

The Runestone: Voice of the Asatru Folk Assembly





Þórshof


Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly


www.thorshof.com


September 2024


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Words from the Alsherjargothi



Thank you to the amazing folks at Baldrshof for hosting another fantastic Freyfaxi celebration! I was so honored to show this beautiful Hof to Mandy and to Aubrey for the very first time. I am exceedingly proud of this Hof and of the amazing people that have made it such a special place.

If you have never made it our to a National or Regional AFA Event, now is the time! We have Freyr's Harvest Feast coming up a few weeks in Montana. We have Winter Nights in October, for the first time ever in New Hampshire. And in November we have the Feast of the Einherjar in South Dakota. I am looking forward to all of these amazing events and I would love to see as many of you as possible there. This is a great

opportunity to get involved and really get a feeling for the amazing things we are building and the wonderful people who are part of our AFA family. The time is now.

It is great to go out to these big events and I encourage you all to do so. I would also encourage you to engage in hospitality this season closer to home. My experience in Ásatrú started with inviting others into my home and sharing a meal. I do that monthly still today and it is a special thing to gather the Folk around my table. It can be at your home, it can be at a park, it can be at a local restaurant. You don't have to be a Folkbuilder...our Folkbuilders would love to help you though. I encourage all of you to exercise hospitality by gathering the Folk near you and building the connections that make all this a community and a family. As we Find Winter this month, lets find it together, surrounded by AFA friends and family.

If you are interested in hosting anything locally, reach out to any of our Folkbuilders and we will help make it a success.

Hail the Æsir!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



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Words from our Founder



<https://youtu.be/xxl86tRBQzo>



Founder Steven McNallen

Words from our Gothar

Blótferð—Ásatrú “Pilgrimage,” and Why It Matters



I've spent the last few weeks looking for the best possible Old Norse equivalent of the English Christian word "pilgrimage", and I have finally decided on the term "Blótferð"-roughly translating to "sacrificial journey". It means to travel to a Blót, whether it be to your local Hof, to a rented campground, or to a Hof on the other end of the continental United States.



Our ancestors would often travel quite far to participate in a Blót with their cousins across Germania or Scandinavia, the most well-known example of this is the former temple at Gamla Uppsala. This travel itself was seen as a necessary sacrifice, and it was a tremendous honor to be able to attend rituals led by the Goðar of Uppsala.



Times have changed, of course, but many things remain unchanged. We should all do what we can to attend ritual as often as feasible, and to see the glory of all five of the Ásatrú Folk Assembly's lands. The raw power of Óðinshof, the southern piety of Þórshof, the shining devotion of Baldrshof, the prosperity of Njörðshof, and the endless potential that is Sigrheim- these are already such a huge part of our Folk's reawakening, already nearing the equivalent of Gamla Uppsala. We are making history, living in what our descendants will look back on as a foundational period for Ásatrú!



There are quite a few of us across the AFA who have made these long road trips or flights to attend one of our Hof events, and I can tell you from experience that the sacrifice is worth it. Your effort is rewarded 1000 times over with great rituals, memories, food, and Frith.



Consider this a call to action! I urge everyone reading this to start planning a Blótferð to any of our Hofs, or to Sigrheim! Ásatrú in real life starts here!



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Declaration of Purpose 1



Our purpose in the practice and implementation of Ásatrú in the AFA is to tap into our ancestral ways, our ancestral spirit, and practice it as things are today. We are uniquely tied to this as a people and culture. These ways have been passed to us by our forebearers and our Gods, shaping us to be who we are. This is our cultural history belonging to our people with the divine heritage that our Gods and ancestors passed down to us at a cellular level in metagenetic form.



It has been millennia since we forgot what our ancestors inherently knew to be true. And that is that we come from the Æsir as they created our Folk in Askr and Embla. That we are a noble race with the ability to change our world around us as we see fit, opposed to being a race of stagnation, naivety, and lethargy. For over a hundred centuries our ancestors have been methodically weakened and now muzzled to the point of instilling fear and self-loathing by those afraid of us. This could never have happened in an all-out frontal campaign, no, it was methodical, deliberate, and

thorough with the utmost patience and arrogance, or so they think it to be thorough. It is up to every one of us to keep that flame of our Folk alive, to nurture that flame, and to share it with our Folk in our own campaign to reopen our eyes. This is all of our responsibility, from the Alsherjargoði to the new member that goes to a Moot for the first time. WE, have the ability to change our environment, to build each other back up to our former ancestral glory. When fear and hopelessness set in, reach out to your Folk and remind yourself that it is up to us as a people to come together in this, you are not alone. Don't be distracted by petty disagreements amongst each other, don't be drawn in to those who aim to divide and weaken us. Build your Folk up and they will build you up, strengthening your Folk will strengthen you. The adverse is also true so when you feel wronged or hurt by something, draw from your inherent nobility that the Æsir gave us and work it out with Courage, Fidelity, and Perseverance.



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As the Year Draws to a Close, Embrace the Season of Reflection



As we approach the end of the year and the season of outward work and harvest comes to a close, a new season emerges—one of introspection and inner work. Especially for those who experience the deep quiet of winter, it's a time when our focus naturally shifts inward, towards the warmth and comfort of home and the workings of our inner lives.

One powerful tool for this inward journey is journaling. Journaling has been a cornerstone of self-discovery and growth throughout my life, appearing in various forms—whether as a "Dream Journal," a "Book of Shadows," or simply a diary. Each form has served as a guide to understanding the complexities of my inner world, helping to affirm the more intangible aspects of life.



Think of journaling as taking inventory in the "business of you." Much like an inventory sheet in a commercial business, journaling allows you to keep track of your experiences, progress, and projections for the future. It's an opportunity to catalog the joys, pains, strengths, and weaknesses of the past year.

When you find yourself feeling stuck, confused, embarrassed, lost, or overwhelmed—write it down. Record it alongside your successes and victories. As you periodically review what you've written, you may start to see patterns emerge, offering insights into what drives you and what holds you back.

In the coming year, consider inviting the wisdom of the Gods and the guidance of your ancestors to help you cast away what no longer serves you and to bolster the elements that propel you forward. Through this practice, may you find clarity, peace, and a deeper understanding of yourself.



Gothi Jason Plourde

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Goði Thorgrun Odden ~ A Life Well Loved



Writing this has been a slow process for me. How does one compress the sharing of lives, spanning three decades, into a single article? Interwoven like knotwork, there was joy, heartache, births, deaths and weddings. I knew it was my role to see this last stage to the end; to help Thorgrun and his wife grasp the unknown.

Thorgrun Odden's passing added a new page of the AFA story. For the first time, we began preparing an Asatru funeral based on the "forever" role of a Goði. Tools and handwork had been his trade as a carpenter. Our Folkbuilders brought those same skills to the forefront to plan a memorial that celebrated Thorgrun's love of tradition and the

ancestral ways.

There was already a familiar grave in our Óðinshof Cemetery. Their daughter, Rebekah Thompson Roth, passed away suddenly, leaving two young children behind. At Midsummer 2020, we gathered to intern her ashes, the first sacred remains in our cemetery. It was understood that Thorgrun's ashes would be placed within arm's length of Bekah's grave.

Over several days, Brodie and Daniel dug through the cement-like soil and lined the hole with concrete, doing everything "the right way" - for that is what Thorgrun deserved as a beloved family-member and leader within the AFA. By the time we gathered at Thorgrun's grave on August 18th, a stunning Algiz rune made from hefty limbs stood in the place where a headstone will eventually lie. Chunky rocks curved around the length of the gravesite in the shape of a ship - a Viking ship, with an upright boulder at each end - just as Thorgrun would have wanted it.

The date for the memorial service fell on the weekend of Freyfaxi, which was always Thorgrun's special event as a devotee of Freyr. As Founder and Gyðja respectively, Steve and I recounted to everyone the significance of the Freyr Blót which we were about to lead. Thorgrun was honored throughout the ritual, but the next day was wholly Thorgrun's. Sunday was also Thorgrun's 78th birthday. Whether deliberate or Wyrð-at-work, it was the perfect date. Katie, Thorgrun's life-long wife and partner of 55 years, was delighted at the synchronicity of dates, and so the invitations went out far and wide.



For weeks, Katie and I had planned the splendid reception that would follow the funeral rite. She called on Mother Frigg as she gathered the treasured items he had collected along the way, reflecting his dedication as a Freysgoði. All of these items, as well as family photos and Thorgrun's ritual garments, were on display when guests entered the Hof.

The Hof was bright and welcoming in autumn splendor. The efforts of the last few days showed. Fall leaves in various hues of orange covered the black tablecloths.

People were directed to a table with writing and crafting materials so they could make “grave-goods” as gifts for Thorgrun to take on his journey. Eventually, the moment arrived: It was time to proceed to the cemetery.

The Hof-team made sure that rows of seats were waiting beneath the shade of popups. Guests and kin were seated as we began our procession across the parking area to the cemetery gate. Steve and I led the way, carrying the AFA horn and the handmade box with Gothi Thorgrun’s remains. We were followed by Olivia, holding the small box of grave-goods. With the horn filled and raised, we called to the Holy Æsir, the Ancestors, and the Landvætrr to be with us to honor this great man. I spoke of Thorgrun’s journey through life, describing him as a good and stalwart friend to everyone who now sat by his grave, and a man of high principles who could always be counted on to give his best and share his wisdom.

Founder McNallen and I together dipped a frond of cedar into the bowl of mead. We called on Daniel to bring forth the box containing Thorgrun’s ashes, which Daniel had lovingly built with rare woods and runic symbols. We placed it in the grave, heavily sprinkled with mead. Olivia and her family then stepped forward with the box of grave-goods and placed it next to the wooden box. It, too, received blessings of holy mead as we said our words over the grave. Calls went out. “Hail, Thorgrun Odden!”



But we were there at two graves belonging to this family. To our right, was Bekah. We stepped to her graveside to give special blessings and love for this reunification with

her father. From everyone's heart, came the shouts, "Hail Bekah!"

Final blessings to Thorgrun included thanks for sincere friendship, and for leading so many lost souls to a noble and virtuous life under the banner of the Aesir. At that point, Founder McNallen said his own words of farewell, ending with the Hávamál stanza, "Cattle Die, Kinsman die..." Hail to those, worthy of remembrance. Gothi Odden was now one of the esteemed Ancestors.

The rite was done. As people filed back through the wrought-iron gate, Olivia stood with the small bowl of mead. For those who wished, she gave the rune Raido on their foreheads. Most asked for that blessing, in honor of Thorgrun, while Katie received condolences and hugs.

The rest of the afternoon had a festive atmosphere as we offered mead and cider for a group toast to Thorgrun. As all stood up, a thunderous, "Hail Thorgrun!" filled the Hall. Next was a slideshow, beginning with Thorgrun's ancestors, then traveling through his personal years with his young family. Then came memorable events during his AFA years. The slideshow ended with recent photos at Óðinshof, among the folk who so loved and respected him – all to the tune of Willie Nelson's "On the Road Again." Yes, that would be Thorgrun...



We feasted in his honor from a table laden with croissant-sandwiches, salads, and trays of veggies and fruit. The final task before us was to celebrate his birthday with a cake made for the occasion. Our voices filled the hall with joy as we sang “Happy Birthday” for his 78th.

This part of Thogrun’s life was done. We had given good closure to family and friends who had come to give homage to this exceptional man. Our own AFA Folk saw how well our leadership worked seamlessly, in unison, to create this day of tribute. We were the Do-ers. We ARE the Do-ers!

Hail the Folk!

Hail, Goði Thorgrun Odden!



Gythia Sheila McNallen

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The Runestone - A Throwback

In honor of the upcoming Winter Finding celebrations

Ullr's Gifts to Hunter by WulthuthewaR

From The Runestone, Fall-Winter 1999



Long ago, in the days before man received the gift of iron or runes, he hunted. During the long, cold winters, it was the heart of the tribe. Long after the plants were gone, hunting provided food. Long after Sunna's warmth had gone, it provided furs for warmth.

The whole tribe hunted together as the whole tribe ate together. With nets they captured the large game, with rocks and sticks they killed the small. All was well.

Until the year the tribe almost died.

It was a harsh winter. Cold enough that a sapling bent to set a snare would snap. Cold enough that the people had to go far out on the ice to break through for water. Cold enough that a child grew deathly ill.

The child's sickness swept through the tribe, making everyone too weak to hunt, save one. He was called Hunter, for he was the best at killing a rabbit with a thrown rock or stick.

He tended his tribe, waiting for the sickness to pass. None died, but none regained their

strength. Then the stored food was gone, and the fever did not pass.

Hunter gathered his rabbit sticks and went out. The snow was deep, and Hunter had to force his way through it. The hares and rabbits, who walk on the crust of the snow, heard him, and stayed out of his range. Hunter wished that he too could walk on the snow, but he was not a rabbit and had to return home at the end of the day without food.

And his tribe grew weaker, and his daughter no longer answered when he talked to her.

The next day he took the tribe's nets out to the trails the larger animals left in the snow. He found two trees close on either side of the trail and placed the net across it. Hunter then circled far around and, with his flint tipped spear, waited beside the trail. Deer rushed down the trail towards his net but stopped in front of it. Hunter rushed towards them, yelling, and hoping to scare them into the net, but they ran around it. Hunter threw his spear, but even at his closest, he was far out of range.

Without others to cast the net, the deer could not be caught.

Again, Hunter returned home unsuccessful. And now many of his tribe no longer spoke, and all were close to death.

The next day Hunter brought all of the tribe's nets. Hunter skillfully created a trap from them, so that no matter which way the deer ran they would be ensnared. Hunter again circled far around and, with his flint tipped spear, Hunter waited.

A bull moose ran down the path and, being poor of sight. into the net. Angered, it began tearing the precious nets to pieces. In horror, Hunter jumped forward and thrust the spear into the moose. But a spear thrust will not kill a moose, and Hunter had to climb a tree for his life.

As Hunter sat in the tree, he felt a new type of cold, this one starting from his heart and flowing out. Hunter had failed. He could not provide food for his tribe, and without food all would die. Hunter wept for his people.

A movement in the snow caught Hunter's attention. He watched in amazement at a tall man walking across the top of the deep snow carrying a bent stave. Hunter had never seen a man such as this before. who seemed to shine brighter than the snow. He looked at his feet and saw that he walked on nets stretched between sticks. The man stopped before Hunter and reached up, touched his tears.

"My people," said Hunter "they die. They are starving and I cannot feed them."

The brilliant man pointed across the field toward several deer, who were poking their heads deep into snow to graze.

"I have tried." Hunter said, "but they are too wary for me to net alone, too wary for me to approach in this snow."

The man lifted his bow. He pulled an arrow from his quiver and fitted it to the string. How strange thought Hunter, yet his heart raced with excitement. With a snap, the bow sent an arrow across the field, dropping a deer.

Something else snapped in Hunter's mind, and he fell from the low branch. Suddenly he understood the bow, and how it sent the arrow further and faster than he could throw it. Suddenly he understood the snowshoes, and how they trapped the snow like a hunting net.

He got to his feet and looked around. The man was gone, but his belongings remained. "Who are you?" breathed Hunter. A voice inside his head told him "You will hear my name in the howl of the wolves," and he shivered.

Hunter picked up the snowshoes and looked at them. "We can make these!" he said, and tied them to his feet.

Hunter picked up the quiver of arrows and examined one. "We can make these!" he said, and tied the wolf hide belt around his waist.

Hunter picked up the bow and drew the string. "We can make this!" he said, and slung it across his chest.

Hunter then hurried to the deer, for he had many to feed in the coming days. As he dragged it home, he heard wolves in the distance. He listened to them calling to him who is first among them.

"Uuuuulllll" they called.

"Ulll" Hunter replied.



<https://youtu.be/cofmBz0Qxv4>

Ásatrú Trúlögmál



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

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

We have known for a long time that a clear expression of the fundamental beliefs of the

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

Hail the Heroes of Ásatrú that paved the way!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Hail the Æsir!



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The Quest for Freyshof

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

– Gylfaginning



[Freyshof Fund – Asatru Folk Assembly \(runestone.org\)](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 \$79,111 on our remaining loan.
2. We need to raise our monthly donation average by 9.6%.
 - This is membership dues/Hoftollar plus other donations.
3. We need to locate a suitable property.
4. We need to find lenders and build a war chest.



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

Hail Freyr!



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Sigrheim: Home of Victory

Support the Home of Victory



Help Sigrheim get stocked
and ready for our Folk!

Donate Supplies
from our
wishlist ✨ ✨ ✨
amazon

Thank You!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Upcoming Events







Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
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Victory Never Sleeps



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

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

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

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

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



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



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AFA Asatru Academy

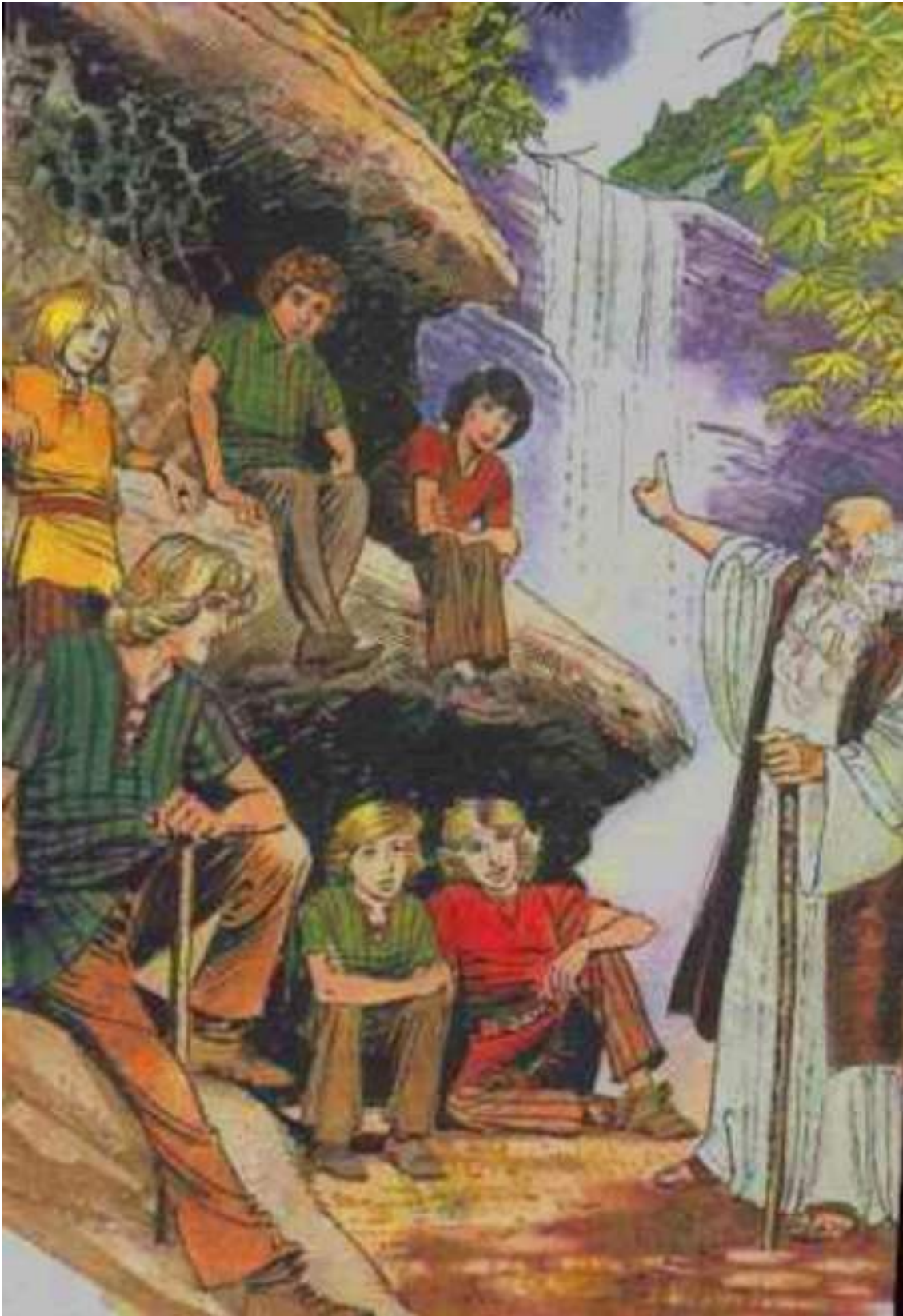


Check out the Asatru Academy at AsatruAcademy.org



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

Asatru Academy Offers Religious Instruction to All Our Kids



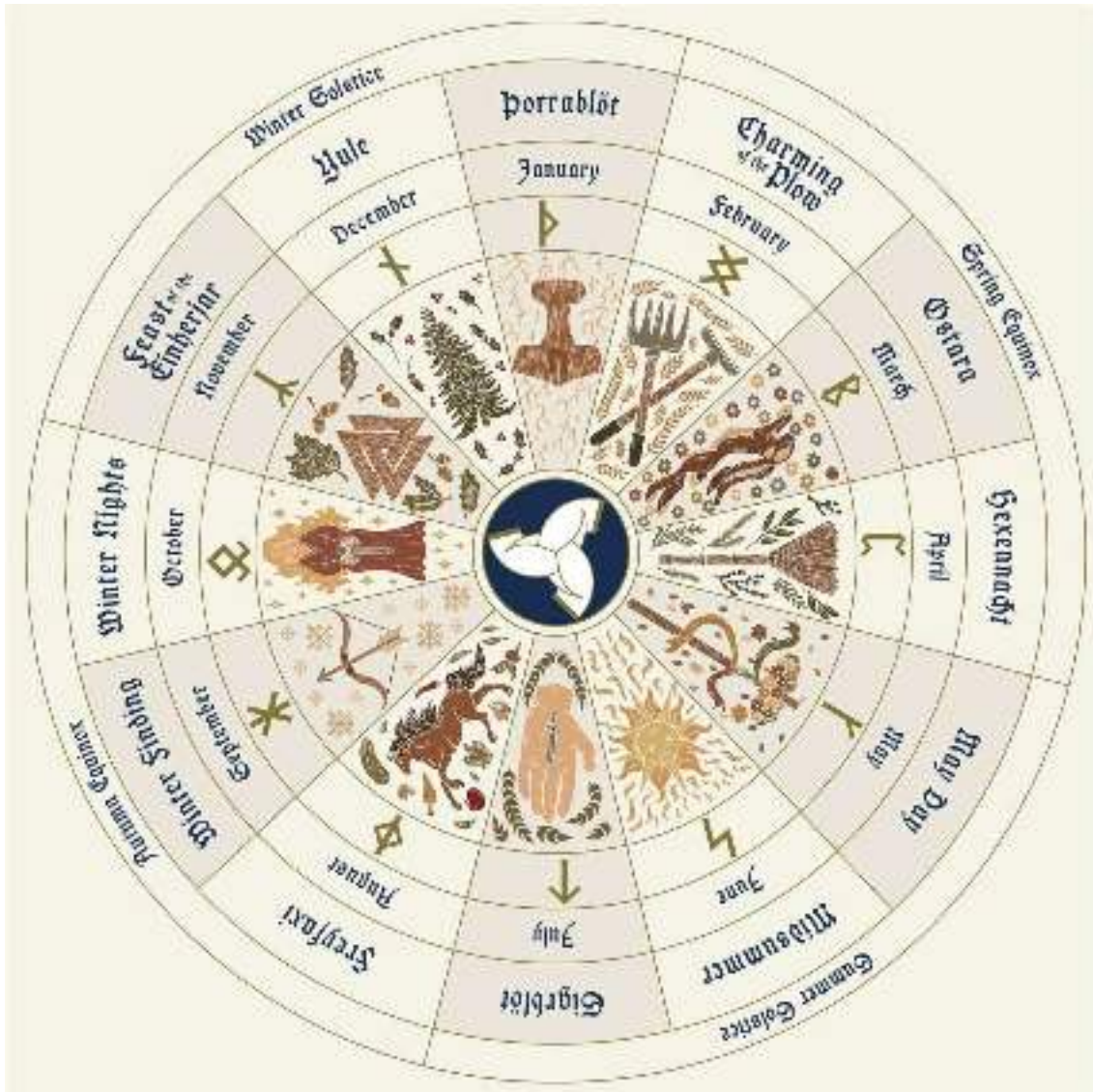
Something that the Academy is doing different this year. We are opening enrollment to our kids who may have to attend public or private school for one reason or another. Why would a parent duel enroll you might ask? Well, we want all our AFA kids to benefit from a solid folkish Ásatrú religious upbringing. To that end, even if your child is in a public or private school, we would still love for you to enroll in the Academy, so

that your child has access to our Ásatrú religious lessons and activities! We certainly understand that in today's economy and circumstances, some parents may not be able to commit to a full homeschool program, however we don't want that to be an obstacle for our parents when it comes to giving their children quality Ásatrú teachings. We would really love to see all our AFA kids enrolled, and learning about our beautiful faith together. Reach out to any of our Academy staff with any questions you have, we are here to help. Your local Folkbuilders and Goðar are also ready to help and answers your questions. We sure hope to see you soon!



Goði Rob Stamm
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Remembrance & Holy Days



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

2024

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

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

September



<https://youtu.be/UpNZ3lhRNLc>

Day of Remembrance

Prince Hermann of the Cherusci | September 9th



Υ 18 BCE - 21 CE ლ

Prince Hermann of the Cherusci, or Gaius Julius Arminius, was born to the Chief of the German Cherusci Tribe, Segimer in 18 BCE. Segimer was a Roman sympathizer and both of his sons, Hermann and Flavus, were raised in the Roman Empire under Roman “guardianship”. Hermann proved to be equal to the task and it did not take him long to excel as a soldier in the Roman Legions. He earned both Roman citizenship and the rank of a Roman Knight before distinguishing himself in His exploits in the Great Illyrian Revolt, after which he was sent to Germania to aid in finishing the conquest of the Germanic Tribes.

Once in Germania again, Hermann was able to quietly unite five Germanic tribes with the intention of overthrowing the Roman occupation of his land. His deep knowledge of Roman warfare and his sharp tactical mind led to the historic Battle of Teutoburg

Forest, and Rome's most devastating defeat. Despite backlash from his Roman sympathizing father and brother and the loss of his wife and then-unborn son, Hermann continued to fight against the Romans and their retaliatory attacks.

Ultimately, Hermann was assassinated by Germanic tribal leaders who were frightened of his great power, in 21 CE. Even so, it was his crucial victory in the Teutoburg Forest that forever changed the face of Germania and the Roman Empire.



So, what can we learn from this story?

We no longer have the ancestral homeland to fight for as our ancestors did. We live too scattered, and the countries of our ancestors are not what they once were. However, we still have families, we have ideals, and we have Ásatrú. Every day is a battle to hang onto those ideals that no longer have a proper place in our modern society. Every day is a battle to make our world a little better, a little stronger for those who we leave behind when we die. Patience and fortitude will get us far. So will the knowledge of how-to best fight for what we want. With the knowledge of how to do things the right way, it might take that one decisive victory to reshape the future of our Folk.

Holiday

Winter Finding | September 22nd (Observed 21st)



The ancient calendar only recognized two seasons. There was summer, and there was winter. Just as May Day was their first day of Summer, Winter Finding was their first day of winter. The temperature slowly begins to fall, the days get shorter. Those who grow their food begin preparations for the final harvests. The larders are growing full with the fruit of earlier efforts. Now it's time to begin the hunt, to kill enough game to finish winter's preparations.

Today, many of us don't have the same connection to the need for food and preparation that our Ancestors experienced. Food has become easy to access, and therefore not so vitally important. Those who hunt, usually do it for sport not because without it they don't have the food to survive the Winter. This doesn't mean, however, that we cannot take the time to think and reflect. Thus begins the Winter season. Thus begins the death of the "world" too dark and cold. We can all see and feel the change in the world around us. Our days are shorter, the nights grow colder. The leaves change and begin to fall.

Get outside and find someplace to sit and feel the changes. Make a hearty meal to share

with your family and with the Gods. If you hunt dedicate, your first kill to the Gods and Ancestors, to Ullr. Share a choice cut with them. Now is time to begin the “closing in.” Everyone begins to gather closer to home, sticking close to push away the wintery drear. Take time to remember what’s important.

Freyfaxi, a Recap



<https://youtu.be/lr-45bVjqy0>

The very wonderful leadership of Baldrshof spent weeks and months in careful planning, diligent preparation, spent sweat and tears and elbow grease, all to bring you out showcase event for the year, Freyfaxi! And what an event it was!



The festivities kicked off with a morning dedication on Friday to the Folkmother Else Christensen performed by Folkbuilder and Gyðja student Sara Ault. Friday was packed with moving and uplifting spiritual activities. Witan Fassett lead the Folk in the now famous Æsir meditation, also known as the litany. If you haven't experienced this, you must! Sara Ault performed a beautiful Welcoming of the Gods Blót. Friday ended with a beautiful Baldr Blót performed by our Alsherjargoði Matt Flavel, and then the Folk danced and had a blast at Baldr's Ball! Witan Fassett Rules: everyone MUST dance at least once!



Saturday started off with a delicious breakfast, and a dedication for Baldr by Folkbuilder Ashley McStocker. The day kept rolling with an ice bucket challenge where some brave Goðar, and even a few Witan, volunteered to be doused with ice cold water for Baldrshof charity.



Saturday also saw a very moving Freyfaxi Blót by Witan Daniel Young. Witan Young is best described as a fiery southern Goði. Witan Young's Freyfaxi Blót was (in this Goði's opinion) the best Blót he has possibly ever done. If you weren't inspired, uplifted, your soul alight with passion for the Gods, then you may need to check your pulse. Passion and piety are a tradition in the Young household, as we were also treated to a very beautiful Nanna Blót by Folkbuilder and Gyðja student Heather Young. Saturday night ended with a wonderful, heartfelt Sumbel enjoyed by all present.



The last day of Freyfaxi dawned on Sunday with an ancestor dedication performed by Folkbuilder Chris McDowell. Goði Stamm officiated our final ritual of Freyfaxi on Sunday, the Wayfarer Blót. This final act of worship is bitter sweet.



We celebrate the wonderful weekend filled with Frith, family, and worship. We hug, we cry, we say farewell. We do not say "goodbye" we say "see you later" until next time. Freyfaxi was really a joy. Folk left with full hearts and spirits renewed. We sure hope you'll join us next month for Winter Finding, and of course, Freyfaxi 2025!



Goði Rob Stamm
Dean of the Ásatrú Academy
rstamm@runestone.org

Upcoming National Event

Freyrs Harvest Feast | September 20th-22nd

FREYR'S HARVEST FEAST SEPTEMBER 2024





Freyrs Harvest Feast is the time to honor the Gods after a productive year's Harvest. As we gather together for a weekend filled with activities, we honor the three Vanir deities Njörðr, Freyr, and Freyja.

During the course of the weekend, the Folk gather together for three Blótar using mead donated by Heinlein's Hollow Meadery.



In addition to Blót, we see the display of Freyrs Proposal on stage and host the viking games tournament with a prize to be revealed at the feast. In addition to brawn, brain is tested in our Hnefatafl competition. While this competition is less fierce the bragging rights are still pretty good. Guests can also test their luck at a game of Orlog.

While there are plenty of contests, we still have plenty of time for several workshops, speeches by guest speakers including Gothling student and renowned Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea. Craftsmen will also bring their wares out to sell and authors to sign their books. An auction benefiting the AFA will provide ample opportunities to walk away with a bag full of spoils.

The whole event is hosted on a private 20-acre ranch in a very low population area. It's on the river and away from prying eyes. So not only do you get to enjoy a full event, you can take in the beauty of rural Montana, enjoy the river, and see what an AFA homestead looks like. For those of you that came last year, you'll notice quite the host

of improvements, including new buildings, showing we are anything but idle at Fólkvangr.



Lodging is straightforward as well. Bring an RV or tent and camp under the beautiful stars. Trust us when we say there's more of them visible than wherever you're coming from, and on lucky nights, the Northern Lights can be seen.

For those who want some less rustic accommodations, there are numerous hotels and motels within a reasonable driving distance. In a few more years, we will have cabins available too!

So that's lodging but everyone's got to eat right? Well we got you covered as well. The meals are all plentiful and delicious, none more so than the feast itself. We fed forty people last year with plenty to spare, and this year even more gardeners and hunters have chosen to add to the feast. Gallons of mead will be provided for the feast, and the couples dance that follows is always great fun.



Remember to dress your best at the feast and dance, but it won't all be formal. For the first Blót, we go into the water to honor Njörðr. Ladies especially, make sure that you wear clothes that you're not only comfortable getting wet but are also modest when wet.

While the prospect of getting into the water in September might be daunting to some, the month has a wonderful climate. It has a high of 70 and low of 50 with a nice mid day breeze.

The truth is, unless you come out, you won't know what you're missing, so don't make that mistake and come out to Freyrs Harvest Feast.

Any questions please feel free to reach out.

Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein
theinlein@runestone.org

Winter Nights XIII | October 11th-13th



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

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

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



Things to know:

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

If you have any questions or concerns, please email cerickson@runestone.org

Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

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!](#)



Gothi Nathan Erlandson
nerlandson@runestone.org

A Folk Services Campaign

Helping Chris Keep His Home (and that awesome garden!)



If you're able, please consider donating at
<https://store.runestone.org/product/helping-chris-keep-his-home/>

Hello Folk, I need to ask for your help. I am a disabled veteran and due to some unfortunate circumstances, I am facing foreclosure. In order to prevent that from happening, I need to make a large payment before they can put me on a

payment plan. I am on a fixed income which makes this very hard to do, I appreciate the help and support of the Folk. Thank you.

Hail the Gods! Hail the Folk! Hail the AFA!
Hail Victory!!!



Folkbuilder Christopher McDowell
cmcdowell@runestone.org

Be a Doer



We need you to volunteer for the AFA!

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

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

Baby Blanket Project

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

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



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

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

Folk Services



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

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

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

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

Thanks in advance!

Photo Donations

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



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

Eir's Blessings



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

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

across the globe. If you would like to be included, please send a message to let us know!

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

You can reach us at EirsBlessings@runestone.org

Last Will and Testament

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



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

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

Please make your will **today**.

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

Allen Turnage

PO Box 16027
Tallahassee FL, 32317



Witan Allen Turnage
aturnage@runestone.org

AFA Prison Ministry



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

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

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

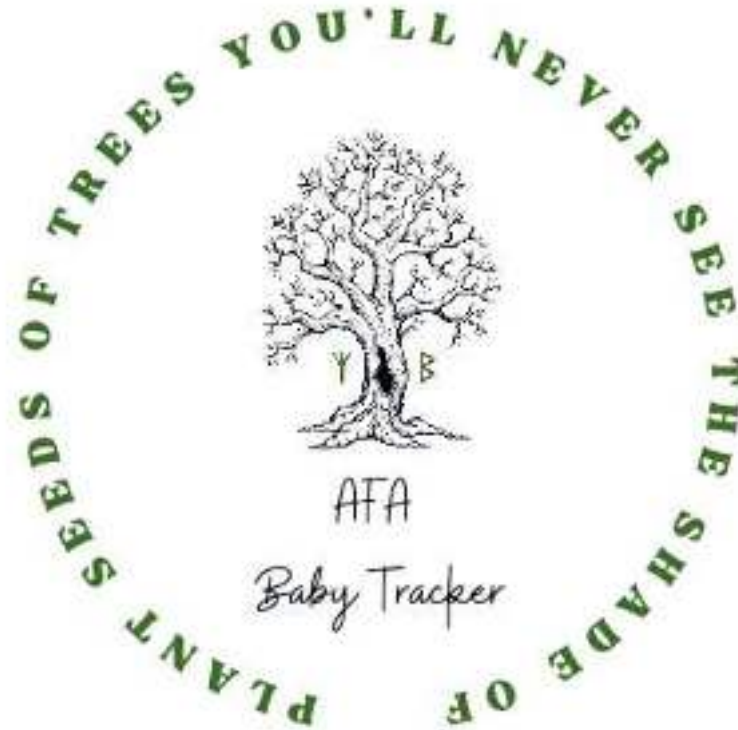
By the example of our Folkmother, Else Christensen, we will also be going into prisons as we are able to. Some of our Gothar and other leadership, will be going into the prisons to hold study groups, lead blot, and encourage continued growth in the folk inside.

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



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

Baby Tracker



To show the growth of our folk we present to you an ongoing baby tracker. We will be keeping track of how many children have been and are born within the AFA from 2022 and forward. The ongoing tracking is proof that we are building something sustainable for the future of our folk, which is a place for these children to grow up within and a place where they can feel proud of who they are!

Total babies born in 2024: 23

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



SISTERS SUNDAY CHATS

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

The poster features a dark red background. At the top, the text "SISTERS SUNDAY CHATS" is written in a light red, serif font, arched over the top. Below the text, there are two illustrations: on the left, a white cat with orange stripes is curled up on a striped cushion, surrounded by green leaves and a purple flower; on the right, a branch of a strawberry plant with green leaves, white flowers, and several red strawberries is tied with a red ribbon. At the bottom, the text "Second and fourth Sunday of the month", "10 am central", and "Contact Folkbuilder Ali Clausen" is written in a light red, serif font.



AFA Reading Challenge Meetings



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

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

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

Ladies Book Study

Revolt Against the Modern World

by Julius Evola

Starting

July 11th

7 pm CST

**We will meet
every Thursday.**

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

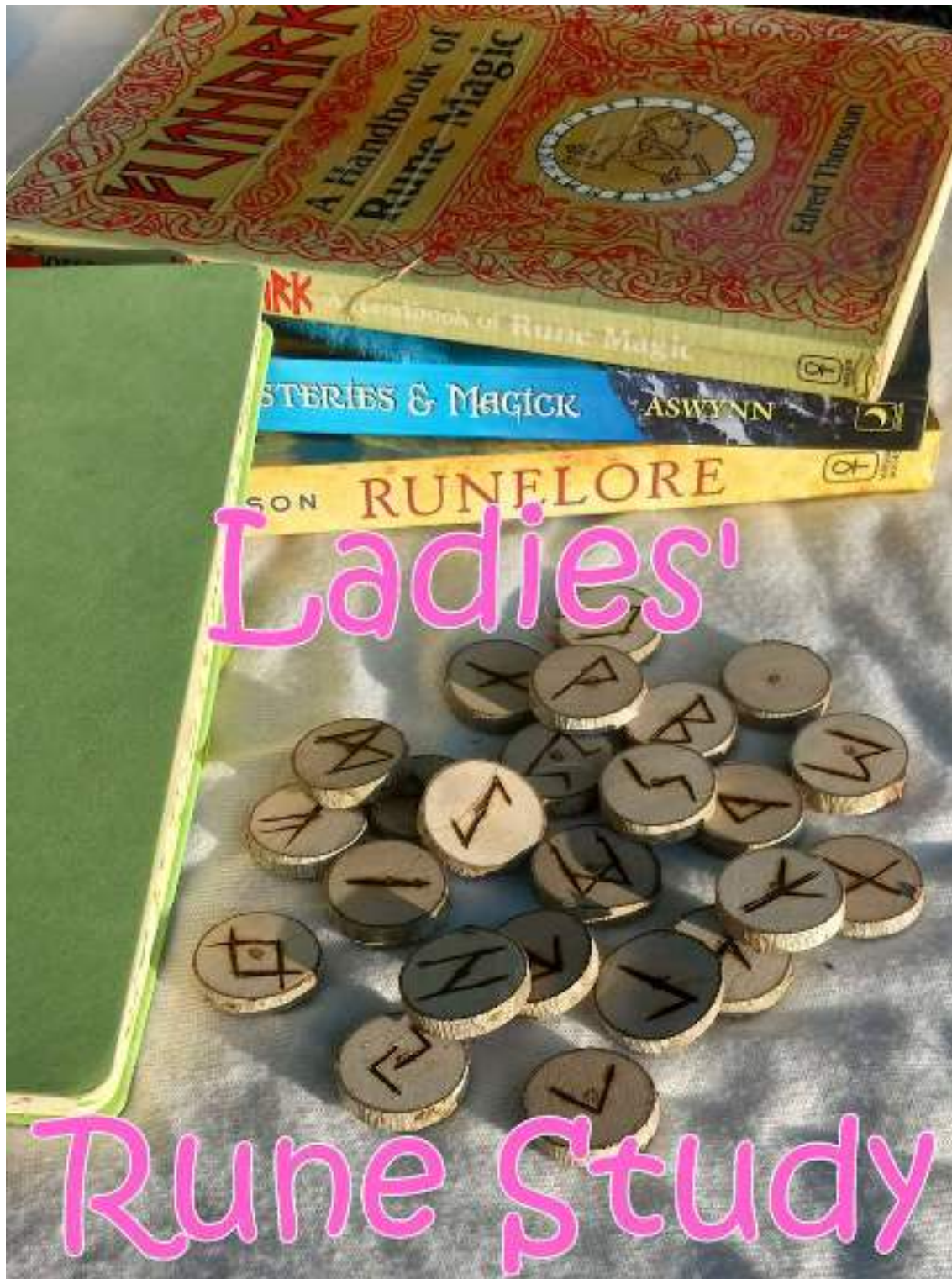


For more information contact

Witan Brandy Fassett

Folkbuilder Sara Ault





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

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

I hope to see you there!

Lore Study with Gothi Jason Plourde

Join us every Tuesday night

at

6:00 pm EST

5:00 pm CST

4:00 pm MST

3:00 pm PST

2:00 pm AKST

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

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

ELDRI
Meetings

A social group for all
AFA members
age 50 and above

Contact Sheila McNallen
for details & the Teams link
sheila@runestone.org

Tuesdays
September 10 & 24
5:00 PT, 6:00 MT, 7:00 CT,
8:00 ET

Fridays
September 13 & 27
2:00 PT, 3:00 MT, 4:00 CT,
5:00 ET

TOPICS:
Where did "the road" take you?
What was "the road less traveled?"

Open to All

McNallens Pub

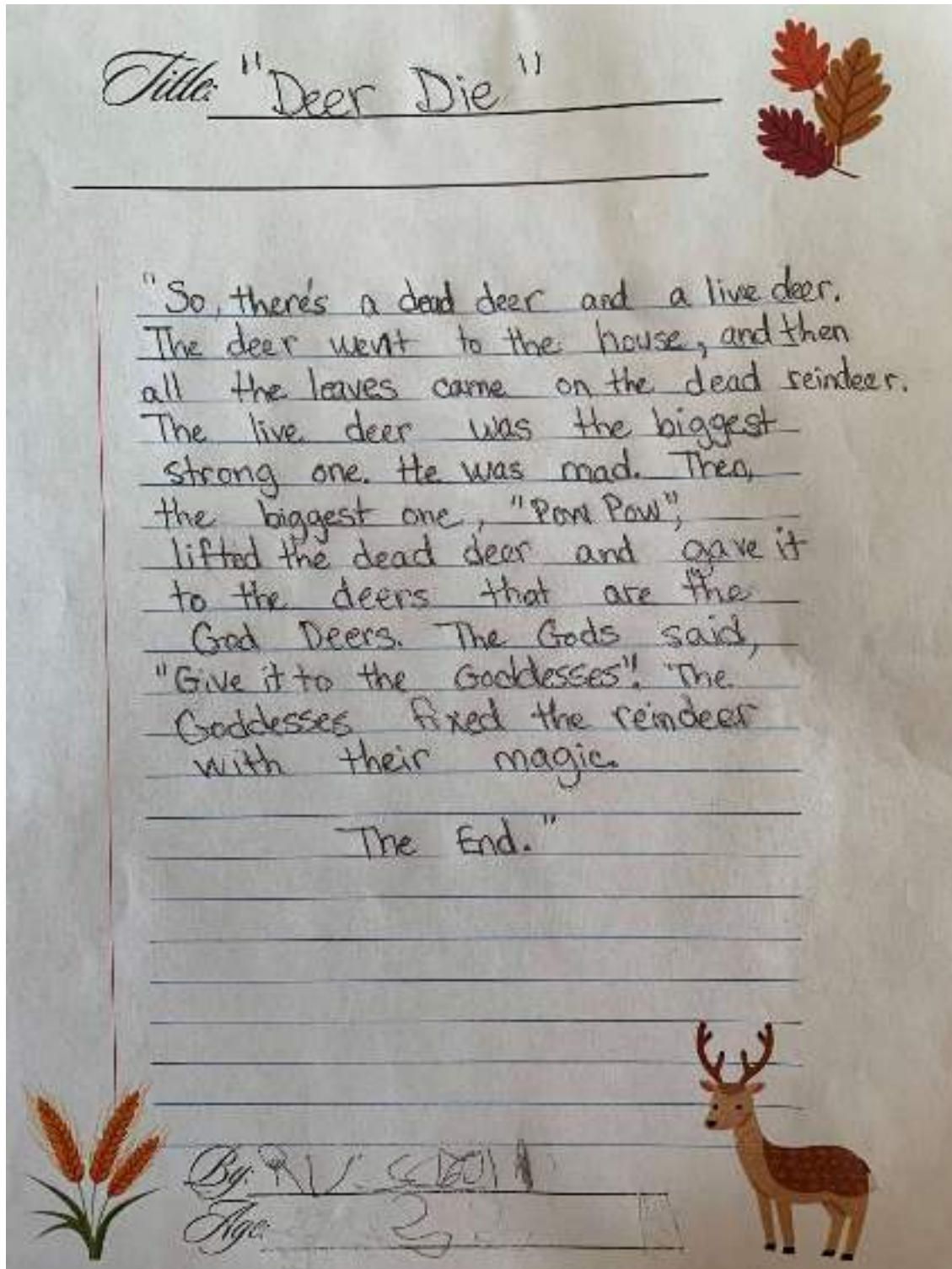
Saturday, September 28th
5:00 A&T 6:00 PT 7:00 MT 8:00 CT 9:00 ET

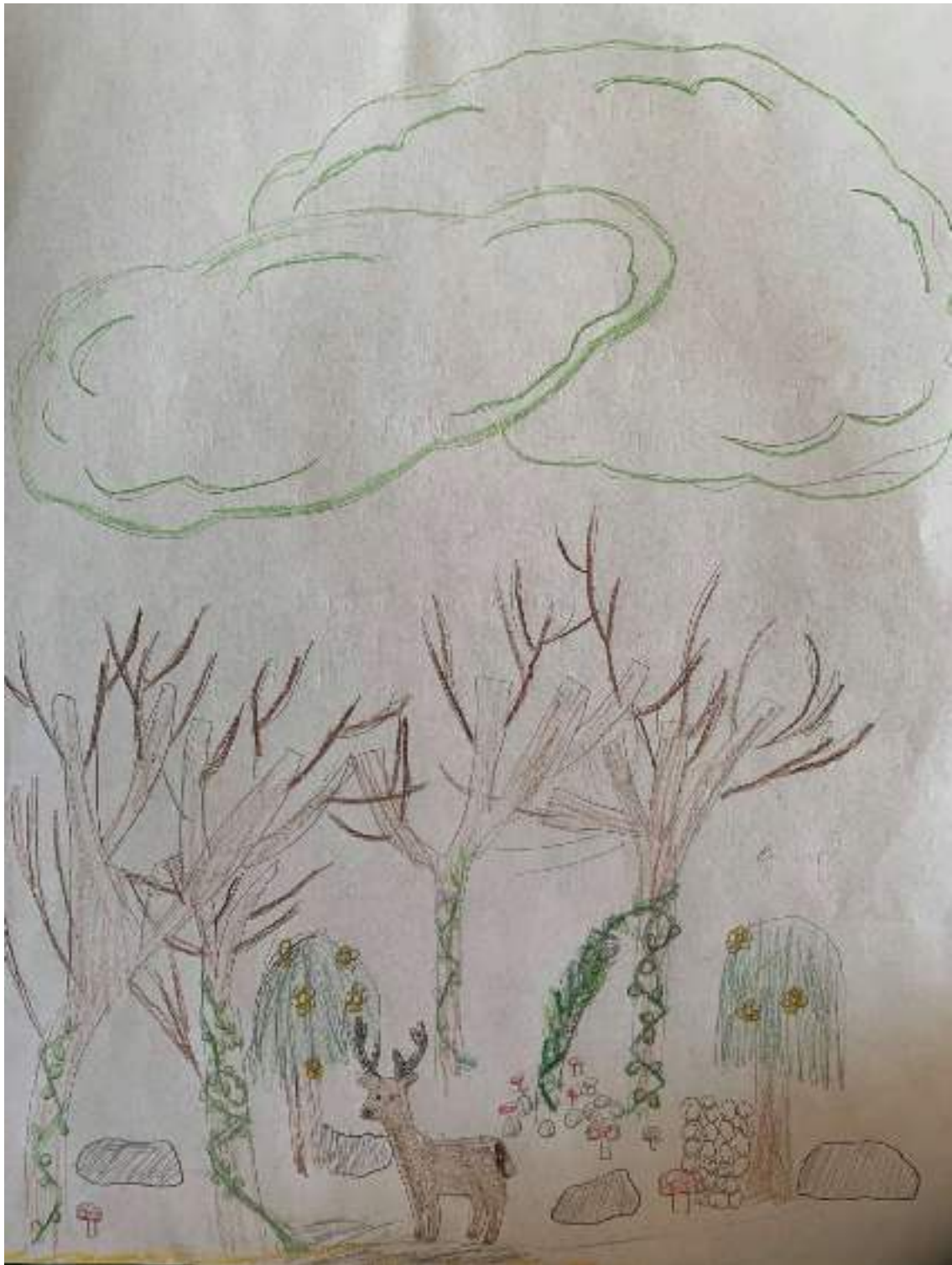
TOPIC:
UAPs, Nordic Aliens, & More!

Just for Fun

Congratulations to Bob Stanley of Óðinshof, the winner of last month's rune word unscramble! I guess it was harder than I thought. The answer? ΧΝΙΝΗΒΕΝΡΞΤΙ or Gullinbursti, Freyr's boar!

We also received some creative autumn stories from our youth:





Title: The Deer Who Hates Fall



Once upon a time, there was a little deer. His name was Tamson. He loved summer, spring and winter, but he hated fall. Fall? Why does Tamson hate fall? Tamson: I hate fall because when I try to sleep leaves fall on me, Oh, and it gets odd at night. The food turns brown. The leaves taste like rotten dirt! That is why I hate fall.

THE END



By: Madilene
Age: 10



Wonderful work, Russell and Madilene!

Autumn Word Hunt

Find all the words and send proof to press@runestone.org for a shout-out in next month's Runestone.



FOLIAGE
ULLR
YDALIR

ACORNS
HUNTING
BREEZE

PROSPERITY
ARCHERY
EQUINOX

This month we have a Word Hunt with autumn words. As always, the first member to complete the word hunt and send it in to press@runestone.org will get a shout-out in next month's edition.



For the youth and youthful, I offer two autumn-themed coloring by number activities. The first is for younger children to help them learn to identify numbers 1-6.

Name _____ Date _____

Multiplication Color by Number

Tables 1- 12

Product = 1 - 12 Beige
Product = 14 - 32 Dark Blue
Product = 33 - 54 Gray
Product = 55 - 80 Green
Product = 81 - 144 Light Green

The second one is meant for older children who could use a little extra practice with their multiplication factors. And, if your child isn't ready for numbers, they are still welcome to color one or both of these. Have a fun time coloring, and submit your finished work to press@runestone.org!

Have a super fun September, y'all!



Folkbuilder Olivia Sutherland
osutherland@runestone.org

Calling All Folk Photographers



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Store Spotlight





New athletics merch available at Runestone.org/Store



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Þórshof

Food Pantry at Þórshof



Our monthly community outreach event at Þórshof was a great success! Þórshof was a part of the AFA monthly food event, which provided food support to 159 families around the country. We are deeply grateful for the generous donations of canned and shelf-stable foods from our members, which made this effort possible.



We continue to welcome and appreciate any additional food donations from members who would like to contribute. Your support is crucial in helping us make a positive impact in our community. Thank you!



Folkbuilder Robert Shotwell

rshotwell@runestone.org

Freyfaxi at Þórshof



Þórshof's recent Freyfaxi celebration was a perfect example of the spirit of Ásatrú and what I've come to expect from every one of our events. The day began with a food drive, where attendees generously contributed to give out food to those in need within the community. Next, Witan Svan led an engaging class on Ásatrú mythos, deepening everyone's appreciation and knowledge of the varied worlds of our religion.



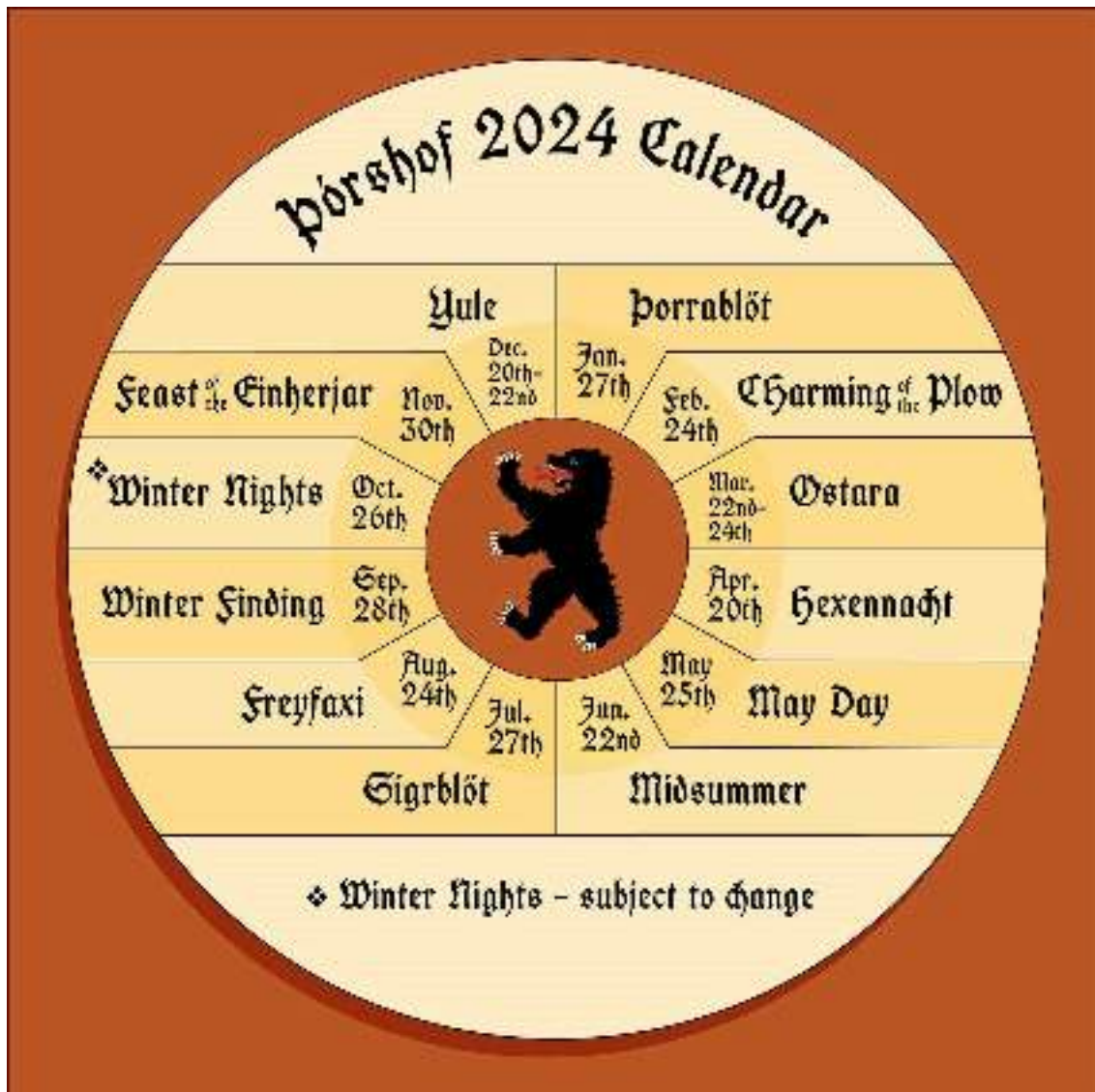
Following the class, we held a Blót to Freyr, during which we exchanged gifts with the Gods and enjoyed a traditional bread horse together. The feast that came after featured a hearty selection of high-carb dishes, all prepared by our own members and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present.

The day wrapped up with lively conversations and lots of laughter in Rumpf Hall. The Freyfaxi celebration was a resounding success and another wonderful event in Þórshof's history.

Folkbuilder Robert Shotwell
rshotwell@runestone.org



Upcoming Events at Þórshof





Þórshof

Monthly Members' Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 24th at 8pm Eastern

Winter Finding
Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea

Hoskuld
Folkbuilder Ali Clausen

Meister von List
Goði Rob Stamm

Winter Nights
Folkbuilder Heather Young

Upcoming Moots & Events
Folkbuilder Nick Rice



Links Emailed and Posted to MeWe
Contact any Folkbuilder for assistance

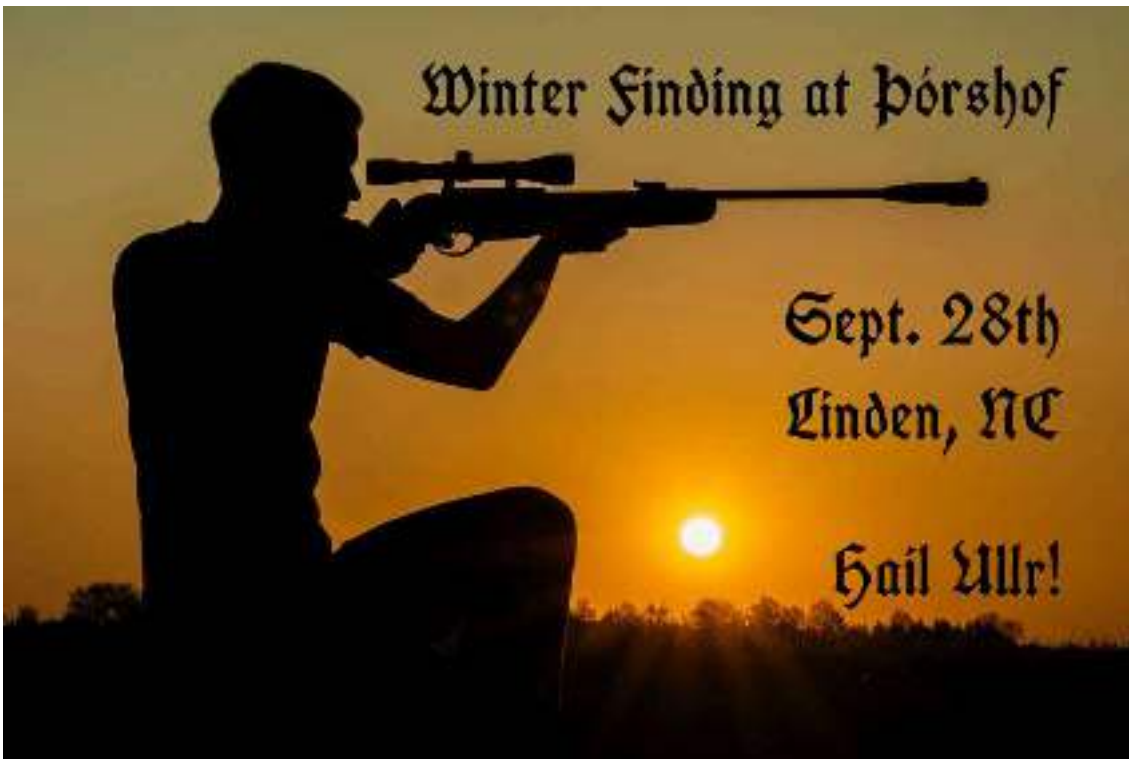
Hórshof - North

Monthly Members' Meeting

Thursday, September 26th at 8pm Eastern



Links Emailed and Posted to MeWe
Contact any Folkbuilder for assistance

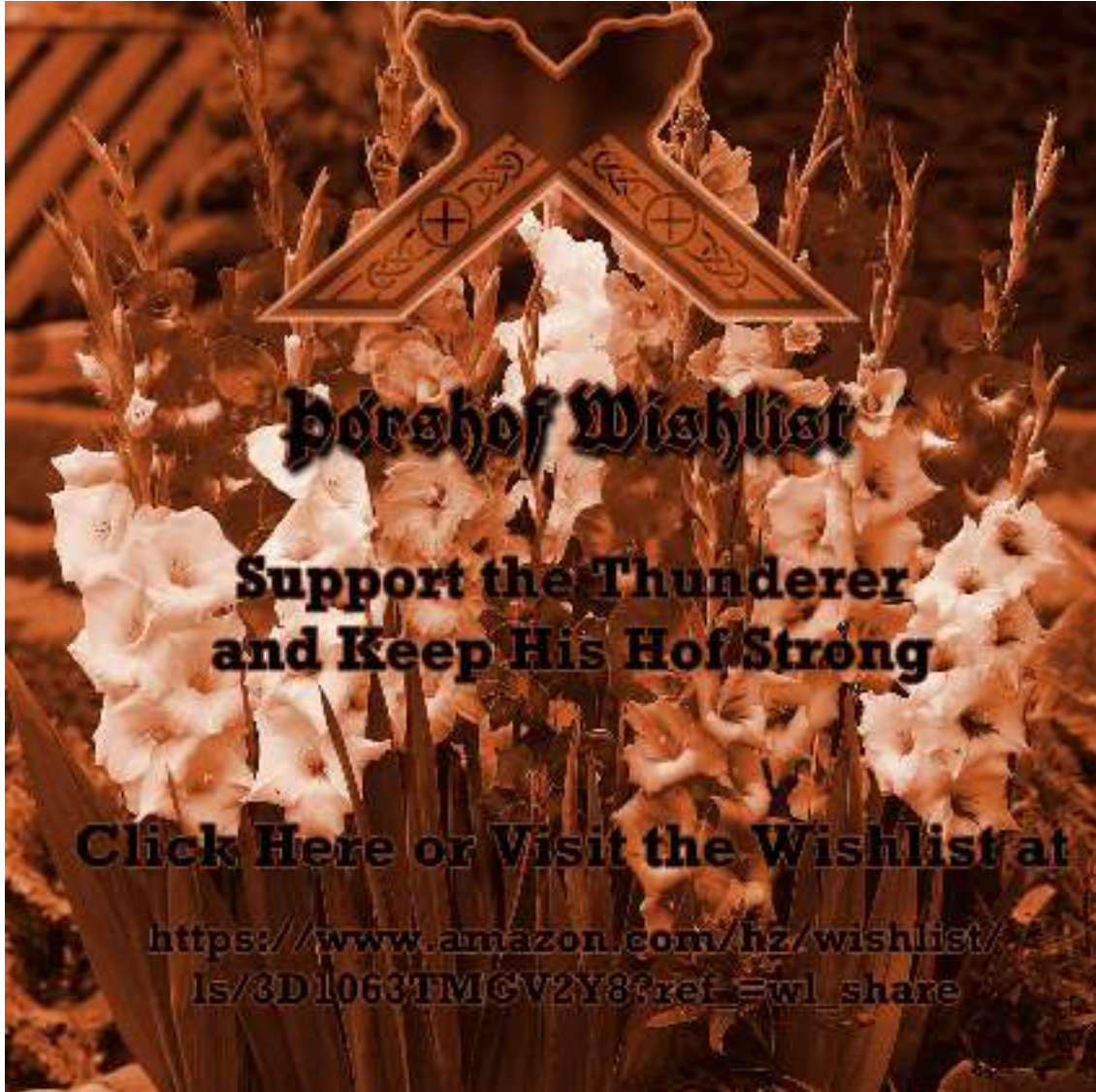


Winter Finding at Hórshof

Sept. 28th
Linden, NC

Hail Ullr!

Support Þórshof



The District Poetry Corner

The Swan's Song



Swan, sing your farewell song.
The memory of summer it may prolong.

Our warmest days are now in the past.
May our harvest be large, so that it may last.

Birch and rowan, color this place.
Now as fall claims this space.

Swan, sing your farewell song.
The memory of summer it may prolong.

Summer is a dream; for the north that is true.
We know it will come when winter is through.

Ahead is the cold, the quiet and dark.
Summer's warm embrace still close to my heart.

Swan, sing your farewell song.
The memory of summer it will prolong.



Erik Lugnet
Apprentice Folkbuilder
elugnet@runestone.org

Hunt. Reflect. Thrive



Bows are strung.
Arrows fly.
Silent woods.
Ullr draws nigh.

Deer move swift through frost and pine,
The harvest wanes, it's near year's decline.
Fields lay bare, but barns are full,
Winter calls—its breath is cool.

Ullr, god of hunt and bow,
Guide our hands and let them know
When meat is scarce and cold winds bite,
That strength endures the darkest night.

Snares are set, the hunt is strong,
Supplies we gather all autumn long.
In hearth and hall, the fires gleam,
Ready for what winter dreams.

The bowstring hums; the prey is near,
Preparation forged from skill and fear.
We raise our horns, reflect on life,
The harvest earned through toil and strife.

For Lord Ullr, spirits rise
With our skills, we strive.
In your name, we'll realize
With strength and will, we can thrive.



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Indiana

Freyfaxi with Folc Irminsul



Freyfaxi was yet another success by Folc Irminsul! It was one our typical back yard barbecue Moots. Sparring was had (yours truly has a lot of work to do.)

It was also my first time running a Blót! As nervous as I was, it went off mostly successful.



Jacob Rutledge
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jrutledge@runestone.org

Upcoming Events





Folkbuilder Jonathan Rock
jrock@runestone.org

Massachusetts

Western Massachusetts German Restaurant Moot



On the 25th of August, a Freyfaxi Moot was held at a fine German Restaurant in Western Massachusetts. The location was perfect to serve the whole of central and southwest New England, which is why we chose the spot. As it was a Sunday, we began at noon to ensure an early start so those of us who work on Monday could still get home with plenty of time to prepare for the work week ahead.



Seated by ladies in traditional Bavarian dresses and served by men in traditional lederhosen, the first order was a drink. Waters, hefeweizen, and a fancy coffee frappe with Bailey's and nutmeg arrived. A toast to Ingvi-Freyr was made, and then soon food ordered began to arrive. Goulash, Salad, Jaeger Schnitzel, Rotkohl, Lamb Shanks, Saurkraut, Kartoffel mit Butter, Spaetzle, and to finish it off, was vanilla ice cream with raspberry drizzle.



The menu is so expansive one just wants to eat everything on it, but you can't in one sitting, so we'll be back for Feast of the Einherjar in November.

Prost for the Great Freyr!

Upcoming Events



**Winter Finding
Hike Moot**

Sept 8 - Eastern MA

Contact: rboardman@runestone.org

Western Mass Einherjar Moot



Nov 10 – Western MA

Contact: rboardman@runestone.org



Ronald Boardman
Apprentice Folkbuilder
rboardman@runestone.org


Michigan

August Michigan Moot



We had a wonderful time here in Michigan at the beach once again! It was a very hot and humid day in the mitten, and we felt it appropriate to cool off in a lovely little lake. The sand was burning hot, but the lake was absolutely wonderful. We spent most of the day discussing Ásatrú and the AFA and relaxing in the water. When we'd cooled off, we had hotdogs and apples for lunch. To cap the event off, we held Blót to Lord Freyr on top of a hill nestled in the backdrop around the lake. It was overall a great time.

Upcoming Events



*September 2024
Michigan beach moot
(One last hurrah before fall!)*

*Contact Apprentice Folkbuilder Chris Savich for details
09/08/24
csavich@runestone.org*







Chris Savich
Apprentice Folkbuilder
csavich@runestone.org

New Hampshire

Take Your First Steps in Worshiping the Æsir



So, are you new to the Asatru Folk Assembly or are you on your own more than you are with other AFA members for the holidays and wonder how to honour the Æsir and mark Holidays at the Holy-Tides? I have some pointers, and it is easier than you think.

When we first come to the AFA and we hear the words Blót, Feast, or Sumbel, it can sound intimidating. While we do have Goðar and in regions where the Goðar can't be in two places at once, there are Folkbuilders to lead the ancient rites, but if you are unable

to get with others, you can still do your duty to our Holy Æsir and insert yourself into the broad flow of collective AFA worship.



'How so you ole greybeard Boardman?' you may ask. Easy peasy, by intentionally having a nice meal in their honour.

"But what does that look like?" one asks. Well, what would you like for supper for your birthday? A Yankee Pot Roast? Grandma's Country Fried Steak? Maybe even you desire a family recipe like Chicken Parmesan, Goulash or Swedish Meatballs? Well,

that is your first thought to heed. Create a meal you would like that is a bit out of your ordinary. Prepare and cook it with love and attention. Make it a good meal.

Then I'd like to have you set a good table. Be it for your lonesome, your family or another AFA person or two. You know exactly what I mean. Nice plate. Tableware and napkins. The sorts of things your grandparents would demand. You know it even if you've never seen it. Folk memory. If it is Winter Finding or Winter Nights, have an easy centerpiece like a mini harvest display of gourds or greens, apples even. We all know what a Harvest Holiday should look like. Then serve your food. Easy.

Now comes the part you may not be used to. Besides yourself and any others with you, make an Æsir or Ancestors plate. The same thing you'd eat, put on that Æsir or Ancestors plate. After the meal, this plate should be placed outside on your Hörgr. Some put it on their house altar or stall. Somewhere suitable.



Up until now, everything is setting the stage. Here comes the part that makes it a Holy Day.

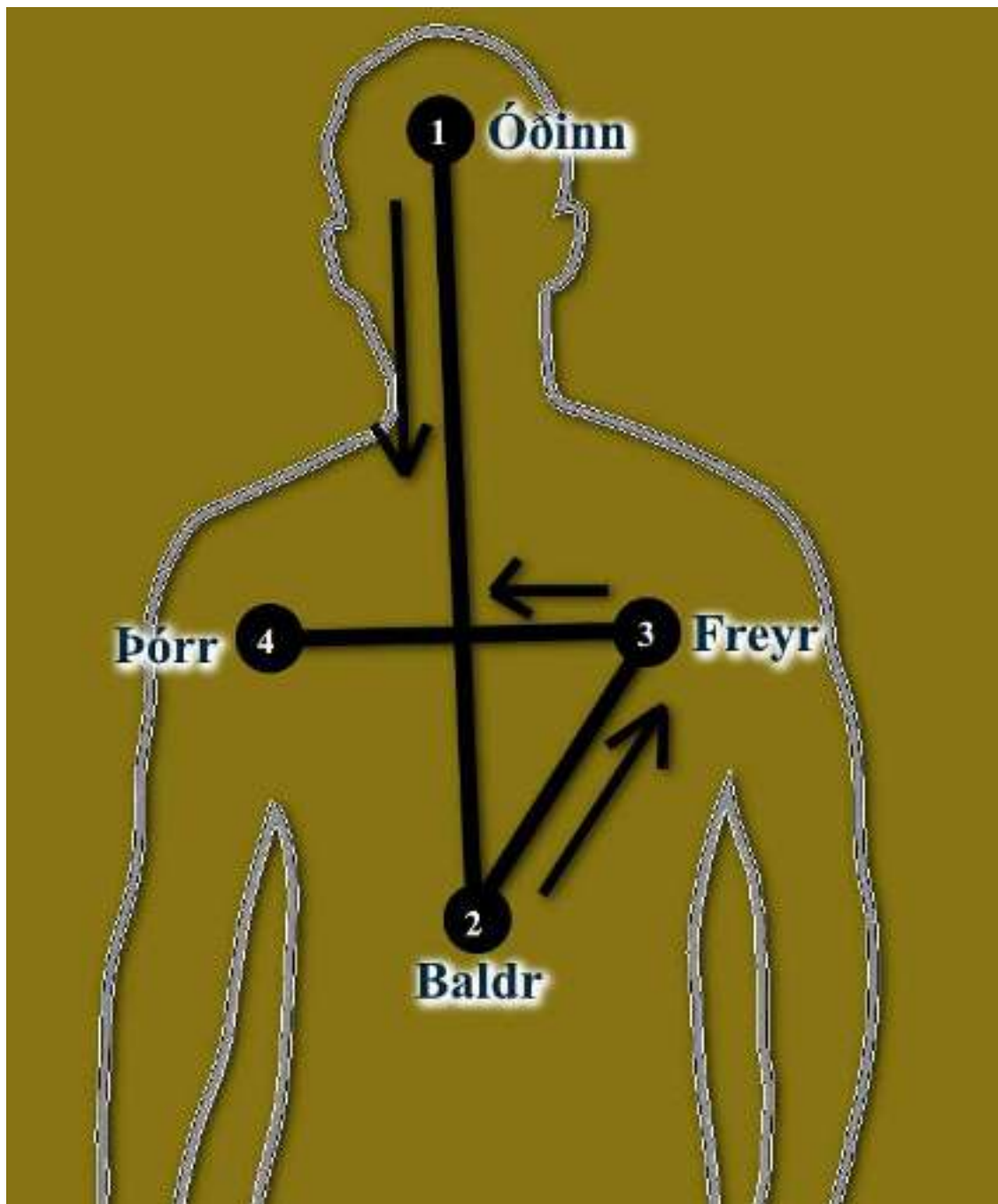
The table is set with good food in an eye pleasing fashion. There is a plate served nicely for the Æsir and Ancestors. Now make it something else besides a nice meal.

Stand up over the meal. Men uncover your head, if not already, and say Lawspeaker Turnage's traditional AFA meal blessing.

We bless this food, to might and main, our bodies needs to fill
To keep us hearty, whole, and hale, so we may work our will
Ancestors guide us, walk beside us, help us in our needs.
Keep us on the path that is true, because we are our deeds
Hail the Æsir.

Cap the blessing off with a hammer-sign. With your fist, trace the sign of the hammer in front of you in the air over the meal, punctuating each of the Æsir names as you say them.

"In the Holy names of Óðinn, Baldr, Freyr, and Þórr!"



One more thing, then it is done.

Raise a glass and say something suitable such as 'To the great God Ingvi-Frey, during Freyfaxi, we thank you for the harvest and wish you strength!' Personally, I like to add 'The feast is now served, let us eat and be merry.' but that is me.

Follow that with a hail, cheers, prost, skål, or something similar and it is complete. You have just turned a meal into an Ásatrú rite and showed the Æsir, Ancestors, and yourself honour. One or a few more voices sent to Ásgarð for the mighty Æsir to hear and notice. You've kept the Gift Cycle turning. You have inserted yourself into the Wheel of the Year and marked the Holy Tide. You've shown that you are an Ásatrú man

or woman and a living part of the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Join your Folk and do not wait to do this! Best of luck!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Upcoming Events

**Winterfinding
Restaurant Moot**



Sept 21 Concord, NH

Contact: rboardman@runestone.org



Hallows
GRAVEYARD MOOT

Oct 26 Southwest NH

Contact: rboardman@runestone.org

The poster features a photograph of a graveyard with several weathered gravestones in the foreground and a line of trees in the background under a blue sky with light clouds. The text 'Hallows' is written in a large, elegant, black cursive font, while 'GRAVEYARD MOOT' is in a bold, white, blocky font with a slight drop shadow. Below the image, the date and location 'Oct 26 Southwest NH' are written in a white, sans-serif font, followed by the contact email address 'Contact: rboardman@runestone.org' in the same font.



Ronald Boardman
Apprentice Folkbuilder
rboardman@runestone.org

NH Freyfaxi



The Shire folk gathered in central New Hampshire to celebrate Freyfaxi. Upon arrival, we all chatted and shared a plethora of snacks together. Ranging from wild picked berries from the property to brunost from Norway (highly recommended).



After catching up and enjoying some food we got ready for Blót . The grove chosen for Blót was magical to say the least. Beautiful trees and foliage surrounded us pointing to the partly cloudy sky. We had a power and Blót to our Freyr. We made offerings from heart to hand to horn as well as offerings from our gardens. Feeling spiritually charged we exited the grove and eventually made our way down to the house for supper.



Back at the house we enjoyed a full English for dinner. What a brilliant idea for a meal. We laughed and chatted our way through our full plates. After the meal we went our separate ways. Thank you to everyone who came out! And a big thank you to our amazing hosts for having us at your beautiful property!

Looking forward to seeing you all again soon!



Folkbuilder Tyler Sagert
tsagert@runestone.org

New York

Upcoming Events

NY Pub Moot

Saturday, September 7th

1 PM Branchport, NY 14418



Food and drinks at a (somewhat) centrally located Bar and Grill.

Contact Jim Steele (MeWe @jimsteele.16) for details or questions

Also feel free to email Apprentice Ron Boardman
at rboardman@runestone.org for more info

North Carolina

Appalachian Happenings: Freyfaxi Campout



On the weekend of August 9th through the 11th, the Appalachian Hearth Kindred and friends gathered at a campground in western North Carolina near Bryson City to celebrate Freyfaxi. Arrival on Friday included setting up camp and building Frith with the Folk. We were spread out a bit between cabins and a group tent camping site across the campground but gathered at the tent site in an open field around the firepit for chatting and laughter. The children roamed, played in the dirt and splashed in the creek on the property while the adults enjoyed each other's company. Things quickly devolved into a heated water-gun fight, instigated by the campground staff. Once settled in, we opened the celebration with a Welcoming of the Gods Blót and asked that the Landvættir allow us to enjoy the lands to build Frith with each other over the weekend.



As the evening drew to a close, we held Sumbel while gathered around the fire and allowed our stories and celebrations to build and solidify bonds.

Saturday morning was filled with the wonderful aroma of biscuits baked in Dutch ovens over a fire and cast iron cooked sausage gravy by the camp chef, David Kinsler.



After working out the logistics, most of the campers went for a rafting trip down the Nantahala River. Rafting was accompanied by the whoops and laughter of the children and the delight of the adults as everyone worked as a team to navigate the rafts around rapids and down Nantahala Falls. We took plenty of breaks for swimming in the river, and even explored a cave system!



Those that stayed at the campground were able to prepare dinner and chat until the exhausted and joyful rafters returned to the campground. Dinner consisted of a Dutch oven roasted chicken with turnips and hotdogs and brats cooked over the fire.



Sunday morning consisted of the breaking down of tents and the packing up of cabins as a breakfast of sausage and egg breakfast burritos was prepared.



Once camp was broken and the land put back to rights, we held a Blót to Freyr to thank him for the fruitful harvest of the seeds, both physical and spiritual, planted this past spring and for the bonds that we continue to strengthen with our Folk. Rachel Kinsler made a beautiful horse of bread to offer during this Blót as well. After expressing our gratitude to each other and a proper southern goodbye, we departed the campground with hearts full and carrying the blessings of Freyr with us home.

Upcoming Events



Please, join us for an afternoon of Apple Picking on September 21st at an apple orchard in Hendersonville, NC. Hendersonville is famous for its many apple orchards; our apples find their way anywhere from local grocery stores to Gerber baby food. Come pick apples, sample fresh cider, and experience the deliciousness of a hot apple cider donut as we welcome Fall with open arms and a grateful heart! Experience some true Appalachian culture in the heart of apple country.



Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea
tbethea@runestone.org

Ohio

Oktoberfest Ohio Moot



The time of year arrived yet again where it's considered to be the unofficial end of summer.

The seasonal Oktoberfest brews are released from both foreign and domestic breweries, thoughts of schnitzel and strudel are in the air and good times with even better folk are upon us.

We gathered in comradery to celebrate one of our folks most popular festivals, Oktoberfest.

It's rare in this modern time to be surrounded predominantly by almost entirely ours, at least in a public setting.

The aromas of our food, the sounds of our songs, and the sights that originate from those who came before us filled our hearts with joy.

Bonds were further solidified, all in an environment that lends itself to doing just that.

Supporting the cultural fests of our Folk is important, and I highly encourage you to do so.

Get out there, bring your family and celebrate the history, heritage, and culture of our peoples!

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Michael Melillo
mmelillo@runestone.org

Ohio Freyfaxi

I have not submitted an article for quite some time, for reasons known to some of you. I am now back in the saddle, as it were and am ready to serve our wonderful Folk. I have had regular gatherings at my home throughout the summer but have yet to write about one. Well then Freyfaxi Ohio, not a large turnout but a lovely one. For a couple it was their first Blót , and for myself it was the first I've officiated. It was simple and to the point, but my heart was put into it in days prior none the less. I hope it did Freyr and our Folk justice. After Blót came feasting, for which I am very grateful a couple of our sweet members added to. One brought delicious Oxtail soup, and another moist and tasty bread. My circumstances and knowledge left me preparing hamburgers on the grill to supplement, and potato and macaroni salad I must learn to make myself. Homemade is always the best. After the meal some had to leave, but we still had some Folk for Sumbel, always my favorite. I can think of few better ways for us to bond and learn of each other. Some only observed, but I'm hoping they appreciate the concept and take part next time. After Sumbel, we visited and talked into the night. I do believe I didn't get inside until very late. Every minute savored and cherished. I wish for more nights such as this, and truly love my AFA family. Until next month. Hail the Gods, Hail the Folk, and Hail the AFA!

Folkbuilder Joe Drotos
jdrotos@runestone.org



Pennsylvania

Pittsburgh Ren Faire Moot



On a rainy Saturday, my family and I hosted a small moot at the Pittsburgh Ren Faire. It was an exciting and engaging day. We were able to meet with several AFA members during the day. We engaged with our children while enjoying the several shows on display, including a joust, bird-of-prey display, and multiple examples of Irish, Scottish, and other European musical varieties.

Despite heavy rainfall at times, our families made the most of the event and taught our

children about the differences between our modern life and the lives of our ancestors. The event was a spectacular success, and a promise of excitement for future events.

Upcoming Events



Ryan Fenton



Apprentice Folkbuilder
rfenton@runestone.org

PA Freyfaxi



AFA members celebrated Freyfaxi in Erie, Pennsylvania at the Ericksons this month. Gythia Erickson led Blót to Lord Freyr for two families from western Pennsylvania,

and a new member of our congregation from eastern Pennsylvania at her first service. Witan Erickson symbolically beheaded the horse loaf representing the bounty of the harvest in thanks to Lord Freyr. We feasted on pork and vegetables, and shared a Sumbel horn of mead over the feast.



The children playing and having a new member experience her first Blót and Sumbel, as well as the beautiful weather, made this a glorious and memorable day.



Witan Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Upcoming Events

GETTYSBURG NATIONAL PARK 3RD ANNUAL FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR



JOIN US!

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

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!



Gythia Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org

Upcoming Events



**Lancaster County
Pennsylvania**

**Renaissance Faire
Viking Theme**

**Sunday, September 8th
11 am - 7 pm**

**RSVP to
jilliestorm@yahoo.com**



Bucks County, Pennsylvania
Apple Picking Moot

Sunday, September 22nd
at Noon

Winter Finding / Ullr Blót to
follow at a private location.

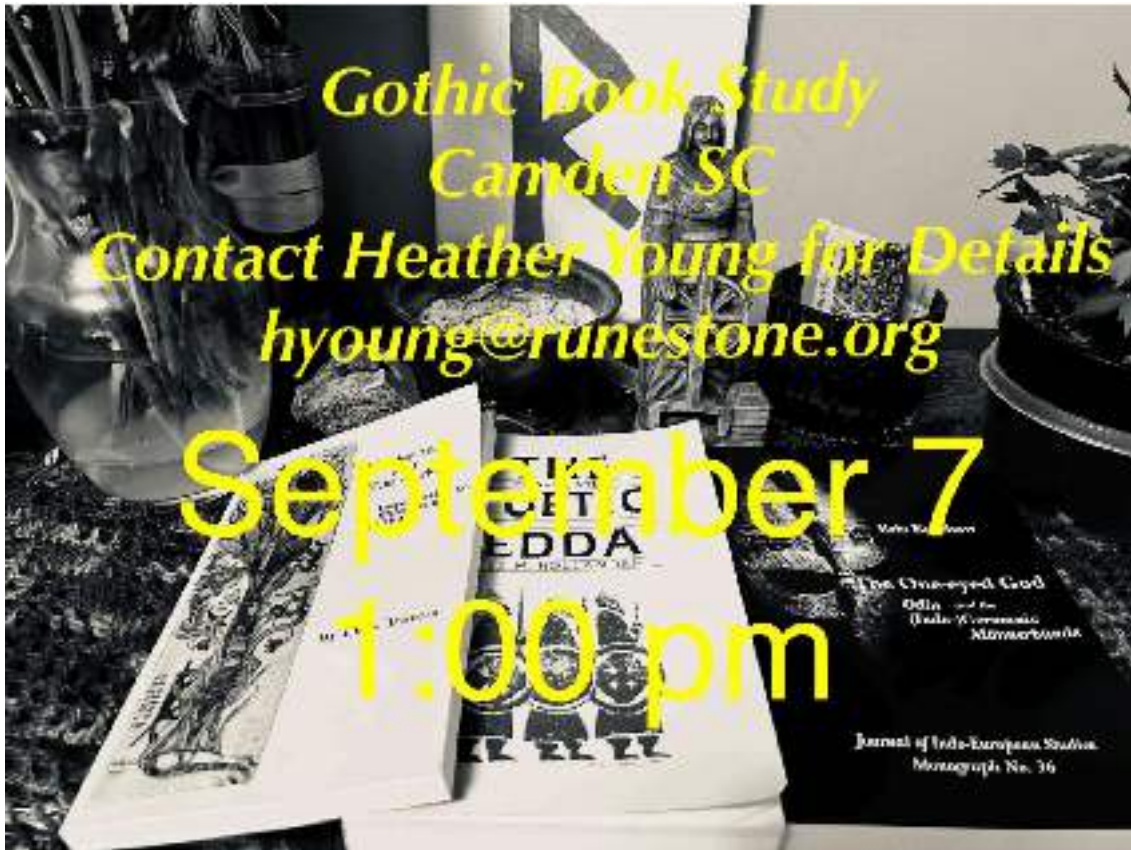
RSVP to jilliestorm@yahoo.com

South Carolina

Upcoming Events



Come join us for a study of the book, *The Serpent and the Eagle* by Chris Travers, September 7th at 1:00 pm at the Young household, Camden SC.



Folkbuilder Heather Young
hyoung@runestone.org

Sweden

Freyfaxi in Sweden



The weekend of our family's Freyfaxi celebration here in Northern Sweden proved to be a very rainy one. This felt very fitting as we honored the Lord of the Harvest. We gathered in gratitude around an alter adorned with some of the season's beautiful flora to offer our gifts to Freyr and celebrate the blessings he has bestowed upon us this harvest time.



The bread horse made the occasion especially exciting for the children. We continue to honor Freyr as we work to harvest the bounty in the forests and in our gardens.

Hail Lord Freyr!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Upcoming Events



Fika Friday

20th of September

Come and have a cup of coffee with the Lugnets!



Winter Finding
22nd of September
Come and let us give Blót to Ullr!



Erik Lugnet
Apprentice Folkbuilder
elugnet@runestone.org

Tennessee

Appalachian Happenings: An Appalachian Fair



On August 24th, the Appalachian Hearth Kindred gathered at the Appalachian Fair in Gray, Tennessee to celebrate our Appalachian heritage. The evening was filled with fair foods and lemonade to combat the oppressive heat. We enjoyed the exhibits that showcased Appalachian skills such as canning, cooking, basket weaving, quilting, and so much more. With a large, active 4H program in the area, we were also able to enjoy award winning farm animals. The highlight of the evening was sitting on a grassy hill after the sun set to watch a Diamond Rio concert while the youngest Bethea danced and danced. It was wonderful to build bonds with each other and we missed those that could not join us.

Upcoming Events



Folkbuilder Tyler Bethea
tbethea@runestone.org

Ironclads and Cannons: A Tour of Fort Donelson and Its Historic Naval Battle



The Battle of Fort Donelson, fought from February 11 to 16, 1862, was a pivotal engagement in the American Civil War, marking an unfortunate but major Union victory. Located in Dover, Tennessee, Fort Donelson was a Confederate stronghold guarding the Cumberland River a critical waterway for supply routes. After a series of intense assaults and a prolonged siege led by Union General Ulysses S. Grant, the Confederate forces, commanded by General Simon Bolivar Buckner, found themselves surrounded and without hope of reinforcements. Over the course of battle, the defending fort was able to volley over almost 400 cannon rounds at the advancing ships, (with the infamous Ironsides being most prominent among them), landing a quite impressive 179 or so rounds on target. Even with that, facing overwhelming odds and limited supplies, Buckner ultimately agreed to Grant's demand for "unconditional and immediate surrender," marking a lamentable turning point in the war. This Union victory not only boosted Northern morale and secured control the Cumberland River as a vital supply route but also marked the beginning of the relentless yet perfidious Grant's rise to prominence and secured a strategic foothold in the Western theater of the war.



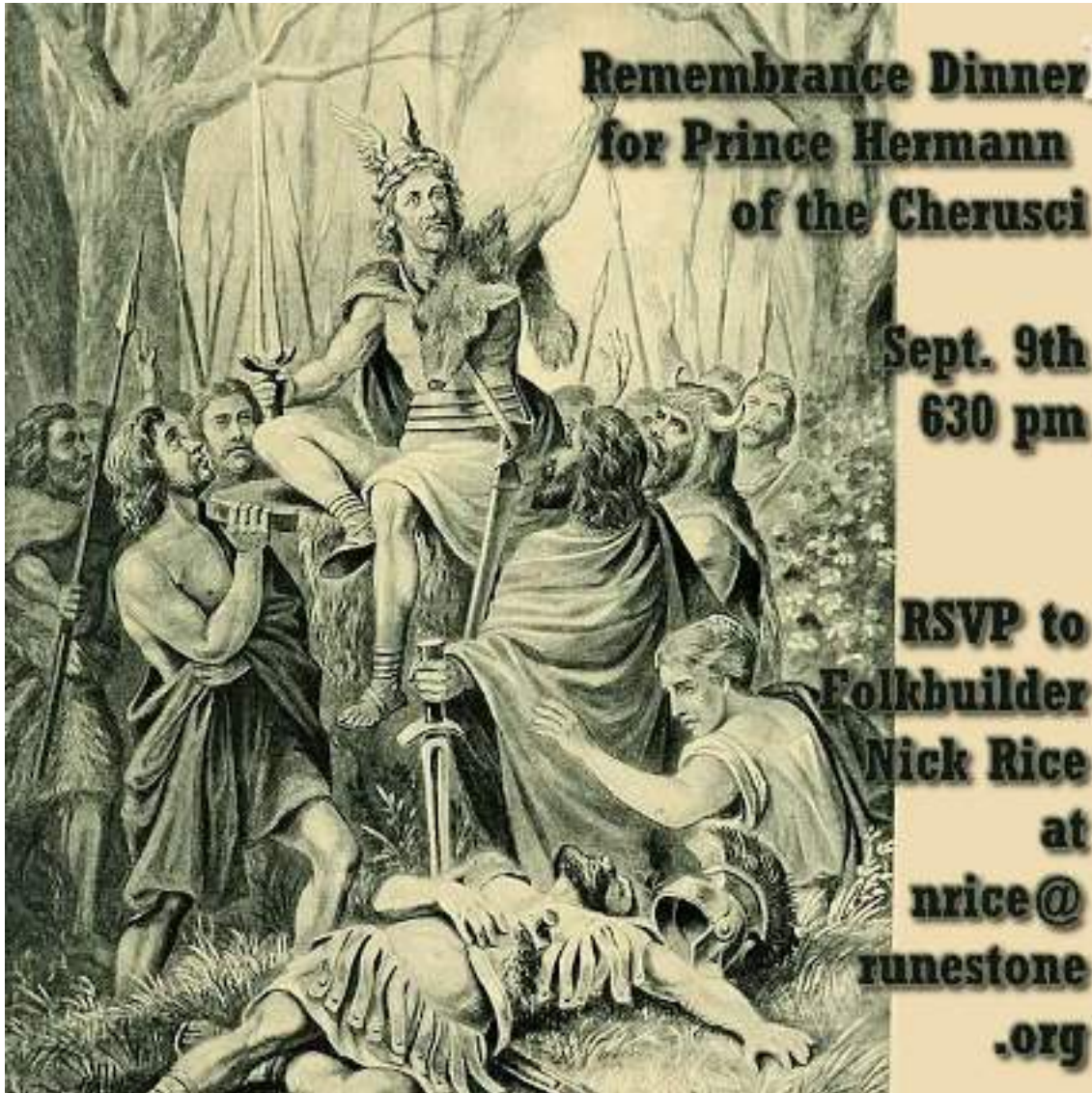


There's a lot of history here in the hills of Tennessee, and it's always something worth learning and remembering. There's plenty of opportunities to get out here, with our Folk, learn a little bit, (and in this case, mourn a little bit,) but ultimately, share a story, a conversation, a solid weekend afternoon in good company. After our tour around the fort, we were able to meet up and continue our Folk-time at local burger joint, where we able to spend a good hour or two in talks with plenty of laughs and smiles.



This marked a more recently new, but really solid occasion for the area. Tennessee has some really solid activity in many parts of the state, but it's quite a long state, and unfortunately, this neck of the woods Nashville and west, has laid pretty barren for a few. With 8 of our Folk being able to make it out this weekend (and 6 of them being first time Moot-goers), and even a couple more that weren't able to make it but are determined to get out and get active, I can hope and see a shining spot coming very soon, to burn and flourish, building comradery, community, and piety, amongst a solid set of people. Come on out, y'all!

Upcoming Events





Remembrance Dinner
for Hoskuld and
Meister von List
Oct. 8th at 630pm
RSVP to nrice@runestone.org

This poster features a large, ornate, black and white illustration of a runestone on the left side. To the right is a black and white portrait of a man with a full beard and mustache, wearing a suit and tie. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, serif font.



Nashville Partihenon Moot
November 2nd
1pm
RSVP to
NRice@Runestone.org



This poster has a solid green background. On the right side, there is a white line-art illustration of a classical building with a pediment and six columns. The text is in a white, serif font.



Remembrance Dinner for Queen Sigríð

November 9th
630 pm

RSVP to
nrice@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Nicholas Rice
nrice@runestone.org

West Virginia

Upcoming Events



All good things must end.

WINTER FINDING

EASTERN WV, SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 21

Bring your ancestral photos and relics to honor together.

Contact Folkbuilder Pat Cook for details.
pcook@runestone.org



Folkbuilder Patrick Cook

pcook@runestone.org



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