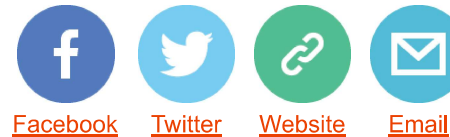


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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

There is a cold Northern wind blowing across the soul of our people, and it is galvanizing us into action. Here are some of the things it whispers...

It whispers...five years ago, the Asatru Folk Assembly was holding a single national gathering every year. Now there are four, one on each corner of the United States.

It whispers...Sixty days ago, no Germanic religious organization had raised \$50,000 through crowdfunding. Now we have.

It whispers...Three weeks ago, there was no large hof anywhere in the world hallowed to our Gods and Goddesses. Now there is.

There are fainter whispers, of course: favorable articles in mainstream newspapers and so forth. All of them add to the wind, bringing it ever closer to gale force.

What has made the difference? WILL. FOCUS. SACRIFICE. More specifically, YOUR will, focus, and sacrifice! We are putting important deeds into the Well of Urth, deeds that daily awaken our people, bringing them home, recovering their soul.

But now is not a time for self-congratulation; it is a time for renewed energy and increased effort. We must be true...ASA-tru.

I salute the true men and women who have carried us to this point. Now - onward!

Newgrange Hof Dedicated at Winter Nights Celebration





Newgrange Hof was formally dedicated at a public event held on October 10 in Brownsville, California. After thousands of man-hours of painting, sawing, cleaning, polishing, welding, drawing, and sweating, this was the payoff!



A crowd of some 80 people had assembled - some locals, others from as far as the opposite corner of the continent - to participate in the occasion. You can see in this view that the hall is well suited to large gatherings.

It began, as such events often do, with a speech - an impassioned one by Stephen McNallen, Alsherjagothi of the Asatru Folk Assembly. (You can find a video of it at

800 years. He spoke of the awakening of the European-descended peoples and our return to our native Gods and Goddesses after so many centuries.

Now the hallowing ritual began! Men who had worked on the hof stood in a line inside the door, symbolizing the inner wall which in the old days defended the hof and hall. Everyone else went around to the front of the building. Led by Brad Taylor-Hicks, they knocked at the door...the door was opened...and they ritually asked for shelter and sustenance. This was granted, and for the first time ever, guests were allowed through the doors and into the expansive hall.

Next, the women who had worked on the hof, led by Sheila McNallen, prepared the horn of mead. Sheila then aided the Alsherjargothi as he ritually blessed the Hof, invoking the might of the Gods and Ancestors and sprinkling mead on the walls, the door, the high place of the Gods, the ceiling, and the floor. Afterwards, a separate blessing of the door by the Alsherjargothi, Brad Taylor-Hicks, and Charlotte Hoxie finished the warding of the building.

Dinner followed: a magnificent affair held at long tables of talking, laughing men and women and children. (The desserts were especially memorable!) This in turn was followed by the Disirblot, out in the open-air ve. Surrounded by the God poles in the flickering firelight, we called on the Disir and summoned our female ancestors to be with us. We gave them our sacrifices, and accepted their gifts, in time-honored tradition of the exchange between the ancestors and their descendants.

Drifting back in, we listened to the music of Lasher Keen, pounding on the tables and stomping on the floor with special abandon to Dylan Sheets's song about the One Eyed Wanderer.

Then merriment, and talk, and retirement to camp and cabin - followed by lingering departure the next morning.

The first day at Newgrange Hof...which, someday, will be the new Uppsala for an ever-more vibrant, expanding, joyous presence of the Aesir and Vanir in Vinland and the world!

AFA Winter Nights in the Poconos 2015 from Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilder





Our fourth annual Winter Nights in Pennsylvania was a huge success. We had Folk from as far as California, Florida, Washington state, and even from Spain. And there were plenty of Folk from closer by in the Northeast.

This year our Alsherjargothi explained the importance of focus on empowerment, represented by the Holy Fylfot. Our keynote speaker, Collin Cleary, gave an excellent lecture on Asatru as a living tradition. Collin recommended an exercise for all of us: retell the stories from the Eddas and Sagas in our own words, letting them live and grow. Our local herbalists, led by Annabel Moynihan, showed us uses for many of the local plants and some trees, too. Many games of Kubb were played in the large field. For the youngsters there was a rune workshop, a hammer toss competition, and a haunted house. They barely escaped the werewolves and draugr in time for dinner!

We offered blot to our Disir and to Wotan. We shared in sumbel. David Wolfheart, from Spain, took his oath as AFA Clergy. Also three Folkbuilders took their oaths: David, Blaine Qualls Jr., and Clifford J. Erickson (me).

We enjoyed the music of Witch Hunt, Changes, and The Lindbergh Baby.

Don't tell anyone, but we may have broken out into a spontaneous line dance during the performance by Changes of "Waiting for the Fall."

The staff at Camp Netimus was typically awesome, providing us with high quality meals and with anything else we needed. It was a cold weekend, and we did get snow late on the last day as the final travelers were departing.

stepped up, made friends, and helped show how we are all folk builders. We hope to see you next year here in Pennsylvania!

Check out the wonderful video that David Wolfheart put together to share this great event with all of you: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUwxHxBG_I8



Thank You, Donors to the Newgrange Hall Campaign!

that were purchased from our Indiegogo proceeds. Pretty amazing, don't you think? We haven't forgotten our donors who helped make it happen, and you will be hearing from us shortly. We're pulling together our "donor perks" and sorting out who-gets-what, and the process is turning out to be more challenging than expected...but we're getting there! Thank you for your patience!

AFA Member Erin Morrell Needs Our Help!



AFA member Steve Morrell's wife Erin has been in hospital with a brain infection. She has undergone surgery, and while she is on the mend, the medical bills have been astronomical. To make matters worse, they have both lost time from work due to her illness. Steve is an Army veteran, and both he and Erin are active, contributing members

The AFA is not just a national organization, it is a community - and we help each other as best we can. (Something to remember the next time someone says, "Asatru doesn't need national organizations...") So we knew we wanted to help. AFA member Mark Huizinga hand-crafted and ritually blessed an amazing seax knife for the raffle at Winter Nights in the Poconos. Because of its unique beauty and power, we held a special raffle with the specific purpose of aiding the Morrells. It brought in \$460, which Steve and Sheila rounded up to \$500.

But, the fact remains, it's small compared to the amount they need - please send your donations to Erin's GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/j565dp6c>!

Family Safety Program: Commuter Emergency Plan

We often talk about making an emergency plan for your family, work, or school, but how many of you have an emergency plan for traveling from your home to your emergency meeting place? Right next to the important documents in your emergency kit, make sure you save room for your Commuter Emergency Plan.

FEMA's National Preparedness Community recently published a Commuter Emergency Plan that you can download and print. They suggest that the purpose of this plan is to help you come up with alternate routes for traveling between your work and home, or other commonly visited locations in case of an emergency.

During an emergency, your regular routes home from work or school may be blocked by traffic or debris. The purpose of FEMA's Commuter Emergency Plan is to help you think about that possibility and how you can get to safe destinations (like your home) using alternative routes.

The Commuter Emergency Plan is a well-thought-out document that takes into consideration the different types of transportation you could use to get from point A to point B. It also asks you to think about two alternative routes you can use and gives you links to



Commuter Emergency Plan



Make sure you have a plan for traveling between work and home, and other commonly visited locations, in case of an emergency. Before an emergency happens, list your normal and some alternative routes you can use to get to your destinations. Keep a copy of this plan in your wallet or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster.

Public transportation mode (bus, train, ferry, etc.):

MODE:	LINE:	STOP:	FARE: \$
			TOTAL FARE: \$

Daily driving directions and alternative routes to and from work or other location:

DAILY ROUTE

TO: _____

FROM: _____

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

TO: _____

FROM: _____

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

TO: _____

FROM: _____

Other transportation options:

	PHONE NUMBER	NOTES
LOCAL TAXI COMPANY:		
COMMUTER RAIL:		
LOCAL BUS/INVT:		

Check out FEMA's Commuter
Emergency Plan (partially shown above,



youâ€™d use to get to safety in an emergency.

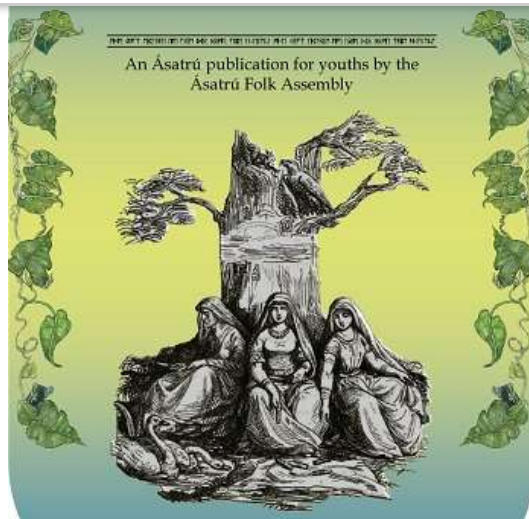
Jim and Sara the Corgi

"Learn a new skill every week."

Circle of Eir - A Call to Healing

The AFA Circle of Eir is up and working. A core group performs a 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, will be performed on Thursday, November 12, at midnight EST/USA.

Runepobble



Asatru families!

Check your inboxes for the most recent issue of *The Runepebble*! In the current issue you and your children will read all about the world tree, our dear Yggdrasil, what animals live within it and among its branches, the many worlds within it, and more. We hope you enjoy the current issue!

Looking forward to the next issue, to be published on January 1st, 2016, the theme will be the birds of Asatru ... eagles, ravens, and more! We'd love to see contributions from you or your children with any stories, art, recipes, memories/experiences, or anything else appropriate. If you have any questions about submitting work to *The Runepebble*, you can contact our editor, Rebecca, at Runepebble@Runestone.org. We wish you a blessed and merry Thanksgiving and Yuletide!

Clergy Report

The AFA Clergy Program is now accepting applications for the 2016 Clergy Program! Please visit our website at <http://asatrufolkassembly.org/about-the-afa/afa-clergy-program/> for more information and to find out if you qualify. If you have any questions, you can



The AFA Clergy Board of Directors, and your Allsherjargothi, are very proud to announce that our Folkbuilder in Spain, David Wolfheart, has been ordained on Sunday, October 18th, at the Winter Nights in the Poconos! David has worked very hard this year and shown that he is dedicated to folkish Asatru and to the responsibilities and duties of AFA Clergy.

Hail our Asatru friends in Spain! And a hearty hail to David Wolfheart!
Congratulations, David!

Deep South Winter Nights
from Eric Brunhoeber



On the weekend of the 24th and 25th of October, AFA Folk and other Asatruar in the Alabama and Georgia area took part in a local Winter Nights event near Gurley, AL. As is usual at these smaller gatherings, old relationships were built upon and new friendships were made on the grounds of both words and actions, proving that every day our Folkway is returning to prominence. The day began with hauling stones and wood and digging a fire pit at the campground location while guests filtered in. We were able to make a beautiful late afternoon hike into the southern Appalachian woodlands and explore some local waterfalls (dry unfortunately), while testing our bodies'™ physical strength by clambering over boulders and earth; there was a buzz of energy and excitement in the air from our group. Later that night we sat by a bonfire and enjoyed each other's™ company while we chatted, played music, ate some delicious traditional German food and played the game of Kubb by moonlight. Around midnight, we turned our attention to honoring our ancestors and performed Disirblot under the trees. All in all, I am happy to say that a good time was had by all and nobody went without food, drink or companionship. I can only hope that, in the midst of celebration and good times, as we stared into the flames of the fire, that we recognized the timelessness of our people. The presence of Eurofolk bound together in friendship and family; the ash, smoke and embers drifting into the night; the occasional eye turned to the darkness just beyond the ring of light " our ancestors experienced these exact same things under the watch of a glacier in the Ice Age

we carry with us into the future.

News from the Northwest from Elizabeth Salix, Folkbuilder

KELSO HIGHLANDER FESTIVAL



On Saturday, September 12th, and Sunday, September 13th, the Northwest Folk set up our official AFA booth at the 2015 Kelso Highlander Festival in Kelso, Washington. Pictured is Karl manning the booth, where we gave out AFA literature and sold three copies of Steve's book. Organized by Elizabeth, other helpers were Mac, Dakota, Philip, Jane, and Valor the Folkdog. We decided to try a presence at this event, since it is full of people of Northern European descent who are interested in preserving their history and culture. The people were friendly and receptive, and an annual presence will reach more of the Folk Without over time.



On Sunday, October 4th, Northwest AFA members and friends gathered for an impromptu hikemoot at the Seminary Hill Natural Area in Centralia, Washington. We enjoyed the sunshine on the meandering and sometimes steep trails of this fabulous city gem, surely loved by the Vanir and land wights. At the summit of the hill, a horn of pure water - an increasingly precious resource - was poured out as a gift to the land wights, an offering with the intent of encouraging more rain in the months to come.

CORN MAZE HIKEMOOT IN PORTLAND

Karl Parker reports: On Sunday, October 25, a hikemoot in Portland was hosted by AFA members Brian Scott and Karl Parker. It was through the Corn Maize on Sauvie Island. This was the original corn maze in the Portland area. The day brought typical Pacific Northwest rainy weather, but our troupe proceeded undaunted. The maze was quite extensive, broken up into two parts. We made our way through, trading stories and sharing camaraderie. After making it through that maze, as a bonus we explored a different kind of maze: the labyrinthine layout of Powell's World of Books -- the used

NORTHWEST ADVENTURE TEAM AT WINTER NIGHTS IN THE POCONOS



On Wednesday, October 14th, my mom and I began our journey to Winter Nights in the Poconos from Centralia, Washington, to be with the Folk at Camp Netimus, a trip of nearly 4,000 miles, as we took a red eye to Houston first. When we arrived many hours later in Philly, we met the delightful and dynamic duo of Michael Tauscher and Matt Beale, from Longboat Kindred in Florida. Mike, who is a craftsman of wood, also drives people to and from airports for a living. So ironically, he drove us to and from Philly International; we had a blast. On Friday we were reunited with the third member of our Adventure Team, master tattooer Adam Lunoe, who boldly drove all the way from Seattle to be with the Folk at Winter Nights. Now that's dedication!

My mom, who is a fitness nut and big lover of trees, was in her element, jogging up and down the Poconos in their autumn glory. I enjoyed the cooking-free weekend and the fact that Clifford was running this event! We left Sunday afternoon in a light swirl of snow, after saying goodbye to old friends and new.

-Elizabeth Salix
Northwest & Canada Folkbuilder

News from the Midwest from Patricia Hall, Folkbuilder

REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALL

Our next **Midwest** conference call will be at 8:30 p.m. EST/7:30 p.m. CST on Thursday, November 12. Our guest will be Matt Flavel, head of the AFA Folkbuilder Program! At our October call we began serious discussion of a Midwest gathering in 2016. Come and talk to Matt and share your ideas on growing the Midwest! We look forward to hearing you there! Toll free number is: 866-730-7514 Participant Code is: 757055 Call is optional.

AFA Midwest has its own FaceBook group! The FaceBook link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/871639299583668/members/> Please request an add! This is for AFA members only. It will be a place to post conference call info, gatherings, and other goings on in the AFA as well as for discussion. Also if you have not friended me on Facebook, please feel free to do so. My Facebook link is <https://www.facebook.com/patricia.l.hall.92>

News from the Northeast from Patricia Hall & Clifford Erickson, Folkbuilders

REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALL

is: 757055 Call is optional.

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY EVENTS

The Skylands Asatru Fellowship is pleased to announce the following events for the month of November:

November 11, 7:00 p.m.: New Moon Offering to the Landwights; Byram, NJ.

November 15, 6:30 p.m.: Asatru 101 (first in a series, to be held every other Sunday); Byram, NJ.

November 29, 6:30 p.m.: Asatru 101 (don't worry if you missed the first one; they're designed to be modular); Byram, NJ.

SAVE THE DATE! We have set our Yule celebration date for Saturday, January 2nd, 2016. Everyone in and around northern New Jersey is welcome to come, and full details of Yule and our other events can be found on our website, www.skylandsasatru.org

Upcoming Events in California

The weekend of November 21-22 there will be a Feast of the Einherjar/Harvest celebration at Newgrange Hall. AFA members and supporters are invited to come to Newgrange Hall for a weekend of feasting, rituals, classes & workshops, and lots of community building. We have a Facebook page for this event - "Feast of the Einherjar at NewGrange" hosted by Marc MacLeod: <https://www.facebook.com/events/636173493191625/>.

December 12th is the annual Nevada County Food and Toy Run, at the fairgrounds in Grass Valley. The AFA's pulled-pork sandwiches are always a big hit with the hundreds (sometimes thousands) of bikers who come up to the Gold Country for this charity fundraiser.

and stay into Sunday.

We also have informal working weekends planned, so if you're interested in attending any of these, write to us at afa@runestone.org.

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