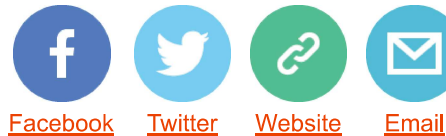


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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.

Donate to the AFA



Words from the Alsherjargothi

I write this as I take a break from packing; when you all read this I will be out west, in between two AFA Freyfaxi gatherings. I am headed out to the Hof to celebrate Freyfaxi and to ordain Michael Hunter as our newest AFA Gothi. Afterwards I will spend a week at and around NewGrange Hof, working to take care of AFA business alongside our Folkbuilder Coordinator, Marc MacLeod. Marc and I will drive up together to the AFA

definitely coursing through the veins of the AFA so far! I am impressed and inspired by the energetic activity of our leaders and members. Under Marc's direction, our Folkbuilder program is expanding with more and more great new apprentices. Many of you have made moves to empower both yourselves and each other in our new Facebook group, AFA Physical Excellence. Everywhere I look I see progress and I see great things to come. Now more than ever, the mission of the AFA is relevant and necessary for our people. By the empowerment of Sowilo, we shall push forward with vigor and purpose, always moving forward, unstoppable!

Matt Flavel
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly

Great Northwest Freyfaxi



Great Northwest Freyfaxi is only a few days away! Please register now if you haven't

our leadership, a much anticipated talk by member Juliegh Howard-Hobson on the roles of women, a musical performance by our own Bob Falkenstein, and delicious Northern European foods prepared by the Folk, for the Folk. Please register at eventzilla if you haven't already! You can register at the [event page](#).

AFA FallFest in the Midwest

Here in the Northern Plains we have been preparing for our AFA Fallfest in the Midwest in Minnesota over Labor Day weekend. This looks to be a great event, and it will be the first large folkish event - and the first large AFA event - here in the Midwest. Modern cabin camping in the woods on the shores of a large lake, does it get much better? Live traditional style folk singing, live old time blacksmithing presentation, an opportunity to meet our new Allsherjargothi, Matt Flavel, and our new apprentice Folkbuilder, Jason Gallagher.....Come out and help us make history.
--Blaine Qualls, Northern Plains Folkbuilder

Date: 3-5 September

Location: Camp Courage in Maple Lake, Minnesota

For more information and to register see the [Facebook page](#) and [eventzilla event](#).

Winter Nights in the Poconos



Thursday, October 13, 2016, 6:00 p.m., to Sunday October 16, 2016, 12:00 p.m. at Camp Netimus.

Please join the Asatru Folk Assembly for our Fifth Annual Winter Nights in the Poconos at Camp Netimus in beautiful Milford, Pennsylvania.

We will have workshops and lectures. We will have meals and music. We will build upon the success of Folkish Asatru here in the Northeast by making new friends and renewing old friendships. And most importantly we will worship our gods, our goddesses, and our ancestral mothers in the crisp air of mountains as winter sets in.

Specifics on our keynote guest, bands, and event schedule will be released soon. Keep checking back! See the [Facebook](#) and [eventzilla](#) pages.

Circle of Eir - A Call to Healing

The AFA Circle of Eir is up and working. A core group performs a monthly healing ritual

the name of someone who needs healing, please let me know at 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 11, at midnight EDT/USA. Hail Eir!

Folk Services

AFA Folk Services is intended to provide modest, one-time monetary grants to AFA members in dire need of basic services. It is also to be a source for referrals and information to help members get help beyond what the AFA can directly provide. For more information, send a private message to the [Folk Services page](#) on Facebook.

News from your Assembly of Gothar from Patricia L. Hall, Moder-Gythia

Since the AFA is a religious non-profit ("œchurch"), we are expected to maintain the dignity of that designation as well as establishing its expected methods and functions. Our formally ordained Gothar, spread across the USA and Europe, are integral to this mission. Each has completed a rigorous screening and curriculum in order to receive formal ordination, and each stands ready to serve. We are available for weddings, funerals, and other rituals, for counseling and arbitration, for assistance in the formation of kindreds/tribes, and as advisors to assist those who wish to lead their own kindreds/tribes in ritual.

And in this vein, I am happy to announce to you all the ordination of Michael Hunter. I had the privilege of being Mike™s assigned Mentor during his clergy program work and found him to be deep thinking and insightful. Our Alsherjargothi, Matt Flavel, had the honor of administering Mike™s oath at NewGrange Hof as part of a private AFA Freyfaxi

CONGRATULATIONS MICHAEL!

Coming soon are new and exciting ministries and projects! We are also in process of creating a page under Runestone.org for the Assembly of Gothar so all the Folk can know who we are, where we are located, and how to reach us. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please send me an email at patriciahall@runestone.org

Hail the Folk! Hail the AFA!

Folkbuilding News



Well, another month of progress is behind us! There've been a lot of great things going on behind the scenes of the AFA. The Leadership is settling into their new positions, and being replaced in their old positions; new foundations are being formed; and all around it

As Folkbuilder Coordinator I have been busy trying to fill in some of the voids. From my experience, where we have strong leadership, we soon have strong communities. I am very committed to finding quality members who are willing to step up into these roles that promote our folkish values and will help us to grow in the right direction. This month I have had the pleasure of adding two new apprentice Folkbuilders to our team.

The first I'd like to introduce is Jason Gallagher (shown left above), who has stepped up to help in the Northern Plains region, to help Blaine Qualls, the present Folkbuilder. I've been watching Jason promote the AFA in Minnesota for a few years now, and with the growth we are starting to see there, obviously his work has been paying off. I'm excited to see the progress in that region, and with their first major event happening on Labor Day weekend, I expect that we will continue to see good things.

The second addition to the team is Mike Sagginario (right above). Mike is the president of the Irminfolk Kindred and owner of Whirling Sun Jewelry. He has been a good friend to the AFA and we are excited about strengthening our ties in the Northeast region. He will be joining Cliff Erickson, the current Folkbuilder, and relieving Patricia Hall of her Folkbuilding duties in the region, so she can concentrate on her new duties as High Gythia and head of the AFA Clergy program.

I can only hope that we can continue this level of quality as we expand our Folkbuilder program. With quality leadership, you get quality members, which makes a quality organization!

Hail to the Folkbuilders!

Hail to the AFA!

Marc MacLeod, Folkbuilder Coordinator

Penny Pointers: Budgets
by Karen Carlson

for anything most of their lives – they just didn’t buy anything they didn’t need or really want. So this article is not to be taken as –this is how to do it,– but rather as my personal experience. It may give you some ideas as to what would work for you.

My husband and I don’t budget for the routine household expenses – food, utilities, gas for the cars, insurance – things which are pretty predictable and generally similar from month to month or at least year to year. What we’ve used budgets for is the discretionary and semi-discretionary expenditures which are fairly large and don’t come on a regular schedule. We have around a half dozen categories of budgeted expenses, including Travel, Home Improvement, and College Fund. Travel is what it sounds like – vacations. Home Improvement does not cover the day-to-day small stuff like a new hose for the yard; it is for the big stuff, both necessary (replace the roof) and discretionary (remodel the kitchen). The College Fund is for the help we send our nieces and nephews for education. Some years there has been one student; some years there have been three in college at once. To even this out, we just set aside a monthly amount and let it accumulate until needed.

Tip for couples: Individual allowances for discretionary spending aren’t just for kids. They can save a lot of negotiating and stress. Our allowances cover clothes, eating out, gifts to each other, and things (books, tools, craft supplies, etc.). Some couples have an allowance for only one spouse; we’ve found that equal allowances for the two of us makes most sense to us. How large the allowances are depends of course on your discretionary income and on what you decide the allowances should cover. The big thing having allowances has done for me (the worry-wart about money) is a sense that there is a limit on discretionary spending; for my husband it gives him the freedom to buy that new router he needs when he sees it at the hardware store without feeling like he has to discuss it with me first.

The nuts and bolts of budgeting should be what works for you. If you’re saving for a new car, that’s more money than you want to have in a coffee can. If you have more than a couple budget items, it’s probably unwieldy to have actual separate bank accounts for them. I keep track in an Excel spreadsheet. There are probably higher tech methods; there are certainly lower tech methods. (Remember paper and pencil?) On a

from our actual bank balance. Whatâ€™s left over (assuming emergency fund and retirement savings are separate) is money we can spend on other discretionary things.

Konservative Karen

News from the Midwest from Patricia Hall, Folkbuilder

REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALL

Our August Midwest conference call will be at 8:30 p.m. EDT/7:30 p.m. CDT on Thursday, August 25. I look forward to hearing you there! The call number is: 641-715-3580
Participant Code is: 128-737 Call is optional.

PUBMOOT IN GRAND RAPIDS: POSTPONED to later in September or early October!
We are looking at meaderies, breweries, and pubs in the Grand Rapids area. Right now the Brewery Vivant, Hopcat, and Flaniganâ€™s all look promising. Stay tuned! The place and exact times will be announced on our Facebook site, in an event that will be set up, and in a group email!

MIDWEST CONTACTS

KINDRED IN INDIANA: One of our members, Heather Nance, invites Midwest members to check out her kindred, Wolves Wod Kindred, located in Evansville, Indiana:

www.wolveswodkindred.org

AFA Midwest has its own FaceBook group! The FaceBook link is

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/871639299583668/>

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

News from the Northwest from Elizabeth Salix, Folkbuilder



It's been a busy summer for the Northwest! Above left is a picture of the AFA Northwest Adventure Team at Midsummer at NewGrange Hof. We look forward to seeing you at Freyfaxi!

Seminary Hill in Centralia, WA - above right.

On Saturday, July 2nd, Northwest AFA members and friends enjoyed a hike to

We celebrated the 4th of July by participating in the Centralia Summerfest festivities, including driving our M923 in the parade. We flew the flag in honor of the upcoming 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.



On Saturday July 9th, Philip Koch organized a hike in the MacDonald-Dunn Forest in Corvallis - above left. We found a lovely clearing deep in the woods, and held blot to the Gods and the spirits of the land.

On Saturday July 16th, we kicked off the start of blackberry season with some berry picking and preservation, while the men did some trail maintenance out in the woods - above right. Look for pictures from the July 31st Pie Making Seminar in next month's issue of *The Voice*!

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

Hail the AFA!

-Elizabeth J. Salix, Gythia, Northwest Folkbuilder

Upcoming Events in the Northeast from Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder

The Irminfolk will be holding their 6th annual Folkish Summer Hallowing on August 18-21 in Milford, PA. We are looking forward to honoring the Gods and our ancestors with our family and friends, and creating new bonds of friendship with fellow heathens.

www.folkishsummerhallowing.com

Hail the Gods! Hail the Folk!



San Diego Happenings from Jamie Souligny





Hails from the San Diego Tru Folk Kindred! We had our local Midsummer gathering down at Mission Bay. Our kinsman Kevin fashioned us an awesome banner. It seemed we were surrounded by those that would oppose our lands and folk. We were under much scrutiny from the surrounding parties, which of course only confirmed and strengthened our resolve to stand proud and tall. We combatted their disdain with our loud hails and galdering. We represented the power of our Folk by displaying our strength and lack of fear of their presence. Many were inspired by our great Midsummer gathering, and the passion to grow and move forward is palpable.

We are having a gathering at Old World in Huntington Beach on Aug 13th. We will be posting the details on the San Diego Folkish Asatru page. Please contact myself Jamie jamieredsoul@gmail.com or Heather Clinkenbeard HeaTHOR@runestone.org if you would like to join or have any questions about future meetings.

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



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Upcoming Events for 2016

Freyfaxi in the Northwest - August 5-7 at the Pacific Beach Retreat Center. You can register at the [event page](#).

AFA FallFest at Camp Courage, Maple Lake, MN, Labor Day weekend, September 3-5 - our first major gathering in the Midwest! See the [Facebook](#) and [eventzilla](#) pages.

5th Annual AFA Winter Nights in the Poconos - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 6:00 p.m., to Sunday October 16, 2016, 12:00 p.m. at Camp Netimus. See the [Facebook](#) and [eventzilla](#) pages.

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