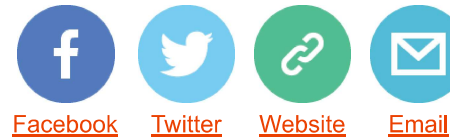


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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



A Few Words from Steve

As I write this, most of America is recovering from Thanksgiving. That's true of the McNallen household, too. We had a wonderful time with kin and friends, and boycotted the more commercial aspects of the holidays - but now it's time to get back to work (and back on our diets!).

We've had many reasons to be grateful in the last few days. I am thankful for the support

day. I am thankful for our connections with our Gods, our Goddesses, our ancestors...and with each other.

Something that has crossed my mind many times is gratitude for our Folkbuilders outside the United States. We have Folkbuilders for Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa...for Canada...for Northern Europe...Southern Europe...Latin America...Scandinavia...and the UK and Ireland. Effective with this issue, we're giving them a larger representation in The Voice. We sometimes describe the Asatru Folk Assembly as a "national organization," but we are more than that - we truly have an international reach. All folkish Asatruar around the world are our comrades. We stand alongside them, and they are welcome in the AFA!

So take a minute to read the articles written by a couple of them for this edition. You'll be hearing more from them and the rest of our overseas kinsmen in months to come!

Steve McNallen
Alsherjargothi

Little and BIG Ways You can Help the AFA

If you'd like a bigger refund from the IRS this year, consider making an end-of-the-year donation to the AFA. Look for our DONATE buttons, or go to PayPal and send money to afa@runestone.org. We will send you a receipt for your 2014 tax records, all tax deductible!

And don't forget to buy from Amazon this year by using either of two ways that result in donations to the AFA. The first way is just to use the Amazon link on our website. It will take you into the Amazon site and all of your shopping on that visit will result in a donation to the AFA. The second is to use smile.amazon:

1. Go to www.amazon.com, a window pops up asking if you would like amazon to donate through AmazonSmile

3. Hit enter. As you peruse amazon, it will say in small letters at the top of your window *Supporting:Asatru Folk Assembly*. [Editor's note: this is what I do. Just make sure after you set it up that you go to smile.amazon.com whenever you shop there; then the rest is automatic.]

Use the AFA pic-badge on your Facebook picture.

Tell your friends about the AFA!

The AFA Family Safety Program

Starting your Food Storage Program

If you are totally boggled by what three months' worth of food looks like, don't worry, I'll guide you through. Let's get started.

First, you are going to assume that if your family gets just one square meal a day at the minimum, it will be a hearty soup that has vegetables and meat in it. This is a great mix of protein and carbs. Take the number of people in your group (I will use four for this exercise) and multiply that number by 90 days. The result is 360. That means (you guessed it) you need 360 cans of soup. That is what you will build your stockpile around.

A three-month food supply isn't normally built up overnight. Assuming you need to build up your supply over time, you can buy seven extra cans of soup each week, for 52 weeks – one year. This will add about \$20 to your weekly grocery bill. You will specifically look for soups that have both meat and vegetables in them, and choose the *lowest possible sodium content*. You want low sodium because first of all, too much sodium is bad for you, and second, it makes you dehydrate faster.

When you bring the first group of cans home, put them at the very *front* of a shelving

front, and the newest are all the way in the back. One year later, you will have accumulated 364 cans of soup, *which is 90 day or three months*™ worth at **one meal per day**.

If you™re saying to yourself “wait” I eat more than one meal per day, don™t worry, we™ll get to that next. Year two involves buying seven cans per week of alternating foods:

Week one of the second year, you will buy seven cans of vegetables.

Week two of the second year, you will buy seven cans of fruit.

Week three of the second year, you will buy seven cans of meat such as SPAM, tuna, chicken breast, or other meat product.

Repeat the last three steps, alternating between veggies, fruit, and meat throughout the year. As with the soups, you will note the date of purchase on each can with a permanent marker. Oldest goes in the front, newest goes in the back. At the end of year two, you should have your second meal of the day taken care of for a three months™ food supply.

Remember, you haven™t touched your soup yet.

Now “on to rice. You need to accumulate one serving of rice, per person, per day for the three-month supply. One serving of rice is a quarter cup, which grows into one cup after being cooked: 1/4 cup of rice x 90 days equals 22-1/2 cups x 4 persons equals 90 cups. One cup of rice weighs 0.44 pound, so 90 cups weighs 39.6 pounds. One purchase of two 25-pound bags, or one 50-pound bag, of rice will provide a three-month supply of one serving per day for four persons. Stick to white rice, since brown rice is full of oils that cause it to go rancid faster than white rice.

Purchase two *food grade* 5-gallon buckets. Evenly distribute the 50 pounds of rice between both buckets, noting that one 5-gallon bucket holds approximately 35 pounds.

bucket.

That is how to build up three monthsâ€™ worth of food in a two-year period. Of course, you can buy it all faster, if your budget permits.



Here is a link from the L.D.S. church to help you get started with your food supply.
<http://providentliving.org/self-reliance/food-storage/home-storage-center-locations?lang=eng>

Jim Erickson --- *Three is the Minimum, not the Maximum*

<-- Sara says, "Learn a new skill weekly!"

AFA Clergy

Who are we? You may have heard of us, or perhaps you did not know that the AFA has officially ordained clergy! AFA ordained clergy are here in service to the you, the Folk. We are here to help you through big ceremonies in your life, such as weddings, baby naming/blessing ceremonies, coming of age rituals, and even funerary rites. We are available to help your new kindred get off the ground, or to help your established kindred, should you need professional guidance in any matters. We are mediators. We are spiritual and religious counselors to those in need. We are interfaith workers, helping Asatru members with interfaith relations. We are here, in service to you, for you.

touch with us over the last few months. Missed your chance to apply? Stay tuned for announcements during the summer of 2015 for the opening of the 2016 Clergy Program!

If you have any questions, or seek a clergy member in your region, you may contact our program director at Clergy@Runestone.org.

AFA Entrepreneur of the Month

December's Entrepreneur of the Month is Wyn Alexander. Wyn reports:

As of November 1, 2014, I own an independent agency in MN with two locations. I specialize in life insurance and investments, but I am fully licensed and certified in everything for auto, home, business, farm, health, disability, long-term care, etc., and have access to well over 50 companies to choose from.

I am all about protecting the here and now, and propelling my clients into the future. I offer a well-balanced portfolio where most can only do one thing or the other, but I can accomplish all of the above.

I live by a simple code in my business: Each client and employee must be better off when doing business with me than they were before they met me; otherwise, I will refuse to allow them to become a client or employee of mine.

Boiled down into something a bit lighter you could say it like this, "Win with Wyn."

Born on a Thursday, I find an affinity with Thor in this business of protection. Hail Thor!
Dealing with contracts where I sign my name on a daily basis, I find an affinity with Var in this business of oaths. Hail Var!

Helping people with financial well-being, I find an affinity with Freyr in this business of prosperity. Hail Freyr!

Finding my way through many battles where ink, rather than blood (thank the Gods), flows

Accomplishing continuing education, licensing, and certification and learning the many laws of justice governing my business, I find an affinity with Tyr and Forseti. Hail Tyr! Hail Forseti!

Visiting many homes, businesses and farms of my clients and their families, I find an affinity with Frigga. Hail Frigga!

I could go on and on, so I hail all the Aesir and Vanir! Hail the Ancestors! Hail the Vaettir of land, home and business! Hail the Alfar and the Disir! Hail the Nornir! Hail the Folk! Hail the AFA!

Business Name

Wyn Alexander - Independent Agent Licensed in MN and IA
Wyn Alexander Agency, LLC â€œ Owner

Type of Business

Insurance of all kinds through Insurance Brokers of MN
Specialized Life / Annuity Products and Investments through MVP Service Solutions and Ameritas

How long have you been doing this?

I've been in the insurance / investment industry a total of 9 years.

How did you decide what kind of business you wanted to start?

I've worked in jobs from meat processing, to the oil field, to being an infantry soldier, to selling industrial supplies, to the printing field, and after dabbling in the social work area as well, I decided that I enjoyed the insurance / investment field the most and returned to it three times. After working for a few employers, I decided it was time to strike out on my own and go independent.

Money is always an area of concern, but being fully committed to your vision, getting the education that you need, having an organized, disciplined and detailed plan as well as a large, warm network as a potential customer base all add to your chances of success.

What would you say was your greatest challenge as an entrepreneur?

Cash flow is a challenge; hiring, training and retaining good quality employees that care about your business is quite challenging; and setting yourself apart from the rest of the competitors out there is also a challenge you must rise to overcome by going above and beyond on a daily basis.

What advice would you give to someone who wanted to go into business for themselves?

â€¢ Whatever you find yourself doing for a living, be very passionate about it.

â€¢ Save start-up money, cut unnecessary costs, and watch your return on investment with anything you devote your resources (time and money) to.

â€¢ Obtain the necessary education, experience, and network you need before going at it with your own business.

â€¢ Set yourself up for success tomorrow by doing your very best today. Make this a daily focus and habit. You will go far and reduce work-related stress.

â€¢ Strive for a balanced life; at first it is "all work," and it may need to be temporarily, but do not sacrifice health, home, hof, and happiness in the long run.

Addresses, Telephone, and Online Contact

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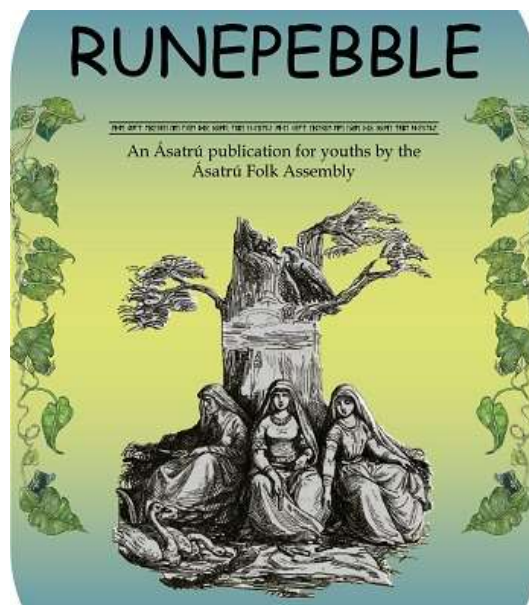
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<http://www.mypsolutions.com/>
<http://www.ameritas.com/wps/portal/corp>

*** I am currently making a transition from my Farm Bureau Financial Services agency to an independent one as of November 1st, 2014, so it may take a little bit for websites, emails and such to catch up with the processing into all the systems, but I am live to do business as of November 1st, 2014, under my new name ***

Runepbble



Runepbble: An AFA e-publication for
Ásatrú families!

We hope you are enjoying the November/December issue of Runepbble! Can you believe that was the last issue of Runepbble this year? The time seems to have gone past as fast as the eye can blink.

theme for that issue is Thorrablot, an Icelandic-derived holiday which celebrates and honors none other than Thor himself. We are currently seeking submissions for this issue. If you or your children have an article, poem, song, piece of art (pictures work), stories, activities, recipes, and anything else that you can think of that in some way pertains to Thor, and you would like to submit it, please contact our Runepebble editor at Runepebble@Runestone.org. The deadline for the next RP's submissions is December 30th.

Doings in the Northern Plains

Blaine Qualls reports: Things here in the Northern Plains are growing; we are seeing a lot of new faces lately. Our last meet-and-greet in Bismarck saw twice as many people as previous meetings; it was very nice to see the new faces. December looks to be a busy month for us as well, with two Yule celebrations in the region. One in Minneapolis will be primarily for AFA members and looks to be a well-attended celebration. The other in North Dakota will be open to both members and non-members. This one looks to be one not to miss: a traditional blot, followed by a hearty meal, an auction, a presentation on the runes, and later that evening a sumbel.....cabin space is still available for any wanting to attend. For more information on either of these events please feel free to contact me: ulfssonr@gmail.com. I hope everyone has a great Yule!

Doings in the Northwest

OLYMPIA BEACH MOOT



On Sunday, November 16th, AFA members and friends gathered for a sunbath on the beach in Olympia, Washington. It was hosted by Marty Clayville at a private beach near his family's home, and the views across Puget Sound of two different mountain ranges made this a beautiful and apt setting for the event. Heedless of wind and cold, the Folk enjoyed an afternoon passing the horn, grilling sausages, and telling the tales of our various adventures. We met some new friends, and look forward to seeing more of them in the future.

NORTHWEST FEAST OF THE EINHERJAR





On Sunday, November 23rd, AFA members and friends gathered for our annual Feast of the Einherjar event, held on our farmstead in Centralia, Washington. We had a good turnout; with attendees coming from various parts of Washington and Oregon, there were 20 of us in all. Many of the Folk arrived early, helping with preparations and conversing with friends old and new. We proceeded down to our selected ritual site in the forest near the river, where we gave blot to the Einherjar, and each of us shared some personal thoughts as we remembered the fallen. After the ritual was completed, we returned to the house, finished preparing food, socialized among the Folk, and had a marvelous feast; much merriment was had by all.

MORE NORTHWEST NEWS



Of our Northwest AFA members who have done a lot for their local Folkish Asatru communities: Rachael Harding of Seattle, Washington, and Karl Parker of Portland, Oregon. Most recently, Karl and Rachael have collaborated to put together this brilliant video, "Call Resounding."

This Æsatr° PSA (Public Service Announcement) / FSA (Folk Service Announcement) is an inspirational short with Runic interactions, and can be found at <http://youtu.be/VDj2rsySh90>

They did a wonderful job, and I look forward to seeing more of these videos in the future. Hail Rachael and Karl!

Yule is lurking around the corner...

Yule will be celebrated over the twelve days in many different locations in the Northwest. For information about Northwest Yule celebrations or other events, send email to esalix@runestone.org.

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

-E. Salix

Northwest Folkbuilder

Northern California Feast of the Einherjar





Marc Macleod reports: On November 16th, we gathered to celebrate the Feast of the Einherjar. We honored the fallen heroes of our folk and all of those who have come before us and given the ultimate sacrifice so our people could prosper: the Einherjar, or Odin's chosen.

About 25 people attended this event at the Eriksons' home in Alta, CA.

As always, we started with a greeting to the Gods. Then after some good conversation, we held a feast that no one walked away from hungry. After dinner we gathered for the Odin's Blot. The rest of the evening was spent socializing and giving toasts around the campfire.

Thanks to Jim and Diane for the hospitality and a great time. Next up is the Nevada City Toy Run, and of course Yule.

Portland Pubmoot



On November 13 a pubmoot was held at the Horse Brass Pub in Portland, Oregon -- hosted by Karl Parker. Though the weather was a bit inhospitable as the jotuns sent their arctic chill through the Pacific Northwest that evening, there was warmth and good cheer inside as the Folk gathered.

November in Denmark **by Lars Irenesson, Folkbuilder for Denmark**

Fall is definitely one of the busiest times of year for heathens in Denmark, as it probably is for all heathens. The energy of summer is being channeled into all sorts of activities taking place before winter and the cold sends us indoors. Not a single weekend in September,

After my family and I returned from Winter Nights in the Poconos, I got busy preparing for our local AFA blot on November 1st. We started out last year hosting a small ancestors blot around Samhain, and repeated the event this year, hoping to make it an annual tradition. This year we met near the large Thor statue located on the grounds of a factory in the outskirts of Odense. After the blot we had our supper together, and had ourselves a very enjoyable evening.



Two weekends later, our Heathen Informations Society (HeOF) was the host of the annual Winter and Yule Market, making this the 4th consecutive year that weâ€™ve hosted this event. Even though the weather this year was too bad for outdoor stalls â€” one of the focus points of last yearâ€™s market â€” the market still grows better each year.

The market alternates geographically between the western and eastern parts of Denmark, as the country unfortunately is â€œdividedâ€ by an expensive toll bridge (with a \$40 fee to pass by car each direction). This year it was located on Zealand to the east. The building used

naturally the market was dedicated to Idun, and apples were found abundantly all over the marketplace. It even featured a girl posing as Idun with a basket of apples.



AFA member Suzanne Wowern was the prime coordinator to get this year's market up and running smoothly, with the able help of her very capable husband Bjarne.



BjÃ_rk had a small booth where she taught (mostly) kids to roll and decorate their own beeswax candles; SÃ_ren Fisker and AzizA had a stall selling her book, paintings and other stuff; I managed a small tombola (raffle); and Kari helped out everywhere and talked to everyone. Suzanne Wowern had a fairly large stall named Wotans Werksted (i.e., Workshop) where she sold many things, most notably figurines of various gods and goddesses.



As always, keeping true to the stated purpose of the HeOF, the market also offered two lectures on Sunday, given by AFA member Morten TirssÃ_n. One was called "Heathen Yule - Origins of the



writing on his epic æreference guideæ into Northern Mythology, and therefore has an extensive knowledge of all the sources and interpretations.

And me? I finally finished building my selfmade drum in November that I started on more than two years ago. Itæ™s now a magnificent 24-inch elk-skinned beast of a drum, that læ™m eager to try out at the next blot.

AFA Southern Europe Feast of the Einherjar



Alfrothul members held a blot to honor the Einherjar. The Einherjar are heroes fallen in battle chosen by Odin, and on this day we honored them. We remembered our family, friends, and heroes. We raised a horn for those who fell bravely in battle and in a dignified life. We remembered the sacrifices of our ancestors, and made for them and Odin an altar with photographs, candles, sword and helmet as symbols of warriors, and offerings of roses and other flowers. We told stories to keep alive the memories of our heroes and friends, and their exploits.

In this rite we especially remembered Jordi and Roberto from Barcelona, and did a tribute to David James, late elder of the AFA.

Hail our Fallen!
Hail the AFA!

David Wolfheart





What's Happening in Northern California?

German Culture at the Sacramento Turn Verein Hall, Saturday December 6th

Join us about 3 p.m. for a stroll through a village marketplace based on the historic German Christkindlmarkts. You'll find wonderful imports, German food and music, and great companionship with members of the AFA. Admission is \$3.00; food is extra.

NC Food and Toy Run - December 13th at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley

Come on out and help in our booth as we serve up our popular pulled-pork sandwiches to hundreds of hungry motorcyclists who ride in for this charity event put on by our friend, Thom Staser. The weather will be sunny and chilly, with a warm and festive atmosphere at our booth. Join us around 11 a.m., and we'll add you to the crew. It's great fun!

Twelfth Night Celebration on NEW YEAR'S Day (Thursday, January 1st)

We invite you to the McNallen home in rural Grass Valley, overlooking the high Sierras. Join us for a joyful day, but also one of reflection and anticipation of how to create the coming year with the formative might of Uruz!

Anyone who would like more information about local events should contact Sheila at afa@runestone.org

Upcoming Events in Texas

Mothersâ€™™ Night In Combine, TX - 12/20/2014

Andrew Read and family have graciously offered to host a Mothersâ€™™ Night celebration at their home in Combine, TX, which is out in the country near Dallas. This event is open to all AFA members and close supporters. It will be on Saturday, December 20th, with a tentative start time of 1:00 p.m.

The celebration will include telling of stories about our mothers and/or folkmothers from our history; feasting, for which everyone should bring a side dish as we are going to cook either a goat or pig (probably a goat!); and sumbel around the fire. We are planning most of this for outdoors, weather permitting (it was in the low 60s there at the same time last year), with a large bonfire to accompany the sumbel. There is a large covered patio as well as a huge screened-in porch. However, Andrew's house should be more than adequate should the weather not be suitable for an outdoor event.

All interested in attending should contact Joe Botts (bottsman09@gmail.com) or Andrew Read (andrewdavidread@yahoo.com) for the address and more details, and to RSVP.

Yuletide Pubmoot - Rudi Lechner's - 12/27/2014 - Houston, TX

The Texas folks are holding a Yuletide pubmoot at Rudi Lechnerâ€™™s, 2503 Gessner Street, Houston, TX 77063, on December 27th at 2:00 p.m.

The cost of the meal is \$15, including tax and gratuities but not including beverages and desserts. Parents can order from a nice menu for their children.

Please contact Terry Unger (terryungerauthor@gmail.com) for details of menu choices, and to reserve your spot. Terry needs to have your check or money order by December 24th; when you contact him he will provide details as to where to send the money.

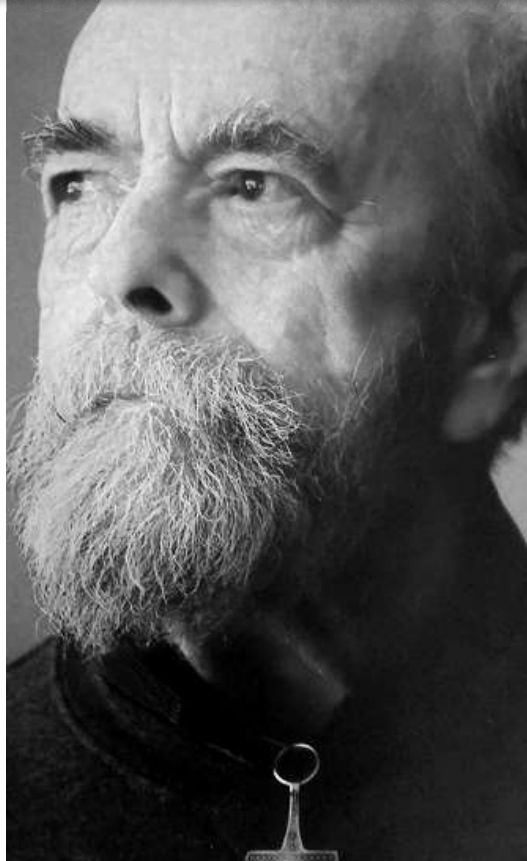
Ostara in the South is happening again this year, so start planning now! Join us March 20-22 in Hampton, Georgia, for another weekend of community, rituals, and great times!

Registration will be up imminently. For more information, contact Folkbuilder Charlotte Hoxie, choxie@runestone.org!

Honoring the Life of David Byron James 1937 - 2014

David James, an erudite and wise follower of Asatru for the last half century, passed peacefully in his sleep with his children at his bedside on November 4, 2014.

David was a friend and associate of the Viking Brotherhood (1972-1976), the Asatru Free Assembly (1976-1986), and the Asatru Folk Assembly from its inception in 1995 to today. He published newsletters, wrote other articles (and most of a lengthy book), composed poetry, and lectured on matters Germanic since before many of the people reading this were born. He was a tough, stoic man in the best tradition of our ancestors, eminently worthy of your support - even though he'd never ask you for it himself. One of his proudest accomplishments was his ordination as AFA Clergy in October 2013.



The family had a small, private service in his honor. His daughter, Willa, sent us the following: "However, since David donated his body to science (once a professor, always a professor), we will be having another service in about a year and half to two years. I will give you all details as we plan that one out so that hopefully more of those he cared for can be present."

David will be missed.

An Unbroken Tradition: the Swedish Vallhund

For almost as long as man has walked this planet, dogs have been by our side. They are considered family by many, and an integral part of our worldwide culture.

Man's Best Friend did not earn that title by being a cute, fuzzy little lap dog. He was a working dog, spending his days performing specific tasks on the farm, or on the trail of his master's prey. He warned of intruders, or helped fight during battle. He was a dedicated servant of the family, providing services that we often take for granted today. The northern peoples, while renowned in popular culture as bloodthirsty warriors, required hearty breeds to perform those tasks needed on the farmsteads that dotted the landscape. Herding dogs were especially treasured, being valued for the high intelligence, drive (energy), and keen observation skills inherent to the breeds. Today, you see Border Collies, Australian Cattle Dogs, and Corgis as very popular examples of this type of working-class dog.

In 1942, the world almost lost one of the most ancient European breeds, the Vallhund. Known as "Vikingarnas Hund," "Viking Dog," the earliest known examples stretch back to 500 A.D. There has been some debate on whether the dog, which looks like a cross between a Welsh Corgi and a Norwegian Elkhound, was introduced to Sweden by way of trading/raids on the Welsh coast, or vice-versa. Historian Clifford Hubbard is of the opinion that the historical record shows the Vallhund to be the more ancient breed. This amazing dog is known for being a super-intelligent, high-drive herding animal, easily trained to accomplish complex farm/ranch tasks. It was valued as such until the mid-20th century. The decline in agriculture and modernization immediately prior to World War II took its toll not only on the rural traditions of Sweden (as it did in most of the Western world), but on the breed, as well. Thanks to the diligent attention of Mr. Bjorn von Rosen of the Swedish Kennel Club, the breed survived, and eventually (in the '60s) began to thrive. Strict breeding protocols, attention to breed history, and a devoted group of Swedish citizens dedicated to preserving a very large part of their agrarian history are to thank.



The AFA community can learn much from the Vallhund's journey. Our roots lie in the same geographic area, amongst the same ancestors, working the farms that provided the food that kept our bloodlines strong and hearty. These dogs embody the spirit of a people that work hard, focus on family and duty, and utilize intelligence and wisdom in their daily lives. They have remained, by and large, similar to their ancestors over one and a half millennia. The Vallhund breed has even seen a resurgence in numbers and popularity since its near-extinction 70+ years ago. These are attributes and milestones we can relate to.

When we talk about our modern take on ancient traditions, the focus tends to be on the deeply spiritual for many, the warrior aspect (however inflated by pop culture) for some, and on recreation/reenactment for others. Let's not forget the 'mundane' things that form the core, the solid stone base, of what we believe. Remembering and honoring those hard-working dogs that made the hard life 'back then' a little easier for our ancestors helps anchor us in the belief system that our forebears practiced, as well as reminding us of the struggles and ideals that formed the core of the intrepid Scandinavian peoples.

This short article is meant as an enticement to do your own research on aspects of the lives of our spiritual ancestors, and to decide what that means for you. What lessons can you take from this stalwart companion, the Vallhund? How do they apply to your daily life?

Sources:

AKC Listing: https://www.akc.org/breeds/swedish_vallhund/history.cfm

Viking Answer Lady on Dogs:

http://www.vikinganswerlady.com/vik_pets.shtml#Dogs



Brian Weis contributes this: If youâ€™re like me, perhaps you enter into this time of year with a copy of Stephen McNallenâ€™s *The Twelve Days of Yule in Word and Deed*. And, perhaps, you also refer to his YouTube videos based on the meditations found in that book (note: the first of these videos can be found at <http://bit.ly/1zYQpKF>). In these videos, Stephen has a candelabra set with 12 candles, one for each day Yuletide. I kind of wanted my own Yuletide candelabra after watching Stephen use his.

So several years ago, I made one.

I took fairly decent notes, and a few photographs, as I made progress on this project. Based on these notes, I wrote up instructions and posted them at Instructables.com. I do hope you'll check out the candelabra and offer your own comments and suggestions. It would be great to see what other folks use during the Yuletide.

Gold in the Rhine



In late October, Doug and I took a river cruise in Germany â€“ Danube, Main, Rhine. As a life-long resident of Los Angeles, I have little experience with natural bodies of water other than the ocean, and am fascinated by rivers and streams. I can well understand why springs, pools, and flowing water are considered holy, and become sites for offerings.

People have been depositing treasure in the Rhine (and other bodies of water) since probably well before the Nibelungen hoard, which Hagan dumped into the river a millennium and a half ago. My late mother's wedding ring, which had been sitting in a drawer for years, is a recent donation to Father Rhine. I dropped it somewhere we think is a few miles north of Worms, site of Gunther's court in the *Nibelungenlied*.

Ancestral tradition is alive and well.

Hail the ancestors! Hail the AFA!
Karen Carlson



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