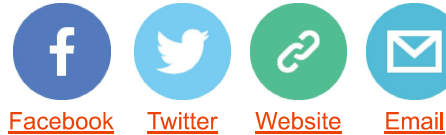


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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

June was a historic month for the AFA and a life-changing month for me personally. Across the country and indeed across the world, AFA members celebrated the might and vitality of the Midsummer sun. We are empowered by the sun's™ majesty but even more so by the radiance and zeal of our folk. In Brownsville, California, AFA members turned out in droves to celebrate the solstice for the very first time at NewGrange Hof. This

of a bright and powerful new chapter. Our Founder, Steve McNallen, formally passed the leadership of the AFA on to Allen Turnage, Pat Hall, and me, entrusting me with the honor and the duty to lead as your new Alsherjargothi. The weekend was amazing and beautiful



all around: the scenery, our magnificent hof, and our outstanding folk. I gave a brief talk about the AFA's direction and themes we would be focusing on as we start this new chapter as an organization. The AFA will make a point to clarify our positions with truth, frankness, and courage. The AFA will focus on nobility and excellence in all we do: excellence physically, excellence mentally, and excellence spiritually, as befits an Aryan people. The AFA will strengthen our local and regional communities as well as develop new ones, making the AFA tribe a reality in our members' lives. It was my honor also to appoint Marc MacLeod to take my place as Folkbuilder Coordinator. With new leadership in place, the enthusiasm of our officers has astounded me, as each is fervently devoted to making the AFA soar. As I sat in the high seat at the hof, looking down the length of a crowded hall - our hall, packed with our folk, feasting in celebration, looking out the grand redwood doors at the far end and out into the sunlit trees beyond - our future looked bright beyond measure!

Matt Flavel
Alsherjargothi, Asatru Folk Assembly

Midsummer 2016 at NewGrange Hof!





As our yearly solar cycle came to its midpoint and Sunna began to reach her zenith, folks from around the country began to descend on Brownsville for our first Midsummer at the hof. We were greeted by cool weather, fresh air, and friends both new and old. Our opening ritual saw the passing of the torch from the McNallens to our new leadership, Matt Flavel (Alsherjargothi), Patricia Hall (High Gythia and Clergy Coordinator), and Allen Turnage (Law Speaker). After the opening ritual, we were given the opportunity to hear from the new leadership and learn a little bit more about them and the current and future direction of the AFA. Stephen McNallen gave a talk on the Three Cauldrons, and the transformative power of meditation and meta-ritual. After our talks it was time to feast, and in typical AFA fashion, there was more than enough food to go around, thanks to the kitchen staff headed up by Diane and a few willing volunteers. Our Friday night feast was topped off by an amazing performance by The Rattlin' Bones in the main hall. New songs, old songs, the sounds of the hurdy gurdy, banjo, guitar, and bass filled the hall.





and moist earth filled the air. Saturday was full of activity! We enjoyed a hearty breakfast, a Balder Blot just for the kids, and a powerful Midsummer Blot including the ordination of Elizabeth Jane Salix as gythia and Blaine Qualls, Jr., as gothi. Our day wound down towards dinner, followed by our annual auction filled with folk-crafted goods and a bit of humor as our auctioneer, Allen Turnage, kept the crowd laughing and spending. Our Alsherjargothi led sumbel within the main hall, and the night was closed with music, song, and the passing of a few horns around the fire.

Sunna's Day came way too soon. Those who woke up early were treated to Patricia Hall's galder workshop around the fire. Others rose to try out our new outdoor showers (thanks to Marc and Joseph!) or to once again mount the daunting task of feeding us hungry heathens. It was all hands on deck to clean up the hof before Blaine gave our Wayfarer's Blot, hailing Thor for protection and safe travels. As we said our goodbyes and shook hands and hugged, every one of us was already anticipating the next time we would gather here at the hof. Our first Midsummer gathering here at NewGrange Hof, on our own land, was truly a special and memorable event! We hope to see you at the next one. Hail the Gods! Hail the Ancestors! Hail the Folk! Hail the AFA!



Ryan A. Harlan
Apprentice Folkbuilder
Central and Northern California



Our next major AFA-wide event is the **AFA Great Northwest Freyfaxi 2016**, August 5 through August 7. The location is Pacific Beach Retreat Center, 50 1st Street, Pacific Beach, WA. This is now the only AFA major gathering that is held oceanside! You can register at the [event page](#).

Join us for the third year of Great Northwest Freyfaxi! As always, this is a Folkish family event for members and friends of the Asatru Folk Assembly. We'll be in a different location this year, but there will still be all the fun of Freyfaxis past, including blots on the beach, sumbels around the campfire, inspiring talks, an auction to benefit the AFA, and delicious meals prepared by the Folk, for the Folk. At this venue, there are beds inside, and tent and RV camping. Well behaved dogs are allowed, preferably on leash for safety. It's a very short drive to the beach (it's probably doable to walk, but some may prefer not to).

We do welcome our friends from other Folkish groups as well (Alliance, Norroena Society, etc.). All guests must be vouched for, and you are responsible for making sure your guests understand and abide by the Law of the Hall.

Winter Nights in the Poconos



Thursday, October 13, 2016, 6:00 p.m., to Sunday October 16, 2016, 12:00 p.m. at Camp Netimus.

Please join the Asatru Folk Assembly for our Fifth Annual Winter Nights in the Poconos at Camp Netimus in beautiful Milford, Pennsylvania.

We will have workshops and lectures. We will have meals and music. We will build upon the success of Folkish Asatuar here in the Northeast by making new friends and renewing old friendships. And most importantly we will worship our gods, our goddesses, and our ancestral mothers in the crisp air of mountains as winter sets in.

Volunteer Survey

The Asatru Folk Assembly has seen tremendous growth and enthusiasm over the last couple years. There are many tasks on a day-to-day basis that have to be completed. These include preparation for meet-ups and regional events, outreach, and community projects like the AFA Folk Services Program, AFA Family Safety Program, and AFA Military Program.

The Asatru Folk Assembly is a family, and in every family we all contribute something. Please help us to assess our needs, utilize the interests and talents of AFA members, and to build a pool of resources for our Folkbuilders by completing the Volunteer Survey at <http://www.runestone.org/volunteer/>.

Family Safety Program: Stuff

Note from the Founder: The AFA Family Safety Program protects individual AFA members and families by (1) providing the information they need to survive emergencies and disasters of all kinds, and by (2) organizing material help in such events. Safety/preparedness articles are provided by Jim Erickson.

Have you been preparing for any disaster and checking off your items as you go about storing supplies? Wonderful!

But, do you know what the #1 rule is in becoming a Prepper? Most people don't know and it's to their detriment if a disaster were to occur.

Give up?

survivalist and have a stockpile of items in your home or safe place!

Why is this so important? There are numerous reasons but we will touch on a few here.

Let's say you've been storing food, supplies, fuel, etc. and your neighbor happens to see you bringing all of these weird items into your house. What if you've started growing vegetables, fruit trees, bought some chickens and built a coop? The nosy neighbor asks you what you're up to and you tell him. Or, you tell your kids and they tell their friends.



"Learn a new skill every week" – Jim and Sara the Corgi

You are rolling along doing your own thing when disaster strikes—either man-made or natural. What do you think that neighbor is going to say or do?

Because they haven't taken the time to prepare and are now in a panic they're going to remember that their neighbor, you, did take the time and a bonus—you live right next door, you are their neighbor, and of course you want to share! NOT!

As much as you like your neighbor, extended family and friends, you should NEVER tell anyone that you are prepping. You may feel sorry for these people because they didn't take the time to prepare as we have and if you are to survive you have probably only put enough of the items away to sustain you and/or your immediate family.

If you let someone into the group, and they tell their friends, they WILL come after your stuff. When disaster strikes everyone is desperate and the world will have changed in the blink of an eye.

You'll need a way to protect your provisions whether it is with a gun, a knife or other means because you'll have items that people are going to desperately want: food, shelter, fuel, batteries, lights, etc. Are you prepared to protect all of your hard-earned work and

Donâ€™t think it will happen? It can and will. Just because you took the time doesnâ€™t mean anyone else did. Again, the #1 rule in Survival? Donâ€™t tell anyone you are prepared!

Circle of Eir - A Call to Healing

The AFA Circle of Eir is up and working. A core group performs a monthly healing ritual calling on Eir and naming those AFA members and families in need of healing. If you would like to be in the AFA Circle of Eir Facebook group or if you would just like to submit the name of someone who needs healing, please let me know at patriciahall@runestone.org. The next healing ritual, which is jointly done by AFA members from both the States and Europe, will be performed on Thursday, July 14, at midnight EDT/USA.

Folk Services

AFA Folk Services is intended to provide modest, one-time monetary grants to 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.

News from your Assembly of Gothar from Patricia L. Hall, Moder-Gythia

Welcome to our first column of all things âœ‰Gothar!âœ‰ Its purpose is keep our membership informed of the activities of this vital arm of the AFA as well as to share

As I am sure you are aware, the AFA is a religious non-profit and this means we are a church. Therefore we are expected to maintain the dignity of that designation as well as establishing its expected methods and functions. Our formally ordained Gothar are integral to this mission. Currently our Gothar are spread across the USA and Europe. Each has completed a rigorous screening and curriculum in order to receive their formal ordination and each stands ready to serve. We are available for weddings, funerals, and other rituals, for counseling and arbitration, for assistance in the formation of kindreds/tribes and as advisors to assist those who wish to lead their own kindreds/tribes in ritual.

And in this vein, I am happy to announce to you all the ordination of Elizabeth Jane Salix and Blaine Qualls, Jr. I had the privilege of administering their oaths on June 18, 2016, at NewGrange Hof as part of our AFA Midsummer celebration.



CONGRATULATIONS ELIZABETH JANE AND BLAINE!

Our ordination is not a piece of paper but rather it is a recognized and profound call to serve the Folk. The oath we take expresses this. So, for the first time, I share with all of our Folk the oath that your ordained Gothar take.

Oath for the Gothi/Gythia of the Asatru Folk Assembly

I, [NAME], son/daughter of [NAME], of a long line descended from Odin, make this oath:

That I will fulfill the role of Gothi/Gythia in the Asatru Folk Assembly”

That I will honor the Holy Powers and the Ancestors, and will teach others to do so,

That I will serve the Folk,

That I will give good Rede,

That I will reward the true and wise and brave,

*Purpose,
That I will think of those under my charge before myself,
That I will lead by example,
That my actions will bring honor to our Ancestors, our Folk, and the Asatru Folk Assembly.
This is my oath freely given.
If I fail in this oath, I will face the wyrd I have made.*

Coming soon are new and exciting ministries and projects! We are also in the process of creating a page under Runestone.org for the Assembly of Gothar so all the Folk can know who we are, where we are located, and how to reach us. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please send me an email at patriciahall@runestone.org

Hail the Folk! Hail the AFA!

Folkbuilding News



For those of you that don't know me, my name is Marc MacLeod (shown left). I live in Sacramento, CA, and have been one of the Folkbuilders in the AFA-West region for the last 5 years. Being a Folkbuilder has been one of the most satisfying things I've had the pleasure to do. And it's been a great honor to be a part of all the achievements that the AFA has accomplished in that time. Now it is time to grow with the organization and try to fill Matt's shoes as Folkbuilder Coordinator. I'm very much looking forward to the new set of challenges. We've been busy building a solid foundation the last few years and now it is time for growth - as an organic folk and as an organization! Ryan Harlan of Sonora, CA, and Heather Jayne of the San Francisco Bay Area in CA (shown above) will be replacing me as apprentice Folkbuilders for AFA-West, working alongside our existing Folkbuilder there, Heather Clickenbeard. Expect to see many more additions across the states. It's an exciting time for our Folk and the AFA.

Hail the Gods,
Hail The Folk,
And Hail the AFA!



To the Founder from Karen Carlson

Long has he led us, leader most worthy,
from days as a warrior widely faring,
gathering a folk, reforging a way
not quite forgotten, and good yet for men.
He got us a horse-gabled hall for the people.
Now he moves onward, outward or inward,
still seeking the mysteries as men have for ages,
to serve in a new way the needs of his folk.
To the Founder all hail! wes hal and god sped.*

Alfrothul Midsummer from David Wolfheart, Folkbuilder





Alfrothul held a folkish midsummer celebration in Barcelona, Spain. This gathering by the AFA members of southern Europe included a Midsummer Blot, Balder's Fire, runic meditation session, and Wotan Blot.

Alaska Memorial Day and Midsummer from Eric Whisman, Apprentice Folkbuilder



and Asatruar. The month began with the folk gathering at the local National Cemetery at Ft. Richardson on Memorial Day to honor our fallen. Our own Army Combat Veteran and AFA Clergy student Steven Morrell presented a wreath on behalf of the AFA at the public Memorial Day Service that was held. Following the service, everyone met up again at The Den in Palmer for a BBQ and a sumbel, all under the beautiful warm midnight sun.

Midsummer festivities began Friday, June 17, with kin and folk arriving from all over The Great Land to The Den in Palmer, AK. Spirits were high as everyone sat around the campfire, drank some beers and caught up with one another. That evening, Steven Morrell led us in a blot to welcome the gods, goddesses, ancestors and wights as we began our three day long meta-ritual. Time was spent around the fire until one by one the folk went to bed for the night.

The second day, we woke and had a delicious breakfast cooked on the fire, competed in some friendly games of tug-o-war, hammer throw, and spear throw. The midsummer blot followed immediately after, and the full strength and power of Sunna was felt. That afternoon, we had some discussions on ritual at home, and galder, and then we held a sumbel around the fire, honoring the gods, the ancestors, and the heroes of our people. And that night, we were led in blot by AFA Clergy student Steven Morrell, who performed a powerful Odin's Blot.

Sunday morning began with another amazing campfire breakfast, followed by a hexology class given by Channcie Bean. Before we departed from The Den, Steve Morrell led the folk in a wayfarers blot, closing the three day long meta-ritual.

With joy in our hearts, and empowered by the weekend, we returned to our homes.





Asatru Folk Assembly Scandinavia held a Valborg Blot on Saturday, April 30.

The blot and subsequent dinner were held in Tanumshede amid rock carvings and burial mounds.

There was rain throughout the day, but as usual, the rain stopped when the blot was to be held. The dinner was held later in the evening at my home; we had plenty of time for conversation and toast rounds. We even had some of our spring songs from each country; this resulted in a lot of good laughs and deep bass voices.

Sunday was a really sunny day, and we visited as many stone carvings as we could before the participants had to go. All through it was a good and favourable weekend. This was the second time that AFA Sweden and Denmark conducted a blot together, and it will not be the last.



translated into Swedish.

We have as many of you already know a Scandinavian FB page. If you haven't liked the page yet, please do.

Frid & Åring

News from the Midwest from Patricia Hall, Folkbuilder

REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALL

Our July Midwest conference call will be at 8:30 p.m. EDT/7:30 p.m. CDT on Thursday, July 14. I look forward to hearing you there! The call number is: 641-715-3580
Participant Code is: 128-737 Call is optional.

PUBMOOT IN GRAND RAPIDS

Sunday, July 24, from approximately 2 to 5. We are looking at meaderies, breweries,

announced on our Facebook site, in an event that will be set up, and in a group email! I am flying in from Philadelphia for this one!

MIDWEST CONTACTS

KINDRED IN INDIANA: One of our members, Heather Nance, invites Midwest members to check out her kindred, Wolves Wod Kindred, located in Evansville Indiana:

www.wolveswodkindred.org

AFA Midwest has its own FaceBook group! The FaceBook link is

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/871639299583668/>

Please request an add! This is for AFA members only. It will be a place to post conference call info, gatherings, and other goings on in the AFA as well as for discussion. Also if you have not friended me on Facebook, please feel free to do so. My Facebook link is

<https://www.facebook.com/patricia.l.hall.92>

AFA FallFest in the Midwest will be held Labor Day weekend at Camp Courage in MN September 3-5. Please mark this on your calendars! This is the first northern mid-country AFA gathering! See the event on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/events/131926053880749/>

Upcoming Events in the Northeast from Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder

AFA Northeast MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL

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. EDT on Wednesday, July 13, 2016. We look forward to hearing you there! Dial-in Number: (641) 715-3580 Access Code: 174-424

Saturday, July 23 at 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Evansburg State Park

Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19426

Join area Folk in exploring Evansburg State Park.

Turn on to Mill Road from Evansburg Road. Go to the stop sign and turn left into the park where the main sign is. Go past the first 'organized tent area' and turn right into the second lot for 'restrooms/picnic area.' Go all the way down to the last parking lot by the restrooms and this is the trail.

We will set out from the parking lot at 11:15 a.m. sharp.

Check out <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/evansburg/>.

This should give us plenty of time to work up an appetite and head over to The Sumney after for the pubmoot at 2:00 p.m.

AFA Pubmoot

Saturday, July 23 at 2 p.m.- 5 p.m.

The Sumney

1610 W Point Pike, Lansdale, Pennsylvania 19446

Grab lunch and some ale with the Folk. Also check out the hikemoot earlier in the day!

Midsummer Goings On in the Northeast from Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder

Irminfolk Odinst Community

Merry Solstice to all of our friends and family! Hail the Folk!



The Irminfolk will be holding their 6th annual Folkish Summer Hallowing on August 18-21 in Milford, PA. We are looking forward to honoring the Gods and our ancestors with our family and friends, and creating new bonds of friendship with fellow heathens.

www.folkishsummerhallowing.com

Hail the Gods! Hail the Folk!



Lansdale Tru Folk

Hail Balder in these bright days!



Skylands Asatru Fellowship

Skylands Asatru Fellowship celebrated Midsummer this past weekend. We made a blot to Sunna, goddess of the sun, in a ritual inspired by ancient Estonian Midsummer traditions, held our first-ever tribal Thing, and held a sumbel at which many great words were spoken. There was kubb played during the day, music filling the air, a feast of barbecue ribs, and a

time.

Next month we will be making a day trip to the Kutztown Folk Festival, and will be continuing our series of Asatru 101 classes. Details can be found at our website at www.skylandsasatru.org





Svinfykin Tribe

A day of celebration with Tribe.





News from the Northern Plains from Blaine Qualls, Folkbuilder

June was a very busy month for us here in the Northern Plains. Members in Minnesota held a very nice Midsummer celebration with a great turnout. They just seem to keep growing over there with monthly get-togethers and celebrations led by Jason Gallagher and Wyn Alexander. From there several members attended the Midsummer at NewGrange Hof; words can't fully express that experience. And being able to attend with several members from my area made the experience even that much better.

This past weekend saw members here in North Dakota join together to celebrate the Midsummer tide. We had a great turnout with nearly 25 adults and 5 or 6 children. Sumbel, held Friday night, saw one surprise guest: Asa-Thor. As I sat guiding the ebb and flow of the toasts, I was blessed with an amazing lightning storm in the distance marching steadily towards us; it was a truly unique and awe-inspiring experience. The following day saw us raise a horn to Balder and Sunna in blot - always nice to see the children participating in our rituals. Hail the Future! A fine feast of pork roast and all the trimmings followed; one never goes hungry at these events. The night ended with much socializing around the fire and even some blacksmithing around the forge. Many thanks to our hosts, members Barry and Whitney Schlafman, for hosting this great weekend and allowing us to take over their farmstead for a short time.

One last word: we finally have the registration information up on our regional celebration

weekend, one not to be soon forgotten. We don't have an events schedule finalized yet, but hopefully will soon. Information is available on Facebook under [AFA FallFest](#), and you may send me a message with any questions as well.

San Diego Happenings from Jamie Souigny



...celebrate that our kindred made the journey up north for an amazing midsummer celebration at our NewGrange Hof. We were all charged through kinship and communion with the gods and our folk. Though the time seems short, and parting is such sweet sorrow, we are all connected by the blood of our ancestors, our common goals, and our passion for the betterment of the folk. Thanks to all who shared gifts, song, knowledge, laughter, nourishment, comfort, community.

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 me (Jamie) at jamieredsoul@gmail.com or Heather (San Diego folkbuilder) at HeaTHOR@runestone.org

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the Folk !

Hail the AFA!

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!

Opening Events for 2016

Freyfaxi in the Northwest - August 5-7 at the Pacific Beach Retreat Center. You can register at the [event page](#).

Harvest Festival at Camp Courage, Maple Lake, MN, Labor Day weekend, September 3-5 - our first major gathering in the Midwest!

5th Annual AFA Winter Nights in the Poconos - Thursday, October 13, 2016, 6:00 p.m., to Sunday October 16, 2016, 12:00 p.m. at Camp Netimus. See the [Facebook](#) and [eventzilla](#) pages.

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