

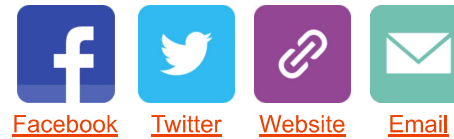
Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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





Every AFA gathering is spectacular, and if you didn't make it to California for the Mother of All Moots, then come to our BIG East Coast event at Camp Netimus in Pennsylvania.

Winter Nights in the Poconos

In stark contrast to the balmy springtime weather and verdant trees at MoM, Winter Nights is all about autumn. Pumpkins, crunching of leaves, bonfires, and rituals that bring forth the mysteries of the women. In particular, it's about Freya and the Disir – our loving ancestral mothers whom we honor at this time.

The musical guests this year will feature *Knotword* (Michael and Annabel Moynihan of Blood Axis), *Changes* (Robert N. Taylor and Nicholas Tesluk), and the Italian group, *Tears of Othila*.

See our Youtube slideshow called [“Winter Nights in the Poconos”](#) it features

Join us under canopies of gold, for a series of talks and workshops by our AFA leadership, powerful rituals, and an evening of wonderful music. Lodging and all meals are included. Registration forms are available, [Members](#) and [Non-Members](#).

Registration closes October 7, 2013 so get those forms returned to afa@runestone.org as soon as possible.

Write to us at afa@runestone.org if you have question.

Join the AFA at STELLA NATURA - September 20 - 22

AFA members from all over the country are coming out to this unique three-day music-fest in the heart of the Sierra Nevada mountains. This year's featured band is *Wardruna*, a heathen group from Norway. Dozens of bands are performing, including *Changes* and *Fire and Ice* with Ian Read and the Moynihans. There's something here for everyone's taste.



You'll find Steve and Sheila at the AFA booth, and our AFA friends in the Viking Brotherhood will be handling security for the event. Let us know if you'll be there so we can plan an AFA meet & greet.

Find out more about Stella Natura at <http://www.ancestralfires.org/> or on [Facebook](#)

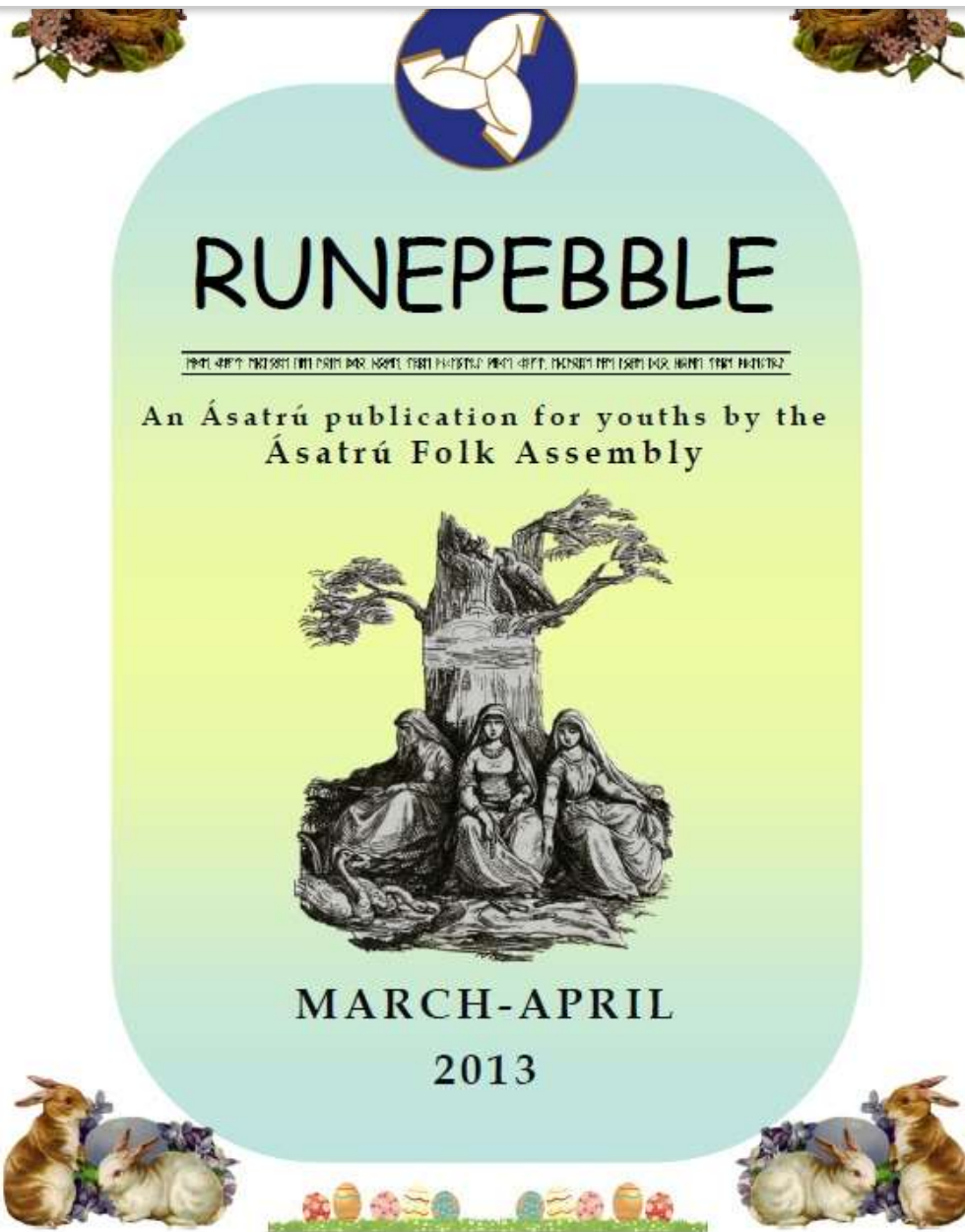
Check out [this video](#) from Stella Natura 2012, that features Steve making an invocation at the start of *Changes*' set.



For the second time we have the honor of inviting you to Silesia Paganfest - the only event of its kind in Poland.

This year we are meeting under the Polish branch of the Asatru Folk Assembly banner. Like last year everyone will find something of interest. There will be lectures on different pagan paths and talks about "modern survival." This Event will feature a concert by *Jar*. Other additional activities include fortune-telling, showing of fighting styles of the early medieval warriors, barbecue and more.

Check out the [event page of facebook](#).



The next issue of RP will be published on September 1st. This issue is to be a Special Edition Animal Issue focusing on all things relating to animals....be it

What we're looking for:

I am accepting articles (1-3 pages max, sm-md pics ok), folktales/stories, magic, fun facts, songs, poetry, art (especially your children's art), crafts, recipes....we're operating on a fairly open slate of options right now, so use your imagination. And if you have any art by your children, be it of word or picture, submit them!

Submitting your work:

Please e-mail them to me on [facebook](#), or at Hljod.Huskona@gmail.com. I will accept submissions until Friday, August 30th at Midnight. Thank you!

Membership Evolves

Our newest members have reaped the benefit of knowing who their nearest AFA members due to changes in how we process memberships. With their welcome email, new members are provided a networking list with ten names and email addresses. Our renewing members also get the same, so each of you, in time will have your list of ten. It's quite time-consuming to go through the steps to produce these lists, but if you'd like to get yours now rather than waiting, contact your Folkbuilder or write to Sheila, at afa@runestone.org.

Time to renew your membership if your expiration was 7/2013. Final reminders will be going out this week and all who don't renew will be removed - from all the good stuff that the AFA does - the first week of August. Simply go to <http://www.runestone.org> and click on the RENEW button.

AFA Military Program "*Operation: Boot Camp Eddas*"

we are going ahead with making standardized packets for AFA service members, that will contain AFA pamphlets, a copy of "In Harm's Way", a Velcro Tri-horn patch and a special gift to be revealed later.

A new round of tri-horn Velcro patches are in the works, so when they arrive, we will ask that anyone who wants to give back to our men and women in uniform can, by purchasing one or several of the patches. They will get to show their AFA pride and give a bit of comfort to an Asatru service member.

Lastly, we want to continue the success of *Operation: Boot Camp Edda*. For those unfamiliar, earlier in the year, one of our own Calen Smith, now Assistant Military Folkbuilder, joined the Florida National Guard. While he was in boot camp, our Chief Operating Officer, Brad Taylor-Hicks, got the ingenious idea to hand-write portions of the Poetic Edda, since recruits could not have more than one religious book. Thus was *Operation: Boot Camp Edda* born. It is our aim and goal to do this for every AFA member who joins the military. On that note, another of our fine young men leaves for basic training in the near future. We'll give notice of their name and address when the time comes.

Family Safety Program on Fire-watch

This has been a "hot" summer in the West, with huge fires in every state. We monitor what we can, especially if we know AFA members live in the vicinity affected. You can help by letting us know if someone is in risk of being evacuated or is experiencing something traumatic like a fire, tornado, or earthquake.

Contact Stewart Williams @ stew@runestone.org, your Folkbuilder, or us at afa@runestone.org. Two AFA families in Idaho offered sleeping space to any member affected by the recent fires. Now that's community!

1) Show us your Hammer!

Wear your hammer with pride. People might stop you and ask you about it. Let them know it's a symbol of our Northern European faith. We call it Asatru. If you see someone else wearing one, ask them about it! You'll get a range of responses, but I have met Asafolk this way and they joined our local AFA group.

2) Do a Cleanup (or plant a community garden, build a playground...)

Join in a local environmental cleanup or community cause. Wear your AFA shirt. If you can sign in as a group, put the AFA down. Our Florida AFA members won a prize in Florida last year for most garbage collected in a coastal cleanup, they even got their pictures in the local newspaper.

3) Talk to your local AFA kin.

Send an email to your folkbuilder and ask for a contact list. Email or call your local members. By reaching out to each other we can form lasting bonds of faith and friendship. If you are traveling, ask your folkbuilder if there is an AFA member to contact at your destination. Hospitality is a huge part of what we do.

4) Try a meetup.

Put the word out and find others in your area. Your nearest Asatruar might be a few hours away, you may consider the time and expense of travel as a sacrifice to Thor, for friendship and hospitality. After all, when our ancestors crossed oceans, what's a few hours on the interstate?

5) Use the Internet for the powers of good!

We have all been sucked into the drama and uselessness caused by trolls on Facebook groups or forums. Remember not to 'Bandy words with fools' as the Havamal tells us.

Denmark Moot

Here are a few pictures of the first AFA Event in Europe. The next issue of *THE VOICE*, will contain more stories and photos from all whom attended the moot.



I walked into the room at the National Museum, and my eyes immediately focused on one object out of perhaps half a dozen, many of which were larger or more colorful. It was only about three feet tall, but to me it stood high above the others...

As many of you know, the Snoldelev runestone is of special interest to the AFA. The triple-horn motif which we adopted as our emblem appears on this monument, signifying the three containers of mead Odin drank to win the gift of wisdom, of the divine ecstatic condition.

The Snoldelev stone - named for the village in which it was found - is dedicated to the honor of Gunnvald, "son of Hroald, thulr at Salhaugar." In this context - and especially considering the heavily Odinic associations of the three-horned symbol - thulr would be a reciter of the religious lore, and perhaps a seer himself. The inscription dates from around the year 800, just as the Viking Age was getting underway.

Another strange thing about the Snoldelev stone is that it contains not one, but three,

seems to me to be significant, indicating a sort of succession from the age of bronze, to the age of iron, to that of the odr/subtle energy. But that's just my personal interpretation.

I lingered in the room as long as I could, contemplating this stone that is so important to the organization to which we belong. I asked it for its wisdom, for the secrets contained within, and I thought on Gunnvald, deprived of his memorial stone.

-Steve McNallen





Denmark - Part One

It's hard to describe our pilgrimage. It wasn't a vacation, not a simple snapshot tour of the European countryside, nor was it merely an AFA 'business trip'. It was the quenching of a thirst I didn't know I had; an ecstatic mead of people and places pouring their spirit into the cauldron that hangs in my heart. Looking back just a few weeks later, it becomes difficult to separate the experiences; impossible to think which stone circle we visited first or last, or to count the seemingly endless bottles of mead that we poured on the ancient mounds of the great dead.

Denmark is the storybook land. As I write this, hundreds of people gather to celebrate the centennial of The Little Mermaid statue in Copenhagen. Everywhere we went, thatched cottages sat at the end of meandering country lanes, fields of wheat were being harvested, and the Danish flag flew proudly atop flagpoles everywhere, dwarfed only by the multitude of windmills.

I could write at length about the land of Jutes and Angles, but I'll just point out a few highlights that I felt transformed me spiritually.

The Copenhagen Museum - Surrounded by items I have long seen in pictures was fascinating. The Gundestrop Cauldron was a real highlight, as were the numerous hammers, idols, swords and helmets, but two moments of greatness happened here. The first was standing in the shadow of an Auroch's skeleton. Together with Matt Flavel, our Folkbuilder Coordinator, we stared at the mighty beast, hunted and lost to a bog, not eaten by his killers, but preserved for all time. Perhaps his destiny was not to sustain another's

have breezed the bones. Uuuuuuuuzzz...for the might of the young hunters
...Uuuuuuuuzzz...for the might of the beast.....Uruuuzzzzzzz.....a destiny fulfilled,
perhaps for us and for the Auroch's.

It was just a few rooms later, past the wagon, the bog bodies (I admit to mixed feelings about their being showcased) the shields and Lur trumpets that the Hall of Runestones appeared. It was not the largest, nor the most elaborate, but for us it was the most important. That day, the Trihorn emblem of the AFA came home. I was honored to be present when Stephen McNallen set eyes on the Snoldelev stone for the first time. The symbol which has meant so much to us as AFA kin was taken from the engraving made on that stone in the 9th century. It was the perfect first day, and set the tone for the days to come.

We visited standing stones and dolmens, but I had a true awakening deep in the womb of the earth. Our Danish Folkbuilder Lars Ireneeson along with our new friends Soren and Aziza had planned an amazing tour (most of which Steve has detailed in his regular postings on the web). We drove our cars along country roads and made our way on foot up a dirt path in the middle of a farmer's field. I don't know where it was. I couldn't point it out on a map, nor tell you the name of the place, but those are details, unimportant and unnecessary as we made our way up the gentle slope to two tree-lined burial mounds. They stood as a shocking green crown atop the golden wheat that covered the land. We made our way past the first hill, under shady beech trees and past brambles, to the second mound.

My breath left my body. I've stood at burial mounds before, but never have I stared at the entrance to one. The long stone-lined tunnel invited us deep within, where Aziza had lit candles to illuminate the chamber. As Shiela McNallen entered the tomb, a rabble of Butterflies made their exit, jet black and beautiful in the sunlight.

The tomb was big enough to fit eight of us comfortably, and tall enough that I could stand upright, albeit barely. We sat against the cool stone. We passed a horn and absorbed the silent beauty of the chamber. Here we sat not in a place of death, but in a gateway to the next realm. I found it strangely comforting and humbling. Matt asked if I would lead us in a

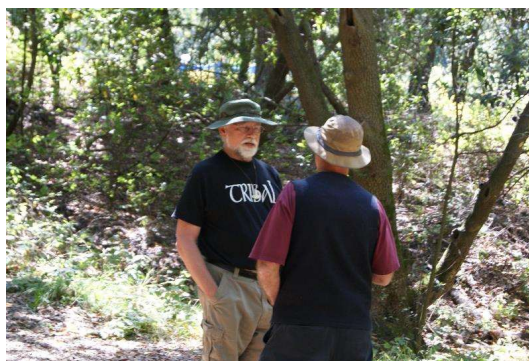
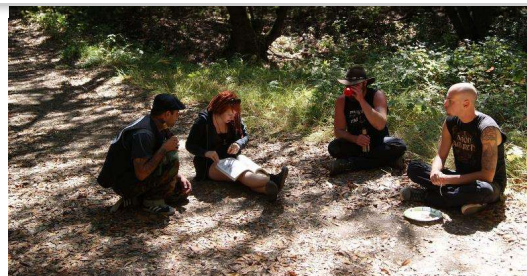
down the entrance and see the world from that perspective. From the stony dark to the blue skies and fields outside. Life, to death, to rebirth. Something shifted inside me. In that moment, the sunlight washing over my face through the darkness, I changed.

-Brad Taylor-Hicks

More in the next issue of The Voice.

Freyfaxi in Northern California





About twenty-five of us gathered in a shady glade beneath mighty laurels and oaks. Andy read an essay about the historical significance of Freyfaxi. Gothi Michael Hunter reminded us of the "seeds" that were planted at the Charming of the Plow in February, and to reflect on our accomplishments at this time of harvest. Michael's blot format touches everyone on a very deep level. A three round sumbel with powerful toasts followed soon after.

Lots of old friends, new faces - and a fine feast that was blessed with the reminder how all life is connected with the Holy Powers.

Tucked back along the stream bed was a perfect ritual spot. This location has the ability to become a sacred ritual site in the years to come.

We thank all those who made the journey, and especially, those who made it happen.

-Sheila McNallen





Freyfaxi Campmoot 2013 in French Lick, Ind. was a unique experience for me. Arriving at the campground deep in the southern Indiana woods was a very nice ritual area marked by standing flagstones and an altar cut from a cross sectioned log. We had a very good family dinner where everyone ate, talked and enjoyed some great fellowship.

-Dennis Boltenhouse

The Midwest enjoyed it's first official gathering during the weekend of August 17-19 in French Lick, IN at the Our Haven Nature Sanctuary. The beautiful primitive camping site was host to the midwestern AFA folk and family as they gathered together to celebrate the gifts of nature and honor Freyr under a beautiful night sky.

Adults and children alike formed new friendships, enjoyed games and crafts. The rituals lead by Folkbuilder and clergy apprentice Dennis Boltenhouse were stirring and the perfect end to a day of laughter, conversation, and community. The evening sumbel celebrated with AFA home brewed mead further cemented the stirring that the folk felt as everyone recognized that building and growing community is what is needed now as we face the challenges of mono-culture and individualism.

The 16 adults and 10 children left the campmoot energized with new sense of community and belonging, bound under the blood of shared ancestry and blessed by the presence of the holy powers in the midwest.

Ullr Blot Beneath the Yews in Northern California



On July 27th, Steve and Sheila McNallen led local Asatruars on walk along Rock Creek Trail, about six miles east of Nevada City.

Steve spoke about the rune Eiwaz and the yew connection with Ullr. "What does the God of Winter do in the summer? He prepares for winter, and so should we!" It was now time to let Nature speak, so we began a silent promenade beneath gnarly, twisted yews and towering maples.

The trail looped back to the picnic area where twenty of us gathered to do blot to Ullr.



each other and the spirits of the place. Meetups don't get much better than that.

Hosted by the AFA and the Northern California Asatru Meetup Group

AFA Meetup in Western New York



On August 3rd, Das Drehende Rad Kindred hosted a picnic at Al Lorentz Park in Western New York for all AFA members and any other Asatru in the area . The weather was perfect and people came from the Buffalo area and the Rochester area as well as the local area to attend. It was a perfect day for fun and fellowship. We are hoping to make this an

A monthly book study for Asatruar is held on the first Sunday of the month in Mt. Morris at a private home as well. Anyone wishing for info contact: beornsbride@aol.com.

- Sylvia Sawyer

News from our Members



After saving and planning for two years, Jim Erickson and Diane set off for the World Police and Fire Games being held in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Read about their adventure [here](#).



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