



Hail & Horn 2023

Týr

Won't you lend a hand?

Hail and Welcome!

Hail and Welcome, it is with gratitude that we finally raise a god-pole to Týr in the holy Æsir Vé at Raven's Knoll. Týr is the one-handed god and a grizzled veteran. Týr is well-loved by soldiers, first responders, veterans, the 'disabled' and the chronically ill.

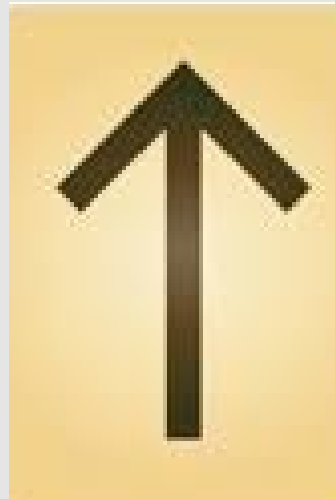
As the moral god of justice, he paid for his necessary immoral act of lying to bind his friend, the Fenris Wolf, for the good of the Æsir and humanity. Týr has sacrificed much but still does not flag or let his folk down. Týr can also be a jovial god who undertakes escapades with his friend Thor, like when they stole Ægir's Cauldron-to-be from his Jötnar stepfather Hymir. Týr is a renowned god of the 'thing', the Old Norse holy inter-community gatherings just like this one.

At this event activities unfold as three intertwined rituals and ceremonies where the Blót, Húsel, and Symbel come together, each building upon the other. The format of the symbel and feast are, as before, inspired by Pollington's research "The Mead-Hall: The Feasting Tradition in Anglo-Saxon England" and the God-pole raising reflects Ibn Fadlan's account of his embassy amongst the Heathen Rus. Many volunteers have come together to craft an unforgettable religious experience, being committed to building upon the ancient ways and presenting it to the folk in an inspirational form. Also, there will be workshops and games because ... it is a #TyrThing!

-The Witan (Chantal, MA and Auz)

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Týr Rune

Blót Details

At this Blót we honour Týr by raising their god-pole in the Æsir Vé, giving an offering of the ingredients of our Húsel feast, and short personal offerings.

Týr is an ancient god whose lore is often hidden and complex to interpret, yet he is also a god with whom many modern Heathens have an intense mystical relationship. All may believe what they want, even in the Vé, so long as they behave and speak with the respect for the Æsir and their allies. Deeds matter most, as Týr himself teaches us.

Týr has many aspects which we honour at the Blót. Týr of Tuesday. Týr the One-handed. Týr the Sword-fighter. Týr the Just. Týr the Cauldron-Stealer. Týr the Thing God. Týr Odin-son. Týr Hymir-son. Týr the Tamer. Týr the Veteran. Týr, Pillar-hider. Týr, Father of the Grass Ocean. Týr, Progenitor of Tribes. Týr, Bearer of Gliepnir. Týr the Valiant. Týr the Wise. Týr the Wolf-jointed. Týr, Battle God. Týr the God of Gods. Týr of the Fetters. Týr, husband of Zisa. Týr, Feeder of the Wolf. Týr the Stepson. Týr the Dog-trainer. Týr the Ale-giver Gifter. Týr the First Responder. Týr, Mars of the Goths. Týr Who Runs Towards Danger. Týr, Garmr-food. Týr, Rune-god.

The god-pole will be processed by hand-and-cart from the Standing Stone to where the Shrine Trail narrows into the bog. Then the god-pole will be processed by hand-and-shoulder by those who have already been oathed into the Æsir Vé the rest of the way into the frith-yard. (If you want to be in this group ensure you comply with all Vé oathed rules.) The pole will then be laid down near its hole and the bearers will form a group facing the god-poles while the rest of the folx are oathed into the Vé upon their honour or walk in on their oath.

The ritual officiates will begin with calls of praise and an offering for each of the god-poles in the Vé. Then the god-pole of Týr will be brought to life by the goði, gyðja, and/or gyða. The folx will raise Týr's god-pole. A representative of the Witan will make the Týr's Blót offering of the Húsel feast ingredients on behalf of all the folx gathered. First, all the folx wishing to make a silent offering to Týr will be able to place their offering on the hörgr at the same time. Second, all the folx planning to whisper their bid to Týr will make an offering at the same time. Finally, those wishing to speak aloud to the god can make a very short address and offering to Týr, alone or in groups. The rite will then be concluded.

There will be a golf cart shuttle to the Vé for those that cannot join the procession. There will also be some chairs already in the Vé, which are priority seating for when anyone's health abilities are challenged and for elders. It is recommended to wear bug-protection. Remember to leave anything considered a weapon outside the Vé-bond ropes, hide non-Heathen or anti-Æsir religious jewelry or clothing, and to bring your organic and environmentally-friendly offerings that will be placed on the hörgr.

For those who have never made an offering before or are rusty, here are classic pointers:

Do NOT say 'hail' until the end of your offering address. Saying 'hail' ends your address because those who hear it will often echo with their own 'hails'.

Speak while facing the god-pole. Treat it like a person. Prostration, kneeling, and standing are all suitable options. If your face is aloft, look at the face of the god in the god-pole.

Hold your offering when speaking. Lift your offering up so the god-pole can see it, as everyone else shouts 'hail'.

Place, strew, or pour your offering on the hörgr, the altar stones. Do NOT place any offering on or below the god-pole. Offerings should only be non-toxic organic items that biodegrade quickly or environmentally-friendly wrought items. (Everything eventual gets eaten by animal wights or swallowed in the Sacred Well.)

Your offering can be symbolically associated with lore or community knowledge about the god or something representative of your praise or request of relationship. But, it doesn't have to be either. A nice alcoholic beverage or a crisp apple is always a good choice.

The words you say to Týr can be a praise of gratitude or a request for a gifting relationship, but it should not be a rebuke of any kind. Use the tongue of your choice.

Your words can be composed or improvised. They can be conversational prose, poetry, or in the pattern of a 'bid', which is a formulaic offering address.

The basic formula for a bid is: God name! Relation of whom. God's nickname. God's poetic kenning. /Reason for the gratitude /or/ request for a gifting relationship./ Hail, God's name!

Example: Týr! Son of Ás and Jötnar. Týr the Valiant. Fetterer of the Wolf. / Thank you for guiding me in my darkest time, when my hand was in the Wolf's jaws. /or/ Let me know the wisdom of sacrifice, to use it only when necessary and just./ Hail, Týr!

Pick the relations of the god that would be supportive of your statement. Choose the symbolism of the nickname and kenning to match the theme of your statement, if possible. Extra points if anything alliterate!

Thor's Day

God-pole Carving (Wayne LeBlanc)..... 1-6 pm

Wayne will be carving and putting the final touches on Týr's divine figure. The final carving of Týr will be revealed at Blót.

Tour of Raven's Knoll 7-8 pm

Join a Steward of Raven's Knoll or a familiar friend on a small tour of some of the sacred spaces appealing to your interests.

Welcoming Ritual & Welcome Fire (Witan)8-9 pm

Join together shoulder-to-shoulder around the hearth to meet one another and make offerings to the many wights of Raven's Knoll whose land we will be meeting upon over the weekend. We will also review the Esoteric ritual outline and answer any questions.

Welcome Fire & Skald Open Mic (Basil)... 9-2 am

As people from farther afield arrive into the evening, we sit in conversation around the fire reacquainting ourselves with those who we have not seen for a while and making connections with new friends. We will start the fire by chatting about the program and what to expect from the weekend, talking about the Gods raised already in the Vé, and hear a story or two, if Folx are moved to perform.

Freya's Day

Boards and Bowls: Shield Painting and Show & Share (Giroux Family) 9-10 am

We would like to invite the Folk to show off their Hearth and Kindred shields or banners as well as working together to create shields to hang in the feast hall. The Giroux Family have a good amount (but still limited) materials of pre-constructed shields and mixing bowls so we would like to yield to kids and folk that don't have shields of their own, also working in groups or partners will help. There is no cost to participate, nor donation accepted. This workshop may go later, while Harry fires the pole.

God-pole Firing (Harry & Folx) 10-11 am

Join us to watch-or lend a hand-charring the foot of the God-pole as treatment against rot and infestation. This responsibility requires many hands and includes tasks suited to a wide range of abilities-lifting the pole, fanning the coals, and dousing the char with wet pine switches-all coordinated to ensure everyone's safe contribution. Be sure to bring sunscreen and water! "Many hands make light work", so, lend a hand if you can!

Dog Safety for Adults (Sho) 11-12 pm

Join Sho for learning all about owning, training and approaching dogs safely.

Týr Lore (Barb) 12-1 pm

What are the stories of Týr, what traces of him remain from the past, and what do his stories mean to us now? As Heathens and readers of the Eddas we know him as the one-handed God, as the one who sacrificed his hand for the greater good of his community. Incorporating new reports about the European Bronze Age, Old Norse society, and academic perspectives on the Eddas, this workshop gives a summary of Týr through the ages.

Handfasting of Jaime & Dave (at the Vé)..... 1-2 pm

Everyone is invited to join in celebrating the handfasting of Jaime and Dave. Bring your well wishes and blessings of good fortune for the happy couple. Reception at the stage by invitation only.

Lunch & Group Swim (Folx)..... 2-3 pm

Firing God-poles is hot work! Time to eat something, take a nap, or go for a swim!

Show and Tell (Erik)..... 3-4 pm

You are in your best ritual gear—come and show off and talk about your clothes, tools, weapons, etc. Tell us about what you're wearing and why, was it a gift? From whom? What significance does it have for you and your relationship to the Gods. Perhaps you have tools or craft or textile you'd like to share a story about. Perhaps your precious items are on an altar at your camp site or at home. What is part of your altar and why? Sharing your stories helps us all connect to various facets of our own relationship with the Gods, Aesir and Vanir. Look forward to seeing and hearing the folx boast, leading into Blót.

Blót (Auz with Kin & Kith)..... 4-7 pm

Take the time to get into your best clothes and collect your offerings... It's Blót time! More regarding the Blót is found just before the schedule begins.

Dinner/Wellness Check (Folx)..... 7-8 pm

Decompress from the Blót; have a bite and relax. You are welcome to do so at the Standing Stone or in your own campsite. Also, you should probably drink some water now. Check on others to make sure they've taken care of themselves, too.

Fiat iustitia ruat caelum/Law & Justice (John)8-9 pm

This will be a facilitated discussion, exploring concepts of justice and law. It will seek to distinguish the differences between these ideas, examine the importance of law, and discuss what happens when law and justice are in conflict.

Esoteric Ritual (Jaime, Wayne, Jennifer, Linda, Brynn and Kara) at Main Firepit 9-11 pm

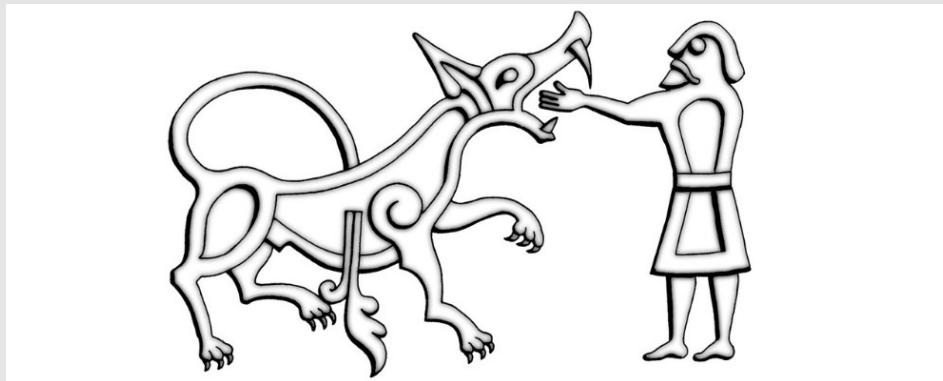
Join the three faces of Týr at the main firepit and decide what you would be willing to sacrifice...

Food preparation (Chantal & Folx) 9-11 pm

If you are not going to the esoteric ritual, perhaps come by the YAG and chat while you chop and help prepare for the Húsel feast tomorrow!

Folx Fire (Folx) 9-2 am

At this laid-back fire, we will raise a horn or two, chat with Folx newly met or long-time companions. There will be the opportunity for anyone to share a few myths or stories, poems or songs, as well. For those not attending the esoteric, you may stay



Depiction of Týr and the Fenris Wolf.

Washing Day

Viking-ish Games (GingerBear)..... 10-12 pm

Justice is blind(folded) as you and your opponent strike at each other in the Chest game.

A game of catch is a fun activity to play amongst friends. But there's a "catch" players will throw an oddly weighted item* and catch it... without use of their right hand. *Animal skin

Once again warriors will test their mettle against each other forcing their opponent across the line... but Like Týr, you only have your left hand to work with.

There is an awesome prize of a hand carved Týr Pocket Altar made by Odin's Beard Woodworking for each of the champions, donated by GingerBear. Same as last year, should one dominate all three games we shall toast your glory! However, the first runner up in each shall claim the prize of the other two events.

Lunch & Group Swim (Folx)..... 12-1 pm

It was a late night, and another one is coming. Let's all cool off with a swim and something to eat.

Sacrifice Facilitated Discussion (MA)..... 1-2 pm

Sacrifice means something different for everyone. For some, it is being prepared to offer a Týr-like commitment in your job in law enforcement or the military. For others, it is different types of service: nursing and medicine; public service; teaching children. Still others sacrifice their time volunteering, or financially supporting worthy causes. Come and discuss what sacrifice means to you, what you have gained - and what you have lost - through sacrifice. All are welcome.

Symbel 101 (Barb) 2-3 pm

If you have never been to a symbel at HHG, even if you have done others, it is good to attend this workshop. If you have never been to a Symbel, you really should come. Learn about what to expect and how to conduct yourself at the high symbel. Feel free to ask questions. And if you have been before, please feel free to attend as well.

Húsel Preparation Community (Ewan, Chantal & All Servers)..... 2-5 pm

The amazing volunteer servers meet with Luna and Chantal to go over the menu, the plan for serving and to generally prepare for the Húsel.

Getting to Know the Heathen Confederation of Canada (Erik)..... 3-4 pm

Come and meet with representatives and members of the Heathen Confederation of Canada. In this informal meeting, you will be presented with an update on what's new with the HCC. This will be an opportunity to ask questions and get answers on why we need the HCC more than ever. As inclusive Heathens in Canada, it is our responsibility to ensure that we invest in our own identity. Learn how you can support our national body, to help us grow and how to get involved not only to the benefit of Heathens, but for those who look up to us and those who have yet to meet a Heathen in real life! And drink more water!

Húsel Preparation (Chamberlain)..... 4-5 pm

Get your feast gear together and meet the Chamberlain to finalize your seating around the Hall.

Húsel, Skaldry & Draws (Folx)..... 6-8 pm

As it is said in the Hávamál: “With half a loaf and an empty cup, I found myself a friend.” In that spirit, we will enjoy a feast inspired by health and wellness, gorging upon the finest fare. Between our various courses, the Skalds among us will entertain the masses with their many talents. Some may sing, tell a tale or engage in a fit of interpretive dance... who knows! The draws will take place between the courses.

Clean Up & Comfort Break (Folx)..... 8 pm

After the last course is done and we all thank the cooks and servers, we clean our own dishes and sitting area, and prepare for Symbel. If you can, offer to help with the feast dishes so we can all sit down for Symbel.

High Symbol (Folx)..... 9 pm

Hail one and all! Grab a bench in the hall! May the horn be not a burden to the holder and wise words be spoken into that well. We begin right at 9.

Folx Fire (Folx)..... 12-2 am

At this laid-back fire, we will raise a horn or two to celebrate community members volunteering at Týr 2023. Chat with Folx newly met or long-time companions.

Sunna's Day

**Primitive Hunting Tools (Chad Giroux) at the
Cauldron..... 10-11 am**

Bola making and throwing: This simple yet effective primitive hunting tool is far easier to create than to perfect so let's make some bolas and see what we can do. The cauldron is a perfect location.

Dog Safety for Children (Sho)..... 11-12 pm

Whether your child(ren) is familiar with dogs, hasn't had a lot of experience, or is afraid, this workshop will help them navigate familiar and unfamiliar dogs safely. Those with dogs but no kids may want to attend for tips on when children approach your dogs!

Lunch, Swim & Pack Up (Folx)..... 1-2 pm

Tomorrow is a stat holiday so many will remain tonight, but for those who don't this is a break in the day to pack up. Do try to eat something and go for a dip before we meet at the hall again.

Rede Moot (Folx)..... 2-4 pm

Share your experience with others, what can be improved? What would you like to see remain? Likewise we will vote on the deity to raise in 2024.

Farewell Blessing..... 4 pm

Let us thank one another for the times we've had. May the wind be at our backs and good tidings before us all. Please feel free to stay as long

as you like! Raven's Knoll's motto is "come when you can, leave when you must".

Witan Debrief 5 pm

The Witan will sit down and compare notes from the Rede Moot, rewrite things legibly, etc. in order to be able to provide a 2024 experience that is what the Folx want.

Dinner 6-8 pm

Relax and chat, fill your cup and spend time with Folx.

Prep for Gleaning Meal (Chantal & Austin) at the YAG 8-9 pm

Chantal and Austin will be prepping a luncheon for those staying to help out with the clean up. Then they will sit by the fire with us all.

Quiet Fire Dusk

After a wonderful weekend together, we join again in smaller numbers to relax . No programming, just friends and fire.

Mani's Day

Glorious Gleaning 10-12 pm

It will not take long for the work to be done with the Folk's help. Head to the Standing Stone to offer help and someone will direct you what needs to be done. There are often individuals or a kindred who helps, often without even letting anyone know until it's done. But HHG, with the feast, is a big event to wrap up, and it takes days to do. We are grateful for your help!

Swim before Lunch 12-1 pm

Ah, it's been a weekend indeed. Swim and relax while Chantal and Auz make you a yummy lunch to say thanks!

Lunch 1 pm

A final breaking of bread by the pair that plans and prepares the annual feast. It is our thanks to those who helped clean up.

Týr Húsel Menu

All recipes for the Hail & Horn Gathering Húsel feast for 2023 are inspired or adapted from a translation of the book “De Observatione Ciborum”, subtitled ‘Roman Food for a Frankish King’. This is because Týr (a.k.a. Twisto) was a central god to the continental German tribes, like the Franks.

It is also a reminder that cultural syncretism has long been a Heathen way, in food and religion. This Merovingian-inspired menu is heavily influenced by Roman culture, including the embedded influences from Greek and Syrian (a.k.a. ‘Sarklanders’) cuisines and the Sephardic Jewish cuisine of the neighbouring Emirate of Cordova. These influences are mixed into a base of Germanic food traditions, and a dash of Celto-Gaulish flavour, to create this Heathen feast menu.

To accommodate as many people as possible, dishes have been adjusted and designed with inclusivity in mind. If you have any serious allergies, restrictions or aversions, a full ingredient list is available from the cooks, servers, or MA.

GF: Gluten-free DF: Dairy-free V-Vegan Veg-Vegetarian

Drinks

Frankish Switchel

A non-alcoholic drink made with white wine vinegar and honey.
(Veg, GF, DF)

Vikings Blood Mead

Cherry mead made from mountain spring water and Ginger Bear's hives. (Veg, GF, DF)

Vikings Blood Non-Alcoholic Mead

Cherry non-alcoholic mead, made the day of the feast by GingerBear.
0% ABV. (Veg, GF, DF)

Spreads & Smears

Apple-Flesh

A glorious spread made from caramelized apples and savoury bacon. (GF, DF)

Cinder-Folk Apple-Flesh

A sumptuous spread made from smoky leeks, vegetable ghee, and delectable apples. (V, Veg, GF, DF)

Fenrir Treats

Boiled bacon, flavoured with cumin. (Paleo, GF, DF)

Frankish Hummus

A spread made from chickpeas, walnuts, garlic, and white wine vinegar. (V, Veg, GF, DF)

Sourdough White Bread

A scrumptious, pull off a big piece, delicious vehicle for the spreads. (Veg, V, DF)

Gluten-Free Bread

A delicious home-made, gluten-free bread option. (GF, Veg, V)

Crackers

Not at all period, but a delicious, gluten-free cracker. (V, Veg, GF, DF)

Sops

Cauldron of Greens

A healthful soup of fennel, asparagus, foraged greens, mint and coriander. (V, Veg, GF, DF)

Metes

Peacock in Sweet Wine Sauce

Smoked mock-peacock (a.k.a. turkey) thighs and drumsticks in a sauce of red wine, honey, red wine vinegar, and long pepper. (DF, GF)

Týriffic Turnips

Boiled turnips in a mustard-cumin vinaigrette. (V, Veg, GF, DF)

Romano-Gaulish Lentils

Sour brown lentils with white wine vinegar and Sarklander sumac. (V, Veg, DF, GF)

Ægir's Frumenty

Toasted barley frumenty, cooked in dark ale, seasoned with seaweed-salt. (V, Veg, DF)

Sweets

Merovingian Melon Salad

A dessert salad of mint and melon. (V, Veg, GF, DF)

'Afranĵ Marzibanĵa' ('Frankish Marzipan', in Arabic)

A Cordovan marzipan made from honey, almonds, and orange zest. (V, Veg, GF, DF)

List of Volunteer Positions

Blót Gythia /Goði: Austin (Auz) Lawrence

Byrele: Ellen Cotter and Logan Elson

Carver: Wayne LeBlanc

Chamberlain: Paul Blanchard

Cunning-Persons: Jaime Cadorette, with Wayne Leblanc, Jennifer Misquith, Brynja Chleirich, Linda Demissy and Kara Turgeon

Decorating the Hall: Holly Upshall

Feast Cooks: Chantal Layoun, Jason the Wolf, Jennifer Misquith and Jessica Kelly

Firekeeper: Gwynne Gray

Guides: Josh Hayward and Adam McLaughlin

Kenari: Barb Davy, Erik Lacharity, John Farrell, GingerBear, MA, Sho, Chad Giroux, Giroux Family

Head of Service: Ewan Peredhel

Heralds: Josh Hayward, Adam McLaughlin and Erik Lacharity,

Housecarls: Nat Gardiner, Allison McCuaig and Sebastian Gray

Key: Maryanne (MA) Pearce and Holly Upshall

Mead Maker: GingerBear

Medics: Basil Gardiner and GingerBear

Pole Burning Lead: Harry Weaver

Program: MA, Chantal Layoun and Linda Demissy

Reeve: Chantal Layoun with Jennifer Misquith

Seneschal: Steve Hampshire and Wayne Upshall

Skald: Basil Gardiner

Symbol Gythia: Brynja Chleirich

Thulr: GingerBear

Trolls and Gnomes: Amy Bradley and Alex Campbell

Thank you to everyone who lent a hand!

Biographies

Adam McLaughlin – Guide

Adam has a passion for music, performance & mental wellness. He has been in recovery for four years and has run various recovery-based events as well as hosting private events around Toronto from producing full shows to hosting karaoke. He's had a strong connection to Bragi since beginning his journey and engages in a mix of Heathen & Pagan practices. His connection with Bragi called him to volunteer last year as Skald, giving him the opportunity to bring his passions for community connection & performance together. (He/Him)

Allison McCuaig – Housecarl

Allison is an RK staff member and a long time community member. She's passionate about empowering cis and trans women and holding space for them. You can generally find her down by the river or working on the Shrine Trail. (She/Her)

Austin (Auz) Lawrence – Witan / Feast Cook / Blót Goði

Auz is one of the Stewards of Raven's Knoll. Auz (short for "Austin") directly assists with running a number of events at Raven's Knoll, including: Hail and Horn Gathering; Kaleidoscope Gathering (Canada's largest Pagan festival); and KornuKopia Gathering (a pan-Pagan harvest festival). Auz is an Ásatrúar, oathed Goði since 2008, and is the keeper of the Raven's Knoll Aesir Vé. Auz is interested in martial arts, historical cooking, brewing and all things Old Norse. Auz is also a former Stag King of Kaleidoscope Gathering. Auz is married to Maryanne Pearce (a.k.a. MA), with children Joven and Kadri, as well as a revolving menagerie of pets. (He/Him or They/Them)

Barb – Týr Lore Workshop / 101 Symbel

Barb is a Heathen living in Ottawa. She conducted research on the Heathens of Raven's Knoll from 2018-2019 and has published some articles about it.

Basil Gardiner – Skald / Medic

Basil of the Raven's Knoll banner AKA Beef Castle Basil AKA Basil Bragi's bro AKA Lil' Baby Lindwurm AKA The Fresh Prince of Valhalla is a rap, poetry, and hip hop enthusiast. He is known for mixing Norse overtones into freestyle rhyming verse. When he isn't rocking the mic at a skaldry performance, you can find him on Bogside, where he serves his Raven's Knoll community as the official, unofficial, unelected forever-mayor. (He/Him)

Brynja Chleirich – Symbel Gythia / Handfasting Gythia / Esoteric Team

Matriarch of Lodestar Hearth, co-founding member of North Star Kindred, Brynja is a dedicated Gythia to the Heathen traditions. Having performed numerous public rituals on the land of Raven's Knoll, she has also organized and hosted Well & Tree Gathering for the past 13 years which features the annual Procession of Nerthus. Providing opportunities for and facilitating spiritual experiences for the Folk is a privilege...while working within her own realm of personal self-evolution. Currently, Brynja is completing her B.Sc. (Honours) in Earth Science and volunteers her time on the Board of Directors for Lupus Ontario. In her "free" time, you'll find her drinking copious amounts of coffee, rescuing guinea pigs, looking up at the Cosmos, and playing with dragons in a made-for-tv-movie kind'o'life. (She/Her)

Chad Giroux – Primitive Hunting Tools

Hearth of the Open Water and a member of the Heathen Confederation of Canada. (He/Him or They/Them)

Chantal Layoun – Witan / Feast Cook / Reeve

Chantal is a longstanding member of the Ottawa-area Heathen community, the Lady of Erikhēm and a Steward of Rúnatýr Kindred. Member of the Heathen Confederation of Canada. Co-founder of Moss Ridge Hunt Camp, inclusive hunt camp. Mother of daughter two young ladies. She volunteers in community council at Valoris and other sub-committees that help advocate for the folk with the folk. Her spiritual traditions are comprised equally of Heathen and First Nations traditions. She has worked in fast paced restaurant and service industries since her teenage years. Presently working with vulnerable folk of Ottawa. With a get-er-done attitude and no messing around style, her feast-prep skills are renowned. (She/Her/Elle)

Ellen Cotter – Byrele

Ellen is a married polyamorous Heathen who currently lives in Ottawa with her husband and two teenage kids. A Navy spouse, she has lived in various places across Canada, including Toronto, Halifax, St-Thomas, Victoria and Ottawa. She has identified as a pagan or Heathen for most of her adult life and has been an enthusiastic participant in the Raven's Knoll community since 2018. She is currently a member of the Heathen Confederation of Canada's National Council and is working to make Heathenry more inclusive. Ellen enjoys spending time with her husband and partyner, as well as doing textiles arts; knitting, embroidery, spinning and weaving. Ellen brings distracted squirrel energy to everything she does! (She/Her)

Erik Lacharity – HCC Information Session / Show and Tell

Erik has been a Heathen since 2007. In 2008 he co-founded Rúnatýr Kindred, which serves local Heathens in Ottawa. In 2012, along with Austin Lawrence, Erik – along with and supported by members of Rúnatýr Kindred – founded Hail and Horn Gathering (HHG). In 2016, he founded Thia Frankisk Aldsido, a Frankish Heathen tradition which renovates and continues the polytheism of 3-5th century Merovingian Gaul. Erik is also the co-founder of Courir le loup-garou, which communicates and promotes the traditional witchcraft of French Canadians. In 2020, Erik co-founded the Heathen Confederation of Canada, which represents the interests of inclusive Heathens in Canada. He was elected the National Representative two years later. Erik is married to his exceptional wife Chantal, who joined the HHG Witan in 2018, and is an important leader in the local Heathen community. Together, they are raising two strong and wonderful daughters who also participate in Heathen activities as young Gythjas. (He/Him)

Ewan Peredhel – Head of Service

Ewan is a Heathen Gothar of Vindisir Kindred. His home is in the Forest City at Antler River, or Deshkan Ziibi (also known as London Ontario) on traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Attawandaron peoples. He was raised by witches and began attending Pagan gatherings as an infant. Thereby, he had exposure to, and experience with, a wide variety of spiritual paths and practices before settling into his own. Ewan is proud, steadfast, and optimistic. He is a fairy godmother by trade and loves his craft. He realizes the importance of interconnectedness and takes care with his relationships with others and the worlds around us. (He/Fae/They)

GingerBear (Jon) – Viking-ish Games, Healer/Medic, Thurl, Sumbel Co-Host

GingerBear is the current Stag King, Mead maker and Healer extraordinaire, Thurl, Sumbel Co-host and the raving lunatic leading you in this year's Viking-ish games. As a healer, he reminds you that you are responsible for your own safety so please hydrate, eat, rest, stay warm/cool as conditions dictate, take your meds, and don't play with sharp and pointy things when the mead comes out. Most importantly, have fun... disconnect with the world outside, and reconnect with your community H.O.M.E. (Here On Mother Earth). (He/Him)

Gwynne Gray – Firekeeper

Gwynne is a Heathen-adjacent eclectic pagan with a scholarly interest in the role of religion in the creation of community. They have a kinship with horses, a passion for tea, a devotion to chosen family, and a knack for setting things on fire. (She/Her or They/Them)

Harry Weaver – God-Pole Burning

Harry has been honoring the Æsir and Vanir since 2012 and has been charring God-poles since 2016. He is a member of Vindisir Kindred and a founding member of North Star Kindred. His practice is informed by his Latvian heritage and an interest in Baltic paganism. His master's thesis examined the ritual sites at Raven's Knoll as part of a broader analysis on the material culture of polytheist communities. He enjoys lending a hand wherever one is needed.

Holly Upshall – Decorator / Key

Holly was born and raised in Southern California. Her mom was introduced to Buddhism when Holly was just a few months old and has practiced the law of "Cause and Effect" through her daily life with her thoughts, words and actions for over 50 years. In 2011, she met the man of her dreams, a Canadian gentleman named Wayne – together they are known as WUHU (his initials and her initials). One year later, they were married and have been living in Ottawa. She became a Canadian Citizen and has enjoyed being a bonus parent (Step Mom) to two children, who are now adults. Last year Wayne and Holly became Grandparents to Roman (Eleanor's baby). Holly likes to laugh, sing, drum and tell stories about World of Warcraft in an effort to make others smile. Holly feels connected to and serves Raven's Knoll and its people freely and with joy.

Jaime Cadorette – Cunning Person / Bride

Jaime is Gythia of the Golden Birch Kindred in Montreal and has been an active member of the greater Montreal pagan community for over 20 years. During that time she has worn many hats, from regional rep of ADF and the Troth, to leading public rituals and workshops. She is currently studying for her Community Ministry certification with Cherry Hill Seminary to better serve our growing Heathen community. (She/Her/Elle)

Jason the Wolf – Feast Cook / Feast Server

Jason the Wolf has been attending the HHG festival since Thor's year in 2016. Since then Jason has volunteered for many community jobs and tasks throughout work weekends and other festivals offered at Raven's Knoll campground. In Aeir's year of 2019, Jason was voted by the folk into the doughty, an honour that he carries close to his heart. Jason does not think himself as one of the more knowledgeable Heathens of lore and saga, instead he has honed his skills to community service, leadership, healing, and creativity. (He/Him)

Jennifer Misquith – Feast Cook / Reeve

Jennifer Misquith is a member of the RagnaSaeti Kindred living on Montreal's South Shore. She is passionate about cooking and will talk your ear out if you ask her about growing gourmet mushrooms. (She/Her)

John Farrell – Law & Justice Workshop

John is a high school teacher, author, voice actor, reverend minister, Baron of Ladonia, and man of international pants. He loves stories and has pursued their creation and their nature his whole life. Sometimes he looks at terms like justice and law with hope and suspicion. This will be his fourth HHG. (He/Him)

Logan Elson – Byrele

Logan has been a solitary Heathen, hailing from Durham, for twelve years, and has finally made their first trip to the Knoll for their Master's research on Heathenry. Their research is interested in finding folks' biases in the creation of contemporary ritual practice. Otherwise, Logan is a writer of poetry and fiction, with nary a publication to their name, with a deep seated appreciation for good company, often accompanied with coffee. (He/Him or They/Them)

Maryanne (MA) Pearce – Witan / Key / Sacrifice Discussion

Maryanne Pearce is one of the Stewards of Raven's Knoll. She is usually known as MA (or Auntie M, if you are a dog or small child). MA runs/organizes a number of events at Raven's Knoll, including: Hail and Horn Gathering; Kaleidoscope Gathering (Canada's largest Pagan festival); and, KornuKopia Gathering (a pan-Pagan harvest festival). MA's spirituality draws from her mixed Celtic, Germanic, and Mohawk heritage; and, is deeply grounded in Mother Earth. She volunteers as the "Tax Lady" for women's shelters and Indigenous centres in Ottawa, and has worked extensively in animal rescue, as well as on the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. MA is married to Auz Lawrence, with children Joven and Kadri, as well as a revolving menagerie of pets. (She/Her)

Joshua James Hayward – Guide

Josh discovered Heathenism in the late 90s. I honoured the Holy Powers solo until was introduced to Runatyr Kindred in 2009. It has been a joy and privilege to have been a part of the local Heathen community's growth and evolution over the past decade. I am a member of Heathen Confederation of Canada I currently live in Winchester ON with my spouse Jennifer, and have 3 adult children, 2 dogs (Romeo & Memphis) along with our extended "chosen family", and an excessive number of ukuleles. Hail! (He/Him)

Linda Demissy – Program Editor

Linda leads Ragnasaeti kindred on Montreal's south shore. She Primarily honors Frigga's Handmaidens and Gerda, and works as a therapist online. (She/Her)

Nat Gardiner – Housecarl

Nemesis Nat is a practicing Heathen whose favourite deities are Hel and Loki. She is a problem-solver by nature, and strives to embrace the general chaos of life. She loves taxidermy, true crime, all animals, and works as a tattoo artist with a specialization in fine lines, pointilism, and neo-traditional Heathen art. (She/Her)

Paul Blanchard – Chamberlain

Paul is a new volunteer at the "Hail and Horn Gathering" but a familiar face around the Knoll, especially in the charming Bogside area. After attending his first "Hail and Horn" last year, Paul was inspired to lend a helping hand this year, ensuring everyone feels comfortable and warmly welcomed at the feast. His dedication to fostering a sense of belonging and creating a memorable experience for all attendees makes him an invaluable part of the event's team. (He/Him)

Sebastian Gray – Housecarl

Sebastian is an Inclusive Heathen and staff member for multiple festivals held on the land. He is passionate about LGBTQ2S+ rights and is almost always eager to lend a helping hand. (He/Him)

Shoshana (Sho)- Dog Safety Workshop

Sho is best recognized with at least one large German shepherd at her side. Sho's day job is a Registered Veterinary Technician Specialist. As such, you can holler for her help should any species (but ours) require first aid! She has been a member of Vindisir Kindred since 2015, and a regular attendee of HHG since. Sho shares her life with her wife, Kaylee (She/Her), their son, Brynjulf Thorin (Little Brynn, he/his), newborn 2023 and (never) enough animals. (She/Her)

Steve “Beast” Hampshire – Seneschal

Steve has been on his Pagan/Heathen path for well over 20 years. This 2019 Stag King found his home on Raven’s Knoll about 8 years ago, where he formed his community connection through event attendance and volunteering. This participation eventually led to him joining the “Knoll Trolls” and contributing to the foundation of what makes the land functional and enjoyable for all. A member of North Star Kindred, he is a talented artist, doodler extraordinaire, tinkerer, and handyman of All Things. In his spare time, you can find him relishing in the delight of having such a glorious beard. (He/Him)

Wayne LeBlanc – Pole Carver / Cunning Person

Wayne calls the wild spaces home. Retired from the military in 2019. Currently lives in a magical forest off-grid with his awesome wife Lauren. Enjoys teaching wilderness survival and bushcraft. Has been a Heathen even before he knew what that was. Carves things from time to time. (He/Him)

Wayne Upshall – Seneschal

Wayne is a Knollian at heart and in spirit. After 37 years of active military service in the Army, he finds solace and peace in helping take care of the Knoll’s environment and people. He is often found bumbling along in a gator with tools in tow wishing all a “Good Morning” as he goes about his business. Wayne may appear troll-like in appearance and mannerisms until his second cup of coffee has been consumed. His hobbies include hand drumming, drinking copious amounts of coffee and has been known to host a fine dragon of mead in celebration to all the splendors of the Knoll. Wayne is very approachable and is willing to assist if he is able to. He and his wife (Holly) are known as WUHU (his initials and her initials). Wayne’s lot in life is to help facilitate enjoyment and splendor that takes place at Raven’s Knoll to ensure a wonderful and fulfilling camping experience. (He/Him)



Cartoon drawing of Týr wearing shirt with Týr rune and the words “Disabled Immigrant”

Rules for the Vé

The Vé is a holy place, a home for our Gods in Midgard. It is a frith-yard; a place set aside, of peace and good thoughts. In the religious custom of Heathens in this region, the location is holy and must always be respected. To enter and participate in any ritual taking place in the Vé, certain rules should be strictly followed as a sign of respect for the holy power and to ensure your own continued good fortune.

Honour the Æsir

Honour and speak of only the gods and goddesses of the Æsir and Vanir (e.g., Thor and Frigg, Frey and Freya) or their clear allies (e.g., Aegir and Ran), and those bound in loyalty to them by blood-oath (e.g., Loki) within this Vé.

Wights that stand in opposition to the gods (e.g., Fenrir, Hel) should not be honoured there.

Gods, Goddesses or spirits of other pantheons or monotheistic faiths should not be honoured in the holy enclosure (e.g., Diana, Cernunnos, Jesus).

This must be demonstrated in word and action. Thus, do not wear signs or symbols of Gods, Goddess or Spirits not of this Heathen custom. (Tattoos are OK, since they are part of you.)

Keep frith

Maintain peaceful and socially harmonious relations in your actions and deeds between people and gods and spirits.

Carry nothing that that might be considered a weapon into the Vé.

Tools to be used to maintain the sacred enclosure and certain items to be explicitly used as part of a ritual to honour the gods may, in some circumstances, enter the sacred grounds (e.g., hammer, wood carving knife, ritual spear). Check with a Goði or Gythia who has previously performed public services in the Raven's Knoll Vé before bearing such items before the Gods.

Do not insult people or Gods within the Vé, even in jest.

Be not filthy

Let no human bodily excretion touch the ground or any object in the Vé.

Definitely do not allow any spittle, urine, or feces to come in contact with the sacred area.

Avoid contact with earwax, tears, sweat, pus, and blood, if possible. If emotion or medical necessity or extreme youth do not allow one to follow this taboo, it is understood some contact may occur and is understood as permissible.

Refrain from personal self-care (e.g., blowing your nose, spitting out a bug, applying bug spray or sunscreen) in the Vé. Simply leave the Vé completely to do so, if you can.

Also, as a point of decorum, please turn off and leave behind all electronic equipment that is not a medical necessity.

If your conscience will not allow you keep to follow these taboos within the confines of the Vé, please do not enter the enclosure. It is permissible to view what takes place inside of the Vé from outside of the Vé-bond rope, so long as you do not interact with anyone or anything in the sacred space in word or deed.



A drawing of Týr , after losing his hand.

Inclusivity Statement

Hail and Horn Gathering is an open, spiritual retreat for the exclusive practice of modern Heathen spirituality. The gathering is also a socially inclusive place. Those attending the event are expected to express frith and grith in their interactions with others while at the event, both in word and deed. The Folk at the gathering are expected to be good guests and to be non-discriminatory to one another and the wider society.

The Ontario's Human Rights Code itemizes the areas where discrimination is not tolerated, which are the same as those at the gathering. These protected grounds are: age; ancestry, colour, or race; citizenship; ethnic origin; place of origin; creed; disability; family status; relationship status; gender identity or gender expression; receipt of public assistance; sex (including pregnancy and breastfeeding); and, sexual orientation.

Those not conforming to these expectations may be asked to leave the event without refund, at the discretion of the event organizers.

The Witan of Hail and Horn Gathering endorse the Canadian Pagan Declaration on Intolerance and Declaration 127.



Drawing of Týr and the Fenris Wolf.