

AFA UPDATE

A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

Issue 56

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Contact email: info@runestone.com

Please tell your friends about *AFA Update* and suggest they subscribe! If they contact us, we will be happy to send them an invitation.

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RESPONSE TO "EXPANDING THE ASATRU CUSTOMER BASE"

Your response to the last AFA Update was incredible! We got a lot of email on that one, with people offering to help on everything from news releases and public speaking to graphic arts and printing. We received ideas and suggestions on radio, television, and other media as well as your reflections on the image we should present, and the target audience we should seek out.

Thank you!

It is clear that more than a few of you have been thinking along these lines for some while. That's great, because it's a sign that it's time for a change - a change we can produce.

It will take me a while to digest all of this and put it together into something resembling a proposed course of action. I've spent a lot of time the last couple of days doing just that, refining goals and objectives and how we can make all this bear fruit.

OUTREACH: HAS ANYONE TRIED SCOTTISH GAMES/CELTIC FAIRS?

We've kicked around the idea of getting a booth at some of the Celtic Fairs and Scottish Games here in northern California. Attendees at these events tend to be ethnocentric and roots-conscious, making them prime candidates for native European religion.

Have any of our readers tried outreach at these events? What results did you get?

ODIN - THE ONE EYED GOD...IN GERMAN!

The AFA recently received several copies of Kris Kershaw's book, *Odin - The One-Eyed God*, published in German by Arun.. They are hardbound, with sewn rather than glued binding, complete with dust jacket (On the hard cover, beneath the jacket, is a very nice golden valknut.)

These are ideal for the collector, or for someone learning German who wants access to the specialized vocabulary of Germanic religion.

We're selling these on a first-come, first-served basis for \$40, postage paid. Please check with us before sending your money.

We still have the English language (paperback) version of this book in stock, which you can order off the AFA website, <http://www.runestone.org> .

MORE INFORMATION SOUGHT ON SAXON GRAVES

A friend recently sent us an article on the discovery of five Saxon warrior graves near Marlborough, in England. Hobbyists came across the burials when a shield boss triggered a metal detector carried by one of the men.

The graves are quite early, and could be up to 1,500 years old. Marlborough has long advertised the belief - until now unsubstantiated - that the town was founded by Saxons; it would appear local lore was correct.

For the time being, the location of the graves is being kept a secret. They are on private land, and when funds are available they will be excavated.

Our question, of course, is - are these heathen graves, and if so, what plans are being made to give the remains a proper burial? Augustine's mission to the Saxons began in 597 CE and England was more or less Christian by the Synod of Whitby in 664. The presence of grave goods (shields, at least) might indicate a heathen burial. The fact that the site is located on what was the old parish boundary might also give a clue.

My information is that other pre-Christian Saxon graves unearthed on Lakenheath Air Force Base were, indeed, given the correct rites. I certainly hope the same is done with these remains, if these warriors were men who followed the Germanic Way.

If any of our readers are in a position to keep tabs on this situation as it develops, we would appreciate updates. English organizations should properly be the ones to demand that the graves of our co-religionists be treated with respect, but the AFA stands ready to assist in any way possible.

For the full story as it appeared in the press, go to http://www.thisiswiltshire.co.uk/wiltshire/marlborough/news/MARLB_NEWS_LOCAL0.html

SAVE VIKING WATERFORD!

As you'll recall from a previous AFA Update, workers stumbled across what turned out to be a major Viking settlement at Woodstown, near Waterford, Ireland a few months ago while doing preparatory work for a major highway.

You won't be surprised to learn that the future of the site is far from secure. The government is waffling as to what it does, or does not, intend to do about the site. No doubt they wish everyone would just forget about it.

Ireland, it seems, is in the process of getting rid of its past. The Emerald Isle has lost ten percent of its ancient sites in the last ten years, often due to government-induced "farming reforms" that have reduced the number of small landowners and consolidated holdings into larger blocks, often owned by people or corporations with no link to the land. In this particular case, though, the pressure to build a faster motorway seems to be the culprit - just as it is in the planned defilement of the Tara-Skreen Valley, one of the holiest places in all Ireland.

So, yes, the globalists, modernizers, and "reformers" would love to have us all forget about Viking Waterford. But there is a group that won't let it rest, and you can go to their web site at <http://vikingwaterford.com>. Give 'em a hand any way you can. And tell everyone you know, as well.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE - ANGELS OVER D.C.?

Today's World Net Daily features a picture of what some would like to believe are angels hovering over Washington ("Hannuka Mystery: Eerie blue images caught on camera at menorah lighting"). It seems a woman photographing the lighting of a 15-foot menorah on the Ellipse saw a strange blue light and managed to capture it on film. Naturally, she ascribed it to angels.

A look at the blue flash, however, left me with a different impression. It resembles nothing so much as the rune stave sowilo hanging in the sky.

Sure, it's probably some optical phenomenon...But more than a quarter of the people who took WND's poll on the subject thought that this was, indeed, angels giving their blessings on the first day of Hannuka! That's scary...

Take a look for yourself, at http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=41819.

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

December 9 - Day of Remembrance for Egil Skallagrimsson. Warrior, poet, and devout follower of Odin, Egil's complex character is mirrored by the paradoxical nature of his patron among the Gods. Read excerpts from Egil's saga on this day, or better yet, write a poem...or do something bold!

December 20 - Mother Night. Coming just before the winter solstice, Mother Night is when the new year is born. The traditional twelve days of Yule begin now. This is a season for honoring the family line and rejoicing in the sun's renewal. Celebrate Yule with all the ancient trimmings, such as wreaths of evergreen, a Yule tree, and good cheer. Visit kin. Tell your children stories about the family and show them photos of their ancestors. Drink a toast to the God Frey, and to the reborn sun.

December 31 - Twelfth Night. As Mother Night is the beginning of Yuletide, Twelfth Night is its culmination. Meditate on the past year - what you did, and what you wish you had done. Take stock and set a course for the future. Making New Year's resolutions is an old Germanic custom that goes back at least to the Viking Age, and perhaps much earlier. In the old days, these oaths were sworn on a boar sacred to Frey, the God of fertility and prosperity.

Hail the Holy Ones!

Hail the AFA!

Stephen A. McNallen
Asatru Folk Assembly

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHO SHOULD BE GETTING THESE UPDATES?
Contact us at info@runestone.com and we will send him or her an invitation.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE at <http://www.runestone.org>.