

Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice

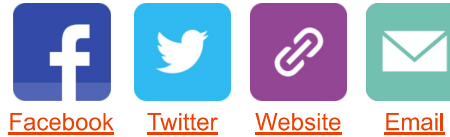
Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



In this edition of *The Voice*, we have information about the Mother of all MoMs (MoM) and its presenters, AFA programs, past events that happened in March around the country, Membership news and upcoming events. Your input is needed to make *The Voice* a publication filled with events, photos and news. Please feel free to submit any events, news or photos to thevoice@runestone.org.

Hail the AFA!
Channcie Bean

Donate to the AFA



The next *Voice* will be published on May 20th and we will cover what has happened in April of 2013 and at MoM. Also in the May edition we will have our first "Getting to know your Leadership." Please submit any events, news and photos of happenings in your area no matter how big or small. Deadline for the following *Voice* is May 15th; please email Channcie Bean at thevoice@runestone.org.

A few words from Steve McNallen

MoM will not just be a gathering. Like all gatherings of the Folk, it will of course feature blot and sumbels and blessings, rites of beginning and rites of closing, but this is not all. The entire event, from the first gesture at the opening ceremony to the final word at the closing, will itself be a ritual...indeed, a "meta-ritual." All the other rituals done in the course of the event will be parts of this meta-ritual, and will add to the power of the whole.

And what is the goal of this greater, inclusive ritual? Nothing less than the blessing of all those in attendance, and blessing for the Asatru Folk Assembly, now and in the times to come.


AFA members and friends are urged to be there with us, to share in the blessings and to go away with more might and wisdom than when they arrive. Come to MoM!

"And here are more of the details..."

Mother of all Moots (MoM)

Napa, California
May 10 - 12, 2013

The
MOTHER
of all
MOOTS



runestone.org

The poster features a background image of a woman in a headscarf, possibly a nun, with a sunburst effect behind her. The text is overlaid on this image.

The rumors you have all heard are true - weâ€™re sitting on several very big announcements for Mother of all Moots. What weâ€™re talking about is nothing less

If you're attending, you'll be in on the ground floor of a new era for our faith and our Folk. If you're not attending, well, you might want to reconsider!

Mike Hartrich has been point man on a project that has the power to make a difference not just for the AFA, but for American culture in general. These ideas can put a new stamp - *our* stamp! - on the next couple of decades, if we play it right. Mike, along with Brad, myself, and others, have decided to break the news at MoM.

You all know about Runestone Press, our new publishing arm. But there's more to that story, and it's big news. We've quietly, in the background, accomplished some things that have momentous implications for the AFA, and our faith as a whole. The revelation will come in May, at MoM.

And there's something else, too, but I'm not even going to give you a hint on that one. It's just too much. But you'll find out. If you're there in person, we'll have a gift for you. Better to have me hand it to you at MoM than to have to buy one on Ebay for a hundred bucks next year!

MoM. Not just a gathering. In your heart, you know we're at a pivotal point in history. I need you there. Let's make the future we want.

Northern Runes Radio on Site!

You've probably heard *Northern Runes Radio*, the awesome podcast masterminded by Daniel Updike from Edmonton, Alberta. Well, Dan is driving down all the way from Canada with his wife and a car full of his kindred members just to be at MoM! And he's responsible for another MoM - first - we'll have vast portions of this event available in video and audio for dissemination to a huge audience via NRR, Youtube, and more! We've wanted to do this for years but never had the ability to pull it off. Dan made it doable. As our Folkbuilder for all of Canada, Daniel stepped right in and is a strong advocate for the AFA and all it stands for. Dan is currently a student in our Clergy Program and will be performing blot at MoM as well as giving a talk on "The Benefits of Daily Practice."

dynamic duo from the popular California Celtic-rock band, Molly's Revenge. John Weed and Stuart Mason are performing every weekend up and down the West Coast, so we're fortunate to have booked them for MoM. They'll bring us the best of Celtic music with a touch of bluegrass, and will talk about the foundations of our folk music. Music begins at 8:00 PM!

Auction Action!

Brad, our Auction-Meister, will bring out our bidding frenzy and laughter for the Saturday auction. We have a wonderful selection of items, many hand-crafted. Bring your extra change and enthusiasm as we help pay for this event. Our registration fees don't quite cover our actual costs of using this camp and as you know, we offer over and beyond what you find at any other national gathering.

We'll have vendors with lots of unique merchandise and lots of AFA t-shirts for sale.

And More!

After our evening feast, we'll stroll down to the campfire circle. By stark, towering redwoods, we'll gather for our bonfire and Odin's Blot. Bring a story, poem, or song to share, and those of you who play instruments, your melodies will bring us closer to the magic of the place.

Following Saturday's intensity of workshops and talks, we'll glide into Sunday morning, with our May celebration. Ann Taylor will demonstrate the traditional German art of cut paper designs called *Scherenschnitte* (Try saying that three times fast!), and then she'll hand the scissors over to us to produce a keepsake from this event. Dancing around the Maypole, farewell talks, a Wayfarers' Blot and a lovely Mother's Day brunch with special gifts for the ladies will bring our event to a close.

You can now find registration materials at our website: www.runestone.org

We are very lucky to have some truly engaging speakers at MoM this year, who will

Stephen A. McNallen

Allsherjargothi of the Asatru Folk Assembly and father of the modern resurgence of our ancestral faith in America. Stephen McNallen's liturgy and blot has become the standard used by Asatruar across the country and his contributions to the practice of our faith are countless. Writer, activist, journalist, teacher and Gothi, we are proud and thankful to have him lead the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Daniel Updike

Daniel is well known to Asatruar across the world as the voice of the "Northern Runes Radio" podcast. An Asatruar from Edmonton, Alberta Canada, Daniel has been both a follower of the Northern gods, and a student of the Northern mysteries, for around 25 years. Daniel was given the opportunity to become folkbuilder for Canada, and has been doing what he can to bring the AFA vision to that nation. He is also currently in the AFA Clergy Program, and looking forward to even more opportunities to serve the folk and lift up the ways of our ancestors.

Brad Taylor-Hicks OAC

Our Chief Operating Officer, Brad works side by side with the McNallens to run the daily operations of the AFA. He first received his Edda over twenty years ago while a student in his home country of England. After moving to Florida, he spent almost 15 years learning and demonstrating traditional crafts in a museum. A Folkbuilder, Ordained Clergyman and speaker at many AFA functions across the country, Brad continues to devote his life's work to the furtherance of Asatru.

Bryan Wilton

Bryan is the Folkbuilder for the AFA Central Corridor. Former US Army Infantry, Bryan has travelled all over the world as a warrior and Army Instructor. He is currently working on building a homestead and Asatru retreat center in Oklahoma. We first met Bryan at our AFA moot in Oklahoma where he taught us the history of the Heavener Runestone. He is currently in the AFA Clergy Program and writing his first inspirational book for our faith

Sheila McNallen will be on hand to make sure that your stay at MoM goes smoothly.

Sheila to take the lead on various group activities, art, crafts, and nature studies for the children.

Michael Hartrich

Member of the AFA since 2005 he is a builder, inventor, entrepreneur, general contractor with 30 years experience in residential construction, creator of BuildersInventions, an online meeting space www.buildersinventions.com founder of the Santa Cruz Construction Guild, an online community made up of trusted construction professionals referred by word-of-mouth, www.santacruzconstructionguild.us currently in expansion with the Green Bay CG and the Monterey CG, focused on individual spiritual development as the key to building real community

HAVE YOU REGISTERED??





AFA Moot in Denmark

All AFA members worldwide are invited to the Asatru Folk Assembly's first AFA moot in Scandinavia! Our Folkbuilders in Denmark, Lars Ireneeson and Soren Fisker, have been hard at work preparing this very special event coming this August 3-4.

We will be really "coming home" to the place the 3 horns were carved into stone, a symbol of great importance to the AFA and the revival of our native faith.

This event is open to AFA members around the world. Here is the schedule of events -

â€¢ Saturday, August 3rd

10AM, tour to see the Ladby ship burial mound and museum.

4-6PM, arrival at FrÃ¸bjerg BavnehÃ¸j pavillion at the foot of the hill.

6-7PM, blot with Steve McNallen on top of FrÃ¸bjerg BavnehÃ¸j, the highest point in

9-11PM, moot and entertainment in pavillion.
11PM, departure for Odense.

â€¢ Sunday, August 4th
10AM, talks begin.
12PM, lunch.
1-3PM - talks

Steve & Sheila McNallen and Brad Taylor-Hicks and Gili Lochner will be attending and will be spending four days in Odense with our Folkbuilders. We recommend participants to stay at the City Hostel which is located next to the train station in Odense, as this is easy to get to by train and busses. The rooms are quite comfortable and their prices are fair, compared to Danish standards, and their breakfast is excellent. The home page on <http://odensedanhostel.dk/?lang=en> offers online booking, and we recommend using it.

Registration is necessary, and must be received before August 1st. More information will soon be available at www.runestone.org and at www.afa-europe.eu/denmark

The AFA's newest Apprentice Folkbuilder

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At long last a man has stepped forward to lead the Folk in Northern Europe. Please join us in welcoming Wiktor Domgala of Poland as our newest Apprentice Folkbuilder. Please feel free to reach out and contact him.

He is very active on Facebook.



Membership News

Passing of L.G. "Tommy" Thompson
April 28, 1920 - March 6, 2013

Father of Thorgrun Odden

Tommy was born in Glen Ellen County, South Dakota, in the sod home of his parents' 1,100-acre wheat farm. He enlisted in the [US Navy](#) when he was 18, graduating from Great Lakes Naval

Mare Island in Vallejo, California. At the outbreak of WW II, he was assigned to US Naval Armed Guard at San Francisco and was stationed on many Merchant Marine oil tankers from there, and later at the end of the war, served on troop transport ships in the Pacific, as Boatswains Mate 1st. He saw action numerous times in all theaters, with his ship and crew decorated as well. At the end of the war, he married Mandalie E. Thompson and settled in the Los Angeles area where he began his career as a journeyman carpenter. He moved his family to Santa Cruz County in 1957 where he became a building contractor.

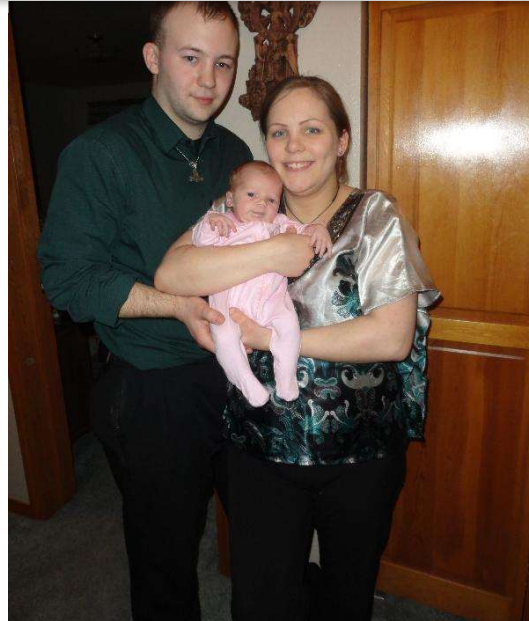
Tommy will be missed by his family and many that knew him for the kind, patient, and honorable man that he was, and for his craftsmanship, and his ability to create function and design, in homes.



Alaska AFA Member Eric Whisman and Sasha Taylor would like to announce the birth of their daughter.

Lily Emma Whisman born Feb 26, 2013, at 11:24am. She is a big girl at 7lbs, 5oz and 21 inches long.

The Alaska group had a beautiful naming ceremony on her 9th day after

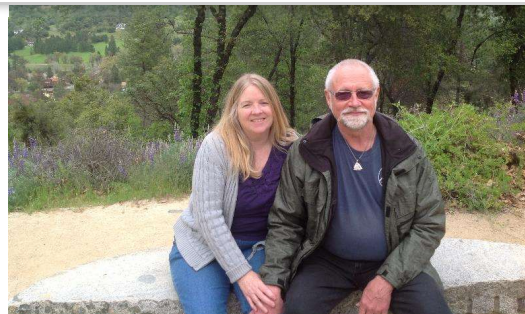


GIÃ¼ckwunsch

Past Events

News and updates from Members across the Nation:





The AFA sponsored a public meetup at Coloma, the small foothill town where Marshall Sutter discovered the first gold in California and started the famous gold rush. Thirteen people turned out for the event, which is pretty good for meetups of this sort. Several attendees were new folks - and at least one or two of them will be turning in AFA applications!

Steve reports -

I opened with our standard "Greeting to the Gods," after which we passed the horn around the circle and told who we were, where we were from, and one good thing that had happened to us recently. Then it was time for lunch on the stout stone-and-timber tables under the spreading oak trees.

Later, I gave a presentation on one of the best things about Asatru - connections! Specifically, I described our connections with the ancestors, with our descendants, with the Holy Powers, and finally with the natural world around us. From each of these we receive certain gifts, and in return have corresponding responsibilities. The whole picture is one of complete balance and symmetry.

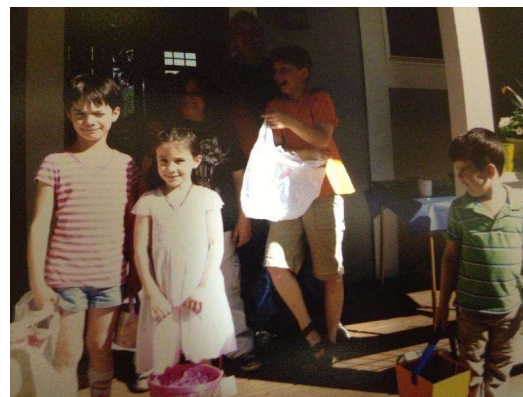
This event was arranged through meetup.com, and was not limited to AFA members but was open to anyone who was signed up for the the local meetup group. It's a good way of showing others what the AFA is about. It's been a valuable tool, and it's lots of fun!

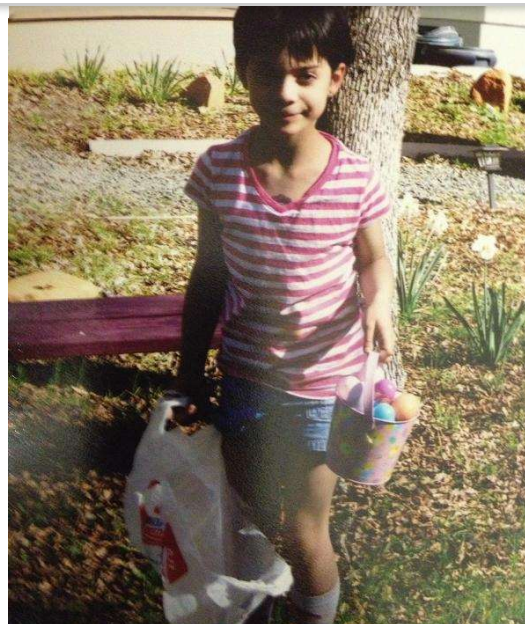
style pub right by the beach. After a while we headed out to meet others who were already there. There was a stout wind blowing in off the Pacific, and it was actually colder than our December visit to the same location, but we aren't the whingy kind; we found some shelter against a rock cliff and got down to the important business of catching up on the news and meeting the new folks. Attendance was good, and one fellow had driven all the way down from Redding (no short drive) to be with us! We had brought lunch, so we ate as we chatted.

After a bit, I gave a talk on the gifts that Asatru brings to our lives and gave a version of the talk on "connections" that I had given to a different audience the week before. I detailed our connections to the ancestors, descendants, the Holy Powers, and Nature, specifying the good things we get from each of these as well as our obligation to give back to each of these in turn. Afterwards, Mike read a really perceptive short essay he had written on Ostara, the coming of spring, and how we as individuals and as a Folk were a part of the whole process. Once again, I was struck by his intensity and the relevance of his comments.

In time, we returned to Pelican Inn for dinner, more conversation, and eventual farewells.

I was elevated and refreshed by the day, and the long drive home went well. It was another good day with the AFA!





Eostre at the McNallensâ€™™

Sheila Reports -

We were blessed with gorgeous weather, good friends and a contingent of young folks who drove several hours to join us. The blot and a talk by Steve were interwoven with activities like egg-dyeing and the Eostre egg hunt with the children. Another great day with the AFA!

Ostara Faining -

Pat Hall reports -

On March 23, my tribe Der Heidevolksstamm hosted an Ostara faining at my home in Downingtown, PA. Attending were Patricia Hall, Rebecca and Jesse Radcliff with their two boys Draven and Rowan, Jason Walther, Rudi Von Abele, and Ben Thomas with his wife Mary Quinn. **All are AFA members!** Rebecca, who is our AFA Clergy Coordinator, led us in a moving ritual honoring the awakening of the earth and the return of spring. Jesse

had been constructed from the last year's final harvest of vegetables, flowers, and herbs. It stood in my garden through the winter holding the fertility of one growing season to the next. Its ashes will be distributed to all those attending and to all those who tried to attend but could not. These ashes will be scattered in the folks' gardens and window pots to carry on and honor that fertility. At the end of the ritual the children, Draven and Rowan, carried the remaining mead to the offering site, followed by the adults, and poured it out as we thanked the Gods for their gifts.

We then feasted and socialized. It was wonderful to hear good folk engaging in lively conversation, healthy discussion and exchange of ideas. After feasting, we held a formal three-round sumbel where many wise and heartfelt words were poured into the well as we shared our lives and thoughts with each other.

We also learned of several wonderful events for our folk. Mary, who is on the Wilmington Delaware police force, had just been promoted to detective! And Rudi was off to California the week following to get married!!!! Congratulations to them both and much success!!

Daniel Updike Reports -

In the month of March we held another online public meeting discussing the religion of Asatru, along with some basic explanations of the Elder Runes Fehu, Uruz and Thurisaz. We had local kindred members show up on the "hangout" for support, and we had two visitors from the Northern Runes Radio audience, and an AFA member from Peace River joined us. Everything starts small, and this will continue to grow. These public online meetings are one of the ways we try to establish a positive image with both our local



continued to make plans for the Walpurgisnacht Blot coming up at the end of April, and we have a commitment from more people than ever before to attend, which is exciting for us. Our blots are only open to members and vetted newcomers, so the increase in numbers is a very encouraging sign to us, and new fertile ground for the AFA to expand into. We also have begun the process of more formally organizing our kindred in Edmonton so that growth can occur naturally, and with minimal confusion. We are grateful to Brad Taylor-Hicks for the information he sent us, and the value that has shown itself to be in this process for us.

One of our members has been working on kindred tools, and we hail Ross Harty for his efforts. He has been working on a ritual hammer, and we are thankful for his skill and willingness to do this!

Plans continue for those of us coming to the MoM moot in May; excitement is building! Those of us able to come are looking forward to meeting our AFA kin!





Ostara in Alaska -

Channcie Bean reports -

We gathered early in the day for brunch, then a wonderful, yet chilly, blot outside in Matt's beautiful ritual area. We as a group began preparing MORE food for the evening meal; this was a fun thing to do. The kids and a couple of the adults dyed eggs for the egg hunt. A large group went out and hid the eggs, mostly in the snow. We had to put the hunt on hold for a few because of a cow and baby moose that were passing by in the yard; they were enjoying the events also. Once they passed, the small group of kids and helpers ran out in the fresh snow and collected all but 7 eggs; we will be finding them over the next months. We then all joined in the warmth of the house and sumbeled. They day was full of great food, great friends, great discussions and great family!

Midsummer in Maryland

Midsummer in Maryland. It will be another AFA breakthrough. I will be hosting a midsummer celebration on June 15 at Gladsheim Hof in Columbia, MD, for AFA Northeast and AFA Upper South members and anyone else in range! The agenda is being planned but will include a brief presentation by me on MoM as well as a faining, feast (barbecue) and a formal sumbel. Additionally, there is crash space in the Hof, as well as land for tents, and hotels around the corner if you choose to stay over Saturday night and return home on Sunday. This is an excellent way to get to know your AFA kin and will be especially meaningful for those who have not had the chance to honor the Gods in community. Family friendly, children and significant others most welcome.

There is no fee for this. However, I will eventually need a headcount for food and crash space. As soon as I have the agenda/plan for the day, I will post it on the Events Forum out on Runestone.org as well as here.

If you are on FaceBook, please friend me and let me know you are AFA, since some use aliases on FB. I am "Patricia L Hall" (big AFA logo on my profile pic). I will also be setting this up as a FB event!

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