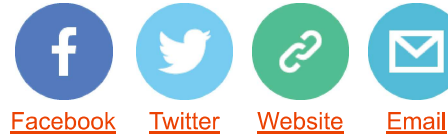


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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 Leadership

This has been a very busy month for us! Pat, Allen and I have been hard at work behind the scenes gearing up for the future and preparing for the AFA Midsummer in the Sierras. This year will be the first Midsummer at our Hof, and we are very excited to be a part of it. This Midsummer will also mark the formal transfer of powers and our official start as we lead the organization into the future. We are deeply honored and very

Matt Flavel

Midsummer 2016 at NewGrange Hof!

Join AFA members and friends at our first Midsummer at NewGrange Hall!

June 17 – 19, 2016

8408 La Porte Road, Brownsville, CA 95915

In mid June, AFAers from across the country will converge on the laid-back community of Brownsville, California, located in rural Yuba County. This is the event that our NewGrange Hof has been waiting for since it was built in 1938!

In typical AFA fashion, we'll fill three days with community building through stimulating talks, inspiring rituals, informative workshops, delicious meals, and fun activities. The Opening Rites will be at 1 p.m. on Friday, followed by introductions and stirring talks by our leadership - to include our newly-appointed Leadership Cadre that is assuming active direction of the AFA! In other words, you will get to see history made.

Our first official meal will be Friday evening, so plan accordingly!

Following our traditional German brat dinner, we'll hear tunes from the talented trio known as the Rattlin' Bones. If you were at Midsummer in Occidental 2014, Sage and Eva gave a delightful performance under their previous name, Halfpence and Haypenny. The Rattlin'™ Bones is the musical collaboration of Eva Riihiluoma, Sage Arias and Philip Wright. With influences from Medieval Europe to the back cabins of Appalachia, the show is an auditory tour that weaves bardic storytelling with the folk traditions.

Saturday will include activities for both children and adults. We'll have our Midsummer blot, and a sumbel following dinner.

for donating an auction item.

We're preparing all of our meals at the hof, so plan on volunteering some energy to make the kitchen tasks flow smoothly. A sign-up sheet will be passed around to make it easy!

You will want to be there Sunday morning, when we dance around our traditional Midsummer Pole - we may not be the most graceful dancers in the country, but we have a lot of fun tripping over each other, and somehow the pole always comes out looking fine.

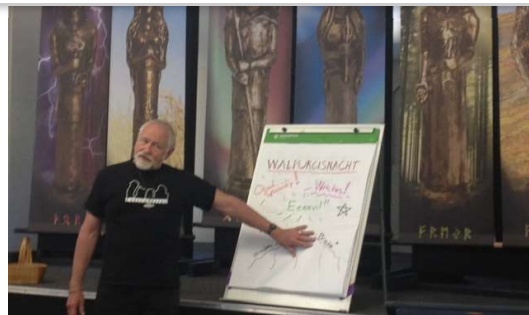
The local Brownsville Motel has booked all available rooms; however, you might want to get on a waiting list. Other nearby options include the Lake Francis Resort and Collins Lake Resort. As of a few weeks ago, they still had some accommodations. The nearest towns with motels are Marysville/Yuba City and Oroville. Grass Valley, about 15 minutes further, also has VRBO rentals.

We have some area surrounding the hof that will be available for tent-camping. No campfires or smoking in those areas, please. Well-behaved dogs are welcome - but it's your responsibility to clean up after them!

Registrations are being handled through [Eventzilla](#). (If you plan to come for two or more consecutive days, or if you're camping, use the weekend rate rather than two day rates!)

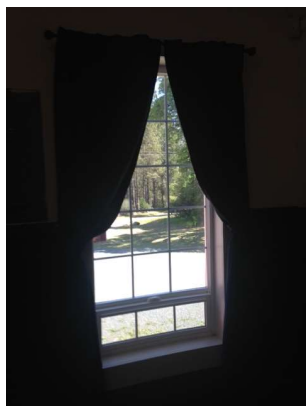
Contact people: Marc McLeod at 916-549-8688 or Steve and Sheila McNallen at 530-272-8142. Cell-phone reception is very poor in Brownsville unless you're sitting in front of Annie Ruth's Cafe. However, we have a land-line at the hof and when someone is there, we can receive incoming phone calls at 530-675-9017.

Walpurgis/May Eve at NewGrange Hof



AFAers from across California gathered on Saturday, April 30, at NewGrange Hof. Each arrival was warmly welcomed, and when we had caught up on the latest news and gossip Steve began his talk on Walpurgisnacht - ranging from the Christian version (St. Walburga) to the half-Christian, half-heathen modification (where St. Walburga was interpreted as a Goddess of the Grain) and then looking at the thoroughly Asatru roots and our Lady of the Vanir, Freya.

bracelets. It was a great overview of a subject that often gets too complex and esoteric. This led into Sheila's Freya-blot at our recently-planted tree, in which we passed a bouquet of flowers around the circle to receive the blessing of our Goddess as we tied ribbons on the tree's branches and trunk. (We noticed, too, that someone - presumably one of the locals - had left a long quartz crystal on the stones circling the tree. We thought that was a nice touch, and left it undisturbed.)



Much of the event was devoted to plain old work around the Hof: Mark and Joe started building the showers, Jim and Michelle hung the beautiful new blue drapes on the windows in the main hall, Jessica painted the kitchen, while Ryan and others cleared weeds and burned trash.

We accomplished a lot - after all, we will be doing Midsummer at the Hof in just a few weeks!

By design, there was plenty of socializing and strengthening of the bonds that tie us. A relaxed atmosphere prevailed, with a great community feel to it all.

Now...On to Midsummer at NewGrange!

Stephen McNallen, Founder

Family Safety Program: Tarp Shelter

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.



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

what it looks like. It requires only a single short piece of rope, does not require multiple trees properly spaced, provides good shelter against the wind, and allows for a fire. All are advantages over the tarp tent and most are advantages over the tarp lean-to. It is a variation on the tarp lean-to.

Tie a roughly 10-foot piece of rope to one corner of your tarp. Tie the rope to a tree, perhaps 6 to 8 feet off the ground (or lower if really cold). Stake down the opposite corner of

your tarp in a direction toward the prevailing wind. Now stake down the other two corners out to the sides so as to eliminate sags. The result has a high end where you can almost stand and can build a small fire out of the wind.

For a slight improvement, add a second long rope which you connect to the center of the tarp. Throw the rope over a tree limb. This gives the interior more head room.

Pros

- Only need a square tarp, a short piece of rope, and three stakes.
- Goes up in a couple of minutes, faster than any other approach. (This is really nice if putting it up in the rain.)
- Protection from the wind.
- You can build a fire which is protected from rain.
- Only need a single tree, which gives you more choices on where to set it up.
- Feels quite roomy.

Cons

- Although I have used it successfully in the cold, for really severe cold weather a completely enclosed shelter is better.

from Karen Carlson

That's what my parents called them: their scorecards. They were 3 x 5 index cards, trimmed a bit to fit a man's shirt pocket. My dad carried his in his shirt pocket; my mom had hers in her purse. On them my parents recorded every cash purchase they made. In the 1950s and 1960s most purchases were cash. Each card was for a month's worth of expenses, and had columns with abbreviations for the categories they commonly spent money on: groceries, eat out (there wasn't a lot of that when I was a kid), liquor (there was a non-trivial amount of that), car, etc. The result was, between the scorecards and the check register, my parents knew exactly where the money went.

No, I do not faithfully follow my parents' tradition in this. However, my husband and I have found it useful a couple of times to keep track of our expenses for a year. It's usually been after a remark like, "Our income is X, and the amount our savings grew over the past year is Y (small) — what did we spend it all on?" If you ever find yourself asking the same thing, it might be worth it to keep track. You don't have to account for every penny. If a lot of your expenses go out through your checking account and/or credit cards, that makes it easier — just review the statements and check register often enough to be able to put everything into its proper category. How well you keep track of cash is up to you. If you know most of your cash purchases are for fancy coffee drinks and lunches out, you can assume all cash you spend is for eating out unless otherwise noted. Then keep track of how much money you get from the ATM, and you basically have the data.

The categories, and how far you break them down, are up to you. I used main categories and subcategories. Some of the main categories were: utilities, house upkeep, taxes, insurance, groceries, dog, cars, gifts. I included things that got taken out of my paycheck (income tax, disability insurance, etc.) Subcategories under car, for example, were purchase/maintenance, gas, registration.

Wouldn't a month or two of keeping track be good enough? While a lot of expenses

paid the car insurance this month; thatâ€™s only twice a year. We paid the property tax; thatâ€™s only twice a year. We had to replace the washing machine; it should last 20 years. It was the holidays; we spent a lot on presents and a big party. You get the idea â€¦ almost every month had one or more special excuse. I suggest keeping track for twelve consecutive months.

The disappointing result for us was that there was no obvious area of waste or excess that would be easy to cut; it was more like every category had crept up over time. Your results may differ. You may find surprises. Even if you find there is no one place (or no few places) where you can save a lot, you may see a number of categories where it wouldnâ€™t be too hard to trim 10%, which can add up. If youâ€™re having trouble getting a handle on where the money goes, I suggest actually keeping track and seeing what you find.

Konservative Karen

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, June 9, at midnight EDT/USA.

Folk Services

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

more information, send a private message to the [Folk Services page](#) on Facebook.

Note from the Founder: We need your help! Lots of people "like" our posts, but fewer actually pitch in. I understand - that's human nature - but we need to build at least a small fund for emergencies, rather than simply passing the hat for specific events. Your contributions are earnestly solicited, and of course are tax-deductible!

AFA Folk Services is one of the things that makes us not just an international organization...but a community! Help us build that community today by sending a donation to AFA Folk Services!

Clergy Report

We are here to help individuals and kindreds in need of religious and spiritual guidance, and those in need of an officiant for special rituals or rites of passage, even if only for advice or perspective. You are assured the utmost respect and confidentiality for all your needs. If you, or an AFA member you know, needs to get in touch with our clergy for any reason, please don't hesitate to contact us at Clergy@Runestone.org.

Folkbuilding News

The momentum continues to grow for the AFA in Europe. This month I am proud to announce the formation of AFA Czech Republic and Slovakia. Martin Votava has taken a lead as Apprentice Folkbuilder for this new AFA region, and with the help of his kindred, he is off to a great start.

Matt Flavel



Alfrothul Walpurgis
from David Wolfheart, Folkbuilder





Alfrothul celebrated Walpurgis 2016 in Barcelona, Spain, on May 1. This celebration by the AFA members of southern Europe included a blot, a runic meditation, and a fellowship meal.

**Alaska Walpurgisnacht and May Day
from Eric Whisman, Apprentice Folkbuilder**





In Alaskan tradition, the Alaskan AFA and other fellow Asatruar held an overnight camping meta-ritual for Walpurgisnacht and May Day. The weekend festivities were held in Palmer, and began on Saturday afternoon with folk from all over the great state traveling in, some from over 300 miles! Tents were pitched, the campfire was built by the traditional means of rubbing two sticks together by our junior Feurmeister, the field kitchen was set up, and the coolers of beer were brought out. There was a slight chill in the air, and breeze in the wind; but there was great warmth and merriment in our hearts.

metalsmith, Tyler Hansen, arrived from his 300-mile journey and presented the rest of the tribe with the ritual hammer he had labored on and poured his soul into for a solid week. The tribe was awestruck; truly there was not a hammer in the world that was as beautiful or as mighty as this one. The hammer was blessed by a solemn tribe blot, and Thor was called upon for the blessing and protection of the weekend. As more folk began to trickle in, the space around the fire began to get fuller and fuller. A great meal was blessed and partaken of, with great conversation over the fire. Once we were done eating, Steven Morrell led us in a discussion about Walpurgisnacht, and some of the esoteric practices associated with it.



As the sun began to dip down behind the mountains, the folk made their way down to the stone circle and the ritual fire inside it. Blot was led by AFA Clergy student Steven Morrell, and we called upon Freya to empower us, and guide us in our esoteric practices during the long dark witchesâ€™ night. As we waited for the sun to go down, the folk sang childrenâ€™s songs to the young one still awake, and lulled her to sleep.

With the sun down, the fire warm, and the folk empowered, we who were gathered around the ritual fire were led into a session of faring into ourselves. After that, we stayed around the fire and discussed what we had seen, and what we had experienced. As the night continued, the fire became embers, and the folk turned in for the night to their tents, and some to sleep out under the stars.

Morning was welcomed to the smells of coffee and bacon, and after a grand breakfast the men took to the carving of the Maypole, each leaving a mark upon it, and then erecting it proudly.

Men, women and child then made their way down to the ritual circle for the May Day Freyr's Blot, calling upon the life and vitality of the boar god. Immediately afterwards was



people! Even with festivities over, and camp packed up, nobody wanted to leave. We ended up hanging out around the fire and conversing and enjoying one another's company for several hours before the day started to get away from us, and so we parted ways once more, wishing safe travels, and looking forward to seeing one another again.

Deep South May Day from Mike Tauscher, Apprentice Folkbuilder





On May 8th, sixteen men, women, and children from around the Deep South gathered together at the Fairchild Oak at Bulow Creek State Park to celebrate May Day and share in the spirit of the holiday with one another. The attendees were treated to a low country boil for the feast, and games were set up on the field and the Maypole was prepped for the dance later to come.

As food was being prepared and set out for the feast, members set up the altar under the oak for blot led by Matt Flavel, who led a truly rousing ritual for those who had assembled there that day under the warm sun and the sounds of nature thriving all around us. Soon to follow after blot we sat down and shared a hearty feast prepared by Joe Hresko, much to the delight of the folk. Once the food had been well and thoroughly enjoyed, everyone gathered on the field to dance around the Maypole accompanied by the melodic sounds



As the day began to draw to a close and all were beginning to make their way home, everyone gathered a final time to share fellowship in sumbel and to raise the horn to the gods, ancestors, and in some cases to one another. The folk who left the oak that day did so with a song in their hearts and a smile on their lips for the memories made, and with spirits high with thoughts of when next they would gather once more, together, beneath the arms of that mighty and ancient oak.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

News from the Midwest from Patricia Hall, Folkbuilder

REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALL

At our April call, we discussed the possibility of holding a moot at the end of May/early June in the Grand Rapids area. Unfortunately our May call became a ships-passing-in-the-night event and we did not get another chance to discuss this... Right now we are looking at meaderies, breweries, and pubs in the Grand Rapids area. Right now the Brewery Vivant, Hopcat, and Flanigan's™s all look promising. Stay tuned! So we need to get back to this!

Our June Midwest conference call will be at 8:30 p.m. EDT/7:30 p.m. CDT on Thursday, June 9. I look forward to hearing you there! The call number is 641-715-3580
Participant Code is: 128-737 Call is optional.

MIDWEST CONTACTS

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>

MIDWEST GATHERING

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/>

News from the Northwest from Elizabeth Salix, Folkbuilder

Walpurgisnacht/May Day



Dark. Light. Death. Life. Northwest folk celebrated Walpurgisnacht, the other point in the year where the veil is thinnest and the ancestors are near, with an inspiring bonfire and sumbel. Several folk stayed over for May Day on Sunday, a celebration of the joys of life,

danced for the fertility of the folk.

Mead Making Seminar

On Saturday, May 7th, the wise and wandering Adam Lunoe came to Centralia, WA, and shared some of his mead making knowledge with the folk! He helped us start a batch, which is currently happily bubbling away in a closet. We look forward to tasting it in the future!



May 14 Hikemoot





Folk enjoyed the day out at Multnomah Falls near Portland, with views of the iconic falls and a steep climb to the observation deck at the top of the falls.

May 21 Hikemoot





On May 21, several intrepid folk ignored the rain to enjoy a delicious picnic and fabulous hike to Silver Falls in Oregon.



We were forecast rain on our May Eve gathering day and almost cancelled but, it couldn't have turned out to be a more beautiful day. We had a great bonfire and an amazing blot. The glow from the fire was in our hearts and we shared many laughs and stories. We

We met a new kinsman who was to be deployed that week, so we also sent him off with some well wishes and blessings. May the gods keep him safe in his travels.

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 jamiereadsoul@gmail.com or Heather (San Diego folkbuilder) at HeaTHOR@runestone.org



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

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Support the AFA by shopping Amazon through our Amazon affiliate link! The AFA gets a

Upcoming Events for 2016

Midsummer at NewGrange, Brownsville, CA, June 17-19

Freyfaxi in the Northwest - late summer - details to come!

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 - late October in Pennsylvania. Look for more details soon!

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