

January 2017

Skylands Report

The e-newsletter of the Skylands Ásatrú Fellowship



A Day Trip to the Lake Mohawk *Weihnachtsmarkt*

The 15th Annual German Christmas Market (*Weihnachtsmarkt*) was held at scenic Lake Mohawk in Sparta, New Jersey and the Skylands Ásatrú Fellowship (SAF) was there to partake in the festivities. Besides the celebrations of our major holidays and the ongoing series of Ásatrú and Runa classes, the SAF participates in various local events throughout the year. In 2016, members had enjoyable times at the Kutztown Folk Festival and the Vasa Park Scandinavian Fest. Another such event was the *Weihnachtsmarkt* at Lake Mohawk.

This event featured a German world champion speed carver who demonstrated his talents and offered his sculptures, which included bears, rabbits, and dragons, for sale. The *Weihnachtsmarkt* was held on the Country Club property of Lake Mohawk with over 110 vendors set up along the length of the boardwalk.

Skylands members who were in attendance were thrilled to find Yule gift ideas scattered amongst the many vendors at the show. We spotted various Viking-related items for sale including beautiful leather-bound books emblazoned with Odin and Mjolnir. Members enjoyed munching on bratwursts and hot roasted pecans.

As SAF members strolled through the Market we ran into old friends from Hearthstone Theod and the Asatru Folk Assembly putting a nice cap on an otherwise memorable day.



The entrance to Lake Mohawk's 15th Annual German Christmas Market



Wick M. and Don V. enjoying the Weihnachtsmarkt

Ásatrú 101 examines Yule

For December's *Ásatrú 101* class Joseph goði led students through a historical overview of the key events and winter traditions leading up to and including the Yule festival. Starting with *Krampusnacht* on December 5th, a tradition originally associated with the famous tale of the laming of Thor's goats, the class considered Thor and his goats visit to homes, punishing naughty children and rewarding the nice ones. Today in Scandinavian countries, the Yule Goat (*Jolbock*) is a popular equivalent to our Santa Claus.

We class also learned about the night of the Winter Solstice where we have Lussinatta, a remembrance of the goddess Frigg visiting homes to make sure that all are prepared for the long cold winter. The Solstice is also the night that Odin's Wild Hunt (*Die wilde Jagd*) begins its ride.

On New Year's Eve, we have Mothers Night, when the Three Mothers (aka the Norns) are invited to our homes with a feast, in return for their favor in the coming year.

And finally there is the mid-winter sacrifice and celebration itself; Yule! The *sónarblót*, or "Son's sacrifice" takes place on the first night of Yule. Yule is celebrated with gatherings that often involve a meal and gift giving.

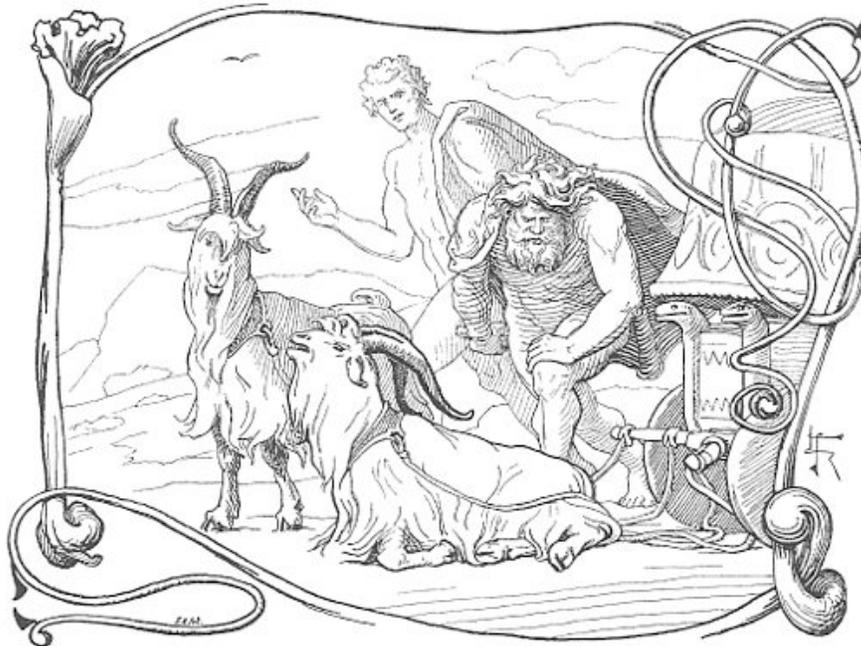
The recent research into Yule by Joseph goði made this popular subject both entertaining and insightful for students.

Remember *Ásatrú 101* classes are open to all and those who have missed a class are always encouraged to join us!

For more information on Yule, please see "The Big Day: Yule (Part One)" on Jön Upsal's Garden at: <http://jonupsalsgarden.blogspot.com/2016/12/the-big-day-yule-part-one.html>



SAF members pose with the Julbock "Yule Goat" after class



Thor discovers one of his goats is lame in a drawing by Lorenz Frølich (1895)

Skylands January Calendar

Meet and Greet

Date: Friday, January 6, 2017

Time: 06:30 PM

Location: Houlihan's, 1735 Route 46 East, Parsippany, NJ

Ásatrú 101 Class

Date: January 8, 2017

Time: 06:30 PM

Subject: Soul, Wyrð, and Orlog

Location: Stanhope, NJ

Yule Celebration

Date: January 14, 2017

Location: Stanhope, NJ

(Open to tribe members and invitees. A \$10 donation is requested.)

Runa Workshop

Date: January 22, 2017

Time: 06:30 PM

Subject: Thorsson's *Futhark* pp. 81-137

Location: Stanhope, NJ

New Moon Offering

Date: January 27, 2017

Everyone is encouraged to make an offering to their local land-spirits. By making regular offerings, we increase our bonds of friendship with the spirits of the earth.

How to Celebrate Mother's Night (31 December)

As this is more of a family or solitary tradition than something done together as a tribe, we present the following as a brief ceremony to accompany your own offering of a Feast of the Norns. It should consist of a regular plate of food, just like you were serving an honored guest in your family, and should be set out on regular dishes (not disposable plates). If you wish, you can recite the following three times to invite your Norns to partake:

The three Mothers traveled to the table,
They found the feast filling;
Meat from the table,
Bread from the board,

Wine from the cask.

Boons brought the Mothers, bright fortune,
Success for the supper they saw;
One Mother was there,
One Mother is there,
Another Mother will be there.

Look upon us with kindly eyes, oh Mothers,
Bless us for the feast we give.

And remember, if the animals in your house partake of the feast, that's a sure sign that the offering has been accepted.



Arthur Rackham's painting of the Norns from 1911

Tribal Milestones

Bill P. celebrates his birthday – Jan 1. Happy birthday!

Celebrating one year as an oathed member of the tribe:

Joseph B.
Lisa C.
Greg F.
Stephen L.
Wick M.
Randi R.
Don V.

Help Skylands Ásatrú Fellowship

Skylands Ásatrú Fellowship runs both Asatru 101 classes and Runa Workshops. We have celebrations of the major holidays in the heathen calendar. We run several on-line sites and produce this newsletter. All of this is possible through donations from members and friends. Please consider making a donation to Skylands Asatru Fellowship today!

Donate: http://www.skylandsasatru.org/?page_id=183

Follow Skylands on-line!

For more information about our tribe and our events, please visit our website at www.skylandsasatru.org

Don't forget to *friend* us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/skylandsasatru/>

Remember to sign up for our events on our Meetup page: <http://www.meetup.com/NJ-Asatru/>

Skylands Ásatrú Fellowship is also on Twitter. Follow us at: https://twitter.com/Skylands_Asatru