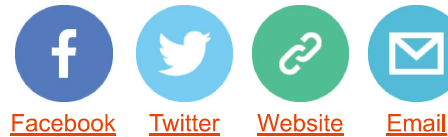


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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

2017 is already upon us. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our leaders and members, the momentum rolling into the new year is unstoppable. 2016 saw the greatest growth in membership I have ever seen. We ended the year at our highest member numbers. More impressive, however, is the enthusiasm that is vibrating from coast to coast. This year we have seen this enthusiasm turn into vibrant AFA kindreds and

personally starting the new year by moving Mandy and myself to northern California where I will be able to work from the Hof and intensify my efforts to build our Folk, honor our Gods, and implement our mission. Thank you all for an amazing 2016 and hold on to your seat because 2017 will be our best year yet!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Matt Flavel

Alsherjargothi, AFA

Calling All Asatru Artists!

We are trying to get a jump on greeting cards for all occasions for next year. We are expanding our committee and we need artwork, folks! Contact Elizabeth (at emacbryghde@runestone.org) or Jamie (at Jsouligny@runestone.org) for submissions and questions.

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 January Healing Ritual will be held Thursday, January 19, at midnight EST/USA. Hail Eir!

from Roland Jos L'Heureux, National Coordinator



Courage
Truth
Honor
Loyalty
Discipline
Hospitality
Industriousness
Self-reliance
Perseverance



First, in closing out 2016, those of us involved with the AFA Military Program want to express our gratitude to the AFA leadership for all its support and encouragement. Thank you as well to our AFA membership; your collective desire to volunteer and assist us in our efforts goes far beyond and above the call of duty. To all our AFA Folk, keep your suggestions coming—naturally, when dealing with the military, there are certain protocols, policies, and procedures which must be adhered to, but all suggestions are considered.

Next, in looking forward to 2017, I am truly encouraged by the potential and passion I see in regard to our military program. Spring-boarding from suggestions made by our membership, consideration is underway as to the design of an AFA Military Banner. Also under consideration is the possibility of forming an AFA color/honor guard to perform civic-ceremonial activities at certain events. Beginning next month we will include articles addressing Asatru, military life, the Department of Defense, and how our military folk can "adapt, improvise, and overcome" when they encounter obstacles along their spiritual

Finally, following a custom and tradition in this country started by George Washington himself during the Revolutionary War, and in making a bold and much-needed statement to the powers to be within our military superstructure, the AFA and its Asatru Military Program would like to announce and present its first and newly appointed Asatru Chaplain, Steve Morrell. Chaplain Morrell has completed the AFA clergy program and is an AFA-oathed gothi. Steve is highly spoken of among our leadership, he has been an active part of the military program for several months, and he is truly passionate about his spiritual service to the Folk and our military. Chaplain Morrell has been and will undoubtedly be a continued asset to our program and our military Folk.

New AFA Military Chaplain, Steve Morrell

Hello, I am AFA Gothi Steve Morrell, the new chaplain for the AFA Military Program. I have followed the path of Asatru for sixteen years and have been a member of the AFA for a little over three years. I am a twelve-year Alaska Army National Guard Infantryman veteran with three deployments to Iraq, and have within the last year become a civilian again. I am the contract State Coordinator for Military Funeral Honors in Alaska as my civilian occupation, which helps me stay current with veteran benefits. When I first joined the military in the beginning of 2003, there was not much for an Asatruar as far as military support. Military chaplains did not know where to go to get Asatru info for their service members, and the resources at that time were limited. Now with the AFA Military Program, service members, chaplains, and leadership have a place to go to assist in the following of Asatru in uniform. My vision as the chaplain for the AFA Military Program is to ensure AFA military members and their military leadership have all resources possible for the practice of Asatru in the military. We will look into our faith from the eyes of a soldier and how Asatru applies to the warrior in order for our Hamingja to grow. Ensuring our soldiers, marines, airmen, and sailors are able to increase their might and main and make the folk strong is a deep passion of mine, and one I will pursue relentlessly. Whether you need assistance with reading materials and you or your unit chaplain aren't sure where to go, performing ritual in uniform and want to learn how blot works, or just wish to reach out to fellow AFA military members; I and the AFA Military Program are here to assist.

contact me through e-mail if you have any questions or ideas.

My all for the folk,
AFA Gothi
Steve Morrell

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 troubles. Without this support we would not have the levels of success we have achieved and I am looking forward to seeing how far we can go in the future.

On behalf of the Folk, I wanted to personally thank all who donated to our Giving Tuesday Fundraiser.

Heather Clinkenbeard, Patrick Flynn, Kevin Long, Janina Voss, Catherine Wanko, Bill McNamara, R.A. Harlan, Karen and Doug Carlson, Matthew Waldrum, Schuyler Palmer, M. Annette Baum, Karl Staaf, Patricia Hall, Bo Bransford, Saunya Rogers Hildebrand, Jessica Rose, Chris Tripp Stephens, Roland Jos L'Heureux, Daniel Steiner, Todd Thorson Bailey, Joseph Bloch, Paul Hester, Steven Ingle, Eric Whisman, Steve Morrell, Donald Van Handel, Lisa Ciesla, David Windsor, Philip Koch, Karl Parker, Wickliffe Mott, Joel Eastman, Scott James Hill Jr., Steven P. Robinson, Michael Valle, Shawn MacDonald, Kristina Horacek, John Koldys, Svan Herul, Ryan Skinner, Seumus O'Seaghda, Randi Ruhn, Lucas Cathey, Rick Ostrander, Derek Bolig, Tony Wagoner, Mike Magnusson, Michael

I would also like to thank those who could not afford to donate but supported through sharing and promotion. (I could write a book of thanks but that would take up a lot of room!)

Many thanks to all the folks that pulled together for our domestic violence assist fund. The help was well received and much appreciated by our recipient. This is what community is all about.

Thanks for the DV assist go out to Mark Cook, ABN (John Johnson/Bryan Wilton), Bryan Blue, Joseph Bloch, Pamela Groth, Steven Robinson, Samantha Faw, Janet Weiderman, Joel Eastman, James Rainwater, Daniel Steiner, Megan Keith, Michael Valle, Rocco Urman, and the Carlsons.

Note from the Founder: We need your help! Lots of people "like" our posts, but fewer 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! Every little bit adds up! Got an extra \$5 this month? Shoot it over to Folk Services!

If even a fraction of the folks who like the page did that each month imagine the possibilities!
Thanks in advance!

Women of Seiðr Program
by Ldr. M. Annette Baum

We are thrilled to announce the formation of the **AFA Women of Seiðr**. Led by M. Annette Baum, this 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

Updates From Sweden by Anders Nilsson



Asatru Folk Assembly Sweden held our annual Yule blot. Yule time and, in particular, Midwinter is strongly associated with ancestor worship and Odin's Cult, so during this blot, participants presented something that visually linked them to their ancestors. There were old photos, garments, musical instruments, etc. When the return of the victorious sun was celebrated and the ritual fire lit, it was time for the ancestors to step into the ring.

The ancestors were honored and remembered. Everyone sat down separately with their keepsake and strengthened ties through time and space. The blot ended as usual. With



Update from New Jersey from Joseph Bloch, Gothi

Skylands Asatru Fellowship, based in and around northwest New Jersey, had a busy December. We kicked off the month with a visit to the local German Christmas Market, where we ran into a contingent of fellow Heathens and shopped our way from end to end, having a great time in all.

Our schedule of Asatru 101 classes and Runa Workshops continued, with classes covering the upcoming Yule holiday and Edred Thorsson's seminal book "Futhark." Our classes are open to all and will continue in January with the Asatru 101 topic being the soul, wyrd, and

Members of Skylands were honored to be guests at the Irminfolk Yule celebration, and are looking forward to visiting our friends at Hearthstone Theod later in December.

We will also be hosting a meet-and-greet on January 6, to which everyone is invited, as well as celebrating our own Yule on January 14. Details can be found at our website at www.skylandsasatru.org.



Minnesota Happenings
from Jason Gallagher, Apprentice Folkbuilder

by all. Several members from Minnesota traveled to North Dakota to attend Yule on the Plains. Blaine and the Ulfhednar Clan outdid themselves again being such gracious hosts. December will be a month to remember!

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

San Diego Tru Folk from Jamie Souigny

Hails from San Diego's Tru Folk Kindred. Hope all had a joyful Yule!

We started our month out with a pubmoot at Tip Top Meats! Talk about portion size! I ordered a steak and they brought half the cow! It was great to see our friends Patrick and Lucas again.

We had an amazing and powerful Yule celebration filled with much laughter, joy, and kinship with each other, the Gods, and the ancestors. The power was palpable and we are all excited for the return of Sunna and the new things to come for our Folk in 2017! We welcome Aela Colton to the kindred! Born 11/21/16. It was a joy to see her and Brittany and Nicolai!

From Brittany Colton

There are few moments in our lives that leave us feeling as though we have finally learned what life is all about. For many, these moments may be graduating university and moving on towards a dream career, finding your soul mate and getting married, or even seeing the wonders of the world. Personally, the moment that I figured out my purpose—what my life is all about—was the moment I became a mother. On November 21, 2016, at 7:58 in the morning, my husband and I brought a beautiful baby girl into this world: Aela Dorothea Colton. Spending my days with her has taught me so much. I've learned selflessness, sacrifice, patience, and love like I've never experienced. Each time she nurses is an

which brought me to another discovery of sorts. Bringing a life into the world is so much more than "having a baby." It is keeping family lines going. It is continuing the blood of thousands of ancestors. Carrying a child doesn't just transform a woman's body, but it transforms her entire being: physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Within each of us is the blood of our ancestors, and my husband and I have given that to our daughter. She has her ancestors in her veins. With a father born in Germany and an American mother of European descent, Aela was granted strong roots and a connection to the old Gods that will carry her down a wonderful journey of self-discovery and the noblest of virtues. By realizing how utterly meaningful it is to bring a child into the world, I was able to solve the meaning of life —why I am here. It has brought me closer to my ancestors and to the Gods in a way I never thought possible. It has become my responsibility, as it is for all of us, to instill this in our children as we extend the roots of our bloodlines. Hail the family! Hail the Folk! Hail the AFA!

Matt Waldrum has been a great new addition to our kindred. Following is a poem he composed for our ritual.

Sunna now dies, | she takes her last breath.
The wolves have caught up to her wain.
But not all is lost! | A daughter is born!
Named Sunna for her dearly loved mother!
As darkness descends | our thoughts turn to Baldr.
Fairest and brightest of all.
Struck down by a trick | to the grief of us all.
Now he dwells safe in Hella's deep home.
But not all is lost! | Merely biding his time!
To emerge to a world fresh and new!
When the final blow's struck; | When Fenrir lies slain;
When the Serpent gives way to his wounds,
A new world shall rise | from the ruin about.
And dear Baldr shall sit in the throne.
This we all know, | as sure as the new day.
We need only look up to the skies!

Great stuff! Come join us if you are in the area! 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 Meet Up Group. We also have folk in the Orange County and Riverside County areas. If you are not a Facebooker, you can reach myself Jamie at jsouligny@runestone.org, or Heather (SD Folkbuilder) at HeaTHOR@runestone.org.

Hail the Gods and Goddesses!

Hail the ancestors!

Hail the AFA!

Hail the Folk!

News from California
from Ryan Harlan, Apprentice Folkbuilder



The Folk of the Central and Northern parts of California gathered at NewGrange Hof on December 17 to celebrate Mother Night and usher in the beginning of the Yule season. Our hearty group was greeted by the chill air of the Sierras to set the mood for the festivities to come. Those who showed up early were able to start the decorations and setting up of our Yule tree, or help out preparing lunch, while others still prepared our ritual area for the night's blot. As the day progressed, more and more of our Folk began to filter in to join us.

Gothi Michael Hunter gave a talk on the Yule tree, its symbolism and importance, and those who wished to do so were invited to decorate ornaments of birch wood to hang on the tree. The young ones built gingerbread houses, and a competition for the best house was held, with a special gift going to the winner. Our Yule feast held the combined efforts of all who attended and was gleefully consumed after it was blessed. With our bellies now filled, and amidst the conversing Folk, we were surprised by a visit from Asa Thor who

After our visit with Santa Thor, we made our way to the ritual area and gave Blot by firelight in the chill of the Yuletide air. Our gifts and might given to the holy powers and their blessing given in return, and we lit the Sun Wheel which stood in the middle of our fire and watched reverently as it burned. Its light and warmth reminding us of the good things to come, and the promise of a great new year. We returned inside to warm our bones, exchange gifts, and sit down to sumbel. The gifting was an event in itself! Numbers were drawn and called for people to choose a gift. The gifts were opened for all to see, and give others a chance to steal them away. Many a handmade gift was promptly swept up from one person, only to be brought home by another. All in good fun! Horns were lifted to the holy powers and heroes. Horns lifted to ancestors and things which inspire us. With the day's festivities winding down, those who lived close by said their good byes while the rest of us drifted off to sleep. Our morning was filled with the familiar smells of breakfast wafting out from the kitchen and sounds of small feet running across our hardwood floors. We ate, we cleaned, we said our goodbyes. One couldn't ask for much more. For those of you who couldn't join us, know that we thought of you fondly and included you in our hearts. From all of us up at the Hof, we hope you and yours enjoy the season and have a very Happy Yule!



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



The Folkgard of Holda and Odin hosted its first annual Yule by the Superstitions celebration on Saturday, December 17, in Apache Junction, Arizona. The event started at 4 pm with a brief meet and greet of members and guests, following an introduction and expression of gratitude to Clay Vormsberg and Teresa Szafryk for the donation of their property for the event. Snacks and beverages were served for about an hour and the children were presented with a rune letters coloring book. At about 5:30 the women and children were invited to lead our dinner procession. On the menu, prepared by my lovely wife Debra, was pulled pork sandwiches, chili, chips, and all the fix'ns.

After dinner and prior to our dessert (smores made over an open fire) we held sumbel. To open the ceremony Teresa Szafryk, a kindred sister, and soon-to-be AFA member, presented our Sunwheel to the flame. Representing our runic Yule log, sections of an oak branch marked with each rune were then presented to the flame. The kindred horn was filled and blessed by the women, to be then passed among members and guests who wished to participate. While we enjoyed this time of tradition and custom, huddled around the fire for warmth, we reflected on the importance that fire and the sun had in the worldview of our ancestors, and why the winter solstice event was so revered and sacred to our folk.

a full belly. Our customs were remembered, our ancestors were honored, and our Gods and Goddesses were celebrated.

Yule and Mother's Night By Eric Whisman



The work week was pleasantly interrupted on Tuesday night as Folk and kin left their day jobs and headed North to the house of Gothi Steven Morrell, the anticipatory feelings of happiness and joy for the coming twelve days of Yule filling their hearts.

the solstice came closer and closer, everyone bundled up and headed outside towards a ritual fire built on a spit overlooking a frozen river with great mountains in the background, all canvassed by a clear night sky. At 1:44 am, the very minute of Solstice, we held blot and raised a horn to Sunna.

After Blót, we brought fire inside with us and stood watch over it. Deep conversations were had, as well as much merriment.

The hours wore on, the kin remained stalwart holding vigil over the flame, and at 10:15 am, Sunna appeared over the mountains, bringing her warmth and beauty back into the world after the longest night of the year and a blot was held in honor of her victory.



FROM GILBERT ERICSON, FOLKBOUNDER



Yuletide greetings from the Northeast!

As I write this we are in the midst of Yule. Many gatherings have already occurred and more are yet to come.

The Irminfolk Odinst Community hosted members and friends at a formal style Yule, pictured here. Baldr Rising, Hearthstone Theod, Lansdale Tru Folk, and Skylands Asatru Fellowship all have celebrations coming near the New Year.

Our next regional conference call will be held on Monday January 9, 2017 at 8:00 PM. We look forward to hearing you there! Dial-in Number: (641) 715-3580 Access Code: 174-424.



News from the Upper South from Paul Hester

We had a great time at the AFA Upper South & Sandhills Kindred Pubmoot on November 26 in Raleigh, North Carolina. I'd like to thank everyone who sacrificed their time to build frith with others in their region. It was great seeing the Iron Guard Kindred, who drove down from Virginia. We discussed accomplishments, goals, and had a great toast to the



Northern Plains News
from Blaine Qualls, Gothi and Folkbuilder



Here in the Northern Plains we had spent months planning our annual Yule weekend. Our menu was set, our guest list filled, food bought, everything ready. Old Man Winter tried to throw us a snag, a weekend of bitter cold, literally -30 at one point with a wind chill near -50. Our brave folk endured and persevered, and this year's celebration was perhaps the best we have had so far. Over forty people in attendance from four states, one member coming all the way from Ohio even. Great rituals and presentations were held, we learned about Frith and Innangards, and we learned about Icelandic Yule customs like the Yule Lads. Our feast was truly a gift from the Gods and no one left hungry with many going back a second, and even third time. AFA member and excellent mead maker Les Lauer was the proud winner of our 2016 mead-tasting contest. Honestly, this was a celebration that I won't soon forget. It is weekends like this that show me the dedication of our members, it is weekends like this that swell my heart with AFA pride.

For those so inclined, we have already squared away the site reservation for our annual Ostara celebration, the dates will be March 24, 25, and 26. If you happen to be up this way



Item of the Month - Official AFA Hat



The official AFA hat has been released! You can buy it

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 small percentage of every Amazon sale made by starting your search from [this link](#). Bookmark the link for future shopping!

Volunteer for the AFA

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

Upcoming Events for 2017

===

Four Corners Regional Conference Call: Jan 8th @ 4pm (MST). Call in number is 712-451-0200. Access Code is 110727.

===

January 14, 3 pm Folkish family pizza gathering

Pizza Ranch in Shakopee, MN

===

Northeast: The AFA will be hosting a pubmoot in Perkasio, PA on February 4, 2017. If you are interested in attending please contact Clifford Erickson at cerickson@runestone.org.

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!

*Copyright © *2017* Asatru Folk Assembly, All rights reserved.*

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

