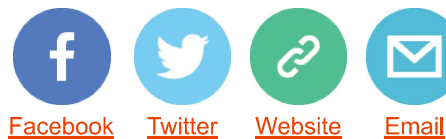


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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

On January 1, I packed up my car and began the long drive from St. Augustine, Florida to Santa Rosa, California. Mandy and I have spent this month getting settled in to our new life here in northern California and I have spent time reflecting on 2016 and planning for things to come in 2017. This move has been a long time in the making and I am glad to finally be at home here with the local AFA

We have much planned for this year; for the first time we will have 6 national level events, starting with Ostara in the South. I would highly encourage every one of you, our AFA family, to make it to at least one of these events. The start of the new year is a great time to reflect and plan. What successes can we build upon? What failures can we learn from and remedy going forward? It is within each of our powers to achieve our dreams and goals if we set our selves fully committed to victory. It is also within our power to build our folk community, the AFA, stronger, better, and brighter than ever before if we stand together and put our will and our deeds firmly to that holy purpose. We are charging from the gate and starting 2017 full of enthusiasm and on a course to make this the best year yet!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Matt Flavel,

Alsherjargothi, AFA

Ostara in the South 2017





Hailsa!

The Asatru Folk Assembly's **Ostara in the South 2017** Eventzilla Page is up for registration. So far the response has been awesome. This will be the premier AFA event in the Southern Region this year. Ostara will be a family-friendly event for AFA members, family, and vouched-for guests. The price

questions please email me at phester@runestone.org. You may click on the Eventzilla link below for quick an easy registration.

<http://ostarasouth17.eventzilla.net>

Hail the Folk!

Paul Hester

AFA Deep South

Apprentice Folkbuilder

Greeting Card Project

Hails my Folk!

We are in process of gathering artwork for a collection of greeting cards to be offered for sale to our Folk. Our goal is to have cards available for all of our observed holy days and special occasions.

There has also been talk of using some of the proceeds to fund a Yule card for hospitalized Asatruar veterans.

I can't draw much more than stick people, but I am sure there is much artistic talent in our community.

We are also reaching out through our Prison Ministry for art contributions from Folk on the inside.

Artwork may be submitted via email or conventional mail.

By email:

Jamie Souligny

jsouligny@runestone.org

Elizabeth MacBryghde

emacbryghde@runestone.org

By mail:

Jamie Souligny

4805 5th St #141

Rainbow, CA 92028

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 February Healing Ritual will be held Thursday, February 16, at midnight EST/USA. Hail Eir!

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



Courage
Truth
Honor
Loyalty
Discipline
Hospitality
Industriousness
Self-reliance
Perseverance



Hail and greetings to all,

literature is being hand-delivered to base Chaplains and forwarded via mail to Navy Commanders at U.S. embassies overseas. With all this growth and excitement however, it is vitally important that both the Military Program and our military members are on the same page.

I mention this because during the past several months as National Coordinator for our program, I have noticed an obvious lack of awareness as to where we stand as far as what our military members currently have available to them and what issues still need to be addressed. So that all who wish to “fall out” and assist in our program are marching at the same cadence, in this issue of *The Voice*, I would like to offer a brief recap of our AFA program and some steps that, right now, our active duty military personnel can take to insure their religious preference is acknowledged by DOD and the VA. In this issue the Military Program would like to also welcome and introduce Kevin Long and Tripp Tyrson as State Coordinators for our program.

(Those interested in assisting with our Military Program endeavors can contact the program at military@runestone.org or me directly at rlheureux@runestone.org).

“Get in Step!”

In November of 2008, Steven McNallen traveled to Washington, D.C. to call for the recognition of Thor’s Hammer as an approved religious symbol for the headstones and markers of our Asatru veterans. Five years later, in 2013, the Department of Veteran’s Affairs approved religious symbol #55 for veteran’s headstones--that symbol being the Thor’s Hammer. The following year, 2014, the U.S. Air Force added Asatru and Heathen to its approved religious preference list for its service members. The U.S. Army added Asatru and Heathen to its approved religious preference list in 2015, but since then has been finalizing the appropriate “Faith Group Codes,” essentially mooting their approval for the time being.

Subsequently, there is currently no recognition of Heathen or Asatru as a religious preference for Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard service personnel. Of the 105 current Faith Group Codes contained in Department of Defense Manual 7730.54-M-V2, the closest most of our Asatru service members can get to listing their appropriate religious preference, using the process of elimination as we go down the list, is to claim either “Hinduism” (as part of our Indo-Aryan spiritual heritage) or “Magick and Spiritualist.” Because of this lack of recognition by DOD, these AFA members have virtually no spiritual support, encouragement, counseling or growth coming from their association with

for spiritual care and nurturing that each of us enjoy as recipients of their military service. It becomes incumbent upon us as an organization to safeguard and assist in our active duty service member's spiritual journey. This has been, and continues to be, the paramount mission of the AFA Asatru Military Program since its inception.

Since my appointment as your National Coordinator for our AFA Asatru Military Program our commitment has been to:

- Insure a solid support network for our AFA active duty members via the AFA member's website (www.member.asatrufolkassembly.org), their regional Folkbuilders, and the Asatru Military Program Coordinator;
- Insure that, in the least, each active duty member has a copy of the *Asatru Book of Faith: For Those In Harm's Way*;
- Provide direct spiritual support and encouragement to those AFA active duty military who become wounded or hospitalized;
- Provide direct spiritual support and encouragement to the families and survivors of AFA active duty members who become "missing," or "killed-in-action" (MIA or KIA); and,
- Acquaint and educate local military chaplains on the religion of Asatru by providing a liaison between local military bases and the AFA Asatru Military Program.

While the AFA Asatru Military Program is committed to moving forward toward the accomplishment of these very realizable goals, it must be understood that much of its ability to assist our active duty members is in the hands of those members themselves. Subsequently, as soon as possible (immediately if you understand military time) all AFA active duty members, which includes Reservists and National Guard, should:

- Insist that ASATRU be put on your military ID tag (Note: there is no rule on what you can put on your dog/name tags. The Military Personnel Manual (MILPERSMAN) 1000-070 subsection 7 paragraph c, which discusses the specific religious preference which can be recorded on line 5 of the dog tag says: "SHOW ANY RELIGION OR FAITH GROUP DESIGNATED BY THE MEMBER." The paragraph then goes on to give EXAMPLES of religious preferences and how to abbreviate them if they are longer than 18 characters—this is a list of examples for those preparing your name tag and not a closed list of the only possible choices for that line. Military Asatruar can, and must, begin to have ASATRU requested on line 5 of their dog tags. Asatruar

your funeral; or, they could not give you a funeral at all. (The link for the navy/marine corp battle team personnel manual is <http://www.public.navy.mil/BUPERS-NPC/REFERENCE/MILPERSMAN/Pages/default.aspx>)

- insure that your membership records are up to date regarding your military service (i.e. past, or current military);
- utilize the AFA member website (www.member.asatrufofassembly.org) to stay up on your studies and local AFA events and activities;
- keep in touch with your regional Folkbuilder and the Asatru Military Program so we know where in the country/world you are serving; and,
- let us know if you become injured or hospitalized so we can assist you.

New AFA Military State Coordinator for Southern California **Kevin Long**

My name is Kevin Long, I have been an Asatruar for 12 years and a member of the AFA for almost two years. I am the Steersman for the Tru Folk kindred in California. I served as a sergeant in the USMC from 2007-2011 as an Infantry Team leader with 3rd Bn 1st Marines. I did two deployments, seven months with the 31st MEU in the Western Pacific, as well as seven months in the Helmand Province Afghanistan where I received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat "V" valor device, and a Combat Action Ribbon.

I look forward to assisting as an Asatru Military Program Coordinator here in California. I will do my best to serve our active, veteran, and retired military folk with whatever needs they have, resources they require or anything else for that matter! Thank you and hails!

New AFA Military State Coordinator for Arizona **Tripp Tyrson**

had always had a passion for nature, one I truly didn't understand. That same night, my uncle handed me a book; that book was the *Havamal*.

It was like an instant click. I had found exactly what I was looking for in life. I remember the feelings that overcame me, it was as if I had a place. I finally understood what the passion for nature I had was.

Throughout high school I was a believer, but less of a practitioner. As one can imagine, other high school kids get alarmed when a guy outside with his hands up is yelling at the sky.

When I was 17, I joined the army. I decided I wanted to implement the things I had learned from Asatru and use them to defend our nation. After having the privilege of meeting great people and having a goal to look forward to, I ended up getting hurt. That was the hardest thing I've ever gone through; I had found a community (Army) which I felt appreciated and needed, and suddenly I was "Out."

From that moment, my life started to spin out of control. After several "issues" in my life, I finally decided I needed a change. I needed to go back to my faith and to really, really focus on what I was driven to do with it.

Well after several years of being involved with the community, and after having two sons, I knew it was time that I had to do something for OUR community.

I ended up starting a kindred called Nordic Circle. Our mission was clear; do everything and anything to help homeless veterans. Many times we had hit the streets with donations and words of encouragement. Every single time we left knowing more about life than we did before. However, I needed to give more to Asatru.

At this time I had already been a truck driver for some time. I was driving through Houston on a hot and humid day. I found a podcast about Asatru, it was one to the point, and was so, just so simply how I felt, it was as if I heard myself (with a backwoods Oklahoma twang). The image I had in my head was an old guy in a rocking chair who meant business when it came to our faith!

About six months later, I added the podcast guy to my Facebook, after several conversations with him, I knew why our community was so important. I had never really been involved in the "Asatru Community" (not TAC) the REAL Asatru community.

Broadcast Network) know that I'm a man of service, a TRU Tyrson. I recognize the importance of like-minded folk who set out on a mission to make a difference. Putting blood, sweat, tears, and experience into our work. Well two years after listening to Bryan Wilton's podcast, I can say I'm glad I joined the AFA.

I am absolutely HONORED and look forward to meeting and working with every one of you. The mission to provide military members (past, present and future) with the resources they need is my personal mission. With the help of the members of the Military Program, I will stop at nothing less.

My promise to this community is, everything I will do, I will do with the intent of bringing positive light to our name. With the skills and knowledge I have gained, big things are in our future. Applying the three E's to everything I do -- Education, Enlightenment and most of all, Empowerment.

Thank you all for reading this. As always thank you for being the best part of what we do and why.....
Tripp Out!

Folk Services

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 private message to the Folk Services page on [Facebook](#).

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 trouble. Without this support, we would not have the level 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 few 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!

Thanks in advance!
Jamie Souigny

Women of Seiðr Program by Ldr. M. Annette Baum

The AFA Women of Seiðr is now 32 members strong. We will have our first meeting and private working during Ostara in the South in March. I will also do a workshop at the event on "Folkish Seidr & The Path of Holy Womanhood in Asatru." Last, I have begun to post support materials and audio pathworkings for the program via the webpage for the *School of Seith at Hirschwald*. These efforts support honing the WOS skillset with a view to performing Seidr rituals in service of the community at major AFA events in the future.

The WOS is a group to connect, share, and develop our folkish magical practice and resources for spiritual growth and service. AFA Women of Seiðr has a networking home on Facebook. If you would like to become a member of the group, please connect with me on Facebook.

Folkbuilding News by Mark MacLeod, Folkbuilder Coordinator

Well 2017 is off to a great start!! This year is really taking shape. I know we have been quiet here but it's just because there has been so much to tend to. Our Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel and Mandy have packed up and drove across country, to live near the Hof and get that set up as a functioning headquarters. Our AFA Asatru Military Program is really starting to take off; our leadership is more amped than I have ever seen in my years in the AFA, and membership is steadily growing. And more importantly, as we grow, we are able to put on more large events. Midsummer in Northern California

- Ostara in the South (near Atlanta, Georgia) March 17-19
- Walpurgis / May Day in Southern California (near San Diego) April 28-30
- Midsummer at NewGrange Hall - Asatru Hof June 16-18
- FreyFaxi in the North West (Central Washington) August 4-6 (pending)
- Fall Fest in the Northern Plains (Minnesota) September 8-10
- Winter Nights in the Poconos (Pennsylvania) October 12-15

All of our events are for AFA members, their families, and vouched for guests. If you are in the AFA and haven't made it to one of these events yet, you are cheating yourself. Take the time to get to one of these and see first hand what the AFA is about. I promise you will leave satisfied!!

News from Minnesota by Jason Gallagher, Apprentice Folkbuilder

On January 14, we hosted a Pizza Moot and I have to say we had a pretty good turnout. Some members drove as far as five hours each way. I really enjoy these events and the quality of folk that attend. In February, we will host Charming of the Plow and in March, Ostara.

Charming of the Plow

Bloomington, MN, February 18 at 3 p.m.

Ostara

Zimmerman, MN, March 11 at 3 p.m.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!



News from the San Diego Tru Folk by Jamie Souigny

Hails from So Cal's Tru Folk Kindred!

Hope everyone is having a prosperous year thus far! We are super excited for the new direction things are heading in for 2017! We are putting on our first big event and hope to see all of our AFA Folk here to enjoy a sunny So Cal Springtime!

We had a lovely park moot and met some great new Folk at our favorite moot spot, Felicita Park.

Thanks to all who made it out!

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 Southern California AFA members.

We also have folk in the Orange county and Riverside county areas.

If you are not a "Facebooker," you can reach me @

jsouligny@runestone.org

Or Heather (sd folkbuilder) @

HeaTHOR@runestone.org

Hail the Gods and Goddesses!!!

Hail the AFA!!!

Hail the Folk!!!





News from California
by Ryan Harlan, Apprentice Folkbuilder

our Alsherjargothi Matt Flavel, fresh from his recent move here to the West Coast, and John Johnson of Aesir Broadcasting Network (ABN) fame, all the way from Appalachia.

Our first night was quiet and allowed for rest and camaraderie. The next morning we all gathered together for a hearty breakfast of biscuits, gravy, and eggs before the day's happenings started. John conducted a few interviews for his broadcasts, one with Matt and another with our Swedish Folkbuilder Anders Nilsson. We had great discussions, welcomed more Folk who traveled that day, prepared for the day's meals, and most of all, we were able to do what I love best about our smaller gatherings, get to know each other on a more intimate level.

Our night found us by the fireplace where we reenacted the death of Baldur, with Gothi Michael Hunter narrating and a few of us acting it out. We then settled in for sumbel, followed by some gifting. Again, our morning found us enjoying coffee and a hearty meal before being led in a discussion on the Runes. We spoke our minds about our own interpretations of the Runes and helped each other see things in a new light or from another angle. As part of our talk, we chose who we thought had contributed most to the discussion and gave them a special gift. A set of blank rune staves of 5500 year old bog oak went home with the lucky individual to be carved, stained, and spoken aloud as Odin has advised us to do. A power gift on a powerful weekend!

After cleaning up, Matt led our Wayfarer's Blot to grant us protection and might on our journeys home as well as in this beautiful new year, so that we might work our will and make our world a better place, including all of our Folk who were unable to join us. Hail the Gods! Hail the Goddesses! Hail the Ancestors! Hail the Folk! And of course, HAIL THE AFA!





News from the Northwest by Philip Koch

On January 21, sixteen of the Folk gathered in Centralia, WA to honor Thor and attempt to fight off the gloom and grey of winter through feasting and merriment. AFA member Philip Koch led the Thorrablot in a small clearing.



News from the Four Corners

by Roland L'Heureux, Apprentice Folkbuilder

Upcoming Events:

Full Moon Hike Moot at the Lost Dutchman State Park/Superstition Mountains

Thursday, February 9, 2017 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Join the Folkgard of Hold & Odin for a guided 2.5 mile moon lite hike on Jacob's Crosscut Trail at the base of the mysterious Superstition Mountains. Hikers should dress appropriately and wear trail shoes or boots. Please bring a flashlight in case of cloudy conditions (No headlamps please). Some parts of the trail are rocky and uneven with occasional steep grades (elevation gain: 120'). Participants should be in good health with no walking or night vision difficulties (walking sticks are allowed). After the hike, gather around the campfire for a marshmallow roast (marshmallows and sticks provided). All ages are welcomed; however, the trail is NOT suitable for strollers or walkers. No pets, please. Since park fees are based on a "per car" basis, we will rally together at 6:30 p.m. and then car-pool it to the park (fyi-

(Park website: <http://azstateparks.com/parks/lodu/index.html>)

News from the Northeast by Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder

Asatru Folk Assembly Pubmoot hosted by Lansdale Tru Folk

Saturday, February 4 at 3 PM

Country Place, 1007 Route 313, Perkasie, Pennsylvania 18944

A get together! If you have friends who are curious about Asatru, bring them along. This place is super cheap, but cash only. There is an ATM.

AFA Northeast Conference Call

Hosted by Clifford J Erickson

Monday, February 6 at 8 PM

Dial-in Number: (641) 715-3580 Access Code: 174-424

Open to all members to discuss news and updates for the Northeast Region. Our next Northeast conference call will be at 8:00 p.m. EST on Monday, February 6, 2017. We look forward to hearing you there!

Porrablót hosted by Lansdale Tru Folk

Saturday, February 11 at 3 PM

Lansdale, Pennsylvania

Please contact cerickson@runestone.org if interested in attending.

A celebration of the waning, and hopefully breaking, winter. There will be some kind of goat feast. We will honor Thor and will tell stories. Please have a story in mind to share. Recommended offerings are

News from New Jersey by Joseph Bloch, Gothi

Skylands Asatru Fellowship, based in northern NJ and the surrounding areas, had a busy January.

We hosted a meet-and-greet at a local restaurant, continued our series of monthly Asatru 101 classes covering the Germanic soul-complex, wyrd, and ørlög, celebrated Yule, and ended the month with another monthly Rûna Workshop (held under the auspices of the Rune Guild).

Our Yule celebration was attended by almost the entire tribe as well as select friends, and was a spectacular success. We opened the blót to Thor with an animal-guising rite, wherein the Yule-goat was selected as the sacrifice for good crops in the coming year. A feast of roast pork with all the trimmings followed, and the night was capped by a powerful sumbel, at which many fine words were spoken over the horn and two new members of the tribe were brought into our midst.

Skylands continues to grow and thrive, and looks forward to another great year.

In February, we will be hosting another meet-and-greet in Riverdale, NJ, and will be continuing our series of Asatru 101 classes and Rûna Workshops. Please visit our website at www.skylandsasatru.org for details.





News from the Northern Plains
by Blaine Qualls, Gothi and Folkbuilder

Here in the Northern Plains we have been very busy this past month. We held Meet and Greets in

Meet and Greet in North Dakota, and likely a Meet and Greet in Nebraska.

March will see our big annual weekend-long celebration here in North Dakota. Cabin camping, educational presentations, blotar, sumbel, tasty home cooked meals.... all in all a great celebration that has continued to grow every year. For anyone planning to be up this way, please feel free to get in touch; we literally have things happening all the time across the region.

New AFA Facebook Groups by HeaTHOR Clinkenbeard

I would like to announce that the AFA has a couple of new groups on Facebook. These have been very effective for getting to know each other and finding people in your area. They also provide the ability to find like-minded people to talk to. If you are on Facebook please check them out.

The Women's Group is for the women of the AFA. In just a short time, I have met so many great women I didn't even realize we had. We share all kinds of things like recipes, activities, our experiences, our strength, and what we do living Asatru in today's world. This is the link:

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

The AFA Singles Group is brand new! I mean brand new! So come help us make it great! Our mission is to provide a place for the single people of the AFA to meet and talk and get to know each other. This is not a dating site but more a place to get to know the other folk in the AFA that are single. This is the link:

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

2017 is going to be a busy and amazing year for the AFA. So get out there, get connected, and be a part of our history!



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

future shopping!

Volunteer for the AFA

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

Save the Date!

Ostara in the South, March 17 - 19

Register today at <http://ostarasouth17.eventzilla.net!>

Walpurgis/Mayday in Southern California, April 28 - 30

Registration information coming soon!

Midsummer at NewGrange Hof, June 16 - 18

Registration information coming soon!

Freyfaxi in the Northwest

Dates and registration information to be announced!

FallFest in the Northern Plains, September 8 - 10

Registration information to be announced!

Winter Nights in the Poconos, October 12 - 15

Registration information coming soon!

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