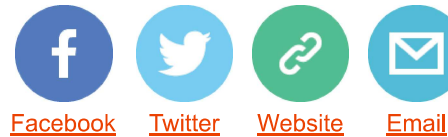


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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

I am writing this after spending an amazing weekend celebrating Walpurgisnacht and May Day in Southern California. This event was the first of the kind in it's region and a smashing success. I want to take a moment to acknowledge the hard work of Folkbuilder Heather Clinkenbeard and the AFA's Tru Folk Kindred, this event was a result of their beautiful vision and spectacular effort, Hail the Tru Folk! As I reflect on Walpurgisnacht

through their workings they prepare our world for holy creation, filling it with potential and enchantment. We follow this the next day by celebrating the virile male force as we erect and charm the May Pole, adding will to the enchantment of the night previous. Through the fertile enchantment of the feminine and the willed potency of the masculine, abundance and life burst forth and permeate our Spring. Magic is truly in the air! Thank you to everyone who made it out to the Tru Folk's AFA Walpurgisnacht and I hope that, where ever you find yourselves this Spring, you are filled with energetic enthusiasm for the triumphant future of our Folk.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the AFA!

Matt Flavel

Alsherjargothi, AFA

Walpurgis / Mayday in Southern California



Thank you from the bottom of my heart to every single person that helped to make this an amazing event. I can't believe the amount of support we got from all over our community. We had the best people show up and contribute to helping and being a part of a great meta-ritual. People that came in frith and helped to build bonds that will last forever. I was in amazement all weekend while the event was showered with auction items and folk bidding on these great items. We had one of our best auctions yet! This is what build us and will help to continue to have events at this level. So again THANK YOU!!

**News from the AFA Military Program
by Roland L'Heureux**



Undoubtedly, the biggest news that our Military Program has to share is the long awaited approval by the Department of Defense for the recognition of Asatru as a religious preference choice for our military personnel. Our military warriors can now complete the full process to ensure their religious preference will be honored: They can indicate Asatru as their preference (new code is “FY”), they can have Asatru put on their ID tags (without hassle), and upon death they can have their gravestone marked with a Thor’s Hammer. The new codes were approved on March 27, 2017, and the full document can be viewed at <http://www.openhalls.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/04/Faith-and-Belief-Codes-for-Reporting-Personnel-Data-of-Service-Members.pdf>. Once again, the Military Program wants to thank the AFA and Tru-Folk Kindred for their invitation to speak at their Walpurgis/May Day celebration April 28-30, 2017. We hope many of you were there to enjoy and participate in this celebration with us. Finally, the Military Program will soon have caps, challenge coins, etc., available through the AFA store. Keep checking in at <http://www.runestonegifts.com/> for our latest arrivals.

**News from AFA Scandinavia
by Anders Nilsson**



Asatru Folk Assembly

– personlig andlighet och folksjäl snarare än religion

Asatron och intresset för våra förfäder växer i Sverige och nu finns flera olika samfund med inriktningen. Organisationen Asatru Folk Assembly som startades i USA under 1970-talet har omgärdats av kontroverser för sin uttolkning av andlighet. Nya Tider ställde därför några frågor till två företrädare för den skandinaviska grenen av organisationen och mötte en personlig religion för personliga trosöde som satte en besjälad natur framför politisk korrekthet.

Asatru är både politiskt omissligt och kulturellt utpräglat, och i Sverige finns nu ett antal olika föreningar för det.

Nya Tider kontrakterade Anders Nilsson, ledare för Asatru Folk Assembly i Skandinavien, och Linus Bergeron som håller i Folkpodden – en podcast för människor som är intresserade eller bara nyfikna på Asatru i Norden.

Både Linus och Anders berättar att de inte är intresserade av en återvändande utövning av Asatru i Norden. De vill hellre lyfta fram sin åsiktsbild. Någon som dock utövar den från andra är att de inte är registrerade som ett trosföretag i Sverige. I övrigt är deras förhållande till den gamla andliga världen djupt personlig.

Amerikansk rörelse med kontroversiella ledstjärnor

Det som utlöste skuffen till Asatru Folk Assembly startades på 1970-talet i USA, grundat på filosofiskt håll av Stephen McNallen – en kontroversiell person i det att han öppet tar till sig genetik kopplingar till intelligens. På senare tid, och då framförallt i västvärlden – har den idén utvecklas som uttryck för högerextremism och rasism. Men McNallen var inte en typisk representant för det många associerat till i de här sammanhangen. Framtill höll sitt andliga håll har han även kamrat i konflikter med personer som velat införa politiska budskap i verksamheten, något som ledde till en kort tids utövning av det medlemmar.



LINUS BERGERON är en av grundarna i Asatru Folk Assembly. Bilden är tagen av honom för Asatru Folk Assembly i Norden.

Foto: Peter

McNallen blev av den ledande rollen som så kallad Allföretagschef 2014 för att ge plats åt en yngre generation. I dag är det Matt Falset som övertagit posten.

I Skandinavien startades den danska grenen 2016, och nu finns alltså organisationen även i Sverige sedan cirka tre år tillbaka. Det finns även två blattlag (Norge, ett i Oslo och ett i Bergen, baserat i Linus.

Folkajälen – ett kollektivt medvetande

Genomgående framhåller Anders och Linus en djupare kärlek till naturen. Mänskligheten är också inbunden i naturens mångfald, menar de, så därför gäller det för oss att ingå i en ständig växelverkan med den.

På frågan om de tror att det finns olika kollektiva medvetanden i världen som legat till grund för olika religioner, svarar både Linus och Anders säkert. De hänvisar till psykoanalytikern C.G Jung som sagt fram en förklaringsmodell till and för natur och som Linus och Anders menar även finns ett gammalt nordiskt uttryck för.

– Inom Asatru Folk Assembly känner vi det som Hattung ja, minnet som lever genom vår DNA. Allt detta är så klart väldigt estetiskt, och till synes även estetiskt, men vetenskapen berättar kunnos skap när det kommer till att visa på hur händer i våra liv påverkar nästkommande generationer. Vad gäller återtyperna som kan ligga till grund för våra bilder av till exempel gudarna,

finns det för mig personligen inget tvivel om deras närvaro. Man behöver bara utforska de indoeuropeiska folkens olika andliga traditioner för att se att de alla är gräddat på samma tråd. Våra gudar kanske inte delar samma namn alla gånger, men vad de representerar och karaktäriserar har så många slående likheter att man lätt kan se att de delar utgångspunkt i något slags andlig arketyper.

Ingen helig skrift med sociala instruktioner

Linus ser ett samband med andra folkliga budens trosystem i världen, som exempelvis den som i den Västiska traditionen kallas Dharma, som kan översättas med "den naturliga ordningen".

– Asatru är ingen konventionell religion, all den som ämnar tala om för någon vad de ska göra eller hur de ska göra. Den har ingen helig skrift, ingen styrande enhet och framförallt är konceptet "synd" helt frånvarande. Det vi har är skrifter som beskriver de karaktäriserande dragen hos de indoeuropeiska folkens, hur dessa "vänderingar" är









On the 1st of April AFA Sweden held a Frey blot with associated blot dinner afterwards. The symbol of this blot is a phallus of flint that I found in a field. We sacrificed mead and strong words in order to get some of Frey's protective force and to strengthen and help our people.

Linus and I were interviewed in an alternative weekly newspaper where we gave our personal approach to our faith and advertised for the AFA.

Anders Nilsson, Scandinavia Folkbuilder

News from the Northern Plains





Here in the Northern Plains we continue to grow and remain active with local events across the region and monthly conference calls. In North Dakota a group of us got together for a weekend long blacksmithing event. Two of our members even gave presentationsShannon Liebold gave a presentation on making Thor's Hammer pendants, while Les Lauer gave one on blacksmithing basics. Was an amazing time spent with good people. Events such as these may seem old fashioned or out of touch with the modern world, but truthfully the people attending and hosting such things are solid, traditional folk, and while not all are Asatru their core values are very similar and it becomes fertile recruiting ground while learning a skill that may come in handy one day.

There is a weekend long Midsummer event being planned for the beginning of June in Minnesota, for more information contact Jason Gallagher. Also, a fairly large contingent of Northern Plains members will be attending the Midsummer celebration at the Hof. For anyone wishing to caravan get in touch with either myself, Blaine Qualls, or Jason Gallagher.

And of course don't forget, Fallfest II is coming in September. Fallfest II is the biggest Asatru celebration in the upper Midwest that there is..... this year we have presentations

people... watch for registration information soon.

Submitted by Blaine Qualls
Northern Plains Folkbuilder

News from the AFA West by Ryan Harlan, Apprentice Folkbuilder

As Sunna Steers her chariot ever higher towards Her Zenith, we here are preparing for the Midsummer celebration which will accompany it. We're looking at putting on quite the Midsummer event this year, but in order to do so, we need some help. A little sweat equity is going to be put into the Hof on the weekend of May 13th and 14th. The Hof may be new to us, but it's showing some age and in need of a few things before a mass of Heathens descends upon her. We will be gathering to take care of some yard work, a bit of painting on the exterior, finishing up some fencing and a few other projects in anticipation of our Midsummer gathering June 16th, 17th and 18th. Aside from work, we'll enjoy each others company and some food. If you're able, we would love the extra hands and the help. As for Midsummer, it's already shaping up to be great! Guest speakers, a Mead competition (which we might be in need of a few Judges for!), a few lucky individuals will be getting a free event shirt (not available in stores mind you) if they sign up in time, and, I know of a few special things which haven't yet been shared. One of which might be a naming ceremony for a new member of our Folk, if she arrives in time. Sharing time with my Folk and meeting new Folk is one of my favorite things about our events, and many of us have yet to meet, so, if you haven't registered yet, the Eventzilla site is up and running and we hope to see you there! Hail!

<https://midsummer2017.eventzilla.net>

April 5th we had our 2nd study/discussion group. And, while it was a smaller turnout than last time, it still was a great time. Anytime members get together it is a good thing. We had a meet and greet on April 15th and that had a great turnout of 21 people. I still am amazed at the enthusiasm of the group and the other AFA members around the world.

Hail the doers!

The next event is the discussion group on May 3rd. We are hosting a weekend camp out on June 2nd to the 4th in Zimmerman, Minnesota. If you plan to be in the area or are interested in attending then please contact me.

jgallagher@runestone.org or on facebook

Discussion group May 3rd 5:30 pm Bloomington, MN

Woodworking/feasting day May 7th 2-5 pm Bloomington, MN

Pizza meet and greet May 13th 4-7 pm Pizza Ranch Waite Park, MN

Midsummer campout weekend June 2-4th 2 pm Zimmerman, MN

Pizza meet and greet July 16th 2-5 pm Rochester, MN

News from the Midwest by Cole Distel, Apprentice Folkbuilder

The Midwest is on the verge of exploding with membership and new kindreds forming. As the winter months disappear the Midwest is emerging strong and energetic. With membership on the rise and multitudes of upcoming events we plan on growing into a

We proudly announce the beginning formation of two kindreds within our region. One being Heimdallrs Miögardör located in southern Indiana and the other Kvasir's Scholars located in Marion Ohio.

These kindreds are very active meeting at least once a week. On 4-12-2017 as darkness fell over Marion OH the Kvasir's Scholars raised horns to the Gods and honored our ancestors.

Midsummer is fast approaching and for the first time in AFA history the Midwest and Upper South regions are combining to host Midsummer in Olive Hill Ky., at Carter Caves State Park on the last weekend of June.

The Midwest is on the rise and we are looking for some great folk to volunteer to get active and start their own local activities if you have questions you can contact Cole Distel at 740-821-6286 or by email cdistel@runestone.org.

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

News from the Four Corners Region by Roland L'Heureux

Offering Sigrblot during the month of April was especially significant this year, as the Four Corners Region continues to gain ground and victory over the curse of distance. Events and activities are springing up in every state of our region: Josh and Zach continue to spearhead gatherings in Utah; Sophia and her kindred in New Mexico continue to hold the line for us there; Nate and his fire-team up in Colorado are in full-time recon. mode for others looking for direction Home; and, our current regional "HQ" kindred here in Arizona not only continues to coordinate and look for ways to expand our regional boot print in the

surrounding regions as well. And, plans have now been laid and are in motion for our Regional Harvest event at Autumn Equinox in September. "Victory is good! Winning is better than losing!"

POC:

NM- Sophia, hypognosis321@gmail.com

CO- Nate, www.facebook.com/groups/1759645577648790/?ref=br_rs;

Utah/AZ- Roland, rlheureux@runestone.org

Folkgard of Holda and Odin will be celebrating Walpurgis/May Day in Southern California at the AFA/Tru-Folk Kindred event April 28-30th.

Our Regional Conference Call will be held on May 14th (Happy Mother's Day to all). The call-in number is (712) 451-0200 and the access code is 110727. If you are new to the region call in and introduce yourself, ask questions, and build your contact circle. Those in the know, call in and share your knowledge while adding to your contact circle.

News from the Northeast by Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder

April Moot Update

AFA members gathered in mid-April for a hike followed by lunch in beautiful Buck County, Pennsylvania. The children set the pace while the adults tried to keep up. For one member, this was the first time meeting "real live" heathens!

May Conference Call

Open to all members to discuss news and updates for the Northeast Region. Our next Northeast conference call will be at 8:00 p.m. EDT on Monday, May 8, 2017. We look forward to hearing you there! Dial-in Number: (641) 715-3580 Access Code: 174-424

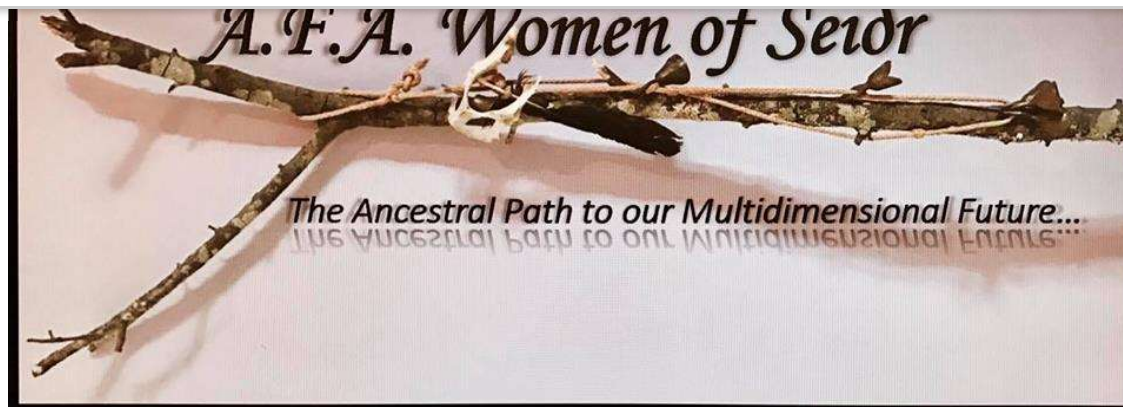
help from local members to make this happen. We need someone who can check out venues and help organize this. If you are interested in being our local contact please reach out to Clifford Erickson at cerickson@runestone.org.

Women of Seiðr Program by Annette Baum

The AFA Women of Seidr had a wonderful first outing at Ostara in the South 2017. The WOS held its first private meeting and working, and I facilitated a well-attended workshop for our ladies on "Seidr & The Path of Holy Womanhood." I would like to extend a special thanks to all the WOS members in attendance who contributed to the success of our work: Karen Bevis, Catie Reid, Mandy Dale, and Jessica Choyce.

In other news, I plan to attend Midsummer at NewGrange to present another Seidr Workshop for men and women. Additionally, there will again be a private WOS meeting/working at this event.

*AFA Women of Seiðr has a networking home on Facebook, but we are more than a Facebook group. If you would like to be an active, working member of the group, please connect with me on Facebook to learn more.



Item of the Month - Kid's Shirt

New KIDS SHIRTS! \$15.00 Sizes are youth extra small through youth extra large navy blue.





New full zip-up hoodies black or blue only. You can buy it here: <http://www.runestonegifts.com/shirts>

Do you brew mead, or ever thought of brewing mead? Mead is one of the world's most ancient beverages, and was held by our ancestors to be a sacred drink. Come join us in the AFA Mead Maker's group on Facebook, and learn all about this wonderful nectar. If you can boil water – you can brew mead! You must be a current member of the AFA to participate.

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

AFA Gothar Program

Once again the AFA Gothar program is taking application for students. The Gothar program is being rewritten as we speak, it will entail two years of dedication on the students part with no promise of any reward. A college level program is our hope, one that will garner the respect of all. Truly the AFA Gothar are some of the finest on Midgard and we plan to maintain that quality and commitment for any future students. Applications are now available on our website, runestone.org. The Gothar program will begin June 1st, 2017. We welcome all applications, but want to remind applicants that we have only a limited number of spaces for this year's curriculum... we look forward to reviewing your applications.

AFA Gothar Board

Member Submission - Poem by Pete Fox

THE LAST WHITE MAN IN EUROPE-
(SAVE OUR FOLK....IN VINLAND)

MAYBE IN THE ALPS..
IS A EUROPEAN MAN
A WHITE MAN
HIDING FROM THE HORDES.
THEY ARE LOOKING FOR HIM
TO BUTCHER
TO TORTURE
THEN TO KILL
HE MUST DIE
THEY SAY.
BUT HE IS THE LAST
THAT CAN TELL THE TALES
AND RECOUNT THE GOLDEN AGE.
WHAT OF THOSE THAT SEARCH?
THEY ARE A TAINTED BLEND
PART THIS PART THAT

THEY WERE MADE

THE WORSE..

NOW THIS LAST WHITE MAN

NO NAME BUT DEEDS HE HAS

SHARPENS HIS SPEAR

RECOUNTS HIS SIX RUSSIAN GRENADES

AND WAITS FOR THEM

TO COME

AND HE WILL FIGHT...

BY PETE FOX

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Volunteer for the AFA

Want to volunteer for the AFA? Fill out this survey: <http://runestone.org/volunteer/>

Save the Date!

Midsummer at NewGrange Hall - Asatru Hof (Northern California), June 16 - 18

Registration information coming soon!

Fall Fest in the Northern Plains (Minnesota), September 8 - 10

Registration information to be announced!

Winter Nights in the Poconos (Pennsylvania), October 12 - 15

Registration information coming soon!

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