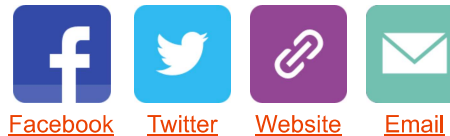


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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 Steve

We've just about recovered from Midsummer in the Redwoods, which was a success by any standard and which gave all of us memories and inspiration to last us until next year! Now it's time to get ready for our next two big events on the horizon: The first is the Great Northwest Freyfaxi set for August 1 through 3, in scenic Ocean Park, Washington. We have about 45 AFA members and friends who say they're coming! There's a registration form on the AFA Moots and Meetups Facebook page you can fill out and submit to us.

Camp Netimus near Milford, Pennsylvania. Winter Nights is our premier East Coast event and has consistently packed the facility. We'll have live music, outstanding vendors, and lots of energy!

As you can see, the AFA is active from the Atlantic to the Pacific - and this doesn't include the countless moots and meetups from one edge of the country to the other. We hope to see as many of you as possible at one or the other of these venues.

But the AFA isn't just about the big gatherings. We're always busy! I just completed a second interview on Red Ice Radio, and it will be available on their website next week. The producer thought the subject matter was so important that he decided to put the entire two-hour conversation on his web site for the public.

As always, you can support us online by "liking" our Facebook posts, sharing them with your friends, and speaking up for the AFA. Let's keep the action coming!

Steve McNallen
Alsherjargothi

Great Northwest Freyfaxi
August 1 - 3



Couldn't make it to Midsummer in the Redwoods? No worries, our next West Coast event will take place right here in the Northwest!

Great Northwest Freyfaxi will be held August 1-3 2014 at the Ocean Park Camp and Retreat Center in Ocean Park, WA.

We invite you to honour the Gods and Ancestors of Northern Europe with us in kinship and frith. Join us in lush forests of evergreens nestled by the sea for this 3-day event! This is a folkish family event open to members and friends of the Æsir Folk Assembly.

Rituals will include a Freyr Blátt by one of our AFA clergy students, a seaside Njǫrðr Blátt by George McNew, and one of Steve's excellent Áðin Blátt. We will also have at least one fireside Sumbel. Other goings-on will include inspiring presentations and talks by members of leadership, and a musical performance by Elizabeth Salix and Mac.

Accommodation options include modern well-furnished cabins, tent camping, or RV camping (limited, only 15 RV spots). We will be preparing the food ourselves; everyone is encouraged to help out with preparation and cleanup to make this event run as smoothly as possible.

More good news: Dogs are allowed! Well-behaved dogs are welcome for a \$10 per dog per night fee.

To check out pictures of the venue and learn a bit about the area, visit opretreat.org.

gotten a chance to meet Steve and Sheila, this is a great opportunity to do so.

Registration is open until July 17, 2014, but the sooner you can register, the better!

For registration forms or if you have any further questions, please send email to esalix@runestone.org.

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

Winter Nights in the Poconos October 17 - 19

Winter Nights in the Poconos will be held October 17 - 19 at Camp Netimus near Milford, PA. Year three of this East Coast gathering will continue the tradition of outstanding rituals, workshops, and music. Words can hardly describe the experience. If you haven't attended an AFA gathering, videos from all of our large events are on Youtube.com.

The AFA Family Safety Program

A One-Year Preparedness Program

by Steve McNallen

Preparedness Tip for July

In the last issue of *The Voice*, we urged all of you to set aside a few days' supply of food for emergencies. In July, you can increase your level of family preparedness by putting a first aid kit in your car. These are inexpensive and you can buy them, prepackaged and

The goal of the AFA Family Safety Program is to help you and your family survive any kind of natural disaster - storm, power outage, fire, flood, earthquake, you name it. Each month we will suggest one simple thing you can do to enhance your readiness. Over the course of a year you can make a huge improvement in your survival situation!

AFA Clergy Applications

Reminder: As announced last month, following Freyfaxi, the AFA Clergy board will release and begin accepting applications for the 2015 Clergy program. Applications will be accepted until just after Winter Nights. At that time, the Clergy board will review the applicants for potential acceptance into the program. For those who are accepted, the program begins on January 1st, 2015.

What is the AFA Clergy program?

The AFA Clergy program is designed to prepare qualified Æsir members of the AFA who desire to advance their service to the folk in partnership with the AFA in the capacity of priesthood, embracing and honoring the responsibilities and expectations which accompany the position of Goði or Gyðia.

What are the requirements for applying to the AFA Clergy program?

First and foremost, all applicants must be members of the AFA for no less than 2 years. Applicants must be sure that they are dedicated to the AFA enough in heart and mind.

Second, all applicants must have actively followed the Æsir path for no less than 5 years. This means a student must be experienced and well-read in Æsir lore, history, and contemporary practice and philosophies. See a general list of pre-requisite readings on the AFA website's Clergy page.

Thirdly, the applicant must be in good standing in the Æsir community, which means

damages any community (AFA or otherwise).

If you have any queries, you may contact the Clergy coordinator, Rebecca Radcliff, at Clergy@Runestone.org.

AFA Circle of Eir Returns!



Once again we will call upon Eir, whose name means mercy, in the healing of our own. Once again we will climb her mountain to receive that healing. And for those who cannot make the climb alone, your AFA brothers and sister will carry them. And we will do it using a mix of technology and ritual. Coming soon will be an AFA Facebook page where we can name those who need healing of both mind and body. Each month at a specified time, a healing ritual will be performed by me naming each person in need. And all will be invited to join in and lend their energies at that time. We are planning on having the FaceBook site up in early July. Look for more details shortly! And if you have any questions, please

Runepobble

Runepobble: An AFA e-publication for Æðsatr families!

The latest issue of Runepobble is being released on July 1st. The theme is Horses. The next issue will be published on September 1st, 2014, and the theme is "Finding Winter." Please forward all queries, submissions, and comments to Rebecca at Runepobble@Runestone.org. Runepobble submissions for the next issue will be accepted until Wednesday, August 30th, 2014.

Midsummer in the Redwoods

Midsummer in the Redwoods was a smashing success. There was a large turnout over the three days, with many people staying for the full duration of the event. As the snapshots below suggest, there was something for everyone. There were activities for kids, rituals and workshops by the leadership, vendors, happy communal meals, a demo/workshop on the craft of nalbinding (precursor to knitting, used in the Viking Age), and a touching renewal-of-vows ceremony for a couple who have been together two decades. Dancing around the Midsummer Pole on the final morning was a fun way to wrap up the long weekend for young and old.







Midsummer at Vikingsholm Castle

A Midsummer Blot was held at Vikingsholm Castle in Tahoe.





Midsummer in the Northwest

On Sunnasday, June 22nd, a small



We created a Sun wheel out of grapevines and decorated it with flowers from our garden, field, and forest. We put our good intentions into it, and it was later sacrificed by fire during our Bláðt. A horn of mead was also sacrificed to the Gods as we celebrated this turning point in the year and our lives. Though there were only three of us in attendance, it was a powerful ceremony that enriched all present.



Midsummer in the Plains

Blaine Qualls reports: About thirteen brave adults and four children braved the elements this past weekend to celebrate a late Midsummer. With a forecast of two days of rain, severe thunderstorms, and hail, our attendance fell just a bit at the last moment. Still all those in attendance had a thoroughly wet and enjoyable time. AFA member Les Lauer led us in a very powerful Blot to Baldur, despite the wind and rain. Afterwards a feast was enjoyed by all; none left that meal hungry. Later that night I led us in Sumbel, the first for most of those there. Three rounds passed with hearty hails to the Gods and ancestors and even a boast or two. Now I'm already looking forward to Freyfaxi and our next gathering.....There is nothing better than to be surrounded by Tru folk for several days; farr heill everyone!





Well Done!

Bryan Wilton reports: Our member Donnie Hill has been nominated through his hard work to be included in the International Association of Respiratory Therapists. Congratulations, Donnie!

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