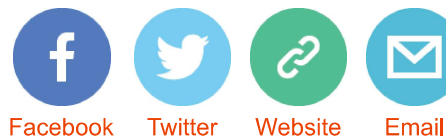


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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 am writing these words on Thanksgiving Day, when Americans have a reputation for eating too much food and watching too much television. On a more positive note, it's also an occasion for renewing ties with friends and family – and, yes, to be thankful for the blessings we have received.

"Bless," by the way, is a Germanic word; it comes to us from Old English and is related to

personal items like health, family, and friends...but there is more.

I give thanks for the many amazing Asafolk who surround me â€” some of whom I see frequently, others whom I see only at annual AFA events on the far corner of the country, and some whom I have never met in the flesh! You are an inspiration to me â€” your loyalty and your dedication to the Gods and to the AFA move my heart. I am especially thankful for all of you who helped on the Hof, whether with dollars or with sweat! I have never seen a community come together with such fervor, such willingness to work, such love and dedication. It has been one of the great experiences of my life.

On the global scale, I give thanks for the many men and women of European heritage who are shaking off their shackles and reclaiming our right, as a people, to work in our own self-interest. These are men and women who reject the hate which is directed at us...because we refuse to hate ourselves! We must break the chains of hate, and rise up in love to claim our selfhood and our destiny.

Finally, I give thanks that I live at this crucial moment in history, when the fate of our religion, our native European peoples, and even of the Earth itself will be decided for millennia to come! It is a great honor and privilege to take part in this struggle that will still be remembered when our Folk are extended from here to Orion's Belt. We should be joyful for such an opportunity!

Hail the Gods, hail the Folk, hail the AFA, and hail to YOU on this wondrous Thanksgiving!

Stephen A. McNallen
Alsherjargothi, AFA

"Charitable Giving" - Us, Too!

This is the time of year when 25% of all donations are sent to non-profit groups, totaling

Pennsylvania, says it basically comes down to this: "If you want your money to go the farthest â€" do the most good in the world â€" start with the good you want to see happen."

Folks, this is a reminder that there's still one month for you to contribute to the AFA and take advantage of the government's tax deduction for 2015. At the same time we want to thank you for your generosity this past year! Many of you helped out by supporting Asatruar during their time of need through our Folk Services program. We sent off well over a thousand dollars to help with medical costs, home repairs after a tornado, and funeral expenses.

And then came Newgrange Hall. Hundreds of you stepped up and helped with the Indiegogo campaign to create the Hof. It made all the difference, allowing us to not only complete the purchase, but to set up the utility accounts and cover taxes and insurance, which are all ongoing expenses. Other accomplishments include painting and carpeting of the interior, getting new track-lighting fixtures, set-up of our outdoor ritual area, custom ironwork on the custom cedar doors â€" and more.

This week we're installing a tankless hot water heater, and have purchased dishes so we can reduce the waste and expense of paper plates that we've been buying by the hundreds. Our restrooms have been painted and upgraded. Big expenses that are upcoming include a new refrigerator, kitchen shelving and storage, and a range hood over the stove, plus replacement of the kitchen plumbing.

Even with all of this, a local realtor who came to our recent Feast of the Einherjar Celebration last week said, "You know what a deal you got here. This is an amazing building!" We knew that already, since it's insured for five times what we paid!

Good things are happening at the Hof. We have our first booking for a holiday party next weekend. Once we get the structure in place, we know that the Hof will be able to cover much of its own expenses. And meanwhile, we're building equity. All good.

So please consider making your tax-deductible donation before the end of 2015. We will

Send your check or money order to AFA, P.O. Box 445, Nevada City, CA 95959, or your donation via Paypal to afa@runestone.org, which is our donation account. Specify if you want this to go to Folk Services, Newgrange Hof Fund, or our general fund.

Last year, 45% of households filing taxes made tax-deductible contributions to their favorite charities. Religious households gave \$1,706 on the average, with secular households giving \$863. Your donation to the Asatru Folk Assembly, a 501c(3) non-profit organization, goes entirely to the promotion and furtherance of the AFA, in accordance with the tenets of our Declaration of Purpose. We thank you for your continued support!

Make Us Smile by using "Amazon Smile!"

If you go to Amazon Smile, you can sign up to have Amazon donate a portion of your orders to the Asatru Folk Assembly! It's simple: On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping, and enter us in the appropriate space. Or try this link " <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0386731> " which should select the AFA for you. Then we will get a share of the orders you place through Amazon! Important: you need to go through smile.amazon.com whenever you order to make this happen - but I think they will prompt you go to there, once you're signed up! It's painless...and it will directly and immediately help the AFA!

Strength of the Folk from Steve Morrell

A thanks to the AFA! As many of you know, in early October my wife Erin Morrell was admitted into the ICU with encephalitis. For those of you who don't know, a person in America has a 1 in 200,000 to 750,000 (depending on where you get your stats) of

infections, to her admittance to the ICU and the removal of her skull plate to relieve pressure due to brain swelling. Through this whole time, the strength and will of the folk was felt. Through this, the Asatru Folk Assembly and its members, both locally and internationally, have aided my wife and me immensely. The amount of late night food runs, emotional and spiritual support, and aid with finances has blown our minds. Through this we have not felt like a number, or had the impression of just being a charity case; it felt like, and is, family. Save for the military I have never found such a support system from an organization: proof that the Asatru Folk Assembly is family. Through the AFA Folk services, the Circle of Eir, and the AFA as a whole, we know we have not only ground to stand on, but a strong kin-fence to ensure it remains. My wife not only beat the odds to survive, but to come out of this ordeal with very few complications (about a 1 in 1 million chance). She still has her memory, she can walk and talk (the outdoors beware), and continues to be a pillar of our family. I attribute this to her strength and the strength of the folk, from those here on Midgard, to ancestors and Gods. For without this strength the doctors would have fought a battle in futility. Prayers said by folk to the Gods and ancestors, runes drawn and galdred, and folk binding together just to talk is an example of the solidarity of the AFA and its members. My wife and I thank the Asatru Folk Assembly from the bottoms of our hearts. They have stood with my family through our best times and now our worst by providing guidance, support, and aid (both through spiritual and financial means). It brings joy to our hearts to know the quality of fellow members of the AFA and how much each person means to the other: a true symbol of what a national organization can, and does, do for Asatruar. We thank the Asatru Folk Assembly and look forward to many more years of being a part of something great. Hail the Gods! Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

NewGrange Einherjar / Harvest Feast





On November 20th, about 30 AFAers (mostly human, two canine) assembled to celebrate the harvest season and to honor the einherjar at the NewGrange Hof. Early arrivers were treated to home-made soup and chili for lunch; through the afternoon volunteers helped with cooking and clean-up, and tending the burn pile. There was plenty of informal visiting, as well as some brain-storming about things like how to make the Hof a self-supporting facility.

In the late afternoon we enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving-style feast of turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and much more. After dinner, Steve led a blot to Odin and the einherjar around the fire pit, in which we honored them and reminded ourselves to embody courage, wisdom, and the continual striving to become better men and women. At 7 oâ€™clock, Steve gave a talk on heroes. He described the traditional lore on the einherjar, and elaborated on the spiritual discipline of the warrior. This presentation was open to the public. The public turned out to be just one man â€“ a local realtor who was educated, seemed interested in his European heritage, and had some useful information about the surrounding community.

After the talk (accompanied by a splendid array of deserts), there was more informal visiting through the evening. For those who stayed at the Hof or in the neighborhood overnight, there was more community time over breakfast, then the Hof was tidied up and farewells were said. It had been an excellent weekend.

Alfrothul Einherjar Blot



Kindred Alfrothul organized a blot in honor of Odin, the Einherjar, and the fallen. Held



can see a [video](#) on YouTube.

Hail Alfrothul! Hail the AFA!

AFA Entrepreneur Jessica Rose: Our "Iron Lady"





Jessica was always on the scene when we were putting the finishing touches on NewGrange Hof. Hour after hour, smudged and sweating, she crafted the incredible iron hinges and handles on the Hof's doors — all of which led to this short article about her part-time business.

Her company is called "Wild Iron," and she makes everything from iron flowers (roses and magnolias are two of her specialties) to Thor's hammers and ten-foot tall iron knights — and custom projects are welcome! "I want to make the customer's dream a reality," she told me.



single mom and, as she put it, "Corporate America is not forgiving when it comes to sick babies and flat tires." Of course, she had to overcome problems, such as finding start-up money and shop space. Like many other business owners, she has to hold down another job to support her enterprise. Cleaning houses is her bread-and-butter work " but she looks forward to the day she can change dreams into iron full-time.

Her advice for other would-be entrepreneurs? "If there is something you really want to do, start moving toward your goals " even if you do it in small steps. Make time for it. Hang on to your day job if you have to. But never give up " there is no stopping!"

Those amazing doors on our Hof are adequate testimonial to her tenacity, her skill, and her passion for her art!

You can find Wild Iron on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/Wild-Iron-483088561729916/?fref=ts>

or on Etsy at

https://www.etsy.com/shop/WildIron?ref=search_shop_redirect

Drop in and take a look!

Family Safety Program: Food Storage

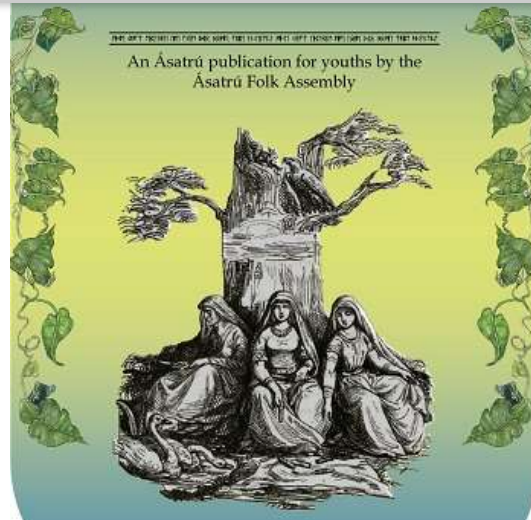
Your security can only be found in your own hands, so I urge you to take the measures you need now to keep you and your family safe, because you never know when or how you'll need to survive! 2015 is almost gone; did you store up for the future? Below are some ideas to use for



Jim and Sara the Corgi

"Learn a new skill every week."

1. Think about (or talk to your household about) recipes that are favorites and how to make them food storage meals. What fresh ingredients are used? Is there a suitable long term food storage substitute?
2. Once you have a variety of recipes that you think can be made with food storage, try making them, using only food storage ingredients (you can buy small cans to try out food storage items that are new to you while youâ€™re still experimenting).
3. Add the successful recipes (and recipes you know you wonâ€™t need to experiment with) onto your Food Storage Menu calendar.
4. Take an inventory of your current food storage.
 - Figure out and record what youâ€™ve got on hand.
 - Determine how much you should have on hand.
 - Make plans to purchase the difference if you donâ€™t have enough stored already.
5. Take small steps to add to your first three monthsâ€™ worth of storage:



Runepobble: An AFA e-publication for Asatru families!

It's December, which means you only have about three weeks to send in a submission if you want to contribute to our next issue of *The Runepobble*! The focus for the next issue is on the birds of Asatru ... eagles, ravens, and more! We'd love to see contributions from you or your children with any stories, art, recipes, memories/experiences, or anything else appropriate. We will accept submissions until the end of the day on Monday, December 28th. If you have any questions about submissions, you can contact our editor, Rebecca, at Runepobble@Runestone.org. We wish you a most blessed and warm Yuletide!

Clergy Report

As of December 1st, we are no longer taking applications for the 2016 AFA Clergy Program. The Clergy Board and Allsherjargothi would like to thank everyone who has shown interest, asked questions, shared the word, and sent in an application. We're always impressed at the amount of interest the program receives! For those who didn't make it this year, know in advance that we will open up the application process in the late summer of 2016. If you have an interest in the program, please feel free to ask questions

News from the Midwest from Patricia Hall, Folkbuilder

REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALL

Our November conference call featured Matt Flavel, head of the AFA Folkbuilder program, who gave us an overview of the program and the role of the Folkbuilder. The AFA is hoping to have several regional Folkbuilders for the Midwest region in the future. If anyone is interested in this, please feel free to reach out to me or Matt. We also discussed the possibility of a mid-country AFA gathering next year. To that end, a small committee of folks has formed to explore this for the Midwest and Plains regions. This will give the AFA its fifth annual large regional gathering in the USA! Stay tuned.

We will not have a conference call in December as Yule and many family obligations and celebrations are upon us! We will resume in January. The date and time will be posted in the January *Voice*! Until then GLAD YULE! Stay safe and warm!

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

News from the Upper South from Nickolas Ferreri and Patricia Hall, Folkbuilders

Upper South regional Conference Calls will resume in January! Your primary Folkbuilder is on his way back to Iraq so I will be hosting the calls and taking care of things until he returns again later next year! The date and time will be posted in the January *Voice*! Until then GLAD YULE! Stay safe and warm!

AFA Upper South has its own FaceBook group! The FaceBook link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/370833816453543/> Please request an add! This is for AFA members only. It will be a place to post conference call info, gatherings, and other goings on in the AFA as well as for discussion. Also if you have not friended me on Facebook, please feel free to do so. My Facebook link is <https://www.facebook.com/patricia.l.hall.92>

News from the Northeast from Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder

MEMBER ACTIVITY

Various local Winter Nights celebrations were held in November on the heels of our large Winter Nights in the Poconos gathering. The Irminfolk Odinst Community hosted a timely Einherjar Blot and a bountiful Feast of the Einherjar. The attacks in France highlighted the importance of preparedness and community. The Svinfylkin, who are AFA members and supporters, hosted an Ullr Blot and feast. It was unseasonably warm, and the Folk in the Northeast have been taking advantage of it.



SKYLANDS ASATRU
FELLOWSHIP

Skylands Asatru Fellowship is proud to continue our series of open events and meetings. We have just started a series of "Asatru 101" classes, which are held on alternating Sundays, and which have been very well received to date. Here is a listing of our upcoming events:

Asatru 101: Ethics and Morals. Sunday, November 29, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Stanhope, NJ.

New Moon Offering to the Landvaettir. Friday, December 11, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Stanhope, NJ.

Asatru 101: Yule History and Customs. Sunday, December 13, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Stanhope, NJ.

Asatru 101: The Afterlife. Sunday, December 27, 2015, 6:30 p.m., Stanhope, NJ.

Yule Celebration. Saturday, January 2, 2016, 1:00 p.m., Stanhope, NJ.

As always, please visit our website at www.skylandsasatru.org for more details, and to RSVP.

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Ves Heill,

Clifford J. Erickson - AFA Folkbuilder, North America Northeast

New Baby!

Connor and Wendy Walker announce the

(10) and John (8) in our family circle. We thank the gods for our good fortune and the increase in our folk. Hail the AFA!



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