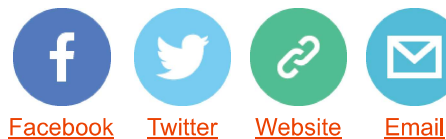


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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 Steve

This issue of The Voice is chock-full of things our members should read - news of exciting gatherings, reports from all across the country, and pictures of people you know (or want to know!). It's a treasure trove, an ongoing chronicle of the Asatru revival...

...But so many of our AFA kin don't read it!

numbers. You can help me do this by talking to other AFAers you know, and asking them if they got their copy. If they didn't get it, they should check their spam folder in case it got filtered out. If they definitely did NOT receive this issue they need to write to thevoice@runestone.org and let Karen know - so we can fix the problem!

After all, if they don't get The Voice they'll miss Jim Erickson's articles. Jim is now in charge of the AFA Family Safety Program. I wrote a piece in The Voice last month, citing some of his many wise words on preparedness. He inspired me so much that I asked him to take over the program - and he said yes! His first contribution is in this issue. Welcome aboard, Jim!

Another new development around here is our "AFA Entrepreneur of the Month" profile! It can be rough making a living these days, and self-reliance is even harder! In response to this challenge, many AFA members have started their own businesses, either full- or part-time. Some of their enterprises are Asatru-related, and others range all across the trades and professions. In any case, we want to give them a chance to promote their endeavors - and to share their insights on the do's and don'ts of starting a business. I want the AFA to have an entrepreneurial spirit, and to give encouragement to those of our AFA kin who want to go into business for themselves. We've profiled member businesses a time or two in the past, but now it's going to be a regular feature of The Voice. If you are an AFA member with your own business, large or small, drop us a line and we'll get you on the list to appear in our pages!

We are doing a LOT! Our major Winter Nights event in Pennsylvania was arguably our best ever. Our Folkbuilders are sponsoring local events. The AFA is on the move, building our community and offering our members more and better ways to interact with each other. Welcome to the future of Asatru!

Steve McNallen,
Alsherjargothi



Let's Get Started

by Jim Erickson

Last month, in The Voice, Steve talked about "Jim's Law - Three is the minimum, not the maximum." Then Steve called me - Jim! - and asked me to share some of my thoughts for the Family Safety Program.

Survival and preparedness have been a part of my life since I was seven and was thrown off my horse, and left stranded five miles from the cabin in the dark, in the mountains. Which direction? Water, food, knife, flashlight, coat? I made it back and have never left my house again without thinking, "What could happen while I am out? Am I prepared to survive?"

In a previous column, Steve asked you to put aside enough food for a few days. Have you done it? He asked you to get first aid kits and put them in your house and vehicles, did you do it? He asked you get three knives and put them where you might need them. Did you make it happen?

The protection of yourself and family is a right and responsibility that totally falls on the leader of the family. In the coming months I hope to enlighten you, and help you become better with self-sufficiency and survival. I will lead you toward surviving longer than a few hours (think Katrina, it took 4-5 days for the government to get drinking water to the victims), in circumstances scarier than being stuck in your house for a few days (think blown tire, car runs off the side of the road, you are injured and out of sight of passing traffic). These things happen more often than you think. Are you ready to accept responsibly for you and your family? Are you willing to learn and practice the needed skills to be ready for the unexpected?

Start where I started - as a seven year old who needed to get home. Could your children survive an unexpected crisis? What if there is a natural disaster (earthquake, tornado, hurricane, or just a bad storm) and there is no power, and no neighbor, and you can't get home to help them for days? Please go to this link and read the "10 survival skills

<http://momwithaprep.com/10-survival-skills-every-12-year-old-should-know/>

Learn a new skill every week.

Jim Erickson --- "Three is the Minimum, not the Maximum"

AFA Clergy

It is our pleasure to announce that Dennis Boltenhouse, Bryan Wilton, and Allen Turnage have all completed the requirements and trials of the AFA's Clergy program, and have earned their place among the AFA's clergy ranks. And on the day of Sunday, October 19th, at the AFA's Winter Nights in the Poconos event, these men spoke and made their oaths of service and dedication to that sacred charge before the community. They have shown their worth to the Asatru community through their deeds and service, and we are honored to have them within our ranks!

If you are interested in joining the AFA's Assembly of Gothar to serve the Asatru community, you still have time to send in your application for the 2015 Clergy Program. Please visit our website at: <http://tinyurl.com/afaclergyprogram> to read more about the Program and its requirements. At the bottom of the page you will find a PDF application which also contains the information you will need before applying. If you have any questions, please contact the Clergy Program Director, Rebecca, at Clergy@Runestone.org. The AFA Clergy program is a two-year program for those who wish to serve the Asatru community as ordained AFA Clergy. Officially ordained Goats can provide services that require federal recognition in most regions (e.g., marriages), in addition to the usual services Clergy provides.

Volunteer Wanted!

The AFA needs someone to help with web design and maintenance, as well as various

the people who make the AFA function!

AFA ENTREPRENEUR OF THE MONTH

In each issue of The Voice, I want to profile an AFA member who has his or her own business. It can be part time or full time, and the product doesn't have to deal with our religion. My goal is to build an entrepreneur-friendly environment, and to help our members prosper in every aspect of their lives.



A lot of you know Nick Ferreri - and the rest of you are getting ready to make an acquaintance with this outstanding fellow member of the AFA in his own words! I don't know why Nick calls his business "Little Viking Design," because if you've met him in person at an AFA gathering or elsewhere, you know he's a bear of a man...but to start -

Nick, give us a quick description of Little Viking Design.

Little Viking Design is a place where you will find a variety of crafts. My big thing is functional art: making something that is more than decorative, something that is also practical; custom work from wood to horn.

How long have you been doing this?

I started in 2009 on a lark, and since then I have gone from your simple everyday wood

How did you decide what kind of business you wanted to start?

My hobby chose me. It became a business after I realized that I could do it, and people wanted what I had made.

What was the biggest obstacle to getting started?

Time and money; it may seem cliché, but that was really my biggest hurdle.

What would you say was your greatest challenge as an entrepreneur?

Making time for all the things a small business needs, either on the web, craft fairs or events. Never being discouraged. The BIGGEST thing is to never be satisfied. When that happens, it's all downhill. Always looking for a new ideas, and more efficient ways to work make getting things done easier. Never settle, because then you will never be happy.

What advice would you give to someone who wanted to go into business for themselves?

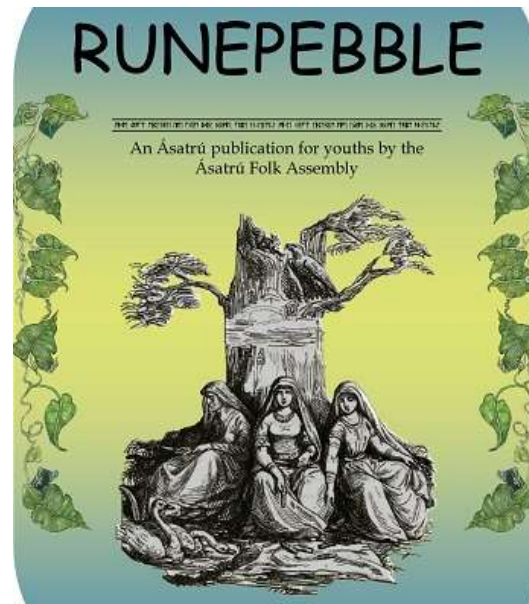
Do it! Whatever you do, do it 100%. Wayne Gretsky said, "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take." So take the shot. Start small, with simple ideas. Then as time goes on, and money permits, take it up a level. Director Kevin Smith once said, "Live a 'why not' life." People will throw "WHY" at you left and right. Why do you want to open a meadery? Why do you want to paint? Why? Why? Why? WHY NOT! It is hard work and sacrifice when you start, but when you are done, it is an amazing feeling. For my own example, this past Winter Nights, my wife pointed out how many horns people were using there were ones I had created. It is an amazing feeling to see that and to know it was your work people appreciated.

Where can people find you on the web?

Facebook: Little Viking Design

www.littlevikingdesign.com

Runepobble



Runepobble: An AFA e-publication for
Ásatrú families!

Can you believe the Yuletide festivities begin in merely six weeks? This year has gone by so fast! Today you will receive your November/December issue of Runepobble, featuring the 12 Days of the Yuletide as its main theme, among other festive and fun articles and activities. This also means that those of you who wish to contribute can begin looking forward to the next issue awhile, too. The theme for the January/February 2015 issue of Runepobble will be the "Thorrablot." This will include a focus on Thor, as well. If you are interested in adding submissions from your family, please contact our Runepobble editor, Rebecca Radcliff, at Runepobble@Runestone.org for more information.

**Clark Wullenweber's Tombstone -
Complete with Thor's Hammer!**



We announced last spring that a remarkable man had died - Clark Wullenweber, Asatru Folk Assembly member and US Army veteran, and amazing human being.

I had the privilege of meeting Clark a few months before he died. He was a Vietnam veteran, wounded in combat. After Vietnam he went to Biafra to help the Ibo people in their attempt to secede from Nigeria. Clark earned the friendship of such notable paladins as Rolf Steiner, and flew out of Biafra on the same plane as Frederick Forsyth, author of the novel *Dogs of War*.

Clark was a profound influence on the lives he touched, and brought a number of outstanding people to Asatru - one of whom was our own Brad Taylor-Hicks.

Now his body rests on a West Virginia hillside, and he is with the ancestors and the heroes. The VA-approved hammer on his tombstone guards his remains.

Hail, Clark!

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

Steve McNallen

New Asatru Video

AFA member Karl Parker has recently finished a video called "Hallowed Rite: A Guide to Bláðt."

It was made in conjunction with Mark Puryear of the Norroena Society (also host of the internet radio show, "Sound of the Gjallahorn").

It is a "How to" video on how to perform a Bláðt, based on the research that Mark has done over the years.

It is online on YouTube and the link is:

<http://youtu.be/lgwSSITMjao>

Winter Nights in the Poconos, 2014

This was the AFA's third Winter Nights in the Poconos event, and we brought in well over a

applications. We picked up some seriously amazing folks from this gathering!

This year's Winter Nights was characterized by high energy, a strong feeling of connection with each other and with the mission of the AFA, and by rituals that were perhaps our best ever. Our focus was the rune Uruz, that we might gather even more might for the AFA in its mission, as well as for the luck and victory of those who were attending.

Three new Clergy members were sworn in - Denny Boltenhouse, Bryan Wilton, and Allen Turnage.

Three bands made this gathering even more lively: Knotwork, Blood and Sun, and Changes.

Once again I was struck by the high quality of people standing in the ritual circle with us, and by the many children who were there. Looking across the feast hall, I saw wall-to-wall folk, eating and talking and laughing. I made many new friends and was delighted to see old ones again.

Incredible!

Sheila McNallen

Central California Winter Nights



Mariposa is a one of those sleepy California gold-rush towns tucked in among the foothills of central California. Few of us had been there before, but when Tonia and Wyatt Brooks offered us the use of their rural property in such a great location, we couldn't pass it

Large stone outcroppings and slabs of granite marked the ritual area where we encircled Tonia and Wyatt as they renewed their marriage of twenty years with vows of love and re-commitment. As dusk descended, Michael Hunter stepped up to conduct a Winter Nights Blot in which he spoke of how our overcoming of winter's hardships and challenges were our key to evolution. It was a memorable day and evening, with a barbeque, feasting and submel that went into the wee hours.



Since the site was a mere twelve miles from the entrance of Yosemite National Park, we couldn't resist making the trip the next morning. After all said their goodbyes, Steve, Sheila, and Marc MacLeod journeyed up the road to the majestic Yosemite Valley for a few hours of strolling and picture taking. We hope you join us next time!

Texas Winternights



Well, what can I say.....TEXAS AFA WINTER NIGHTS at Birch Hill Park in Somerville, TX, was outstanding! Twenty people came and poured out their hearts for this event. The sense of family and spirituality was enormous. And the energy that was put into Urda's Well was huge!

During the welcoming hour, the energy began to build. After a brief discourse about Blot, Terry Unger led the assembled in a powerful Blot to and for the Disir. The energy was building and after a time for comments and reflection, Unger presented a discourse about the three reasons that provoked the Viking raids. And then there was the feast.

We literally were overcome with food! Fresh burgers and sausage on the grill, a honey baked ham, home-made casseroles and desserts (and that includes home-made APPLE BUTTER!). When we were done, we had enough food to feed another 20 people and still have left-overs! And, as scheduled and promised, we brain-stormed about the future.

1/31/2015 - Thorrablot

3/21/2015 - Ostara

6/20/2015 - Summerfest

And the Big One - October 16, 17, and 18.....a three day Texas Winter Nights!

After feast and a comfortable pause, Johnny Alexander gave a fantastic presentation about Wyrð and the state of constant becoming. Johnny's presentation is worthy of an international view.

An emotional Sumbel was led by Terry Unger that made the AFA in Texas stronger and focused.

When we said our "Auf Wiedersehens," we knew that it was not good-bye, but until we see each other again!

Special thanks to-----

"Grill Sargent" Jeff Colwell for his skills with food and fire, Megan Keith for making sure we had "everything," and Joe Spencer for the apple butter!

Joe Spencer adds this note: Good food, wise words, and blooming friendships! Big thanks to Terry and Sandra Unger for coordinating the day!

**News from the Northeast and Upper South
from Patricia Hall, Folkbuilder**

Hail the east coast and the northeast! We are showing a powerful folkish presence as evidenced by this past 3rd Winter Nights in the Poconos! I am already starting to save my pennies for next year! I would like to send out a special shout to one of our AFA kin Mr. Bill McNamara who generously gave of his time and talent to bring in his own sound equipment, set it up, and stay with it and the bands through the entire concert, and then break it all down in the wee hours of the morning. Above and beyond the call...and we are all most grateful! Hail Bill and his lovely family! And remember our next east coast showing is with our Southern kinâ€|Ostara next spring in Georgia!

LANSDALE PA HIKEMOOT and PUBMOOT-MONTHLY

Our own Cliff Erickson hosts a monthly pubmoot at Molly McGuireâ€™s in Lansdale, PA. The next one is not yet scheduled for November but will be from 2 to 5 p.m. Cliff has also started a pre-pub hikemoot on the same day from 11 to 1:30 for those who need to build an appetite before feasting. Watch for postings about this in the AFA Moots and Meetups Facebook site. If you would like tips as to the logistics of setting up a pub- or hikemoot in your area, please feel free to contact me at patriciahall@runestone.org.

RUNE STUDY

In May, a rune study group made of up of AFA and non-AFA folk was formed and is meeting at membersâ€™ homes in the eastern PA area on a monthly basis. We are still going strong and growing! We have gone from 5 members to 15. If anyone would like help with logistics and materials to start their own rune or lore study group, please contact me at patriciahall@runestone.org.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS

The Northeast and Upper South folks are embarking on a new communications project to pull ourselves closer together as a community. It is a monthly conference call to learn whatâ€™s going on, ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know each other a bit better. Our pilot call using Skype happened in June and was NOT successful. However we now have an 800 conference call number and our first call on August 19 was a success. A Conference Call recap email went out to all Northeast and Upper South members the next day. Our next call is scheduled for Tuesday, November 11, at 8 p.m. The call is usually the first Tuesday of each month; however, this month the first Tuesday is

anyone did not receive the conference call recap email, please let me know.

CIRCLE OF EIR â€“ A Call to Healing

AFA Circle of Eir is up and working. A core group performs 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 on the first Thursday of each month, will be on Thursday, November 6, at midnight EST/USA.

Doings in the Northwest

Hikemoot in Portland



On Saturday, October 11th, AFA members and friends gathered for a hikemoot at MacLeay Park in Portland, Oregon. Led by Karl Parker and Brian Scott, we explored the wooded trails of the park, discovering lots of local flora and fauna, and discussing many interesting things amongst the folk. At the top of the hill, Brian led us through the Audubon Society Wildlife Care Center and introduced us to some of the resident birds of prey. After the hike, we ventured to Kell's Brew Pub for food, drink, and merriment. This was Karl and Brian's second hike- and pubmoot, and there will be more to come in the future!

Winter Nights in Seattle / Seattle Folk Moot



On Saturday, October 18th, AFA members and friends gathered for a Winter Nights Blátt at the Carl S. English Jr. Botanical Gardens in the Ballard area of Seattle, Washington. We honoured the Dásir and hailed members of our own family, living or dead, who have had a positive impact on our lives. After the Blátt, we met up with more folk for the Seattle Folk Moot hosted by Rachael Harding at the People's Pub in Ballard, where a good time was had by all. This was the first event of its kind to be held by our folk in Seattle, and Rachael intends to host many more in the future!

Winter Nights in Spokane



On Saturday, October 25th, AFA members and friends gathered for a Winter Nights Blã³t at Franklin Park in Spokane, Washington. There were three locals in attendance, with other attendees journeying from places as far away as Centralia, Washington (6 hours away), and Boise, Idaho (7ish hours away). We honoured the Dãsir and our own female ancestors with a horn of delicious local apple cider, and returned an offering of same to the earth and the land wights. After the Blã³t, we fared forth to Das Stein Haus for some excellent German food and good company among folk. This was our first event east of the Cascade Mountains; stay tuned for more in the future!



Upcoming Event: Northwest Feast of the Einherjar

Sunday, November 23rd, at 1 pm, we will be hosting Northwest Feast of the Einherjar on our farm in Centralia, Washington. We will give Bláð^{3t} to the Einherjar and those who have fallen, with a feast to follow. Join us for kinship and merriment among good folk! Last year's event had 27 attendees, and good times were had by all.

For information about this or other Northwest events, please send email to

esalix@runestone.org.

Hail the Gods!

Hail the Folk!

Hail the Ancestors!

Hail the AFA!

-E. Salix

Northwest Folkbuilder

Upcoming Ostara in the South

Registration will be up in the next couple of weeks. For more information, contact Folkbuilder Charlotte Hoxie, choxie@runestone.org!

Book Review

Personal, Engaging Moral Reflections

A Review of: The View: One Man's Living Asatru With Help From The Havamal
by Terry Unger
published by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; available on amazon.com

Reviewed by Karen M. P. Carlson

AFA member Terry Unger has written a book that pulls together some common-sense essays on the good life and a modern take on the Havamal in a format that is entertaining and thought-provoking.

There are a number of modern English translations of the Havamal, two of the most respected being those by Hollander and Bellows. Terry has worked through these two translations and come up with a modern rendition “not a new translation, but an updating for the 21st century. A great many of the verses are basically just restatements in clear modern prose. Others keep the spirit but not the specifics of the medieval verse “for example, instead of enjoining us not to worry about how good a horse we ride, this version tells us to not be hung up on having an expensive automobile.

This rendering of the Havamal is presented in its entirety at the back of the book. The bulk of the book consists of a collection of short sections, each of which has (1) an essay from the author's blog, (2) one or more verses of the Havamal that are relevant to the essay, and (3) one or more questions for the reader. This is not highly polished work; there are some typos and misspellings; but it is highly readable. Terry has a flare for entertaining

Many sections of the book would be meaningful to a person of any religion; they deal with the sort of everyday moral and getting-along-in-the-world situations that, well, the Havamal addressed. Other sections are more for the Asatru audience; some of the questions invite you to consider an issue from a heathen perspective.

The questions are personal, and most have no "right" answer. For some of them I found my answer disagreed with Terry's implied position and that felt OK. The questions run along the lines of "What do you think about...?" or "Have you run into something like this in your life?" And space is provided for the reader's responses and notes, which I found really did encourage me to write down an answer, not just jump ahead to the next section. I very much enjoyed reading this book, pencil in hand.

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