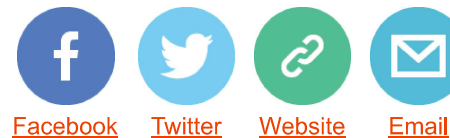


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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](mailto:thevoice@runestone.org).

Donate to the AFA



### Words from the Alsherjargothi

Almost all the addresses I have given at our recent major gatherings have dealt with strictly spiritual matters - personal evolution, the systems of Cauldrons, Odin and the quest for wisdom. This focus is all well and good, for after all, the AFA is a religious organization. Without the spiritual basics, anything else we do will be flawed from the beginning.

There are some spiritual paths that are very inwardly turned, introspective, and ultra-

The AFA, however, is different. In addition to personal religious practice and development, we are active in the external world around us. We want the freedom to follow Asatru in the way we interpret it - as a native religion like all the other native religions on this very diverse planet. We want the European-descended peoples to thrive, not only in our ancient homelands but everywhere in the world we have settled. Correspondingly, we want a world where other native peoples can likewise be free to seek their destiny, just as we seek ours. We want to rescue our people from alienation, to call them home, to rediscover our ancient ways of relating to each other. We want to serve Life.

All these goals involve the larger world. They mean reclaiming our religion and preserving our core values against modernity. They mean looking out for our interests and seeking the blessings of the Gods on our kin and kind. They mean aiding men and women of other branches of the human race in their struggle to survive the cultural, economic, and political onslaught of the global monoculture...and they mean committing ourselves to the cause of our Gods, our Folk, and - on a smaller scale - to every other member of this very special organization we call the Asatru Folk Assembly.

Some religions want to drop out of the world and retreat to an other-worldly Nirvana. We, too, want to grow and evolve in matter of the spirit - but we also want to live gloriously and successfully, as individuals and as a Folk, in this world!

Our day is coming.

Stephen A. McNallen  
Alsherjargothi, AFA

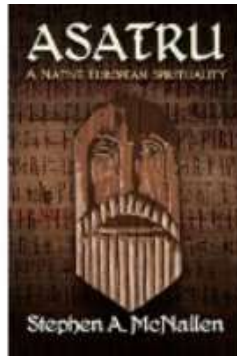
**Midsummer in Occidental**



The July issue of "The Voice" will have a full recap of this year's Midsummer celebration on the west coast, at which we will be celebrating 20 years of the Asatru Folk Assembly.

**Editor's Pick Book**

decades of experience. *Asatru: A Native European Spirituality* is a book with something for all of us - those new to the faith and those who have been around for a while.



It would also make a good introduction for someone who is just curious; you might give a copy to a friend or family member who wants to know more about your religion.

You can read my [review](#) on amazon for more details of my impressions.

- Karen, editor of The Voice

P.S. Latest news: everything is now in transit to Amazon, and the preorders should ship shortly. Patience will be rewarded. Also, in response to questions: Yes, individuals and dealers can order five or more copies and get a wholesale discount. The rate is 50% off the cover price, which comes to \$10 each (European customers will unfortunately also have to pay the very expensive overseas shipping rate). You might want to buy bulk copies to give to friends and family, sell through your own websites, or distribute among your kindreds. Wholesale inquiries should be directed to Josh Buckley at [elecampagne@bellsouth.net](mailto:elecampagne@bellsouth.net).

## Great Ideas for Managing Your Money by Steve McNallen

We all need to have financial goals. Maybe you want to buy a house, or get out of debt, or set up a college fund for your children. Or perhaps you are saving up the money you need to start your own business and get control of your life. (You'll have noticed that this is something I try to encourage in the AFA!)

Here is a link to "Tips to Improve Your Money Management Skills" - think of it as a mini-

<http://www.bankrate.com/finance/smart-spending/money-management-101-1.aspx>

## Are You an AFA Member Who Owns a Business, Either Full or Part Time?

I believe my AFA-kin should seek to be prosperous. I am by no means materialistic, but the honest truth is you owe it to yourself, your family, and your Folk to harness your financial power. I continually advise my fellow AFA members to get good jobs, to save money, and - for those who are suited to it - to start their own business.

Some of you will have become entrepreneurs, and I would like you to share your story with the rest of us. If you would like to do so, please drop me an email and I will respond with a half-dozen or so simple questions, the answers to which will be useful to us all. It will also get you at least a bit of free publicity.

Remember - "Fehu is the first rune of the Futhark!"

Steve McNallen

## Family Safety Program: Riots

Riots can erupt for a number of reasons, but disasters, natural and man-made, bring out the worst in people. It doesn't take much sometimes for a small event to turn into an all-out riot. Think it can't happen? It can and will happen when you least expect it. That being said, what can you do to prepare ahead of time to prepare yourself and/or your family in case this scenario does take place?

the area in which you live? We are all so accustomed to taking the same route we never wander off the beaten path to take the time to discover other routes or to see what is in our area. Take a look around. Figure out two or three escape routes. If you drive home a certain way every night, figure out different routes to take.

Second, but just about as important, do not panic. Staying cool, calm and collected is always the best and safest thing to do when anger rises and tempers flare. Once a riot starts, everyone who is involved will feel the adrenaline rush and their survival mode will kick in. You don't want to be one of these people but instead someone who can think rationally and lead others to safety. And, walk, don't run to wherever it is you are heading. Don't bring attention to yourself or others. Then there's your family. Make sure you have reviewed safety measures with everyone in your family and household.

A typical day has everyone scattered: at school, at work, at the gym, etc. Make a plan to meet in a safe place and then escort everyone to a designated safe zone. As you leave the riot area safely, lock elbows with everyone in your party. There is something to be said for the old saying "safety in numbers." This may seem counter-intuitive, but don't be a hero. Stay neutral. Do not get involved in whatever is taking place. You might think you are doing the right thing by aiding someone but you need to stay as far away as possible. You do not want to get yourself, your family, your neighbor or anyone in your group harmed. You have to remember that these people are not thinking correctly and are irrational.

If ever there was an occasion to bug-in, a riot is it. If at all possible, move inside and as far away as possible from the riot. Stay away from windows and don't be an onlooker. You never know what someone is thinking and in the heat of the moment they might decide to do something to remedy the situation. And stay in the loop. Tune in to your local TV station or keep a radio on hand to hear the latest updates on how and when the riot has been contained. Get a scanner and listen to local S.O. and Police. Again, the safest place to be is inside with your doors and windows locked. Law enforcement will keep citizens apprised with the latest updates and let everyone know when it is safe to resurface.

good idea to keep just in case of such emergencies.



In the aftermath of any sort of disaster, people become more and more likely to explode. And as the US Government continues to pass laws that reduce personal liberty, violate the constitution and blatantly transfer more wealth to the already wealthy, riots become more and more likely to occur. It's up to you and you alone to keep yourself and your family safe, and it does no good to be in denial.

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

## Ancestor Worship in Asatru by Jeff Wolf

Not long ago I was hospitalized; I had a case of pneumonia and other complications that tried their best to kill me. The AFA was there for me during that time. Lying there in the hospital, thinking on my life and feeling the presence of my Ancestors near, feeling my wife Diana gently squeezing my hand, I had plenty of time to think about those things in life that REALLY matter: Our faith, our folk and family, our Gods and Ancestors.

### ASATRU SERVES LIFE

It was those things I believe in, those things I proudly stand for, wherein I found the will to live. The elder folk we call our ancestors knew the importance our Ancestors held for us as a People. They were considered a living part of the family. Not only did they birth our lines, they passed them on, and they protect our lines, even today. Many folks, myself included,

at least it is my opinion, that modern heathenry/Asatru/etc. in many versions is extremely Gods-centered, almost to the point of excluding the Ancestors. Often it seems the Ancestors are given little more than lip service. Perhaps I was fortunate being raised in a family deeply focused on Ancestry, and finding Asatru only strengthened that firmly held veneration for my Ancestors. Needless to say, Ancestor worship is a strong part in my own daily LIVING ASATRU. Ancestor worship does not need to be fancy; we are not talking about a large community blot; we are most often talking about something going on within our own homes.



One idea for connecting more consciously with the Ancestors is creating a spot in the house where they are showcased. Diana and I have a hallway with Ancestor pictures lining both walls; since we pass through the hallway often, it is a constant reminder of where we come from. In our home we frequently share our meal with the Ancestors, giving a portion of the meal to them on our household stall. Inviting the Ancestors IN to your home makes a great difference. Anyone who has been to our home will testify that our home is ALIVE with spiritual energy. The presence of our Ancestors brings into this world a spiritual might that has accumulated over many, many years. Many folks, myself included, believe our Ancestors can give us more attention than the Gods can; they have a vested interest in us,



misplaced your television remote control. Our Ancestors, on the other hand, seem to be more interested in the daily activities we all experience.

It is a common practice among many modern Asatruar to focus their prayers based on the day of the week: Monday is Mani's day, Tuesday is Tyr's day and so on. I have been using Saturday for the worship of the Ancestors for many years now, usually the Disir (Idesa to you Anglo-Saxon oriented folks) although at times to all the Ancestors. Here is one prayer to the Ancestors I have written.

Wassail Tribe's mothers  
Watchful Women, Weal-bringing ladies  
Good wit you have, wise dreams you bring  
Runes you share, good rede you give  
Elder brides, our forefathers' strength  
Nurturing mothers, and fierce defenders  
Watch over us mighty mothers, keep us whole  
Reward our good deeds, make straight our misdeeds  
Steer us to right ways, teach us good thew  
Hold us in Frith, and good luck too!

I generally dislike using formalized prayers, preferring a more spontaneous approach, although I love to write prayers. Strange, huh? Well, maybe they could benefit someone through my sharing them. Here is one more short prayer.

Wassail Idesa! Wassail Elder Mothers!  
Tribal Mothers, many a truth you hold  
Speak to us great ones, share with us rede  
Push us onward, prosper us with peace  
Our moods you lighten, like day's frighten  
Warding our dreams, the mares you drive off  
Always with us, aiding and aiming us  
Move us toward right deeds, and much renown

Old English at times, but I use them PERSONALLY, not in a communal setting, because all the listeners do not necessarily know Old Norse or Old English, or whatever your elder tongue of choice might be. Sure, we all have Ancestors who spoke these languages, and taking the time to compose them a prayer in one of those tongues is a fine gift to offer them, but it is not necessary. The language of OUR land is acceptable.

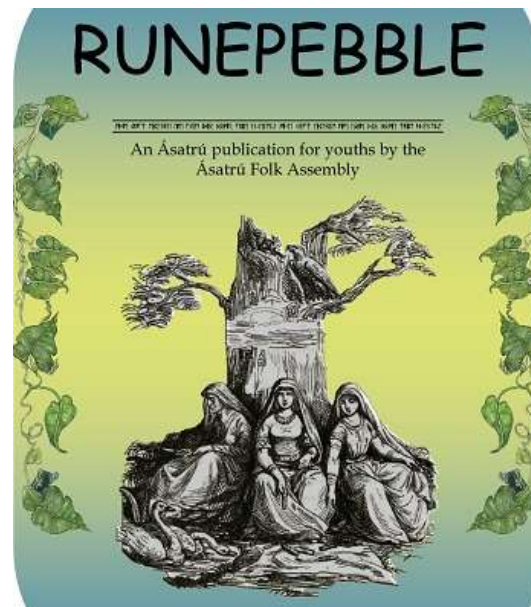
Some people recommend an altar separate from the Gods altar for your Ancestors altar. I have combined the two for nearly 20 years and it has worked fine for me. I have images of the Gods alongside family heirlooms, and it works for me. You decide for yourself what is right.

Anyway, I appreciate you taking the time to read this little ramble of mine. I am not a scholar and do not pretend to be one. I have been LIVING ASA TRU for nearly 20 years now and can at least speak from my own personal experiences. In my experience, I have found that worshipping my Ancestors has strengthened me and my family in ways too numerous to mention here. If Ancestor worship is not a part of your daily Living Asatru, then try it and experience it for yourself. Remember...

ASATRU SERVES LIFE!!!

## 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](mailto: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, June 4, at midnight EDT/USA.



Runepebble: An AFA e-publication for Asatru families!

"What's in a Harvest?" is the theme for our next issue of Runepebble, and we are indeed on the look-out for contributors. If you or your children have any art, articles, poetry, crafts, puzzles, pictures, songs, recipes, or fun tidbits relating to the harvest, harvest season, gods related to the harvest, or anything pertinent to the Runepebble in general, we'd love to hear from you. Email Rebecca at [Runepebble@Runestone.org](mailto:Runepebble@Runestone.org). The harvest issue will be published on July 1st, and submissions will be accepted no later than Monday, June 29th. Thank you!

## AFA Wedding in Florida





AFA-Kin Geoff Scott and Julia Raffield tied the knot on May 16th at their home in Deltona, Florida. The ceremony was officiated by AFA Ordained Gothi, Bradley Taylor-Hicks. Family and friends gathered on the beautiful sunny day; for many, it was the first example they had seen of an Asatru ceremony of any kind. Oaths were exchanged on an Oath ring and vows made with the exchange of rings. Geoff was stunned when he received an ancestral weapon, in this case a vintage Smith and Wesson revolver from Julia's father, signifying the exchange of protection from the father to the new son-in-law. With the couple seated, and their hands bound in the ancient tradition, the ritual hammer was placed in Julia's lap as a blessing, a horn was passed to the assembly, and the couple toasted. The ceremony was well received by Asatruar and non-Asafolk alike, and all enjoyed the wonderful food and hospitality shown at the reception. May Geoff and Julia as well as their daughter, Elska, enjoy many years together, bound joyfully together in faith and love. Hail Mr and Mrs Scott!

Photography by Jamie Carriere.

<http://jamiecarrierephotography.pixieset.com/juliaandgeoffwedding/>

## News from the Midwest from Patricia Hall, Folkbuilder

### REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALL

On May 14, I hosted my first Midwest conference call as your Folkbuilder. We had a small group representing Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. We discussed the recent Folkbuilder changes and opportunities, as well as upcoming gatherings, moots, and contacts in the Midwest area. Our next Midwest conference call will be at 8:30 p.m. Eastern/7:30 p.m. Central on Thursday, June 11. This immediately follows our large AFA Midsummer gathering in California, and we may have a few things to report! Also, we'll have special guest Steve McNallen! I look forward to hearing you there! Toll free number is: 866-730-7514 Participant Code is: 757055 Call is optional.

### PUBMOOTS

If you would like help with the logistics of setting up a pubmoot in your area, please feel free to contact me at [patriciahall@runestone.org](mailto:patriciahall@runestone.org)

### RUNE/LORE STUDY

If anyone would like help with logistics and materials to start their own Rune or Lore study group, please contact me at [patriciahall@runestone.org](mailto:patriciahall@runestone.org).

## News from the Northeast from Patricia Hall, Folkbuilder

### REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALL

be at 8 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, June 9. This immediately follows our large AFA Midsummer gathering in California and we may have a few things to report! I look forward to hearing you there! Toll free number is: 866-730-7514 Participant Code is: 757055 Call is optional.

#### LANSDALE PA HIKEMOOT and PUBMOOT

Our own Cliff Erickson hosts a monthly pubmoot at The Sumney in Lansdale, PA. The next one will be held on Saturday, June 27, from 2 to 5 p.m. Cliff also hosts a pre-pub hikemoot on the same day from 11 to 1:30 for those who need to build an appetite before feasting. Watch for postings about this in the AFA Moots and Meetups Facebook site. If you would like to attend one of Cliff's hike- or pubmoots, please contact him directly at [cerickson@runestone.org](mailto:cerickson@runestone.org). If you would like help with the logistics of setting up a pub- or hikemoot in your area, please feel free to contact me at [pariciahall@runestone.org](mailto:pariciahall@runestone.org).

#### NORTHERN NEW JERSEY EVENTS

Skylands Asatru Fellowship is pleased to announce the following events for the month of June:

June 11, 6:30 p.m.: Lore Study at the Mt. Olive Public Library in Mt. Olive, NJ

June 16, 7:00 p.m.: New Moon offering to the land wights in Byram, NJ

June 19, 6:30 p.m.: Midsummer celebration in Byram, NJ

Details for all Skylands events can be found at their website at

<http://www.skylandsasatru.org>

#### RUNE/LORE STUDY

If anyone would like help with logistics and materials to start their own Rune or Lore study group, please contact me at [patriciahall@runestone.org](mailto:patriciahall@runestone.org).

## LORE STUDY MOOT IN SEATTLE

On Sunday, May 3rd, Northwest AFA members gathered for lore study at the Rhein Haus in Seattle, Washington, hosted by Rachael Harding.



This was Part 2 of a series of lore study events. We discussed and analysed the Rune Poem section of the Havamal, pondering the mysteries within as we compared many translations. Although we didn't have large attendance, we enjoyed some good food and good company, and hope to see many more area locals at the next Seattle event.

## LORE STUDY IN PORTLAND

On Sunday, May 17th, Northwest AFA members and friends gathered for lore study at Coffeehouse Northwest in Portland, Oregon. Hosted by Karl Parker and Brian Scott, this was Part 3 of our lore study series.





Our topic was Grimnismal, which led us to many other thoughts and insights, such as the nature of Yggdrasil, and the importance of the number 3. After we had studied our brains out, a few of us paid a surprise visit to Adam Lunoe at Todd's tattoo shop (Imperial Tattoo on E. Burnside), which turned into an impromptu touch-up on one of my tattoos (thanks Adam!). Afterward, we wandered to the Horse Brass Pub for food, drink, and more good times.

Our next Portland event will be Lore Study Part 4, featuring special guest Mark Puryear from The Norroena Society, who will be discussing his books *The Asatru Edda* and *The Odinist Edda*. This event will be held Sunday, June 14th, at 2 p.m. at a park on the PCC Rock Creek campus. For more information about this event, please email Karl at [karl2440@gmail.com](mailto:karl2440@gmail.com).

AN ASATRU WEDDING - ABE & CHRISTINA



On Monday, May 25th, I was honoured to preside over the wedding ceremony of Abe and Christina Knuteson, new AFA members currently residing in Alaska. The ceremony took place next to the historic North Head Lighthouse in Ilwaco, Washington, with a breathtaking view of the Pacific Ocean crashing on the cliff side. We arrived on Sunday and enjoyed the hospitality of the Knuteson family, who had rented the historic and beautiful lighthouse keeper's house nearby. It was a wonderful weekend and a beautiful ceremony, and we were glad to be a part



## LOOKING AHEAD

The Northwest Contingent Adventure Team is gearing up for our road trip to Midsummer in Occidental! I look forward to the fun trip with good Folk, and we all look forward to seeing our AFA family again in California!

For those Northwest members who can't make it down to California this year, we will be holding a Midsummer blot and campout in Centralia, WA, June 19th-21st. Join us for Sumbel, a small bonfire, Swedish pancakes, and good times with good Folk. The Midsummer blot itself will be at noon on the 21st. For more information, send email to [esalix@runestone.org](mailto:esalix@runestone.org).

## GREAT NORTHWEST FREYFAXI...

...is right around the corner! This year's dates are August 14th-16th at the lovely Ocean Park Camp and Retreat Center in Ocean Park, WA. Registration through eventzilla should

Featuring a Njǫrd blot on the beach and Steve's powerful Odin blot, this is an event you won't want to miss!

For more information about Freyfaxi or other Northwest events, please send email to [esalix@runestone.org](mailto:esalix@runestone.org).

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

-E. Salix  
Northwest & Canada Folkbuilder

**Florida May Day**  
from Matt Flavel, Folkbuilder Coordinator





On the third of May, AFA members from North Florida and South Georgia gathered to celebrate the abundance of May. We gathered together under the Fairchild Oak (a 400+ year old live oak!) and gave blot to Frey. Then we feasted potluck style and were treated to a private concert from the Billhooks.

The industrious Longboat Kindred made sure we had a fantastic May Pole that was danced around to the giggling enjoyment of young and old alike. We closed off a fantastic afternoon with a powerful sumbel that brought us all closer together. Thanks to all who made it out and helped make this a success, and special thanks to the Mayos for making it down from Georgia and to the Longboat Kindred for



**Walpurgisnacht in the Far North**  
from Eric Whisman, Folkbuilder





As twilight descended on the mountains and rivers of Knik, Alaska, I could feel the charge in the air. The ritual fire burned hot on the banks of the river at the foot of the mountain. A gentle breeze blew through the air, carrying with it the scents of fire and smoke, of the river flowing and the woods at which we were camped. Looking around I saw a circle of my kin, with staves in hand. Two of these were people I had the pleasure and honor of meeting in person for the first time. The drum began to rhythmically beat, and the folk answered by driving their staves into the ground. The beat became unison, and songs were sung. Runes were galdered, and blot was offered to Perchta and Freya.

The night drew on long; the sounds of the river, and the cracking of the dimming ritual fire, carried on deep into the night. Sitting near me were two other Asa-men. Deep in meditation and reaching out and within, we performed Utte Sitte on the shores of the river.

When morning at last came, with the first streaks of sunlight appearing over the horizon, I looked around once more. The ritual fire was smoldering, the sky was clear, and the first hints of greenery were beginning to come out of the trees. We said farewell to our newly-met kinsmen and began our journey back to our home cities. Charged by the power of Walpurgisnacht, facing the beauty of spring on May Day, we had forged tighter bonds with kinsmen from distant corners of our great state.

## Alfrothul Walpurgis in Barcelona





Upcoming event for Alfrothul - Midsummer!



## Upcoming Events

MAKING VACATIONS PLANS FOR 2015?

The following large gatherings are scheduled, with the camps already reserved:

WEST COAST MIDSUMMER, CYO Camp, Occidental, CA, June 5 – 7

GREAT NORTHWEST FREYFAXI, Ocean Park, WA, August 14 – 16

WINTER NIGHTS IN THE POCONOS, Camp Netimus, Milford, PA, October 16 – 18

We urge all members to come experience at least one major gathering this year. You'll find it's life-changing!

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