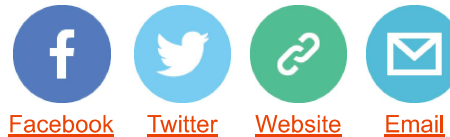


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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

In the last issue of *The Voice*, I spoke of the AFA as not just an international Asatru organization, but as a community - or even, a "community of communities." Here's the way I put it:

"We want local clusters of AFA members to grow into communities - tiny at first, then larger

similar AFA communities around the country and the world. The result will combine the best points of local autonomy with global reach."

Now, some of these communities will be urban-based. Others might be centered on a common business venture. But hopefully many of them will evolve into rural-based, self-reliant communities on the land.

What might that look like? Well, some of us have dreamed of a sort of re-boot of the "back to the land" movement that sprang out of the ferment of the Sixties...but with a folkish Asatru flavor. Simple living, strong bonds, self-reliance, respect for Nature, a healthy lifestyle - and a serious dedication to our Folk and our Gods. Think Middle Earth News rather than Mother Earth News, replace Jimi Hendrix and the Grateful Dead with Wardruna and Beethoven, forego LSD for organic food and rune galdering. Replay the whole era, our style!

As it turns out, Willow and Brian - an AFA couple in the South - want to do something like that. All they need are compatible people who are serious about living in such a community, learning by doing, and teaching others. Eventually they will need folk who will learn, and leave to start communities of their own. What they need right now is a core, a cadre, around which to build this endeavor.

They've tried recruiting locally, with little luck. The people they're looking for must -

1. Be able to legally carry a firearm
2. Have an adequate sum with which to build a modest starter home/'microdwelling' out of straw bales
3. Be willing to relocate, find local employment or be self employed
4. Be interested in practicing/teaching land based skills (not afraid of labor)
5. Be of good character, stable with no serious baggage
6. Be interested in developing genuine spiritual practices.

They can be contacted at willowrowannortherntraditions@gmail.com

Let's build a new era!

Stephen A. McNallen
Alsherjargothi, AFA

Charming of the Plow at NewGrange Hof





CHARMING OF THE PLOW AT NEWGRANGE WAS MAGNIFICENT!

The morning chill had pretty much gone by the time we finished the opening ritual calling on the Gods and the ancestors. We swarmed into the Hof's kitchen, ate lunch, then settled in for the first presentation, on bee keeping. Thom shared his many years of experience at keeping bees, stimulating many questions and encouraging those of us who had been thinking about getting involved. This was followed, appropriately, with Ryan's demonstration on mead making. The result was a big container of what will eventually become our first batch of mead brewed at NewGrange Hof!

As soon as the mead was safely underway, we adjourned to our outdoor ritual area where, surrounded by wooden poles carved to resemble Odin, Thor, and Frey, Mike led us in a blot of transformative power. He called on the Lord of the Vanir, sprinkling mead and invoking the power of generation and regeneration. He led us to a hole in the ground, where we planted a maple tree that will give us spectacular fall colors for coming generations of attendees at NewGrange. We took turns shoveling the soil back into the hole, aware that our work would still be paying off when our great-grandchildren gather at



NewGrange Hof, so long ago...

Inside, we sat with rapt attention as Jim lectured us on emergency preparedness and gave us techniques - and ample motivation - to help us get through any sort of disaster. Jim demonstrated a couple of novel kinds of survival stoves and, maybe most importantly of all, talked to us about attitude and forcing

ourselves to be better than we now are. No one who has attended one of his classes can forget him - Army Ranger, retired fire captain, and international Police and Fire Olympics athlete!

Then came a wonderful dinner, topped by a variety of desserts, and a musical interlude courtesy of Eva, of the group "Rattlin' Bones." Sumbel followed, and relaxation in the company of kin, and sound sleep.



After bacon and French toast and loads of coffee the next morning, those still remaining built a protective shelter for our wood supply, planted flowers, caulked cracks, and hoisted planks. After a good clean-up, we were on our way...dreaming of our next gathering at NewGrange Hof, scheduled for Ostara, March 19 and 20!

...another weekend in the life of the Folk!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Family Safety Program: Vehicle Tool Kit

Note from the Alsherjargothi: 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.

Before you get stuck in the snow during winter driving, make sure you have the right gear along. In this list, survival expert Peter Kummerfeldt gives a list of what you need to stay alive in your car in the winter.

Emergency Equipment List:

- Cellular phone with charger
- SPOT beacon
- Four quart bottles of water
- Three dehydrated meals
- Other carbohydrate-based foods
- Toilet paper
- Toilettes
- Tools: to include jack and spare tire
- Road flares
- Tow strap
- Booster cables
- Folding or breakdown shovel
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Hand heater packets
- Light sticks
- Waterproof, windproof matches
- Metal cup



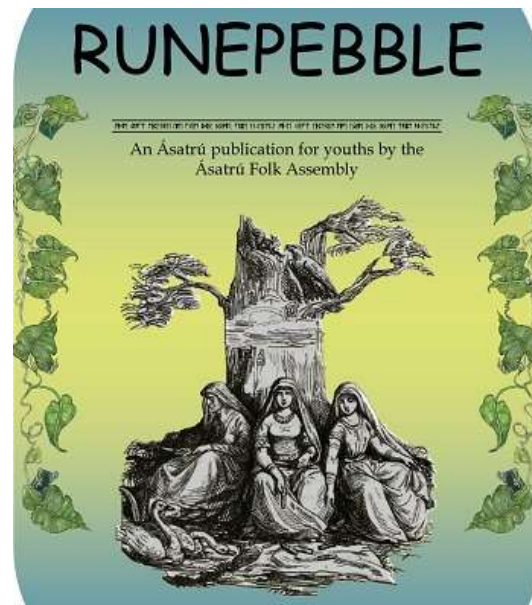
"Learn a new skill every week" – Jim and Sara the Corgi

Additional clothing
Winter footwear (boot blankets)
Two empty cans (one for melting snow & one for sanitary purposes)
Sack of cat litter (use to improve traction)
Windshield scraper and brush
Spare personal medications
Flashlight and spare batteries
Portable radio with spare batteries
Emergency candles and/or small stove
Gloves
Multi-purpose tool (Leatherman)
Ski goggles
Duct tape
Space blankets
Book to read
25 – 50 feet of nylon cord
Flagging
Chemical hand warmers

Peter Kummerfeldt has walked the talk in the wilderness survival field for decades.

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, March 10, at midnight EST/USA.



Runepebble: An AFA e-publication for Asatru families!

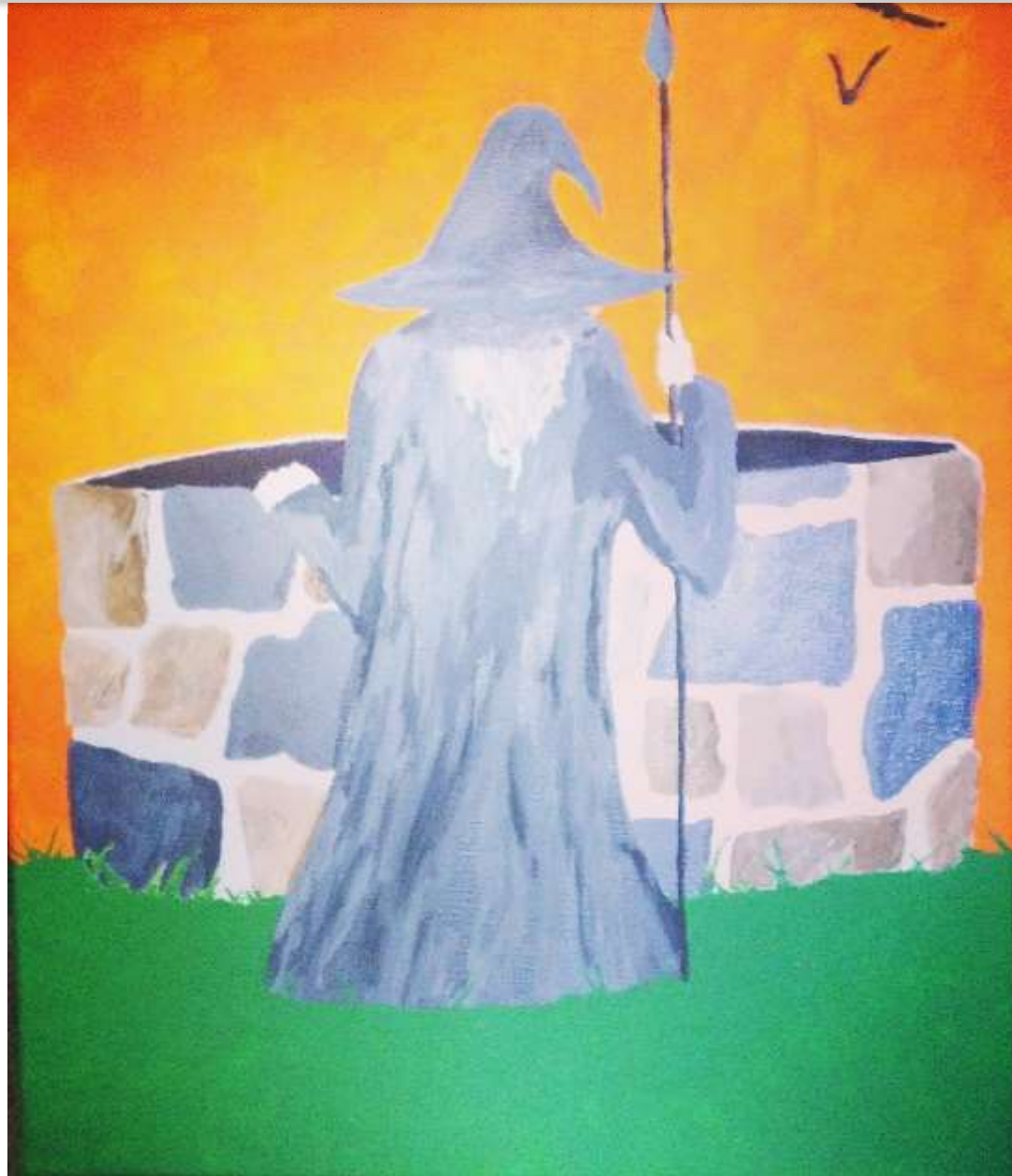
The next issue of *Runepebble* will be available on May 1st, and focuses on "Elves"... We'll discuss what they are, stories about them, where you might find them, and more. If you or a child you know is interested in contributing to the next issue, we are happy to accept submissions of all kinds, including artwork, stories, poetry, folktales, songs/sheet music, crafts, activities, recipes, educational articles, and more. To submit a contribution, or if you have questions about submissions, you can contact our primary editor, Rebecca, at Runepebble@Runestone.org.

Folk Services

AFA Folk Services is intended to provide modest, one-time monetary grants to Asatru Folk Assembly (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:

We currently have a modest balance in the account (from donations and auction proceeds). Donations may be made at any time, by noting in a donation to the AFA that it is for Folk Services. And if you know of a member in need, please contact your Folkbuilder and/or message Folk Services directly.

Member Art



Odin, about to give his sacrifice. Painted by Chad Fuller





Alfrothul kindred members celebrated Thorrablot in the vicinity of Barcelona. There were meditations, a blot to Thor, a fellowship meal, and finally a Wotan blot. There was discussion of future projects in the AFA in southern Europe.

Alaska Charming of the Plow from Eric Whisman, Apprentice Folkbuilder





As the winter began to die, and the first rays of heat were felt from the sun, we knew that spring was near. Now was the time to pull out the tools of our trade, and begin the planting of vegetables for the oncoming season. This past weekend, AFA members in Alaska and other Asatruar gathered in Palmer, AK, to prepare for the oncoming work season and to bless the tools of their trades.

Folk from all across Alaska once again proved their worth and made their journeys to The Den, some traveling over 200 miles!

Blot was led by our own AFA Clergy Student Steven Morrell, who called upon the great Yngvi-Freyr and the wights to bless us with their prosperity. The blot ended with a ritual blessing of the tools of our respective trades: cook, welder, legal secretary, fire suppression technician, veterinarian assistant, and military funeral director.



separate pots for each to take home and care for as the season progressed. The meal was equally appropriate, featuring green vegetable everything, and two large pots of fish and clam chowder. We certainly ate healthy that night!

Sumbel was powerful as the folk passed the horn several rounds over, honoring the gods, the wights and their ancestors, sharing heartfelt toasts to their loved ones; we were even graced by a song and a dramatic poetry reading.

The night ended with cheery goodbyes, and an optimistic look towards the coming spring and summer season to follow.

Florida Charming of the Plow
from Matt Flavel, Folkbuilder Coordinator



On February 21st, AFA members in north Florida gathered at the Fairchild Oak to charm the plow. We erected the trihorn banner and the gathering began with a small deer running out of the woods into the ritual area and coming close by us before returning to the forest. We felt this was a good sign. We then gathered under the canopy of this ancient oak and Brad Taylor-Hicks led us in a blot to Frey and a blessing of our tools. We concluded the day with a potluck followed by sumbel.



Ostara at NewGrange Hof

We'll celebrate Ostara at NewGrange Hof on the weekend of March 19-20. The opening ritual will be at 11 a.m., followed by the usual array of presentations, discussion, feasting, and ritual honoring the Goddess of the Dawn! There will of course be our traditional Ostara egg hunt for the kids. Sunday morning, after a relaxed breakfast, we'll make some improvements on the Hof and enjoy each other's company. All AFA members and vouched-for friends within driving distance of NewGrange Hof (that's at Brownsville, California) are invited - indeed, urged! - to be here with us!

We've set up an event page on Facebook, at <https://www.facebook.com/events/584819691672697/> - contact us for an invitation!

AFA Ostara in the South

AFA OSTARA IN THE SOUTH 2016 - DON'T MISS IT!

Ostara in the South is one of the AFA's four premier events held in the various corners of the United States, and I urge you make a point of attending this year.

Our special guest will be Henrik Palmgren, creator of Red Ice Radio. Henrik has been kind enough to have me on his show several times, and now we get to return the favor! Sheila and I will be there as well, and I will speak on "Wotan, Jung, and Our Duty in this Age of Ultimate Degeneracy." There will be other stimulating and informative presentations, and many of the AFA's leaders will be present.

As always, there will be rituals - one of them will be my Wotan Blot, which of course ties in perfectly with my talk.

Date: April 1-3

Place: Near Hampton Roads, Georgia

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1539527876358606/>

Stephen McNallen

News from the Midwest from Patricia Hall, Folkbuilder

REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALL

Our next Midwest conference call will be at 8:30 p.m. EST/7:30 p.m. CST on Thursday, March 10. I look forward to hearing you there! Please note we have moved to a new conference call system. The call number is 641-715-3580 Participant code is: 128-737 Call is optional.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming events to watch for out on runestone.org include AFA Ostara in the South at the Fortson 4-H Camp just outside of Atlanta on April 1-2-3. And for those of you in the eastern part of the Midwest region, there is a one-day AFA Ostara on March 19 being hosted by the Northeast/Upper South regions in Columbia, Maryland. If anyone is interested in that, please let me know.

We are also still in discussion about a Midwest regional gathering in Michigan in the early summer. More to come on that.

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

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

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>

News from the Northeast from Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder

MONTHLY CONFERENCE CALL

Clifford Erickson hosted a lively and well attended call in January, with our Alsherjargothi Stephen McNallen bringing updates on the AFA, taking questions and listening to what the Northeast AFA Folk are doing. We have a couple of good ideas from that call that you should see follow-up on in the future. By the time you are reading this, we'll just have had our February call on Monday the 29th. Our next Northeast conference call will be at 8:00 p.m. EDT on Monday, March 28, 2016. We look forward to hearing you there!
Dial-in Number: (641) 715-3580 Access Code: 174-424

SKYLANDS ASATRU FELLOWSHIP



In February, Skylands Asatru Fellowship (based northern NJ) continued our schedule of Asatru 101 classes, had a pubmoot, and got together to watch the Super Bowl, feast on hot dogs and chili, and just hang out together.

Coming up in the month of March, Skylands is pleased to present the following events:

Sunday, March 6: Asatru 101: Ritual Theory and Practice (Stanhope, NJ)

Tuesday, March 8: New Moon offering to the landwights (Stanhope, NJ)

Sunday, March 20: Asatru 101: Gender roles in Asatru (Stanhope, NJ)

and to RSVP, please visit our website at <http://www.skylandsasatru.org/>

SVINFYLKIN TRIBE



This February 20th the Svinfylkin Tribe got together for their Feast of Vali. The tribe had its flag flying high as members showed up and food was laid out. Xander, the godhi of the tribe, held a naming ritual for his companion German Shepherd (Perun) which coincided with his one-year birthday. The tribe had another cause for rejoicing as well, as a new member took his oath to enter the tribe. The Chieftain's (Michael's) own father, Walter, heard his ancestral calling



joyous feast laid out and each in attendance contributed to a plate served up to Vali in the ritual fire. You can learn more about things going on with the Svinfylkin by following their Facebook page and attending one of their monthly pubmoots. Feel free to message them directly to learn more.

Joint Northeast/Upper South Ostara from Patricia Hall, Folkbuilder

JOINT NORTHEAST/UPPER SOUTH OSTARA IN Columbia, Maryland â€“ March 19
Saturday, March 19, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., at Gladshiem Hof in Columbia, Maryland.
Hosted by your AFA Folkbuilders for the Northeast (Clifford Erickson, Patricia Hall) and the Upper South (Cody Mower, Nick Ferreri).

Join us for a family-friendly Folkish celebration of the coming of spring and new beginnings. We will have blot, feast and sumbel. We invite our artists and crafts-folk to vend, and we will have a raffle of donated items to benefit our AFA Hof.

Our event site is up on Facebook! AFA OSTARA in Maryland.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/200493760305026/> We ask that you register so we have a headcount for food. Cost is \$25 per adult; those under 18 are free. Payment is to be made at the door. We hope you can make it. Please register at: <http://ostaramaryland.eventzilla.net/> Also feel free to ask me any questions you may have either on Facebook via email at patriciahall@runestone.org

Hail the Folk!

News from the Northwest and Canada from Elizabeth Salix, Folkbuilder



On Saturday, February 7th, Northwest AFA members and friends embarked on Raptor Road Trip in Sauvie Island, OR. Hosted by the Portland Audubon Society every year, this was a great opportunity for the Folk to recharge our nature batteries by observing raptors and other migratory birds in the untamed wetlands of Sauvie Island. We drove to three different sites to observe the birds, hiked around the island a bit, and ventured to McMennamin's afterward for a pubmoot. This was the second year that AFA members have attended Raptor Road Trip; it was an excellent day spent in good company, and we

Parker, K. "Mac" MacBryghde, Elizabeth Salix, Sam Vail, Dakota Roberts; Great Blue Heron!; Swan butts.

CHARMING OF THE PLOW



friends gathered for Charming of the Plow and Feast of Vali in Centralia, WA. A blot was held each day, featuring a ritual planting of peas on Saturday, and a ritual planting of oak trees on Sunday. As always, we followed each blot with a delicious dinner, which included Scottish mince pies and a roast rabbit. Sumbel was held Saturday night, and many meaningful hails were made. On Sunday, we had the privilege of meeting one of our newest Northwest AFA members, Adam Winningham, who it turns out we'd met before several years ago. Good to see you again, Adam!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our next events will be for Ostara, to be held the weekend of March 19th-20th in Centralia, WA. On Saturday we will have our "Spring Cleaning Moot," a group effort to clean up the woods surrounding the ritual areas of any residual detritus that the high river levels of winter have left behind. Volunteers may arrive around 11 a.m. Saturday morning; food and drink will be available.

On Sunday we will celebrate Ostara, the Spring Equinox, with a blot, sumbel, dinner, and egg-related merriment. There will be eggs for dyeing and eating, with the potential for egg-in-spoon races out in the field if it's not raining too hard (and we're feeling silly enough!). If you're interested in attending either or both of these events, feel free to email me at esalix@runestone.org for location and directions.

CANADA MOOT IN BELLINGHAM

In April we will be hosting a joint event for AFA members in the Northwest and BC, Canada, in the Bellingham area of Whatcom County, Washington. We have a few locations in consideration for this event, and suggestions from locals are most welcome! If you're interested in attending, please send me an email at esalix@runestone.org.

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

Hail the AFA!

-Elizabeth Salix

Northwest & Canada Folkbuilder

San Diego Feast of Vali
from Jamie Souigny





Down in sunny San Diego the Tru Folk Kindred gathered on February 14 to observe the Feast of Vali.

It was a humble yet powerful gathering under the great oaks of California. We honored the triumph of the sun over winter. New friends and old friends gathered on a beautiful southern California day. We were surrounded by the sounds of birds and the children alike enjoying the sunny weather. Butterflies fluttered through the circle as we celebrated the death of Hodr at the hands of Vali, avenging the death of Balder. The youngsters attending were more than eager to participate in the honoring of our Gods. Good quality time with our Gods and our Folk was had by all.



Hail the AFA!

It's always so difficult to part ways as it seems our discussions could go on forever. 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. We also have folk in the Orange County and Riverside County areas. If you are not a "Facebooker," you can reach myself Jamie @ jamieredsoul@gmail.com or Heather (San Diego folkbuilder) @ HeaTHOR@runestone.org

Upcoming Events for 2016

Eostre at Newgrange, Brownsville, CA, March 19-20

Event page <https://www.facebook.com/events/584819691672697/>

Ostara Moot at Gladheim Hof in Maryland, March 19

Event page <https://www.facebook.com/events/200493760305026/>

Register at: <http://ostaramaryland.eventzilla.net/>

Ostara in the South, Fortsen 4-H Center, Hampton, GA, April 1-3

Event page <https://www.facebook.com/events/1539527876358606/>

Midsummer at NewGrange, Brownsville, CA, June 17-20

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!

Copyright Â© *2016* Asatru Folk Assembly, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)



