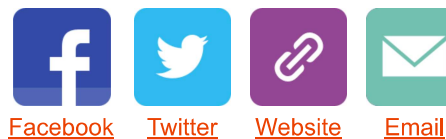


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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 Few Words From The Alsherjargothi

As October ends, we can look back on an eventful month since our last issue. The high point, of course, was Winter Nights in the Poconos - the AFA's major East Coast gathering. And what a gathering it was, as the articles and pictures in this issue will attest! Our joyous throng pretty much filled up Camp Netimus; any more people and we would have to have eaten in shifts! The event had a great balance of activity and relaxation -

one hand to Asatru elder David James, on the other! This was indeed a community of the Folk. David was sworn in as AFA Clergy, and the Folkbuilders likewise grew: Charlotte Hoxie advanced to Folkbuilder, and Dennis Boltenhouse renewed his Folkbuilder oath. We grew, in every sense. When I gave my opening presentation at Camp Netimus two weeks ago, I listed the things we had accomplished since we first gathered there last year. Some of these things I mentioned in the last Voice, like our awesome web site statistics. But there was so much more - AFA membership up 20% in the last year, numerous Freyfaxi and Winter Nights gatherings both large and small sponsored by Folkbuilders from one end of the continent to the other, our highly successful trip to Denmark, and more.

The AFA is doing very well - thanks to our excellent leaders who make my job infinitely easier (or for that matter, possible), and thanks to the support of men and women like you, our members. You have all accomplished great things!

In the months to come we can look forward to various Yule events held locally and regionally around the country...and it's not too early to start thinking about coming out to California next June for our big West Coast event, Midsummer!

Runepbble

We hope you are currently enjoying the Yule edition of the Runepbble, has just released on November 1st! Though it's only November, we are already looking forward and beginning the next issue, set to be released on January 1st, 2014.

The Focus

TROLLS!!

What You Can Do

hear all about them! Do you have something else you'd like to share that is not troll-related, and seasonally appropriate? We'd love to hear about that as well. You can submit your art, stories, songs, crafts, educational articles, kitchen recipes, and even book or music reviews. Use your imagination, bring the children in on it...and have fun!

Deadline:

Submissions will be accepted until midnight on Monday, December 30th. Contact Rebecca Radcliff at <mailto:Runepebble@Runestone.org>.

Winter Nights In The Poconos - 2013



Jon Upsal blogs -

I had the very good fortune to spend Saturday in Pennsylvania attending the now-annual AFA Winternights event. Unfortunately, although I had originally planned to spend the whole weekend at the event, the world conspired to not make that possible. Still, I spent the day, and was able to bring my daughter. Gotta say it was a blast, as was last year's

I could mention the excellent DÃsablÃ³t, and the Tyr blÃ³t where various weapons were blessed, and the auction, and the talk by Steve McNallen on ritual and the nature of the Gods. All were superb as expected. But what I would like to mention is the simple act of hanging out with fellow ÃsatrÃ°ar.

What I love about these sorts of events is that I come away feeling energized. It's all too easy to live in a bubble, talking with the same folks day in and day out, and doing ritual with the same group of people, and even interacting with folks online.

But I find there is something incalculable about actually being on the same land with new people (and old people with whom one has not been in touch with in years, as I had the great good fortune to do). There's something energizing about being in a ritual with people from all over the country (indeed, all over the world, in this particular case), who have come together to worship our Gods and honor our Folk. I, in particular, love to see the little variations in the way different people from different places do things. Whether it's the blessing of the food before the meal, or the structure of the blÃ³t itself, I love to see the various ways we all find to do things - different, yet recognizable.

We all benefit not only from the cross-pollination of ideas, but also from the simple act of human contact. Get off the computer, get out of the rut of your usual group, and go honor the Gods with someone new. At the very least, you will have an opportunity to learn and share.

Embrace The Mystery ... Create The Mystery



Winter Nights in the Poconos was an amazing event. The event was beyond words, so I will let the people that attended and the photos speak for themselves.

Click [HERE for the youtube video.](#)

Stefano Bertoli, member of Tears of Othila â€” â€œWhat a great weekend, what a wonderful event, what a great concertâ€¡. Many thanks to anybodyâ€¡

Suzanne Conkling â€” â€œA great time this weekend with everyone â€” thanks again to all my volunteers and zombies!!â€¡

Nicholas Ferreri â€” â€œSo I would like to share an experience I had this weekend with you all, something that sums up how I feel about this weekend. On Saturday after the bands were playing and everyone was socializing in Birch Hall, I watched an amazing

The big deal was that these six men, during all the noise and commotion of the moment held Sumbel. Amongst themselves in a crowded hall and remarkably, not a soul noticed. Well I did, everyone should have. It was Robert, Steve, Brad, Michael, Nicholas and Josh. Generations of our folks leaders, all together, lock together, as brothers—and not a soul noticed. So I watched the most powerful thing I have ever seen, these brothers locked in close, doing Sumbel and celebrating the fact that this may NEVER be together in this way again. Towards the end, Thor came to speak with his father Robert, and was pulled into this circle. I watched this and was made proud and humble by it. It reminded me of the theme of this weekend, “Embrace the mystery.” It also reminded me of what you can see if you just keep your eyes open and look. You might just be surprised by what you find.

Eirik Westcoat “Hail to another wonderful AFA event in the Northeast, and a big thank you to everyone who listened to my poetry”

Patricia L. Hall “THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU EVERYONE! You give me purpose!”

Stuart Sudekum “Another brilliant AFA event. Can’t think of a better way to cap off the honeymoon.”

Tony Lester “It was a wonderful weekend of energy, wisdom and joy. Proper Heathenry at its best.”

Clifford Erickson “Awesome event! Thank you everyone who put so much effort into making this a success.”

Asatru Folk Assembly 2014 Clergy Program

The AFA is now accepting applications for our 2014 Clergy Program Curriculum. If you are an experienced Asatruar who is interested in taking the honorable path of Gothi or Gythia, we encourage you to consider applying!

The Clergy Program is a 1 year curriculum and 1 year mentoring program which has been designed at the academic level to prepare you for Clergy service for the Asatru community, both locally and globally! For more information, visit the Clergy page of the AFA's website here: <http://runestone.org/about-the-afa/clergy-program.html>

Application Deadline:

The deadline deadline for submitting an application has been extended from November 1st TO December 1st. If you have questions regarding the program, you can contact the Clergy Program Coordinator at <mailto:Clergy@Runestone.org>.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

The Community Of The Folk - In Action!

For those who still wonder whatâ€™s so unique about the AFA, I want to take you back to Winter Nights in the Poconos. One of our beloved elders arrived at the camp in very poor health from some chronic health conditions. It presented us with a quite a dilemma as he needed skilled nursing care to get him to a point where he could make that long flight back home on Sunday. Hospitalization was considered, but then two attendees who are medics said theyâ€™d like to begin care and treatment in camp first. Other AFA members stepped forward to help with bathing and clothes care; others helped transport him from bed to bathroom to dining hall, and everywhere else.

His spirits rose and he started to bloom with health again. By the end of the weekend, he was able to make the return flight home with no significant issues, and his companion described it as being a truly enjoyable trip.

You could say it was the community working together, or simply a big family taking care of

The successful outcome was due especially to loving care by the following people: Mike, Tina, Gili, Charlotte, Nick F, Matt, Channicie, numerous men of the Viking Brotherhood, and David's traveling companion, Nicholas. Our deepest thanks go to these people and to all of the rest who helped make David James's™ trip to Pennsylvania one of the high points of his life.

New Clergy - Carrie Overton

"The AFA Clergy Board is proud to announce that Carrie Overton of Port Townsend, Washington has completed the AFA Clergy program!

Carrie has surpassed all expectations with the requirements and tasks set before her throughout the curriculum. She has proven herself honorable, hardworking, full of integrity, and ever rising and prevailing over her challenges. Carrie is on her way to becoming an outstanding AFA Gythia, and we couldn't be happier to have her on board with us.

Hail Carrie Overton, our newest AFA Gythia!"



Paganfest in Poland

Wiktor Domagala hosted "Pagenfest" in Poland. It was the second edition of Silesian

that attended enjoyed lectures, concerts, warrior fights and good pagan company. Everyone was welcome to come and listen about the AFA, Asatru and other pagan religions. His own lecture (about calendar of ancestors) turned into a discussion about Asatru, Vikings and other issues. There was a very warm and friendly attitude about the AFA, in Poland. Wiktor reports that it was a good start. Also, more people have helped with the AFA's Eco-Program in Poland, they donated more food for the homeless cats and now they can help more of them.

Please see his [facebook](#) page.

Membership News

A busy October meant that Sheila wasn't able to send out the usual early reminders about end-of-quarter expirations. If you expired on October 31, 2013, we're giving you a few weeks to make your annual membership payment. For those who are on the monthly subscription plan, yours automatically rolls into the next year.

Please think about what your dues payments - \$2.50, \$5, or \$10 per month - accomplish. They made events like Mother of All Moots and Winter Nights in the Poconos happen, and allowed us to acquire publishing rights to Edred Thorsson's books, and to buy expensive software desperately needed for the Runestone Press. Your financial support of the AFA makes this and much more possible. It is the "working capital" that allows the AFA to expand and grow in so many wonderful ways!

Har's Hall and NRR

Daniel Updike reports -

Things have been fairly active with our kindred in Edmonton Alberta. We held our own

broadcasts. Content has been added by Ross Harty, Glen Brunt, and Adrian Plozaj. We have also been allowed to include content from Stephen McNallen's podcast Asatru Rising!

Our listener ship on the radio station has been increasing in Sweden and in the Russian Federation!

Coming up on November the 9th we are having an open moot for the purpose of introducing people to our ways. From what I've been told there are at least three new guests, that are confirmed for attendance. When the moot is over, those of us that remain will be performing a Symbel in honor of the Fallen war dead.

Plans are already in the works for a major Yule celebration that will include a Blot at the beginning of the 12 day period and Symbel at the end of the 12 day period bringing in the New Year.

Viking Brotherhood



I personally want to give a great big THANK YOU to the members of the Viking Brotherhood that helped with Winter Nights in the Poconos. If it wasn't for these guys things would have not happened. Support the Viking Brotherhood.

[Donate Now](#)

Pictures from Winter Nights in Northern California





Pictures from Alaska Events







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