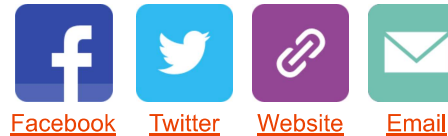


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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.

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A Few Words From The Alsherjargothi

Don't Freeze Up This Winter!

Thanksgiving has come and gone, proof positive that we are, indeed, in the holiday season! Fall is over, Yule is right around the corner, and beyond it lies Thorrablot and a long wait until springtime breaks the winter spell. It's time to go into winter mode.

building snowmen...and putting chains on the car, hauling wood in from the pile, and shoveling snow. We're going to be preoccupied with the season. Despite the social events, though, the coming of winter often causes us to turn inside ourselves. The apparent departure of life from the landscape around is reflected in our souls, for we are after all a part of nature - as in the world without, so it is in the world within.

That's good up to a point; we all need a time to introspect, to process the year that is ending and plan the one that is beginning.

But don't let the cold weather freeze you up! Remember your Folk! In olden times our ancestors sought each other's company whenever they could, trekking through the snow and over the ice. So it should be with us today: Reach out to those who share our faith and our customs...Celebrate Yule, and later Thorrablót, with your friends in the AFA...Host a meetup...Make that phone call...Give blót, honor the wights!

Seasons come and go, but our community lasts year round. I'll be here, posting and attending events. Sheila will be processing memberships and writing personal notes to many of you. All across the country, that very special family that is the AFA will continue to hum and thrive. Here's my invitation for you to take part, and share the kind of warmth you can't get from a fire!

Hail the Gods!

Hail our Ancestors!

Hail to you, my AFA brothers and sisters!

Runepobble

We are looking forward to the next issue of the Runepobble, set to be released on January 1st, 2014.

TROLLS!!

What You Can Do?

Do you have a story, song, recipe, or craft you'd like to contribute? Perhaps you know about trolls in folklore? Are they hairy? Mean? Do they live under bridges? We want to hear all about them! Do you have something else you'd like to share that is not troll-related, and seasonally appropriate? We'd love to hear about that as well. You can submit your art, stories, songs, crafts, educational articles, kitchen recipes, and even book or music reviews. Use your imagination, bring the children in on it...and have fun!

Submissions will be accepted until midnight on Monday, December 30th. Contact Rebecca Radcliff at Runepebble@Runestone.org

Yule Festivities throughout Northern California

Yule will officially be launched December 8th, with a meetup in Sacramento at the Sam's Hof Brau on Watt Ave. We'll have plenty of room, so bring a friend and join us at 11 a.m. We'll share some of our favorite holiday traditions and memories, enjoy a hearty meal, and pass a horn for the good of the Folk. We invite those who attend to follow-up with an excursion to the German faire, called Chriskindlmarkt at the Turn Verein auditorium on J Street.

The AFA and the Viking Brotherhood will have a strong presence at the annual Nevada County Food and Toy Run, December 14th, at the fairgrounds in Grass Valley. We'll be setting up our booths mid-morning and appreciate all the volunteers we can get. Come noon-time, we'll be dishing out our famous pulled-pork sandwiches. The day will have its moments of stress, but will also be a time of laughter and good cheer as we watch 1500 bikers ride in with gifts for children. And best of all, AFA kith and kin will be working side-

December 28th, we'll celebrate our "Heart of Yule" gathering at the Wedel home in Tracy. Ken and Cyndra are warm and generous hosts, so this will be perfect for our families or those who've not yet attended an AFA event. Kids' activities, Yule songs, Blot and talk by Steve, gift exchange (optional), delicious food and beverage, and the best sense of community that you can imagine!

For more information about any of these events, contact Sheila at afa@runestone.org for more details.

Regional Update - Northern Plains

Blaine Qualls, Jr. -

Heilsa, things here in the Northern Plains region have been a bit slower this month with the weather change and Thanksgiving. We do have a Yule Blot coming up on the 21st in Bismarck. Also there will be a meet and greet in December in southern MN, for all AFA members and friends. Anyone traveling through the region please contact me, we have regular monthly get-togethers and always enjoy meeting other Asatruar. Email at ulfssonr@gmail.com.

Regional Update - Northwest



Elizabeth Salix -

On November 23rd, Northwest AFA members and friends gathered for a blĀt and feast in

George McNew and a kinsman drove up from southern Oregon, and 3 stalwart members of the Viking Brotherhood, Tony, Steve, and Zack, drove up all the way from northern California, picking up Portland AFA member Karl Parker along the way! These guys brought great energy and were instrumental in the success of the event, being always willing to lend a hand with whatever task needed doing. It was a great weekend filled with frith, folk, family, and fun. It was great to see everyone again, and to meet new people, we look forward to seeing everyone again soon. For information about future Northwest events, send email to esalix@runestone.org.

Regional Update - Northeast and Upper South

Patricia Hall -

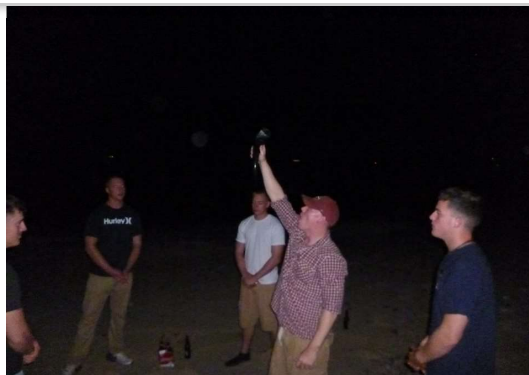
Beginning on Saturday January 25, 2014 and continuing on each fourth Saturday of each month, I will be hosting AFA and Friends of AFA gatherings in my home in Downingtown PA, and then possibly other venues as we get established. These will be for the purpose of Blot and Sumble as well as lore/rune studies and socializing and will be by invite only. Announcements will be made on Facebook under AFA Moots and Meetups, on the Runestone.org calendar and forums, via email to all AFA Northeast and Upper South AFA members, and as a Facebook event. Our first gathering on January 25 will be a Thorsblot, feast, sumble, discussion on how to meet the needs of our folkish community, and socializing. Those coming from a distance are welcome to crash! The first gathering announcements will be up early December!

BEWARE THE KRAMPUS!!!!

If you are anywhere near the Philadelphia, PA area, check this out:

<http://krampuslaufphiladelphia.com/>

Member Stories



Joe Elwood Church -

Well, the only good way to explain what we are doing is to give a very brief rundown of how our very unorthodox and nameless kindred came to be in the first place and how we operated prior to our deployment.

So I stumbled into Asatru in 2009, deep in the clear of Marja, Afghanistan, and something kind of stirred in me once I went to war for the first time. Admittedly though, I had no idea what I was doing I didn't even know Asatru was a religion but I prayed to Thor and only Thor. When I drank I gave him beer and whiskey without fail. When I did something that required strength I promised to complete it in his honor. Every Thursday I lit a candle in hopes that it would give him strength. This went on for years and I had no idea that there were other heathens or that I was considered a heathen at all. I did know that my soul was

platoon and we knew each other for a few weeks before we knew we were both heathen. Once we did, though, we talked of little else other than the Gods. He told me about the AFA, Troth, and Odinic Rite, and he completely changed my opinion about the internet at the same time. Cody was a Mormon before being heathen strange switch I know but he was a bad Christian and a great heathen. Cody was a heathen for a few months before we met and like I said he loves his research. Once we met we began to learn a lot every day. We watched videos of Steve McNallen and read books or articles about Asatu, taking in as much as we could. His wife Sara is a very caring and understanding wife although she was atheist at the time. She pretty much let me live at their house so I and her husband could just talk about Asatru and everything else under the sun.

Cody and I are not the sort to hide who we are, so naturally people began to ask questions about the Gods that we always talk about and love. Since we were learning so much, so quickly, we were rarely stumped, if ever, by their questions. Every day we strove to live honorably, mercilessly criticizing the other at the smallest hint of weakness or laziness. We are warriors of Odin, weakness has no place with us, was our conclusion. I believe in my heart that our example is what turned people from skepticism to genuine intrigue. Then Kevin Nichols asked us how to become Asatru. We just laughed and said you already are. A few days later we realized we had three: "Let's make a Kindred." So Cody put an oath of brotherhood on paper. We all pre-read it and approved it. The next day we gathered for our first ever sumble as a Kindred and swore the oath. I will keep that oath I swore before Thor, Odin and all of Asgard till the end of time.

We were three when Cody told me of a midsummer blot with a friend he met through the AFA. So myself, Cody and his wife Sara accompanied by my favorite little nephew Cameron went to GA for the blot. Kevin couldn't make it: work obligations got in the way. I will say I was nervous: I'll run into a hail of enemy SAF and RPGs without a second thought, but meeting new people is my weakness. On the other hand, though, I would be lying if I said that that blot wasn't a huge turning point for not only me, but also the Kindred. The people we met there are amazing. Even though I knew them for a day, I still find myself, when life is down, thinking of them. The host Bodi Mayo and his wife Elizabeth set a standard and perfect example of what a strong heathen family should be. The hospitality we received there was beyond measure and I owe them more than I could ever repay. That

Now we were four or six if you count Cameron and my son Joey. I made Cameron a small wooden hammer he could chew on after the blot. We read the little ones the lore in children's books and talk to them of the Gods whenever they ask questions, and Joey joins me at blot. But I'm getting far ahead of myself.

We deployed and Frey Faxi crept up on us, so we were like, "We have to blot." I'm not 100% sure but I'm 90% sure we played rock/paper/scissors to see who would do the blot. I won so we started doing blot. We went to the beach for Frey Faxi. There was minor trouble: we were shedding our training wheels so to speak, but it went well overall. I felt very comfortable doing it, so we began to blot more and more often. People began to flock to it. There was Tim:he came and joined us at Frey Faxi and hasn't missed a blot since. Now we either blot or sumble about once a week. We are very comfortable with the way we run and do things and will very modestly say we are good at it. We were joined by Kenneth Henon, Frank Weitosh and Mathew Brewer. That made our kindred ten. Ten in a single nationality, giving to the true gods, the strong gods, the only gods worthy of the Norsemen's worship.

Now we do blot when we feel like it, which is usually once week. We will continue to grow and love the Gods and build relationships with the folk. We won't stop till Ragnarok: our Kindred will stand till the end of the world. Our Kindred is made of strong men, and our sons will be strong and their sons will be too. When we make our way back to America I plan to travel the country for blots and to meet more of the folk; our Kindred will be known. We will grow and be strong. I swear it before Thor and Modi.

Little Viking Design

Nicholas Ferreri is owner of Little Viking Design. His craftsmanship is outstanding and unlike anything out there. If you have been to an AFA event or one of the many events on the east coast you most likely have seen his work. Below are a few pictures of some of his





Bodi's Hammers

Bodi Mayo is owner and craftsman of Bodi's Hammers. He is now offering his astounding ritual hammers for sale, just in time for Yule. This is a true ritual hammer, not just a store make hammer repurposed for ritual use. Each hammer is shaped and welded solid steel throughout.

Contact Bodi today at southernheathen@gmail.com for more information.



BODI MAYO

Ritual Hammers

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from \$200

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Shopping on Amazon

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Thank you all for your support.

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