

Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice

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In this edition of *The Voice*, we have pictures, stories and announcements from the Mother of all Moots (MoM). Also up events happened in April/May around the country, Membership news and upcoming events. 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.

Hail the AFA!
Channcie Bean

Donate to the AFA



The next *Voice* will be continued to be published on the 20th of each month and we will cover what has happened in the previous months along with upcoming events..

Please submit any events, news and photos of happenings in your area no matter how big or small. Deadline for the *The Voice* is 15th of the month; please email Channcie Bean at thevoice@runestone.org.





"Mother of All Moots" showcased the "AFA attitude" - that unique culture we have built within the Asatru Folk Assembly characterized by hospitality, community, and a positive outlook. It's worth taking a moment to look at this. - Steve McNallen

Mother of All Moots - For Those Who Missed It!
by *Steve McNallen*

In short, the Moot was fantastically successful!

The *Asatru Folk Assembly* was already pushing beyond the boundaries by having not just one, but two major, well-attended annual events - one in California, and another in Pennsylvania. And then, at MoM, we announced that our Danish members were sponsoring the first-ever AFA conference in Europe. This is unprecedented in modern Asatru!

The Danish news was one of many signs that the AFA is breaking new ground. Other indicators: A joint statement by Edred Thorsson and Steve McNallen made it official that the *Asatru Folk Assembly* has purchased rights to a number of Edred's important works which had become unavailable with the demise of *Runa-Raven Press*. More significant publishing projects are also underway, with details to follow.

student *Carrie Overton* stepped forward into *Daniel Updike's* shoes on short notice to give blot to Frigga, when Daniel's journey was interrupted by illness. *Pat Hall* led us in a moving rite of healing for Daniel's wife (which certainly seems to have been effective). Folkbuilders renewed their oaths while standing in front of a huge new handstitched AFA banner that dominated the ritual area. At the end of MoM, Clergy student *Bryan Wilton* blessed our going. Each meal, of course, was hallowed by one of the folk before the chow line formed.

Spiritual opportunities abounded, most especially in Brad's runic galdering sessions and Steve's notes on his personal, practical techniques for working with the mysteries of Odin's mead theft.

But not all was intense! *Tony Rochman* built an unbelievable may pole, tall and graceful and festooned with ribbons, which our ladies and children decked with real flowers. We all danced around it - ineptly, perhaps, but with much laughter and delight. *Stuart Mason* and *John Weed* of the band *Molly's Revenge* had us tapping our feet and nodding our heads to their fine Celtic and Appalachian tunes. The fireplace was a scene of joy and camaraderie.

Permeating the whole event was the presence of the *Viking Brotherhood*, a California-based fraternal order with quite a few AFA members. Made up of young men interested in the history and culture of the Vikings, its members wear distinctive vests complete with raven flags and the powerful Viking Brotherhood logo. This may sound intimidating to some, but they were uniformly polite, respectful, and constructive. If you needed a task done right away, you could look for one of the fellows wearing a vest and rest assured it was a done deal.

There is more, so much more, but space prevents further expansion. Suffice to say it was wonderful - and that you can find out what it's like for yourself by coming to an AFA event such as our upcoming Danish adventure, or next *October's Winter Nights in the Poconos!*





Notes from your Leadership about MoM:

Matt Flavel -

All AFA gatherings are amazing, but MoM had a feeling of kinship and dynamism that was above and beyond. For me, the weekend started off with seeing our new banner, I could not take my eyes off it all weekend, it is truly inspiring. The weekend was full of powerful rituals and inspiring talks, we learned of brave new endeavors that the AFA is doing and we developed skills and techniques to evolve spiritually. The galdr sessions were powerful for all involved. One of the highlights for me was the oathing of our Folkbuilders. The atmosphere pulsed with fellowship of tribe and family. My life is better for having gone and I hope more of my AFA family can attend these gatherings in the future.

Daniel Updike -

The trip my wife and I had was a challenge to say the least. We did not make it to the moot as my wife was developing DVT (deep vein thrombosis) in her legs while we were travelling. We deeply appreciate the positive energy sent our way during this experience, and a special thank you to our AFA kin at the Moot who held a special healing rite for her when they found out about what was happening. We truly know without a doubt that we are all part of a familyâ€”A TRIBE in the AFA! As a note, Kelly is doing much better, and has almost fully recovered from the DVT. Next time we fly.

Brian Wilton say that his most powerful experience at MoM was "charging the offering to Odin during the Wayfarers blot. Leads me to believe that we should all endeavor to become more involved in our worship activities".

Notes from Members that attended MoM:

The gathering at *Enchanted Hills* for the *Mother of all Moots* was truly a coming home for those of us who attended. Folk from far and wide showed up to celebrate and further the awakening of the Spirit. From the moment that me and Andrew arrived there was an energy that radiated about the place. We knew empirically that we were exactly where we needed (nauthiz) to be. We were greeted as if we were family and had known everyone for a lifetime. The feeling was mutual. WE all felt like we belonged together and that feeling never waned throughout the entire Moot. Read Michael's entire letter [here](#).

Michael Hartrich says he enjoyed the rune chanting and galdering hosted by Brad Taylor-Hicks

Channcie Bean -

MoM was my 4th AFA event, and with each one I build new friendships and further bond with old friendships. It was an awakening of my soul once again. I traveled 4,684 air miles and drove over 1,200 miles to and from home. I was welcomed with hugs and said goodbye even more hugs. I look forward to the next event, see you all at Winter Nights!

There was so many photos taken at MoM. Please click [HERE](#) to view a slideshow.

[Northern Rune Radio's podcast about MoM](#)





News and Notes from *Shelia McNallen* -

Hail to our Mary

Imagine reaching retirement age and leaving the work force, to then volunteer for a non-profit organization! This describes *Mary Minshall*, who has given the AFA over a dozen years since she took on the formidable job of managing our membership database. For those of us who have worked closely with Mary, her professionalism has made our jobs much easier.

Mary recently underwent successful knee-surgery, but is still in the recovery stage. Along with some membership-related tasks, she'll be assisting with our Runestone Press and other publishing ventures as an editor and proofreader. We know she'll shine in whatever she does. Thank you, Mary!

Stella Natura â€“ Light of Ancestral Fires

For the second year, the AFA will have a booth at this highly-acclaimed esoteric music festival, held high among the granite peaks of the Sierra Nevada. It's a laid back event, where you sit on the boulders or the grass listening to an incredible assortment of musical styles from all over the western world. The location is at Shinniboo Creek Resort not far from I-80, about halfway between Sacramento and Reno.

Last year we renewed old acquaintances but also met fabulous artists and musicians,

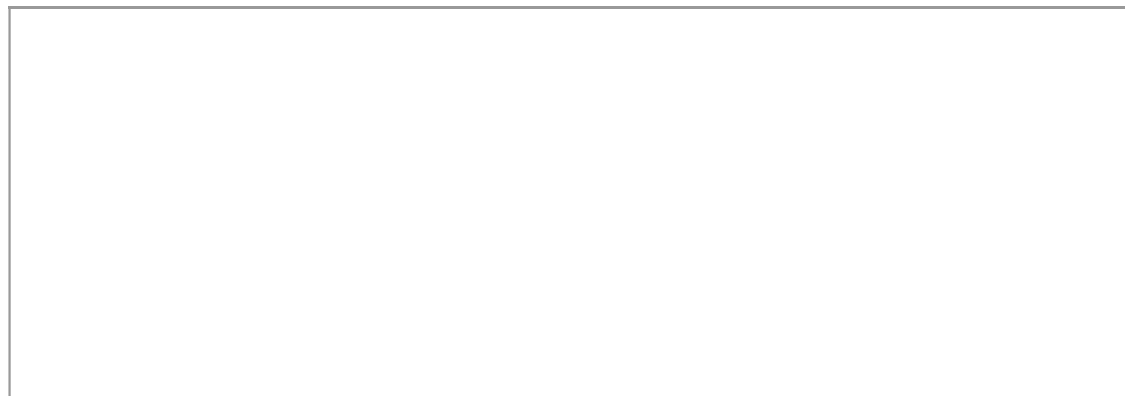
Norwegian heathen band, Wardruna.

To find out more about this event, go to www.facebook.com/stellanatura or www.ancestralfires.org. AFA members will be invited to a "meet & greet" hosted by the McNallens. Contact us if you plan to attend

Membership Matters

The AFA has a new membership data management system thanks to *Alan Sawyer*. While this was in development, we left members with January and April expiration's in the database. We hope that all of you plan to remain in the AFA, especially when you read about the amazing things that we've accomplished since last summer! Your dues have given us the means to make this happen. Thank you for your encouragement and financial support. To ensure that you remain in the AFA, you can make your dues payment by going to www.runestone.org and clicking on RENEW, or send a check to AFA, P.O. Box 445, Nevada City, CA 95959. Regardless of which way you do it, we want you to celebrate with us in the years to come.

Members who have opted for the monthly subscription plan will have their new membership cards sent at the turning of their calendar year. If you've moved and haven't updated your contact information, the cards return to us as undelivered. You can save us time and expense by sending your updates to Sheila at afa@runestone.org. Thank you for your help!





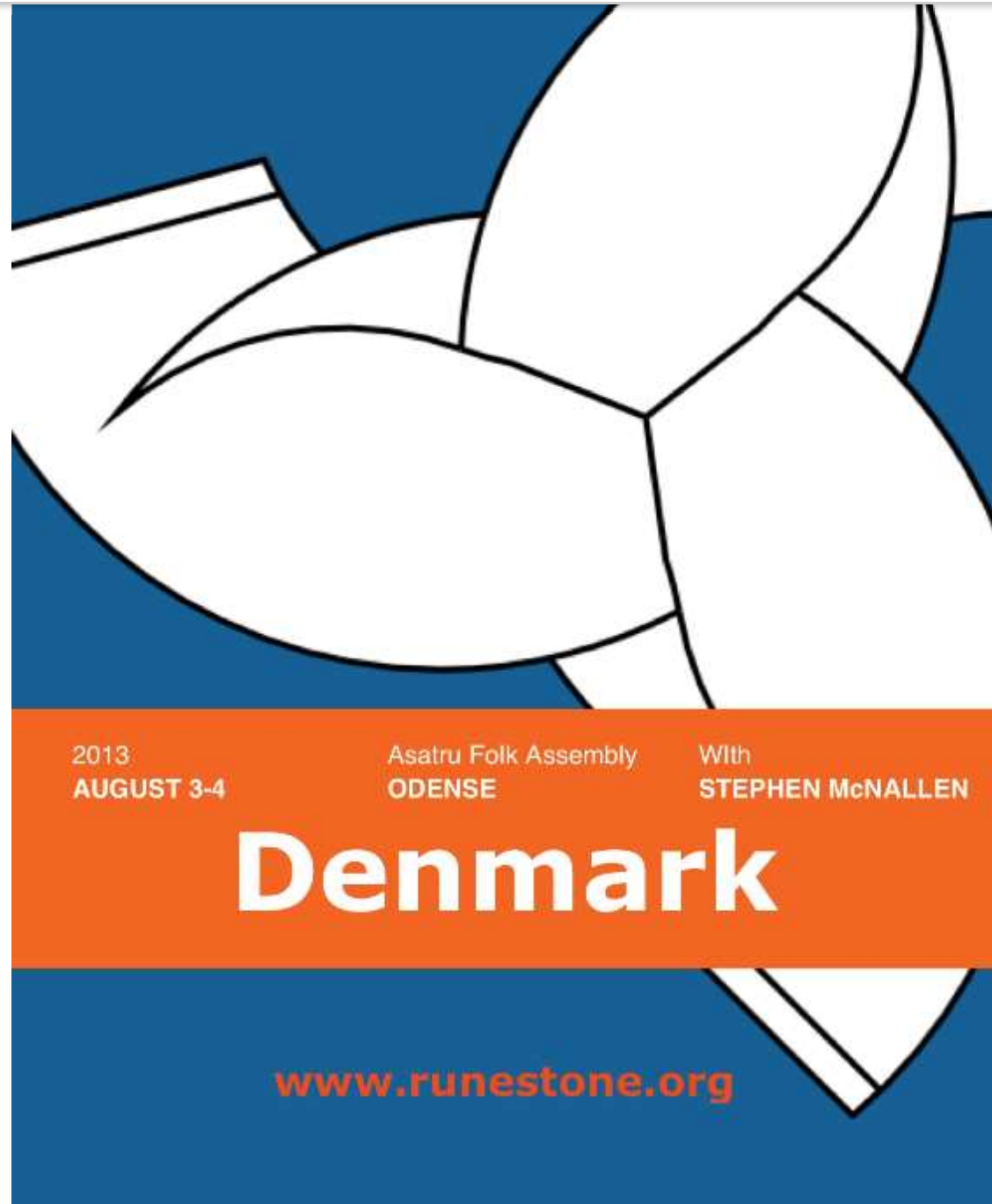
The original AFA banner you've seen in pictures over the years looked small

blue with the white tri-horns, stitched in gold thread with an edging of gold fringe. It's impressive! Folkbuilder Coordinator Matt Flavel spoke for many of us when he said he couldn't take his eyes off the banner all weekend. It's one more example of our forward movement



One of the new AFA products featured at MoM was our stunning new decal, with the AFA tri-horns and the website URL beneath. Our promotional price is \$5.00 each plus \$1.50 shipping. Send an email to afa@runestone.org with DECAL in the subject line, include your name and shipping address, and we'll send you a Paypal request for the amount owed. **â€œYour car needs one.â€**

AFA Scandinavia Presents



We are proud to announce the first-ever international AFA gathering, to be held in Odense, Denmark, on August 3-4!

This event is open to all AFA members anywhere in the world. We would be really thrilled if a number of you would join us for this historic occasion.

Odense, of course, was the site of ancient Asatru gatherings, especially those associated with Odin - the name itself is derived from "Odin's Ve," or "Odin's sacred enclosure." Obviously, the tourist attractions of the area would be of immense interest to all who follow our faith.

More details will be forthcoming. For now...start thinking about packing your bags and checking ticket prices into Copenhagen!



Pennsylvania. In stark contrast to the balmy springtime weather and verdant trees at MoM, Winter Nights is all about autumn...Pumpkins, crunching of leaves, bonfires, and rituals that bring forth the mysteries of the women. In particular, it's about Freya and the Disir – our loving ancestral mothers whom we honor at this time. Our Youtube slideshow called [“Winter Nights in the Poconos”](#) and featuring the music of the band Changes will give you an idea of last year's gathering.

Join us under canopies of gold, for a series of talks and workshops by our AFA leadership, powerful rituals, and an evening of wonderful music. Lodging and all meals are included. Registration forms will be available this summer. Write to us if you have question in the meantime.



Brotherhood's™ direction has changed. The religious aspect evolved into the Asatru free assembly, leaving the VB to refine its mission. As of now it is a fraternal order, organized to uphold and to preserve the history & culture of the Viking age. As a fraternal order they are a 501c-10 which means of non-religious nor political agendas The Viking Brotherhood strive to uphold the Viking age through book drives, historical presentations, and public events such as Ericsson's™ day October 9th in which the Vikings discovered north America 500 years before Columbus or Lindisfarm's™ Day, June 8th which marked the beginning of the historical period that became known as the Viking age . For far too long the Vikings have been miss represented or just completely ignored do to politics or religion, which they are neither. Thus VB has choosen to strive to make the wrongs right by shedding a little light on this so called dark part of our histories. Our pasts made today possible, what we do with it determines our tomorrow

For further information on what we , where halls are located or how you can help contact the Viking Brotherhood at vikingbrotherhoodorg@gmail.com or find them on [facebook](#) with new historical posts put up by members every day

Upcoming local events:

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[Northwest Midsummer BlÃ³t and Campout](#)

Manchester State Park

7767 E Hilldale Rd, Port Orchard, Washington 98366-8060

June 21 at 12:00pm until June 23 at 5:00pm in PDT

We invite you to join us in honouring the Gods and celebrating Sunna's return this Midsummer! We'd like this event to be fun and fulfilling, and welcome suggestions for activities! I think it'd be super awesome to have a mutli-day campout event, planning begins now!

Northern California Midsummer Celebration

Saturday June 22nd, Noon till Late

4081 Flint Lane, Tracy, CA 95377

Please join us for a day of folk, family and fun! Come celebrate Midsummer with the Wedelâ€™s in Tracy, CA. Bring a chair, snacks and a side dish, salad or dessert to share. Thereâ€™s a pool and lawn games or just sit in the shade. Weâ€™ll have the BBQ going with chicken, sausages and ribs. Everyoneâ€™s welcome. Please RSVP by Wednesday, June 19th to geoteacher@caldsl.net. Questions? Please call 209-204-2340â€

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