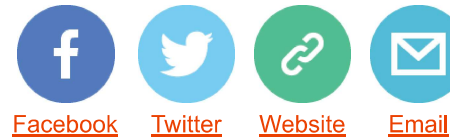


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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](mailto:thevoice@runestone.org).

Donate to the AFA



### Words from the Alsherjargothi

At the AFA's West Coast Midsummer, I said that the AFA was on the edge of a number of major breakthroughs. We even ritually re-created the AFA to express this idea of new possibilities unbound by the past. Those rosy prognostications have



The first big new thing was *Asatru: A Native European Spirituality*. Its very title underlines the Folkish nature of our religion. It is selling quite well and, over time, it will be a significant factor for changing all the rules when it comes to Asatru/Odinism/"Heathenry." A new paradigm is beginning to take root, and this book is one of the reasons why.

The second major innovation was a brand-new, and greatly improved, web site and store. There are still kinks in the system, but the forward movement vastly outweighs any temporary glitches.

Now number three, as this issue of *The Voice* reveals: Our own place to use as a hof...as a community center...as an event venue. It is a permanent reminder that Asatru is back to stay, not only in California or America, but in all the native lands of our people. Nothing will be the same after this.

It is well that we are making such dramatic progress, for huge challenges await us. The culture around us has shifted more in a single year than it has in the previous twenty, and not for the better. We need these new resources and tools assert ourselves in a rapidly decaying civilization which threatens our Folk in countless ways.

Now more than ever, the AFA needs your full support! Join us in completing the hof, and in using that hof to create a better world in keeping with our Declaration of Purpose!

## You Know That Hof We've Been Wanting All These Years? We're Getting It



Artist's vision of the hof. Actual photos are below.

We have always wanted a place of our own. Ideally it would be on a couple of acres of land, a sort of combination ritual space, feasting hall, meeting place, and event venue. It would be nice if it was located in a rural area among pine trees, yet still close enough to a metropolitan airport so visitors and guests could get to us easily...

Immediately after the AFA West Coast Midsummer, we visited a site recommended by a real estate agent. We liked it. We made an offer. It has been accepted. The price is doable, but we need to raise more money, and that's where all you AFA members and friends come in!

But let me tell you a little more about the place. It's on just under two acres of land in a (very) rural community in northern California. The structure itself was built as a Grange hall in 1938 - hence the new facility's name, "Newgrange Hall" - and since then it has served all sorts of functions as a community hall and, recently, as a church. The main hall is 40x60 feet, which does not include the commercial kitchen on one end, the stage, restrooms, and office space/living quarters. We can even make money on this place, renting it out for various functions!

In back of the building, there is a tree-covered area with heavy wooden tables, ideal for picnics - or for outdoor feasts. Perhaps most special of all is the large, squarish rock, ideal as a horg or altar, framed by two tall pines - and it just happens to face north! We took this as a sign that, indeed, we were supposed to have this place!

Think what a game changer this is! There has been nothing comparable in the modern world. The Monodist Fellowship recently acquired a wonderful old medieval chapel and dedicated it to our Gods. Various other structures have been built as personal hofs, by Will Deviate and other devoted Folk. Joe Maker, on the East Coast, has a house his kindred uses as a hof. The Asatruar in Iceland made international news when they announced they were building a temple, apparently with government assistance, but it is still in the planning stages. The fact that the Asatru Folk Assembly is getting a nearly-perfect building, and a modest piece of land in addition to it, is still another factor demonstrating our leadership and our ability to make a difference!

We formally kick off our fundraising campaign on Monday, August 3 - just a couple of days after this issue of The Voice hits your inbox. Starting on that date, as soon as the announcement is made, we need your help spreading the word and we need your donations. Until Monday, make your preparations...and then we will kick into full gear via

My AFA kin, this is YOUR chance to participate in history!

Stephen McNallen,  
Alsherjargothi, AFA





ARE YOU EXCITED YET?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0d\\_L2Harbg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0d_L2Harbg)

This video will be made public next week when we launch the Indiegogo campaign. Please don't share it before then.

WANTED - one or two Very Special People

...to help guarantee the bank loan the AFA took out to make the Newgrange purchase. We will set up an escrow account so there's zero chance that you'd have to pay off the obligation of our loan.

This will free up Steve and Sheila - who are currently guaranteeing the loan - to refinance their home loan which now carries an adjustable rate (and which will clobber us when, not if, interest rates rise).

more details. Please understand that the hof purchase WILL close in late August, regardless of whether we get another guarantor or simply continue to guarantee it ourselves.

## Great Northwest Freyfaxi 2015



Freyfaxi 2015 is almost upon us! To register, please go to [freyfaxi2015.eventzilla.net](http://freyfaxi2015.eventzilla.net). Registration Deadline is Wednesday, August 12th.

The good Folk of the Northwest invite you to honour the Gods and Ancestors of Northern Europe with us in kinship and frith. Join us August 14th-16th in lush forests of evergreens nestled by the sea for year 2 of this 3-day event! Featuring a Njǫrð blot on the beach, Steve's awe-inspiring Óðin blot, a musical performance by our own Bob Falkenstein, and traditional meals cooked by the Folk, Freyfaxi is an event not to be missed! There are beds available in cabins, as well as tent and RV campsites, and well-behaved dogs are welcome upon approval. As always, this is a Folkish family event open to members and friends of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Things you will need to bring: bedding, pillows, towels, typical toiletries, appropriate

barefoot is tempting, but watch out for goatheads!), regular shoes/boots, and water bottles (leashes, dogfood, water dish, and food bowl if bringing a dog). People with kids may want to bring buckets and other sand toys, it is a good beach for sandcastles.

If you have any questions about Freyfaxi or future Northwest events, please send email to [esalix@runestone.org](mailto:esalix@runestone.org).

Hail the Gods! Hail the Folk! Hail the Ancestors!  
Hail the AFA!

-Elizabeth Salix  
Northwest Folkbuilder

## Online Store: Runestone Gifts is Up and Running

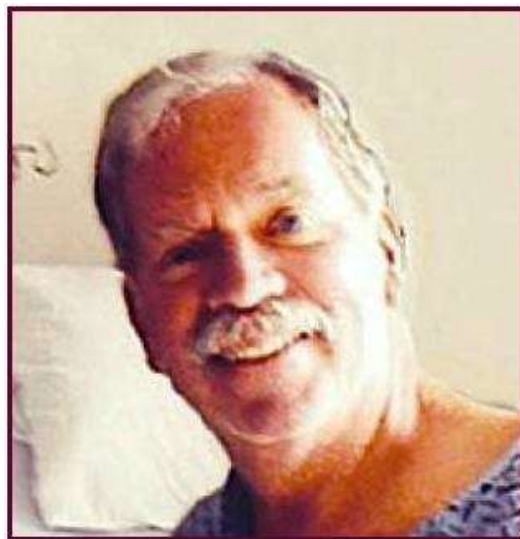
You can find our store through our new web site, <http://asatrufolkassembly.org>, or at its own address: <http://runestonegifts.com>. Orders are coming in, and of course, weâ€™re featuring Steveâ€™s book, *Asatru - A Native European Spirituality*. Youâ€™ll see the items that have been our mainstay, but we now have a new look and a new checkout system. The AFA is ready to add new products to our merchandise line, so drop us a line with the items youâ€™d like to see added! We donâ€™t have to look far to find talented craftsmen, so write to us if youâ€™re interesting in marketing your merchandise through the AFA store.

When you purchase, our new checkout system uses Stripe rather than PayPal as the payment processor. So far, Stripe is offering us what we need and the website is functioning much better than our old one. Go in and check us out!

If you have questions about an order or need more information, drop Sheila a line at [afa@runestone.org](mailto:afa@runestone.org).



## Hold the Horn High for Dave Moore! August 13, 1951 - July 3, 2015



Dave was a long-time friend and supporter of the AFA. If you sat on our benches, savored our delicious mead, wore a mother-of-pearl Mjollnir, or drank from the giant horn embossed with gold and silver-leaf and adorned with our holy images " then you knew Dave. He was an artist extraordinaire and one of the finest mead-makers on the planet. His partner, Caryl, described him this way:

"Dave was a big man; quiet, brilliant, funny. He was, at his core, a nature boy interested in everything from the Earth under his feet to the farthest reaches of the heavens " always the geologist, the astronomer, the scientist.

His sense of humor was unmatched. He could carry on an intelligent conversation about anything, but it was always interlaced with some off-the-wall comment or observation.

Diagnosed with Parkinson's disease approximately fifteen years ago, he continuously learned all he could about it and lived every day of his life determined to function at the highest possible level. He never allowed fear, sadness, or pain to overcome his love of life."

Dave had spent a week in the hospital with a serious ailment, but he was on the mend and ready for rehab to help him regain strength. His good friend, Thorgrun Odden, was with

Friends are invited to celebrate Dave Sunday, August 9, at 2:00 p.m. Chapel of the Angels in Grass Valley, CA (530-273-2446)

Attendees are encouraged to bring with them an object that reminds them of Dave.



## AFA Tech Support

AFA Technical Support is here primarily to assist with any issues regarding the membership site, the forums, and paypal invoicing. We also do projects internal to the AFA. So if you are having some technical trouble or if you see something that is broken, let us know at [tech@runestone.org](mailto:tech@runestone.org)!

## Volunteer and Staffing Opportunities

Growth is good, but the AFA is needing support staff, and we appreciate all who have inquired about helping out. We're finishing up a questionnaire that will cover all of the diverse jobs that we're anticipating in the next six months. It will be emailed to all of our members in a fillable PDF format. Data will be collected by Linda MacLeod at [staffdevelopment@runestone.org](mailto:staffdevelopment@runestone.org) and at that point, we'll be contacting our volunteers. Thank you in advance!

## Tommy Ferguson, AFA Entrepreneur

A few weeks ago Sheila and I spent a couple of days with AFA member Tommy Ferguson at his home near Point Reyes. Although we covered lots of different topics during our visit, we were continually surrounded by Tommy's photography and his fine woodworking. He is obviously a man who makes money doing something he loves, and this makes him a natural for the monthly AFA entrepreneur/business spotlight!

I asked him what his biggest challenge had been, and this was his response:

"Having a space I could work in. I started a company carpentry apprenticeship when I was a sophomore at an independent study high school and would put together small wood projects during lunch and after work at the job site. Sometimes on weekends I would bring all my tools home, or borrow tools from coworkers, and set up a makeshift workshop outside in my mom's trash area, which I would have to break down every night.

Then after high school I moved to Norway for a year and really was just limited to whittling with a small carving knife in my fiancée's apartment in Oslo. Once a future in Norway didn't seem realistic, I moved back to the states to a tiny apartment in the suburbs where I would build a plastic bubble inside my kitchen with painters plastic and use that as a cutting/dust safe room.

After that I moved to Humboldt where I built a small cabin where I built a covered porch area for me to work. It was nice, but still not ideal. Then moved to Lagunitas where I had a tiny basement to my cabin, still nice but not ideal. Now I live and work as a ranch hand on a 300 acre ranch out in Point Reyes, where I live inside a massive old barn that I use as my workspace. I am currently raising funds to move my workshop into a large storage room inside the barn. I feel like every time I moved, I have tried to one-up my last live/work situation."

So Tommy overcame lots of obstacles, but he never gave up and was always looking for some way to improve his situation.

"So my advice to others is NEVER settle for the next normal thing coming your way, always go bigger and better!"

You can see Tommy's work on his web site, <http://www.TommyFerguson.com>. You can't order from his web site, but hunt him up on Facebook. The site itself is a visual feast, and an inspiration to anyone who wants to create art either for fun or for profit!

## Family Safety Program: Surviving Extreme Heat and Power Outages

We're to the part of the summer when the heat and thunder storms take center stage as big news stories. Conveniently, everyone seems to forget that it gets hot and we have thunder storms EVERY summer, so it makes good news.

Along with heat come power outages, primarily from increased air conditioner use, but also from severe weather that happens when hot or cold weather systems move into an area. This week, the Northwest part of the country is having a heat wave and MOST of the country is forecast to have thunderstorm activity to one degree or another this weekend.

For the most part, thunderstorms are no big deal; but when they include hail, high winds, flooding, or tornadoes, it's a different story.

The media loves this time of year. They can interview hot people, talk about where power is out and when it will come back on, and talk about all the people dying and being hospitalized from the heat.

As our population and electrical infrastructure ages, this is going to be a bigger and bigger issue. Throw in a local or regional disaster, and it's an issue that almost everyone needs to have a plan for.

It's not only inaccurate, but it plants the idea in people's heads that they might die simply because it's hot out.

In the majority of cases where people die from the heat in urban areas, the deaths are completely unnecessary and avoidable. It's much more accurate to say that these people died from a lack of knowledge, rather than from the heat or a power outage.

Do people die when it gets hot out? Yes, but ask anyone who has deployed to the sandbox, done manual labor throughout the summer, or the millions of people who live in Africa and the Middle East without air conditioning, and they'll tell you that hot weather alone won't kill you.

Which begs the question, why do more people die when it gets hot and air conditioning stops working? In short, the problem isn't with the heat as much as people's inability to control their core body temperature.

One of the first signs of heat related issues is muscle cramping, although that is more of an issue for people who are exerting themselves and not for people who the media claims died from the heatwave.

The next stage is heat exhaustion, which is caused by low water and salt levels. It's exactly what it sounds like; you feel exhausted because it's hot. In addition, it's normal to also have headaches, confusion, and cold, clammy skin.

If it's not treated, the body can "stroke out" and eventually die. At this stage, people don't sweat anymore, their pulse is fast, they feel nauseous or vomit, they're extremely confused and/or delirious, and may pass out.

It's important to look for and recognize these signs, both in yourself and those around you. If you're alone, you can take care of yourself if you've got cramps or early heat exhaustion, but if you let things go too far and get heat stroke, your survival depends on someone else finding you and helping you.

First, weâ€™ve got sweating. Our bodies rely, in large part, on sweat evaporating off of the skin to cool the body. You want to give the body the tools it needs to be able to sweat as it sees fit.

If you take medication that interferes with sweating or is a diuretic, then youâ€™ll have a harder time sweating.

If you donâ€™t drink enough water, you wonâ€™t sweat as much as you need to.

If you consume sugar, caffeine, or alcohol, you will need to drink more water or you wonâ€™t sweat as much as you need to. Caffeine and alcohol also leach minerals.

Your sweat contains salt and minerals. If you donâ€™t replace them, your body will enter a low salt state called hyponatremia. When youâ€™re in this state, you feel like you want to die. I would gladly have the worst flu conditions that Iâ€™ve ever had for a week rather than hyponatremia for a day.

All of these factors are more pronounced for the extremely young, extremely old, and people who are chronically ill.

Second, you can make yourself more resilient to heat by simply keeping your house warmer when you use AC. It may not seem like much, but your body will be able to handle 100+ degree temperatures much easier if it is used to 74, 76, or 78 degrees than if you keep it at 68 or even 72 degrees.

It takes a few days to a week for your circulatory system, breathing, and sweat glands to get used to high temperatures. If youâ€™re constantly telling your body that â€œnormalâ€ is 68 degrees, then it simply wonâ€™t be able to adapt to extreme temperatures very quickly. But even if your body IS used to 68 degree weather and you get an extended power outage, keep in mind that your body will quickly adapt to the higher temperatures over a few days.

without thinking it's too hot to play. There's also a benefit of lower utility costs, but the biggest benefit is the freedom that it gives us by not being "prisoners" to air conditioning.

As an example, yesterday I ran when it was 97 degrees and 50% humidity. It wasn't all that bad, simply because my body is not used to 68 degree air and I gave it the raw materials it needed (water, salts, minerals) to cool itself.

When it gets even hotter, I start wearing loose "wicking" clothes and soak myself with a hose before starting my run. I also use a camelback with me that I filled with ice and then water to sip (not drink) on my run. Many people would call my steps of using the hose and drinking icewater "cheating" and they're right :)

Heat and humidity can lower your pace by half or more, and I want to squeeze as much performance out of every beat of my heart as possible. By taking these extra steps to cool my body while running, I'm able to run at a faster pace while maintaining my target heart rate.

Third, influence your environment. It's pretty obvious that if you're stuck in a 100 degree house with the electricity off that you shouldn't wear a winter coat. Even so, many people don't take the next logical step of wearing as few lightweight breathable clothes as possible.

If you've got water and lightweight breathable clothes, the next thing that you want to do is get them damp so that your body doesn't have to sweat to get the benefits of evaporative cooling. Any time you feel uncomfortably hot and realize that your skin is dry, you should both drink water and get your skin damp.

If you're moving around, that's great because you will be creating airflow that will increase evaporation. If you have to sit, try to sit in a chair that exposes as much of you as possible to air. A good example of this is a wicker chair. Unless it's a lot hotter outside than inside, open windows so that you get a breeze.

your core temperature down quickly. If you live in an area that gets to temperatures that you consider to be “dangerously” hot, invest in some batteries and DC fans. You can get low-power 12-volt fans from Amazon or Radio Shack for \$10-\$60. When combined with moist skin, they can cool you off very quickly.

In an extreme condition, you can dig an 18-24 inch deep, body-sized trench and lie in it to cool off faster. To improve the effectiveness of the hole, keep it shaded, line the bottom with a cotton sheet or blanket, and moisten it with water.

### Powering items during power outages

And what about powering stuff? Whether it’s power for medical equipment, for cash registers and credit card processing, for computers, or just to run fans, having power during a short-term power outage can mean the difference between a minor interruption and a disaster. I’ve written about this a few times in the past, and I go into detail on the subject in the [SurviveInPlace.com](http://SurviveInPlace.com) Urban Survival Course, but here are a few quick-n-dirty tips.

One of the simplest things, although not necessarily the cheapest, that you can do is buy a couple of 6-volt golf cart batteries and a properly sized inverter. Golf cart batteries are about the same size as car batteries, but they’re made to run things for a long time where a car battery is only designed to start your car for a few seconds and then get immediately recharged. This will allow you to run or charge both 12-volt and 120-volt items, including refrigerators (in the summer), medical items, fans, computers, well pumps, and a furnace blower (in the winter).

You can scale this up as your needs dictate and your finances allow, but I suggest buying batteries in sets of two and never mixing batteries of different ages.

You can also scale this up by adding a gas generator or solar, wind, or hand/foot crank generator to the mix to recharge the batteries.

And one trick on your refrigerator—if you change your light bulbs from incandescent to





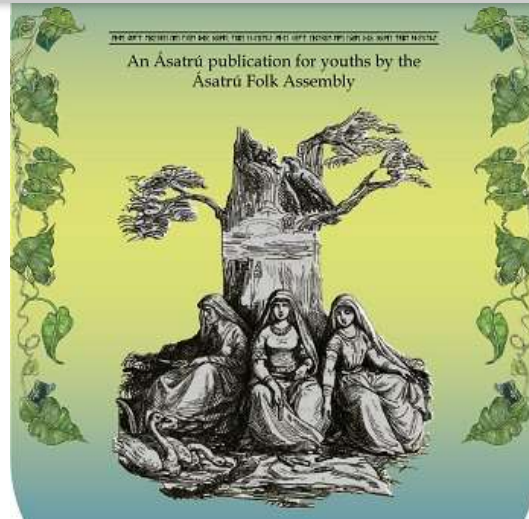
If you're in one of the areas being impacted by the summer heat and power outages, what have you done to minimize the inconvenience? What lessons have you learned that you could apply to a medium- to long-term power outage? Do you have any kind of power backups in place? If so, what kind? Share your thoughts and answers by commenting to [papajbear@hotmail.com](mailto:papajbear@hotmail.com)

Jim and Sara the Corgi  
"Learn a new skill every week."

## Circle of Eir - A Call to Healing

The AFA Circle of Eir is up and working. A core group performs a monthly healing ritual calling on Eir and naming those AFA members and families in need of healing. If you would like to be in the AFA Circle of Eir Facebook group or if you would just like to submit the name of someone who needs healing, please let me know at [patriciahall@runestone.org](mailto:patriciahall@runestone.org). The next healing ritual, which is jointly done by AFA members from both the States and Europe, will be performed on Thursday, August 6, at midnight EDT/USA.

## Runepbble



Runepebble: An AFA e-publication for Asatru families!

The next issue of the Runepebble will be published on September 1st. The theme of the next issue will focus on bees and honey, which is very exciting! If you or a child you know is interested in contributing to the next issue, we are happy to accept submissions of all kinds, including artwork, stories, poetry, folktales, songs/sheet music, crafts, activities, recipes, educational articles, and more. If you would like to submit some work, or have questions relating to the Runepebble, please contact our editor, Rebecca, at [Runepebble@Runestone.org](mailto:Runepebble@Runestone.org).

## Clergy Announcement

As many of you know, we begin the application process for those interested in joining the AFA Clergy Program every year, in the late summertime. If you are interested in applying for the program, you can read the following FAQs to get a head start on learning more information about the program. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements in your inbox!

### What is the AFA Clergy Program?

**What will I learn in the program?**

Since the program is designed to train prospective AFA clergy, accepted students can expect thorough training in theology, philosophy, ontology, and theurgy of Asatru, as well as spiritual counsel, mediation, leadership, etc. The clergy program will educate and prepare you for the duties and responsibilities that are necessary for this position in the AFA.

**What does it mean to become AFA Clergy?**

The AFA Clergy program has been wholly designed and adapted for members of the AFA. This means that as AFA Clergy, the Gothi or Gythia is, effectively, in service to the AFA and its members, and all AFA clergy are expected to be active participants in the AFA and its community. The AFA Gothi or Gythia can, of course, serve outside of the AFA in their ordained capacity, but their duties are, first and foremost, committed to the AFA and its community.

**What are the requirements to apply?**

You must be a member of the AFA for no less than two full and consecutive years at the time of applying. You must be an active member in the local community, either as guest or host for no less than five years. You must be at least 25 years of age. And you must be able to commit several hours a week towards your obligation as a student, should you be accepted into the program, and should you complete the program successfully, as an ordained Clergy.

**Will I be required to travel?**

Yes. One of the requirements as a student is that you must be able to attend an AFA event with a high member of leadership in order to lead a public ritual as part of your curriculum. You cannot complete the program if you cannot commit to the travel... this is part of what it means to be active!

**What is the cost of the program?**

The full cost of the program is \$100. However, the initial application fee is only \$25. The remaining \$75 is only due if you are accepted into the program. This fee can be paid in

because the funds go directly towards the Clergy program's public activities, as well as towards all resources for the program itself.

Again, if you are interested and qualify to apply, then stay tuned early this month for the announcement that will state when and how to apply for the program on our member board, email list, and on our official Facebook page. If you have any questions about the program, you can email our Clergy Program Director, Rebecca, at [Clergy@Runestone.org](mailto:Clergy@Runestone.org)

## Folk Services

The Folkbuilders and a few others have been brainstorming about how to make Folk Services useful to the membership. This is a work in progress, but here are some key points as to what itâ€™s about:

- Folk Services is intended to provide modest, one-time monetary grants to members in need.
- It is also to be a source for referrals and information to help members get help beyond what the AFA can directly provide â€” e.g., pointers to appropriate government services, and information about money management and/or financial counseling.
- The Folkbuilders â€” big thanks to them for all their work! â€” are the best ones to turn to first if you or another member you know needs help.
- You can also send a private message to the Folk Services page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Asatru-Folk-Assembly-Folk-Services/737289939688176>

The AFA's Folk Services Program has received notes of appreciation for the cash donations made by our members this past spring. The GPD Foundation, which funds research for gastroparesis, thanked us for the donation in memory of Samantha Jurek, Sylvia Sawyer's daughter. We also received thank you notes from the parents of Thor von Reichmuth and the Hinote's Heroes Foundation which provides funds to help families

tornado.

Thank you, everyone, who generously donated to these Folk Services requests. Please support Folk Services by your donations when you can, and keep it in mind in case of need. The AFA is a community where we look out for and help each other, practically as well as spiritually/morally.

### Alfrothul Midsummer from David Wolfheart





The Alfrothul kindred midsummer fest was held in a forest near the city of Barcelona. The blot was for midsummer, with a ritual of fire in honor of Baldur and some activities. Future projects to start performing this year were discussed.



David also informs us that they have made a new website for the Asatru Folk Assembly in southern Europe. It is in Spanish but has some things in English:

<https://asatrufolkassembly.wordpress.com/>

**News from the Southwest**  
from Roland L'Heureux



The month of July provided several exciting opportunities for Runekehofâ€”our East Phoenix Valley AFA kindredâ€”to serve, honor, and promote Asatru and the Asatru Folk Assembly within its local community.

During the weekend of July 17-19, Debra and I attended the Southwest Frith Moot sponsored by Vincent Enlund and Chuck Hudson (and their respective kindreds) here in Payson, Arizona. We, representing Runekehof and the AFA, had the privilege of providing a sort of AFA hospitality area during the weekend, where visitors were welcomed with food, drink, shelter from the inclement weather, and edifying conversation.

Accepting an invitation to the Frith Moot extended by Vincent and Chuck to the leaders of the three main national Asatru organizations, Steve, our own Alsherjargothi, and his lovely wife Sheila were also in attendance. That Saturday morning Debra and I were invited to join the McNallens at the home of Valgard Murray, founder and Alsherjargothi of the Asatru Alliance. The experience of sitting among two true elders of our faith with almost 100 years of combined knowledge between them was quite sincerely and accurately described to me by Debra as like â€œbeing in the presence of Yoda.â€ Throughout the day, in spite of the rain, there was much food, more drink, and lots of camaraderie. Later that night, the rain having stopped and the fire once again burning hot, Steve conducted a powerful and



on our journeys home.



The following day, Monday the 20th, Runekenhof had its ribbon cutting ceremony at the Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce. In attendance were members of our own High Rede, several members of the Chamber's board of directors, local business owners, President of the local Loose Cannons motorcycle club, and news reporters from two local newspapers. Our official press release by the Chamber reads: "The Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce is pleased to welcome Runekenhof, Temple of Northern Mystery Tradition! Runekenhof, Temple of the Northern Mystery Tradition, is an Arizona non-profit, charitable, religious organization serving the East Phoenix Valley through cultural awareness, educational empowerment, and spiritual healing of the Northern European

and, to meet the psychological and religious needs of its folk through seasonal and festive ceremony and ritual.â€

Runekenhofâ€™s next scheduled event is our Freyfaxi Festival and Thingâ€™s Tide Hofmoot on August 15th from 8 - 10 a.m. Initial response to this event is encouraging, as interest in our Asatru religion has now spread to local families disenchanting with their previous religious affiliation who are yet still interested in and attracted to the idea of strong family ties and ancestral bonds. In addition, a local professional photographer (born and raised in Norway and extremely supportive of our cause) has agreed to donate her time to take photos of our event

Hail the Gods! Hail the Ancestors! Hail the AFA!

Roland Lâ€™Heureux

### **News from the Midwest from Patricia Hall, Folkbuilder**

#### REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALL

Because of vacations and other conflicting happenings, there will be no conference call in August. We will resume in September. Watch for the date in the September 2015 Voice newsletter and in the AFA Midwest Facebook group!

AFA Midwest has its own FaceBook group! The FaceBook link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/871639299583668/members/> Please request an add! This is for AFA members only. It will be a place to post conference call info, gatherings, and other goings on in the AFA as well as for discussion. Also, if you have not friended me on Facebook, please feel free to do so. My Facebook link is <https://www.facebook.com/patricia.l.hall.92>

## and Clifford Erickson, Apprentice Folkbuilder

### REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALL

Because of vacations and other conflicting happenings, there will be no conference call in August. We will resume in September. Watch for the date in the September 2015 Voice newsletter and in the AFA Northeast Facebook group!

### LANSDALE PA HIKEMOOT and PUBMOOT

Our own Cliff Erickson hosts a monthly pubmoot at The Sumney in Lansdale, PA. The next one will be held on Saturday, August 8, from 2 to 5 p.m. Cliff also hosts a pre-pub hikemoot on the same day from 11 to 1:30 for those who need to build an appetite before feasting. Watch for postings about this in the AFA Moots and Meetups Facebook site. If you would like to attend one of Cliff's hike- or pubmoots, please contact him directly at [cerickson@runetone.org](mailto:cerickson@runetone.org)

HikeMoot Event Facebook link is <https://www.facebook.com/events/129197700752057/>

Pubmoot Event Facebook link is <https://www.facebook.com/events/889556677782459/>

### NORTHERN NEW JERSEY EVENTS

Skylands Asatru Fellowship, which usually holds monthly lore study, a New Moon Landwights ritual, and a pubmoot is on summer break for August. However, Skylands will be back in September with a full schedule of events. Watch for the dates in the September 2015 Voice newsletter. You can also follow Skylands on their website

<http://www.skylandsasatru.org>

### REGIONAL EVENT - IRMINFOLK's FOLKISH SUMMER HALLOWING

This is the fifth year for this wonderful annual folkish event hosted by our good friends, the Irminfolk Odinst Community! The gathering is August 20-23 at Camp Netimus in Milford,

<http://folkishsummerhallowing.com/>

**Northern Plains Update  
from Blaine Qualls, Apprentice Folkbuilder**





Here in the Northern Plains this month we celebrated the Ancestors and also the "founders" of modern Asatru, those brave men and women who brought Asatru out of the shadows and into the modern times: men and women like A. Rudd Mills, Else Christensen, and Steve McNallen.

Friday saw people begin arriving and getting squared away in their cabins. The mood was a bit somber as we found out a good friend of the local kindred had gone into the hospital.

Saturday saw a busy day as more friends came in. In the late morning I gave a short presentation on the beginnings of modern Asatru and some of the personalities who kept it alive and aided in its growth. This is an area that a lot of people today tend to forget: there was a time when there were no Asatru 101 books at the local bookstore, there was no

From there came a rousing blot to the Ancestors. With wind whipping around us we roared our words out to the worlds and honoured all those who have gone before.

Then it was on to a hammer toss where even the kids got involved, fun times for all. By then we were ready for a feast of burgers and brats that had been cooking while the hammer throw was going on. Then we proceeded on to an auction with some really unique handmade items and even a copy of Steve's new book, *Asatru*. This went very well and saw money raised both for the AFA and for our Yule celebration later this year.

As the day wore on we started a nice fire and all circled around for a nighttime sumbel. As the horn passed around great words were spoken, some very emotional and some lighthearted, a perfect mix that kept things flowing well. After a few rounds we were entertained by a new friend who attended that had great songs about the old ways to sing for us...It was truly special, taking me back to a time long ago when such songs were sung around a fire. Just amazing.

This was one of our better celebrations and I truly hope we can make this a yearly event and see it grow into something for the region.

### Upcoming Events

A group in our area is having a Freyfaxi festival in mid August: details in flyer at right.

We have frequent events in the Northern Plains area, so if you are going to be in the area, feel free to get in touch with me

Temple of the  
Northern Mystery Tradition

**FREYFAXI FESTIVAL &  
THING'S TIDE HOFMOOT**



**Prospector Park**  
(3013 N. Idaho Road, Apache Junction, AZ 85119)

**Sat., August 15, 2015, from 8 – 10 am**

Schedule of Events:

**0800 – Meet & Greet**

**0815 – Tyr Blot**

**0835 – Refreshments**

**0900 – Hofmoot / High Rede gathering**

East Phoenix Valley  
Arizona

Visit us at  
[www.Runekenhof.org](http://www.Runekenhof.org)  
An AFA Kindred

ph. (480) 338-1319 fax (480) 288-2946 [www.runekenhof.org](http://www.runekenhof.org)

## Upcoming Events

MAKING VACATIONS PLANS FOR 2015?

The following large gatherings are scheduled, with the camps already reserved:

GREAT NORTHWEST FREYFAXI, Ocean Park, WA, August 14 – 16

WINTER NIGHTS IN THE POCONOS, Camp Netimus, Milford, PA, October 16 – 18

We urge all members to come experience at least one major gathering this year. You'll find it's life-changing!

Copyright © \*2015\* Asatru Folk Assembly. All rights reserved.

