The Runestone

Asatru Folk Assembly

Asatru is about roots… It's about connections… It's about coming Home.

Words from the Allsherjargoði

I hope by the time you read this; you are all having an amazing June and are making plans to celebrate Miðsumar with your AFA family (hopefully at one of our hofs!)

This month I would like to talk to you a little about the mission of the AFA and ways you can help accomplish that mission.

In the Asatru Folk Assembly, we have countless opportunities to do great things and to earn the pride of the Æsir. Surely our Gods have many expectations of us but there are two very clear tasks that they have assigned us as a church. Here is the Mission as I see it;

1. The In-Gathering of the Folk. When Stephen McNallen was awakened by the Alföðr, Óðinn tasked him to bring the Folk home. Home to Folk-community and home to troth with the Æsir.

This is more complex than it sounds, but it involves getting our message out to as many of our Folk as possible and then, engaging those Folk in a way that will bring them into the AFA.

2. Immortalizing the Religion of Ásatrú. When Óðinn placed his hand upon my shoulder at Austra 2017, he entrusted me with overseeing the solidification of Ásatrú as an eternal institution for the future of our Folk.

   Among other things, this involves codifying our beliefs, elevating our practice, preserving and enshrining our history and heroes, and establishing hofs and our physical footprint in Miðgarðr.

Our amazing Folkbuilders and Goðar have volunteered to take up these sacred duties, and they work tirelessly to accomplish the mission, but every member has the opportunity to help! Certainly, you are all invited to consider Folkbuilding, but there are many ways besides that.

To part 1: Each of us are living billboards and spokesmen for Ásatrú. Wear your hammers. Be vocal and proud about our faith and tell all who would listen about who we are, about what we believe... and invite them to come home. Use your social media to share AFA posts and VNS episodes. If you do this passively as folks inquire, great. If you do this actively by seeking people out and enthusiastically calling them home, even better!

To part 2: Attend Blót. Travel and make the effort to go to your hof as much as possible. Contribute to Work Days at your hof. Contribute financially to our fundraisers and projects. Challenge yourself to get out of your comfort zone and become a team player. Volunteer for the projects we have constantly going on (if interested, inquire to your local Folkbuilder). Help to build develop the AFA capital Sigrheim and Týrshof.

We live in an age of heroes where the individual Ásatrúar has the ability to make a lasting impact. Make the most of this special opportunity.

Announcements, News, & Noteworthy

- 5/9 - Lawton Cole Chandler was named before his Gods and Folk.
- 5/16 - Nicholas and Annika Gunn were united in marriage

Matthew D. Flavel
Allsherjargoði, Asatru Folk Assembly
mattflavel@runestone.org

Words from the Spekingar

Beyond The Horizon

From a sermon at Sumarmál at Þórshof, May 2026

They stood upon the great grass seas of the Caspian Steppe and watched the sun bleed gold and crimson into the western horizon. The wind moved through horsehair, through tall grass, through fire smoke and the breath of cattle. And somewhere in the hearts of our Folk arose a question that would shape the fate of half the world:

“What lies beyond that horizon?”

That question built ships.
That question crossed mountains.

That question carried our ancestors through dark forests, over frozen seas, into strange kingdoms and unknown lands. It was not mere greed that drove them, nor war, nor hunger alone. It was something deeper. A holy restlessness. A refusal to remain small.

Our Folk have always been a people of becoming.
The farmer looked at untamed earth and asked what harvest could rise from it.
The smith looked at cold iron and asked what weapon, what tool, what work of beauty slept within it.
The skald looked at silence and asked what story could be sung into memory.
The explorer looked westward into the dying light and asked:

“What lies beyond?”

And so they moved.
Because stagnation is death to the soul.

The Gods themselves teach this lesson.

Oðinn does not remain comfortable upon his throne. He wanders. He sacrifices. He seeks wisdom in strange places and has paid terrible prices for it. He crosses boundaries willingly. He pursues becoming.

Even Freyr, lord of peace and plenty, is not merely a god of comfort. He is the force of growth itself. The seed does not remain a seed. It breaks open. It reaches upward. It transforms.

A sacred pattern emerges.
Life moves. Life reaches. Life expands.
And so must we.

Too many people today live with no horizon. Their world stretches no farther than a glowing screen, a weekly paycheck, the next distraction, the next indulgence. They no longer ask what lies beyond. They no longer seek mastery, wisdom, strength, or meaning. Their world grows smaller while their comforts grow larger.

But our path calls us higher.

A man should ask:
What lies beyond my weakness?
A woman should ask:
What lies beyond my fear?
A family should ask:
What lies beyond mere survival?
A people should ask:
What lies beyond comfort?

Because the horizon is never merely a place. It is transformation itself.

The old tribes who stood upon those steppes could not possibly imagine the worlds their descendants would build. They could not see the halls, the kingdoms, the longships, the sagas, the cathedrals of timber and stone, the generations yet unborn carrying their blood and memory forward.

Yet all of it began with a question asked beneath an open sky.

“What lies beyond that horizon?”
And perhaps that is the real question before us now.
What horizon stands before you now?
What fear keeps you rooted where you are?
What comfort has become a cage?
What calling waits just beyond the edge of what you already know?
The Gods did not shape our Folk to live small lives.

We are meant to build. To seek. To strive. To become.

So stand. Look westward. Look toward the unknown places in your own life. And ask the ancient question once more:

“What lies beyond that horizon?” Then have the courage to walk toward it.

Spekingr Daniel Young
dyoung@runestone.org

Announcing the AFA Steward Program

I am excited to announce the AFA Steward Program!

If you have ever wondered how you can pitch in to help our Ásatrú mission, but have hesitated because you are unsure if you have the time to commit, or are unable to take a public-facing position, or just didn't know where you might be able to fit... This is the role that will allow you and the AFA both to say YES. Please contact any of our Goðar if you are interested.

Role Summary
The AFA Steward is an official volunteer role that offers a clear and dignified avenue for service within the Asatru Folk Assembly, welcoming goodwill with respect while supporting the practical needs of the Church. This role exists to gather and direct the efforts of capable and service-minded individuals who wish to contribute meaningfully to the work of the AFA, without the obligations or expectations that accompany Oathed leadership. This position consolidates informal volunteers and event hosts, replaces the concept of permanent apprentices, provides a gateway toward deeper service without pressure, and protects the integrity and sustainability of Folkbuilders and Goðar.

Position Character
The AFA Steward position is an official volunteer role with minimal formal obligation. Work may be task-based, project-based, scope-limited, or seasonal, with flexible entry and exit at the discretion of supervising leadership. The role emphasizes practical service rather than leadership development.

Placement in Structure
AFA Stewards function below Folkbuilders and do not hold Oathed status. Stewards do not speak for AFA leadership and do not bypass Folkbuilders or Goðar. Each Steward reports to a Goði or a designated Folkbuilder mentor for guidance, accountability, and oversight.

Primary Purpose
The AFA Steward supports AFA operations and outreach, relieves Folkbuilders of narrow-scope duties, maintains professionalism in public-facing work, and fills gaps where needed as identified by leadership.

Steward Role Types and Titles
AFA Steward is the umbrella role. Scope-specific titles include AFA Operations Steward, AFA Outreach Steward, AFA Community Steward, and AFA Hof Steward. Additional AFA Steward titles may be created or retired as needed.

What AFA Stewards Receive
Stewards receive an official Runestone.org email. Public-facing Stewards may have first name, email, and state listed online. Internal Stewards have no public listing.

Boundaries and Limitations
An AFA Steward does not take an Oath, does not exercise auÞórrity, and does not perform priestly functions. A complete Folkbuilder Apprenticeship remains required for the Folkbuilder Oath, and the Folkbuilder Oath remains required before advancement toward Goðar training.

Relationship to Advancement
The Steward role may serve as a testing ground, an entry point for service, or a long-term service role. Advancement is optional and discerned by leadership.

Cultural Intent
The AFA Steward role receives goodwill with gratitude and respect, invites service as a meaningful act of belonging, and defines responsibilities clearly while preserving humility of service.

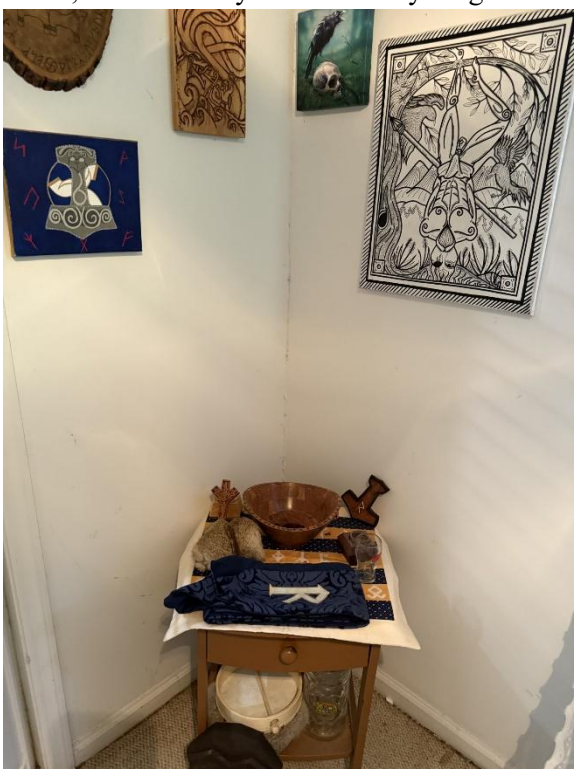
Spekingr Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Words from the Goðar

Is Your Faith a Steering Wheel or a Spare Tire?

I saw this question on a small rural christian church sign recently, and despite the source, I found it to be a valid question. Of course, the first person I asked was myself. Am I living a life that starts every day with me being mindful of my connection to my ancestors and the Æsir, or do I only make time for them when it's convenient for me? Worse, do I only approach my altar at a dead sprint, panicking because things have gone horribly wrong?

If I wake up every day of my life and take just a few minutes to simply think of my connection to my ancestors and to the Æsir, there are some knock-on effects. I'm now mindful of my place in the long line of my Folk, the blood that I carry, and the promise that I have to keep to them, which is to live a good and pious life, while doing all I can to grow our faith and maintain it. So now I'm imbued with purpose and drive, and I'm ready to take on anything the world can throw at me.



Then I think of my relation to the Æsir themselves; am I participating in the gift cycle with the Holy Gods of my Folk? Am I ever seeking to understand them better? Now I'm thinking of going before my altar and making an offering, which is further aligning me with right action and right good will. All of this is fulfilling my soul and making my heart glad. I feel at peace and exude joy.

But what if I didn't do those things? What if I only really thought about my ancestors while sitting in the Hof, right before the second round of Sumbl? I certainly wouldn't be making offerings to them for guidance and inspiration in my life, and I probably wouldn't be conscious of just how much they should mean to me. Where would that put me? In a sad state of affairs, that's where. The connection through the veil, weak. Their influence in my life? Harder to see and understand.

What if I went through the motions, setting up an altar in my house but never used it, just occasionally glanced at it on my way by, allowing it to collect dust? What if I didn't go to my closest Hof as much as I really could have each year? What if I ran to my underused altar when things were really bleak, pouring my heart out to ancestors and Gods who hardly ever hear from me, who's influence and life lessons I never seek out or piously pray for?

I'd be missing out on so much that life has to offer me as an Ásatrúar. I wouldn't be connected to my Folk and the fellowship that they offer, I wouldn't make lifelong friends and connections, and I'd miss out on beautiful moments that don't occur anywhere else in the world. I wouldn't be a part of my Folk gathering at temples to OUR Gods, reviving the gift cycle between them and us OUR way. I'd be without the wonderful feeling of knowing that my ancestors are watching over me and doing their best to guide me and keep me on the path of piety and right action.

So let your faith and loyalty to the Æsir, your connection to your ancestors, and the strength of your camaraderie with your Folk be your steering wheel in your life. Draw your power from your Gods, ancestors and fellow Ásatrúar. Don't let the spiritual part of your life be a fallback measure to be pulled out only when dire need suggests it, be consistent and purposeful with your faith and I can guarantee you it won't steer you wrong.

Goði Bodi Mayo
bmayo@runestone.org

Hlín, Protector of the Folk

Hlín: she is established as keeper over those men whom Frigg desires to preserve from any danger; thence comes the saying, that he who escapes 'leans.'
— Gylfaginning 35

Hlín is the "Protector". Hlín is good for women to pray to when loved ones are far away and there is need to safeguard them. Hlín is the patroness of protection, especially protections of children.
— Ásatrú Trúlögmál

In the *Gylfaginning*, she is listed as one of the Frigg's handmaidens. She is tasked with protecting those Frigg wants to keep free from harm. Hlín is considered a protector of the Folk. Something that's been on my mind a lot lately. I always imagine her as standing strong before the Folk with shield held firmly acting as protection from whatever is before them. Or at times when your mind has wandered to those areas of regret and sadness, she is that soft, warm embrace you feel that shakes you into focus and forward movement.

Hlín's power is in her subtle guardianship. She brings solace to mortals and gods alike. Easing fear as fate draws near. Offering comfort. For our ancestors, guardianship was a sacred and literal duty. It was more than a legal role. Guardian figures were seen as active protectors, guides, and moral exemplars, shaping how people understood their place in the cosmos and their duty to uphold virtue. Guardianship was a spiritual anchor — a belief system that reinforced the idea that life's journey was not traveled alone. Their presence encouraged virtue, resilience, and a deeper connection to the sacred.

I often seek out Hlín when I'm praying for the Folk. Quieting my mind. Finding my heartbeat, the same heartbeat that beats through my line of Ancestors back to the beginning. I visualize a wall around myself, my family, and the Folk of the Innangarðr. I ask to see and understand.

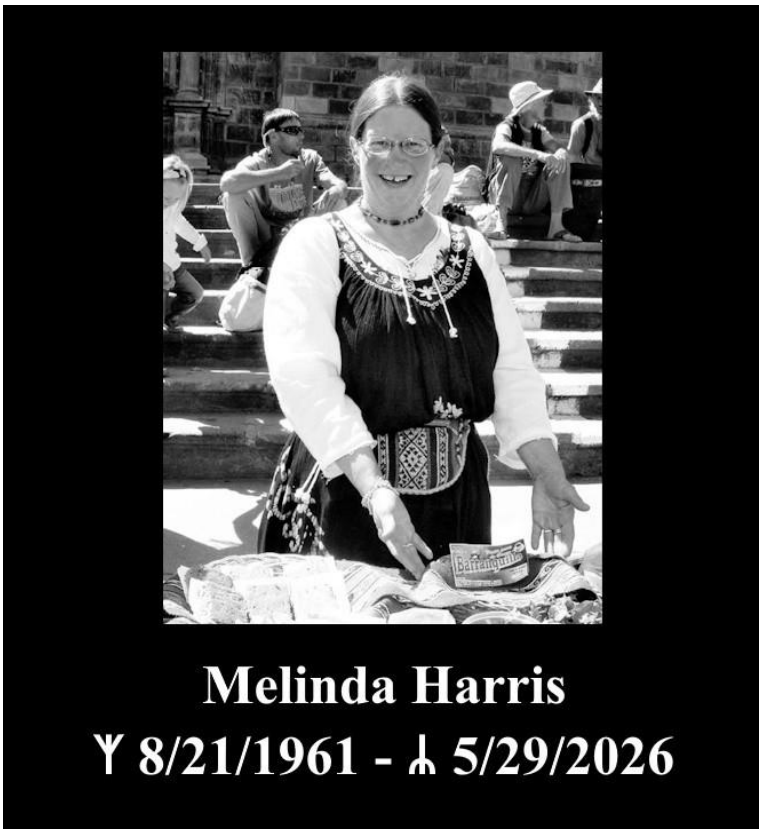
Hail Hlín!
May those that seek it find safety under her shield.
May she ease their pain and rekindle hope in their hearts.
Moving forward for a stronger future for all our Folk!
Hail Hlín!

Stillness, heartbeat, and breathwork work for me. I encourage you all to make this your own by using the method that works best for you. Build a relationship with Hlín. Reach out to her not just for yourself but for your Folk. Without fear, without anxiety. Keep moving forward with right action, always growing in knowledge.

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

Gyðja Sara Ault
sault@runestone.org

The Folk Remember



Melinda Lou Harris, a member of the Asatru Folk Assembly since March 2021, passed through the veil on May 29th after a long battle with cancer. By the time she discovered the AFA, she had spent decades in a Naval career, plus a three-year sojourn to the mountains of Peru where she sought “the answers to Life.” An adoptee, she was never close to family, so as a solitary she was free to roam. And that brought her to us.

In her membership application she wrote, with us, she found what would be her family through MeWe groups like AFA Eldri. Living in Medford, Oregon, she was unable to continue her travels but she did enjoy online forums where she could speculate on the state-of-the-world.

After many months in remission. Her cancer came back with a vengeance.

Melinda will be missed and remembered.

Heill Melinda Harris!
The Folk Remember!

Ásatrú Trúlögmál

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

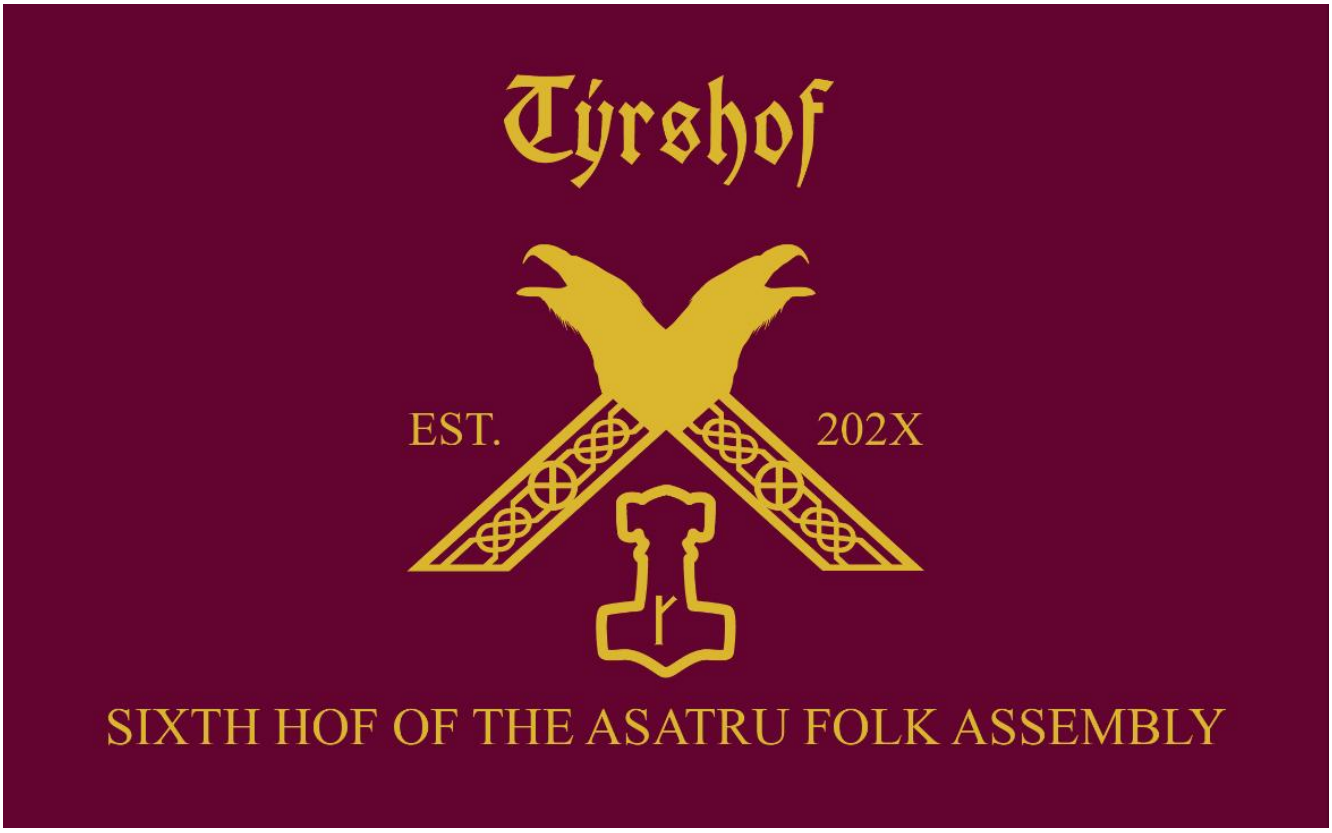
You can find it on our website at https://www.runestone.org/trulogmal.

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!
Heill the Æsir!

The Quest for Týrshof

Yet remains that one of the Æsir who is called Týr: he is most daring, and best in stoutness of heart, and he has much auÞórrity over victory in battle; it is good for men of valor to invoke him. It is a proverb, that he is Týr-valiant, who surpasses other men and does not waver. He is wise, so that it is also said, that he that is wisest is Týr-prudent. This is one token of his daring: when the Æsir enticed Fenris-Wolf to take upon him the fetter Gleipnir, the wolf did not believe them, that they would loose him, until they laid Týr's hand into his mouth as a pledge. But when the Æsir would not loose him, then he bit off the hand at the place now called 'the wolf's joint;' and Týr is one-handed, and is not called a reconciler of men.
— Gylfaginning 25



Donate to make it happen at https://store.runestone.org/product/sigrheim/

Týrshof will be a very different task than out previous hofs. Týrshof will be built from the ground up as a hof to Lord Týr. Týrshof will be built at the AFA capital, Sigrheim, in Jackson County, Tennessee. The Æsir have blessed us with tremendous inspiration on this project and I look forward to sharing that with you as this project takes shape. Due to your tremendous generosity, I believe we will be starting on Týrshof much sooner than some might imagine.

This is the list of things that need to happen before we can break ground on Týrshof:

2. We need to pay off Freyshof; we are currently 41.9% paid — owing $72,684. ($99/member would pay it off today!)
3. We need to find an architect/engineer that works with metal buildings. Ideally, this person will be eager to do this sort of project. We had a productive meeting with 1 potential architect and have another we are also considering.

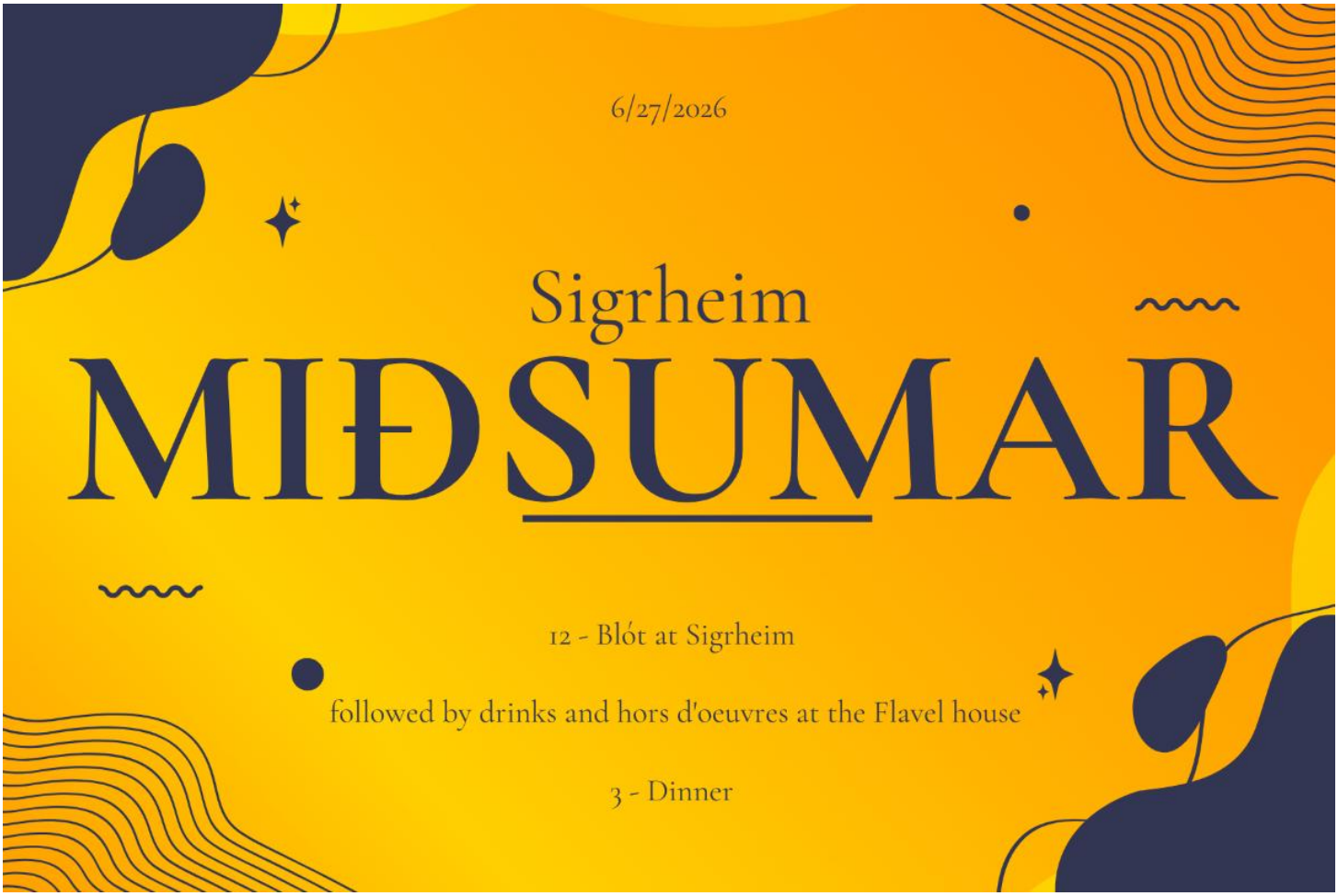
4. We need to assemble a team of members with relevant skills and experience to help with the process. As of now we need site prep people, foundation people, architects/engineers, steel construction people, metal artists.

As developments are made, we will keep you updated and amend the steps necessary and the progress on those steps. This is a historic project, and we are ready and resolved to accomplish this amazing task for Týr and the Æsir.

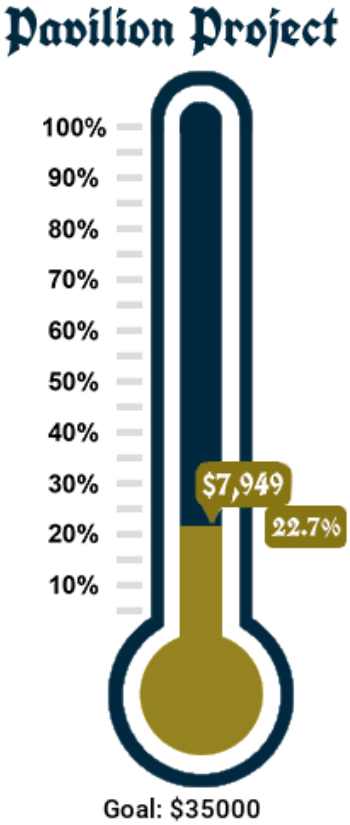
Heill Týr!

Sigrheim: Home of Victory

Miðsumar at Sigrheim



Sigrheim Pavilion Project



Donate at https://store.runestone.org/product/pavilion/

We're laying the foundation—literally—for the future of the AFA.

This land is our capital, our sacred center, and this pavilion will be the very first structure we raise on it. It's a practical starting point—both in cost and in immediate usefulness—but it's also much more than that. It will serve us right away as a gathering place for rituals, meals, and fellowship, and it will continue to be invaluable as we build out the rest of the property in the years ahead.

Even as larger buildings come, a well-built outdoor space will always have its place. There is something timeless about gathering together under open air, grounded in the land, yet sheltered enough to make that possible in all seasons.

This pavilion is the first step in bringing our full vision to life. With your support, we can raise something enduring—something that serves us now, and continues to serve generations to come.

Let's build it together.
If you can contribute, please do.
If you can share the fundraiser, please share.

Donate at https://store.runestone.org/product/pavilion/

Victory Never Sleeps

Victory Never Sleeps, a weekly podcast, airing Wednesdays at 6pm Central, produced by the Asatru Folk Assembly, hosted by Allsherjargoði Matthew Flavel, and featuring weekly special guests speaking on spiritual topics pertaining to our Folk. The show doesn't stop until the questions quit rolling in. Come listen and learn about a variety of topics and truths relevant to our modern Ásatrú Folk.

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

Help support the stream and keep the cameras rolling!

Catch us LIVE with new episodes on Wednesdays at 6pm Central on YouTube, Twitter, Odysee, VK, Rumble, and Twitch. Audio versions drop on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeartRadio, and Amazon Podcasts shortly after the new episodes air.

Check out the full playlist of 200+ episodes comprising many 100's of hours of previous recordings on our YouTube.

.

AFA Ásatrú Academy

Check out the Ásatrú Academy at AsatruAcademy.org

Rachel Kinsler
Homeschool Coach, Ásatrú Academy
rkinsler@runestone.org

Holy Days | Asatru Folk Assembly

> January 9 - Raud the Strong <
> January 17 - Þorrablót <
> January 18 - King Blót-Sveinn of Sweden <
> February 1 - King Eanfrith of Bernicia <
> February 9 - Eyvind Kinnrifa <
> February 21 - Dísaþing <
> March 9 - Olvir of Egg <
> March 20 - Austra (observed on March 21) <
> March 26 - Winguric <
> April 9 - Jarl Hákon Sigurðarson <
> April 10 - John "Stubba" Yeowell <
> April 30 - Nornanótt (observed on April 18) <
> May 1 - Sumarmál (observed on May 16) <
> May 9 - Járnskeggja <
> May 22 - John “Hoskuld” Gibbs-Bailey <
> June 9 - King Athanaric of the Visigoths <
> June 13 - Erik Klasson <
> June 21 - Miðsumar (observed on June 20) <
> July 4 - Sveinbjörn Beinteinsson <
> July 15 - Alexander Rud Mills <
> July 18 - Sigrblót <
> August 1 - King Osric of Deira <
> August 9 - King Radbod of Frisia <
> August 15 - Freyfaxi <
> September 9 - Prince Hermann of the Cherusci <
> September 12 - Else Christensen <
> September 22 - Haustblót (observed on September 19) <
> October 4 - Goði Þorsteinn Guðjónsson <
> October 5 - Meister Guido von List <
> October 9 – The Loyal Saxons <
> October 15 - Birthday of Founder Stephen McNallen <
> October 17 - Vetrnætr <
> October 23 - King Aoric <
> October 27 - Ragnvald Óðinnskarl <
> November 9 - Queen Sigríðr of Sweden <
> November 11 - Einherjablót (observed on November 21) <
> November 18 - King Sexræd <
> December 9 - Egill Skallagrímsson <
> November 18 - King Sæward <
> December 20-31 - Jól (observed on December 19) <

Days of Remembrance

King Athanaric of the Visigoths | June 9th

381 ᛦ

Born sometime in the mid-4th century CE, Athanaric led the Visigoths as their king from 369 until his death in 381. We know next to nothing about his early life, or about his life outside of his deeds defending Ásatrú and his people. His 12 years as king were mired by conflict, both with the Christian Romans as well as Visigoths who wanted to see the Æsir forgotten among their Folk.

The early years of Athanaric's reign was spent preserving the Gothic culture and Folksoul by stamping out the foreign faith of Christianity wherever it took root among his people. He correctly surmised that the advent of Christianity would be detrimental to his people, as well as an insult to the Æsir. He was resolute in his opposition to the foreign faith and the soul sickness it would carry for his people, going so far as to punish those who willingly severed their troth with the Æsir.

Initially during this time, Athanaric was allied with another Visigothic ruler named Fritigern, and they fought bravely against the Roman Empire together. After converting to Christianity, however, Fritigern turned on King Athanaric and started the Gothic Civil War. Athanaric won every battle he had with Fritigern and his army of traitorous Christian Visigoths, even after Fritigern received aid from Emperor Valens of Rome. Once the Visigoths who remained true to the Æsir had won the unfortunate war against their kin, however, the infamous Huns invaded from the east.

Upon this invasion, Fritigern and his fellow Christians were allowed to take refuge with the Romans, while the Ásatrú Visigoths were left to fend for themselves. They were outmanned and weakened in the aftermath of their war with Fritigern and the Christian Goths, leaving them no means of standing a chance against the relentless Huns. Athanaric and his Folk were forced out of their lands and into the Carpathians. He and his people were received by Theodosius I in Constantinople, and signed a treaty of friendship with the eastern Roman Empire.

King Athanaric was an energetic and dauntless sovereign of the Visigoths, loyal to his Gods and his Folk until the very end. Not only did he hold his own loyalty to the Æsir, but he strove with all his might to keep his whole Folk in troth with our Gods. Let us honor King Athanaric not only by raising a glass or horn in his name, but also by living Ásatrú proudly! Let us stand tall, walk proudly, and remain resolute in the face of all that would seek to separate us from the holy Æsir!

Hail King Athanaric!

Erik Klasson | June 13th

1492 ᛦ

Erik Klasson, a Swedish Ásatrúar, was executed for sorcery, theft, and heresy in 1492. Other than his willingness to die rather than renounce his allegiance and loyalty to Alföðr Óðinn, we know very little about him. This came only eight years after the trial and execution of another of our AFA Heilagmaðr, Ragnvald Odiakarl, so we know that the Alföðr was stirring the souls of his Folk in Sweden around that time.

Klasson is said to have worked as a servant for a man named Hans Persson on the island of Värmdõ. During his time as Hans's servant, he had stolen from him many times. He had also allegedly sworn himself to Óðinn so as to escape poverty.

He went to trial for this in 1492, at the court in Stockholm. He confessed to the thefts, as well as his allegiance to Lord Óðinn. Since Sweden was under the sway of the Catholic Church at this time, the court accused him of worshipping the Satan, since all of the Æsir were considered demons or aspects of Satan by the Christians.

He was sentenced to death by hanging for the thefts, but also sentenced to be burned at the stake for his loyalty to Lord Óðinn instead of the Abrahamic god.

He was executed, but he died a follower of the Alföðr, rather than betraying his Gods in the end. Even the guarantee of a gruesome death did not sway him, and he crossed beyond the veil a true Ásatrúar!

May we all find the steadfastness to stand tall for our Gods and our Folk!

Hail Erik Klasson!

Holiday

Miðsumar | June 21st (observed June 20th)

For us, Miðsumar is considered the official beginning of summer, but for our ancestors, who only recognized two seasons (winter and summer), Miðsumar was the middle of the season. The common factor between our ancestors' celebration and ours is the Summer Solstice. On Miðsumar, we celebrate the longest day of the year and the shortest night. The dark and cold of winter is firmly past and the days are full of vitality and life.

But first, we celebrate. The best-known symbol of Miðsumar is the bonfire. In Europe, bonfires are still lit and burn the whole night through. Men and women gather to celebrate the warm days and the successful planting season by dancing

around the bonfire. Many people focus on love and fertility during the summer solstice, with Folk traditions that include picking wildflowers and putting them under one's pillow to dream of the person they will marry. Couples often jump over the fire during Miðsumar to be blessed by the Æsir and the Ancestors.

The planting season is finished. The hard work that began with the blessing of the tools at Dísaþing and the planting of the seeds after Austra has been finished. Now we tend to the growing crops and revel in the beauty of life. We can take a momentary break from the difficulties of life to embrace that which makes the hard work worth the effort.

As the revelry comes to an end, however, we must take the time to remember that the days will now begin to shorten once again. Winter will come and our hard work is not yet done.

Upcoming National Event

Miðsumar at Óðinshof | June 19th - 21st

Make sure to RSVP
at https://store.runestone.org/product/midsumar/

You're invited to Miðsumar, Óðinshof's signature event of the year! Please join your Folk from across all the districts as we celebrate and honor our Gods and Goddesses at the very First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Come and tread the hallowed Hall of the High One! Come celebrate Miðsumar at Óðinshof from June 19th-21st!

Miðsumar is the premier event of the year at Óðinshof! We have pulled out all the stops this year to bring you great speakers! Bountiful feasts! And as always, you can expect to feel the very heartbeat of the Asatru Folk Assembly when you walk the grounds, step inside the ritual circle of and enter the Hall of Óðinn! There is no better place to gather with your Folk and celebrate Miðsumar this year! Come home to the heart of the Asatru Folk Assembly for a Miðsumar you won't forget!

This weekend will be a summer "spiritual retreat" for all our Folk coming from near and far. It will be filled with inspirational rituals, scrumptious and hearty meals, healing music, warm sunshine, laughter, motivating conversations, and fun activities for all ages!

Don't wait! RSVP and get registered today!

Please make sure to add any needed Child tickets to the order, so we can have an accurate count for food and supplies.

Make sure to RSVP at https://store.runestone.org/product/midsumar/

Gyðja Sheila McNallen
sheila@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. 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.

Want to Get Involved?

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 200 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 Folk 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 in the Asatru Folk Assembly 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!

Calling All Folk Photographers

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

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

Over the years, 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 honoured. Please send these to:

Allen Turnage
PO Box 16027
Tallahassee FL, 32317

Lawspeaker Allen Turnage
turnage@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 Ásatrú 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 Goðar 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 Goðar and other leadership will be going into the prisons to hold study groups, lead Blót, 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 at https://store.runestone.org/product/prison-ministry-fund/. The donations will be used to get small ritual items and books into the prisons and the hands of our Folk inside.

An AFA Book Review

***Secret Hitler* by Secret Himmler**

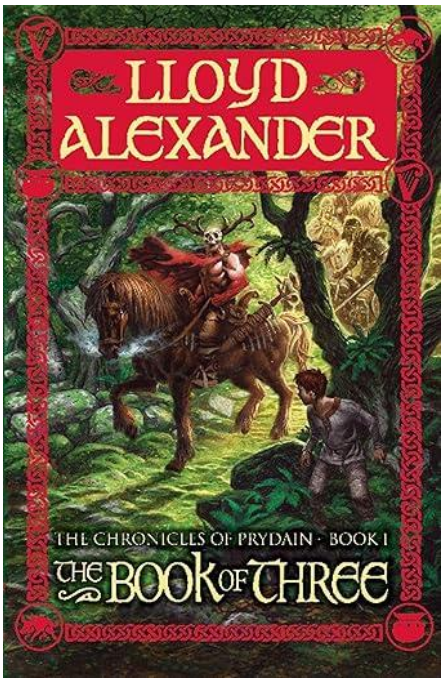
Secret Hitler is a novel by an AFA member about conspiracies, psychological operations, and the struggles our people face in the Wolf Age. A local Ásatrú kindred and multiple dissident groups are infiltrated by left-wing activists and police detectives who are trying to track down a mysterious group called Secret Hitler, a far-right group who are suspected of committing racially motivated serial killings. The groups they've infiltrated begin to suspect some of the infiltrators as they discover that the conspiracy is bigger and stranger than they imagined.

As Secret Hitler exposes corruption in their city and some of the murders target people the infiltrators know, each of the groups — the detectives, the leftist activists, multiple nationalist and pro-white groups, a libertarian group, a christian identity church, and the Ásatrú kindred — all have to make difficult decisions about who to trust and work with.

To save their Folk, the kindred must find a way to expose a criminal conspiracy that's using political violence to justify a police state crackdown on dissidents of every ideology and belief system and find the answer to the question everyone is asking - who is Secret Hitler?

Secret Hitler is available on Amazon books: https://a.co/d/0dOxTLiA

***The Book of Three: the Chronicles of Prydain, Book 1* by Lloyd Alexander**



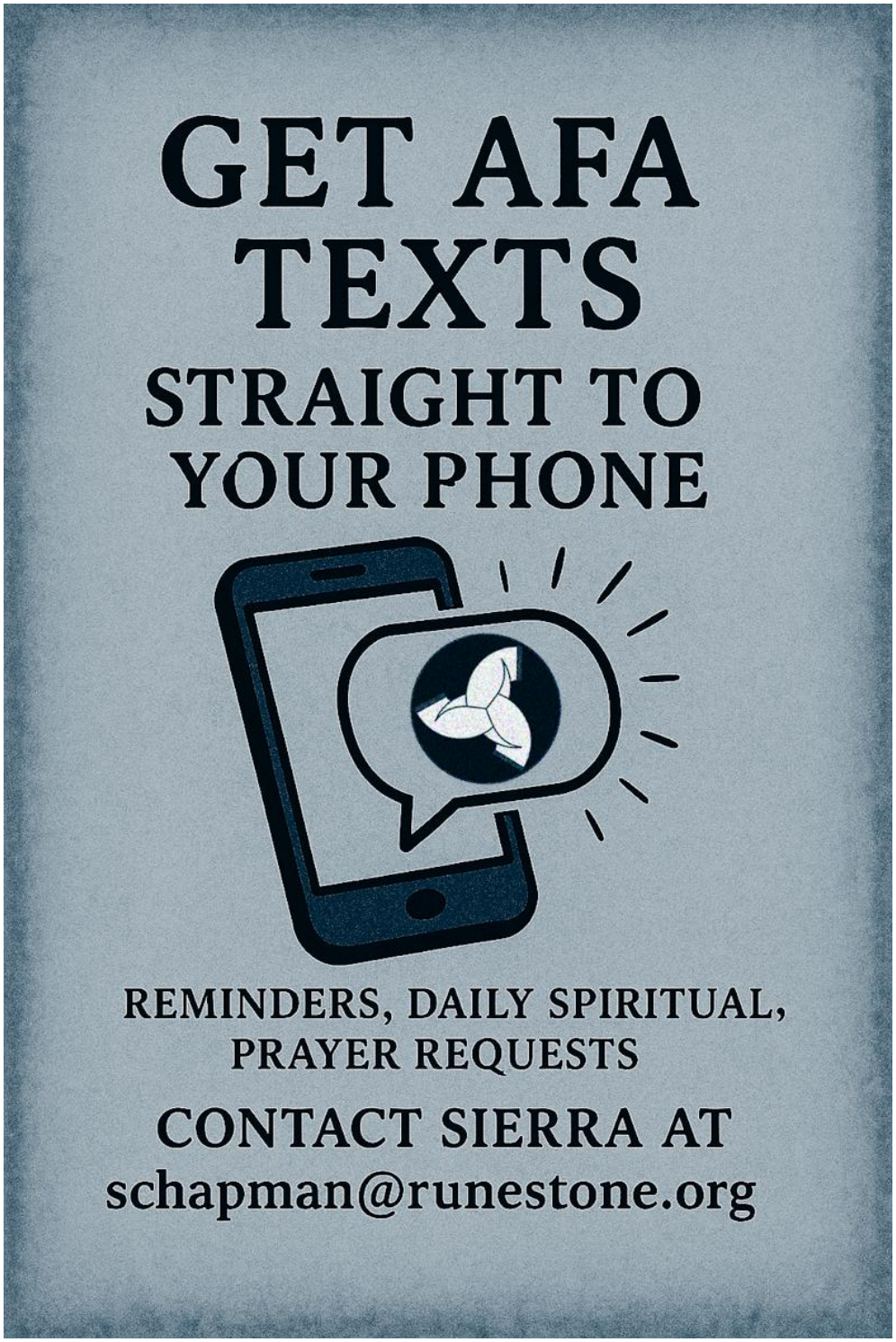
Taran, Assistant Pig Keeper lives at Caer Dallben with Coll and the great enchanter, Dallben. His job is to work the farm with Coll and look after the oracle pig, Hen Wen. But when Hen Wen escapes, Taren must find her before the Horned King can catch her and take her to the evil King Arawn, Lord of the Land of the Dead, Annuvin. Along the way, he meets the bard, Fflewddur Fflam, Doli of the Fair Folk, the creature Gurgi, and the sorceress-in-training, Princess Eilonwy.

Can Taren keep a cool head long enough to catch Hen Wen, keep her safe, and help the legendary war-leader Prince Gwydion defeat the Horned King?

This is a middle grades high fantasy novel based on Welsh folklore, but it is incredibly readable for all ages. I loved this book so much as a child that I was forced to learn to read because my mother got tired of re-reading it to me. While I prefer the older cover illustrations, newer editions have pronunciation guides.

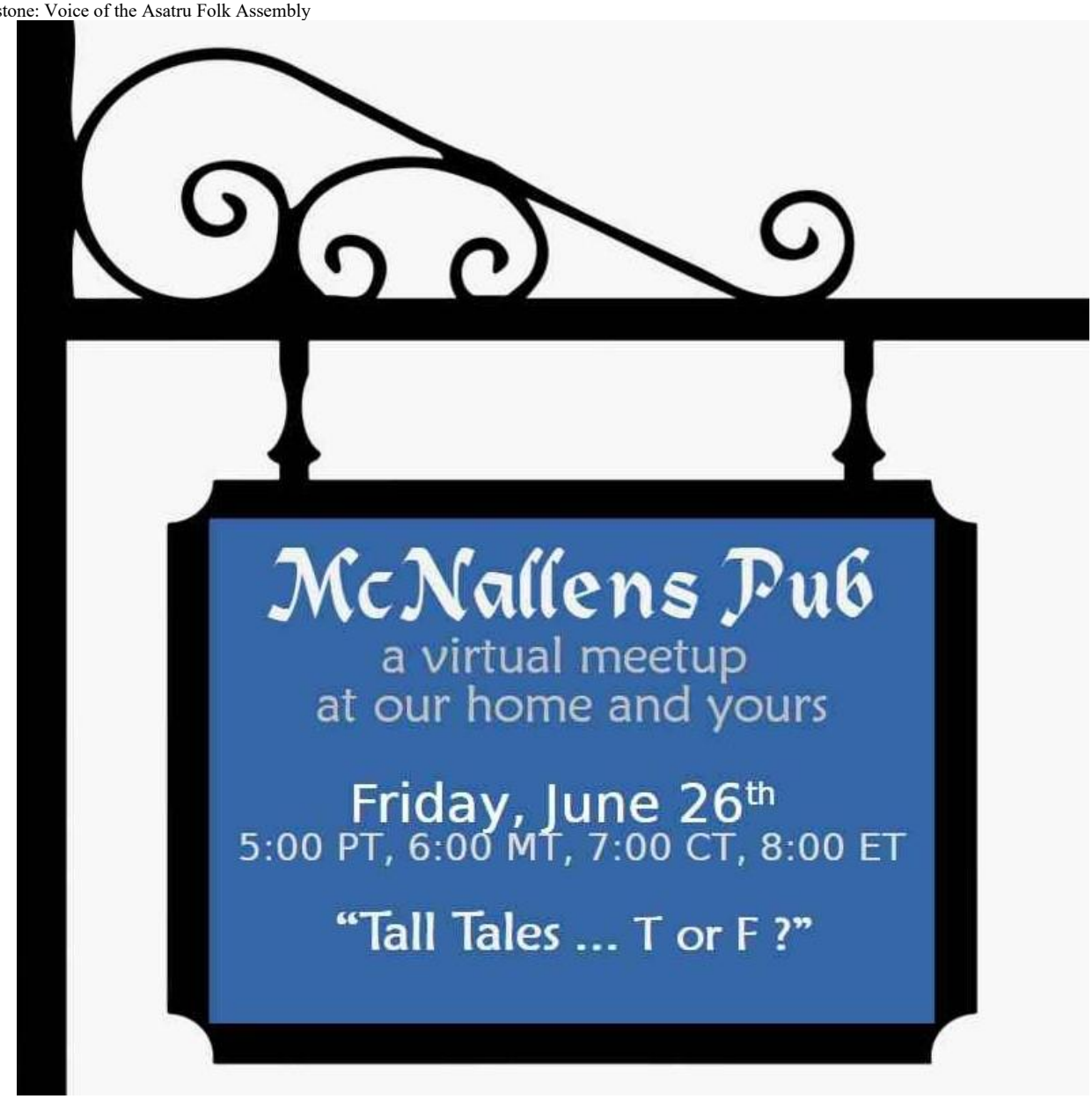
The Book of Three: the Chronicles of Prydain, Book 1 is available on Amazon books: https://a.co/d/02oVSZwG

AFA Reminder Texts



Online Events and Meetings

AFA Eldri
Virtual Meetings
A place for members age 50 and above ~ to gather and chat about Life's lessons..
Tuesdays
June 9 & 23
6:00 PT, 700 MT
8:00 CT, 9:00 ET
Hosted by Gythia Sheila McNallen
Copy/paste link: https://tinyurl.com/yc289cn8


McNallens Pub
a virtual meetup
at our home and yours
Friday, June 26th
5:00 PT, 6:00 MT, 7:00 CT, 8:00 ET
"Tall Tales ... T or F ?"

WEEKLY ÁSATRÚ LORE STUDY

LEARNING THE LORE

WITH GOÐI BODI

EXPLORE. LEARN. CONNECT.
Join Goði Bodi as we delve into the rich lore, myths, and traditions of Ásatrú.

DEEPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING.
From the Gods and Goddesses to the Nine Realms and beyond, we uncover the wisdom of our heritage.

ALL ARE WELCOME.
Whether you're new to Ásatrú or have been on the path for years, come learn, share, and grow with our community.

EVERY TUESDAY
8PM EASTERN

JOIN THE MEETING:

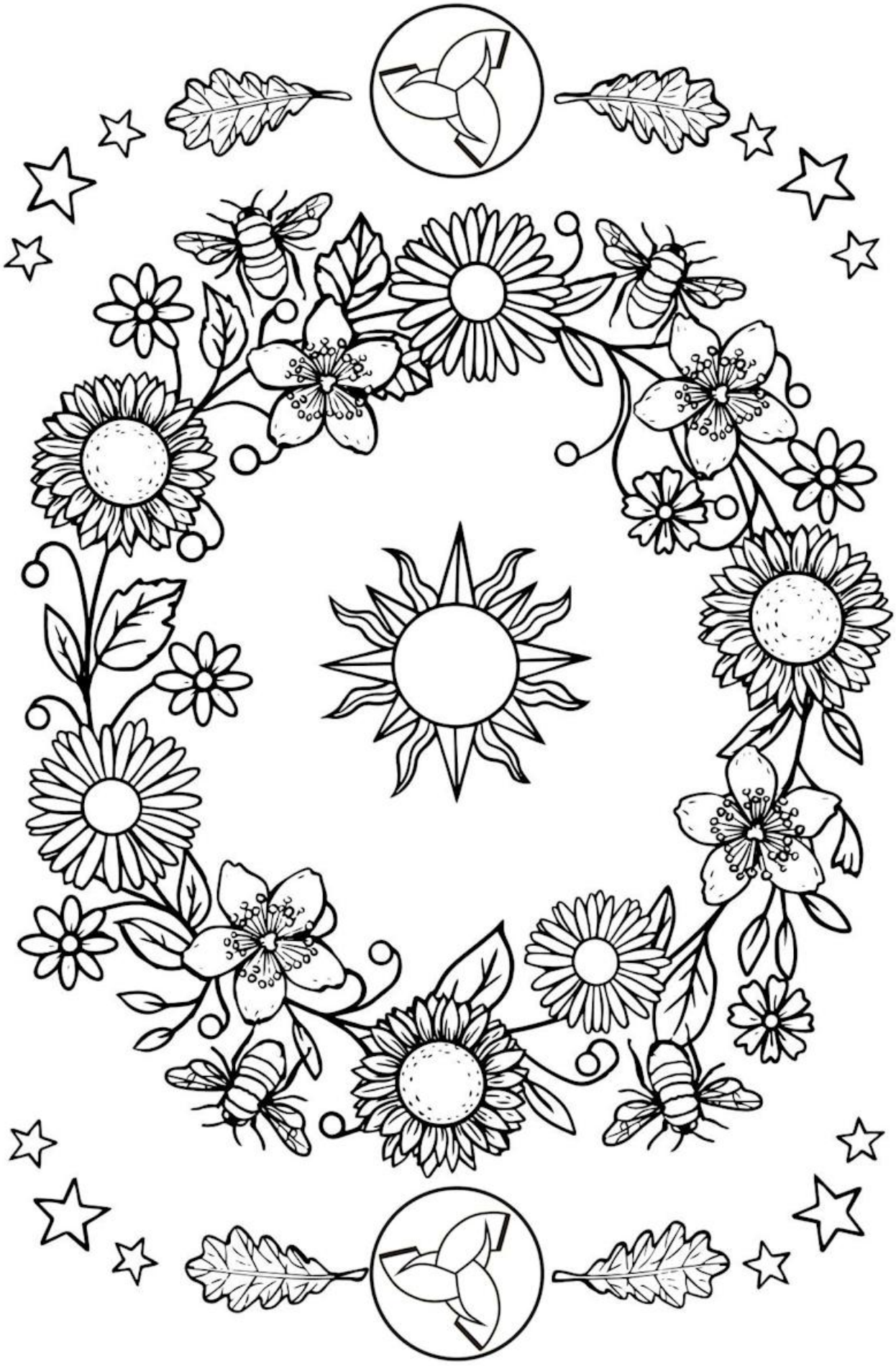
Reach out to Leadership for the Link

HONOR THE PAST. LIVE THE WISDOM. BUILD THE FUTURE.

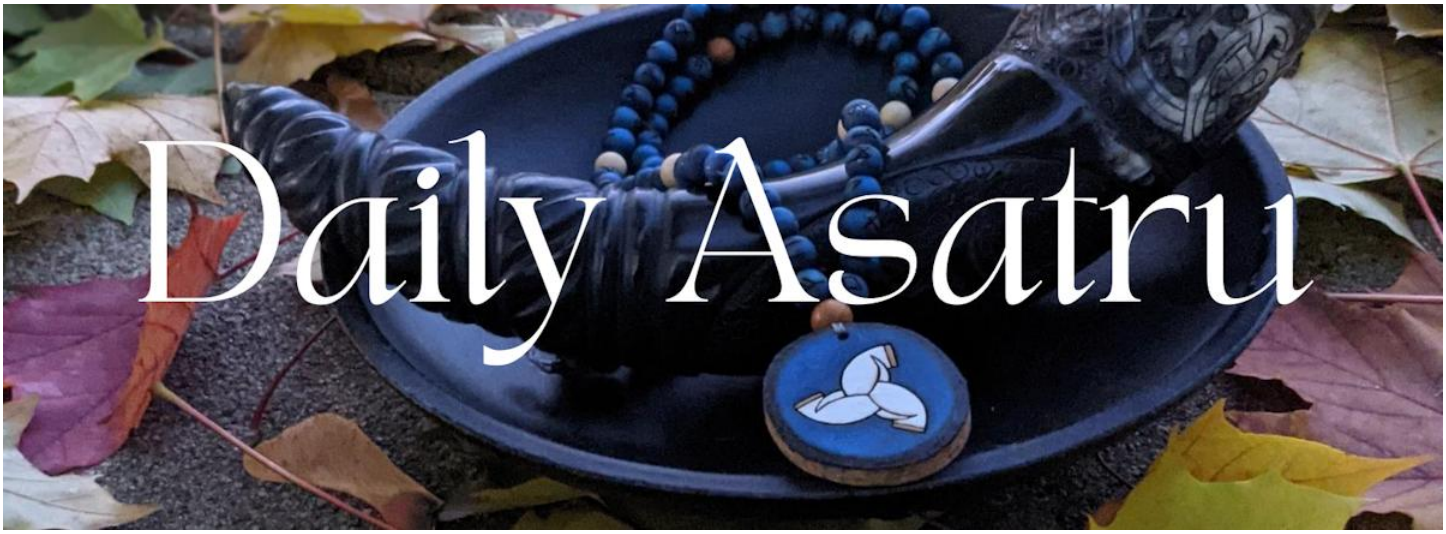
European Book Study
Hávamál
First Sunday of the month
18:00-19:00 CET
via
Teams
Contact elugnet@runestone.org

Just for Fun

Feel free to send your colored creations or finished puzzle to press@runestone.org for a shout-out in the next issue!



Grow Your Daily Practice



Please join me in the daily practice of Ásatrú, the worship of the Æsir & Ásynjur, and on the journey to spiritual awareness and understanding each day of 2026.

All members of the Asatru Folk Assembly are welcome to be a part of this group on MeWe. It is a "side quest," or rather, a pet project of mine, to help our Folk find a daily practice of their own through examples, study, and active worship.

Please join us: https://mewe.com/join/dailyasatruwithbrandy

We'll also be following a schedule listed here in *The Runestone* of weekly prayer days broken down monthly alongside accompanying prayers to the Æsir. To stay up-to-date and be ahead, make sure to join up on MeWe.

June Feasts

June 3rd
Feast of Týr
June 10th
Feast of Sjöfn
June 17th
Feast of Ljöfn
June 24th
Feast of the Ancestors

Hail Týr, steadfast and true,
With courage bold, your fate you knew.
To bind the beast, your hand you gave,
A sacrifice both just and brave.

No fear could shake your will so strong,
You stood for right, defying wrong.
Loyal beyond all pain and loss,
You paid the price, you bore the cost.

Teach me to stand, though fate be grim,
With honor bright and faith within.

Hail Sjöfn, goddess of the heart,
Whose gentle touch makes love's spark start.
In times of strife, you calm the storm,
And lead us to a love that's warm.

You turn the hearts of men and maid,
Where peace and passion are displayed.
Help us put down the world's harsh strife,
And focus on the love of life.

Sjöfn, grant us hearts so true,
To cherish love in all we do.

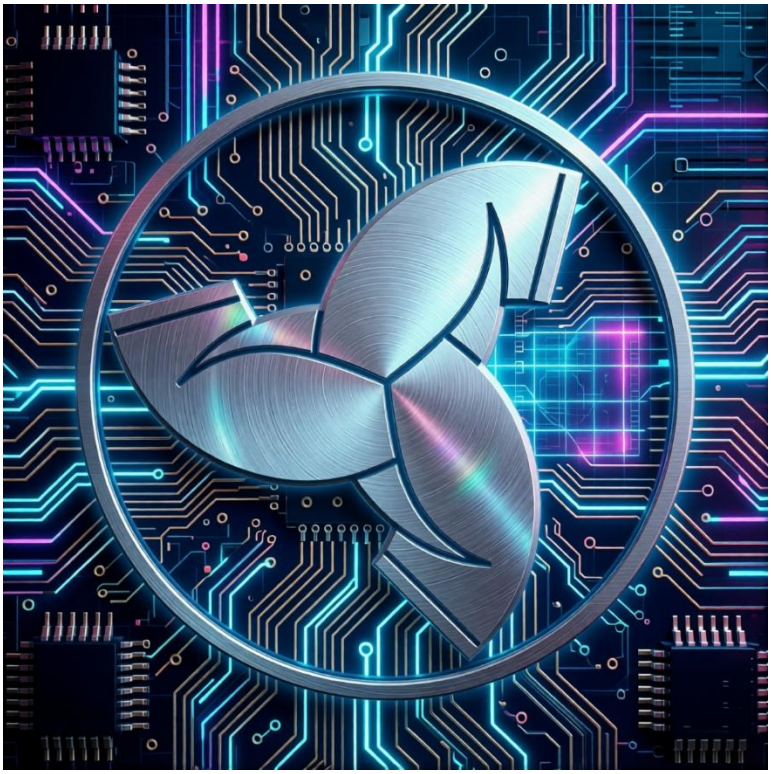
Hail Löfn, goddess kind and fair,
With gentle heart and tender care.
You soften hearts and heal all wrong,
Your grace makes weak and weary strong.

Through you, once forbidden love may bloom,
And in binding vows remove all gloom.
With Allfather's or Frigg's decree,
You bring together hearts set free.

Löfn, grant us courage, pure and bright,
To walk in love and hold it tight.

AFA STEMCELS

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Community Education and Learning Service



STEMCELS has now entered its second phase. We are working to build out a "virtual hackerspace" experience where members can go to work on projects, collaborate, and experiment.

We are also expanding to include tech development in our available services (mentorship and career networking). This will allow us to provide services to the broader AFA community while simultaneously giving training and experience to the STEMCELS members.

We have a website that you can reach at stemcels.org. Additionally, we now offer project git hosting to confirmed AFA members.

We have some ambitious plans, and are currently seeking the engineers and architects who can help us build out the infrastructure that will become the virtual roads and bridges of our future. At the moment we are especially interested in those with experience in web dev (backend and frontend), and those with experience in web service deployment and hosting.

- If you are interested in networking or career training, reach out.
- If you have a project that you'd like to pitch, reach out.
- If you are a developer and want to help build things (or participate in fun projects with your friends! :D), reach out.

You can email us at stemcels@runestone.org.

Asatru Writers Assembly

Ten years ago, back when I hung out in the more radical libertarian circles of Minneapolis, there was a group of amateur writers who gathered together and decided that since the prevailing culture did not share their values, they would create their own culture. They did this by writing short stories that reflect values, and every year they would compile them into an anthology (a book by many auÞórrs) that they would publish and sell at Agorafest.

If you are reading this, the prevailing culture does not share your values. I am gathering auÞórrs to write new stories, create a book and release it at one of our national events. If you would like to participate, please reach out to me at mvandyk@runestone.org. No experience necessary. I would love your assistance.

2026 Ladies' Retreat

ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY
LADIES RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 11TH - 13TH 2026
@ ÓÐINSHOF
MEDITATIVE WORKSHOPS,
FEMININE LADIES EMPOWERMENT,
FRITH WEAVING
*CHILD FREE EVENT.
MATURE YOUNG LADIES 13+
WHO WILL ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE
ENCOURAGED TO JOIN

Óðinshof

First Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.Óðinnshof.org

Food Pantry at Óðinshof

All of the difficulties of the past months – torrential rains, volunteer issues, shortage of food -- disappeared in May. A fair-weather weekend, lots of help bagging Saturday night, and plenty of volunteers Sunday morning, made this a 100% success.

We even picked up eleven new families who were thrilled to have found us. The 58 households (representing 153 individuals) who came in May went home with hefty bags of food. Word continues to spread about the kind and helpful people at the Óðinshof Church. It's been our intention to build a sterling reputation because there are still people in the community who believe the lies spread by our foes.

We keep doing what we're doing, always with sincere smiles. We don't have to fake it. Ending the weekend with our food pantry is a noble act. Hail those who help build the reputation of the AFA!

Gyðja Sheila McNallen
sheila@runestone.org

Sumarmál at Óðinshof

Improvise, adapt, overcome. This seemed to be the theme we experienced at Óðinshof this past month for Sumarmál, and it still turned out to be an amazing event. The day started nice and early at about 10 am with folks filing in and saying their hellos. Around 11, we began Sumbl with some new faces joining us this month.

When Sumbl was over it was time to check on lunch and see how it was doing. Unfortunately for the meal, the pork we were cooking just wasn't cooking fast enough and we needed to readjust. Time to light the grill and get to cooking! It was easy enough to change directions, although it did cause a delay in the meal.

Since lunch was now delayed, we decided to move on to other activities and the men filed inside the hall to listen to a speech from Founder McNallen as he led the men's group in a riveting discussion. Us ladies gathered together and made our beautiful flower crowns while talking to our younger ladies and explaining the meaning behind the crowns we weave ever so carefully and adorn on our heads. We then began assembling our ribbons for the maypole, only to find that the ribbons were cut too short! But this would be no problem for us because when faced with challenges we take a deep breath, shift focus, and figure out how to make our situation work FOR us, not against us. We lowered the ribbons and began separating them so they would lay semi-evenly and not get tangled as we did Blót.

Lunch was finally finished, so we quickly filed in, ate our fill, then hurried back outside to begin Blót beautifully led by Gyðja Anderson. Blót concluded and we gathered around the Maypole for our dance, Celtic music jauntily playing in the background mixed with squeals of laughter as we began our weaving dance. Once the Maypole dance was completed, we took a step back to admire our work, laughing at the pattern as you could tell when we finally "found our rhythm" and the weaving pattern became more legible.

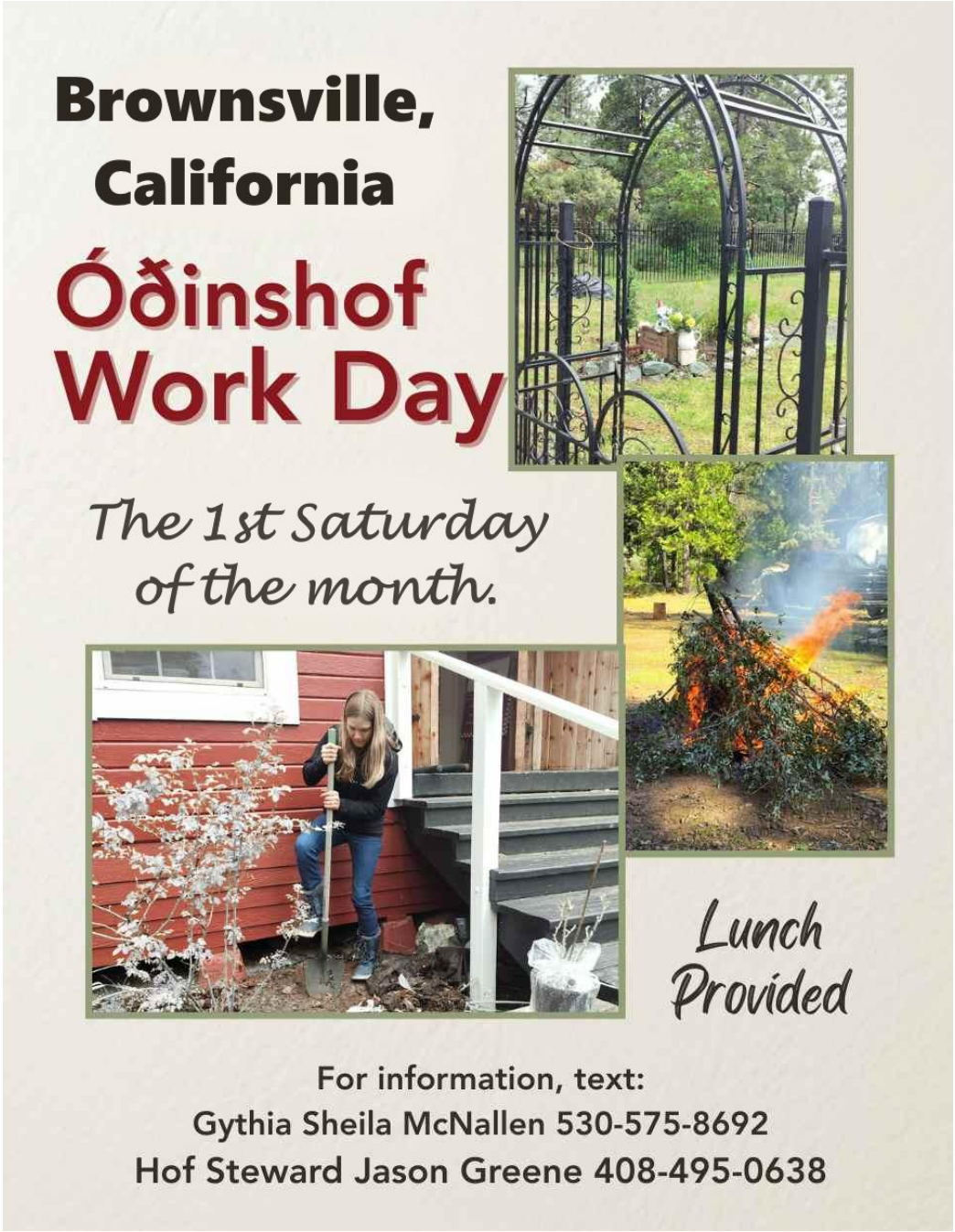
We entered the Hof, hailing Óðinn and Meister von List, then breaking off into little groups while we mixed and mingled and waited for dinner. Dinner came and went and folks began saying their goodbyes and see you laters, while those who stayed behind helped prepare the Hof for the food pantry the following day. It was a wonderful day, and I know we are all looking forward to Miðsumar in just a few short weeks. Don't forget it RSVP at https://store.runestone.org/product/midsumar/!

Folkbuilder Sierra Chapman
schapman@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Óðinshof

Miðsumar
AT
ÓÐINSHOF
JUNE 19TH–21ST

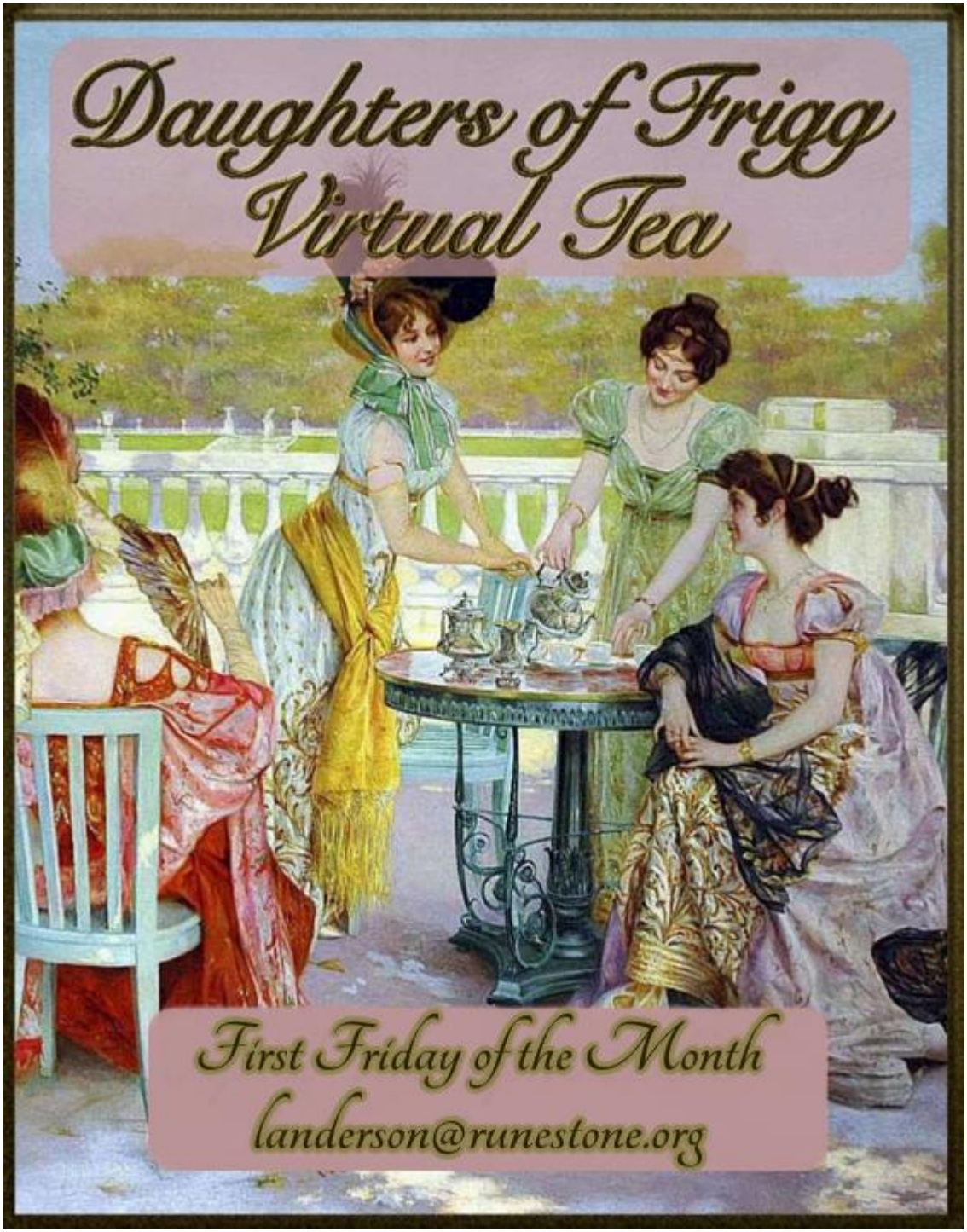
Work Day at Óðinshof



Óðinshof Wishlist

https://tinyurl.com/Óðinnshofwishlist

Monthly Virtual Members' Meetings



Friday, June 12th
5:00 AT, 6:00 PT
7:00 MT
Members and spouses throughout Óðinshof District… come join us!
Hosted by
Gyðja Sheila McNallen
Founder Stephen McNallen
Use our regular Teams Link.
Odinsfolk Chat

Monthly Members' Meeting

Arizona

Lunch Mót

Upcoming Events

MIDSUMMER
Celebrate the Light
JUNE 20TH
in Sahuarita, AZ
WATER PLAY
BUBBLES
AND OTHER ENGAGING FAMILY ACTIVITIES
Please bring your suits, towels, and sunscreen for a fun family-friendly day to
celebrate the summer solstice.
MAIN DISHES AND DRINKS PROVIDED, BUT PLEASE BRING A SIDE OR DESSERT!
LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED CLOSER TO THE EVENT.
RSVP TO
EMILY NICKERSON
408-368-9594

Folkbuilder Lou Nickerson
lnickerson@runestone.org

Colorado

A Colorado Sumarmál

Colorado had a wonderful Sumarmál gathering on the weekend of the 16th. We had 8 adults and 5 little kids. A few of these were new attendees. But we were missing a total of 5 regular folks. That says that the Colorado AFA community is growing larger and larger!

We had a beautiful Blót to Freyja this day. During our Blót, Þórr thundered above our heads as we called out the Hammer Rite and it began to gently rain on us. A true blessing for the dry winter we had here in Colorado. A large potluck meal with many delicious dishes. Sumbl followed with several home-brewed meads and several folks getting up to sing for the open round. One attendee sang a song in Gaelic. Lots of great conversations and comradery went on throughout the day. It was an amazing event!

Please join us next month for an adventure Mót! We'll be going to the top of America's Mountain... Pikes Peak! There's a shuttle bus that can drive us all up. We hope to see you with us on top of the world for a Wotan on the Peaks! Kindly email eharrison@runestone.org for the shuttle ticket information.

Also, join us in July for the Colorado Renaissance Festival! We had so much fun last year, we're going again! Come in your medieval costumes for more fun!

Upcoming Events

Erin Harrison
Apprentice Folkbuilder
eharrison@runestone.org

Idaho

Upcoming Events

Chad Reis
Apprentice Folkbuilder
creis@runestone.org

Montana

Eastern Montana Picnic

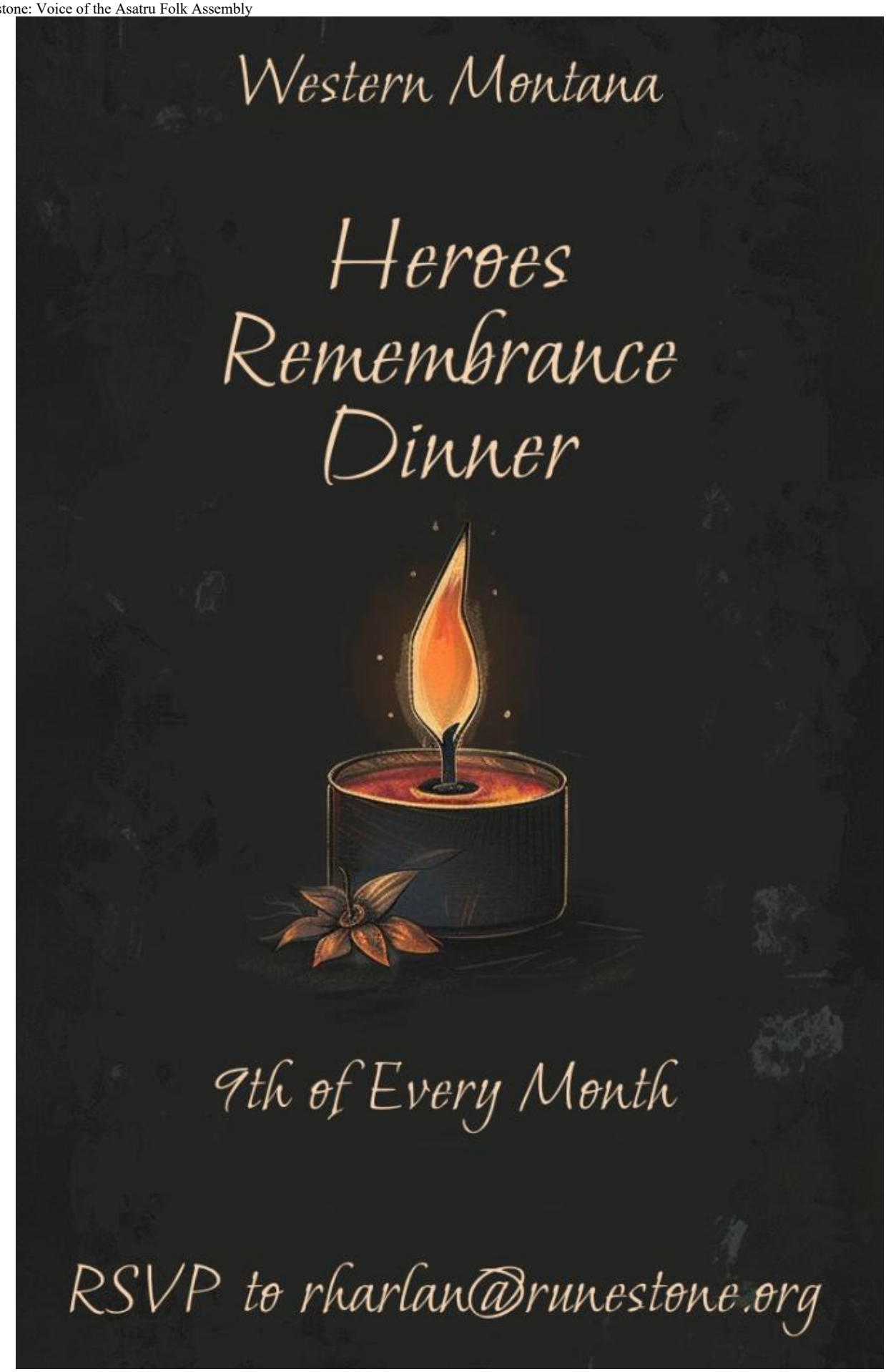
Folkbuilder Tyler Heinlein
theinlein@runestone.org

Birthdays and Butterflies

May arrived with a 2nd birthday celebration for our youngest daughter, Wilhelmina. Amazing how the time flies and how fast they grow! Full of wonder and personality. The Lilla Ullevei Kindred Sumarmál was held on May 2nd at the MacDonald residence. A BBQ, spiritual discussion, dancing around the May Pole, making of Flower Crowns and overall merriment were had.

On the 9th, we caravaned up to the top of the Continental Divide for our Day of Remembrance above 7000ft. We had planned on going higher, but a few snow drifts hindered our plans. Despite the offending drifts, we enjoyed the crisp weather and hailed Járnskeggja and John Gibbs Bailey. And speaking of Mr. Bailey, he and I share a birthday. On May 22, I celebrated turning 43 with a Family BBQ. No cake needed. Just stick a candle in a Ribeye and I'm happy! I even got some nice gifts, a couple of which were made by some of our very own craftsmen. Thanks to Gilbert Page for the lovely carving, and for my new shirt. Happy birthday to Hoskuld and happy birthday to me! The remainder of the month has seen us enjoying the outdoors and warmer weather.

Upcoming Events


Western Montana
Heroes
Remembrance
Dinner
9th of Every Month
RSVP to rharlan@runestone.org

Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan
rharlan@runestone.org

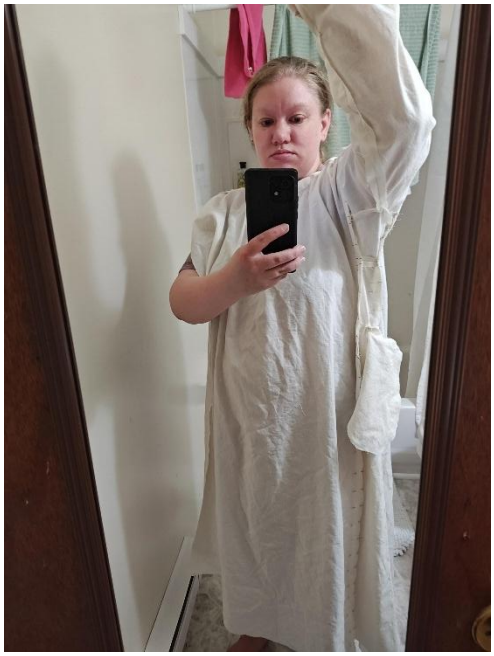
Washington

Creating a Wedding Dress

After a woman gets engaged, she immediately starts to think about her wedding dress, and so it was with me. I spent a few weeks looking at dress ideas online, looking at bridal shops in my area, and contemplating both my last (horrible) experience in a dress store, and the one-time use of traditional wedding dresses. There was also the not insignificant point that I have always hated wearing white.

After much thinking, and inspired by Angela Robichaud, I decided to make my own dress. I had a Russian *serafan* pattern already from Folkwear Patterns, but wanted an under dress instead of a blouse as is traditionally worn with *serafans*. So, I went back to Folkwear and found a pattern for a German *Kittel* which would work perfectly. The plan was to make mockups of both dresses to analyze what I liked and what I wanted to change, then get the wedding dress fabric and make the final dresses. I picked up some cheap cotton at Walmart, cut both dresses out, and sewed the *Kittel* mockup. That was in July of 2025.

Then I moved. Everything went into a box, and I didn't start work on any of it again until late January of this year.



I am glad I made the *Kittel* mock up, because I did end up wanting to change how all the pleating at the neck and wrists was done. I had them move outward from center instead of all going in one direction. I made the final dress out of 100% linen and added Slavic cross stitch on the sleeves using water-soluble cross stitch canvas.

Then I got to the *serafan,* the over dress, the focal point, and just went "eh, I'ma wing it." The pattern suggested light weight fabrics such as silk, cotton, or rayon. I used light weight wool (from Dorr Mill as recommended by Angela). Did I need to alter the pattern to take into account the difference in fabric weight? Yes. Did I panic text Angela about it? Yes. Did I then ignore the three paragraphs of detailed instructions the pattern gave on how to mathematically figure out how many pleats to make based on personal back measurements? Yes. I eyeballed every pleat on my wedding dress. Probably don't do this, but it turned out fine, so...

My aunt helped me hem both dresses, and then I embroidered swastikas into the *serafan* hem. I wore thick, sensible socks from The Vermont Country Store, brown boots I've had for years, and a Gunn tartan sash. I plan on re-wearing both dresses apart and together for years and might add ribbon elements to the *serafan* at some point.

The moral of this story is do whatever works for you, but don't let the Bridal Industry guilt you into anything. Also, probably don't wing dress patterns. Also, Angela Robichaud is an angel who always answered every question I had, even when they were patently stupid.

Upcoming Events

Annika Gunn
Apprentice Folkbuilder
agunn@runestone.org

Our Wedding

When I first met this amazing woman in the Vé at Þórshof, I knew full well I was going to marry her. It was as though Þórr himself just put her down in front of me and said, "You see this girl? She's perfect for you, marry her." It was undeniable that we were meant to be together, and probably about two months into our relationship we started seriously planning our wedding. We weighed our options. There was a few pretty strong contenders, Þórshof itself being one, but we ultimately decided on a place called Kamiak Butte.

This is something of a traditional wedding spot in the Palouse region of Washington state. My parents didn't tie the knot there, but scores of relatives on my dad's side have for the better part of a century. It's a county park comprised of a small, forested rock outcropping overlooking undulating wheat fields as far as the eye could see. It felt right from the beginning. Because it's already tied into my familial Urð, it was a fitting place for our families to join together and become one. When she first flew up here to visit last summer, it was the first place I took her. In all honesty, that was the first time I'd been there too. I'd only heard about it from family members prior, I didn't grow up in the area, but I knew instantaneously that it was the place. There was definitely an unplanned theme of ancestral veneration at play in this wedding. I bought a kilt in the ancient Clan Gunn tartan specifically for this purpose, as did my dad. Annika bought a sash in that same tartan to go with the dress she made from scratch, and my mom bought one in the Robertson tartan. We didn't really plan anything meticulously, everything sort of just fell into place as the Gods and the ancestors willed it.

We flew Spekingr Svan up from Virginia to officiate the ceremony, as he'd agreed to way back before we'd even finalized a location. It was an honor to have him here for this, and he was a blast to have around. A very sizable amount of the weekend both before and after the wedding involved driving all over the place and hanging out with Spekingr Svan, and there was never a dull moment. Chad and my old buddy Gino were my best men, and Chad's wife Amber and his daughter Juniper were Annika's bridesmaids. We rehearsed the bare bones of the ceremony the day before, and it wasn't as complex as I had expected. Pretty straightforward, even. The whole thing was relatively stress-free, which surprised me

somewhat. There were a lot of moving parts, but they all fit into each other without any major hangups. Although neither me nor Annika cared much either way, the weather was a big factor for some of the guests. There was supposed to be rolling thunderstorms all throughout the day, which is awesome, but sadly that scared off a few people. It was their loss, because that ended up being one of the most profound parts of the wedding for everyone who attended.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that most of the people at our wedding weren't of our faith. Of those who came, I'd reckon a third were Ásatrú. Most came into this knowing next to nothing about what we believe or what we do. I don't think they could have gotten a better introduction. The entire day was loaded with these very clear auspicious signs that were perfectly timed. It was about ten minutes before the wedding was supposed to happen and most had already arrived when these bulbous gray thunderclouds started rolling in from the east. I was in the process of herding everybody toward the amphitheater and this peal of thunder cracks off in the distance. I turn to my left and see Spekingr Svan running out of the bushes with a look of elation on his face, and he points up and says almost whisper-shouting "*He's here."*

The clouds didn't dump rain on us but instead stayed a good couple of miles away, moving around the butte in a semicircle. I wasn't paying a lot of attention to them as me and my groomsmen were waiting for our signal to move up toward the altar. As Spekingr Svan hallowed the space, the clouds parted and the sun beamed down. It was drizzly and overcast for most of the day save for the ceremony itself. When Annika and her father were moving toward the altar, there was a breeze that rustled the leaves, and in the silence, it sounded like applause. Because it was. We exchanged sword and keys respectively, and said our vows. Time slowed way down and most of my memory of the next few minutes was her face. Once we had exchanged our vows before the Gods and were officially husband and wife, a chorus of birds rang out from out of the trees as we walked down the aisle. I'm not embellishing any of this for effect, ask anyone who was there. One thing that was said over and over by people in attendance, specifically those who weren't Ásatrú was something to the effect of "Your Gods were with you today." And it was always said with absolute sincerity. I want to think that it awoke something in them, everyone there was one of our people so it was innate to them. Blood memory runs deep.

It was all in all a spectacularly beautiful wedding, and I just want to thank everyone who made this possible. Whether they're reading this or not, or whether or not they were there to witness it. That includes the entire Assembly in a lot of ways. Most of all, I look forward to spending the rest of my life with Annika and building our family here together. Hails, till next time.

Upcoming Events

Folkbuilder Nick Gunn
ngunn@runestone.org

Þórshof

Second Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.Thorshof.com

Food Pantry at Þórshof

This month before another Frith-filled day, and an amazing Sumarmál Blót held by none other than our very own Spekingr Young, we had our food pantry. As many of you are aware, these days everyone is having ongoing issues meeting supplies for food pantry. However, with the phenomenal generosity of our Folk, we proudly fed 12 families. Thank you to all of you for your continued generosity.

Craig Flynn
Hof Steward
cflynn@runestone.org

Sumarmál at Þórshof

This past month, Folk gathered at Þórshof from across the Carolinas and Virginia to celebrate Sumarmál, the ancient turning of the seasons and the emergence of light, growth, and possibility.

The day culminated with the raising of the Maypole, standing as a symbol of life, fertility, and the sacred union of heaven and earth. Following its erection, the Folk joined together in the traditional Maypole dance, celebrating community, joy, and the arrival of the summer season.

Our sermon focused on the relentless pursuit of what lies beyond the boundaries of our lives. Growth demands that we step beyond fear and beyond the limitations we place upon ourselves. The path of becoming requires courage, the willingness to cross thresholds and seek what waits on the other side. You can read the whole sermon, *Beyond the Horizon*, up top towards the beginning of the newsletter.

Central to our observance was a Blót honoring Freyr and Gerð, celebrating their sacred union. Their story reminds us that abundance often comes through sacrifice, longing, and the willingness to bridge seemingly impossible distances. Their joining represents the reconciliation of opposites and the promise of fertility, prosperity, and renewal.

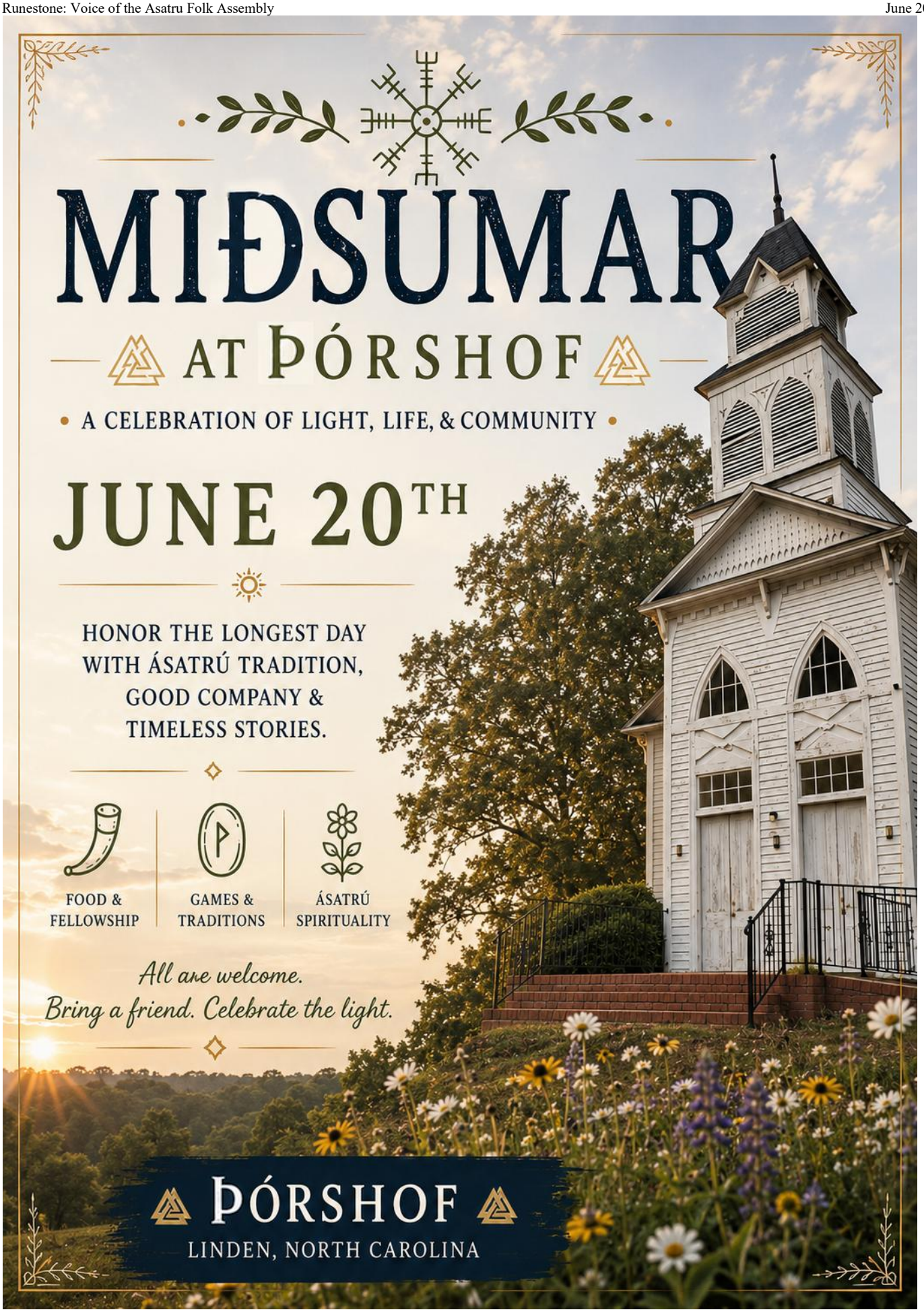
Throughout the day, the theme of emergence remained ever-present. We reflected upon Dagaz, the rune of dawn, transformation, and breakthrough, the crossing from darkness into light, from potential into manifestation, from being into becoming.

As the seasons turn and the days lengthen, may we all find the strength to cross our own boundaries, pursue what calls us forward, and emerge renewed into the light.

Hail Freyr!
Hail Gerð!
Hail The Æsir!

Spekingr Daniel Young
dyoung@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Þórshof


MIÐSUMAR
AT ÞÓRSHOF
• A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT, LIFE, & COMMUNITY •
JUNE 20TH
HONOR THE LONGEST DAY
WITH ÁSATRÚ TRADITION,
GOOD COMPANY &
TIMELESS STORIES.
FOOD & FELLOWSHIP
GAMES & TRADITIONS
ÁSATRÚ SPIRITUALITY
All are welcome.
Bring a friend. Celebrate the light.
ÞÓRSHOF
LINDEN, NORTH CAROLINA

Þórshof Wishlist

https://tinyurl.com/ÞórrshofWishlist

Cleaning supplies, food pantry canned goods and pantry staples, beautification materials, and all sorts of things are up on our Amazon Wishlist if you'd like to donate to help keep the Hof running, comfortable, fun, and a fitting tribute to Miðgarðr's Protector.

Gyðja Heather Young
hyoung@runestone.org

Work Day at Þórshof

Craig Flynn
Hof Steward
cflynn@runestone.org

Monthly Members' Meeting

North Carolina

North Carolina Birthday Party

Craig Flynn
Hof Steward
cflynn@runestone.org

Welcoming a New Apprentice Folkbuilder

Please welcome Nick Chambers of North Carolina as the newest apprentice Folkbuilder for the Þórshof District! We are excited to see the success Nick will achieve in the coming months and years!

Hail Nick Chambers!
Hail the AFA!
Hail Þórr!

A Folkbuilding Introduction

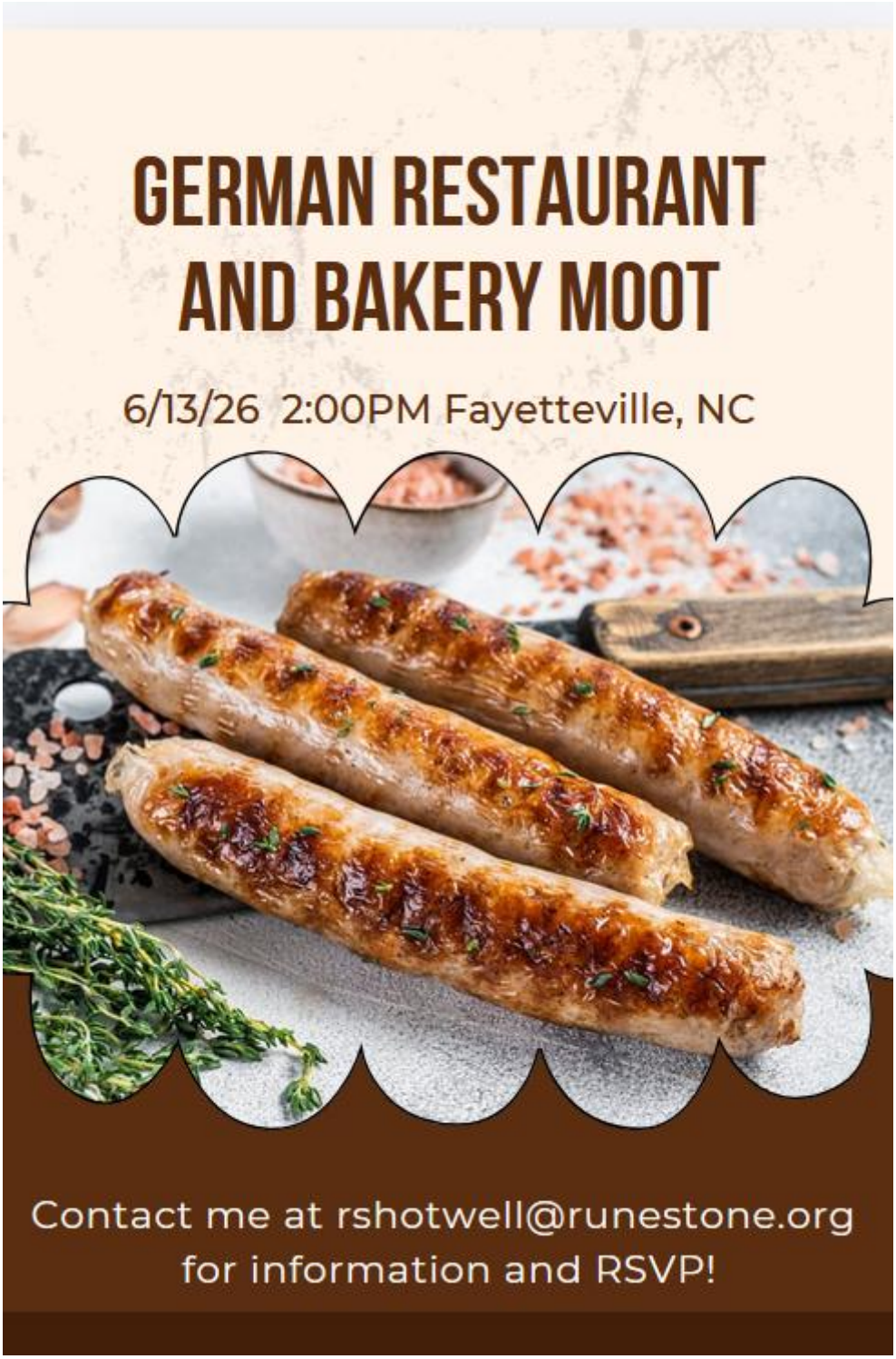
Hey everybody, I have the honor and privilege of being the newest apprentice Folkbuilder for the Þórshof district! My name is Nick Chambers, and I am located close to the Hof. Some of you I have already met and had great conversations with, but for those I've yet to meet, some quick background information. I have been a believer in the Æsir for a while now yet was entirely solitary prior to joining the AFA. I joined up back in December just in time for Jól after a rather Wyrd way of finding my way to Þórshof. On my way home from work one day, I had a detour for some road construction. Well, I managed to miss my turn, instead of making a U-turn or setting my GPS, I looked at the Vegvísir hanging on my rear-view mirror and said something along the lines of "I trust the Gods to take me where I need to go, and to see me home." Entirely believing those two placefs to be the same thing in the moment, until I drove right past Þórshof, burnt orange sign clearly visible from the road. I now realize they were two entirely different things; in the short time I have been here I feel I've found the place I am supposed to be. I decided to step up and try my hand at this Folkbuilder thing out of desire and a sense of duty to help with building a place for our Folk to return to.

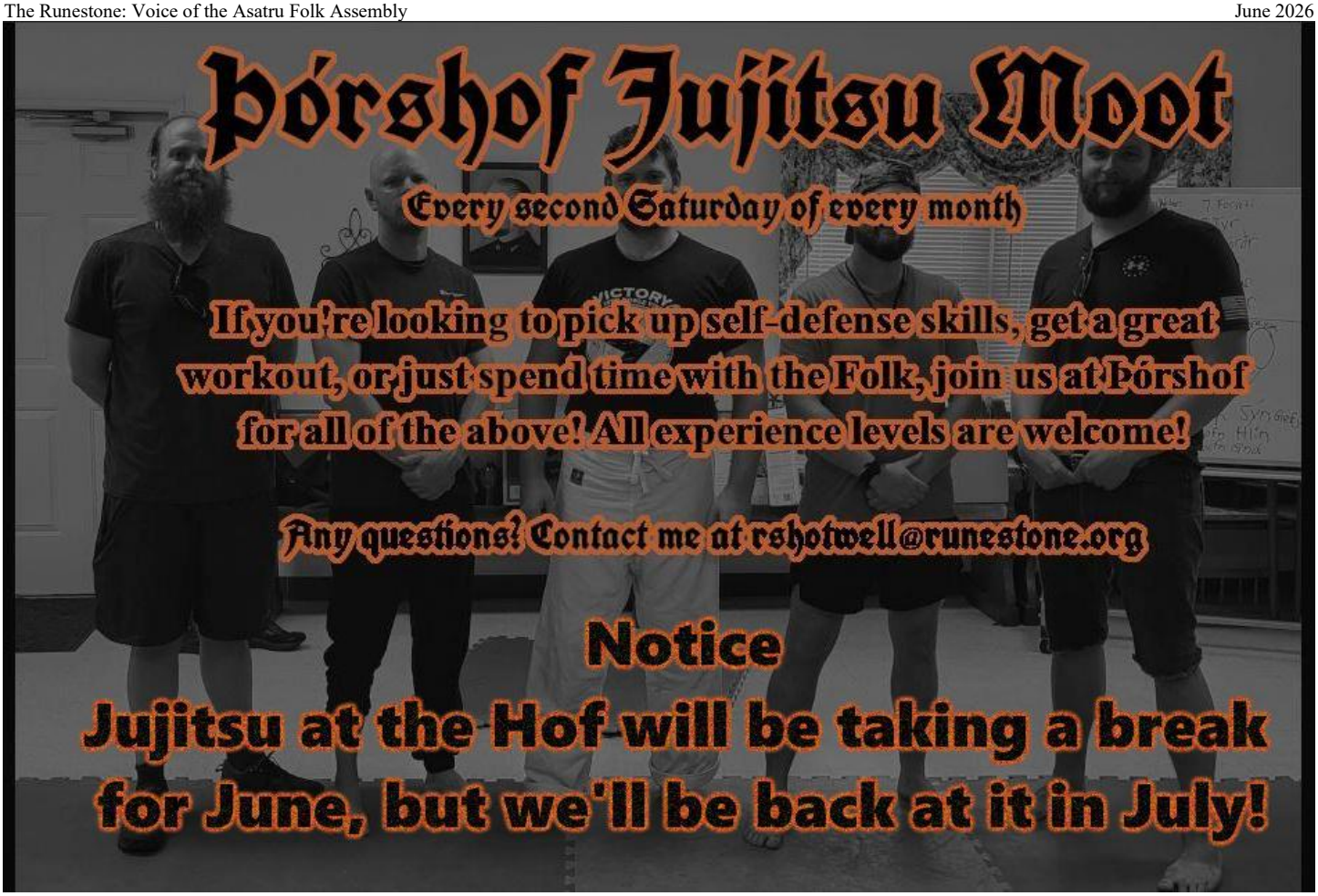
So yeah, I look forward to continuing to build Frith with those of you I already know and getting to know those of you I don't. If anybody has any questions or needs assistance, you can reach me at nchambers@runestone.org.

I probably will not have the answers to all questions, but I will do what I can to put you in contact with the right people when I don't.

Nick Chambers
Apprentice Folkbuilder
nchambers@runestone.org

Upcoming Events





Folkbuilder Robert Shotwell
rshotwell@runestone.org

South Carolina

The Cowpens

This past weekend, my family met up with Spekingr and Gyðja Young at The Cowpens, an important Revolutionary War site in South Carolina. A field used by local cattlemen to gather their stock to graze before driving them to market in Charleston, it was the gathering place for several militia groups before the assault on Patrick Ferguson's loyalists at King's Mountain where they destroyed the left flank of General Cornwallis' British Army, and later the site of the destruction of the British right flank under Banastre Tarleton. The battle at The Cowpens was a culmination of several years of bloody civil war in South Carolina; rarely were uniformed troops engaged in combat - this fight was between Carolinian patriots and loyalists.

One of the key leaders on the patriot side was a man named Andrew Pickens, a renowned Indian fighter and a very famous figure in our "golden corner" of South Carolina. Much of Clemson University sits on his former land, his name

was given to the county and the county seat surrounding the University, and his residence at the time of his death was a few miles from where I currently sit, in a valley that I love to hunt deer and bear. My oldest son, Tristan, is quick to tell you that Andrew Pickens is his favorite South Carolinian, and he is quick to tell you of his exploits. In a region where seemingly everyone has a Cherokee ancestor, Tristan will tell you about how the Cherokee were our chief enemy for decades. Aligned with the British due to a promise that Whites would not settle west of the Appalachian Mountains, they wreaked havoc among his mountain dwelling ancestors of this county. In 1775 and '76, while what passed for a Continental Army was busy in the northern colonies, the Cherokee rose up and began burning homesteads and murdering colonists. Andrew Pickens took his militia on a campaign against the Cherokee "lower towns," mainly along the Keowee and Savannah Rivers, and utterly broke their backs. One of the more famous engagements came to be known as The Ring Fight, a bloody engagement near the Cherokee town of Tamassee. Pickens' militia became surrounded in a field of river cane on the approach to the town, receiving fire from all sides. His men formed a circle and fought tenaciously, breaking the ambush and securing victory against a superior enemy force. Years later, Pickens would build a home near the site, and it was there that he died. In 1781, Pickens commanded the militia at Cowpens, standing and firing two devastating volleys into British regulars before tactically retreating into the line of Continental regulars who completely broke the British force.

The British army notoriously held militia forces in contempt. Historically, militia would break and flee when faced with a superior, disciplined force of British regulars. Patriot commander Daniel Morgan knew this and decided to use it to his advantage. What followed was a classic double envelopment, trapping the British forces between Colonel Pickens' Militia on the British right, Colonel Washington's light infantry and cavalry on the British left, and General Morgan's regulars in the center. Despite bold charges from British dragoons and the legendary 71st Fraser's Highlanders, the Americans pulled off a complete victory that neutered General Cornwallis and effectively ended any semblance of British control over South Carolina. Just 9 months later, Cornwallis would surrender his army at Yorktown, Virginia, effectively ending the war for Independence, though the war would not formally end until the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783.

Proud Americans that we are, we are also proud descendants of Britain, and we celebrate that heritage quite often. We take great pride in the role that our ancestors have played in British history, and we have told their stories at many a Sumbl. In preparing for our battlefield visit, my sons and I watched *The Patriot* so that they could see the (however fictionalized) tactics used at Cowpens in order to better interpret the battlefield. The boys marveled at the discipline, sharp lines, and crisp uniforms of the British troops while also pointing out how sad it was that Aryan men shot each other down the way that they did. This turned into a broader conversation about the history of warfare and the concept of the countless "brother wars" that we have fought seemingly since our creation. I didn't have good answers for them when they asked me why we have to fight each other, but it did provide an opportunity to counsel them on how important it is for us to work together for the good of our people, and to always try our best to squash the seemingly incessant infighting that plagues

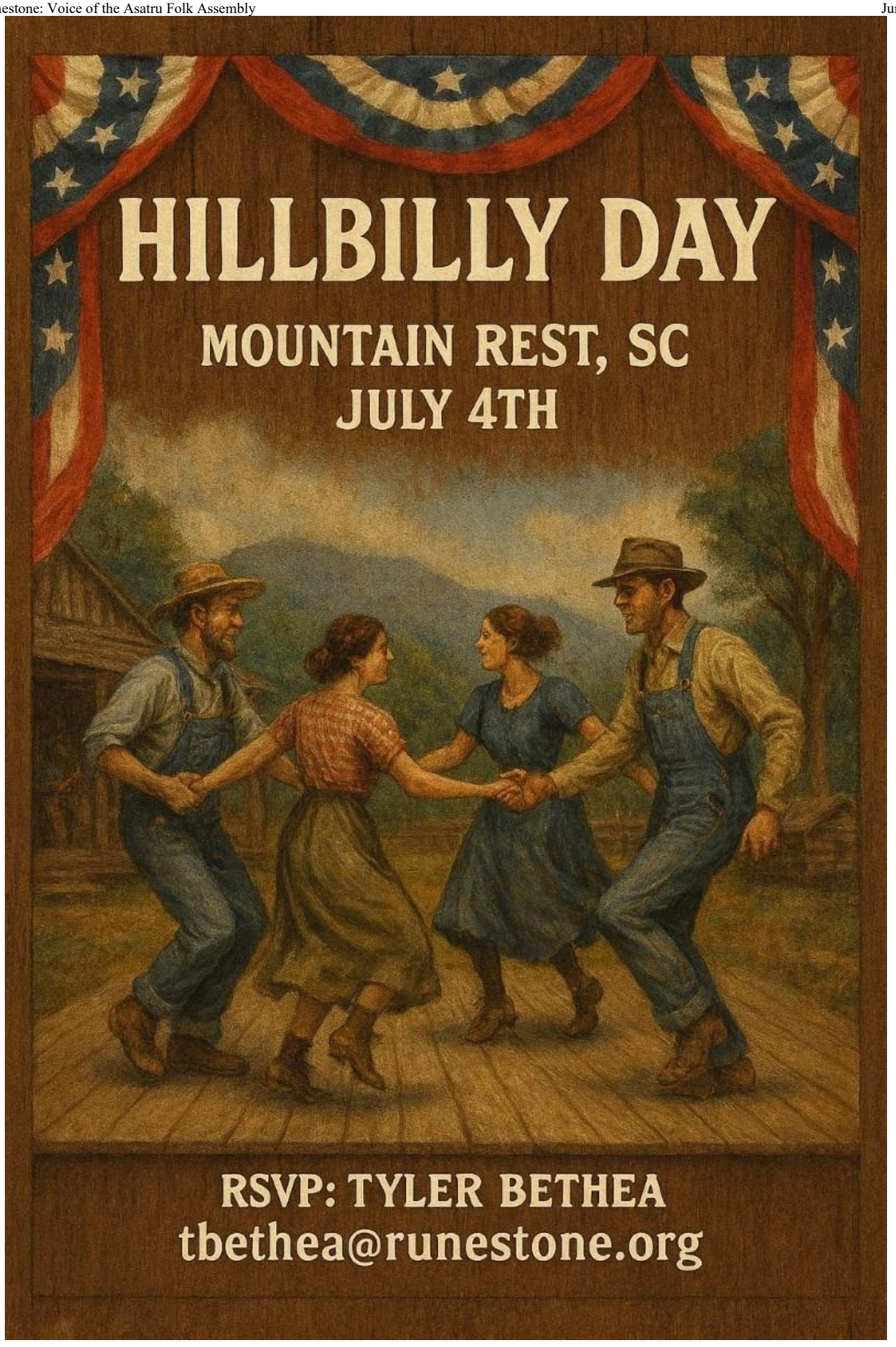
our people. We talked about historic examples such as our Heilagmaðr, Prince Hermann, and what we are capable of when we stand together.

With these conversations fresh in our minds, the boys took a lot of pride and pleasure in looking at the British military artifacts on display at the battlefield. They were quick to point out the unique pieces used by the Highland regiment, a favorite of ours. We talked about how we are proud Americans, but we are also proud to be British and reminisced about honoring Patrick Ferguson and his mix of Highlanders and Loyalists who fell at King's Mountain. History is complicated, and it can stir conflicting and confusing emotions, especially in the younger members of our Folk, but it is well and good that we have strong Ásatrú leaders around us to help us navigate those emotions. Having the Youngs with us at the battlefield was an absolute treat, and we shared many laughs and a love of history and country while we sweat buckets in the Carolina humidity. A sobering moment came after Spekingr Young conducted Blót; we brought along faded US and South Carolina flags to retire at the battlefield. We dedicated those flags near where the British line broke and spoke about what those flags represented and the men that fell there to make them what they are. As I turned to pack up our supplies, I looked over my shoulder and caught my oldest son standing at rigid attention, delivering a crisp and solemn salute to the two flags that were hanging just outside of our circle. These are the proud memories I carry with me.

If you are still reading this, I would love to have you join myself and the Youngs while we tour more Revolutionary battlefields as we commemorate the 250th birthday of our American Nation. On June 13th, we will be visiting the battlefield of Fort Ninety Six, which has been beautifully preserved. Trench lines and breastworks are still intact and recognizable at this iconic star-shaped fort, and the staff includes several published authors that possess a wealth of information on the Southern Campaign. I hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events

BATTLEFIELD WALK
AT THE BATTLE OF
NINETY SIX
SOUTH CAROLINA
JUNE 13
RSVP TO FOLKBUILDER TYLER BETHEA
TBETHEA@RUNESTONE.ORG


HILLBILLY DAY
MOUNTAIN REST, SC
JULY 4TH
RSVP: TYLER BETHEA
tbethea@runestone.org

Folkbuilder Ryan Skinner
rskinner@runestone.org

Tennessee

Sacred Spaces

As members of the Asatru Folk Assembly, we are wonderfully blessed to have 5 Hofs. Amazing things have happened in recent years as it becomes easier for more people to access our sacred spaces. At the same time, not all of us can attend a Hof monthly and wish to find ways to give honor to the Æsir closer to home. Here in Appalachia, we had created a makeshift ritual space on our property a couple of years ago.

There was a fire circle, a sloped, cleared space around it. Our property was covered in stones of various sizes. 2.5 years ago, I gathered all those stones and built my first Hörgr. It was a labor of love, and this worked for a time. However, the area was also used for any fires we had, the slope was not ideal, and it was multipurpose—sacred and mundane. Another house project has been the creation of a fence… still being built paycheck by paycheck.

It was during this project that we were inspired to create a new ritual space—one that would be specific to that purpose, better designed for wind and privacy. All spring, we chipped away at the task: build fence, rip up ivy, burn away stumps. I completely took apart the Hörgr and rebuilt it in the new spot, under a tree facing north. Countless loads of free mulch left from local tree removals was shoveled, carted and spread into our new space. Branches were cut, ashes threatened a catastrophic shed fire, so much work that was only completed the day before the Folk arrived for Sumarmál. On that day, the Allsherjargoði blessed the space we dedicate to the Æsir. This has been a months-long sweaty sacrifice to our Gods for a future of reverence, piety, and celebration. If you can, create a physical space dedicated to worship. We pour out mead, we pour out sweat, so that the sacred can have a dedicated space in our lives.

An East Tennessee Sumarmál

May has been a wonderful and connected time for Northeast Tennessee. We began the month by inviting a new member into Appalachian Hearth Kindred and talked about the intentions of our group and spiritual practice so that our coming year can be filled with purpose and wonderful fruit. Although big events are amazing and impressive, I find the most spiritual fulfillment in the small, intimate gatherings that deepen interpersonal connection and allow for more nuanced conversation about Ásatrú practice and belief. We made plans…

One week later, we hosted our annual May Day, now Sumarmál, event. This is our fourth ritual of its kind and each year we find ways to make it better. The women made flower crowns, the men performed feats of strength. We danced in circles and feasted. There was a very vocal recipient of Ausa Vatni who was presented and named before his Folk. In order to ensure that those that traveled to us could be present for all rituals including Sumbl, we took a page from the Njörðshof book and kept the itinerary moving along. Some event-goers were able to experience their very first Sumbl. We were blessed to have the Allsherjargoði and his family attend and bless our new ritual space. It was a lovely, beautiful day and I am so very thankful to all who came out to our house.

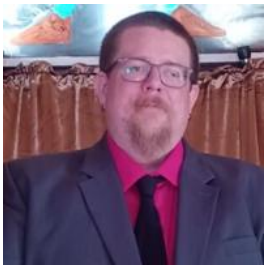
As the evening wound down, a small crew remained around the fire to talk more about what assists our Ásatrú practice and bond with each other. We continued in the morning and had a wonderful breakfast and pajama time together. Our kindred also asked for guidance for our group for the coming year and drew runes to ruminate on. Here's to a new beginning and deeper Ásatrú roots in Appalachia!

Rachel Kinsler
Homeschool Coach, Ásatrú Academy
rkinsler@runestone.org

At Summer's Crown

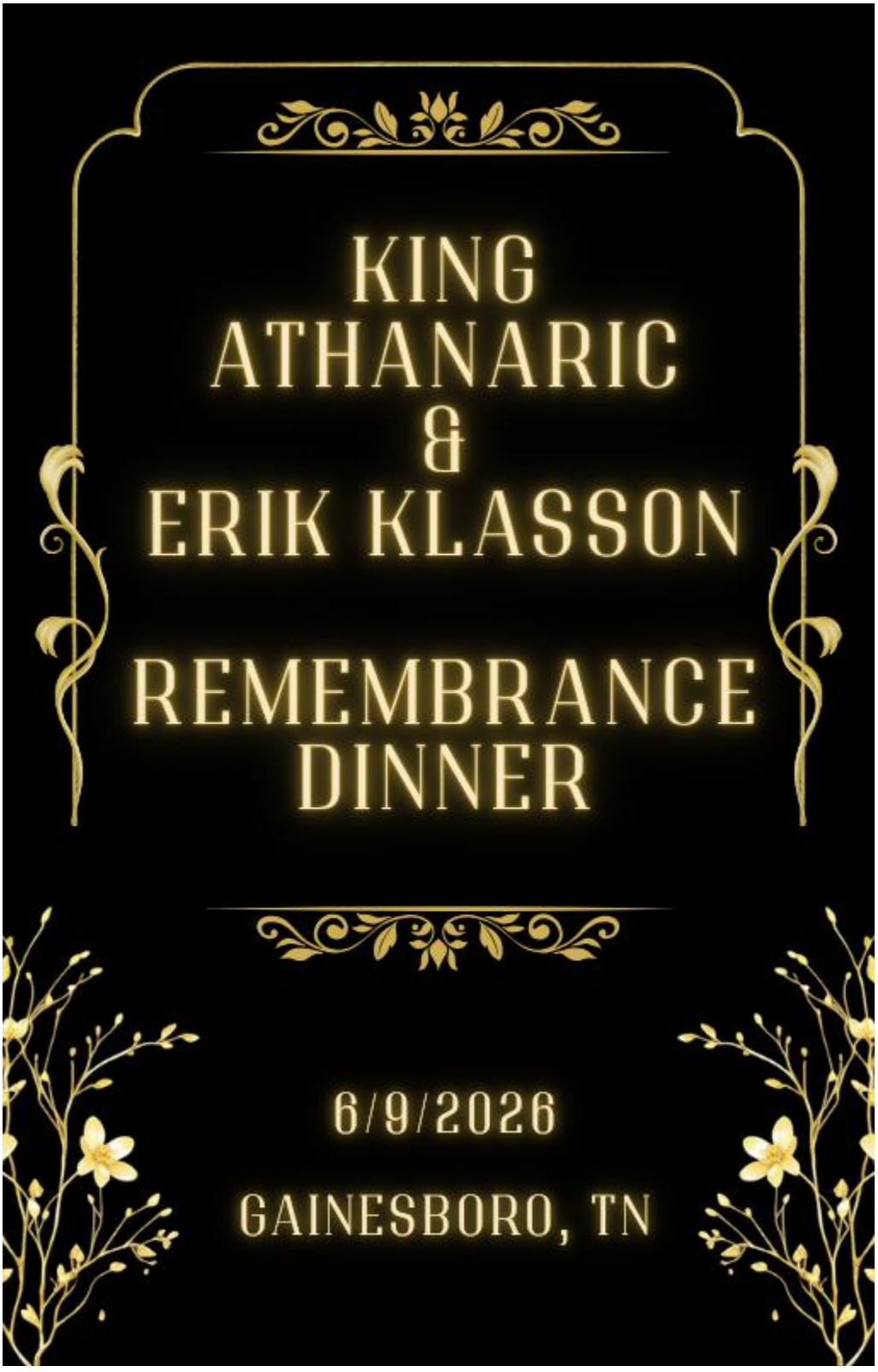
Miðsumar comes and Baldr wakes, with golden step and laughing flame,
The long sun rides through field and grove, and all the Folk rejoice his name.
Bright Sunna pours her warmth anew on hill and hearth and budding grain,
And life once coaxed from thawing earth now rises strong through summer rain.

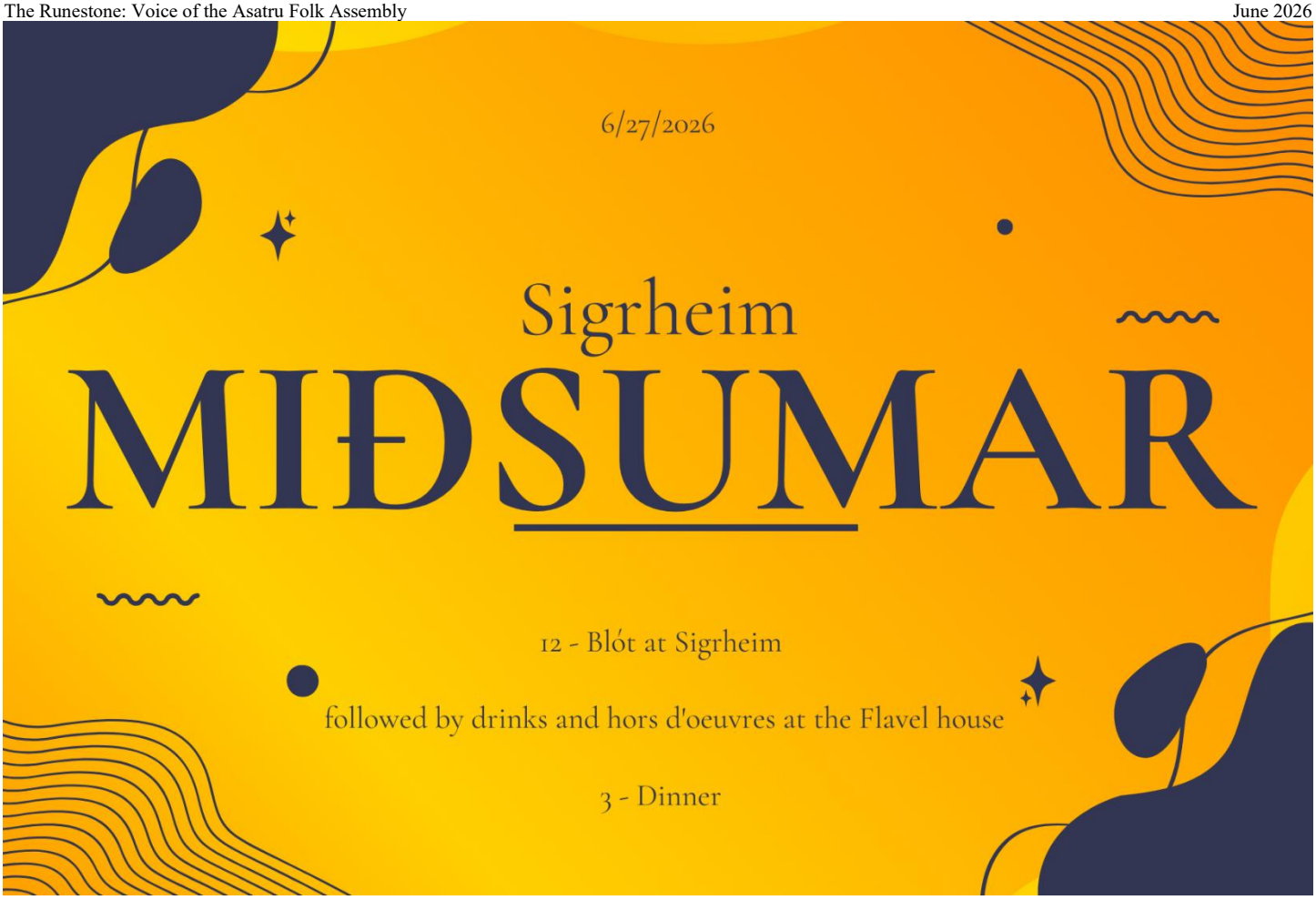
The plow rests easy by the fence, the seed now waits and grows below,
For now the labor changes shape to patient hands that help things grow.
Through steady care and watchful hearts the orchards swell, the green shoots climb,
And Folk endure with faithful will beneath the height of summer’s time.



Folkbuilder Nick Rice
nrice@runestone.org

Upcoming Events





Matthew D. Flavel
Allsherjargoði, Asatru Folk Assembly
mattflavel@runestone.org

Virginia

Upcoming Events

Rachel Kinsler
Homeschool Coach, Ásatrú Academy
rkinsler@runestone.org

Nourish Your Soul Through Nature

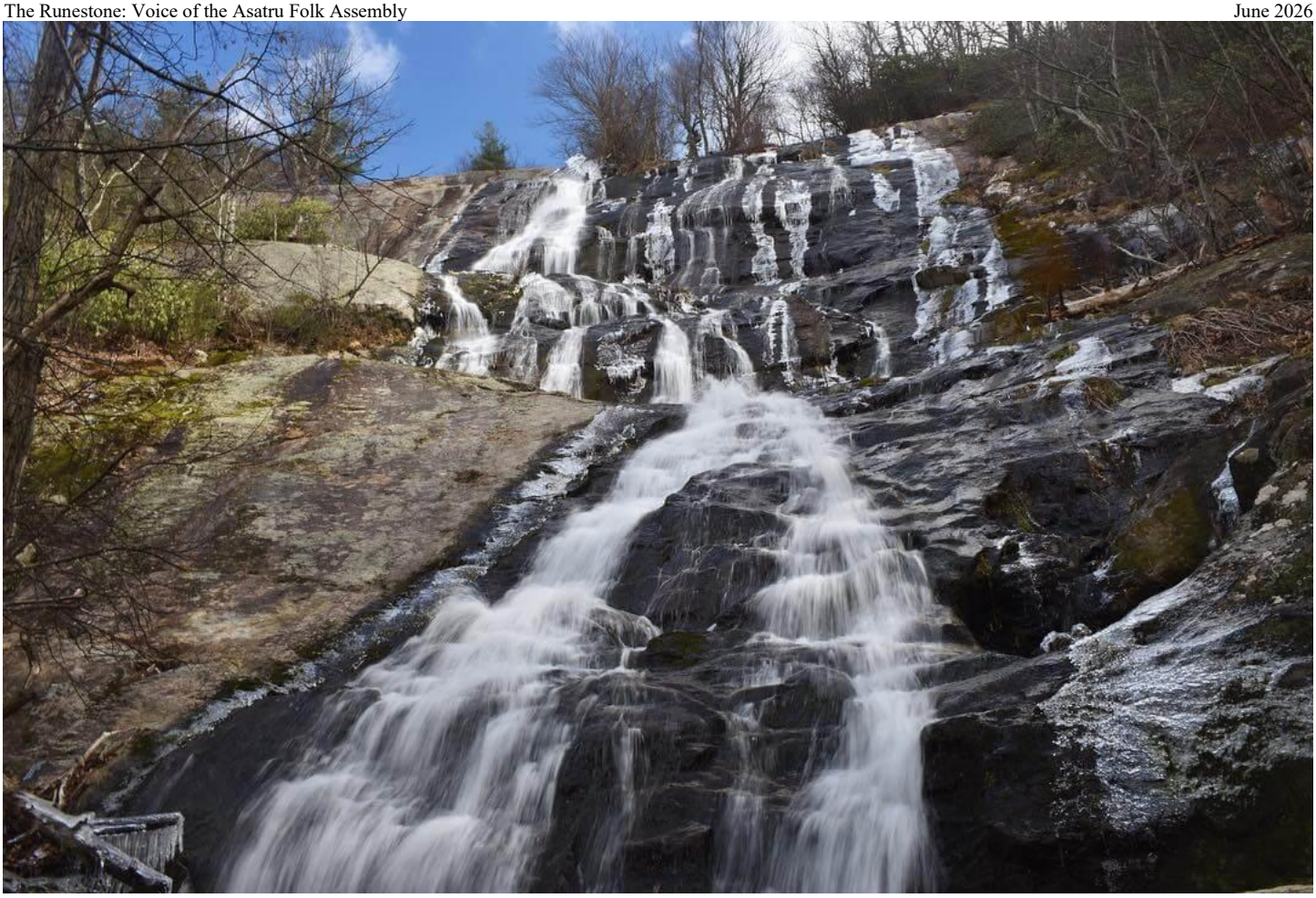
Two weekends ago I had to go downtown to do a specific errand. It doesn't matter what state you live in, the downtowns are all similar. I was surrounded by worn down architecture, have-been shops, trash, no children, graffiti on every blank wall, a lack of shade or parks, and a generally stifling atmosphere. I got in, got out, and watched my stress level decrease the further I sped away.

The following weekend our family decided to go hiking near the Appalachian Trail up a ravine with amazing views and waterfalls. The difference between that atmosphere and the previous city weekend was striking.

The trail was bustling with activity and here is what I noticed: Almost no one had headphones in, most folks were in groups, everyone said hello or how are you when passing, there was not a single piece of litter, and it was 99.9% Folkish.

My children noticed and pointed out some of these bits too and my wife remarked that she felt she might as well be hiking in Germany… it felt so similar. What is it about nature and getting outside that resonates with the Aryan soul more than other people groups? Whatever the reason, it's very real.

Taking walks, exploring forests, gardening, hiking, hunting, and general outdoorsmanship are part of the DNA for the Aryan. It nourishes our souls in a way not felt by others. It doesn't take much exposure either. A little sun, a little forest, and several deep breaths later have all of us in a better state of mind.



I highly encourage you to follow your genes and spend time outside several times a week if possible. You never know who you might meet, because wherever you go outside there are certainly going to be other Folk there. It's in all of our DNA.

So put on a Mjölnir or Ásatrú t-shirt, leave the headphones at home, and meet the Folk.

Upcoming Events

RVA
Museum
Moot
Saturday
June 13th
12pm
RSVP ttraficanti@Runestone.org

Taylor Traficanti
Apprentice Folkbuilder
ttraficanti@runestone.org

Baldrshof
Third Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.Baldrshof.org

Food Pantry at Baldrshof

The May food distribution at Baldrshof was an absolutely beautiful day! We were fortunate to have extra hands on-deck for our Sumarmál celebration, which made set up and clean up a breeze!

Our very meat-heavy (more than 750lbs total) distribution made for grateful hearts and joyous interactions.

We now have our regulars who gather prior to open—with limited advertisement opportunities, we are truly word of mouth, and the community knows they can count on us being there, come rain or shine, every 3rd Saturday! Being a staple in our neighbors' lives, gives us great pride in the trust we have worked so hard to establish in the community.

We are our deeds!

Folkbuilder Ashley Erlandson
aerlandson@runestone.org

Sumarmál at Baldrshof

Up in the great White North, Baldrshof hosted a special three-day event celebrating Sumarmál. The weather couldn't have been more perfect here in the North this time of year to honor the Æsir and continue the gift cycle.

The event began on Friday with a dedication to Else Christensen, Lord Baldr, and Honored Ancestors. That evening, the Folk were led in an amazing Blót to Lord Baldr by Spekingr Erickson, connecting us to the Bright One, son of Oðinn and Frigg.

Saturday brought more Folk to share in Frith and ritual. Gyðia Sara Ault led us in a Blót to the pious and loyal Nanna, wife of Baldr.

Activities and games took place for our children and adults alike. Goði Nathan Erlandson connected our Folk with Lord Freyr in a Blót of fertility with the gifts for the Folk present to return with for Freyfaxi this Fall. Following Blót, the Maypole was carried outside and erected where the Folk then commenced in dancing around the pole with ribbons previously blessed by our Women Folk, weaving over and under as the Folk danced around. Spekingr Brandy Fassett tied and trimmed the blessed ribbons handing out pieces to those gathered.

The weekend concluded Sunday with a Wayfarer Blót conducted by Spekingr Brandy wishing our travelers safe passage home.

Goði Nathan Erlandson
nerlandson@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Baldrshof

Baldrshof Miðsumar
June 20th
Contact Local Leadership

Baldrshof Wishlist – Help Keep Baldr's Light Shining

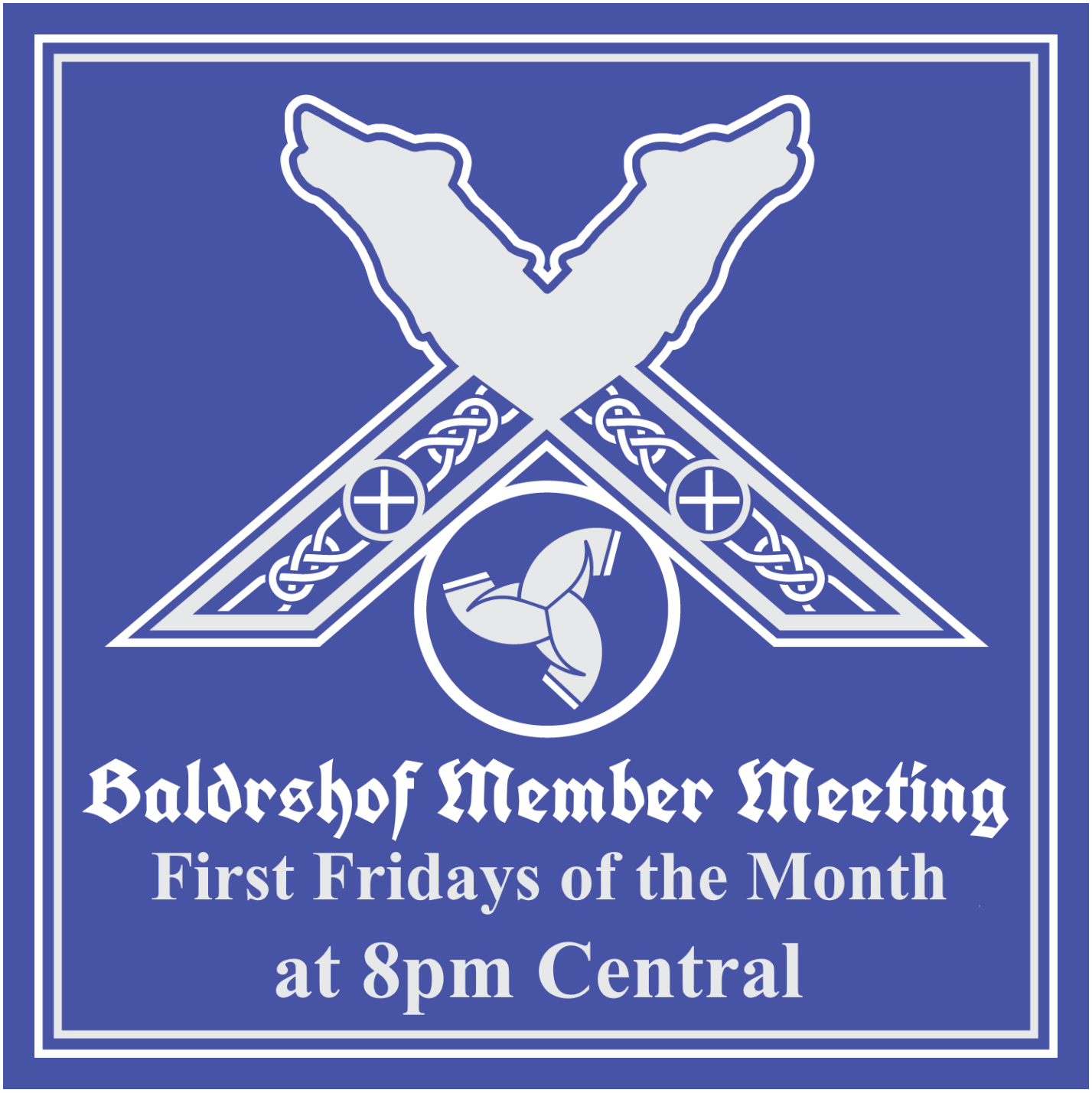
https://tinyurl.com/BaldrshofWishlist

Baldr's Steeple Project

We have a lot more to do, and we're determined to make it even more glorious and worthy of Baldr! Help the project as you, whether that be through donations or coming out to the Hof to swing a hammer.

Baldr's Steeple Project > https://store.runestone.org/product/baldrs-steeple-project/

Monthly Members' Meeting



Congratulations Lily!

I would like to take a moment and recognize one of the very familiar faces of Baldrshof who is now embarking on a major milestone.

Congratulations to Miss Lily, daughter of Folkbuilder Ashley and Goði Nathan Erlandson on her high school graduation! The Folk are very proud of you, and we all wish you the best and brightest blessings on your future endeavors.

Miss Lily has been a familiar and friendly face at Baldrshof events for many years. She has participated in our food pantry, monthly and national events, community outreach, as well as building maintenance. She has cleaned, pushed a mower, repaired broken items, welcomed newcomers, and herded children while maintaining grace and a smile. Her

humor and laugh are infectious, and her strength of character is inspiring for all of us and a wonderful example for the young ones at the Hof.

She has been a horn bearer many times, both in Blót and in Sumbl, and carries a pious regality each and every time. She has aided Spekingr Fassett time and again in Blót with bearing gifts, tending the altars, setting up and closing of our rituals. Even at her young age, her dedication to the worship of the Æsir and the seriousness with which she completes her assigned tasks is beautiful to see.

Lily, you are a beautiful young woman with incredible potential. Remember, as you move forward with these next steps, that your Folk are here to support you. You are part of our future, and you make that future hopeful and bright!

With graduation complete, Lily will be enlisting in the United States Marine Corps.

Upcoming Events

Illinois

Illinois Sumarmál

Upcoming Events

Missouri

Welcoming a New Apprentice Folkbuilder

Please welcome Austin Ethington of Missouri as the newest apprentice Folkbuilder for the Baldrshof District! We are excited to see the success Austin will achieve in the coming months and years!

Hail Austin Ethington!
Hail the AFA!
Hail Baldr!

Austin Ethington
Apprentice Folkbuilder
aethington@runestone.org

Welcoming a New Apprentice Folkbuilder

Please welcome Isaac Spiva as the newest apprentice Folkbuilder for the Baldrshof District! We are excited to see the success Isaac will achieve in the coming months and years!

Hail Isaac Spiva!
Hail the AFA!
Hail Baldr!

Isaac Spiva
Apprentice Folkbuilder
ispiva@runestone.org

Minnesota

A Wonderful Sumarmál and an Upcoming Hike

I'm very grateful to have made it to Sumarmál at Baldrshof last month. I have missed everyone and the Hof. I'm planning another hike for later this month and looking forward to getting out into the woods again and hopefully go tubing this summer. More events coming soon!

Senior Folkbuilder Jason Gallagher
jgallagher@runestone.org

Wisconsin

Upcoming Events

Johann Schattenforst
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jschattenforst@runestone.org

Potawatomi Hike Mót

My Mót for the month of May was a great time in the Potawatomi State Park in Wisconsin. I and one other member hiked a small section of the Ice Age Trail, a 1,200-mile trail in Wisconsin that roughly marks the maximum extent of the last continental ice sheet. This geological border is where some of Wisconsin's more scenic landscapes are home. Potawatomi State Park is not an exception. The picturesque view of Sturgeon Bay makes for a great hike. The photo for this Mót was taken on the scenic observation tower with an excellent view. On our jaunt through the park, my friend and I chit-chatted and enjoyed the bright, warm day. In total, and to say the least, the Mót was another satisfying way to spend with a friend, and I look forward to many more in the future.

Upcoming Events

Hiking &
Picnic Mót
Kettle Moraine, Wisconsin
Sunday, June 21st
Contact amerwald@runestone.org

Austin Merwald
Apprentice Folkbuilder
amerwald@runestone.org

Njörðshof

Fourth Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.Njordshof.org

Food Pantry at Njörðshof

On the 16th of May, the members of Njörðshof gathered to serve the community with our monthly food pantry. Once we started distributing the food we had packed, we went from full to nearly empty in less than twenty minutes. Altogether, we distributed food to 70 families in the White Springs Area! This was an overall positive experience in building Frith with our neighbors.

Come join us and brighten someone's day.

Michael van Dyk
Apprentice Folkbuilder
mvandyk@runestone.org

Sumarmál at Njörðshof

The Njörðshof Folk gathered this month under the bright blue skies of a gorgeous Florida panhandle day to celebrate Sumarmál and usher in Summer! We started off, as we always do, with our monthly food pantry. Many families were fed and we continued our church-wide mission to be good neighbors in our Hof communities.

Our Wonderful Maypole

When the last car of folks were served, we turned our hands to the tasks of the day, namely putting a fresh set of ribbons on our Hof Maypole and getting it ready along with making flower crowns for the ladies and girls in attendance. Afterwards we enjoyed a wonderful lunch made by the fantastic Pam McCloskey, who along with her husband Nick, are our most solid and generous Folk.

Then it was time for Blót! I had the honor of giving Blót to Holy Freyr, leading the Folk in giving the Lord of Alfheim his well-deserved worship for all the blessings that he has given us so far, and all the blessings we wish to continue receiving from him.

After a quick break and taking our awesome group picture, it was time to go outside and make like our ancestors and do cool ancient stuff! With our beautiful Maypole in place and ready to go, we danced it down with great mirth and merriment until it got too tight to keep our weaving straight. We then determined the youngest single man present, which was our Hof Steward Jon Voell, and promptly tied him to the Maypole with the remaining ribbon! Don't worry, he was only there long enough to receive a draught of mead and then he was a free man again!

Immediately after, with a small fire already going in our fire pit, all the menfolk present jumped the fire, which will hopefully give us renewed and continued vigor and vitality.

We retired into the cool embrace of the wonderful air conditioning inside the Hof and had a wonderful classroom time with myself, the Lawspeaker, and the Allsherjagoði all taking turns at the white board, expanding the knowledge of the Folk and generating good discussions about the Lore and other theological topics.

That ended when our great pasta dinner, made by my beloved Kristy, was fresh out of the oven and ready for us to dive into, which we all did with gusto! We are forever grateful for the loving care our Hof ladies show us by keeping us so well fed each month.

Lastly, we gathered one more time in the Vé for Sumbl. Many a good word was said over the horn, with Gods, ancestors, friends, and heroes all hailed and spoken of with love and reverence. We also had the rare occurrence of someone swearing an oath, which all present for will be monitoring and supporting towards its completion.

With our Holytide coming to a close, we cleaned up the Hof, divvied up the leftovers amongst ourselves, and said our goodbyes and reminded each other that we'll be here again in just a month. A great day was had by all, and for those of you who missed it, know that you were missed, and we hope to see you there with us soon!

Goði Bodi Mayo
bmayo@runestone.org

Upcoming Events at Njörðshof

MIDSUMAR NJORDSHOF
JUNE 20, 2026
9:00–11:00 FOODPANTRY
11:00 MEMBERS ARRIVAL
12:00 HOLY TIDE, FIKA AND MINGLE
1:00 BLÓT, GROUP PHOTO AND SUNWHEEL BURNING
2:00 SUMBLE
3:00 WORK SHOP, CLASS OR LADIES GROUP ACTIVITY
4:00 DINNER PREP
5:00 DINNER
6:00 CLEAN UP AND DEPARTURE

Njördshof Food Pantry

THIRD SATURDAY EVERY MONTH

10AM-11AM

12562 Roberts St, White Springs FL 32096

If you're in need come stop by! Nobody is turned away!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

3RD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH KITCHEN DUTIES: COOKING CLEANING PLANNING...

CONTACT ANNA OR PAM FOR DETAILS

Njörðshof Wishlist

https://tinyurl.com/NjordshofWishlist

Suggestion Box

Monthly Members' Meeting

Arkansas

Welcoming a New Apprentice Folkbuilder

Please welcome Celine Behnken of Arkansas as the newest apprentice Folkbuilder for the Njörðshof District! We are excited to see the success Celine will achieve in the coming months and years!

Hail Celine Behnken!
Hail the AFA!
Hail Njörðr!

Dinner Mót

Upcoming Events

Arkansas Mót Dates
June 7th, 14th, 28th

Celine Behnken
Apprentice Folkbuilder
cbehnken@runestone.org

Florida

Kayak Mót

On Saturday, the 22nd of May, I hosted a kayaking Mót on the Wacissa river and was accompanied by the lovable McGlynn family.

This river is fed by multiple natural springs, part of the largest underground spring network in the United States.

A little ways down from the headwater (and boat launch area), one starts to find the little creeks that feed into the Wacissa, and with just a little exploration, one can find the spring at its source.

Among the wildlife, we saw fish, an alligator, turtles, various bird species, and the McGlynns even spotted a couple of river otters, a rare sight in these parts.

We got to a famous spring there called "Little Blue," where the beautiful blue water was so pristine that you could look down and see with perfect clarity the open hole 70 feet below. I do not have a camera that could do it justice, so please accept these photos from the river instead.

Upon learning that the Anglo Saxons associated Óðinn with spring water, we made a small offering to the Landvættr and did Blót to Óðinn.

The weather had looked a little precarious at first, but the Gods instead treated us to the perfect temperature for paddling. Back at the headwaters, there was a small beach area where the little ones could play, and all left satisfied.

Hail the Gods!

Upcoming Events

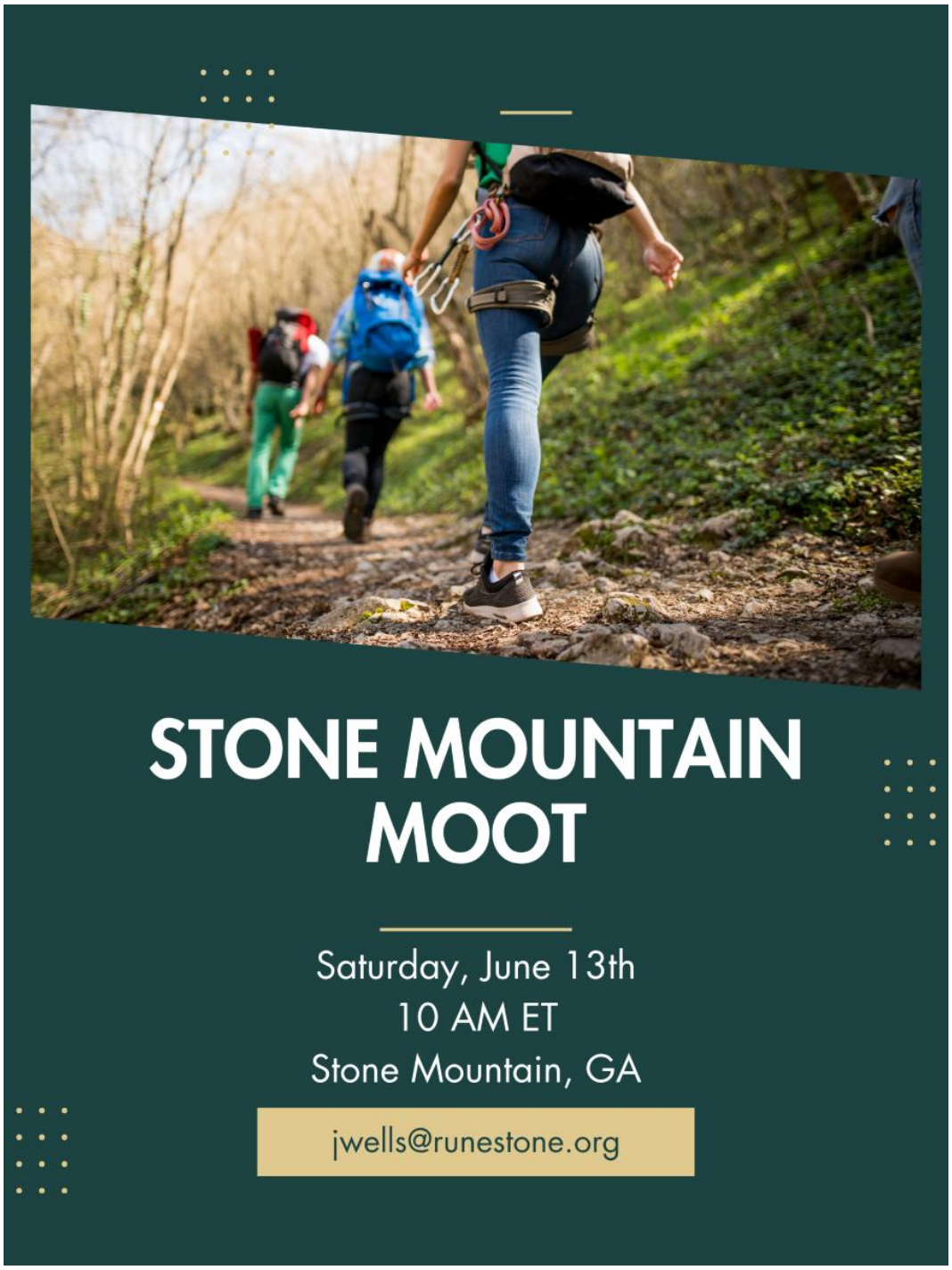
Michael van Dyk
Apprentice Folkbuilder
mvandyk@runestone.org

Upcoming Events

Folkbuilder Tracy Adler
tadler@runestone.org

Georgia

Upcoming Events

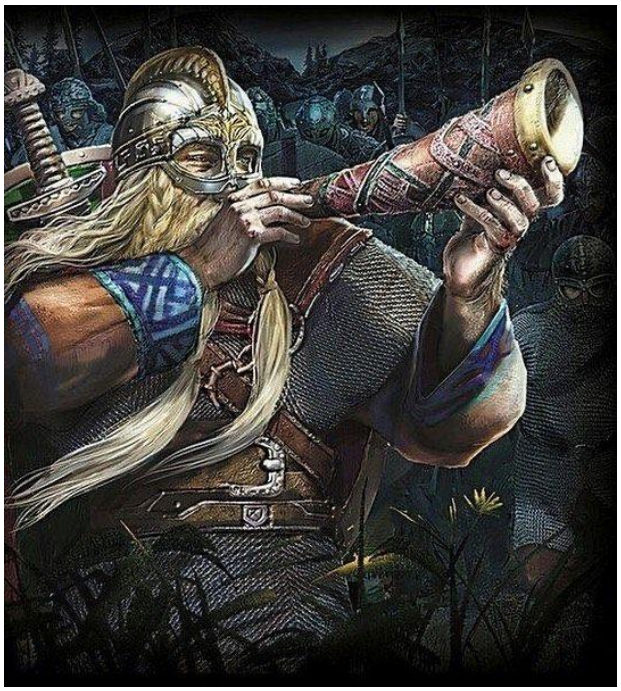


Folkbuilder Jordan Wells
jwells@runestone.org

Texas

Politics Alone Is Not Enough

In this polarized society, where soul sickness affects many of our Folk, I have noticed a number of recurring patterns. Of course, bringing people to a Folkish mindset through politics has its merits. However, I believe that if the goal is to truly bring someone Home and retain them, these issues must be engaged through a cultural and spiritual lens—namely, through Ásatrú.



I often see people placing heavy emphasis on telling the Folk about what the adversaries of our people are taking from them. However, I have noticed that, due to soul sickness, many fail to see the Folkish mindset in its entirety. The average person simply does not understand what is being taken from them.

If you bring the Folk Home to their Native European spirituality, you can fix this soul sickness, and everything else will fall into place with proper spiritual nourishment. Invite the folks you meet to join us at a Hof closest to their area, because that is 80% of the battle. Once you accomplish that, they get to see the wonderful things we are doing, that we are indeed real, and it breaks the feeling of isolation that so many of our Folk experience. More often than not, that is the thing that brings families back home to Ásatrú.

So, Brothers and Sisters, just as Lord Heimdall brought our Folk the knowledge of the Runes, so too must you help bring the Folk back Home to Ásatrú. It is truly one of the greatest things you can do for the Folk in these rough times.

Invite your co-workers, close and distant friends, family members, and acquaintances at every opportunity you can. Be a walking embodiment of our shared beliefs, and seek self-betterment in all things—of spirit, body, and mind. The Folk will be drawn in by the example you set, and when they see what our community is about, they will realize that the proof is in the pudding.

Upcoming Events

HAPPY HOUR
TEXAS PUB MOOT
SUNDAY JUNE, 28TH
4PM-7PM
HAPPY HOUR
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS
RSVP bdeshane@runestone.org

Blayke DeShane
Apprentice Folkbuilder
bdeshane@runestone.org

Freyshof

Fifth Hof of the Asatru Folk Assembly

www.Freyshof.org

Food Pantry at Freyshof

We are working on retooling and upscaling our Food Pantry. We are there every month (despite what this lonely chair photo depicts), but we get only a small handful of people coming to accept the food we have to offer.

Look for more news next month!

Spekingr Clifford Erickson
cerickson@runestone.org

Sumarmál at Freyshof

On Saturday, May 16th, Freyshof celebrated its first Sumarmál! Folk gathered together to celebrate the official beginning of the warmer days of summer. Though the weather was wet and rainy, our Folk weren't deterred. The ladies spent time making flower crowns and decorating the wreath for the Maypole while the men worked on hanging the ribbons on the Maypole.

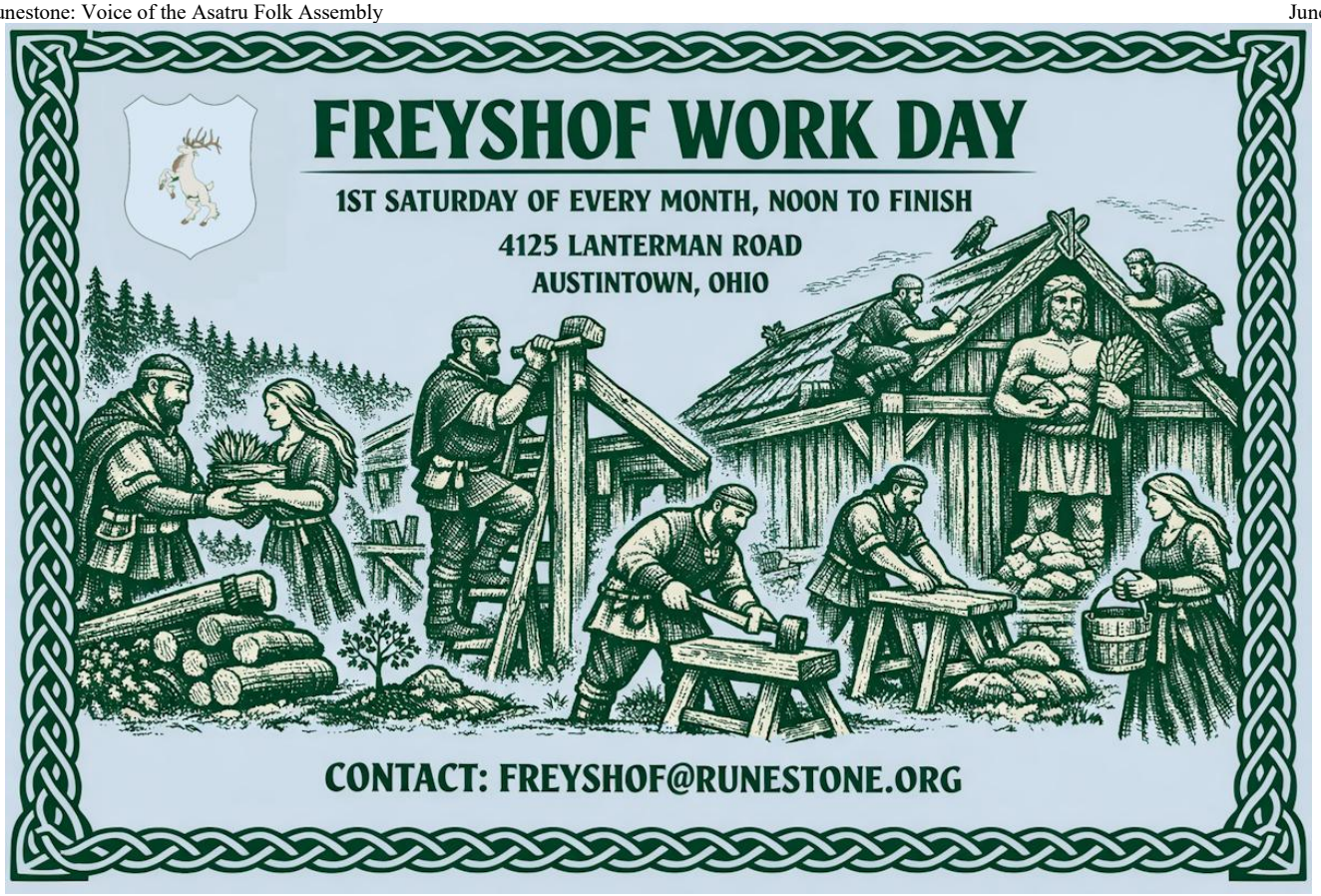
Goði Rock, honored us by making the drive up to the Hof all the way from Indiana. From the land of corn, Goði Rock preformed our Sumarmál Blót and presided over Sumbl for our Folk. From Blót, he led us outside where the rain had cleared up enough for our Folk to dance around the Maypole! It was great fun, and by the end, we even managed to get the hang of it!

A game of *Axis and Allies* was begun (but not finished), and plans for another are already in the works. Everyone enjoyed a fabulous feast of ham and scalloped potatoes, roasted Brussel sprouts, pork tacos, and more, before the evening came to an end with a cozy Sumbl.

Please join us this month, on June 20th, for Miðsumar at Freyshof!

Gyðja Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org

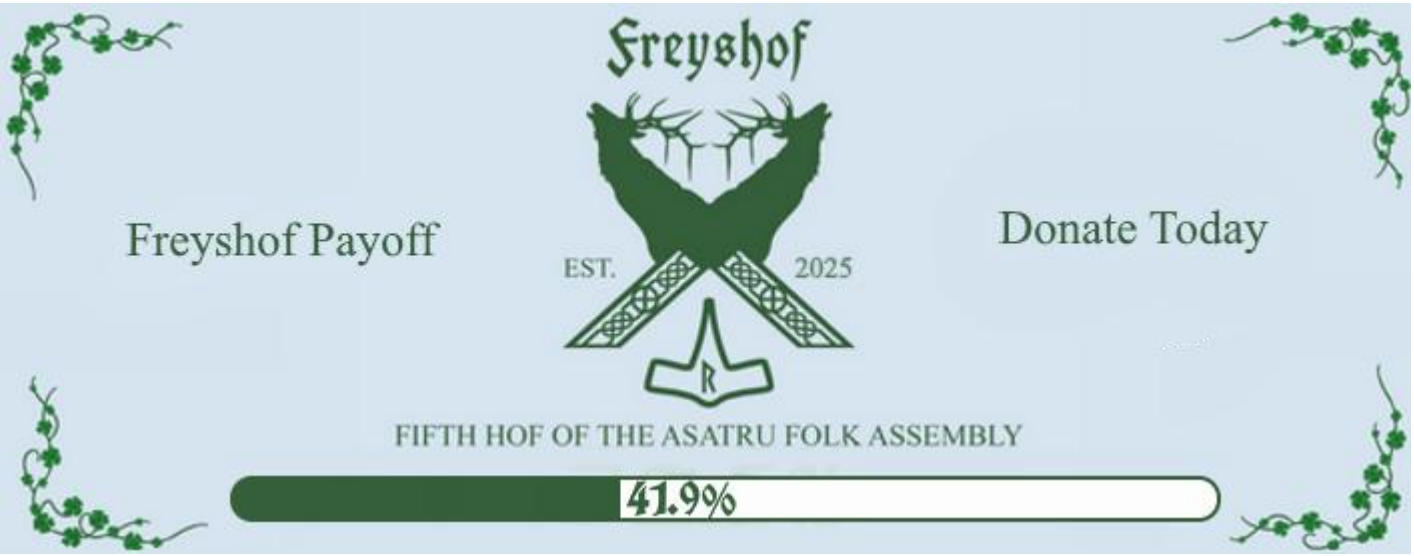
Upcoming Events at Freyshof


FREYSHOF WORK DAY
1ST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH, NOON TO FINISH
4125 LANTERMAN ROAD
AUSTINTOWN, OHIO
CONTACT: FREYSHOF@RUNESTONE.ORG

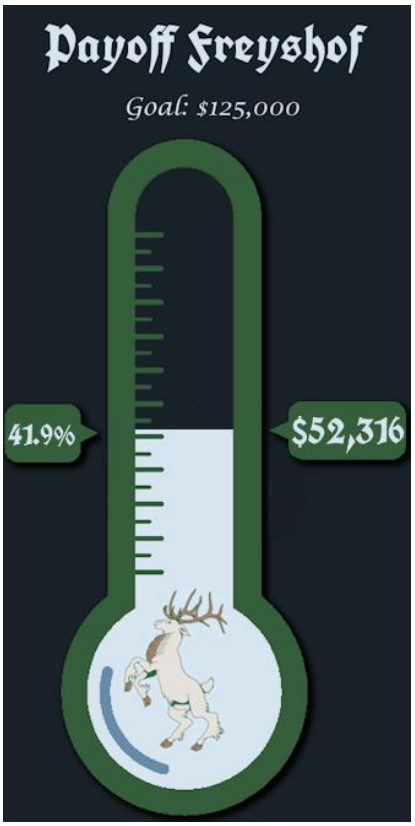
FREYSHOF FOOD PANTRY
3RD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH, NOON – 2PM
4125 LANTERMAN ROAD
AUSTINTOWN, OHIO
HELPING OUR COMMUNITY

The Freyshof Pay Off

"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



In the Asatru Folk Assembly, we honor Lord Freyr often throughout the year and throughout our lives. Freyr is the great God of masculinity, fertility, and abundance. Lord Freyr has blessed our AFA family with numerous beautiful families and children. Freyr is the God of the bountiful increase and the good harvest. he is also a God of celebration and of the peace that prosperity brings. Freyr is also a God of masculine will, pushing forward our desires even when the soil, and the world, seem unyielding.



With Freyr's blessing, we shall work our will despite all resistance.
May we honor Freyr by being husbands and fathers.
May Freyr bless the AFA with abundance and with endless generations of descendants.

In 2025, we established and dedicated the first temple to Freyr in beautiful Austintown, Ohio. We need your help to make this amazing Hof all that it should be. Your generosity and support are much appreciated.

The AFA proudly offers this hof as a testament to our worship and loyalty to Yngvi-Freyr!

For more information, please email freyshof@runestone.org.

A substantial down payment was made, but we have a mortgage yet still to pay off. We will do this!

Your contributions are earnestly solicited and of course, are tax-deductible! Please donate to the Freyshof Fund or to one of our other AFA Fundraisers at http://runestone.org/donate/.

Thanks in advance!

Hail Freyr!

Freyshof Wishlist

Some things on this are big, some are small. Any donation is greatly appreciated!

Freyshof Amazon Wishlist > https://tinyurl.com/FreyshofWishlist

Monthly Members' Meeting

Europe

European Book Study
Hávamál
First Sunday of the month
18:00-19:00 CET
via
Teams
Contact elugnet@runestone.org

Indiana

Hail Bragi

Recently, Indiana held our second Bragi's Fest — a music and arts festival where we showcased AFA musicians, artists, and craftsmen — and I am glad to say that it went very well. I hope that Goði Jon Rock and myself can continue building this tradition and showcase even more of our wonderfully talented Folk.

Bragi is known as the God of Poetry, among other things. He is sometimes overlooked by Folk because he doesn't have many stirring myths about his valorous deeds like some of the other Æsir. However, he is vitally important to our religion, and his wife, Idunn, is likewise vitally important in terms of maintaining the divine family, the Æsir. Whereas Bragi replenishes the soul with poetry and song, Idunn replenishes, the body, the immortality of the Gods themselves.

Norse *skalds* are famous for their parts within the Sagas, and it is hard to fully describe their importance within Norse society. This was an integral position required for a royal household to maintain their genealogies, as well as transmit tribal histories which reinforce their specific household claims to certain lands or rights. Indeed, the Nordic and Germanic tribes well understood poetry, along with its mundane and divine effects. Nordic poetry was not just a way to record information; it was a way to express deep tribal and racial views towards reality and divinity, it was a way to transmit morality and ethical wisdom. Skilled Germanic and Nordic poets have shaped the world; from Shakespeare to Snorri, there have been northern words on the lips and ears of men across the wide world of Miðgarðr.

Folkbuilder Aidan McMillan
amcmillan@runestone.org

Bragi's Fest

Friends and Folk,

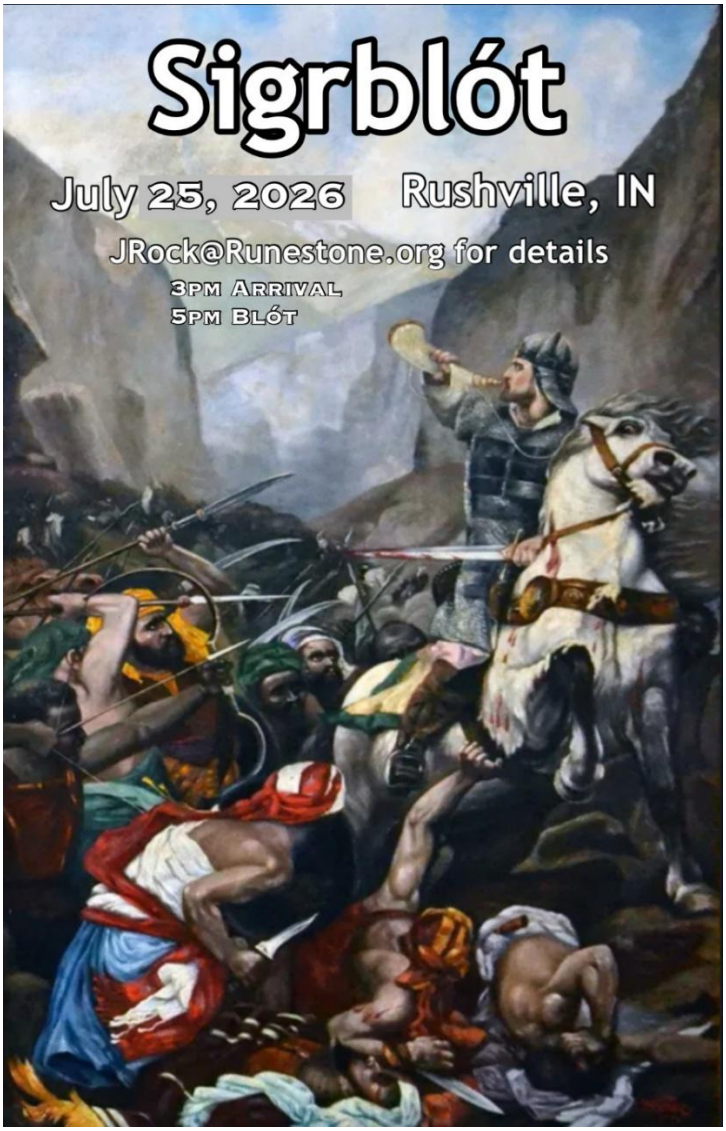
Sumarmál is a time of celebration; new growth, warm weather, and preparation for what we will harvest later in the year. I have been blessed with two very distinct pleasures this month; a celebration of Sumarmál at Freyshof (honoring Holy Freyr on his holiday within the halls of his home on Miðgarðr) and Bragi's Fest, an art and music festival dedicated to Óðinn's eloquent son, Lord Bragi, here in Indiana.

We are still refining and growing what we hope will continue as an AFA tradition; collecting artists, poets, and musicians of our faith and allowing them an opportunity to meet, collaborate, and share their efforts with our collected Folk.

For those of you who couldn't join us this year, we hope you experienced success capturing the spirit of Sumarmál, as we did, by planting and tending to the growth of our minds, culture, and relationships in the fertile ground of our shared faith and heredity.

Hail the Æsir!

Upcoming Events



Goði Jonathan Rock
jrock@runestone.org

Maine

Upcoming Events

Angela Robichaud
Apprentice Folkbuilder
arobichaud@runestone.org

Massachusetts

Mead Tasting Mót

On the 30th of the Merry Month of May, it wasn't very merry in regards to the weather. It was in the 40's, grey, off and on rain, and just a bit of a breeze. It was, however, a perfect day to gather at the 1634 Meadery in Ipswich, Massachusetts and sample some flights of mead!

A few hardy souls made it out, and we enjoyed ourselves toasting the Noble Æsir, comparing the different meads and which was each's favourite. There were a few vendors there and we visited their stalls once the rain let up. There were

some 'Viking' re-enactors there who were quite impressed with Apprentice Folkbuilder Angela's kit, which of course she wore. I could hear them trading stories and such and left them to it.

Soon enough though, the weather compelled us to leave and off we went to Essex, Mass where there is still a clam shack called Woodmans that three of us had eaten at plenty of times growing up. It was a little fancier than in our youth, but it was still rustic. We toasted Njörðr within sight of the Ipswich River and all called it a day. It was fun, satisfying trip that brought back some memories for a number of us.

Folkbuilder Ron Boardman
rboardman@runestone.org

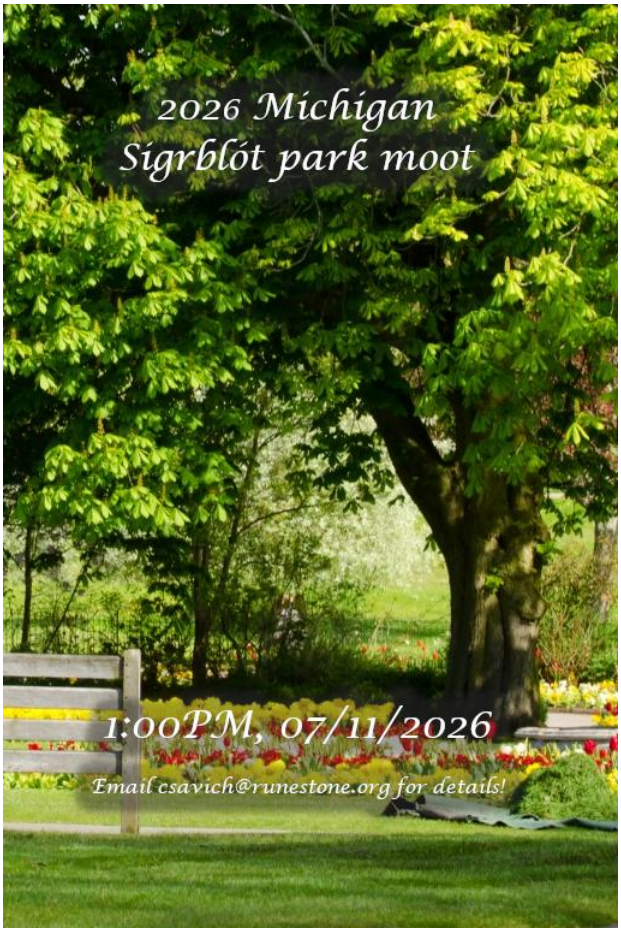
Michigan

Drift Off Darliŋ Daughter

Go to sléep little gírly, drift awáy, off to sléep.
Đe world wíll still be hére while you're ín slumber's kéep.
To bed nów girlie, sílently snóoze, not a péep.
Oh not yét my dear dáddy, I have múch still to dó:
I can't sléep just yet, nó I can't wórk wiþ a curféw.
I've such míschief to máke, I have sílliness to bréw.
I have cólors to sée, many sóunds yet to héar!
Đere's lil' þíŋs on ðe flóor to spy, cráwl to, briŋ néar.
Đere's so mány þiŋs wáitiŋ to pláy, oðer tóys
strewn acróss all ðe flóor. Đere's so mány new jóys,
like to máke a lil' squéal, or a chírp, some new nóise.
Go to sléep darliŋ gírly, fly awáy, off to sléep.
Đis world wíll be here stíll while you're ín slumber's kéep.
To bed nów girly, sílently snóoze, not a péep.

MI Sumarmál

Upcoming Events



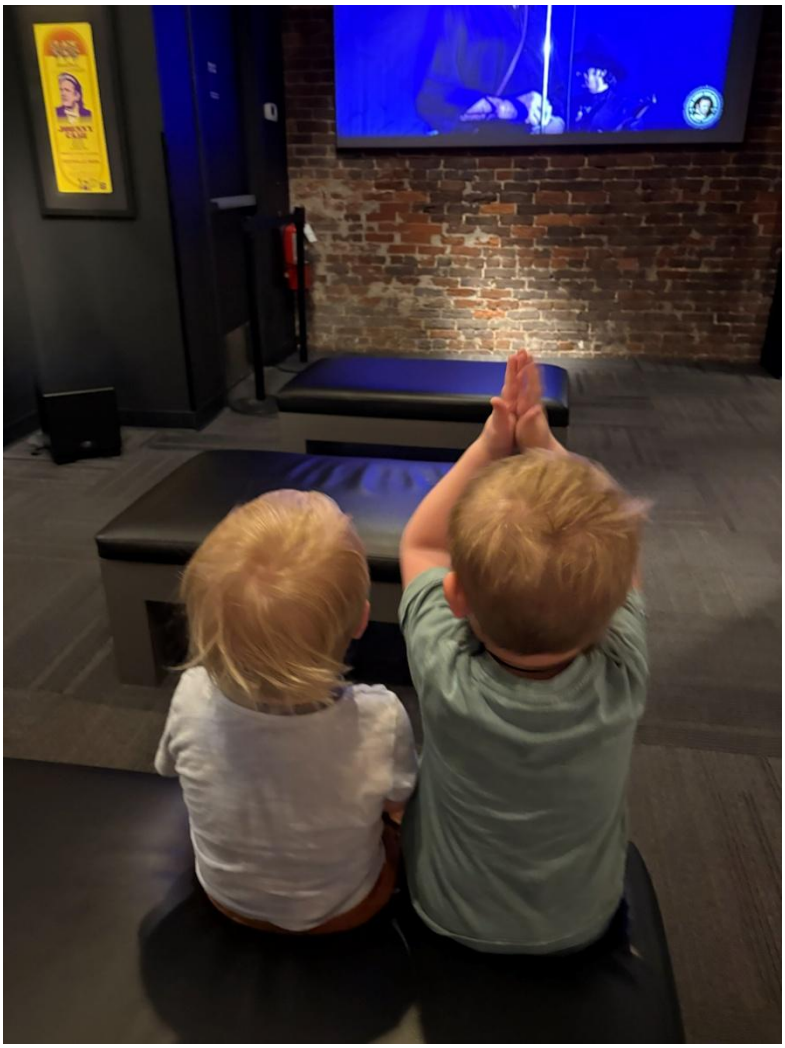
Folkbuilder Chris Savich
csavich@runestone.org

New Brunswick

The Great Canadian Nashville Road Trip

My family and I were fortunate enough to spend Wednesday, April 29th until May 8th road-tripping from New Brunswick, Canada to Nashville, Tennessee with a few stops along the way. We split the drive into roughly 6-7 hour days of driving so our toddlers would have the chance to burn some energy and not get totally cooped up.

April 29th, we left Canada and spent the next three days driving to Tennessee. While there were no particular planned "tourist activities" on our initial drive south, we enjoyed the views available the whole trip down the Appalachian Mountains.



May 2nd, I joined in on a Sigrheim workday where we focused on clearing away undergrowth that had begun invading the cemetery that can be found there. We also unloaded some building supplies with the intent of continuing, but machine issues got in our way.

May 3rd, we visited Gatlinburg to go see the Ripley's Aquarium in the Smokey Mountains. My

kids had a mind-blowing time looking at the sharks and large fish, but it was the South African penguins that truly captured their hearts.

May 4th, we finally got to spend time in Nashville, and it was great. First, we stopped by the Cash Museum to introduce my wife and kids to the full history of Johnny Cash. What was supposed to be a quick lunch quickly became an impromptu concert when my kids decided they wanted to eat where there was live music, and that's something I will never argue. After getting everyone some new boots, we swung by the Gibson Garage so I could drool over some of the best guitars Gibson makes.

May 5th, we swung north through Louisville and took the kids to the zoo, where my sons were able to see polar bears, seals, and even a snow leopard, but again it was the penguins that stole the show.

On our return trip, I was fortunate enough to tour the Martin Guitar Factory before meeting up with fellow Apprentice Folkbuilder Jill Gaffney for a short notice meet-up at the Crayola Experience so the kids could make their own Crayons. After a delicious lunch, we continued our way before finally returning to our home.

As always, my family and I had a grand time visiting the states between here and Tennessee and we look forward to more adventures in the future. The current plan is to attend Vetrnætr at Freyshof this year and planning a family trip to Þórshof next year.

Upcoming Events

Jordan Wardrope
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jwardrope@runestone.org

New Hampshire

On Nobility of Speech

Recently, I have noticed a few messages in MeWe chats that have included ignoble language. I have taken it upon myself to reach out to the senders of those messages privately to gently remind them of the goal of using more proper language. I am extremely grateful to those members to whom I have reached out for the way they've taken my messages and direction. I have never been met with anything but understanding and politeness, and I appreciate that very much.

I will admit to having "a mouth on me," something upon which I personally am working to resolve. I'm the granddaughter, daughter, niece, sister, and cousin of heavy-equipment mechanics and have spent my entire life around good, but rough-and-tumble, men who aren't necessarily as careful about their speech around ladies as they could be. I've worked in the trucking industry myself, and yes, it is very easy to drop into the vernacular of one's peers! Have I dropped the occasional "f-bomb" myself? Absolutely. Will I do it again? Probably! Am I lessening my use of profanity through conscious choices? Also, yes!

I write this article with the goal of improving our collective nobility, our collective public-facing behavior, and our general behavior as Folk who should be able to be set above the rest. Our general society has been taken down too many pegs, and I want us, as Ásatrúar and as noble Aryan Folk, to be a good example for the Folk who have not yet come home.

I recently said to my dear Folkbuilder Mentor, Sierra Chapman, that I want our membership who know me to speak highly of me—to quote myself, "Oh, you should talk to my local Folkbuilder, Angela. She is awesome. She's so kind, she

always gets my questions answered, she loves my kids..." I don't only want this for myself; I want it for you too. I want your friends, your neighbors, your coworkers, your gym buddies, and the lady at the grocery store to be able to say, "Oh! Yeah, I know so-and-so! He's a great guy! He's pleasant, he's easy to talk to, he's got a wonderful family, he's so polite, he helped me change a tire one time. He's a member of that Viking church, the Asatru Folk Assembly, I think? Anyway, they're great people."

This is why we should strive to put forth the best version of ourselves. As Allsherjargoði Flavel says, you may be the only Ásatrúar that somebody knows. Why not be the BEST Ásatrúar that that person knows?

Angela Robichaud
Apprentice Folkbuilder
arobichaud@runestone.org

NH Sumarmál

Sumarmál, more commonly known by it's common name of May Day, was held in New Hampshire on the second day of May. It wasn't May 1st proper, but close enough! We did have showers all around Sumarmál but the day itself was dry enough, and it got better as the day went on.

This year, after the usual greetings of friends and eating of chips, crackers and cheeses, we did something a bit different and performed a ritual drama akin to the old Medieval ones. We men, armed with swords went into the Greenwood with the May Queen. Her job was to witch us out a Maypole and she did it just fine. However, the Stag of the Wildwood had to be offered payment for the tree. Once a gift of a lucky penny was given, the gift of the Maypole was offered.

It was then that the Green Man arrived and escorted the May Queen back to the yard where the womenfolk were waiting for our return. The men followed after carrying the trunk. The woman blessed us with water gathered on Sumarmál morning as we were allowed back into the Innangarðr. Our Landlady said some words of acceptance with the pole and had us raise it up and cover it with ribbons. Then we did the Maypole dance. The laughter and happiness always brings me joy. The little ones are tough to wrangle, but that is just fine by us. The memories for them will be invaluable. Once the dance was done, then in unison we hailed the Great Gods of Ásgarðr. It was loud!

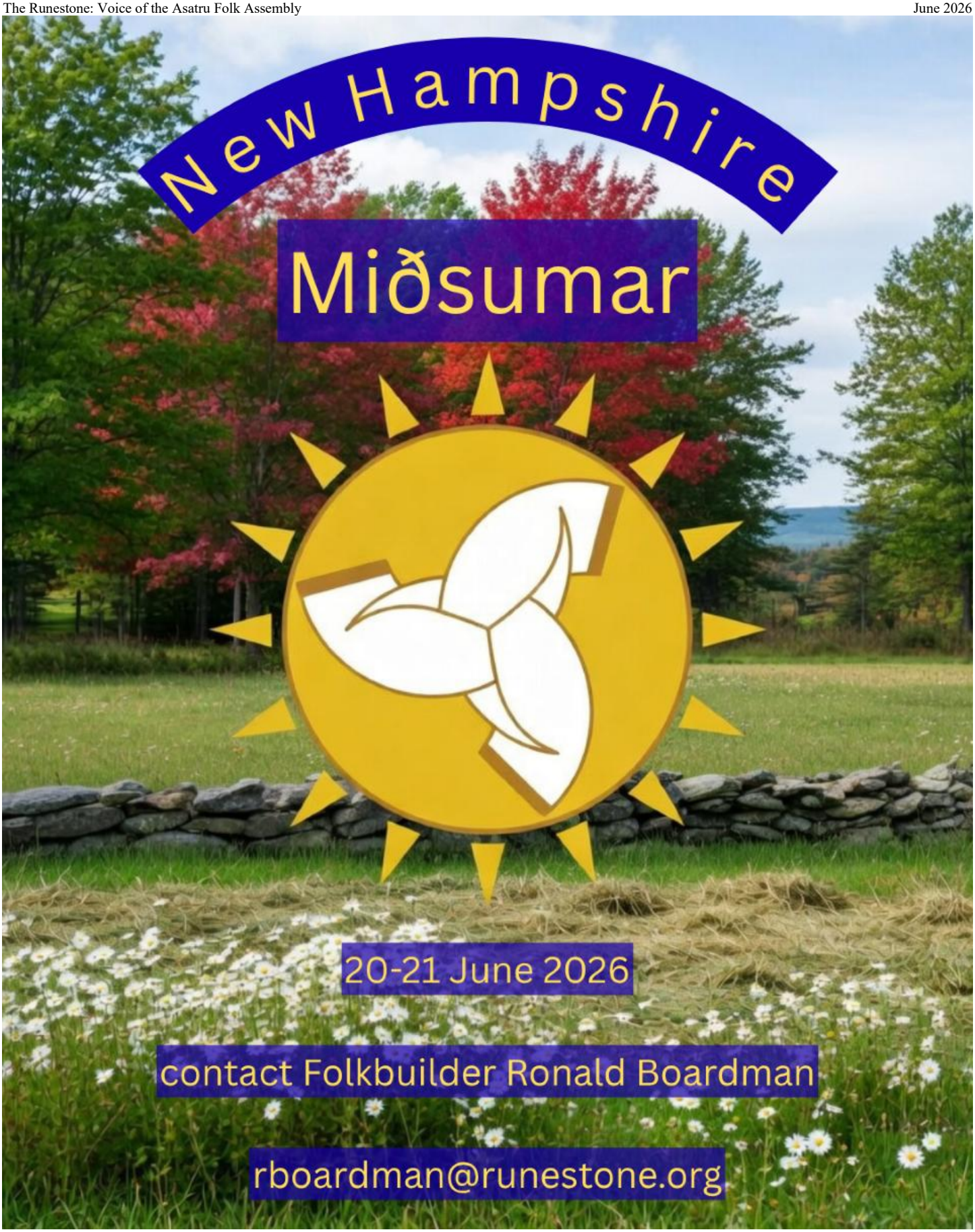
Then was BBQ and an afternoon that slid into evening then night around the firepit. Kids running in the dark. S’mores, toasts, jokes, some song, and all around wholesome night it was. Many went to their tents as the night drew on. Awakening to breakfast and full tummies ended the whole weekend.

NH Ladies Witch Market Mót

May 24th saw a few of the AFA Ladies head off to Manchester, New Hampshire to a 'Witch Market.' While not sure what to expect, it looked like it could be a fun event and maybe find some decent 'witchy' things along the lines of candles and herbs. Maybe there would be some curios or oddities there? That sort of thing.

While the market itself was reported to be underwhelming, the ladies still had fun. The real treat which saved the day was their dinner at the 110 Grill. That is where the Wunjo blossomed and when the day really became memorable and worth the trip. All in all, it was a win for the gals!!

Upcoming Events


New Hampshire
Miðsumar
20-21 June 2026
contact Folkbuilder Ronald Boardman
rboardman@runestone.org

Folkbuilder Ron Boardman
rboardman@runestone.org

New York

Niagara Falls Mót

On the 23rd of May, we made the trip to the American side of Niagra Falls to view one of the natural wonders of the world! It was cold and rainy, but we didn't let that deter us from enjoying the day! After riding the Maid of the Mist right up into the heart of the horseshoe of the falls, we walked through the state park to enjoy the views of the river and the falls!

After changing into dry clothes, we drove to the west to the other side of Buffalo for the traditional (for us, anyway) pizza and buffalo wings! If you haven't eaten them in Buffalo, you don't know good wings!

There might not have been many of us, but it was a wonderful day and we look forward to another trip sometime in the future. We hope you'll join us!

Gyðja Catie Erickson
cm.erickson@runestone.org

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Folk Tour: Miles, Memories, Mead, and Memorial Day

Over Memorial Day weekend, Autumn and I set out across Pennsylvania for what became equal parts road trip, fellowship, remembrance, and Folkbuilding.

Our first stop brought us to Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. Rows of flags and quiet roads reminded us that memory is not something abstract - it lives in places and people. The rain and gray skies seemed fitting for Memorial Day weekend and invited us to slow down and reflect.

From there, we shifted gears and gathered that evening around a brewery table, where conversation carried us from remembrance back into everyday fellowship. It was an early reminder that meaningful weekends are often built from both reflection and companionship. Friday brought us west through Bedford, where we slowed down and enjoyed the older corners of Pennsylvania - historic inns, warm spaces, and a farm visit that included a few curious animal encounters. We stayed at a historic mansion inn, and one unexpected surprise was being recognized by the innkeeper from a previous stay months earlier when I had traveled through with other Folk on our way to Freyshof in Ohio. It was one of those small Pennsylvania moments that makes the world feel smaller than it appears on a map.

Somewhere along the route, we were reminded that no matter how carefully you plan a weekend, an unexpected goat, horse, or ferret may still end up stealing the show.

Saturday took us to the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville. Walking through the exhibits and grounds offered time to reflect on ordinary people making extraordinary choices. It was a meaningful stop that stayed with us long after we got back in the car.

That evening, we gathered with Folk in Johnstown for dinner. Around one table sat people from different corners of Pennsylvania and beyond—sharing meals, stories, updates, and ideas for future gatherings. One unexpected highlight of the weekend was being treated to homemade lemon and Earl Grey mead, which quickly earned a place in our Pennsylvania Folk Tour memory book.

Sunday brought quieter moments in Ligonier before continuing west to visit a family in Jeannette. There, the trip became less about destinations and more about hospitality: eating together at home, sharing a BBQ, meeting the household ferrets (who conducted themselves with dignity), and watching the younger generation settle naturally into conversation and laughter. One of my favorite moments was simply observing Autumn and her new friends talking as though they had known each other much longer than a single afternoon.

One especially meaningful moment of the weekend was learning that three generations of one family are practicing Ásatrú together. Seeing traditions carried not only through gatherings but through family life and everyday moments gave the trip an added sense of continuity.

Sunday evening brought us back east through Bellefonte, where old streets, a historic mansion, and a seven-gun salute ceremony in the borough square offered another moment of reflection before the road carried us onward.

Monday gave us one final stop in Annville to enjoy good food, conversation, and decompress before heading home.

Looking back, this trip became more than a tour of Pennsylvania.

We shared meals. We exchanged stories and phone numbers. We made introductions. We strengthened old friendships and started new ones. Along the way, we discovered that some Folk learned that their families had lived only a few miles apart for years and had never known it until this weekend brought them to the same table.

There was discussion of future visits, hikes, coffees, backyard gatherings, and ways to connect Folk across regions who might otherwise never have crossed paths. There was also plenty of talk about returning west again soon - including more trips to Freyshof and more opportunities to strengthen connections.

Sometimes Folkbuilding looks grand.

And sometimes it looks like miles on the highway, a home cooked BBQ, a shared bottle of homemade mead, a few mischievous ferrets making unexpected appearances, discovering that new friends may have lived down the road all along, and leaving with a promise:

“Let’s do this again.”

Biergarten Mót Brings Folk Together

On a recent Sunday, Folk from Pennsylvania and New Jersey gathered at a renowned Philadelphia biergarten located in one of the city’s revitalized historic neighborhoods. The lively district was filled with families, outdoor diners, and weekend visitors, providing a welcoming setting for fellowship and conversation.

The gathering brought together both familiar faces and newer members, including one Folkman attending his very first Mót. Over giant Bavarian pretzels, traditional German fare, and wiener samplers, attendees enjoyed an afternoon of camaraderie while getting to know one another better.

By the end of the afternoon, no one seemed particularly eager to leave - a sure sign of a successful Mót. As our regional community continues to grow, opportunities like this help strengthen Frith and ensure that no Folk stand alone.

Upcoming Events

Jill Gaffney
Apprentice Folkbuilder
jgaffney@runestone.org

Copyright © 2026 Asatru Folk Assembly, All rights reserved.
Want to change how you receive these emails? Email press@runestone.org