

AFA SPECIAL UPDATE, 4-14-05

Two important announcements! One has to do with a brand-new CD we've created, describing the Asatru Folk Assembly's vision for the future and discussing the challenges and opportunities that lie before us.

The second announcement is that the AFA is now accepting members!

First things first...

NEW "VISIONS" CD AVAILABLE FROM AFA!

The Asatru Folk Assembly has just produced an original CD by Steve McNallen, describing in detail the goals and vision of the AFA. Six interrelated tracks weave the content together: Challenges and Opportunities...Three Words, and Five Tasks, that Await Us...Soul Loss...A Map of the European Soul...Why Do We Need to Find Our Soul?...and A Vision of the Future.

In this CD, you'll find a discussion of the three major challenges facing all of us, and what can be done about them in the context of Asatru.

Visions is available from the AFA for \$10 plus \$3.50 postage and handling.

AFA NOW ACCEPTING MEMBERS!

For some time, the AFA has heard from our friends and supporters within the Germanic spiritual community, urging us to accept members. These were people who wanted a sense of community, fellowship, and common cause in furtherance of our Folkway - people who, reading our AFA Updates or visiting our web site, wanted to take an active part.

We've decided they're right. By popular demand, the AFA is now offering membership to individuals supporting our goals.

In the paragraphs below, I'll describe our mission statement, our goals, and a vision of what Asatru can become, and explain how those who are interested can become members in the AFA.

The AFA's Mission

The AFA, in the words of its mission statement, is “to practice, promote, and further evolve the religion of Asatru, thus forging it into a powerful and effective tool for building a better world.” Note the active tone here: We want to make a difference!

Since its founding in 1994, the AFA has sponsored countless gatherings, written groundbreaking documents, published successful newsletters, and been repeatedly quoted in the national and international media. The AFA has proposed new ideas, challenged the status quo, and generally pushed the boundaries of the possible.

...And now, we are ready to do much more!

The AFA's Goals

Some of the tasks we have set ourselves, are:

1. Encouraging people to live noble lives and to grow spiritually, with ever-increasing wisdom, personal empowerment, and joy.
2. Bringing the might of the Holy Powers into the world through sacred ritual, on the group and individual level.
3. Making Asatru a viable, respected, and well-known alternative in the modern world.
4. Vastly increasing the number of people who follow Asatru. We have not even *begun* to tap our potential for growth!
5. Making the world a better place by positively influencing the culture in which we are embedded, enhancing the life-affirming and freedom-promoting values of our ancestral Folkway, and building a strong community among followers of our faith.

The AFA's Vision

Imagine a world where the names of our holy Gods and Goddesses are instantly recognized in ordinary households across the country...where our places of worship are dotted across the land, regularly packed with scores - or hundreds! - of eager men and women who have come home to their spiritual birthright...where the writers of textbooks, the shapers of legislation, and the molders of public opinion will have to take into consideration those of us who follow the Germanic Folkway - in short, a world where our cultural voice is loudly heard.

Imagine, too, that these people (Tens of thousands? Hundreds of thousands?) are bonded together with our own voluntary systems to help each other in a multitude of ways, both spiritual and practical...Odin's Nation here in the realm of humankind.

This won't happen overnight. It will take time and hard work, but with the help of people like you, it *can* be done!

Why Join the AFA?

Aside from the satisfaction of creating the future, what do you get from being an AFA member?

The benefits are substantial - our newsletter, networking, the opportunity to give input and offer suggestions, and a variety of other things. You'll also be eligible to enroll in the AFA Leadership Course. We'll send you a membership card, and give you discounts on selected AFA merchandise.

How to Join

Joining the AFA is easy. If you like our mission statement and our goals as described above, write us at afa@lanset.com and request a membership packet. We will send you, by email, the essential documents you need to read (the *Declaration of Purpose*, and *The Law of the Hall*, and a membership application). If you agree with them, fill out the application and send in your dues via a check or Pay Pal. We will send your membership documents as soon as your application is processed.

We look forward to having you with us! See below for our levels of membership.

Levels of Membership

Supporting Membership - \$25 per year (Includes spouse)

As a Supporting Member, you receive our newsletter, opportunities to network with others, and the right to receive a variety of members-only services. Supporting Members are eligible to enroll in the AFA Leadership Course for an additional fee. You also get a card to confirm your membership, and discounts on selected AFA merchandise.

Benefactor Membership - \$120 per year (Includes spouse)

As a Benefactor, you receive all the privileges of Supporting Membership, as well as additional benefits to be designed with member input.

Patron Membership - \$600 per year (Includes spouse)

Patrons receive all the Supporting Membership privileges, as well as additional benefits to be announced. (Again, member input is welcome!)

Membership levels can be upgraded or downgraded at annual renewal time.

We are embarking on a new phase of the adventure....and we invite you to come along!

Hail the Holy Powers!

Stephen A. McNallen
Asatru Folk Assembly