable than anything else. With this blood we build our future.



A healthy spine supports the entire physical body. If any portion of that series of bones falls into disrepair, your overall well-being will suffer. The same can be said for your spiritual spine. Maintain your resilience and strength emotionally and spiritually as you would the physical. Standing up straight is more than a physical ability. It is vital to maintain that mental and spiritual uprightness when faced with challenges.



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## ***The Runestone - A Throwback***

*Abide No Strife and Build Bright Flame*  
from *The Runestone*, October 2021



Everyone who joins the Asatru Folk Assembly agrees to the [Declaration of Purpose](#), the [Statement of Ethics](#), and the [Law of the Hall](#). From my own personal experience and from speaking with so many fellow AFA members through the years, I know that the Declaration of Purpose is what inspires Folk and that the Statement of Ethics is our foundation. These differentiate us from the outside world; they define what makes us Ásatrú.



But we don't talk about the Law of the Hall often enough. This document is not primarily about how we deal with the outside world or what sets us apart from it, even in positive terms. It is primarily about how we deal with one another. In fact, it is an ethical demand of what we OWE to one another as members of an Innangarðr.

Abide no strife in the hall or between kin. One must be able to speak one's mind candidly, but disagreements must never exceed the bounds of respect or courtesy. All within the hall are brothers and sisters and are to be treated appropriately.

Build bright fame, not dark disdain, for those who dwell in the hall. Our deeds and words must be such that the reputation of the Asatru Folk Assembly, and of Ásatrú as a whole, grows more glorious because of our presence. Do good to your kin, grow in your might and main...and when we disagree among ourselves, let it be done out of the sight of others.

We can all do better at these. They seem obvious but are tremendously difficult. Social media is socially flawed. It doesn't matter what platform, or whether its public or private. Social media is inherently anti-social because it doesn't communicate nuance or feelings. Let's all commit to being very careful with it. When we get angry or offended by something on social media, reach out directly to the person and remember they are kin, a brother or sister.



Witan Clifford Erickson  
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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?"

Hail the Heroes of Ásatrú that paved the way!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Hail the Æsir!



Matthew D. Flavel

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# The Quest for Freyshof

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

– Gylfaginning



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

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 \$78,841 on our remaining loan.
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 6.9%.
  - 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.

Freyshof

Freyshof Fundraiser

EST. 202X

Click Here to Donate Today

FIFTH HOF OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

67.82%

Paying off Njörðshof is the first step

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

Hail Freyr!



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## Sigrheim: Home of Victory

*Support the Home of Victory*



Help Sigrheim get stocked  
and ready for our Folk!

Donate Supplies  
from our  
wishlist ✨ ✨ ✨  
amazon

Thank You!

CLICK HERE

*Upcoming Events*

A sign for Sigrheim WORK DAYS. The text 'Sigrheim' is in purple, 'WORK' is in orange and brown, and 'DAYS' is in green, blue, and pink. The letters are set against a background of a dirt path and greenery. A wooden signpost is visible in the background.

Every  
~~First~~ Weekend  
of Every Month  
starting May  
through the Fall

RSVP [WJ/ DRICE@RUNESTONE.ORG](mailto:WJ/DRICE@RUNESTONE.ORG)

Winter Nights at Sigrheim



October 19th at 830pm

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



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

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

### *Upcoming Events*





Sigrheim Family Camping Trip, November 23-24

Please join us as we camp out at the Home of Victory, Sigrheim! We'll be camping out in the lower field, hiking along the old road to the summit and future home of Týrshof, and exploring an old cemetery. We also have a good bit of work planned; we will be clearing some downed trees, cleaning up headstones, and digging a set of steps, so also come ready to work. Let's lend Folkbuilder Nick Rice some helping hands while doing service to our Folk and the Æsir.



Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea

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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](#).



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

Matthew D. Flavel



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## AFA Asatru Academy

Með vitani, vinna Sigr



Through knowledge, victory!

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



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

*Letter from the Assistant Dean*



Autumn is upon us; and our Ásatrú Academy children are ready to explore all the delights of the coming season. The Waldorf curriculum supports the crafting, nature experiences, cooking, and stories that we associate with fall-culture, Halloween, and our own Winter Nights celebration in honor our ancestral mothers.

As my personal introduction, much of my attention is given to Óðinshof District, but I'm officially an Assistant Dean of the Ásatrú Academy program as well. Having taught in the public school system for thirty years, I support the need for parents taking the lead in their children's education. Ásatrú Academy does exactly that. Parent can choose the full Waldorf curriculum option, or the adjunct AFA religious instruction which is there for all enrollees.

Academy Dean and Goði Rob Stamm alongside Witan Brandy Fassett are making sure that we have the necessary documents for legal compliance in states where our families

live. This is a complex project for our staff who are compiling documents to help all parents meet state homeschooling requirements and deadlines.



Another focus is to have Ásatrú Academy staff known as Education Coaches, communicating regularly with our families, on whatever schedule works best for the parents. My role is to add supplemental materials to our current curriculum to meet state mandates and requests by parents. Adding to our religious education offerings will be continual process.

If you have the time and the background to support an aspect of Asatru Academy, talk to one of our staff members. One goal is to add to our [library](#) of Storytime videos, including adding videos for some of our older grade levels. Folkbuilder Nick Rice can tell you exactly what we're looking for. [nrice@@runestone.org](mailto:nrice@@runestone.org)

Thank you for supporting our program and encouraging our families to participate. Our enrollment is up to 38 students in grades K-6, but we do have room for more. Talk to



2024

<b>Date</b>	<b>Observance</b>
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”
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



<b>Date</b>	<b>Observance</b>
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

## October



Asatru Holidays - October 2024 - Hoskuld | von List | McNallen | Winter Nights  
<https://youtu.be/pMtXssPfZas>

## Days of Remembrance

*John Gibbs-Bailey | October 1st*



Υ May 22, 1913 - January 1, 2003 ლ

John Gibbs-Bailey, better known as Hoskuld, was a very private man. There are no known photographs of him, and even those in the highest positions within the Odinic Rite knew very little about his personal life. His birth date, as well as the date of his death are not commonly known. Despite this lack of information, the legacy of Hoskuld is one that continues to impact Ásatrúar today.

While we do not have much information about his life, it is commonly known that Gibbs-Bailey had an interest in organized Ásatrú since at least the 1930s. Throughout the years, Gibbs-Bailey realised that in order to truly organize Ásatrúar, he would need a strong foundation and doctrine. Gibbs-Bailey met John Yeowell in the late 1950s, and in 1973, they founded the Committee for the Restoration of the Odinic Rite.

During the early years of the Odinist Committee, Gibbs-Bailey held a more public role. He began to use the name Hoskuld, one he had adopted from the name of Hoskuld Dalla-Kolson, an Icelandic Goði who lived in the tenth century CE.

It was also during this time that many of Hoskuld's ideas on doctrine were recorded. The most notable examples of this being the Nine Noble Virtues. Although Hoskuld had been working on the Nine Noble Virtues for many years by this point, it was not until his partnership with Stubba that they took on their current format. Prior to this, there were only eight virtues, and they were not in the same order used today.

In the late 1970s, it was decided amongst the two founders that Stubba would begin to take on a more public facing role and Hoskuld would step back from the spotlight. In 1980, after Stubba renamed the organization The Odinic Rite, Hoskuld was named the

first treasurer. Not much else is known about the life and deeds of Hoskuld after this point.

Despite the lack of biographical information, we can still learn from the life of Hoskuld. The very Virtues by which we live our lives as Ásatrúar was first compiled by Hoskuld and form a foundation for all those of our faith.

On October 1st, 2023, the AFA marked the first official celebration of a Day of Remembrance for John Gibbs-Bailey, known as “Hoskuld.”

Hail Hoskuld!



Folkbuilder Ali Clausen  
[aclausen@runestone.org](mailto:aclausen@runestone.org)

*Meister Guido von List | October 9th*



‡ October 5, 1848 - May 17, 1919 †

Born in October of 1848 in Vienna, Guido Karl Anton List was the son of a prosperous middle-class family who traded and worked in the Leather goods industry. Raised a Roman Catholic, List found his love of mythology and history early in life, often acknowledging that his belief in the Æsir, and Óðinn in particular, developed during these young years. A scholar, painter, and writer, his big ambition was to live his life

doing the things he loved. His father, however, pressured him strongly into taking over the family business.

In his spare time, he continued to write and paint. He also took part in several leisure sports clubs, such as rowing and mountaineering. During one of his many trips List purportedly left his group to spend a solitary midsummer atop Geiselberg hillfort. Here, it is said, he reaffirmed his belief in Óðinn. Upon the death of his father in 1877 List abandoned his family business in favor of pursuing his writing passion.

Despite being an avid believer of Óðinn, he married his second wife in a Protestant ceremony in 1899. This didn't hamper his writing or his influence, however, and by 1902 when his writings took on a different direction, he was a prolific and well-known voice in the nationalist and Volkish movements.

It was in 1902 that von List had his great epiphany. After a cataract surgery left him blind for eleven months, List was left with much time for reflection and meditation. During this time he discovered the Armanen runes. He called this set of runes the Proto-language of the Aryan race. It was through these runes that von Lists occult ideas and writings evolved.

The popularity of his ideas exploded amongst the wealthy, middle class of Austria and Germany at the time and the Guido-von-Gesellschaft was born. The von-List society further evolved and on the Midsummer of 1911, the inner group called the High Armanist Order was created. While the main group focused on his occult and political ideologies, the inner group was dedicated to the worship of Óðinn through his writings and sacred pilgrimages.

With food shortages after the war and old-age creeping up on him, von List's health deteriorated and in May of 1919 he passed away at the age of 71. His body was cremated and buried in an urn in the Vienna central cemetery, Zentralfriedhof.

Among his many novels, plays, and political manuscripts it was his first dedicated occult manuscript, "Das Geheimnis der Runen" or "The Secret of the Runes," that really sets Guido von List up as a forefather of modern Ásatrú, influencing many including the Ásatrú hero Alexander Rud Mills.

We can never anticipate when the spark of inspiration will lead to the flame of an idea. It's easy to look at that inspiration and say that it isn't real, or it's just the imagination going crazy. With faith, however, our limitations can be cast off. Have faith in the Æsir. Have faith in our Ancestors and in our Folk soul. Have faith in yourself. Each one of us can accomplish great things if we work hard enough and maintain our faith.

Guido von List is the dedicated hero of Óðinshof. For more information and a deeper dive into the life and acts of Meister von List, check out [Odinshof.org](http://Odinshof.org).

Hail Meister Guido von List!

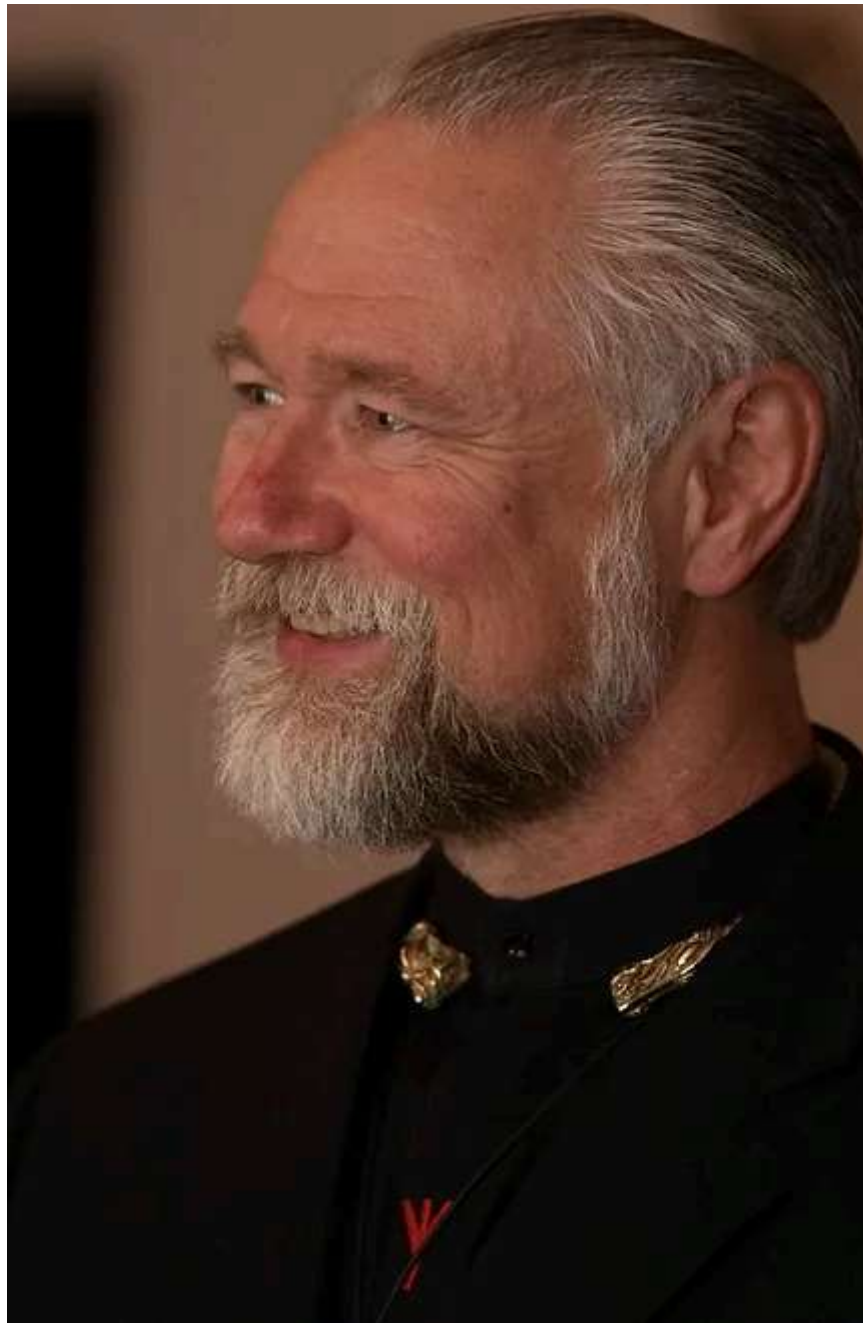
Hail Óðinn!



Gyðja Catie Erickson  
[cm.erickson@runestone.org](mailto:cm.erickson@runestone.org)

**Happy Birthday**

*Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen | October 15th*



"Anyone who has raised a horn in honor of our ancestral Gods, has done so because of, or in spite of, Stephen McNallen."

Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel. Ostara In the South, March 2020

This month we celebrate the birth of our Founder, Stephen McNallen. Before he became the Father of Modern Ásatrú, before he started a religious movement on his own, before the Kennewick Man, he was born in a small rural town in Texas in 1948.

"On a more intimate level, I chose my parents well: My father was a hard-working, Irish Catholic oil hand who had come to Texas for the oil boom some years earlier,

and my mother was a loving, kind, and intelligent woman who – significantly – bought me the books I wanted and read them to me.”

Founder McNallen developed an interest in pre-Christian religion in college after reading the book *The Viking*, by Edison Marshall. In 1968 or 69, he dedicated himself to worship the Gods of Europe. In 1969-70, he founded the first Ásatrú church in the new world, The Viking Brotherhood, which gained tax exempt status in 1972. He began writing and distributing *The Runestone* which was hand typed and copied on a mimeograph machine.

“At first it was a private thing, but then I began quietly promoting the religion – which at that point I simply called “Norse paganism,” as I had no name for it. I really was starting from scratch. About the time of my graduation from college, I started a minuscule publication called *The Runestone*. I cranked it out on a mimeograph machine (!) – the first run was eleven copies. Within a year or so – August 29, 1972 – I had received recognition of the Viking Brotherhood as a tax-exempt religious organization.”

After reading Magnus Magnusson’s book, *Hammer of the North*, where first heard the word Asatru, Founder McNallen began to use and promote his religious ideal as Ásatrú, rather than Odinism.

At some point during his time in the US Army, Founder McNallen began to adopt the belief that Ásatrú was a religion of the peoples of Europe, rather than being a religion for all, thus adopting Folkism. In 1976, after being discharged from the Army, he renamed the Viking Brotherhood to the Asatru Free Assembly. in 1987, Steve dissolved the Free Assembly.

After seeing what American Ásatrú had developed into, which denied that Ásatrú was a uniquely ethnic faith, Mr. McNallen stepped back into the Ásatrú scene. Establishing the Asatru Folk Assembly. The emphasis on Folk to differentiate from the universalist lie that threatened to take hold of our ancestral faith.



“It flourished. Over the years it grew, and I wrote *Asatru: A Native European Spirituality*, which defines my convictions and purpose. We purchased a permanent building which became Óðinshof – our first temple to the Gods. The AFA has since expanded to include four Hofos in the USA and continues to grow. In 2016, after leading the Asatru Folk Assembly for 20 years, I turned it over to a younger generation and started the next phase of my service to my Gods and to my Folk.”



In the years since Mr. McNallen retired, he has remained an active participant at Óðinshof with charitable giving and contributing in any way possible.

It is often said that we stand on the shoulders of giants, and none are more giant than that of our Founder, the First Alsherjargoði.

Thank you, and Happy Birthday, Mr. McNallen, from all of us in the Asatru Folk Assembly.



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

## Holiday

*Winter Nights | October 19th*



Autumn has officially started. The days are noticeably shorter. The nights are noticeably cooler. The trees are ablaze with the colors of Fall and the crunching of the fallen leaves underfoot has begun. All around us the world is dying. This was a time of drawing in close, of hearth and home and family. For our ancestors, this was not an

Autumn festival, but a quiet Winter rite in which the female spirits were honored in a rite called Disirblót.

Today, Winter Nights is often seen as a death of the physical world, the world we can see, and the reawakening of the intangible. It is the world of high energy, of spirits. It is that deeper feeling and connection to the things we know to be there. This is the time we honor our Disir—our female ancestors. We remember that without our ancient mothers we could not be. They cared for the home and the hearth fires. They cared for their families. Our ancient mothers, with strength and determination, raised the next generation against odds we cannot really begin to fathom.

With the harvests finished, there is a quiet lull before we turn our minds to the hectic holiday season. Now is a good time to turn inward in introspection, and to self-improvement. It is also the time to meditate on things of a more spiritual nature. Connect to the energy that is always there.



Gyðja Catie Erickson  
[cm.erickson@runestone.org](mailto:cm.erickson@runestone.org)

## Upcoming National Event

*Winter Nights XIII | October 11th-13th*



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

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

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

**Winter Nights Ætt**    Troy, NH    Oct. 11th-13th



**Friday**  
 12:00 Arrival  
 13:00 Lunch  
 15:00 Welcoming of the Gods  
 16:00 Presentation by Folkbuilder Jon Rock  
 17:00 Blot by Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel  
 19:00 Supper

**Saturday**  
 08:30 Breakfast  
 10:00 Adults vs kids battle  
 11:00 Women's Group / Men's Group  
 12:00 Lunch  
 13:00 Presentation by Folkbuilder Mike Melillo  
 14:00 Osteomancy with Gythia Catie Erickson  
 15:00 Folk services  
 17:00 Auction  
 18:30 Supper  
 20:30 Disir Blot  
 22:00 Sumbel

**Sunday**  
 09:00 Breakfast  
 11:00 Wayfarer's Blot

Things to know:

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

If you have any questions or concerns, please email [cerickson@runestone.org](mailto:cerickson@runestone.org)

Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



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

*Feast of the Einherjar | November 8th-10th*



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

Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



Goði Nathan Erlandson  
[nerlandson@runestone.org](mailto:nerlandson@runestone.org)

## Freyrs Harvest Feast - A Recap

*The Dream is Alive at Folkvangr*



Over the last four years, Freyrs Harvest Feast has become the flagship event of the Pacific Northwest, and it's been an honor to go from being simply a guest to part of the crew behind the scenes making it happen. Essentially a Winter Finding celebration under a different name possessing a unique charm all it's own, each of the Feast's respective three days is dedicated to one of the Vanir, with Freyr's day in the middle

being the most prominent. The 2022 iteration at Camp Easton on the shores of Lake Couer D'Alene was my first ever AFA event, and where I met the people I now consider my best friends, so it's safe to say this particular event holds a special place in my heart. Though the number of scheduled events was dialed back to a certain degree, the general consensus from everyone I've talked to seems to agree with my assessment that this was the best one so far (as much as I'm able to judge; I missed the very first one).





As far as any of us on staff were concerned, the Feast really began about a week prior to it's scheduled opening day. Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein made the journey all the way out to Spokane to assist myself and Chad Reis in carving a god pole out of a downed pine tree in my yard. None of us had any woodcarving experience, decorative or otherwise, and the Óðinn pole in question turned out fantastic all things considered. Initial carving was done in roughly eight or nine hours split between the three of us. Once that was done, we threw it in the back of Tyler's pickup and made the five hundred some odd mile journey out to Billings to gather the rest of the supplies, and from there it was a straight shot back to Folkvangr. The rest of the week was spent putting the finishing touches on the Meadery and helping put out a fire down the street that may or may not have been the result of someone failing to take proper welding precautions. The world may never know.



For those of you that have never been to Eastern Montana, it still feels to this day like the edge of the known world. With its vast, almost Martian expanses of relatively untouched steppe land, labyrinthine canyon networks and the most spectacular lightning storms I've ever seen, it's Miðgarðr in a more primal state than what most of us are accustomed to these days. It really is the perfect setting to celebrate and give thanks to the Gods of Natural Law.



Our Alsherjargoði as well as Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea from North Carolina joined us for the festivities this year, and it was an honor as well as a blast to have them both out and I can only hope they return in the coming years. Powerful rituals, great conversation, fantastic Folk in a one-of-a-kind setting. I want to thank everyone who came out and everyone who made this event what it is. Freyrs Harvest Feast is here to stay, so make it out if you can. It's not going anywhere anytime soon.



Nick Gunn  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[ngunn@runestone.org](mailto:ngunn@runestone.org)

*Victory at Freyrs Harvest Feast*



Having taken some time to reflect since Freyrs Harvest Feast ended this year, I have concluded that this year marked the fourth year as the best so far. Many small changes over the years have taken place to make the event structure itself optimal and this contributed to our success this year.



Even more obvious, the changes to the venue site have had major positive impacts to the feast as well.



Our first year was around ten of us and we had rented a campsite for the night and the dining hall for the day at an old summer camp. The first day we had a few activities, gave blot to Njörðr and ate brats by the water. The next morning, we gave thanks for the harvest. Most of us had barely gardened but for me the harvest had been remarkable. On less than an acre we gleaned ten families' worth of produce. Foolishly, not a single item of that harvest made it to the table that half weekend. Instead, people ate snacks from their cars the next morning, we discussed Lord Freyr, and we packed up and went home. It was hardly an illustrious occasion, but it got me thinking bigger and better for the following year.



Our second year we did a major overhaul. Three whole days and we rented out the Hall, the kitchen and some cabins. We had a much larger attendance. Our activities evolved to include workshops, and we formalized the Viking games to include rules and a prize. That year Freyrs Harvest Feast took the form it's known for. It was a great time despite some difficulties of the venue shutting water off for the year. We put out a Thanksgiving feast turkey and all without running water anyway. It stamped our area with an attitude of resourcefulness and an indomitable will.



When I purchased my homestead there was much to do. Outbuildings were filled with trash from the previous owner. I had to establish, fence, and develop the field for my livestock. The land was a mess and the structure that has since become my meadery was a steal skeleton completely unfinished and unfurnished. But it gave us a beautiful opportunity.



The third Freyrs Harvest Feast could now be hosted on an Asatru Folk Assembly member's property and so we did. We had a massive trucker tent for a roof when the unexpected and out of season storm smashed down on us. Some tents flooded, those set up correctly did not. The place was certainly a work in progress, but the event came out great regardless. We were fortunate enough to have Founder McNallen and his wife Gyðja McNallen join us and bring their wisdom to our event. We had refined our workshops. The food now saw a fair bit of attendees' produce added to it. It was the second year Aaron Simbeck out of Washington had provided all the seafood requirements from his hooks and nets. It was beautiful what we put together as a community with how little time and resources we had. But the biggest factor is we had done it together and independently.



As I said before this year was the best yet. It's true the event site looked wonderful, especially compared to our humble beginnings. The construction of the meadery has afforded us a pleasant and cozy space to gather. A vast roof overhead replaced the Tarps and painted and decorated walls kept the wind out better than open space and desire ever could. We were graced with both good weather and our Alsherjargoði, Matt Flavel himself. Our Vé space has a new God Pole, and our Blótar were as beautiful and powerful. These are all good things, but they are not the reason this year was the best yet.





The reason is simple, you guys were. It may seem cheesy but it's true. The event was a gathering of a family. This family was one built of mutual vision. It was a family forged from our labors together over the past years. The victories we experienced came from our joint labors and joint generosity.



As such, it was the extended family coming to the hall for a big harvest meal. We joked like only old friends could, shared stories of the year, and boasted our feats. We competed and we collaborated. We shared advice to young bucks and received some more from our elders.



The event was described as cozy, and I do not for a second feel like that is inaccurate, but I'll add a word: intimate. Everyone there behaved as family and shared from the heart. High Sumbl showed grit and vulnerability in equal amounts as people spoke from the heart. Our group discussions were of substance and everything we did we did together as a big family. I couldn't ask for better.



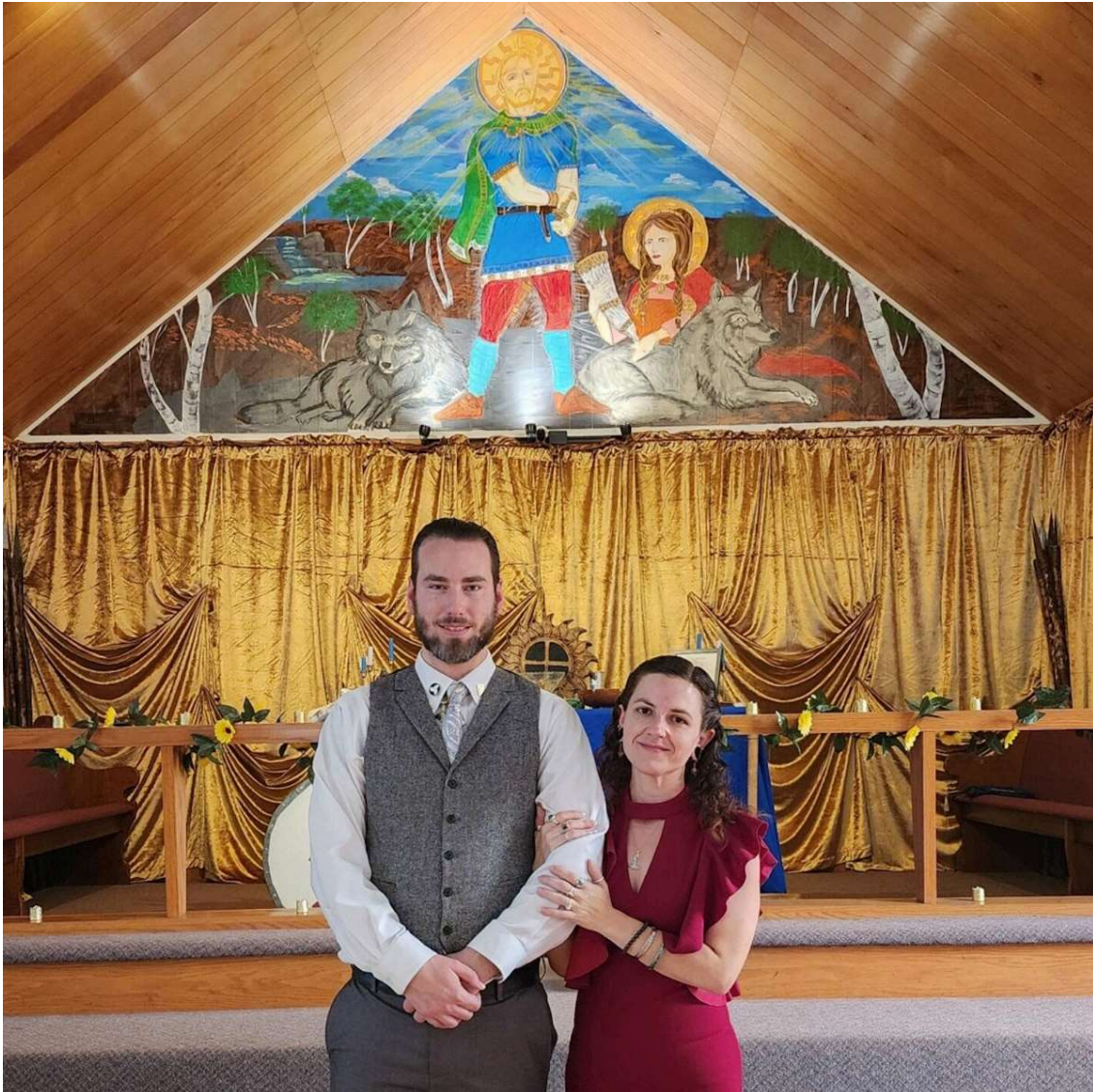
If you haven't been to Freyrs Harvest Feast you've missed out. It's a statement of fact. More so if you haven't committed to getting involved with the AFA in the real world you are missing out. Ásatrú is in the real world and these events are where we grow together. These events take strangers that share belief and forge tight bonds where we realize we are a people who share blood and our Gods. Victory doesn't happen from the basement. Victory happens at Freyrs Harvest Feast, and I can't wait to share the next year's victories with you all.



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein  
[theinlein@runestone.org](mailto:theinlein@runestone.org)

## Folkbuilder Spotlight

*Folkbuilder Jesse Parton | Arkansas*



Folkbuilder Jesse Parton isn't someone working quietly behind the scenes. He is on the front lines every single day for our folk and the Æsir. He is not someone who I have to ask, "if you haven't heard of, or if you don't know Jesse", because he makes himself known every day to our Folk. Jesse has found a tremendous talent in bringing our Folk home and supporting the Church of the Æsir.

Jesse Parton is one of the strongest Folkbuilders I have ever seen, in terms of drive and will to succeed for the church. He is seemingly always on the road, getting the folk together and either hosting or attending moots that he has helped organize. His passion and dedication is inspiring to everyone he meets. I'm very glad he's a part of our church.

— Goði Bodi Mayo

I first met Jesse not too long after he joined the AFA. He was exuberant, hungry to learn, and eager to get involved.

Fast forward a couple of years and Jesse is still exuberant, hungry for knowledge and eager to get involved.

When I hear folks say "I'd go to that event, it's just too far away," I often think of Jesse. Folkbuilder Parton logs miles every week. One day he's in TN, next week, Baldrshof in MN, then he's in Texas. Distance isn't an obstacle for him, and his dedication can't be measured in miles. He works tirelessly behind the scenes, building the folk. He does all this because he loves it, not because it's expected.

I like to claim to be the Founder of the Jesse Fanclub. I'm very proud of his accomplishments and look forward to seeing what he can accomplish later in life.

The bar has been raised, thanks in large part to Jesse Parton.

— Witan Daniel Young

Jesse Parton has been a constant help in building our AFA family since the very day he joined as a member over three years ago. From being an extremely helpful member at Þórshof, to the pious and hardworking Folkbuilder he is today, he never stops chasing the goal of bringing all of our Folk home to the Æsir.

— Goði Trent East



Goði Nathan Erlandson  
[nerlandson@runestone.org](mailto:nerlandson@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](mailto:volunteer@runestone.org) to help us make a difference in our world.

## Baby Blanket Project

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

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



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

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

## Folk Services



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

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

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

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

Thanks in advance!

## Photo Donations



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



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

## Eir's Blessings



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

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

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

You can reach us at [EirsBlessings@runestone.org](mailto:EirsBlessings@runestone.org)

## Last Will and Testament

Recently, several members of our AFA family have passed beyond the veil. One was an old man in ill health, two were young men in the prime of life... all died with no legal will on record. Sadly, in two of these cases, our dead AFA members did not have their

wishes respected regarding their funerals nor the final resting places of their remains.

We never know when tragedy will strike. We have a responsibility to our loved ones, we have a responsibility to our own legacies, to plan for our passing, and to make our wishes known.



Planning for and contemplating our death is uncomfortable. Hopefully, we all have plenty of time for that down the road, but we can't count on that. Maybe we worry about expenses or hiring a lawyer. We all have excuses to put things off until later, unfortunately, sometimes the clock runs out before "later" happens.

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

Please make your will **today**.

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

Allen Turnage  
PO Box 16027  
Tallahassee FL, 32317



Witan Allen Turnage  
[aturnage@runestone.org](mailto:aturnage@runestone.org)

**AFA Prison Ministry**



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

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

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

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

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



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

## **Ancestral Food and Culture**

*Köttbullar*



As the leaves begin to change and the air turns crisp, October invites us to gather around hearty meals that warm the Folk Soul. This month, I'm sharing a family recipe which encapsulates the essence of autumn as we celebrate Winter Nights: Swedish Köttbullar (Meatballs) with Lingonberry Sauce.

Swedish köttbullar, or meatballs, have become a beloved staple at many of our events and is a comforting way to welcome the fall season.

For the Meatballs:

- 1 cup breadcrumbs
- ½ cup milk
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 pound ground beef
- ½ pound ground pork
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ½ teaspoon allspice (or nutmeg)
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder (optional)

For the Gravy:

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 cups beef broth

- ½ cup heavy cream
- Salt and pepper to taste

For Serving:

- Mashed potatoes
- Lingonberry sauce (available in stores or homemade)

1. Prepare the Meatballs:

- In a small saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the chopped onion and sauté until soft and translucent. Let it cool slightly.
- In a bowl, combine the breadcrumbs and milk, allowing the breadcrumbs to soak for a few minutes.
- In a large mixing bowl, combine the ground beef, ground pork, sautéed onions, soaked breadcrumbs, egg, salt, pepper, and allspice. Mix until just combined; do not overmix.
- Shape the mixture into small meatballs, about 1 inch in diameter.

2. Cook the Meatballs:

- In a large skillet, heat a bit of oil over medium heat. Add the meatballs in batches, cooking until they are browned on all sides and cooked through, about 8-10 minutes. Remove and set aside.

3. Make the Gravy:

- In the same skillet, melt the butter for the gravy. Whisk in the flour and cook for a minute until it forms a roux.
- Gradually whisk in the beef broth, stirring constantly to prevent lumps. Add the heavy cream and bring to a simmer. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

4. Serve:

- Plate the meatballs over a bed of creamy mashed potatoes, generously drizzled with gravy. Serve with a side of tart lingonberry sauce for a perfect balance of flavors.

### A Cultural Connection

Köttbullar is not just a dish; it's a symbol of Swedish hospitality and tradition. Often enjoyed during family gatherings or festive occasions, these meatballs evoke a sense of warmth and togetherness. In Sweden, they are commonly served with pickled cucumber and creamy sauce, showcasing the balance of savory and tangy that defines Nordic cuisine.

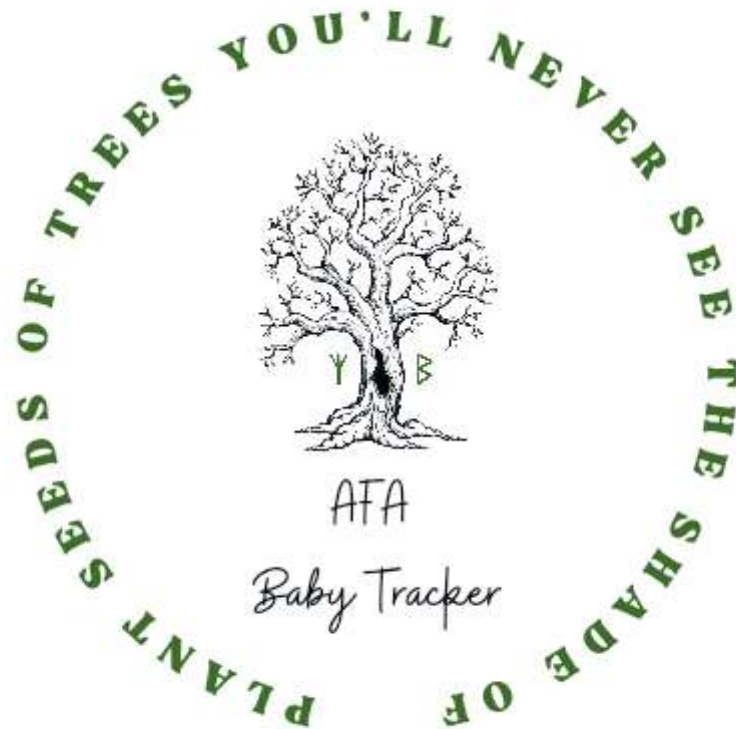
As October unfolds, let's embrace the flavors of fall with this comforting dish that brings family and folk to the table. Whether you're enjoying a cozy evening at home or hosting a moot, Swedish köttbullar with lingonberry sauce will surely warm your heart and satisfy your taste buds.



Folkbuilder Bruce Perron

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

## Baby Tracker



To show the growth of our folk we present to you an ongoing baby tracker. We will be keeping track of how many children have been and are born within the AFA from 2022

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

Total babies born in 2024: 24

## Online Events and Meetings



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



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

[AMcStocker@Runestone.org](mailto:AMcStocker@Runestone.org)



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](mailto:aclausen@runestone.org)

# AFA Reading Challenge Meetings



<del>1/9/24</del>	Link will be	<del>7/9/24</del>
<del>2/13/24</del>	posted on	<del>8/13/24</del>
<del>3/12/24</del>	MeWe the	<del>9/10/24</del>
<del>4/9/24</del>	weekend	10/8/24
<del>5/14/24</del>	before the	11/12/24
<del>6/11/24</del>	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](mailto:aplourde@runestone.org)

I hope to see you there!

# **Lore Study with Gothi Jason Plourde**

**Join us every Tuesday night**

**at**

**6:00 pm EST**

**5:00 pm CST**

**4:00 pm MST**

**3:00 pm PST**

**2:00 pm AKST**

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

**For more information  
reach out to Gothi Plourde  
[jplourde@runestone.org](mailto:jplourde@runestone.org)**

# Eldri *Virtual Moots*

TUESDAYS October 8th & 22nd 5:00 PT

FRIDAYS October 11th & 25th 2:00 PT

*Topics relate to the season*

Gythia Sheila McNallen  
sheila@runestone.org

Use the Tinyurl link:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yc289cn8>

*Open to All*

McNallens Pub

Saturday, October 26

5:00 AkT 6:00 PT 7:00 MT 8:00 CT 9:00 ET

TOPIC: Something cool!

**Just for Fun**

Winter Nights Translate the runes

XQBFI

DISIR

BQTFIRM

SCQQ<J

BQT

LNAC<I

PMB

SCMMTQT

QQTSTMR

Q<TQBMR

AFS<

NFTQPMI

Here's an oldie but a goodie from a Winter Nights' past. Who can translate these runes? Impress us with your runic knowledge, and send in your words to [press@runestone.org](mailto:press@runestone.org)!



Have a wonderful Winter Nights, All!



Folkbuilder Olivia Sutherland

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

**Won't You Be My Neighbor?**



**Pittsburgh  
Metropolitan  
Asatru**



**Asatru Folk  
Assembly**

## Won't You Be My Neighbor?



On behalf of **Pittsburgh Metropolitan Asatru** and the **Asatru Folk Assembly**, we are asking for your help in taking care of our precious Folk. Downtown Pittsburgh is currently home to people who need our help. We are currently working to supply the unsheltered Folk living near the mighty Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers with the very basics of survival. **We can't do this without help.** Currently, thanks to generous donations we are able to provide healthy meals once to twice a week. However, with winter fast approaching the Steel City, we know that simple meals won't be enough. **With your help**, we hope to be able to provide warm socks, coats, undergarments, and gender specific hygiene products.

### Homeless Population Statistics

<b>Total Population</b>	<b>1,026 people</b>
<b>Emergency Shelters</b>	857 people (84%)
<b>Unsheltered</b>	169 people (16%)

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Annual Census

- **White adults** were more likely to be unsheltered (57%) than adults of other races
- The unsheltered adult population skewed slightly younger than those who were in shelter; **a third of sheltered adults were 55+** (vs. 13% of those unsheltered).
- **Veterans** made up a small percentage of both the sheltered (7%) and unsheltered (5%) populations.
- There were 93 unique households and they tended to be **younger families**, most adults were under 45 and **60% of the family shelter population was under 18.**

You can use the QR code to donate directly at the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Asatru GoFundMe page or go to:  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/wont-you-be-my-neighbor-pittsburgh-asatru>

For more information and other ways you can help please email  
Apprentice Folkbuilder Ryan Fenton at:  
[RFenton@Runestone.org](mailto:RFenton@Runestone.org)



So for the past month or so, I've been working on helping our unhoused Folk in Pittsburgh with meals a few times a week. I'd like to start to expand those efforts, especially with the coming Winter fast approaching. If that feels like something you would like to help be a part of or support, please reach out and we can work to help our Folk together.

If you're not local, there's still plenty of ways to support the work. Reach out!



Ryan Fenton  
Apprentice Folkbuilder  
[rfenton@runestone.org](mailto:rfenton@runestone.org)

## Aiding Our Appalachian Brothers and Sisters



We often speak of Victory. While we justly celebrated our harvest and comradery, a storm began to brew. By the time our esteemed guest Tyler Bethea came home from visiting us in Montana for Freyrs Harvest Feast, it had transcended into an approaching hurricane. This storm, Hurricane Helene, destroyed many areas of the Appalachian region of western North Carolina.

The damage from the storm has included catastrophic flooding, mudslides, and tornados. The number of missing individuals, as well as those who were not fortunate enough to make it has yet to be tallied as rescue crews attempt to evacuate those stranded. Among those stranded are some members of the most vulnerable communities including injured, elderly, disabled, and small children. There are many poor & rural areas with very limited resources. Devasting flooding has compromised power grids as well as water resources. Communication is crippled & many residents are reliant on air evacuation. Members of the community are in dire need of various supplies for survival.

It is in these moments our people can shine as the best example of Aryanity we can be, or we can show ourselves lacking empathy for our folk brothers and sisters caught in the devastation.

The Odinic Order of the Ulfhidnar is sending members of our Fraternal organizations, all proud members of this holy church of the Ásatrú, the AFA, down to North Carolina to work with the local members to help with the rescue and recovery of those souls trapped, injured, missing and in need of proper burial.

We will be handing out medical supplies, water and treatment tablets as well as kid care packages designed to bring light back to the children's faces. These people of our folk in many cases have lost everything and we intend to ease the burden as much as we can.

I am asking those of you reading this to lend a hand if you can. I understand many cannot make the trip or perform the work needing done, so I ask a second thing of you. Help fund this mission. I will be in North Carolina soon and parsing out supplies to those in need as well as working on the rescues and recoveries. Aid me in our work by keeping the supplies coming. Financial donations can be made at <https://store.runestone.org/product/hurricane-relief/>. We can talk to see about arranging physical donations too. If you want to help, please contact me or Tyler Bethea and we will make sure to put your generosity to good use where you can make a profound difference in survivors' lives and help make sure the death toll doesn't climb.

I spoke of Victory earlier and I meant it. Victory needs right action to continue, join me in turning this tragedy into our next Victory.



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein  
[theinlein@runestone.org](mailto:theinlein@runestone.org)

**AFA Physical Excellence**

*AFA Men's Squatober Challenge*



Squat! Don't worry about how, just get it done! Log it daily then go squat some more.

*The district with the most squats by month's end wins a free hof gym tank sent to a random dude.*

Challenge runs October 1st-31st.

We're already started, but it's not too late to join in!

Gentlemen, now's the time to show off and add to your district's numbers. Ya might even win a free shirt!

Log your squats at [http://tinyurl.com/squatoberAFA!](http://tinyurl.com/squatoberAFA)



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

# Calling All Folk Photographers

Took some awesome pics at a moot or event? Were you at the Hof recently?



We'd love to see 'em. Send to [Photos@Runestone.org](mailto:Photos@Runestone.org)

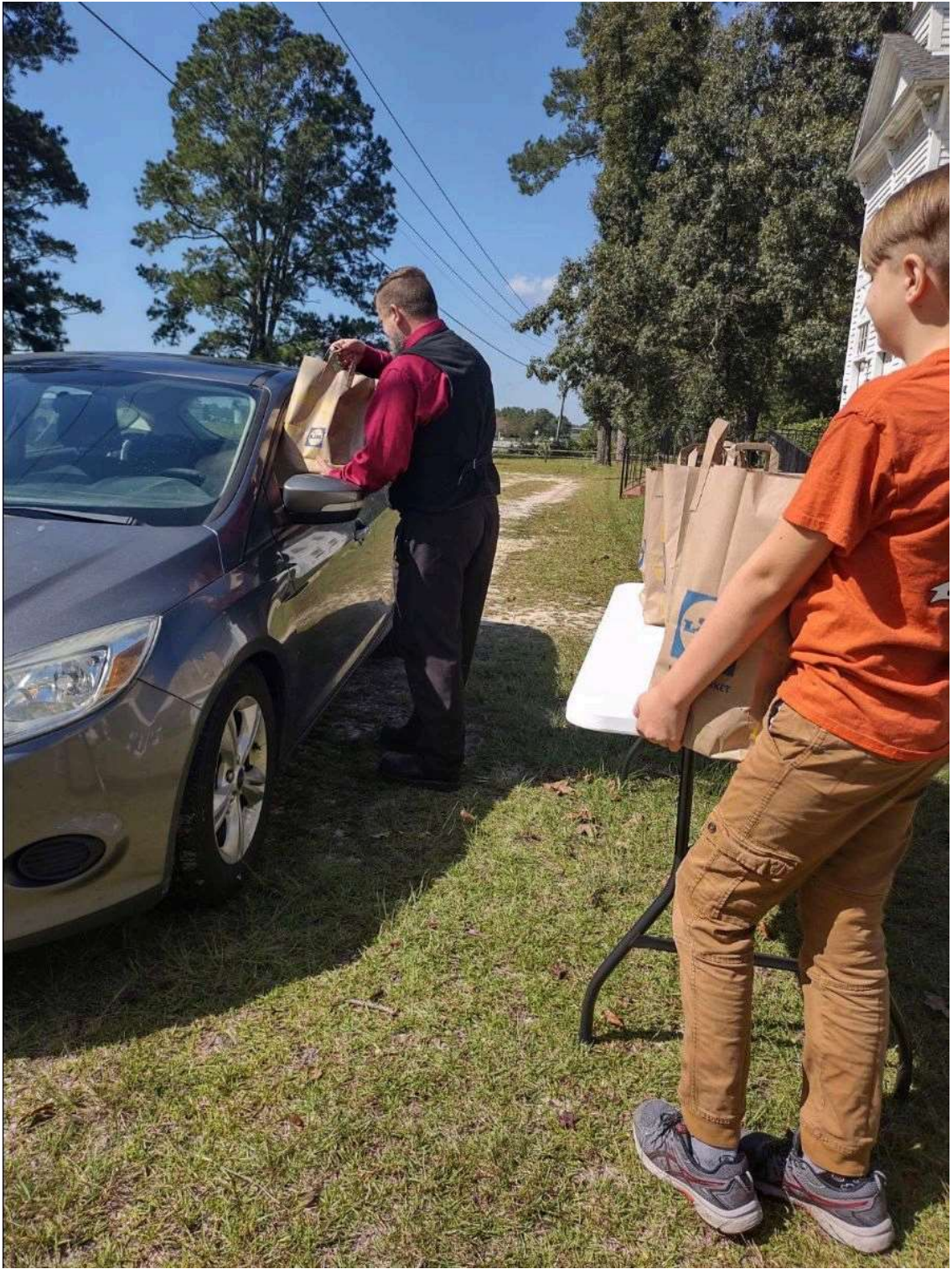


Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice

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

## Þórshof

Food Pantry at Þórshof



This month, Þórshof Community Outreach held a successful food pantry program, helping local families in need. Many people expressed their gratitude for our support, especially since there aren't many resources available in the area. One of the regulars, a gentleman who rides his bike to us, is always particularly appreciative.

A significant part of this program is the involvement of our children, who help out in various ways. Engaging young people in community service teaches them the value of giving back and helping those in need.



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

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## Winter Finding at Þórshof





Winter Finding is a sacred time in the Ásatrú tradition, marking the transition from the vibrant warmth of summer to the cold and introspective days of winter. It is a season of preparation and reflection, as the light wanes and the earth prepares to rest. Central to this period is the honoring of Ullr, the God of hunting, skiing, and winter itself. Ullr represents the survival instincts and endurance needed to prepare for, and ultimately, to thrive in the harsh winter months. By giving offerings to Ullr during Winter Finding, we invoke his protection, strength, and skill to help us navigate the challenges ahead.

In calling upon Ullr, the master of the hunt and the winter wilds, we seek his blessing on our tools and weapons. May his steady hand guide our bows, and his sharp eye grant us precision in our aim. As we prepare for the challenges of the hunt, we ask that Ullr infuse our blades, arrows, and snares with his strength and skill, ensuring our efforts honour both the land and its creatures. With his favour, may we hunt with respect, courage, and success, honouring the sacred balance of nature.

To give Blót to Ullr, at a Hof dedicated to our Gods, to the Æsir, during this time is truly a powerful and awe-inspiring experience. Ritual sacrifices—giving our gifts and

devotion through the mead—connects us to Ullr's divine energy, honoring his mastery over the wilderness and winter elements. Ullr is a god of action, agility, and perseverance, and asking for his blessings ensures that we are equipped to face the harsh season with grace and resilience. The celebration of Winter Finding not only strengthens the bond with Ullr but also with our own inner endurance, making it a time of personal growth, deep reverence, and connection to the natural cycle of life.




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

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## Upcoming Events at Þórshof

# Þórshof 2024 Calendar

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

❖ Winter Nights - subject to change



# Fuþiteu Moot at Þórshof

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

*Winter Nights  
at Pörshof*



*Saturday, October 26th  
Linden, NC*

# **Þórshof**

## **Monthly Members' Meeting**

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**Tuesday, October 29th at 8pm Eastern**

**Feast of the Einherjar  
Goði Nathan Erlandson**

**Queen Sigríðr of Sweden  
Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea**

**Priest vs. Warrior Mentality  
Goði Trent East**



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

# Dörshof - North

Monthly Members'  
Meeting

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**MONTHLY  
MEMBER MEETING**

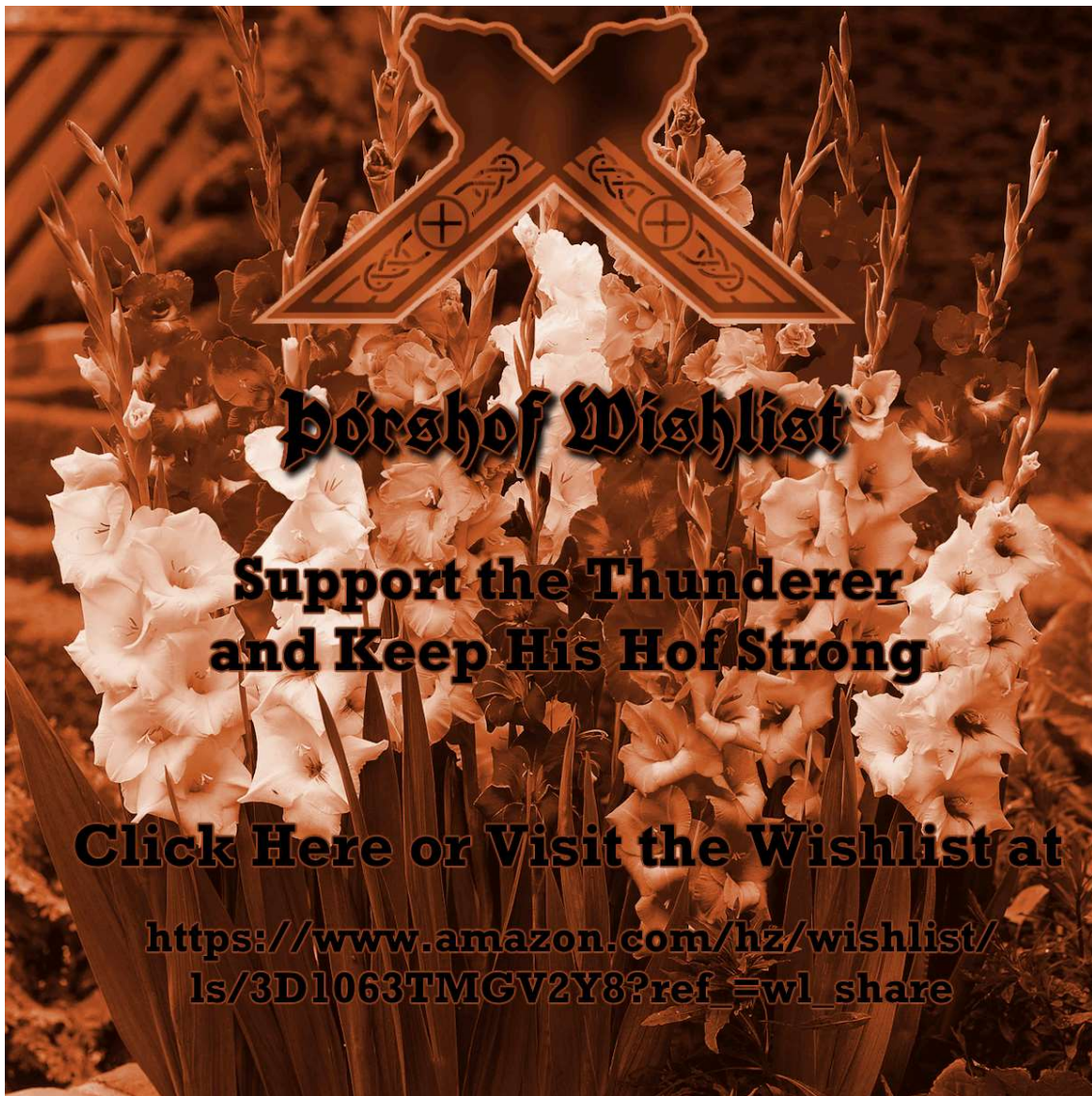
**THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 31ST @ 8PM EST**



Links Emailed and Posted to MeWe  
Contact any Folkbuilder for assistance



**Support Þórshof**



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The District Poetry Corner

*Summer's End*





The sound of rain on leaf litter  
Cold air on my face so bitter.

Guests here for summer leaving now  
We will see them again, that is their vow.

Time is almost up, foraging is over soon  
The sun starts to dip in the afternoon.

Now is transition, life goes to death  
This year's summer takes its last breath.

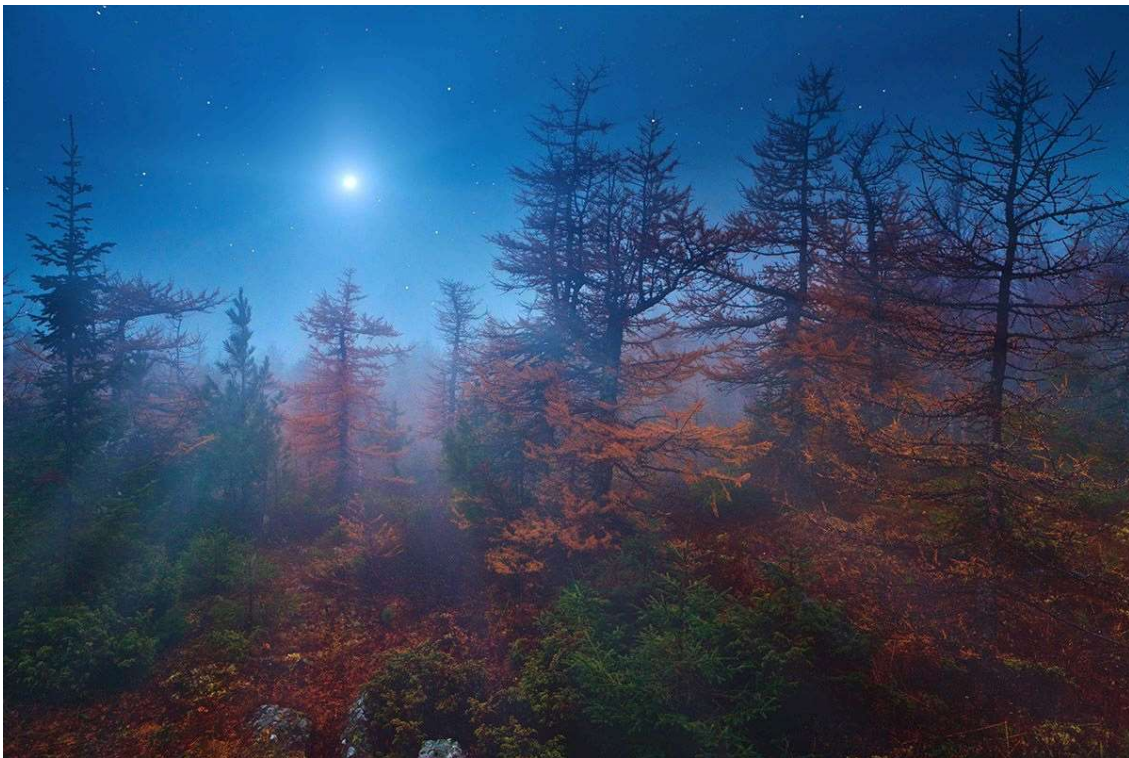
Yet this is not final, the darkness will pass  
Beneath winter's shroud, lies promise of grass.

Now steel yourselves, Folk young and old  
Brace yourselves for the coming cold.



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

*Rest. Reflect. Revere.*



Fallen leaves.  
Ancient eyes.  
Silent earth.  
Disir rise.

Autumn's breath, the twilight near,  
Whispers call, the ancestors hear.  
The Disir watch with knowing eyes,  
Guiding hands beneath dark skies.

Falling leaves and misty air,  
We honor those who once stood there.

Hearth and hall, their echoes stay,  
In shadowed dusk, we find our way.

Honored Disir, fierce and wise,  
Through the veil your voices rise.  
Mothers past, protect and guide,  
In silent woods where shadows bide.

Reflect, remember, we speak their names,  
Through quiet winds, they stoke the flames.  
Reverence deep as nights grow long,  
Their strength within us, ever strong.

Winter Nights, a time to see,  
The woven thread of ancestry.



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

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## Indiana

*September in Indiana*



We canceled the moot in Indiana this month as a result of conflicting schedules and a need to focus on some large AFA-related projects in the works... and it failed. OUR MOOTS CAN'T BE CANCELED! The official moot may have been "canceled" but the bonds among our kinsmen have grown so strong that many of them showed up anyhow, just to spend some time together and lend a hand where possible!



Many come and go in our church but those who remain tend to be of the highest quality and there is no better way to observe that quality than in those who choose to spend their time together building a future for our Folk. If you are in or near Indiana then I enjoy you to come share in the blessings of community that we frequently enjoy.

### *Upcoming Events*

*Winter Nights Celebration*

*October 26, 2024*



*Rushville, IN*

*JRock@Runestone.org for details*

*Feast of the Einherjar*

*November 16, 2024*

*Fortville, IN*



*JRock@Runestone.org  
for details*



Folkbuilder Jonathan Rock

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

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## Kentucky

### *Kentucky in September*



This month in the great state of Kentucky, the faithful gathered to give thanks. We conducted a Blót to Frigg in celebration of our many blessings, from birthdays to health

to the birth of recent children. We enjoyed a feast of pastas and desserts, and an even richer feast of Frith and conversation.



It is always a joy when we gather together in friendship and worship of the Æsir. If any of you should find yourselves in the vicinity of the bluegrass state, reach out and share this joy with us!



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



*Eastern Massachusetts Winter Finding Moot*



From Boston's South Shore and Cape Cod to New Hampshire, a few of us AFAers gathered at the Blue Hills in Eastern Massachusetts for Winter Finding. Two of us knew each other from before while the other two already knew each other but by the end of the day, we all knew each other and now share friendship. One of the lads brought his

3-year-old daughter who clung to her dad like a barnacle but stole the day with her personality.

What was intended as a hike, turned into a plain but meaningful Blot for Winter Finding with the Æsir and Ingvi Freyr's names being carried over the water as we uplifted a mead-horn in their honour. The water was Houghtons Pond and there was a very small sandy spot of 10 by 10 feet right off a footpath. It was there we lay out a cloth and placed on it the Asatru Folk Assembly banner, a Blót Bowl with Aspersing twig, A mead horn, a bottle of mead, apples, a miniature longship and a wooden idol of Lord Freyr. Words were said, the horn was passed, the mead went into the Blót Bowl and the folk were aspersed. The Blót Bowl was tilted, and the mead went into the pond, re-affirming the Gift Cycle.

Once done, the site was packed up and we went up the hill to a park and found a suitable spot to share the feast, which was a simple yet filling sandwich picnic. We found a spot where a boulder was barely poking out of the earth and set up shop. We said the AFA's Meal Blessing and ate. We talked of the Æsir. We talked of light subjects. We talked of heavy subjects, and we enjoyed the out of doors. it was a Good Winter Finding. Hail the AFA and its Massachusetts Members!

### *Upcoming Events*

# Western Mass Einherjar Moot



Nov 10 – Western MA

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



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

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**Michigan**

## *A Moot with Swans*



Friends and folk,

I hope your September moot was warm and sunny, as ours was not! Luckily, it was just my wonderful wife and I, so no one else was bitten by the oddly cold September weekend. The weather and scheduling-ailments did not deter us, and we had a lovely day at a lovely park. The fire that we grilled hotdogs on was much appreciated.



We scoped the area out for future events, and then held Blót to Lady Frigg in a nice little clearing off of the nature trail. Then as we emerged from the woods the sun came out and everything warmed up beautifully.



Also, there were swans! There were a bunch of killdeers (shorebirds, *Charadrius semipalmatus*) peeping around as well, but they were too swift and tiny to get good pictures of.

Hail the Gods, hail the Folk, hail the AFA, and hail Lady Frigg!

*Upcoming Events*

*Midmichigan restaurant moot  
11/09/24*



*Contact Apprentice Folkbuilder  
Chris Savich for details!  
[csavich@runestone.org](mailto:csavich@runestone.org)*



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

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New Hampshire

## *New Hampshire Winter Finding*



This year, Winter Finding in New Hampshire was held at a restaurant that is familiar to most and with a decent menu. As many were otherwise occupied on the feast day, a few were still able to get out and show honour to the Æsir and Ancestors.

The wait staff were excellent as we were promptly seated at our reserved table and were quick to take our drink and meal orders. Both came out quickly and a toast to the Æsir and Winter Finding was made. Conversation barely slowed down as we continued speaking between bites. There was much to talk about. The AFA was a topic of course, historical Ásatrú figures and events were recalled, and we even got to flesh out the plans for the holiday of Winter Finding and others.

Despite most of the New Hampshire Folk being wide flung and unable to join us, we still had a meaningful gathering to mark the holiday. It was right and true. Next up is the Winter Nights XIII.

## *Upcoming Events*





**Oct 27 Southwest NH**

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



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

*Winter Nights in the Shire*



I am very excited to have everyone up in the Granite State for Winter Nights! The leaves are changing and it's starting to get chilly. It is going to be beautiful.

My first national event was Winter Nights X in 2021. It was truly a life changing experience for my wife and I. It is very surreal that we have the opportunity to have this prestigious event in our neck of the woods.

I want to wish everyone safe travels on their journey up here. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions about the area or recommended items to bring.

Looking forward to seeing you all!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



Folkbuilder Tyler Sagert

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

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## North Carolina

### *Appalachian Happenings: Preparing for the Hunt*



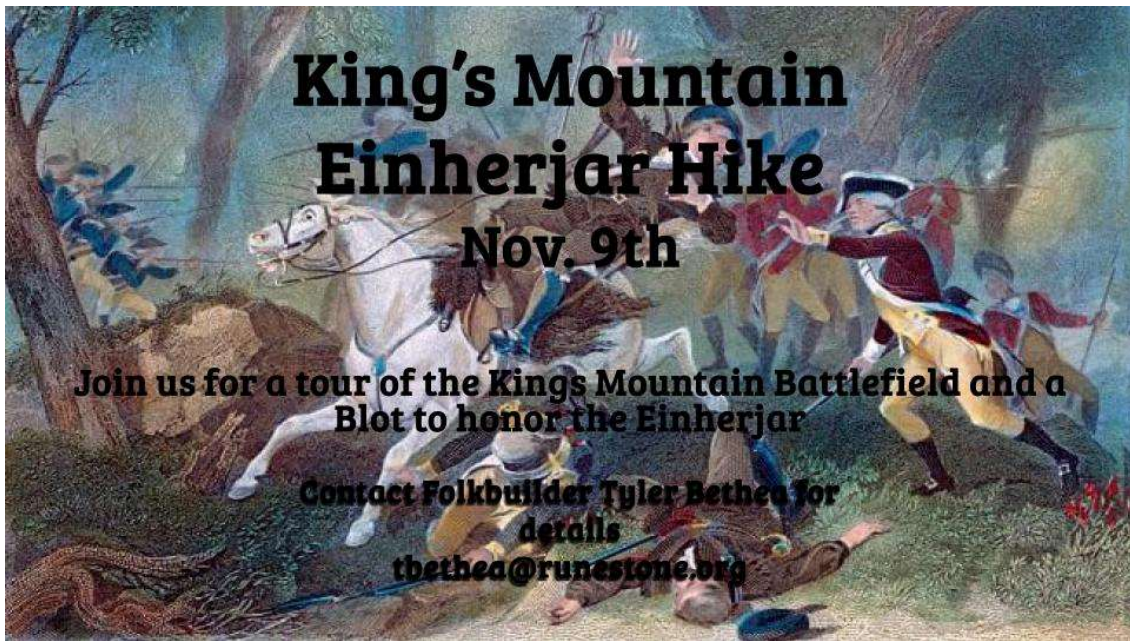
This month, the Folk of southern Appalachia gathered in Hendersonville, North Carolina to pick apples and celebrate the transition from Summer to Fall. This is a time when harvests are gathered, and we start to think seriously about our preparations for winter. Everywhere you look, tractors are hauling carts of freshly-picked apples, machinery is in the field gathering the corn crop, and farmer's markets are full to bursting with produce. We also begin to witness another sign of the coming season: pickup trucks parked at pull-offs anywhere the road touches public hunting land.

A key element to any Winter Finding celebration is preparing for the hunt. At Hof's and local events all over the country, the Folk are blessing their hunting implements and praying to Lord Ullr for successful hunts. This is a time when I consider my ancestors a little more deeply than perhaps other times. I think back to just a few generations ago, when the meat harvested in the fall and early winter was the protein that sustained our family through harsh winters and lean shoulder seasons until the world was made bright and warm again in the spring.

I have an old, double-barreled shotgun that was handed down from my great-great-grandfather, Aaron Willis, to my grandfather, George Willis (whom many of you have heard me hail at Sumbl), and from him on to me. In one of my last in-person conversations with my Grandfather, he gave me the history of this gun and told me that it was to be passed down to my eldest grandson. He told me about when times were so hard that he'd get home from work, dig a few potatoes, then head off into the woods to shoot that night's supper. If he was unsuccessful, his family didn't eat meat that night. He showed me photos of his grandfather, posing with two of his most prized possessions: this gun and his famous hound. I think about the weight behind that gun when I hold it.

As we move into October and prepare to celebrate Winter Nights, think about those ancestors and what they have sacrificed so that we can be here enjoying each other's company. When you head into the woods on a hunt to feed your family, think about the men that taught you the skills you are using, and the men who taught them. Hunting has the potential to be a deeply spiritual activity that connects us to the Alfar that came before us, and is a good time to reflect on what kind of ancestor you are going to be for the generations you will leave behind.

### *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](mailto:tbeta@runestone.org)

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Ohio

*Winter Finding Ohio*



The good folk in Ohio gathered again for Winter Finding.

At dusk we began our Blót, signifying the end of our harvest season and beginning to welcome the cooler days and nights to come.

We gave praise to Freyr for the bounty of the year, both physical and spiritual, asked Ullr for his blessings in the hunts our folk will embark on.

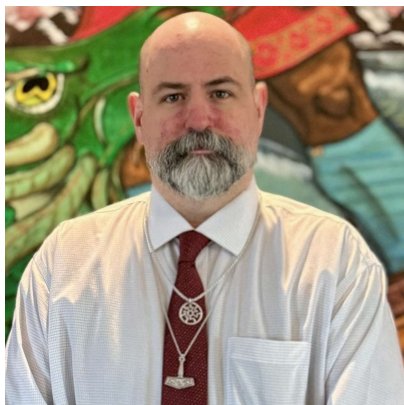
During the colder months the impetus to look inward and reflect becomes prevalent and we asked Lord Óðinn for inspiration in order for us to achieve great deeds in the time yet to come.

Afterwards, we enjoyed each other's company, spoke about plans we have for the future and continued to build those ever-present bonds.

The Frith was flowing, the joy of many becoming one was in the air, just as the that first sense of Autumn.

Inspire, build and nurture your Folk.

*Upcoming Events*



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

*Fall Festival on Walnut Creek Farm*



This month is a big time for farm festivals in Ohio. The one at Walnut Creek is quite impressive. There are hundreds of animals, vendors, many activities, and even a pumpkin slingshot.





Unfortunately, only I, and one other Ohio member was able to make it to the festival itself. We took part in a drive through the animal paddock, which was very enjoyable, tried some Amish pie, and looked at some of the other available activities.



Being it was just the two of us we decided to head back to my home and have a cookout. There, two other Ohio members came to join in on an ample feast of steak, bratwurst, potatoes, and corn. We shared some drinks and had great conversation into the night. It was a testament to the fact that things may not always go as planned, but it only takes one or a few of the Folk to create a great time. I encourage everyone in the AFA to get together as much as possible. Moot or not, we can all strengthen bonds over a simple meal or a visit. Until next month, Hail the Gods, Hail the Folk, and Hail the AFA.

### *Upcoming Events*



# WINTER NIGHTS

OHIO

Saturday, Oct 26th, 2:00pm

Come and build frith with your folk.  
BLOT, SUMBEL, POTLUCK

Contact Folkbuilder Joe Drotos  
(330)-322-9136



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

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## Pennsylvania

*Pittsburgh Irish Festival Moot*



The Pittsburgh Irish Festival Moot was a grand success. AFA families were able to come together dahntahn and experience all the amazing cultural activities the festival offers. The exchange of music, food, and stories helped weave the tapestry of ancestral Irish roots that run through the city. The event itself consisted of three marvelous days of entertainment and education celebrating the ancestors that shaped the city into what it is today.



The back drop of the historic Carrie Blast Furnaces showed the legacy and strength of Pittsburgh's Irish natives. It is my hope that the AFA will continue to take part in such astounding events as we move forward. The event serves to show us the importance of ancestry and the strength of those who have come before us. Next year the festival will celebrate 34 outstanding years of Celtic pride in Pittsburgh, and I look forward to seeing yinz there.

### *Upcoming Events*



Pittsburgh Metropolitan Asatru



# TRUNK OR TREAT



MONDAY OCT  
21ST 5PM-7PM



For more details  
please email  
[rfenton@runestone.org](mailto:rfenton@runestone.org)





# THE OCTOBER VIRTUES *Conference*

**SAT OCTOBER 26TH AT NOON**

**4899 WILLIAM PENN HWY, MURRYSVILLE,  
PA 15668**

Email Apprentice Folkbuilder Ryan Fenton  
at [rfenton@runestone.org](mailto:rfenton@runestone.org)



Speaker  
**RYAN FENTON II**



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# THE NOVEMBER

*Virtues Conference*

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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](mailto:rfenton@runestone.org)



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# GETTYSBURG NATIONAL PARK 3RD ANNUAL FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:jilliestorm@yahoo.com)**



## Yuletide Faire

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Saturday, December 14th

1:00-4:00 pm

RSVP to  
[jilliestorm@yahoo.com](mailto:jilliestorm@yahoo.com)

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South Carolina

*Heather's Frithweaving Campaign*



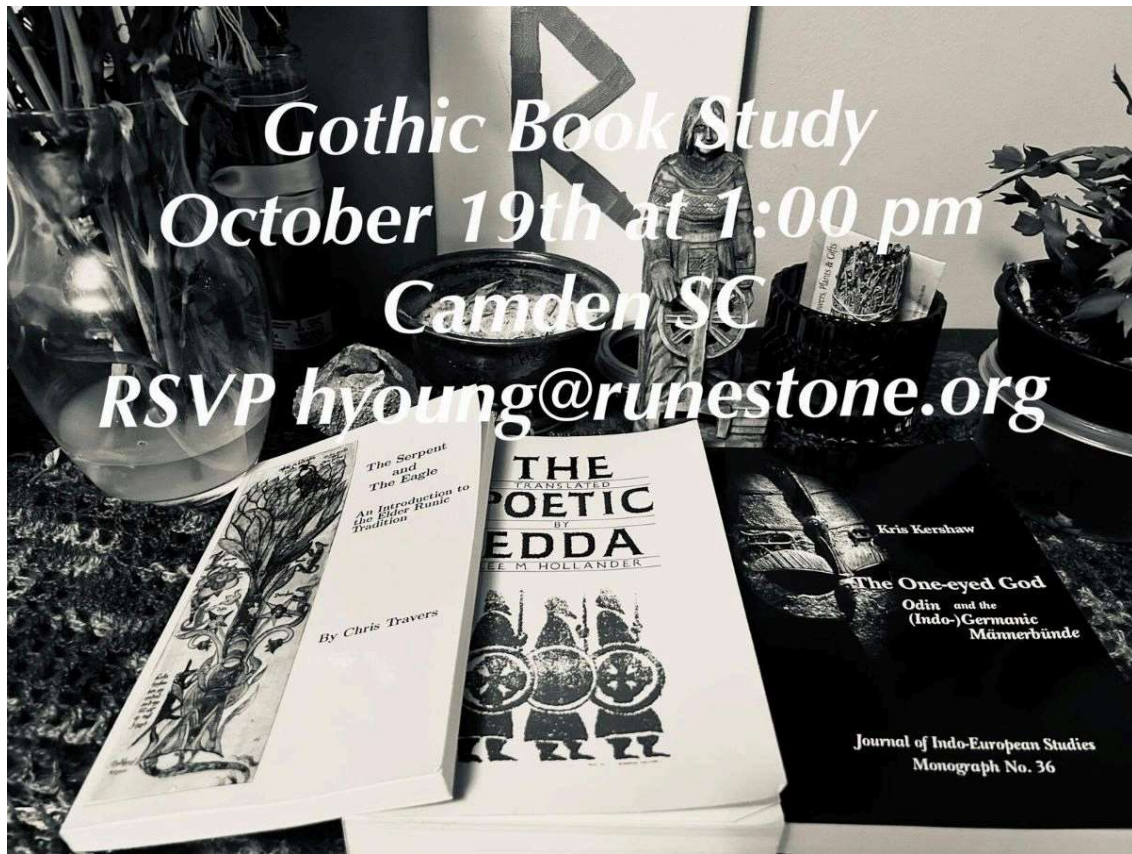
This month, my Frithweaving adventure had me talking with Folk in Montana and Wisconsin. I'll be reaching out to the Folk in Texas and Mississippi this month, so if you see a South Carolina number, be ready to chat!

### *Serpent and Eagle*



We have decided to try something new in South Carolina, so last month we started a book study. We have a few new members that are eager to learn. So, we did our first book study moot this month. It went very well, and everyone really enjoyed themselves. Witan Young went over the book *The Serpent and the Eagle* by Chris Travers with us and lead us in guided meditation. We also started a money-saving challenge with a few of us. We had Folk time and had a nice dinner then everyone left eager for next month to do this all over again.

### **Upcoming Events**



Folkbuilder Heather Young  
[hyoung@runestone.org](mailto:hyoung@runestone.org)

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Sweden

*Winter Finding*



This September has been a hot and bright one. Only now at the end of the month are we being graced by the gloomier, overcast part of autumn.

During our Blót to Ullr, we gave thanks to him for the game I've managed to bring home thus far, and to whatever game I will fell the rest of the season.

Saying goodbye to summer is always bittersweet. Summer is my favorite time of year, yet I always find myself longing for the dark nights and the snowclad landscape at its end. This year is no different.

Now we look forward to evenings in front of the roaring fireplace, hot soups for dinner, and beautiful days spent outside in the snow.

Hail Ullr!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

*Upcoming Events*





Remembrance Dinner

9th of October

Join the Lugnets as we dine in honor of Meister Guido Von List!



Winter Nights

20th of October

Join the Lugnets as we celebrate Winter Nights!



Erik Lugnet

Apprentice Folkbuilder

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



## Tennessee

### *Appalachian Happenings: The TN/NC Connection*



This is a bittersweet recounting of our area for the month. September was a busy month for many of us in Appalachia. Many others were already committed, and Tyler Bethea was to be across the country celebrating at Freyr's Harvest Feast, but a few members of Appalachian Hearth Kindred got together for fun and Winter Finding. We were joined by Annika, who made the drive from VA to be with us. We met at Jeter's Farm, a popular apple orchard to enjoy the beauty, cider, and doughnuts. It was an especially hot and crowded day, so we decided to take our group to a pizza and bbq joint in search of a meal with air conditioning. It is always so nice to be together and talk. With a feisty toddler getting frustrated with our stillness, we decided to end our time at a park. Alas, we went our separate ways and shared car rides back over the mountain from Hendersonville, NC to Jonesborough, TN.



Not one week later, there was devastation. As many of you have heard since it is now national news, Hurricane Helene took a turn toward the mountains and shattered lives. There are still many missing and the highways connecting our Kindred are gone, bridges destroyed. The road up to Jeter Farm is a landslide. The towns we passed between, some are gone and flooded. Many of us were cut off from each other, power and cell service and water lost. There are looters and so many sad stories still emerging. Little by little we could get in touch. What did not make national news, and scared many of us at the time, was the emergency evacuation orders, because many more dams were threatening imminent failure. Some AFA folks tried to get out to our safer grounds...all bridges were closed. BUT, the Gods be hailed, all of our members are safe. None of us have been injured and most of us have power and water again. There are many people helping their communities and clearing debris, feeding each other. Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein from Montana is coming to the area and will be joining a group of our local AFA men to help aid Appalachia. There will be months of rebuilding and trying to find new roads to get to each other with a mountain range, the oldest in America, in between us. We are Folk and we will rise.

— Rachel, member

### *Upcoming Events*



Winter Nights, October 26-27

Please join us in Jonesborough, Tennessee as we celebrate Winter Nights. This is a time when the veil between our worlds is thinnest and we celebrate and call upon our ancestors. The nights are cooler, the leaves are extraordinary, and the food is always good. As always, don't forget to pack a bathing suit for the hot tub! Please RSVP to Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea at your earliest convenience so we can ensure you have plenty of food. I look forward to seeing you there!




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

*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 Hoskuld and  
Meister von List**

**Oct. 8th at 630pm**

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

# Nashville Parthenon Moot

November 2<sup>nd</sup>

1 pm

RSVP to  
[NRice@Runestone.org](mailto:NRice@Runestone.org)



## Remembrance Dinner for Queen Sigríð

November 9th  
6:30 pm

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



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



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