

## AFA UPDATE

### A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

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Contact email: [info@runestone.com](mailto:info@runestone.com)

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### MEADHALL MOOT - A TIME TO REMEMBER!

Sheila and I journeyed to Licking, Missouri for the fifth annual Meadhall Moot. Sponsored by individuals who met on the Our Meadhall newsgroup, it was originally motivated by a desire to go beyond "cyber-tru" and to meet the men and women behind on the other side of the monitor screen. Since then, it has evolved into a tightly-bonded community that meets once a year to supplement and deepen their online interaction.

This year's event was as fulfilling and fun as the one I attended a couple of years ago, which is saying a lot! The hospitality was top-notch, the conversation lively, and the laughter frequent. Our only complaint was that there was just not enough time to get to know everyone to the extent we desired - but we did our best to toss around ideas with all the eighty-some folks who were there!

A big, hearty "Thank you!" to all the people who made it such a success, and gave Sheila and I such a warm welcome.

### CHRIS AND LAURA MUMMA DESIGNATED FOR AFA ALTERNATE SPIRITUALITY/PAGAN LIAISON

Chris and Laura Mumma have been chosen to be the AFA interface with a variety of alternative religious groups, particularly the Wiccan and pagan communities. They were the natural choice for this post because of their long affiliation with British Traditional Wicca, and their demonstrated devotion to Asatru. Chris and Laura have played prominent roles in our local gatherings for quite some time and have always been quick to volunteer. Thank you, Chris and Laura, for agreeing to take on this additional task!

### KIMBERLEY REMEN APPOINTED AFA REPRESENTATIVE FOR NORWAY

A few months ago, I had the pleasure of marrying Kimberley and Charle at a memorable wedding in Placerville. Shortly afterward, they moved to his home country, Norway.

Kimberley is an alert and intelligent woman, dedicated to the Gods and Goddesses. It was only natural, then, that I would think of her when a news item on the plight of the Norwegian wolf came to my attention. Within the hour, I had sent her an email asking her to be our representative in Norway, with - among other things - the task of looking into the wolf situation. She quickly accepted.

Welcome, Kimberley! Some considerable challenges are now on your shoulders, but with your energy and skill we can all look forward to inspiring news from your new home.

### AFA ACTS TO PROTECT NORWEGIAN WOLVES

Of all the animals expressing the spirit of the Northlands, the wolf may be the one that has most captured the imagination. Fierce, wild, free, loyal...these are the words that come to mind when we think of these evocative creatures. They play a significant role in the mythic lore of the Germanic lands, most notably in connection with Odin, father of the Gods.

It is, then, sadly ironic that the wolf is on the edge of extinction in Norway, where Odin was once revered as the deity linked to wisdom, magic, and heroes.

A wolf hunt authorized by the Norwegian government has apparently resulted in there being only one pair of wolves in the country capable of breeding. It is not known if there will be any wolf pups born this year - a precarious situation for the animals, to say the least. Though the parliament has decided that three breeding pairs should be conserved, there is pressure from some farming interest groups to eradicate the wolves altogether. It would seem that the farmers are close to getting their wish.

This is clearly a spiritual issue: When the wildness in the world around us dies, the wildness in our hearts will die as well. The wolves have much to teach us about bravery and freedom, and we would do well to listen.

Our efforts are spearheaded by Kimberley Remen, our newly-appointed representative in Norway. She points out that opposition to the wolves comes from farmers who understandably do not want wolves eating their sheep. Kimberley is looking for ways to meet the legitimate needs of the farmers without marginalizing or annihilating the wolf population.

The AFA is seeking to form a coalition with groups in Norway to protect the wolf. We will also publish a list of addresses for use by AFA supporters who wish to voice their opinion on this issue.

## KENNEWICK MAN UPDATE

Some years ago the AFA was very active in the case of “Kennewick Man,” the name given to a set of 9,300 year-old human remains found in Washington State. Our involvement was prompted by strong evidence that this ancient individual was probably not American Indian, and indeed might well be of European origin. The US government, which had custody of the bones, was determined to turn them over to local Indian tribes for immediate reburial, with no scientific investigation of how this individual came to be wandering around the northwestern United States many thousands of years before either Columbus or Leif Erikson. The AFA filed suit to prevent what we felt - and still feel - would be a terrible injustice.

This decision was made regretfully, because we have had good relations with various Indian nations. Vine Deloria, a well-known Sioux activist, had seen our literature and praised it. In many ways we felt an affinity with the American Indians and - as one set of tribal nations to another - wished them well.

Nevertheless, the AFA felt compelled to act in the Kennewick Man case. The truth deserved to be known, and we favored scientific testing, to include DNA tests, to determine just who this individual was.

The AFA eventually had to abandon our case because, frankly, we just didn't have the money to endure. Eventually the courts decided that no connection could be shown between Kennewick Man and the modern tribes, and it was decided that the group of eminent scientists who had filed for the right to study the remains should be allowed to do so.

Now, however, the politicians are trying to undo everything the courts decided. Senator John McCain has revived a bill once sponsored by Senator Nighthorse Campbell that redefines “Native American” as anyone, regardless of cultural or biological affiliation, who is or was indigenous to the United States. In other words, ancient Ainu or Europeans or anyone else would be turned over to local Indian tribes.

We shall see how this unfolds in the next few days.

Best books on Kennewick Man and related issues: Ancient Encounters by Dr. James Chatters and No Bone Unturned by Jeff Benedict. The latter included material on other forensic investigations by Dr. Douglas Owsley in addition to Kennewick Man.

## RUNE AND LORE CLASSES

The AFA sponsors twice-monthly classes on the runes and on Eddic lore in the Sacramento area. Anyone interested in attending can contact us at [afa@lanset.com](mailto:afa@lanset.com).

## DONATIONS!

The Asatru Folk Assembly is a 501 c (3) religious organization, and donations to it are tax-deductible.

## ODIN LIVES!

The groundbreaking radio program Odin Lives! is broadcast every Thursday night at 8 PM Eastern Time on a frequency of 7.415 MHz. This broadcast is repeated the next Tuesday morning at 12:15 AM on the same frequency. You can learn more by going to their web site at <http://www.odinlives.org>.

## IMPORTANT DATES

April 30 - Walburg. This Germanic Goddess safeguards the dead heroes who sleep in the burial mound, and harbors deeds yet to bear fruit. Pour a libation to the bold ones awaiting rebirth, and think on how your own acts will live after you.

May 1 - From the gloom of Walburg we enter the sunshine of May Day. Think on Freya, take a walk in the forest, go on a picnic, or send flowers to a friend.

May 9 - Day of Remembrance for Guthroth. This Norwegian martyr spoke out against the tyranny of the Christian fanatic Tryggvason, and urged others to resist him. For this, the king had his tongue cut out. Call up a friend who follows our native Way - use your own tongue to participate in the bond that ties us to the Gods!

Hail the AFA!

Stephen A. McNallen  
Asatru Folk Assembly

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO SHOULD BE GETTING THESE UPDATES?  
Please refer him or her to [AFA\\_Bearclaw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:AFA_Bearclaw-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

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