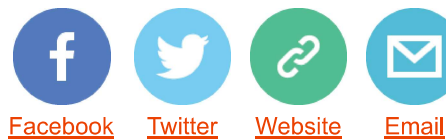


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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

November has seen AFA members across the land gather and honor Odin's heroes as we celebrated the Feast of the Einherjar. It has been great to see how communities of our Folk are getting together and growing more every month. As winter progresses, those bonds strengthen as we get close and celebrate the holy Yule season with friends and family. Winter is a magical time. On these cold and dark winter nights, the veil between worlds in

them. Let's finish out 2016 strong and proud with joy and celebration. This is a great time to be alive and the future shines bright.

I wish a warm and joyous Yule to all our AFA family!

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

Matt Flavel
Alsherjargothi, AFA

Calling All Asatru Artists!

The AFA is in need of artwork for Yule cards! As you all probably know, you can't just buy Yule cards in the store, so it's either make do with a generic "holiday" card, or make your own. Since not everyone has the time or desire to make their own, and the generic store-bought cards don't always satisfy, the AFA will be making Yule cards available in our web store, made by the Folk, for the Folk! We have a few concepts for you to work with. Email Elizabeth at emacbryghde@runestone.org if you're interested.

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

AFA Asatru Military Program from Roland Jos L'Heureux, National Coordinator



Reflecting the growth and current forward momentum of the AFA itself, our Asatru Military Program is expanding to accommodate a wider section of our military population as well. In addition to our continued concern for the welfare and safety of those in immediate and imminent danger while serving in an active duty capacity (whether Guard, Reservist, Active Enlisted, or Commissioned), the AFA Asatru Military Program also wants to empower our prospective/future military men and women as well as our veteran/past military folk. To accommodate us in this endeavor, while doing so in a most streamlined and efficient manner, we would like to announce the AFA Asatru Military Program Website.

Designed primarily as an information hub and online guide, the website contains over eighty links on its six short pages, which are designated as Home, Asatru Resources,

and Fellow Service Members,” by Stephen A. McNallen ("Asatru Book of Faith: For Those In Harm's Way" (Nevada City, CA; Asatru Folk Assembly, 2010), 2-3.). The Asatru Resources page contains more than fifteen different links pointed to introductory videos and podcasts about Asatru, our AFA Library (which contains over twenty different downloadable titles), our organizational/membership documents, and our folkbuilder contact information. The Current Affairs page contains eight links to official DOD, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs press release sites for updated and current news on a variety of subjects. Our Military Life page contains over twenty linked buttons to official military, veterans' affairs, and information sites for answering questions from eligibility requirements to ribbon and medal arrangement and what to know before you deploy. Thirty text links cover our VA Benefits page to assist with everything from enrolling in benefits to managing your VA medical records. (There is also a link to get an online copy of the most current VA benefits booklet). Finally, we come to the VSO Links page, which consists of eight links to veterans service organizations which are authorized to assist with the completing of VA benefits forms.

To our warriors everywhere, be safe and remember your training.

Folk Services Special Fundraising Opportunity

AFA Folk Services is intended to provide modest, one-time monetary grants to Asatru Folk Assembly (AFA) members in dire need of basic services. AFA Folk Services is one of the things that make us not just an international organization...but a community!

In honor of "Giving Tuesday" (Tuesday after Thanksgiving), the Gates Foundation will match donations to a special Folk Services fundraiser up to \$1,000! Facebook is waiving all fees. This offer is for a limited two-week period, which started on November 29. This is a wonderful opportunity; let's take advantage of it! Please go to the [Facebook donation page](#) and make a tax-deductible donation today.

Skylands Asatru Fellowship, based in northern New Jersey, had a full calendar this Fall. In October, our members held a private, in-tribal Haustblot event, celebrating the harvest and the coming of autumn. The following weekend was our official, open Haustblot celebration, at which offerings of the fruits of the local harvest were made to Freyr, followed by a feast and sumbel. Many tribe folk and friends were in attendance, and a new associate member of the tribe was brought in.

Although we had originally planned to appear at the local Pocono Viking Folk Metal Fest as a vendor, SAF decided not to do so, after it was publicly announced that the band Norsewind would not be appearing, in deference to the wishes of a few Philadelphia-based "antifa" thugs who threatened violence if Norsewind was not removed from the bill. We issued the following statement regarding the matter:

To demonstrate our commitment to the principle of freedom of speech, even if it is speech with which we do not necessarily agree, Skylands Asatru Fellowship will not be vending at this year's Pocono Folk Metal Fest as originally planned. While we understand the financial issues at stake, we feel that de-platforming the band Norsewind merely because a handful of antifa bullies issued a threat was not the morally correct decision to make. When one caves in to such pressure once, one sets a bad precedent, and it's entirely likely that they'll discover another group they have some issue with, and insist they be dropped as well. Giving in to bullies never works.

Skylands Asatru Fellowship had a strong showing at the AFA Winternights in the Poconos event, at which our godhi was officially recognized and oathed as a clergy member within the AFA, as well as performing a coming-of-age ritual for AFA'er Karl Staaf and his son.

The 2016 / 2017 Asatru 101 "school year" has begun. We have two sets of classes running this year. We have continued the very popular Asatru 101 series. We have also added a series of Runa workshops for those who are interested in learning more about Northern Magic, under the auspices of the Rune Gild.

Now that the weather is turning colder, we will restart our series of pubmoots and other indoor activities as well. Further information regarding our events and our tribe can be found at www.skylandsasatru.org.

A Rising Son on Disir's Night from Eric Whisman, Apprentice Folkbuilder, Alaska & Far North



From towns and homes, far and wide,
From the kingdom of the north,
And the frozen countryside.
Folk and kin mount their Iron Steeds,
Journeying along wind-tossed seas
Following the Wheel-Stream.

A powerful night and mighty men
A beautiful evening and noble women,
Gathered in Hansenheim, nestled in Nerthus' embrace.
The Metalsmith's work adorning the walls around, everyone in their place.
The ancestors are joining the Folk within, to welcome the newest of their kin.
With circle closed tight, and hammer raised high,
Children of Europa raised eyes to the sky.
From Mother's arms, Son was passed to Father.
Words were spoken that could be said by no other.
Accepted by Father, Family, and Tribe; blessed by Thunderer's hammer on Disir's night.
He is Newborn, Strong and Handsome,
And so we welcome
Torsten Max Hansen.



Minnesota Happenings
from Jason Gallagher, Apprentice Folkbuilder

On November 12, we gathered for our first meet and greet. We had a great turnout and met some new friends. Our next event is Yule on December 3rd at 4pm in Bloomington, at my place again.

I wish everyone a glad Yule!

Folkbuilding News
from Marc MacLeod

smoothly. We've doubled our number of Folkbuilders with top notch leaders. Administratively, all the wrinkles are getting ironed out, and membership is steadily growing. We've gained some amazing new clergy members, and every weekend I'm seeing events across the US and Europe.

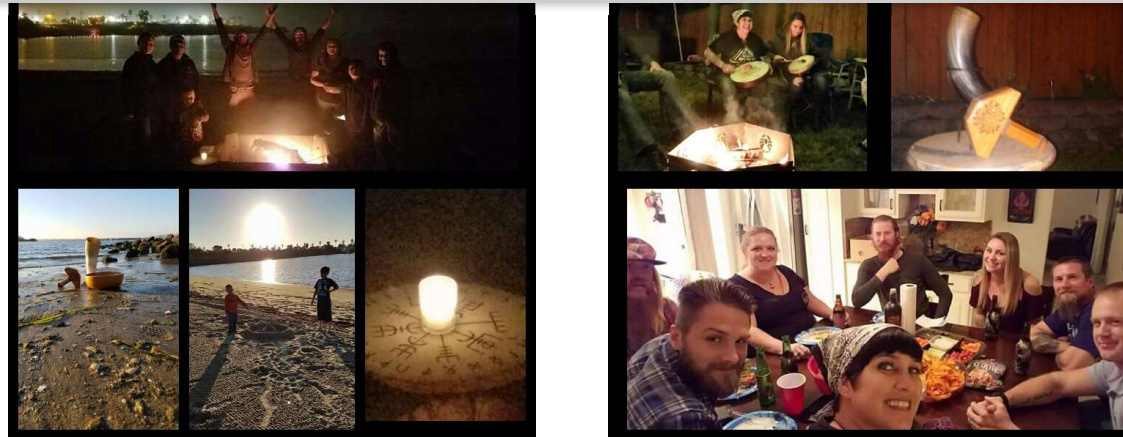
Our European Folkbuilders have been working together to come up with strategies to build the AFA in Europe. Our internet presence is growing there every month with our newest page being the revised AFA southern Europe. AFA literature is being published in at least five different languages. We have also started a page in Australia and picked up a few new members there.

I'm hoping to have all of our venues for next year's national events reserved by the end of Yule. And we may even add a new event to the schedule (more to come on this). So we are winning! I can't wait to see things explode in 2017!

I hope everyone has an amazing Yule and spends time with your folk and family. I know here in California we are going to have a busy Yule season, and from all the event pages I've been seeing, I don't think we are the only ones. If there is nothing planned near you, reach out to folks close to you and ask to meet up. That's how it all starts, folks. We get out of this what we put into it.

Hail the Folk!
Hail the AFA!
Marc MacLeod

San Diego Tru Folk
from Jamie Souligny



Hails from So Cal's Tru Folk Kindred! We have had an eventful month with our Winter Nights and Feast of the Einherjar blots this month. We also welcomed some new local members to our events this month. Welcome to Matt Waldrum and Dan Steiner.

We honor our veterans Kevin, Dan, Nicolai, Brittany , and the Vosses this month. Thank you for your service! Thanks to all who have sacrificed for our freedom! Hail to the Fallen and those who have come before.

Hail the Gods and Goddesses!

Hail the AFA!

Hail the Folk!

We do a moot once a month. We have set up a Facebook group to announce locations and details of such meetings. The name of the page is San Diego Folkish Asatru. We also have folk in Orange County and Riverside County.

If you are not a "Facebooker", you can reach myself Jamie at jsouligny@runestone.com, or Heather (SD Folkbuilder) at HeaTHOR@runestone.org.

News from the Northwest
from Elizabeth MacBrÿghde, Gythia



Northwest Feast of the Einherjar

On Saturday, November 19, Northwest AFA members and friends gathered in Centralia, WA for a blot and feast in honor of the fallen. We proceeded to the ritual area, where we ritually spoke the names of our honored dead into the horn, and made a sacrifice of the mead. We returned to the house for a feast of delicious traditional European foods, the first plate of which was taken back to the ritual area as a further sacrifice to the fallen. A sumbel followed the feast, and many good words were spoken and sung over the horn.

We give thanks to all of our Asatru service members, former and current, living and departed.



Mead Tasting from Roland L'Heureux

During sumbel, I often remember and toast my uncle Arthur. Uncle Arthur was my mentor regarding gentlemanly and social etiquettes. He taught me the purpose of and difference between “tipping” a maî-tre d’ and giving a waiter a gratuity. He taught me how to enjoy and savor the taste of not only the food I was eating but the various ingredients which made up the dish as well. And it was my uncle Arthur who taught me to enjoy a good pony of liquor with my slice of German chocolate cake after such a delicious feast.

About a week ago or so now I had an opportunity to remember and make uncle Arthur proud. In return for our being gifted a beautiful bottle of Vinland Meads’ Texas Honey Mead, which Clyde Hays and his clan produce out of Van, Texas, my wife and I were asked to give Clyde’s mead a fair and honest review. Being the least we could do, we naturally agreed.

After dinner that evening with Clyde had ended, Debra and I returned home to enjoy our

me of his lessons that now an appropriate etiquette was owed in the mead's consumption out of respect for the effort and energy put forth in its creation.

That night, purposefully tasting and evaluating Clyde's mead took on a ritualistic form. The reverence I felt for my uncle coupled and merged with the respect I owed to Clyde and his family for their effort compelled me to, for the first time, fully participate in and appreciate the art of mead tasting.

Debra and I could not have enjoyed our gift, from Arthur or Clyde, any more than we did. Hail the Holy Powers! Hail the Ancestors! Hail the Folk!

News from the Four Corners from Roland L'Heureux, Apprentice Folkbuilder



"If you build it, they will come," is a quote from the movie *Field of Dreams* that we've unofficially adopted as our motto here in the Four Corners region. Inspired and motivated by the vision and potential for our local groups as well as our region, the momentum has been and continues to be picking up in our adjoining four states. Lines of communication are being established that are resulting in a solidified community of AFA members united under our regional AFA tribal umbrella. I am excited about our progress. We are gifted with individuals to work with who are eager to serve and empower our Folk.

We started this month's seasonal activities with a Winter's Night blot, hosted by Nate

efforts are greatly appreciated by his immediate and intimate community as well as by all of us within the Four Corners Region and AFA in general.

Like visiting with out-of-town family, my wife Debra and I had the opportunity to meet with two AFA members visiting Arizona from surrounding regions. On Friday evening, November 11, we had an impromptu Dinner Moot with AFA member Clyde Hays from Van, Texas (South Central Region). Along with his entire clan, Clyde owns and operates Vinland Meads, or Vinland Meadery, currently brewing small batches of excellent tasting East Texas Mead—which they make with local East Texas ingredients. Debra and I had a wonderful time visiting with Clyde for the first time, and we look forward to doing a blot with Clyde the next time he is in our area.

Visiting Arizona from the West Region, AFA Apprentice Folkbuilder and member of the Tru-Folk Kindred out of San Diego, California, Jamie Lynn Souligny joined us for a Breakfast Moot on Saturday morning, November 12. Reuniting with Jamie over breakfast was a combination of business and pleasure, as we not only took the time to visit but to discuss our particular region's activities and accomplishments as well as areas of potential growth. Jamie's passion for the Folk is exemplary and she is a true asset to her kindred, region, and the AFA.

Continuing with our weekend of encouragement, we conducted our Four Corners Regional Conference Call on Sunday, November 13. Almost 18% of our region members participated in the conference call and each of the four states were represented. Those present discussed local activity potential, increased communication among regional groups and kindreds, future goals for their local communities, and visions for the region as a whole because of local community growth. The conference concluded with all present eagerly and enthusiastically looking forward to what lies ahead locally, regionally, and internationally for AFA members and tribes.

Our Four Corners Regional Pubmoot/Meet and Greet was held this month at the Handlebar Pub and Grill in Apache Junction, Arizona, on Saturday afternoon, November 19. Our event was open to vouched for visitors by attending AFA members. We had three AFA members and four guests ultimately constitute our party, which just happened to be

us, as well as all the guests who attended. Thank you all for a wonderful time of stimulating conversation with likeminded folk.



Alaskan Feast of the Einherjar 2016 By Eric Whisman

"Across the bridge of colors born^[SEP]
 Of fire water and air^[SEP]
 Dressed in crimson armors^[SEP]
 In hand are bloodwet spears^[SEP]
 Reach the entrance heaven's gate^[SEP]
 Honored by the brave^[SEP]
 See the hall with golden roof, ^[SEP]
 The home Allfather gave
 Welcome to the hall of death.
 Great Odin we hail him.
 Come in, enjoy the glorious afterlife, my friend.
 Here we fill the ranks of Tyr,^[SEP]
 Battle is our way^[SEP]
 Every morning day and night till the winter fiercest come.

Cattle die.

All men are mortal.

Kinsmen die.
All men are mortal.
But one thing never dies,
The glory of the great dead"

The words sung by AFA Gothi Steven Morrell resounded throughout the room during a particularly powerful sumbel.

Looking around the room, there was a special memorial of the fallen set up to accompany the several servicemen joining us to honor our warriors, both living and fallen.

Earlier that night, folk faced the icy roads of Alaska, coming from all corners of the great state, and joined together again for celebration. We stood in circle around the blot fire, honoring the Einherjar for their sacrifice and raising horn to the Valfather.

In fashion following the immortal warriors of Vallhalla, we feasted upon the flesh of pork, and no one went hungry that night.

We next held sumbel, a very powerful exchange of Wyrð as words were spoken over the horn, honoring the Gods and those gathered there, the great warriors of our families and our folk, and great leaders of our people.

With spirits high, and souls charged; the folk parted ways once more for the adventures of life to come, and the battles to fight.

Hail Odin!
Hail The Einherjar!
Hail the AFA!

**News from the Northeast
from Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder**

Northeast conference call will be at 8:00 p.m. EST on Monday, January 9, 2017. We look forward to hearing you there!

Dial-in Number: (641) 715-3580

Access Code: 174-424

AFA Pubmoot in Perkasio

We hosted a casual Pubmoot at the Country Place in Perkasio, Pennsylvania. We had several AFA members and interested folks attend. Discussion focused on the pitfalls of rushing kindred formation and how, while it can be difficult, it is important to know when to say "no" to a prospective member who is not a good fit. Everyone was impressed with the very affordable menu, which seems like it came from a time warp. Look for more meetups beginning in the New Year!

News from the Upper South from Karl Staaf, Apprentice Folkbuilder

The blot was a not held by the AFA; it was held by Gadsheim Kindred on November 12 and performed by Gothi Joe Marek.

Members from both AFA Upper South and from AFA North East came to the blot. Some had a four-hour drive, one way. Karl Staaf, Apprentice Folkbuilder of AFA Upper South, was the coordinator of the AFA members attending and lives only a few minutes from the Gadsheim Hof.

The blot was great, giving thanks to those who have laid down their lives on the battlefield, as well as to veterans still alive. It was an emotional blot; not many eyes were left dry. The mead horn was passed around the participants three times, held high, giving recognition to our Gods, lost ancestors, lost family, lost friends, and to our veterans. The Veterans attending the blot also received well-deserved thanks.

After the blot, we were offered to feast with the Kindred and the food was great. A special thanks goes out to the ladies of the Kindred preparing the feast.

I would like to thank everyone who came.

Karl Staaf, Apprentice Folkbuilder of AFA Upper South.



Northern Plains News
from Blaine Qualls, Gothi and Folkbuilder

Things continue to grow here in the Northern Plains. We hosted three meet and greets across the region this past month, one in North Dakota, one in Minnesota, and one in Nebraska. For the Northern Plains that is a great thing. Our growth in the region has been

celebration in Minnesota and a weekend long (three-day) Yule event here in North Dakota. Both look to be well attended also. For anyone in the area, or traveling through, that wants to get together with other AFA folk please feel free to reach out to me and I'll put you in touch with local folk; or if you are in Minnesota get in touch with Jason Gallagher; in Nebraska reach out to Trace Svendsen. There are always things happening in the region and always plans for future activities as well. Hope everyone has a great Yule.

Paganfest from Wiktor Domagała, Apprentice Folkbuilder, Eastern Europe



This year, we met once again at Silesian Paganfest, an event with pagan music, art, and lectures about our religion. The theme of this year's event was "Polytheism: Then and Now". My opening speech was about the activity of the AFA in Poland and in the world.

Pictures provided by Małgorzata Szolc.

We met with good reception. In two days we had eighty people attend.

Hail The Gods!

Hail AFA!

<http://www.asatrufolkassemblies.org/v-silesian-paganfest-polytheism-now/>



Item of the Month - Official AFA Hat



The official AFA hat has been released! You can buy it here: <http://www.runestonegifts.com/other/official-afa-hat>

Shop and Help the AFA

RUNESTONE GIFTS: AFA Member Discount

AFA members save 5% on any order at checkout. Use promo code PXLKVV8 at <http://www.runestonegifts.com/>.

SHOP AMAZON and SUPPORT THE AFA

Support the AFA by shopping Amazon through our Amazon affiliate link! The AFA gets a

Volunteer for the AFA

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

Upcoming Events for 2016

DECEMBER 3RD ◊ 5PM ◊
TIP TOP MEATS CARLSBAD
WWW.TIPTOPMEATS.COM



THIS IS AN AFA MOOT FOLKISH MEMBERS AND
ONE VOUCHER GUEST ONLY PLEASE
QUESTIONS ?
GO TO SAN DIEGO FOLKISH ASATRU ON FACEBOOK OR
CONTACT JSOULIGNY@RUNESTONE.ORG FOR JAMIE
OR HEATHOR@RUNESTONE.ORG FOR HEATHER
SEE YA SOON ☀️☀️☀️

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Four Corners Regional Conference Call is on Sunday, December 11th at 4pm. Dial in number is (712) 451-0200; access code is 110727.

Apache Junction, Arizona, on Saturday, December 17th from 3-9 pm. This will be a family friendly, open event for vouched-for guests of attending AFA members. Event location TBA. For further details write rheureux@runestone.org or check the AFA Four Corners Facebook page, the AFA Moots and Meetups Facebook page, and the AFA main website events section for updates.

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Yule on the Plains - Friday, December 16, 2016, 2:00 p.m., to Sunday December 18, 2016, 11:00 a.m. at Cross Ranch State Park. See the [Facebook](#) page.

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Yule will be celebrated in the Northwest across all 12 days; with Mothernight falling on a weekday, we will open the Yuletide meta-ritual with a small ceremonial lighting of the first Yule log on the evening of Wednesday, December 21st in Centralia, WA. The big weekend Yule celebration will occur on Saturday the 24th, and a Twelfth Night celebration on Saturday the 31st, both in Centralia, WA. For more information about Yule and other events, feel free to send email to emacbryghde@runestone.org.

Upcoming Events for 2017

AFA Winter Nights in the Poconos 2017

AFA Leadership is already planning next year's Winter Nights event! We want to immediately build upon the success we had this year, and so immediately booked Camp Netimus for next year. Winter Nights in the Poconos 2017 will be held from October 12 to October 15, 2017. Get those time off requests in now!

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