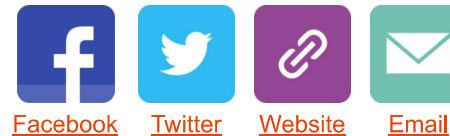


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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

As I look back on the history of the AFA, one thing stands out above all others: Our mature attitude in a movement that is often characterized by a childish approach to our religion. This maturity did not come automatically or easily, but rather through a long learning process that led us gradually to a higher and higher level. Today I can say without hesitation that the Asatru Folk Assembly combines the vigor of youth with the experience of our elders in a way that minimizes drama and maximizes effectiveness. We are mature

The result is the Asatru Folk Assembly - family-friendly, effective, and equipped to deal with the real issues normal men and women face in the twenty-first century. We take our inspiration from the ancient tribes of our Folk, but our dreams are of the generations to come. I am very proud of what you have all created and I look forward to the great and glorious future that awaits us!

Stephen McNallen
Alsherjargothi, AFA

Midsummer in the Redwoods
June 6 - 8
CYO Retreat Center, Occidental, CA



This year, once again, we will apply our combined energy in a meta-ritual beginning with the opening ceremony and maintain its power until we depart on Sunday. We will call forth the might of the rune Uruz and the power of the towering, ancient redwood trees to energize our will in shaping the future of our organization - and ourselves.

Here's more on what we'll be doing -

Our AFA leaders will offer practical workshops on galdoring and meditation, plus a presentation on the powerful technique of using the Three Cauldrons. You will have the chance to talk to many of our Clergy members, Folkbuilders, and members of our Board of Directors.

Ritual

Youâ€™ll want to arrive in time for the Odin Blot by firelight, which is always a highpoint of the event. Steve calls on the Raven God to â€œbe with usâ€ and you will feel his presence. Weâ€™ll then gather together, drinking from the Well of the Past, as we share a horn at Sumbel. These are two of the many rituals that will take place during this momentous weekend. Saturday will be full as always, with valuable workshops, group activities, introductions of our leadership, and an update on all the exciting things the AFA is doing. A couple celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary will renew their vows, and we are fortunate to share in their joy.

Lodging and Meals

All of our meals will be in the main hall, a majestic room with soaring ceilings. Food will be similar to what's served at all AFA events, with our first meal being Friday dinner and the last being Sunday lunch. The main hall is where we'll do the keynote address and feature the musical duo, *Halfpence and Haypenny*. We'll be using a smaller hall for our classes and workshops.

There are twenty-four modern, well-designed cabins with restrooms and showers handy. You need to bring your own bedding and towels unless you're flying in. With so many cabins, we can be quite flexible in assigning the space. There are also primitive campsites in the woods for those who want to connect even more closely with nature.

Other Activities

Join us after lunch on Friday as we open with our â€œGreeting to the Gods.â€ Weâ€™ll have some structured activities, but we also want you to walk the trails and experience the beauty and soft shade of the redwoods. Children can use the basketball and volley ball courts, and weâ€™ll also hire a lifeguard so all who wish can take a dip in the two beautiful pools.

experience. And of course, there will be songs, stories, and s'more around the campfires.

There will also be vendors and an auction to help with the additional costs of this event. If you'd like to sell merchandise, all we ask is a donation to our auction. We will be able to accept credit/debit card payments at the event.

Great Northwestern Freyfaxi
August 1 - 3



Can't make it to Midsummer? No worries, our next West Coast event will be held right here in the Northwest! Great Northwest Freyfaxi will be held August 1-3 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. Featuring rituals by the sea, music, and presentations by leadership, it's an event not to be missed.

For information on this or other future Northwest events, send email to

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

Lots of AFA members want to do something to make their family more secure in the face of disasters and emergencies. Unfortunately, most of us don't quite know where or how to start. Even if we know what to do, procrastination wins over action and we just don't get around to doing anything.

Starting in this issue of *The Voice* and running for a full year, we're presenting a one-step-at-a-time program to help you overcome this problem. Each month we will present one simple step toward preparedness. You don't have to do everything at once. You don't have to spend a lot of money. Just commit to a single action each month. Make that commitment now, before you go on to the next item in *The Voice*! In a year you'll be in a much better position to ride out a disaster.

Your assignment for June is this: Put aside a five-day supply of emergency food for your family. Stock canned foods, dry mixes, and other staples that do not require refrigeration,

whittled away in the normal course of preparing family meals.

Be sure to include a manual can opener and eating utensils.

There, that was simple wasn't it? But now you have to do it. Put a reminder on the refrigerator or somewhere else so you won't forget.

I want to encourage a culture of preparedness within the AFA. We are a community and we take care of our own - but if you're ready for an emergency, you can help us do that!

AFA Featured Business: Beloved Viking Vinyl

Business name & proprietor

Beloved Viking Vinyl

Amy Chappell (soon to be maiden name Kincheloe)

Location

Etsy shop (no physical store front)

Owensboro, Kentucky, USA

Describe your business. Do you sell goods or provide a service?

Beloved Viking Vinyl is a Heathen based store where anyone anywhere can buy custom Heathen and Viking themed vinyl for business, personal house use, crafts, and bumper stickers. I accept custom orders for any type of business or group. Kindred logos, as well as all of my vinyl, are treated with a personal customer satisfaction guarantee.

My vinyl has been sold in USA, Canada, Australia, Norway, Sweden, and Iceland.

What is your vision for this business?

I had a vision to produce and create quotes from the Eddas, especially the Havamal; the

such as the AFA. I wanted to start going to more Heathen events and I created a Viking A-Frame tent machine sewn by myself to challenge myself, and to be open to sell at more events such as pagan pride days, ren-fairs and SCA events. I love people asking about my tent, and the faces of children when they see an actual A-Frame tent.

How long have you been in business?

Two and a half years.

How do you promote your business?

I have advertised on Northern Runes Radio, Raven Radio, and through Etsy as well as Facebook. I do giveaways, and strive to help out in my community through volunteer work online such as maintaining the list of Heathen crafters that I've been working on for the last two years. I've got a good reputation for being a frith keeper on some groups.

What are some of the benefits of having this business?

Benefits include traveling to Heathen gatherings. My children are enriched when they meet with other Heathen children, and I usually make enough money from the events to pay for the trip. I've been able to shake so many hands, speak good words, and make bonds with a lot of people because of my business.

What advice do you have for new entrepreneurs?

You can do it. Learn, research, find out more about what moves and shakes your soul. Read about how to sell your items, either in store fronts, at events, or online. So many people have free advice, such as other sellers on Etsy, that you will be able to find motivation and ways to reach your target audience.

How can you be reached?

I am able to be reached on

Etsy: [Beloved Viking Vinyl](#)

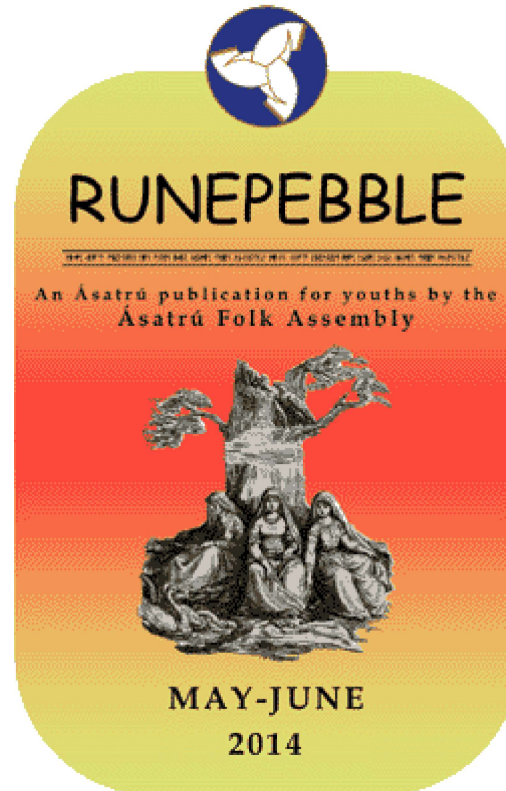
Facebook: [Beloved Viking Vinyl](#)

Thank you and everyone in the AFA for your help toward my continued success and



Editor's note: I bought one of Amy's items some time ago and am quite happy with it. --
Karen

Runepobble



Runepobble: An AFA e-publication for Ásatrú families!

are already looking forward to the next issue, set for publication on July 1st, 2014.

THEME

The theme for our next issue is "Horses." In the pages to come, you'll read about:

- Horse folklore
- Festivals and celebrations where horses are honored
- Magic relating to horses
- Horses in Scandinavian art
- And more!

INFO & DEADLINE

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. We encourage all AFA members that are interested to consider contributing to the Runepebble, even if you do not have children of your own.

Please forward all your questions, submissions, and comments to Rebecca at Runepebble@Runestone.org. Runepebble submissions for the next issue will be accepted until Sunday, June 29th, 2014.

An Important Memorandum from your AFA Clergy Coordinator

Following Freyfaxi, the AFA Clergy board will release and begin accepting applications for the 2015 Clergy program. This memorandum is to provide all AFA members early notice and information about the program itself, in effort to prepare those who wish to apply for the program this year.

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 GoÃ°i or GyÃ°ia.

How does the AFA Clergy program work?

The application process opens just after Freyfaxi in August, and applications are accepted until just after Winter Nights. At that time, the Clergy board reviews the applicants for potential acceptance into the program. For those who are accepted, the program begins on January 1st, 2015.

This is a two-year program. In the first year students learn the necessary skills and experiences they need to fulfill their duties as Clergy, including leadership, counsel, rituals and rites, and so forth. Should a student pass the program, he or she will enter their second year as a "post-graduate" student, and as such will mentor a new student, further testing their skills and experience directly, and under supervision of the Clergy board. Upon completion of the program, new AFA Clergy pledge their service to the community, in partnership with the AFA, publicly.

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 "satr" path for no less than 5 years. This means a student must be experienced and well-read in "satr" 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 "satr" community, which means the applicant must not have a reputation of careless actions, be known to cause or encourage commotion and drama, or be associated with any other manner of action that damages any community (AFA or otherwise).

The duties and responsibilities of "satr" Clergy are as important to the folk now as they

are here to serve the religious, spiritual, social, and personal needs of the folk, and to support the AFA in the same capacity.

Again, the application process does not begin until after Freyfaxi, so let this serve as notice for those who are interested in inquiring and/or preparing to apply. If you have any queries, you may contact the Clergy coordinator, Rebecca Radcliff, at Clergy@Runestone.org.

Northwest Events

On Saturday, May 3rd, Northwest AFA members and one guest gathered in Centralia, WA, to celebrate Walpurgisnacht and May Day with a Bláð and ritual planting. Despite the rain, we hailed the Gods, ancestors, and spirits of the land in our field as we hallowed the ground and transplanted the seedlings that had been ritually sown during Charming of the Plow. Later in the year, the fruits of these plants will be ritually harvested and enjoyed by the Folk.



Our next event will begin a series of book discussion meetings, starting with a comparison of various different translations of the Hǫ́rvamǫ́l, to be held at a local coffee shop in

Midwest Pub Moot

Saturday, May 24th, was the Midwest pub moot at the Hofbrauhaus Newport, in Newport, KY. We had a good turnout of AFA members and hope that our next pub moot will bring even more!

Hail the AFA!

Denny Boltenhouse

Folk Builder Midwest



Dennis, Mike, Michelle, and Torrin, in a photo taken by Cynthia Boltenhouse

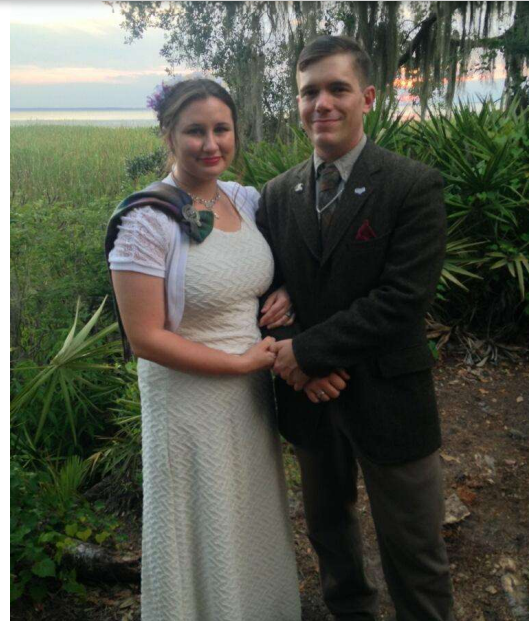
Blaine Qualls reports: Not a lot has been publicly happening here in the Northern Plains, but quite a bit is going on behind the scenes. We have been making a lot of new contacts, and generating more interest in Asatru in general and in the AFA in particular. We have also been busy planning our upcoming Midsummer Gathering in late June, north of Bismarck. We are hoping to get a better turnout than for our Ostara gathering (which saw over 20 people braving the cool temps), with people already confirming they're attending from Minnesota, South Dakota, and of course from North Dakota. We are looking at somewhere between 25 and 40 people at this point, but welcome any other AFA member or friend. For more information feel free to contact me through runestone.org. Look for a review of this gathering in the next issue of the Voice. Hope you all have a great Midsummer.

News from the Deep South

On May 3, AFA member Christina Johannah Haynie graduated from Flagler College with a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in Psychology and minoring in Criminology. She transferred in 2012 from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University where she had majored in Homeland Security (minoring in Psychology) for two years, and finished her last two years of undergrad at Flagler College. She is the first in her immediate family to earn a bachelor's degree.



The following Frigga's day, May 9, Calen Lee Smith and Christina Johannah Haynie were married by their gothi, Brad Taylor-Hicks. Both are full members of the Ravenswood kindred in FL (also known as the Hraefnwudu kindred), and have been members of the Asatru Folk Assembly for nine and four years, respectively. Mr. and Mrs. Smith were joined by kindred members and close friends in a private Asatru ceremony in Seville, on the banks of Lake George, FL. They celebrated with a separate ceremony and reception for family and friends the following day.



News from the Northeast and Upper South

Watch for postings about this in the AFA Moots and Meetups Facebook site. If you would like info on the logistics of setting up a pub moot in your area, please feel free to contact me, Patricia Hall, or Cliff.

In May, a Rune Study group made up of AFA and non-AFA folk was formed and is meeting in my home in Downingtown, PA, on a monthly basis. If anyone would like help with logistics and materials to start their own Rune or Lore study group, please contact me, Patricia Hall.

The Northeast and Upper South folks are embarking on a new communications project to pull ourselves closer together as a community. It is a monthly conference call to learn what's going on, ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know each other a bit better. Our pilot call using Skype is scheduled for Wednesday, June 4. We are hoping Skype holds up!!! If not we will look at other services to do this. The call is optional and a brief overview of the topics discussed will be published to everyone in the Northeast and Upper South the next day.

We have two Folkish gatherings coming up on the east coast through the end of this year. One is sponsored by the AFA in October and will be graced by the presence of Steve McNallen and many of the AFA leadership, and the other is sponsored by friends of the AFA in August. If you can make both, great! Patricia Hall, AFA Folkbuilder, will be at both. Here they are:

- FOLKISH SUMMER HALLOWING “ Sponsored by the Irminfolk; held August 14-17 at Camp Netimus in Milford, PA. This is a family-friendly gathering with workshops, vendors, and music. To register: <http://folkishsummerhallowing.com/>
- AFA WINTER NIGHTS “ Sponsored by the AFA, hosted by Steve McNallen; held October 17-19 at Camp Netimus in Milford, PA. Registration is not yet open.

