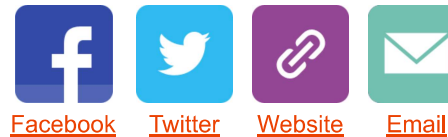


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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 The Alsherjargothi

A New Year Beckons!

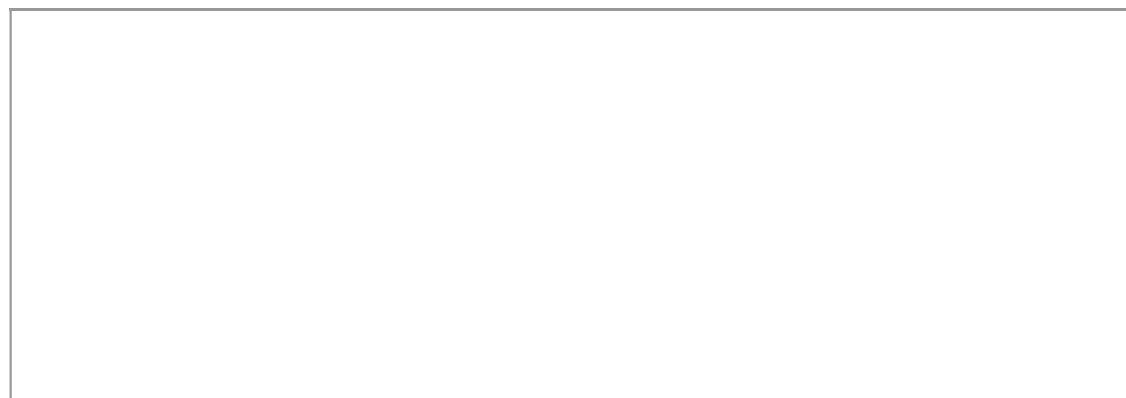
Sunna has turned in the sky, the holidays are behind us, and now we stand before a new year that lies spread out before us! It's a fresh start for each of us personally, and new opportunities for the AFA.

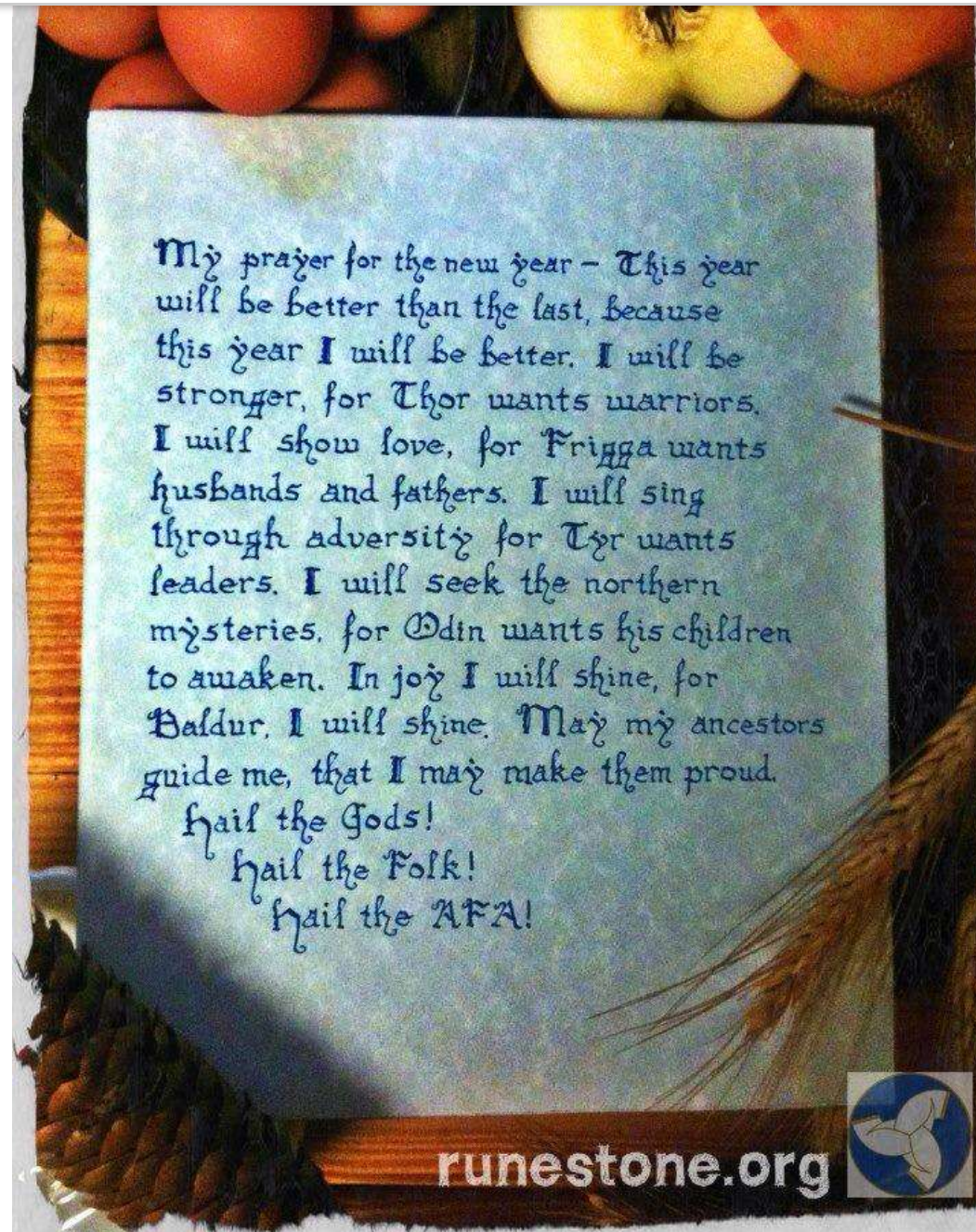
successful events on both the regional and local level. From coast to coast, more AFA members than ever before are reaching out to each other, getting to know each other, and coming together in a genuine community. In Europe, we visited old friends and made new ones, putting a human face on the AFA for the first time. Internally, we continued to fine-tune the Folkbuilder and the Clergy programs and to streamline some of our administrative features. Our online presence keeps getting better and better.

So what about the coming year? We will push forward with organizational improvements. Big changes to the web site are coming. Some of our other long-term programs will come to fruition, and there's even the possibility of a land purchase. We'll keep you informed on all these as they develop. Your participation in all these endeavors is earnestly invited - this is a team effort!

What about you, individually and as a family member? What will you do to improve your finances? Your education? Your health? And above all, your spiritual progress? If you haven't already done so, now is the time to set some rewarding yet attainable objectives for yourself and your family. While you're at it, include some goals for your participation in the AFA! Come to a gathering, be it a local meet-up or one of the big regional events...Upgrade your membership...Volunteer...Tell others about us. There are plenty of things you can do to help!

2014 is going to be a great year! Let's get started!





Runepebble

Runepebble: An AFA e-zine for ÆðatrÆ families!

The latest issue of Runepebble, ["Trolls"](#) was released on January 1st, but we are already looking forward to the next issue, set for publication on March 1st, 2014! The theme for our next issue is "Honoring our Lands." In the pages to come, you'll read about:

- Honoring our landvǫttir
- Natural resources
- Plant and animal conservation
- Ecology, recycling, and reuse of materials
- Balancing our modern life with our reverence for the life around us
- And more!

INFO & DEADLINE

We encourage all AFA members that are interested to consider contributing to the Runepebble, and we are currently accepting submissions for any topic that is relevant to this theme, even if only in part. We accept the work from AFA members of any age, and any type of work, including your own artwork, articles, music/songs, poetry/stories, activities and crafts, recipes, and so forth. Please forward all your questions, submissions, and comments to Rebecca Radcliff at Runepebble@Runestone.org.

Runepebble submissions will be accepted until Thursday, February 27th, 2014.

Meetups in the Northeast

On Saturday afternoon on January 25, please join our AFA and friends community in a plot to honor the thunder and friend of man at the home of Folkbuilder Patricia Hall in Downingtown, PA. We will have ritual, a light feast, and a formal sumbel as well as time to meet and socialize! This is the first of regular gatherings that will be held on the fourth Saturday of each month. Come to one, come to all, come to whatever you can make. In addition to ritual, in future we will also offer topical learning and discussion sessions. HAIL THE TRUE FOLK! Directions will be given on acceptance of invite. For those coming in from a distance, there is crash space...just bring your own pillow! Contact Patricia at phall19@comcast.net or on [Facebook](#) for more info.

On Saturday afternoon January 18, please join area heathens in an open moot at Molly Maguire's Pub in Lansdale, PA. This is the first of many monthly Pubmoots where area folk can meet and get to know one another. These moots are hosted by AFA member Cliff Erickson. Feel free to contact Cliff or Folkbuilder Patricia Hall on [Facebook](#) or at phall19@comcast.net for more info.

Meetup in the Deep South

We will be having a weekend long Ostara moot starting Friday March, 7th through Sunday March 9th. The event will be held at the Fortson 4-H camp in Hampton, GA. It's 25 miles south of downtown Atlanta, on a beautiful 77 acre plot of land. Food and lodging (climate controlled dorm style cabins) are included in the registration. More detailed information and registration will be released in the next week or two. I look forward to seeing everybody who can make it!

Charlotte Hoxie

Yule in the Midwest





Midwestern AFA members gathered at the family farm of Justin and Cheryl Holloway in Michigan to celebrate Mothersâ€™™ Night and to conduct the naming rite for the newest member of the Holloway Clan, Eivin Wulfgar! Michael Engler drove up from eastern Indiana, and Stewart with Amy Williams and their two kids came from the Chicago area. All together we had 5 adults and 7 children!!

Throughout the weekend the children played as the adults discussed matters of family, faith, and kinship. On Saturday evening before our Yule feast we made blot to Frigga and the Disir, as well as formally welcoming baby Eivin into the folkway of his ancestors. Special emphasis was made on explaining why we celebrate at this time of the year so that the children could understand the purpose of the celebration.

With our ancestor shrine next to the dinner table we feasted on an enormous Holloway farm-raised turkey and appreciated the gifts of the year as we celebrated our triumph over the night! It was a weekend filled with laughter, love and kinship as adults, children, and even animals took part in starting new family traditions while welcoming the new sun!

Yule in the Northern Plains

From Blaine Qualls Jr:

A few of us gathered in Bismarck for a Yule blot; schedules and frigid weather kept attendance to a minimum, five of us total. Still though, was nice to be among the folk, and

there is possibly some good growth potential for us here and for the AFA as a whole. Hope everybody had a great Yuletide and is ready for the coming year. Farr heill.

Yule in the Northwest



From Elizabeth Salix:

On December 21st, the folk of the Northwest celebrated Yule in Port Ludlow, Washington. We were hosted by members Karen and Dan Hosfeldt - parents of newly graduated Clergy member Carrie Overton - in their beautiful log home on splendorous forested land. We had an excellent turnout; over 30 people attended! As the light faded, Carrie led us in a moving blá3t under an evergreen tree, during which we put our blessings into the horn, which was then poured out in libation to the gods and land wights with our intent for a prosperous new year. We then returned inside for a delicious feast of many traditional foods, which I was given the honor of blessing. Afterward, we had a joyous sumbel of many rounds, including some mead made by our own folk. We said our goodbyes and gradually went our separate ways, reluctantly leaving the warmth and light of folk and frith, and fared forth onto the dark road home. As always, it was wonderful to see friends old and new, and we look forward to seeing everyone again soon!

For information about future Northwest events, send email to esalix@runestone.org.

Yule in Alaska





From Matt Flavel:

At 3:41 pm on Friday the 20th, Alaskan AFA members took time to say a few words and light candles. Some of us were already at my home, others at work or out on the road. This marked sundown of the longest night of the year and the ceremonial beginning of Yule. Throughout the early evening folks gathered at my home and hunkered down for an all-night celebration/vigil over the flames we lit, symbolically guarding the light for Sunna until her return in the morning. We spent the evening sharing fun and fellowship as well as spiritual discussion and a deep sumbel. At 8:00 am we proceeded to form a circle in our ritual area, surrounding a blazing fire with a raised sunwheel that Steve Morrell constructed for us. We stood in blot to Odin and to Sunna at the moment of solstice. We finished up with a Yule breakfast and blew out the candles when Sunna's radiance returned to us at 10:14 am.

Yule in Northern California









Toy Run in Northern California



NEVADA COUNTY FOOD AND TOY RUN

A big thank you to all the folks behind the scenes who made it all happen.

memorable AFA feasts for almost two decades!) She came through as always with an efficient plan and kept us on schedule. She and Jim brought carloads of AFA supplies that they store in their home. Extensive shopping was handled by Diane, Jim, and Linda. Those same folks, plus Katie and Thorgrun cooked over 100 pounds of pork in huge roasters. Diane's daughter, Emily, came to help out. We had lots of others as well... almost too numerous to name.

The Viking Brotherhood was well represented with about ten people; we had both Folkbuilders - Marc MacLeod and Sean Saindon. Steve was there. Our AFA children rode in the wagon pulled by Clydesdale horses and gave each other rides in a hand-cart until they were exhausted.

The day was clear and cool; a field of snow was the backdrop; we had plenty of time to meet and greet.

The AFA community grows and thrives.

Northern Rune Radio

Northern Runes Radio has broken the 600 "likes" barrier on the NRR Facebook page; the stats are rising and the old podcast listeners are finding us again, as well as many brand new people. Within the next few months we hope that NNR will have regained its listenership in 58 countries. The streaming hours are starting to reflect this again, and every one of you is greatly appreciated! The html code for the player can be easily accessed on the player by clicking the "share" icon on the right side of the player itself, this opens a page where one can choose the type of player they want, and copy paste into any website.

This, for willing folk expands the reach dramatically as well. They also have Daniel Updike™'s brother on stream with them now, who with 40 years broadcasting experience will be slowly taking more and more of a part in the programming/content of the station on the mainstream and news side. There are some other surprises coming as well, but that would be telling. You can tune in Northern Runes Radio at <http://runesradio.wix.com/-nrr>

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