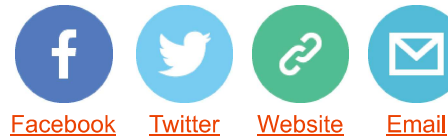


Asatru Folk Assembly's The Voice



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

Every week that goes by increases my pride in you, my fellow members of the AFA.

Frankly, when I look around me at the state of "Heathendom" in general I am filled with sadness. There are many, many more people calling themselves Heathens or Asaturar in the last couple of years...but the majority of them just don't get it. They do not get the idea of Folk. They do not understand that this is the native religion of a people. They (sigh!)

anathema to our very soul.

Then, I look at you, the members of the Asatru Folk Assembly. I see people who DO get it. People who understand their connection to their Folk and to their ancestors. You not only get it, you want to do something about it! In short, the men and women of the AFA are adults in a movement that is sadly lacking in maturity and responsibility. You are the stalwarts. With your eyes on the Pole Star and the might of your forefathers and foremothers inside you, you press onward.

You make my day. Thank you!

Steve McNallen
Asatru Folk Assembly

Listen to Steve's Latest Interview Online!

Moe Bedard of Gnostic Warrior interviewed me for an hour yesterday. We talked about Asatru, and especially about the importance of the ancestors, our connection to them, and our genetic inheritance as a tool for self-discovery. I invite you to listen to our conversation at <http://tinyurl.com/m8zq7vq>.

Please share it around!

Steve McNallen
Hail the Gods!
Hail the Asatru Folk Assembly!

The Voice Archives

Copies of The Voice are now being archived in PDF and can be found on the member pages; log in at <http://member.asatrufolkassembly.org/member>. Thanks to Stewart Williams, our IT expert, for setting up and maintaining this archive!

Winter Nights in the Poconos October 17 - 19

Sponsored by the AFA, hosted by Steve McNallen, *Winter Nights in the Poconos* will be held October 17 - 19 at Camp Netimus near Milford, PA. Registration is now OPEN! If you have any questions, please let Patricia Hall know.

The AFA Family Safety Program

Fire Season Tips by Ryan Harlan

In the August issue of The Voice, Steve mentioned in the Family Safety section that there were many wild fires burning in Northern California. Every year, all across the world, wild fires burn millions of acres of public and private land. Many of us, including myself, live in areas that are prone to wild fires. Last year on my forest we had the largest fire in the recorded history of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. I have worked as a firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service for 14 years now, and the one thing that I notice every fire season is the lack of preparedness by those residents who are in the fire's path.

The best thing that you can do as a home owner or resident in the "wild land urban interface," or where our natural world comes into contact with "civilization," is to make sure

to the tree tops) like brush, moving fire wood away from your house, and keeping your roof and gutters free of leaves and pine needles. All are very simple and very doable projects that can save your home and “ for some areas “ could keep you from being fined. If you are not sure if your home or property is defensible, call your local fire protection district, State Forestry, or Forest Service station. Most departments are more than willing to give advice or come out and take a look and let you know how you could improve your defensible space.

For those of us who live a little closer to the forest, we might want to consider a little bit more protection. Rolls of fire shelter material can be bought (though it is very expensive!) that can be put on your house in the same manner as siding by using staples and aluminized tape. Sprinkler systems can be built out of PVC pipe and mounted on your roof and either run off of your well (so long as you don't lose power) or run off of small gas-powered pumps which can be bought at tractor supply places or found online. Do not rely on public water systems that can become over-taxed in an emergency! Small above-ground swimming pools can be used as an emergency water source that can be stored away during the winter. Try to find one that can hold at least 800 to 1000 gallons and that is self-supporting if possible.

If a fire starts in your area and there is a possibility of needing to evacuate, be proactive and pack important items, documents, clothes, extra cash, and other items that might be needed before you are given an evacuation order. Have an escape plan along with emergency provisions for at least 24 hours. Know how many options you have for escape, as some areas have limited access or egress. By knowing your options and being proactive you can avoid traffic jams. If you have pets or livestock, make sure that you include them in your plans. Try and get your furry friends to safety, too. My local area has a few organizations that can help provide for short-term pet and livestock care for emergencies, and one will even come to rescue horses and other animals if you cannot make it yourself. Try and locate such an organization if there is the possibility of need. If you have family or friends in your area, make sure that they are aware of your emergency plans. If you don't have anyone close by, make sure that your folk builders are in the loop! This is in no way a comprehensive list and is not guaranteed to save your home, property, loved ones, or pets. But by being as prepared as possible we can all increase our odds. I

Great Northwest Freyfaxi







Elizabeth Salix reports: Held August 1-3 in Ocean Park, WA, the first Great Northwest Freyfaxi was a huge success! With over 40 people from five different states in attendance, this was our biggest Northwest event to date.

Upholding the AFA tradition of the Meta-Ritual, we opened on Friday afternoon with a greeting of the Gods. At sunset, the Folk made the trek down to the beach, where Mac led us in a powerful and inspiring Njǫrðr Blót by the sea. We ended each night with a Sumbel and general merriment around the fire.

On Saturday we had our Freyr Blót, led by myself and Sheila. As the horn was passed among the Folk and Freyr was hailed, each person got a chance to share a success from their own life, or something that was beginning to show success. Pat Hall was with us in spirit and on-screen, as she gave two inspiring presentations about the Norns and Hex Signs via Skype, which was quite the feat. Saturday evening, Mac and I performed some traditional fiddle music from the US and Europe. As night fell, Steve led us in a splendid and powerful Álfblót, which according to one member "would've been worth the drive all by itself." I entirely agree.

Sunday morning saw a very successful auction and a tasty brunch, and then it was time to say our farewells and depart. We ended our Meta-Ritual with a Wayfarer's Blót, and sent everyone on their journeys home with good intent for safe travels.

This event will be the first of many.

Upcoming Northwest Ancestor Blot

Meet us at the Clan MacLean tent after Parade of the Clans, and we will find a nice spot to Blátt. Festival admission and parking are free!

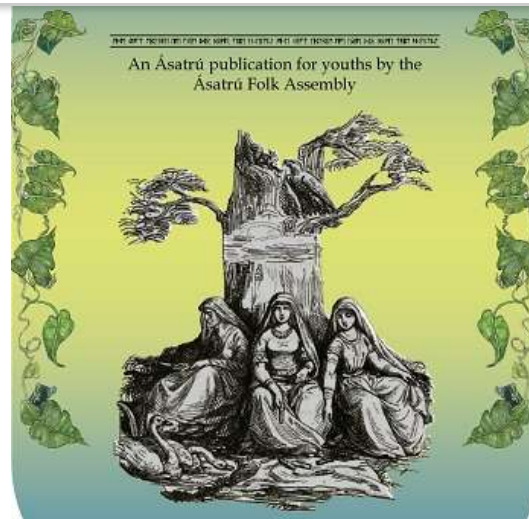
For more information about this or any other Northwest events, please send email to esalix@runestone.org

Hail the Gods!
Hail the Folk!
Hail the AFA!
-E. Salix
Northwest Folkbuilder

AFA Clergy Applications

Starting this month the AFA Clergy board will begin accepting applications for our 2015 Clergy Program. If you have felt the call of service to the folk, and are a dedicated member of the AFA, you may just fit in among the AFA Assembly of Gothar! Stay tuned this month for further announcements (on the AFA forums including Facebook) as to the official opening of the application process, as well as an upcoming email to membership regarding requirements for applicants, cost (including some changes to the schedule this year), and all other information you will need before sending in an application. If you have any questions in the meantime, you may contact our program director, Rebecca Radcliff, at Clergy@Runestone.org.

Runepbble



Runepebble: An AFA e-publication for
Ásatrú families!

Already September is here, and the finding of winter is not far ahead! We hope you will enjoy the September/October issue of Runepebble over the autumn season. Upon release of one issue, those of us behind the scenes must already begin looking forward to the next issue. Our next issue will be a "special edition" with the theme "The Twelve Days of Yule." We are always on the lookout for folks who would like to contribute to this fantastic children's e-publication. If you are interested in adding submissions from your family, please contact our Runepebble editor, Rebecca Radcliff, at Runepebble@Runestone.org.

Wedding in Redding

Steve Kuerbitz reports: On August 9th, Jessica Rose and I fasted our hands before our Gods, our ancestors and our



Many AFA members made the trip up to celebrate with us, including Sheila McNallen, Marc MacLeod, Michael Hunter, Heather Jayne, Steve Brewer, and Zack Cox. We also found out that Frey has blessed us: we will be having a wee heathen in the spring.





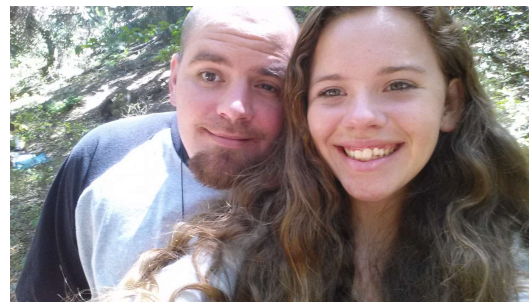
Doings in the Northern Plains

Blaine Qualls sends this report from the Northern Plains:

before time for our Blot the faucet turned off. We were able to share in an amazing Blot, and even a bit of my homemade mead (definitely needs to sit a while longer), which we offered up to Frey. Following the Blot was an auction that saw a few pocketbooks emptied with some really amazing bids. Then it was on to a great feast of pork roast, potatoes, and pecan pie (among many other foods) ... I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one who gained a couple pounds that afternoon. We rounded out the celebrations with a well-attended Sumbel; I'm always amazed at how such a simple ceremony can so strengthen the bonds between people. Three times the horn went round with many toasts and boasts, but after the third round none of us really wanted to leave so it was several more rounds and a few laughs later before we sadly had to call it a day. I want to here offer my thanks to AFA member Les Lauer for opening his home to us yet again and being an amazing host for Freyfaxi: Thank you brother!

We are even now in the beginning stages of planning a Yule gathering here in North Dakota and a second one in Minnesota. Any members who plan on being up this way in December give a shout; we would love to have you at one of our get-togethers.

Freyfaxi at Tilden Park





Michael Hunter reports: On August 23rd AFA members gathered at Tilden Park in Berkeley, California, to celebrate Freyfaxi. This was the third year in a row that we have held this event in the park. We started to hold it here to commemorate the AFA's first blot, also Freyfaxi, in California. It was a beautiful day in the Berkeley Hills. Andrew and Mike prepared an awesome ritual area nestled amongst the woods. Heather J. baked a loaf of bread that contained as many local seeds as she could find. We offered it up as a gift to Frey for the plentiful harvest that we are enjoying. There was much merriment after Kevin had blessed the feast. We ate and enjoyed each other's company. Talks were given by Rider and Steve and helped set the tone for the day's Blot. In the late afternoon we headed into the woods and performed our Freyblot. Everyone elaborated on what they had harvested mentally, physically, and spiritually this season as the horn was being passed around. After Blot, we sent our energy into the Nine Worlds with what I consider

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



by Patricia Hall, Folkbuilder

WELCOME NICHOLAS FERRERI



Meet our new apprentice Folkbuilder for the Northeast and Upper South. Nicky is located on Long Island, New York, but plans to move to southern Virginia next year. He is dedicated to the folk, a long standing folkish Asatruar, and a master craftsman.

Some of you may know his work under Little Viking Design:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Little-Viking-Design/163114777034179>

And I am proud to have been his friend for these many years. Come to AFA WinterNights in October and meet Nicky and me!



LANSDALE PA PUBMOOT-MONTHLY

Our own Cliff Erickson hosts a monthly pub moot at Molly McGuire's™ in Lansdale, PA. The next one is scheduled for September 20, from 2 to 5 p.m. Watch for postings about this in the AFA Moots and Meetups Facebook site. If you would like tips about the logistics of setting up a pub moot in your area, please feel free to contact me, Patricia Hall.

RUNE STUDY

In May, a rune study group made of up of AFA and non-AFA folk was formed and is meeting in my home in Downingtown, PA, on a monthly basis. We are still going strong! If anyone would like help with logistics and materials to start their own rune or lore study group, please contact me, Patricia Hall.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS

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, September 16, at 8 p.m. Conference call number and participant code were included in the recap email. The call is optional. If anyone did not receive the conference call recap email, please let me know.

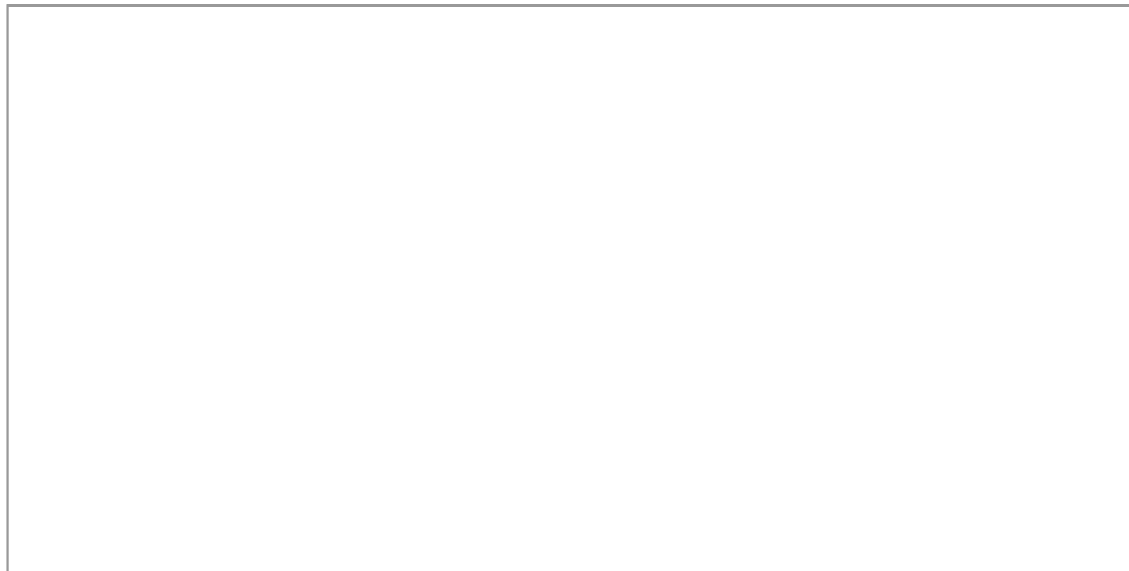
AUGUST FOLKISH SUMMER HALLOWING

On August 15-17, I and many other AFA kin attended Folkish Summer Hallowing at Camp Netimus in Milford, PA. This folkish and family oriented gathering occurs annually and is sponsored by the IrminFolk Odinist Community and their co-hosts, the Normannii Thiud and Balder Rising Kindred, all of whom have AFA members. There was a mix of informative workshops, vendors, and powerful rituals each day.



with the sacrificial burning of the dragon ship. This was an 8-foot replica built by members of the host group especially for this ritual. Each of us placed our sacrifices in the ship and in the pictures below you will see some of those.







Auction Table

**Ulv Hamre Kindred
Appalachian Asatru Parkmoot**



On Sunday, September 14, at noon in Hurricane, WV, Ulv Hamre, a new kindred with AFA members in it, will host its first moot in Valley Park! Patricia Hall and several other AFA kin are planning to make the 9-hour road trip from southeastern PA to attend in support of a new folkish presence in West Virginia. If anyone is interested and in that area, please contact Patricia for details!

AFA in Bloom



Ann Taylor shares this photo of her front yard, in which they planted the AFA tri-horn emblem centered around a tree.

Odinic Hero of the Future

A Review of: The Tribes of Yggdrasil â€” Books 1 and 2

by Hugh B. Long

published by Asgard Studios; available on amazon.com and smashwords.com

Reviewed by Karen M. P. Carlson

AFA member Hugh B. Long (a.k.a. Eoghan Odinson) has written the first two in a series of science fiction novels called â€œThe Tribes of Yggdrasil.â€ I have read and enjoyed both.

This adventure series is set a hundred and some years in the future. The basic scenario is classic science fiction -- think Star Trek and that ilk -- with humans traveling through space and meeting other races. The twist is that the space aliens are based on races from Norse mythology, including Alfar and Svartalfar (dwarfs). Bits of the old lore are worked into the story to good effect.

The hero, Hal, is just that â€“ a hero â€“ without being too good to be true. His all-too-human doubts and fears, temptations and frustrations, make him believable; his steadfastness and courage in the face of overwhelming odds make him admirable as well as likeable. He is also an avowed Odinson, the ancient virtues of the Germanic people forming his guiding principles. In this future world multiple religious systems are followed by mankind. One of Halâ€™s Italian colleagues prays to Janus, another friend is Christian, and all seem comfortable with their diversity of spiritual paths. In Book 2, however, we get a first glimpse of a dangerous religious extremism from a non-human quarter.

Malicious alien races are not the only foes; Hal also faces the more homely problems of dysfunctional government, confusing relationships with women, and trust issues with long-time friends. The mistreatment of a little boy shows how a young mind can be warped. The story is thus deeper than a simple shoot-em-up action adventure.

series of disasters and near-disasters, which keeps the story exciting. I'm looking forward to the next novel in the series, which is planned for release later this year.

Special offer for AFA members: Hugh is offering a free copy of the first novel in the series to AFA members! Go to <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/263020> and use code KD89F to download a free copy of *Star Wolves* in ANY digital format. Code expires October 18, 2014.

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