

Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



In this edition of *The Voice*, we have announcements from AFA Programs and Members, pictures and stories.. Also up coming events around the country. 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.

Hail the AFA!
Channcie Bean

Donate to the AFA



Note from Steve McNallen on the Denmark Moot

As most of you know, Sheila and I, along with other AFA members, will be embarking on a pilgrimage to Denmark and Germany in a few days.

This is a good time to think about just what considerations go into making a physical journey to accomplish a spiritual or religious goal...hence the following thoughts.

Trips like this are valuable opportunities for spiritual growth, and I have been working hard to prepare myself for this experience - doing an hour or more of intense meditation and ritual work every day, starting about nine days ago. This will continue for another three days, when we get on the plane. After that, my spiritual work will be of a less obtrusive and less environment-dependent nature. My goal is to be focused on my broader objectives, yet to be open to coincidence and opportunity - open to the intrusion of the magical universe into this one.

Some years ago, I made a trip to Ireland for similar reasons, and certain patterns of events unfolded. It will be interesting to see if the same sort of thing happens this time!

Hail the Gods!
Hail the AFA!





All members of the Asatru Folk Assembly worldwide are hereby invited to join Asatru Folk Assembly in Denmark and Scandinavia for their first moot and blǫt, August 3rd and 4th 2013 in Odense in central Denmark.

Guests include Stephen & Sheila McNallen, Brad Taylor-Hicks & Angelika Lochner, and Matt Flavel - from the far-ends of the U.S.

Saturday's events are for AFA members only and include sightseeing in the area, blot, dinner, and evening entertainment.

If you have questions or want to register,
contact our Scandinavian Folkbuilder, Lars Ireneeson:

folkbuilder-denmark@afa-europe.eu

<http://afa-europe.eu/denmark/firstmoot/>

<https://www.facebook.com/AFA.FirstMootInDenmark2013>



Every AFA gathering is spectacular, and if you didn't make it to California for the Mother of All Moots, then come to our big East Coast event at Camp Netimus in Pennsylvania. In stark contrast to the balmy springtime weather and verdant trees at MoM, Winter Nights is all about autumn...Pumpkins, crunching of leaves, bonfires,

Youtube slideshow called ["Winter Nights in the Poconos"](#) and featuring the music of the band Changes will give you an idea of last year's gathering.

Join us under canopies of gold, for a series of talks and workshops by our AFA leadership, powerful rituals, and an evening of wonderful music. Lodging and all meals are included. Registration forms will be available this summer. Write to us if you have question in the meantime.

The Folkbuilding program is proud to announce two new Folkbuilding Apprentices to represent the AFA.



Stewart Williams of the AFA Midwest region.
He can be reached at stew@runestone.org.
<https://www.facebook.com/sawilliams2nd>



Elizabeth Salix of the AFA Northwest region
She can be reached at ejsalic@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/death.the.immortal>

The AFA Military Program

Bodi Mayo, Military Folkbuilder reports that Calen Smith is now his adjutant, so he'll be making posts, AAR's (after action reports), and helping out with other projects. They are going to be making a standard care package for deployed members, and continuing the Boot Camp Edda's program. They are wanting a big Yuletide push for the troops. More patches are in the works, also work will begin soon on a revamped deployment booklet, and continued support of the troops.

Words from Steve McNallen

The Asatru Folk Assembly Celebrates Midsummer. Across the Continent and Around the World!

Alaska...Washington...California...Maryland...Canada...These were the official AFA Midsummer gatherings around North America, events hosted by Asatru Folk Assembly and, typically, open to "AFA members and friends." This list doesn't include probably dozens of other celebrations either hosted by AFA members or in which our brothers and sisters played significant roles. We are out there, honoring our Gods and ancestors, meeting with others, all across North America and the world! It has been many years since even the most ill-informed person could accuse the AFA of being a "California phenomenon!"

Sheila and I just got back from a very convivial and relaxing Midsummer in Tracy, California, just east of the Bay Area. Geographically, it was something of a first for us, as it gave our Bay Area members easy access to our event. We'll be using this venue in the future, so communication with this important area can only increase. However, that said, the AFA's Midsummer frenzy actually started last weekend, on the far side of the country...

In Maryland, Northeast Folkbuilder Pat Hall and well-known Asa-man Joe Marek organized a successful event notable for its powerful blot and sumbel, as well as for the hof in which it was held. Pat gave an energetic presentation on the AFA and all the many things we are doing!

On the opposite edge of North America, Elizabeth Salix and other stalwarts in Washington state hosted a lively three-day camping event at Port Orchard. Elizabeth is Apprentice Folkbuilder for the Northwest, and she's doing a great job of putting a local face on the AFA.

Meanwhile, Daniel Updike up in Edmonton, Canada hosted a fine event he described in a

(See the notice about Daniel's excellent "Northern Runes Radio" elsewhere in this issue of The Voice.)

To top things off, the AFA's awesome Alaskans launched their Midsummer celebration on the evening of the 23rd. If you know Matt and Channcie and the other great people up there under the Pole Star, you know it was an exceptional event.

All these events are a resounding sign of our energy and our dedication to our troth. The Asatru Folk Assembly doesn't just talk, we accomplish real deeds in the real world!

What is it that makes the AFA different?

The AFA is reaching more people...exhibiting a greater degree of sophistication, effectiveness, and maturity...and having more impact...than ever before. And that's wonderful, but it's not the whole story. There are other differences, the kind that show up face-to-face...

People who come to AFA gatherings notice them.

They find top-notch presentations and powerful rituals, often prepared around a common theme.

They are greeted with a friendly face and an open hand. People have good manners, and something intelligent to say. Families are welcome.

The Gods and Goddesses are taken seriously. Our meals, all of which are blessed before the first plate is filled, are tasty and varied and plentiful.

Sure, you can find good people in any organization. But with all respect to those other groups, I don't think for a moment you'll find anything as consistently excellent as you will among us.

What is it that makes the AFA different?

It's YOU.

Membership Changes and Challenges!

Send any membership changes to Sheila at afa@runestone.org. This includes contact information, adding or deleting a family member or email address, or including your Facebook URL - which is new for everyone. There are two big reasons for this:

1. We recently learned how important it is to be able to reach you in time of emergency. The recent Black Forest Fire in Colorado was racing towards the neighborhood one of our families, but our contact information was incomplete. We eventually got through to the dad who is stationed in Afghanistan, and he assured us that the family was prepared and had help nearby if necessary. Our AFA family came through this catastrophe just fine, but if they had needed assistance, we wanted to be there to help.
2. Our new database is designed to assist our members in networking with each other. If you want the contact information (currently limited to name, city, state, email address) of those nearest you, contact your regional Folkbuilder. If you don't get a quick response, then write to us at afa@runestone.org for assistance.

Check your membership card for your month and year of expiration. If you can't find it, your Folkbuilder can locate that information for you. For those members on a monthly

Sheila if there are any issues regarding membership, dues, or related issues.

To contact the Folkbuilder who's covering your region, go to

<http://www.runestone.org/contacts/afafolkbuilders.html>

Letters from Members

A Note from Calen Smith:

For the AFA community at large, I'd like to write a brief note to tell everyone about the wonderful Midsummer Blot that was held at the Bodi and Elizabeth Mayo household outside of Savannah, GA on Midsummer weekend.

There were 24 of us total for the event, with Asatruar coming from the Carolinas, Florida and North Georgia for the Holiday. Due to very stormy weather, the actual Blot took place in the Mayo's house in front of the Hearth. The Blot ritual itself was in the standard AFA fashion, with some great personal touches of Bodis added in. Afterwards we had a superb home-cooked meal, with plenty eat and there was no shortage of food. There were many great conversations as new friends and old chatted on the back porch. After a while many folks had to head home, but quite a few of us stayed for Sumbel, which was well done and handled very respectfully. General merrymaking continued late into the night, with many of us staying over and going home the next day.

Many strides were made over the weekend in the Asatru Military Program side of the AFA with many servicemen/former servicemen present. Overall this was an excellent midsummer for those of us in the Deep South. The Mayo's hospitality is legendary in these parts, and it's always great to see their three children growing up in a thoroughly Asatru setting. I feel we made an excellent impression to some of our newer Asatruar and AFA members and started lifelong friendships.

Hail The Folk!
Hail The AFA!
-Calen Lee Smith
Raven's Wood Kindred
St. Augustine, Fl

Upcoming Events across the nation

Das Drehende Rad Kindred Summer Picnic

Das Drehende Rad will be hosting a summer picnic on August 3,2013 at Al Lorenz park in Mt. Morris,NY - Pavillion #2 has been reserved.

This event is open for all Asatruar , whether you are an AFA member or not , so bring your friends and come for good food and fellowship! There will be no Blot, no Sumble, just a good time! AFA Folkbuilder Sylvia Sawyer is the contact person, at beornsbride@aol.com.

Freyfaxi in the Midwest!

AFA Freyfaxi Campmoot 2013 will be held on August 16-18, at Our Haven Nature Sanctuary, French Lick, Indiana. The ever-energetic Stewart Williams, who leads the AFA Family Safety Program, is pulling it together along with Folkbuilder Dennis Boltenhouse.

This will be our first venture into the Midwest, and we urge all AFA members, former members, as well as friends and family of AFA members, to be there! The Sanctuary is a 175 acres of beautiful deciduous forests and reclaimed fields, with clear creeks, natural springs, and secluded areas. It's a primitive camping area, but there is a shower facility with hot water! The photos look quite enticing.

A bit more information from Stewart:

AFA Members. The purpose is to bring our midwest folk together for a weekend of fellowship and celebration of the summer and the many natural gifts we are given by The Gods. To that goal, we will be celebrating Freyfaxi as we move towards the "harvest" time.

We are working on some events and games for children and ritual for the evening. We are asking attendees to bring food for themselves and their groups, but we will most likely be coordinating a group meal for Saturday night. Once we get a little closer to the event and have a full headcount then I will communicate with everyone about that.

The only costs for the event are camping costs (around \$15 a night for adults, children under 12 are free) and costs for the food you bring. It's a very affordable opportunity to get meet some Midwest Folk and enjoy a weekend at a beautiful primitive camp location!

Please feel free to contact me (by email or Facebook) if you would like further information or an invitation to the Facebook event page:

Hope to see you there!!

Stew

stew@runestone.org

www.facebook.com/sawilliams2nd

Midsummer in Northern California, 2014

It seems like just last month that we held Mother of All Moots...Wait! It WAS just last month! Well, we're already working on the AFA's premier West Coast event for next year.

Good venues are hard to find, and Enchanted Hills Camp served us well for MoM. We've tentatively reserved it for Father's Day weekend in June.

FREYFAXI... 'AFA EAST BAY GATHERING'

Saturday, August 10, 2013 @ 12:00pm in PDT

THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY of the greater Bay Area is proud to host Freyfaxi with a

Tilden Park
Berkeley, California 94720

For more information please see <https://www.facebook.com/events/154893234699948/>

Copyright © 2013 *|LIST:COMPANY|*, All rights reserved.
[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

