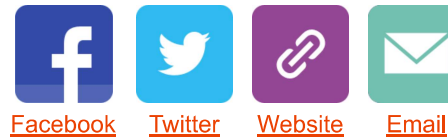


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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 Word from Steve McNallen

The Asatru Folk Assembly is not just a national organization; it is a community. Signing up with the AFA sets you apart as a man or woman with whom we share not only heritage and faith, but also an allegiance to the principles outlined in the *Declaration of Purpose*. You matter to us!

This attitude is mirrored in our many different activities and special functions. For example,

and veterans, and the AFA Family Safety Program designed specifically to aid our members in times of disaster. Our Clergy are there to offer spiritual and ritual assistance, and our regional Folkbuilders are there to help you and to link you up with other members. Last but not least, we sponsor many gatherings large and small, across the country and around the world. The AFA is at the cutting edge of our movement, practicing and promoting the native religion we know as Asatu!

I welcome you to this issue of *The Voice*, and welcome your participation in the ongoing adventure of reviving our ancestral faith! Hail the AFA - and hail to you, who make it the outstanding organization that it is!

Want to Help the AFA?

Several of you have been asking, "How can I help?" Informally, ALL of you can help by "liking" and sharing our Facebook posts. Tell others about the AFA and what you personally get from your membership. Be our eyes and ears, letting us know what's going on out there in the Germanic religious community. If there's a group we should be aware of, or a response that should be considered, let us know.

If you want to take on a more formal role, Stewart Williams is our Volunteer Coordinator. Our Folkbuilders often need help with event planning: food, logistics, children's activities, transportation help, compilation of handouts. They'd be grateful for a helping hand. And there's the Asatru Military Project, the AFA Family Safety Program, fundraising for our Hof and Land Fund, and more...There's plenty to do!

Write to stew@runestone.org

The Voice - The Sound of the AFA Speaking Out

First of all, we want to thank Channice Dean for putting out many wonderful issues of our monthly newsletter, THE VOICE. However, due to work and personal issues, Channice has asked to step down from this particular job. The good news is that weâ€™re back on track under the editorship of author Karen Carlson who is taking over with this issue. Thank you, Karen!

[*Editorâ€™s note:* Thanks to the leadership for letting me try out for the job, and being very supportive. Please bear with my newbie goofs as I get the hang of this thing.]

Interviews - Not Once but Twice . . .

A few weeks ago, Henrik Helmgren of Red Ice Radio inquired if Steve would be interested in doing an interview called "Asatro, Runes, Vikings, and Norse Mythology." That was an easy "yes" as weâ€™d been fans of Henrikâ€™s show for some time. Run through the names of past guests and you'll see notables like John B. Wells, Kathryn Austin Fitts, Joseph Farrell plus hundreds more.

The interview went well with over two hours recorded. You can hear it on their website, www.redicecreations.com - or even better, listen to it on [YouTube](#). (Second hour requires a subscription to their site.) A counter tracks the visitors to the site, with the option of adding I Like this interview! Like it enough, and Steve is sure to be asked back. Over 3,700 hits in just a few days. Not bad! This is one little way of supporting the AFA at no additional cost to you.

And here is the second interview in the past month.

Steve was asked by Mark Puryear of the Norreona Society if he would express his thoughts on "The Nature of the Gods" for the broadcast, *Sound of the Gjallerhorn*. This will play Sunday morning and will be broadcast again during the week. "Join Mark and Katia Puryear every Sunday at 11am PST on the [Heathen Radio Network](#). This hour-long [radio](#)

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 -

Leadership

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

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.

At night, Knute will be bringing out his high-powered telescopes for an exciting celestial 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.

You can get more details from our website (<http://www.runestone.org>), and fill out the

No, it's not too late to get well-priced airfares for those of you flying in to the San Francisco Bay Area! Give yourself a few extra days to do some additional vacationing. Write to us for suggestions!

**Great Northwestern Freyfaxi
August 1 - 3**

The good Folk of the Northwest invite you to honor the Gods and Ancestors of Northern Europe in kinship and Frith. Join them in 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 Asatru Folk Assembly.

**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.

Progress on Publishing the Runa Raven Books

About a year ago, we announced that the AFA had purchased the rights to publish a dozen

has slowed us down. Our account has been transferred several times, but it looks as though we will be resolving this shortly.

The AFA Family Safety Program

Some while back one of our AFA members was in an area hit hard by a tropical storm. We didn't hear from her in the weeks that followed, and we feared she had become a casualty of the devastation. Luckily, she was safe. But this was a wakeup call for us, and we determined that it was completely unacceptable for an AFA member to be injured, homeless, or dead and for us to find out about it two months later! Thus, the birth of the AFA Family Safety Program.

The basic idea is that your Folkbuilder will follow events during a natural disaster in your area, contact you if necessary to assure your safety, and help us come to your aid if you need it. We urge you to take prudent precautions to assure your own welfare, of course, based on published Red Cross and Homeland Security standards.

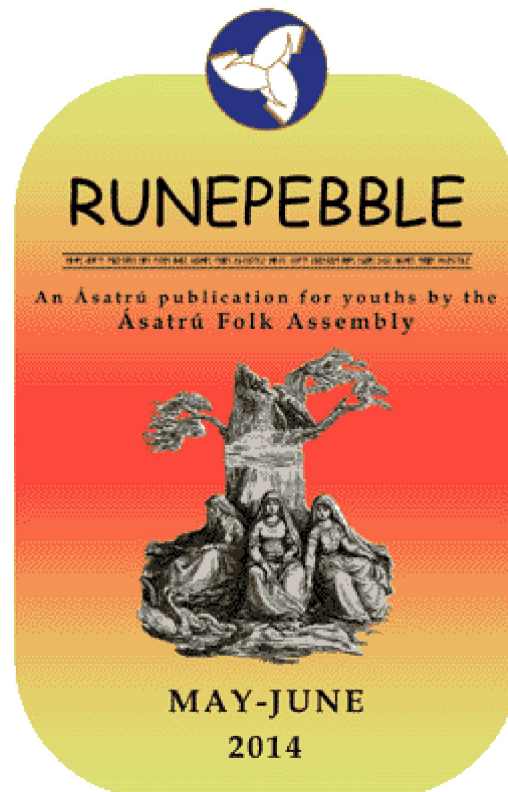
Starting in the next issue of *The Voice*, our Family Safety Program will walk you through a step-by-step monthly program designed to help you affordably and systematically prepare for power outages, hurricanes, fires, floods and other disasters which might strike your home or endanger your family.

A Few Words from Sheila about Membership

I need your help, Folks. If you can, pay in advance of your expiration so you don't get bothersome reminders. When you pay your year in full, we update your records from your last expiration date. Remember that we have a monthly payment plan which takes a huge

To update your membership dues, go to www.runestone.org and click RENEW.

Runepebble



Runepebble: An AFA e-publication for Ásatrú families!

The latest issue of Runepebble was released on May 1st, and focused on Sunna and sun lore. And though we are still enjoying reading through and working on the activities, we are already looking forward to the next issue, set for publication on July 1st, 2014.

THEME

- 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..

**In Memory - Clark Wullenweber
1947 - 2014**



Clark Wullenweber, AFA-WV went to his ancestors March 29th, 2014. He was born on a farm in Ohio, and spent most of his life in Florida, retiring to West Virginia four years ago.

Clark was a veteran of the Vietnam War, receiving a Purple Heart after being shot by the enemy. After his recovery he went on to train special forces at Fort Bragg, NC, and also to fight in the war in Biafra as a mercenary.

An avid historian, he retired after 20 years working in a museum in St Augustine, FL, where he was the favorite of the many thousands of schoolchildren that he spoke with every year. A skilled craftsman, he took what he had learned of traditional carpentry from his grandfather and applied it to creating 18th century style furniture. Although woodworking was his primary skill, he was more than proficient at blacksmithing, thatching, leatherwork and horning. He was a standing member of the Guild of Horners, and one of his powder horns is owned by the King of Spain.

ancestry. He wore his hammer every day, and never shied away from explaining his faith and love of folk to all who would listen. Clark believed in Tradition above all things, and the nobility of the folk.

His influence in Asatru in the southeastern US is not to be underestimated. Through his influence and tutelage, the Hrǫfn Wudu Kindred was created, of which all are long standing AFA members.

His funeral was arranged and conducted by Brad Taylor-Hicks and Calen Smith, who saw to it that his final wishes were met. His remains are to be interred later this year and a veteran's headstone with the Mjolnir symbol is being secured as a memorial stone for him. He will be laid to rest in the same cemetery as his ancestor, frontiersman Lewis Wetzel. He is survived by his mother, Jaqueline Wullenweber; his wife, Pamela; and his beloved Kinfolk.

The photo shows Brad Taylor-Hicks, Clark Wullenweber, and Stephen McNallen at Moundsville, WV, in 2013.

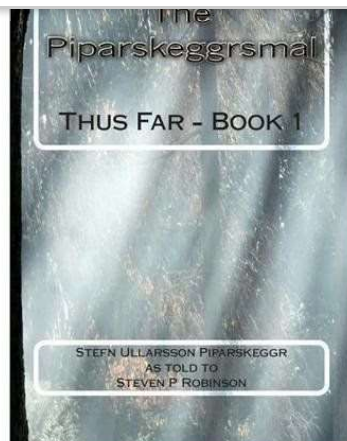
Book Review

Wisdom On Going

A Review of: The Piparskeggrsmal Thus Far
Book 1

A Book of Gnostic Verse Based on Things Learned During the Ongoing Life
by Stefn Ullarsson Piparskeggr
as told to Steven P Robinson
Vinland: Catamount Grange Wordsmithy:
2013

ISBN-13: 9781453644737



Blessed is he who in his own lifetime
 Is awarded praise and wit
 For ill counsel is often given
 By mortal men to each other

The Sayings of Háǫr
 English translation by W H Auden & P B Taylor

Written by long time AFA member Stefn Piparskeggr, [The Piparskeggrsmal](#), like the Sayings of Har, is (as Piparskeggr himself says): “written in what is called gnomic verse. This is a poetic method, first noted in Greece during the 6th Century BCE, of conveying advice or wisdom (not necessarily the same thing) in a form that was easy to memorize.” Although the use of such gnomes (as they are called) is widespread “besides the ancient Greek writings, they may be found in Old English poems, such as Beowulf, and in later English poetry such as works by Alexander Pope or William Blake, and even most recently in Robert Creeley’s modern gnomic “verses” it’s a rare to find them executed well. As editor G. M. Palmer of *Strong Verse* explains, most gnomic poems feel as if they were the product of the “poet-on-high telling us how to behave. But it’s worse than that. It’s the poet-on-high, the poet-guru, telling us in enigmatic phrases, how to behave. What is. What to be.”

of verse is offered not as imperial rules that ought to be followed but as wise and caring guidelines, set to paper for the benefit of those folk who will heed them.

Written in what Piparskeggr refers to as æstandard Pipsdraupa, 4 lines of 8 beats each, these verses are numbered, but not arranged in thematic groupings. They organically weave themselves around, through, and back to the sundry subjects that constitute Tru life.

There is more and deeper Asatru wisdom distilled into these verses than can be found in many other books on the subject. Take Verse 147 for example:

147

If you will look unto the Gods
 Give steadfast love and worship true
 Acknowledge Them and Gift Them well
 Then They will look, and see you too

The truth of this exchange between our Folk and our Gods has never been told so finely before, or so memorably. Which is the power of Piparskeggr's gnostic gems.

Ranging from personal observation:

11

I only know, that I believe
 In Faithful Troth, to Holy Ones
 My Words and Deeds, with Rightful Wit
 Do Shape myself and build Orlay

to wise advice wrought of hard won experience:

396

There comes a day in evry life
 When news is bad, or sometimes worse

to thoughts that are sage, comforting and profound:

428

My Odal Lands are far away
From place where I lay down my head
But they are there within my bones
They call my heart and Know my Name.

each verse is distinct, transcendent, august, and poetically sound, while keeping the same poetic voice throughout. It is not an easy style to sustain.

Besides containing 450 gnomes (as if that weren't enough!), there is an afterword of extra words, an extra poem and the Nine Ignoble Thews—a wry summation of truisms gleaned from Pip's 25 plus years in the greater Pagan community.

The slim [Piparskeggrsmal Book 1](#) might not be a 100 pages long (it is 94 pages long, to be exact), but it is a trove of Tru inspiration: in it there is a world of words telling of wisdoms tried and true, of holy meditation and of high mindedness, and a genuinely remarkable feeling of sage companionship as well.

It is not without realizing what I am saying that I say "I think that this book is a book that shall indeed go on to become renowned and regarded far beyond its own time. It is a book that every Asatruar ought to read, to memorize parts of, to gift copies of. It is a book to take from the shelf in good times and in troubled times, when no other words will do but these words, for these words were written for our folk by one of our own. There is much in it for every time and everyone who heeds. I am very, very glad to have a copy of [The Piparskeggrsmal Book 1](#) of my own. I have read it back to front, and over and over. And I know that I will continue to read from it as my life goes on. I understand that Book 2 is currently being written; I cannot wait.

Who become those, we learn from, like
To better selves, within our hearts
Their manner calls, we owe them thanks

Thank you Piparskeggr.

Meetup in Texas

On April 25,26, and 27th, at Stephen F Austin State Park, located along the Brazos river in Texas, a long-awaited AFA Texas gathering took place. Originally called "The AFA Texas Moot in the Park," the event was attended by 14 of the Folk:

- Johnny, Jennifer, Emery, and Coralie Alexander
- Philip Koch
- Bryan, Darren, Jeff, Janna, Scarlett, and Stephanie Martin
- Terry and Sandra Unger

With the home of Stephen F. Austin in the distance, Terry Unger led the Folk in the first Blot and later a powerful Sumbel, celebrating Walburga, the Gods, Ancestors, and life. At dusk, Folkbuilder Bryan Wilton conducted a powerful Blot to Odin that seemed to literally stir the air throughout the entire park. During this gathering, friendships were formed and plans discussed for the future. Without doubt, the AFA flag was planted in Texas.



Thorblot and Crab Feed

On January 25th members from all over Northern California gathered at the McNallensâ€™™ for Thorblot. It was a beautiful day in Nevada City, not only in terms of the weather: the sense of community was overpowering. We started the day with some

and what we're all going to have to do to make this year the best yet, for our organization, individually, and collectively.

That was followed by a wonderful crab feed that was organized by Linda MacLeod and Sheila McNallen. Special thanks to them for making it happen.

After we all digested the day (and the crab) Steve led us into a powerful Blot around the campfire. All and all about 45 people attended, and we all left inspired, full bellied, and ready to take on this new year!





Tidings from the Assembly of Gothar

Assembly of Gothar, there are several students who are doing exceptionally well in the Clergy program, the beginnings of a new AFA book by the Clergy is in the works, and quite possibly there will be a few public lectures in our future.



Just last month I had the honor of leading a naming ceremony for AFA members in Delaware. The ceremony included the membersâ€™ families and was perhaps one of the most beautiful and moving naming ceremonies I have led to date. As I hear through the grapevine, there will be many more naming ceremonies within our AFA communities across the world over the next few months, and a few weddings, too! I canâ€™t begin to describe how wonderful it is to see so many families whom are growing, and doing so well..

By the same token, there are a few AFA members who have recently lost a family member. To each of you, I send my personal condolences, as well as that of our Clergy. Please know that should you wish to talk with one of our Clergy, that you may contact any of us at any time.

In other news, relating to Clergy:

Since the last issue of The Voice, there have been many exciting changes in the halls of the Assembly of Gothar

First, on behalf of the Æðasatr Folk Assembly, and the AFAâ€™s Clergy Program Directors, I would like to welcome our newest Clergy Board Member, Matt Flavel. Matt is an honorable and loyal member among the Clergy, and of the AFA. We are excited to

Second, I'm thrilled to welcome back Allen Turnage of Tennessee, U.S.A., a wise and distinguished member of the AFA, to the Assembly of Gothar!

And last, but certainly not least, I'm proud to announce that the following AFA members have completed the Clergy program, and its obligations, and are now the newest ordained Clergy of the AFA:

Carrie Overton of Washington, U.S.A.
Dennis Boltenhouse of Ohio, U.S.A.

Both of them have worked hard, and shown true talent, skill, and leadership as AFA Clergy students, and as "satr" folk. We are very proud to have them on board.

Hail Matt!
Hail Allen!
Hail Carrie and Dennis!
Hail the AFA Clergy!

Clergy and Folkbuilders

For reference, here is a list of current Clergy members:

Allen Turnage, TN (USA)
Brad Taylor-Hicks, St. Augustine, FL (USA) " brad@runestone.org
Brian Weis, Sellersville, PA (USA) " ibrainwise@yahoo.com
Carrie Overton, Port Townsend, WA (USA) " heathenmama@GMX.com
David James, Santa Fe, NM (USA) " bragwin@gmail.com
Dennis Boltenhouse, Barberton, OH (USA) " odinskin2@aol.com
John Steiner, Spencer, IN (USA) " grimsteinr@aol.com
Kim Welch, Evansville, IN (USA) " thorolf@wolveswodkindred.org

And here is a list of folkbuilders:

Folk Builder Coordinator - Matt Flavel - mattflavel@runestone.

North America

Hawaii & Alaska: Matt Flavel - mattflavel@runestone

West: Heather Clinkenbeard - truvalkyrie@gmail, Marc Macleod -
macleod881@yahoo.com, Sean Saindon - northlandersink@gmail.com

Northwest: Elizabeth Salix - Apprentice Folkbuilder - esalix@runestone.org

Four Corners: Bryan Wilton - bwilton@runestone.org

Northern Plains: Blaine Qualls Jr - Apprentice Folkbuilder - blainequalls@runestone.org

Central Corridor: Bryan Wilton - bwilton@runestone.org

South Central: Matt Flavel - mattflavel@runestone.org

Midwest: Denny Boltenhouse - dboltenhouse@runestone.org, Stewart Williams -
Apprentice Folkbuilder - stew@runestone.org

Upper South: Patricia Hall - phall19@comcast.net

Deep South: Charlotte Hoxie - choxie@runestone.org, Brad Taylor-Hicks -
brad@runestone.org

North East: Patricia Hall - phall19@comcast.net

Military - Apprentice Folkbuilder - Michael Graham - military@runestone.org

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Australia, New Zealand and South Africa: Neville (Leif) Hamilton-Brown -
oceania@runestone.org

Canada: Matt Flavel - mattflavel@runestone.org

Northern Europe, some AP, AE, APO: Wiktor Domgala - Apprectice Folkbuilder -
afapoland@runestone.org

Spain and Southern Europe: David Omil - dunedain-del-norte@hotmail.com

Latin America: Thorgrun Odden, Folkbuilder at Large - thorgrun@sbcglobal.net

UK and Ireland: Thorgrun Odden, Folkbuilder at Large - thorgrun@sbcglobal.net

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