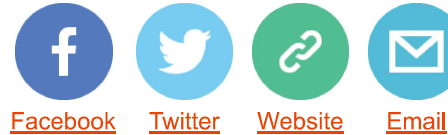


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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

As summer progresses, I am overwhelmed with all the vital energy and activity I see amongst our folk. In all aspects of life I see our folk becoming more active, physically, economically, politically, and, perhaps best of all, spiritually. I am struck by the number of meetups, moots, rune studies and events I see across the country and now in Scandinavia and Australia as well. Harnessing the flow of vital energy for the empowerment of our folk

massive outpouring of enthusiasm and energy in the AFA, both amongst our membership and our leadership. Our Folkbuilders are channeling that torrent into increased activity and gatherings, both in frequency and number of locations.

A question often occurs, “how can the average member help?” and here are two impactful ways. First, volunteer! Let your Folkbuilder know that you want to volunteer to help, not just in your comfort zone, but in whatever ways we need as a church. This outpouring of dedication will be well rewarded with a swelling of events and activity, in your region and beyond! Second, money! As we grow, we have tremendous opportunities to implement our Declaration of Purpose. These opportunities take money to capitalize on, from publishing, to folk services, military program, establishing Hofs and so much more.

We need your help and generosity to divert a river of resources toward our mission and the dreams we want to make real. One way to help is the much appreciated donations, another is helping with fundraisers. Our Kindred Program Coordinator Bryan Blue is working on fundraising ideas as we speak. The energy among our folk is deep and wide with our will, let us sail upon that wave toward the shore of glorious victory.

Matthew D. Flavel
Alsherjargothi,
Asatru Folk Assembly



A Somber Call to the Halls of his Ancestors

For those of you who don't know, John Steiner (Grimsteinr, Old John), passed away on 5/27/17 at the age of 77, in Spencer, IN.

He was the founder and Gothi of the HofBrau Kindred, and was a member of the AFA and the Asatru Alliance of Kindreds.

He was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2015. And since this past winter, his health continued to severely decline.

He now brews and shares his famous sweet mead with our Gods and Ancestors. His generous spirit and sage words of wisdom, will be sorely missed by everyone that knew him.

Sharon Steiner

And so one dies one's self;
But a noble name | will never die,
If good renown one gets.

Cattle die, | and kinsmen die,
And so one dies one's self;
One thing now | that never dies,
The fame of a dead man's deeds.

An Asatru Handfasting

On Sunday, July 30th, 2017, Jennifer Lightner, mother of Odin Lightner, married Seanmichael Farrell. Folkbuilder Heather Clinkenbeard had the honor of bonding this family together with oaths under the Gods, the Goddesses, and their family's Alfar and Disir. Congratulations to your family, and may the Gods and Goddesses forever shine on your path. Hail!



Folk Essay.

***American Gods* and Gods in America:
A Critique from a Heathen Perspective
by
Cecile Johnson**

"The 2001 novel *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman has gained a good deal of popularity in heathen and pagan circles, in large part due to the author's skill at creating engaging storylines centered around the idea of the old pagan gods interacting with the modern world, a theme that he has worked with throughout the course of his writing career. The

Gaiman's book *Norse Mythology* in 2017. The television series and book coincide with a general reawakening of interest in the deities and lore of Northern Europe. The popularity of such productions is a reflection of the desire and interest many people have in a mythical/spiritual awakening tied to heritage and folkways. However, there is a danger inherent in the modern propensity to unquestioningly accept media representations of ancestral myth that the modern heathen or pagan should keep in mind and constantly take into consideration." - *Cecile Johnson*

This month we have a wonderful addition to *The Voice* from Cecile Johnson, an AFA member out of New Mexico. It's a moderate read, however it's much too long (7 pages) to add word for word here in *The Voice*. Cecile raises many poignant and well thought out religio-philosophical points and she has more than a few paragraphs that impart a sense of profoundness.

As one who is abundantly open in regards to my faith, as I'm sure many of you are, I have had more than a few people ask me, "Since you're a Heathen do you like *American Gods*?" Personally I've never read the books or watched the show, but I got the sense that it was very similar to *Game of Thrones* in its style and characterizations. That works such as these exist to debase our Gods is troubling, however as Asatru we are emboldened to stand in divine defense for Our Ways, Our Gods, and Our Folk. Cecile Johnson, your essay is a blazing torch against the Miasma of Pop Culture. From my heart, thank you for your work. - *M. Waldrum, Assistant Editor*

Download the essay [here!](#)

I rede thee, Loddafafir! | and hear thou my rede,--
Profit thou hast if thou hearest,
Great thy gain if thou learnest:
If another is wicked, | And speaks with ill tongue,
No quarter or peace for this foe.

by Folkbuilder Heather Clinkenbeard

Shadow

Thor

Blackjack

The AFA has many great members, members that are loyal and true but some have been here longer than most and one of them happens to be in my area. Some that don't see the AFA as many individuals but see it as a whole, A group with the purpose of serving our folk. July 1, 2017, Mary Minshall celebrated her 20th year as a member of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

From the words of Sheila McNallen, "Mary was my administrative assistant in regards to the membership before Facebook when everything had to be accomplished through emails or Yahoo groups. She's been a researcher and editor of AFA articles and publications. Her gift has been the uncompromising promotion of Folkish Asatru for nearly 25 years. Hail, Mary!!"

Mary is now in Las Vegas and not able to get to major functions so I wanted to let the new people get to know her through this interview. You may already know her from her activity on Facebook, always supporting the AFA and our folkish friends. It was Mary I had to work with when I first started folk building and she would help me with my monthly lists of updated members and was better than any system that has replaced her. With so many fair weather people nowadays I thought it would be good to hear from her and ask a few questions on her loyalty and perseverance.

[Autobiography](#)

neighborhood where one came home “when the city turns the street lights on”. After graduation from college, I moved to the San Francisco Bay Area. I married and became a stay-at-home Mom with family until going to work as a land title searcher and medical transcriber at Stanford Hospital.

After spending a year in England working with a writer, I returned to the USA when I realized that nothing would ever be published. I enrolled at UCLA, earned a Masters in Library and Information Science and worked in the aerospace industry before returning to Northern California to care for a friend who suffered a stroke. It was during my stay in Southern California that I found the Asatru Folk Assembly in 1997.

In 2005 my daughter, Catherine Klimenkov and I moved to Las Vegas where we have been ever since. I attended Asatru meetings here, finding that there was not the Folkish community of the AFA and Northern California.

My interests range from the Titanic to Tsar Nicholas II and animals, especially the human-animal bond. Our household consists of three cats (pictured above), to which my daughter and I are staff. I also knit and crochet, specializing in Irish patterns and afghans.

Telephone Interview: 19 July 2017

Heather: Mary, The AFA is so very honored to have you as a member. You are a perfect example of what we need to be in this community. 20 years is a long time to be loyal to anything. Even now, with all the changes, you remain loyal. Firstly I would like to honor you and your loyalty as you deserve. But also to let others know how and why and what it takes to stay with the community and be a productive part of preserving our folk. I have three questions I want to ask you that I feel everyone needs to hear about.

First, why the AFA? How has it affected your life in 20 years?

Mary: For years I looked for an alternative to Protestant Christianity which just did not satisfy my soul as it was based on Middle Eastern/Eastern Mediterranean cults which were foreign to me. I wanted a folkway with which I could identify ethnically, as my genealogy and DNA test (Ancestry.com) results indicated that I was 99.9% Northern Atlantic Islander

Twenty years ago while living in Long Beach, CA, I participated in a BBS bulletin board on the Old Norse religion where people were falling all over themselves apologizing for being Asatruar while explaining that they were NOT Nazis. Others were a mixture of Wicca combined with snippets of Druidism plus whatever else they managed to invent for themselves. Obviously, this was NOT what I was looking for, so I sent a private e-mail to the one person, a professor of music at a small Midwestern college, who submitted logical sane posts. After telling her I was searching for something that expressed my ethnic identity, she said, "What you are looking for is FOLKISH Asatru. Send an email to Steve McNallen of the Asatru Folk Assembly and he will help you." I emailed Steve at the original oro.net address and received a very prompt reply. After correspondence and a phone call, I immediately joined the AFA in July of 1997 and have been a member ever since.

H: Your Folkish stance? What does it mean to you?

M: Asatru, as expressed by the AFA, is the expression of the folk-soul of the people of Northern Europe and the North Atlantic Isles as evolved since the end of the last Ice Age and possibly before, over 40,000 years. It is a feeling or religion deeply embedded in our DNA that came from the forests and heaths of Northern Europe and the North Atlantic Isles, expressing the ideals of standing up for one's people, a feeling of trust amongst us, and helping each other in both good and bad times. A major reason I am drawn to Asatru is the way our folkway respects us women and elevates us to a level not seen in the Middle Eastern/Eastern Mediterranean cults which I have rejected.

Asatru is unique to those of us of Northern Europe and the North Atlantic Isles. One can compare Asatru with Shinto of the Japanese, many of whom follow the Buddhist ideology, or the spiritual ways of the American Indian tribes. I believe that Asatru is exclusively for those of us of European and North Atlantic Islander ancestry only just as the Sioux and Apache are allowed to have their folkways. Outsiders visiting some Indian tribal compounds are asked to leave during religious ceremonies. We respect this and the traditions of other ethnic and racial groups as their folkways are as specific to them as Asatru is to us.

Another aspect of Asatru is the strong desire to preserve our Folk as a distinct people by not only a means of fellowship while honoring our Gods and Goddesses, but in active

replacement of our people by outsiders of other ethnic groups and am very angry when I see one of our people wasting their precious DNA, gifted to them by our ancestors in acts of miscegenation.

H: What message do you have for other members?

M: I am so happy to see the Asatru Folk Assembly growing with the emphasis on families and the encouragement of marriage between one man and one woman which will ensure the future of our people. Seeing pictures of young children and baby welcomings into our midst makes my soul soar with happiness as it means we have a future.

I am also delighted to see the purchase of the Hof with land and the fellowship of the people who have put so much energy into its renovations into a true Asatru Hof the likes of which is unique here in Midgard or Vinland.

The way we also support each other through the AFA Member Services is another good feature of the AFA. May we encourage donations to Member Services – I have made a resolution that, no matter how many pleas for donations I receive, the ONLY organization that will receive my money or products is the AFA.

Finally, I would like to see the AFA grow, someday in the not-too-distant future, to include every one of Northern European and North Atlantic Islander ancestry as members with a Hof in every community in the USA. We can work together as a Folk (note upper case F) to bring these goals about. Yes, we do have our differences in opinion on some issues, but we need to lay aside those differences and unite against the common enemies that want to destroy us.

**Fallfest in the Northern Plains
September 8th - 10th**

Looking for something to do? Want to get back to your roots, back to your Folk? Come join

by our very own Gothar including our Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel, Gothi Blaine Qualls, Gythia Patricia L. Hall, and apprentice Gothi Roland Jos L'Hereux; presentations by some of Asatru's leading folk, including Gothi Bryan Wilton. A Mead Making 101 class led by Baldur Odinson, where you can start your own gallon of mead to take home. A traditional Asatru wedding, a sumbel where some of Vinland's tastiest meads will flow, a mead making contest, a bagpiper (yes, a live bag piper) to take us back into the misty times of yore for just a bit on Saturday evening. And to top it all off, rustic style cabin camping in the secluded Northwoods of Minnesota. Truly this will be the place to be in Vinland this summer. Come out and join us as we reawaken the ancestral folkways of our people.

Pubmoot for Las Vegas Valley Southern Clark County



4650 W. Tropicana, Las Vegas, Nevada 89103
(On Tropicana & Cameron, West of 'The Orleans')

The AFA will be hosting a monthly Pub Moot at McMullan's Irish Pub in Las Vegas! Date and time to be announced.

This will be an Asatru Folk Assembly prospective members, and members-only event where we will gather to greet and meet. We will discuss the Lore and study the Runes (a

Web site showing menu, accommodations, etc.: www.mcmullansirishpub.com

Interested? Call: Mary Minshall at (702) 399-1483

Catherine Klimenkov at (702) 812-5781



Words from the Folkbuilder Coordinator by Marc Macleod

I'd like to introduce our newest Apprentice Folkbuilder Michael Terry. Michael is a CDL driver trainer by trade and a organic vegetable farmer in the western part of Virginia. He has already started organizing meet-ups in the western part of the Upper South region and will be focused on building communities in the West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee area. If you are in these area's and don't know him, I suggest you reach out to him. This is how it's done folks, real people, real events, and real communities!! The Upper South region has some real go-getters and is doing some great work. I'm looking forward to seeing the fruits of their labor!

Hail the Doers!!



Apprentice Folkbuilder Michael Terry

Words from Bryan Wilton, Folkbuilder and Gothi

During these dog days of summer in the Central Corridor and South Central Regions, while people are spending their time making a living and beating the heat, there are still many new members joining our ranks. On the 19th of Aug, members from around the region will

celebrations in various locations so stay in touch with each other and make plans to attend one near you or not so near you. It is our commitment to building our local communities which help us stem the tide of radical people and their ideas who are dedicated to stopping our freedom of expression. So make sure you reach out to the folk builders when they call or message you, Follow up with people in your areas and beat the heat this summer by spending time building the types of relationships we expected when we joined the AFA. No one is going to give them to us. We've gotta work on it

**Words from the Northeast
by Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder**

AFA Northeast members gathered at Nockamixon State Park for a day of nature, conversation, fun, and food. Games of tafl and kubb were hotly contested while the burgers & dogs were served up hot. We had old and new folk come together for a great day.



Upcoming Events-

AFA Northeast Conference Call

Friday August 4 at 5:30 PM

forward to hearing you there! Dial-in Number: (641) 715-3580 Access Code: 174-424

AFA Northeast Freyfaxi

Saturday, August 26 at 3 PM - 9 PM

Clifford's home

cerickson@runestone.org

Winter Nights in the Poconos

October 12 - 15

Milford, PA

Register soon at <http://winternights2017.eventzilla.net>

Words from the AFA Military Program by Roland L'Heureux



**ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY
MILITARY OUTREACH PROGRAM**

Several months ago, we held our first book-drive fundraiser and, thanks to many of you, we raised nearly \$1000. Thank you all so much for your support and donations. Books have been delivered to chaplains and personnel on military bases world-wide; and, were even provided for several of our folk at last minute's notice as they were leaving for or had just arrived at their respective recruit training facilities or were about to deploy for assignments overseas. Access to this literature, because of your generosity, will surely promote recognition of, respect for, and participation in the European spirituality and religion of Asatru within our armed services.

The AFA Shop and Military Program Join Forces!

In addition to funding the distribution of more literature than we had hoped from our Books for the Barracks book-drive, the AFA Military Program and the AFA Shop have been working closely to insure our program maintains a perpetual inflow of funds to assist in future beneficent activities. Under the entrepreneurial direction of our AFA Store Manager, our own AFA Military Program Challenge Coin, Tee-shirts, Hoodies and Books (Voluspa and Havamal: Pocket Sized for the Troops & The Soldiers Edda, both by Bryan Wilton; as well as Metaphysics of War: Battle, Victory and Death in the World of Tradition by Julius Evola, to be specifically recommended) are available for purchase by anyone wishing to support our efforts, as a portion of the sale price for military program items comes back to the Military Program for use in our program endeavors. Your support is both encouraged and welcomed.

From the War Room:

During the month of August, the AFA Military Program will begin broadcasting The 3GC Radio Show and Podcast: Courage—Confidence Crystalized.* Our show will be hosted by myself, along with Kevin Long, our Program Assistant Coordinator, and Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Steiner, our Active Duty Liaison. We three “jar-heads,” will combine our

interviews of AFA staff, Gothar, and Veterans as well as from various Veteran Service Organization officials. Discussion topics will cover from military training, tradition, and protocol to physical fitness and the deepest metaphysical aspects of our religious beliefs that we dear imagine. Subsequently, while we, and our show, will be of primary interest to our military folk and their families, we trust that everyone who joins us will crack a smile while becoming more informed. Be sure to follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Asatru.Military.Program/> for more information on the podcast's links and rss feed.

*3GC - Three Green Crayons

[END]

**Words from the AFA North West
by Ryan Harlan, Folkbuilder**

The Northern California members of the AFA will be celebrating Freyfaxi at the Hof on the weekend of August 12th-13th. We will be holding a Freyr Blot, as well as discussing what sort of fruits (both physical and spiritual) we as individuals, and as a Folk, will have to harvest from the seeds we have planted throughout the year. Blot will be conducted by our own Gothi Thorgrun Odden, and discussion led by Gothi Michael Hunter. As we usually do at our smaller local events, a pot luck style dinner will be held, as well as a raffle for some fine items, donated by the Folk. An event page is up on Facebook, and if you aren't on Facebook, and wish to join us for Freyfaxi, contact Apprentice Folkbuilder Ryan Harlan for details. Hailsa!

**Words from the AFA South West
by Heather Clinkenbeard, Folkbuilder**

July we not only met for our monthly moot but also celebrated our kindred member and

The Tru-Folk of San Diego is continuing the monthly park moot at Felicita Park in Escondido every second Sunday of the month. August, however, will be on the first Sunday, August 6th. We love meeting there in the beautiful setting in the company of good folk and Hailing the Gods and Goddesses. We will sometimes have time for a galdr session too. This rejuvenates our spirits until the next time we meet up again.

This month is also Freyfaxi or Harvest, a time we celebrate what we have harvested in our gardens and in our lives. We hold Blot to Freyr and, if we can, prepare meals from our gardens. August 20th we are meeting for Freyfaxi at one of our kinsman and kinswoman's home. We continue to grow and have new people show up all the time, not only in our area but all across the AFA. What an exciting time to be folkish Asatruar!



Apprentice Folkbuilder at Large Jamie Lynn Souigny and AFA kinswoman Megan Long

**News from the AFA Alaksa
by Eric Whisman, Folkbuilder**

Summit Lake Meetup and Heimdall Blót 2017

At the high point of Midyear, Der Volkstamm auf dem Nordliche Bar and fellow AFA members made their traditional journey to the halfway point between our two populations. The second weekend of July, we met up at Summit Lake Lodge on the mountain pass

joyous sounds of children playing together, new connections were made and old connections were strengthened.





**Words from the AFA Upper South
by Paul Hester, Folkbuilder**

July's been a great month for the Upper South. On the Ninth of July the Sandhills Kindred celebrated a very special Odin World Prayer Day that just so happened to coincide with the full moon, which is our monthly Vaettir blot. Anders Nilsson, our AFA Folk Builder in Sweden, created this event and the Sandhills Kindred is a proud supporter. We also held our monthly conference call and it was by far the biggest call that I've ever been apart of and a testament to the truly motivated people that make up our region.

Things discussed:

We're putting together an August Pub Moot and a September Camp Out. Again thanks to the 14 awesome people who made the call, and a special thanks to our Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel for taking the time out of his busy schedule to join us!

Hail the Doers!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



**Words from AFA Australia and New Zealand (ANZ)
from Cameron Mottus, Folkbuilder**

Firstly, I would like to wish a hearty heil to ANZ's newest member, Kevin Reilly, from Sydney Australia.

For me, July has been a busy time and the foreseeable future will also be. This is my busiest time of year. I live in Christchurch, New Zealand but do a lot of work in Australia. I was in Brisbane, Australia last week. Over the next few weeks I will be traveling to:

- Brisbane, AU
- Sydney, AU
- Melbourne, AU
- Repeat x 3 months.

It is tiring being away from my wife and baby but very rewarding. I get to meet so many members and prospective members during my travels. I try my best to take advantage of the gift of travel that I have been given. Thank you Norns! The AFA leadership team has made it very clear that it is in our interest to meet our members in person and I am doing my best to do so. No online blots for us!

I am meeting a prospective member when I travel to Brisbane in mid-August. It is an hour by train to the closest city to where he lives. I am meeting him half way. Bonus, I get to see another city, even if just for a night and get to meet another prospective member face-to-face. It is a matter of will. On that day, by the time I will have met him, I will have gotten up at 3am, traveled across the Tasman Sea, worked a full day then taken a train ride to the Gold Coast, meet the member and then ride the train ride back to Brisbane. All up, around a 22 hour day with time changes. In the rest of the cities I am trying to set up Meetups so that I can share a horn with the folk.

I love and value being a folkbuilder and I love meeting our people.

If you know anyone in Australia or New Zealand, please introduce me. I would love to help them join the AFA!

Cheers from New Zealand
Cameron Mottus

Words from AFA Folk Services
Jamie Souigny, Apprentice Folkbuilder at Large

[AFA Europe](#)

thanks to Anders and Cliff for making it come together. If you want to contribute to the blog or submit your own article to "The Voice" for your region please reach out to me at jsouligny@runestone.com

I am looking forward to hearing from our members in Europe!

Hail the AFA !!

Northwest AFA in B.C., Canada

We are seeing some awesome activity up in our Northwest Region in the B.C. area. Looking forward to all the future growth to come up in that area. A big shout out to Shawn McDonald. He is doing some great things with his folk up there.

What are you doing to help encourage growth in your part of the region? Let's get the Northwest Rockin and rolling!

We do conference calls one a month.

These are posted on our regional Facebook and sent via email. Please be sure that your personal contact info is up to date to receive notifications of these calls.

Hail the Doers!!!

Shawn Macdonald

AFA Folk Services is intended to provide modest, one-time monetary grants to Asatru Folk Assembly (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

We have had some amazing support to boost our funds for folk services as of late. It is the support of our community that helps our Folk in times of unforeseen troubles. Without this support we would not have the levels of success we have achieved and I am looking forward to seeing how far we can go in the future.

Note from the Founder: We need your help! Lots of people "like" our posts, but fewer actually pitch in. I understand—that's human nature—but we need to build at least a small fund for emergencies, rather than simply passing the hat for specific events. Your contributions are earnestly solicited, and of course are tax-deductible! Every little bit adds up! Got an extra \$5 this month? Shoot it over to Folk Services!

If even a fraction of the folks who like the page did that each month imagine the possibilities!

Thanks in advance!
Jamie Souigny

**Words from AFA Northern Plains
by Todd Bailey, Apprentice Folkbuilder**

Here up in the Northern lands in North Dakota things are going well and the Folk are active. I had the honor of being able to go up to the Turtle Lake Mercer area and celebrate a blot dedicated to Baldur with one of our AFA members. The Gods were truly with us and we could feel the presence of Baldur with us as we offered up a sacrifice of mead to the God of light. After the ceremony had ended we feasted on a mighty meal of smoked ribs; a feast worthy of the Gods. This coming 29th of July we will be having a day of Archery and then blot to the God Ullr in honor of him being the God of Archery. Things are ramping up here in the Northern Plains and I for one am extremely proud and Honored to be serving

Hail the Gods and Goddesses!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail The Doers!

Hail the AFA!



**Words from the Four Corners Region
by Nate Hayden, Apprentice Folkbuilder**

Arizona

Sunday 4pm, August 20th

Handlebar Pub & Grill (650 W Apache Trail AZ 85120-3906)

Contact Roland Jos L'Heureux or the Folkgard of Holda & Odin Kindred page on Facebook
or by email rlheureux@runestone.org.

Lost Dutchman Harvest / Winter Finding Celebration

An Asatru frith-yard family-friendly desert camping experience just 30 min. from Phoenix Metro area and less than 40 miles from any of three nearby lakes: Canyon, Saguaro, and Apache.

Registration fee: \$45/adult (17 yrs old and younger free w/adult)

Check-in @ Visitor's Center: \$15/vehicle/night (4 passengers (adults) /vehicle. Fees for additional vehicle passengers will be waived for children of large families).

For more info contact Roland on Facebook or by email rlheureux@runestone.org

Colorado

Saturday 11am, August 11th

Moot at Clancey's Pub in Wheat Ridge Colorado Beginning

A meet and great with some discussion on Asatru in the Denver area. Organized by Roy Hurley.

Contact Roy on Facebook, Nate at nhayden@runestone.org or go to invite on Denver Area Asatru Facebook Page.

A casual Freyfaxi Blót is being planned near the end of August, in Denver. Stay tuned on the Four Corners Facebook page or email Nate at nhayden@runestone.org for date and time.

New Mexico

Sunday July 30th A Baldur Blót

August 13th: An open meeting in Albuquerque on August 13th

September 3 - Sumbel

For further information contact: Cecile Johnston hypgnosis321@gmail.com

Sunday August 13th

Kings of the Pub Moot on the second Sunday in August. Details on location are still being worked out. Contact Styler Jeppson through Facebook.



Clancy's Moot in Denver organized by Roy Hurley

**Words from AFA Minnesota
by Jason Gallagher, Apprentice Folkbuilder**

July was another productive month for us in Minnesota. We had the Rune study group at the beginning of the month led by AFA member Anna Mae! We also had a meet and greet in Rochester, MN that had a pretty good turnout with people driving from far distances. Fallfest is just over a month away and this year is looking like we will have a decent

have several of our local members who volunteered and are available to pick people up from airports and train and bus stations. If you plan to come to Fallfest and need a ride then message me on facebook or email me at jgallagher@runestone.org.

Rune Study Group - August 2nd 5:30pm, Bloomington, MN.

Freyfaxi - August 13th 2-5 Bloomington, MN

Folkish Family Feast and Greet - August 19th in Little Falls, MN 2-5

Fallfest - September 8-10th Northern Minnesota.

Hail the Doers!

Hail the AFA!!!

Words from AFA Midwest by Zach Cato, Apprentice Folkbuilder

Heil Asa-Folk,

First of all I would like to thank the AFA Staff for approving me as Apprentice Folkbuilder. It is an honor, privilege and pleasure to hold this position in the AFA, especially in the Midwest which has been a void region for us. I would like to begin my first posted column for The Voice to explain my aims and goals for Folkbuilding.

MIDWEST FOLKBUILDER GOALS:

- Build connections and relationships with each AFA member in the Midwest
- Help members within the Midwest region located other AFA members near where they live connect and form kindreds and/or Ásatrú study groups
- Provide different conference calls a month - one for official AFA members and another that includes AFA members but also those who want to see if the AFA is right for them. These later conference calls will be connected with my Facebook page Midwest, Vinland Folkish Ásatrú Outreach
- Meet with my kindred, Heimdall's Midgard kindred, at least once a month to build and advance our quality and quantity of membership and actions

- Provide informational/academic podcasts that are traditional, historical and cover all aspects of the Ásatrú and the Northern Way
- Build connections with all of the AFA Folkbuilder's of each region so we can work together for the betterment of the whole organization
- Hold events for all special or holy days held sacred within Ásatrú such as the tides of the year for those unable to travel to the major AFA events
- Have council meetings within Midwest (and perhaps all folkbuilder) Region on Disting and Thing-Tide, involving all available members that are active. This would be for Disting initiating land for the coming year and Thing-Tide to review the results of the year and plan for next year's Disting

Some of these aims/goals may or not be possible at the time although the steps to activate them will be in motion. Traveling and Podcasts will be the main two that will take a little more time than the others but will be seen soon.

Over the last few months I've either met or spoken with many members within and outside the Midwest region and will continue to do so. The emails, the calls, the Indianapolis and Kentucky meetings have been consistently amazing for lack of better words. I look forward to the next one I can attend the way Frey awaits the arrival of Gerdr. I will address in the next release of The Voice the successes and/or trials of the aims and goals mentioned above. In between the Voice releases other info will be posted on the AFA Midwest and AFA Moots and Meetings pages with my Midwest, Vinland Folkish Ásatrú Outreach added in which is available for both AFA members and non-AFA, but folkish people that want to make sure the AFA is right for them. For personal, contact me either through messaging on Facebook under Zach Cato, the Midwest pages or zcato@runestone.org .That's all I have for now.

HAIL THE DOERS!
HAIL THE FOLK!
HAIL THE AFA!

Today, we gather and offer blot to the god Baldur, son of Odin and Frigga. Baldur was best beloved of all the gods, a god characterized by the beauty and harmoniousness that he embodied and generated around him. Today, I would like to point out some aspects of Baldur's story that can enhance our understanding of him and his importance for us today.

Baldur's story begins with the prophetic dreams he has of his own death. Disturbed by these dreams, Frigga asks all things in the nine worlds to swear an oath to not harm her son. The one exception is the mistletoe, which she feels is too young and weak to be of harm. Having achieved this task, the gods make a sport of hurling missiles at the most beautiful and peaceful of their own. Loki takes advantage of this situation, and engineers Baldur's demise. His brother, Hermod rides to Hel to seek his brother's release, which she will grant on one condition: that all things in the nine worlds weep for Baldur. All things in the nine worlds do so, with the exception of one giantess, and so Baldur must stay in Hel's domain. A tragic tale, but one which I believe is incomplete, and richer than it may seem at first.

In Plato's *Republic*, the correct purpose of art, poetry, music and storytelling is to set proper patterns of thought and action within people's souls. These patterns, handed down over generations, become the pattern of a people's folk soul. In the Norse legends that remain to us, Baldur's story is cut off with his death. But Baldur is a young god, and his journey of growth is not over. As the son of Odin, or as some might say, an aspect of Odin himself, he is a god with the imperative to grow and gain wisdom, just as Odin does. He is just beginning to develop his power of prophecy when his death occurs. Fortunately, we can find some clues to his continued story in the legends of another god, a god of the North brought to Greece by the nordic Dorians, whose cult spread throughout the ancient world, from Turkey and Greece to the Celtic West. That god is Apollo. Apollo is a god of beauty, rationality and harmony, a god of art and poetry. He is also a god of prophecy and healing, who understands and controls the powers of life and death. Apollo's home is in Hyperborea, a region to the farthest north. His sacred animals include the raven, the wolf and the dragon. The initiation of his priests involved a series of meditations and trance - states underwent while within a cave, while wearing the pelts of wolves. In the Christian

I would like to propose the idea that the story of Baldur is the story of a young god's beginning of a path of initiation, and the turn of a new cycle of time, a new era. Where Apollo's cycle is set in the far-distant past, Baldur's cycle is still in progress. His time in Asgard can be seen as symbolic of a Northern Golden Age, perhaps related to a time of greater warmth and growth in the Nordic lands. When he left Asgard, a new age of hardship began. Odin, in his warlike and grim aspect became the leading principle of godhood, and he was later demonized by the oncoming of the Christian conquest of the lands of Europe. Baldur's time in Hel is his time to develop his powers of prophecy and spiritual ability, and perhaps also his time to master the secrets of life and death, the abilities of all things in the nine worlds to harm and to heal. When he is released from Hel, it will be as a god of great power and wisdom, with the knowledge to lead and heal the folk of Europe. The beauty and harmony that are his founding traits will balance and enhance the wisdom and warlike nature of Odin, the missing piece that will remanifest the power of the Gods in the nine worlds.

In the realm of Hel, the dead are sustained by memory of the living. During Baldur's time in Hel, he lives on in the memory of the gods and their folk. The concept of memory was of great importance in Europe during the times of the Christian conquest and Crusades. The *minne*, the memory of the Golden Age and the pre-Christian gods was preserved by heretical groups like the Cathars, who worshiped Lucifer, the Light-Bringer, and the troubadours, minnesingers, and chivalric orders who organized the courts of Love. Throughout the Christian era, these ancestral memories were preserved in stories, songs, art and architecture, hidden away, but still these for those who can see and feel. The memory of Baldur and his beauty and goodness became something frozen in the past, in the world of memory and dream. But the times are changing. Christianity is weak, and the symbols of the past are under attack, subject to mockery and scorn. With every ugly retelling and twisting of the old stories, songs and images, the folk soul of Europe is under attack. This brings to mind the reaction of the gods of Asgard to the result of the oaths Frigga had so diligently sought to protect her son. The most beautiful of the gods became a figure of fun, and his protection became a source of amusement. This lack of awe and respect led to his demise. Likewise, when we accept and tolerate and incessant barrage of mockery and hate flung at our culture, our heritage and our very selves, we open the

would do us harm and destroy us. We do not need to be good sports and go along with it. We must see and reject that which would do us harm, and seek our own balance and self-knowledge. Western culture has been twisted and corrupted into a hideous mockery of our heritage. What is called art is not the sacred work that can balance and guide our souls in a pattern of right living, but is instead a vector for ugliness and corruption. But with every attack and every artifact preserving the dead memory of a distant past, energy is released and our memories encouraged to manifest the gifts of the gods within our living bodies, deeds, words, thoughts. The time is now, when the essence of Baldur is not to be preserved in relics of the past, but in our living bodies and souls. We must take up the gifts of beauty in action, of wisdom, spiritual power and and knowledge, and we must make them present and real in our world. In this way, we may aid Baldur in his re-integration into the world of the living, and take his place as a fully-realized being of power, a true son of his father endowed with the gifts of beauty, wisdom and will to heal and regenerate our worlds.

Circle of Eir - A Call to Healing

AFA Circle of Eir performs a monthly healing ritual calling on Eir and naming those AFA members and families in need of healing. If you would like to become a member of the Circle or would like to submit the name of someone who needs healing, please send me an email at patriciahall@runestone.org

The August ritual will be held on Thursday the 24th, at midnight EST/USA. Hail Eir!

AFA Mead Makers Group

DID YOU KNOW?

The first Saturday of August is International Mead Day! All over the world, mead is being

beverage of choice?

Mead is one of the most ancient of alcoholic beverages. Some think it may have been the very first, occurring naturally in nature, when honey mixed with water and wild yeast and fermented. It is found in many countries from around the world, including Northern Europe, China, Russia, even Central Africa.

In Asatru, we often use mead in our blots and sumbels, and for good reason; our lore is ripe with stories of mead. From the story of Kvasir in the Mead of Poetry, to Odin seducing Gunnlöd and bringing mead to Asgard, to Beowulf, it only makes sense to enjoy it today in our rites and rituals.

I asked Stephen McNallen a bit about the history of using mead in the early days of the AFA; here are my questions and his response:

Janet:

Hi Stephen! I'm writing up a piece on Mead for The Voice and wanted to know 1) Why and how you decided on using mead for blots and sumbel when you first started in Asatru - it couldn't have been easy finding it back then, and 2) how and why the ritual of the women blessing the mead before hand came about.

Stephen:

You're right; it was very difficult finding mead back then. We brewed some, and at some point Delicato vineyards of Modesto, California started making mead. The brand name was "Wassail," as I recall. Another brand - Chaucer's - became available at about the same time.

The use of mead for sumbel is, of course, well documented, so I felt it was essential to have it. However, we were doing blot for a couple of years before we started doing sumbel, and the reason for using it was an adaptation of the original Viking-era blot procedure. In the old days, the animal was killed and its blood sprinkled on the assembled folk with an evergreen sprig. The idea, I inferred, was that the blood was filled with life-force and that this was transmitted ritually to the people by sprinkling. Mead in blot was a stand-in for

Regarding the preparation of the horn by the women: The connection between women and the ritual use of mead is, of course, well established in the literature. I also liked the fact that it increased the role of women in our blots. (I left it up to the women to determine what was said; it seemed to me this was something that should be obscured by a sacred privacy.) We started doing this at Midsummer of 2009.

Thanks to the generosity of many of our home brewers, mead is abundant at our events. Mead is a fairly easy brew to make, and can be as simple or as complex as you want it to be. In the past, it was mostly women who were in charge of making mead, but these days people from both sexes enjoy the craft.

Are you interested in learning how to make your own mead? We invite you to join our AFA Mead Maker's group on Facebook. We have folk from rank beginners to people who have been making mead for decades, so there's lots of people to learn from. to join, notify myself, Marc or Clifford and we'll add you to the group.

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



2009 Horn Blessing

Greeting Card Project

Hails my Folk!!!

We are in the process of gathering artwork for a collection of greeting cards to be offered for sale to our Folk. To have cards available for all of our observed Holy Days and Special Occasions is our goal here.

I can't draw much more than stick people but I am sure there is a lot of artistic talent in our community. We are also reaching out through our Prison Ministry for art contributions from Folk on the inside. Artwork can be submitted via online email or by mail:

4805 5th st #141
Rainbow, CA 92028

or

jsouigny@runestone.org

<PLEASE NOTE! Unless the images are in the public domain, we can't use them without permission. As such, Original Content only, please!>

If you have any questions or suggestions, please send me an e-mail or private message via Facebook. Thank you!

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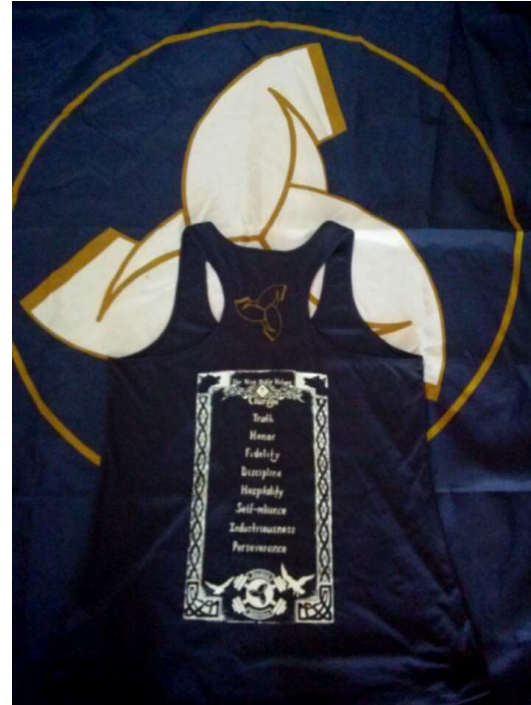
Item of the Month

This month's highlighted items are our Asatru Athletics shirts, both men and women's. Hit the gym with pride sporting the AFA Tri-Horn symbol emblazoned over a pair of weights while showcasing the Nine Noble Virtues on the back. Give Honor to Thor as you

[Men's](#)

[Women's](#)





Want to volunteer for the AFA? Fill out this survey: www.runestone.org/volunteer/

Save the Date!

Fall Fest in the Northern Plains (Minnesota), September 8 - 10

Register today at fallfest2017.eventzilla.net

Winter Nights in the Poconos (Pennsylvania), October 12 - 15

Register soon at winternights2017.eventzilla.net

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