

AFA UPDATE

A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

Issue 71

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Contact email: info@runestone.com

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THE AFA'S BEST-KEPT SECRET: THE AFA MEMBER'S LIST

When we decided to offer AFA members an exclusive Yahoo group as one of the benefits of membership, we never realized that it would be such a huge success.

Let's face it; every organization has its own newsgroup. And most of them are pretty much the same: Discussions come and go. Some of them are pretty good, and a lot of them are trivial. Good ideas are generated, kicked around for a day or perhaps two, to be replaced by another bright bauble of an idea that is destined for the same treatment. A lot is discussed, but somehow nothing ever comes of it. Like a carousel with bright lights and painted wooden horses, the group goes around and around to everyone's amusement...but you always end up right where you started. Sure, there are exceptions. Some lists are more like the fun house or the roller coaster than the carousel. Others are just freak shows.

A few, a precious few, are more than just a fun time at the Asatru-land amusement park. I can honestly say that the AFA member's list is among the very best.

We set the tone right from the start - this list was all about making a difference. Sure, it was a place our members could feel at home among kindred souls, but mostly it was a place to coordinate, to plan, to strategize, to create the future. And it has lived up to that intention; good ideas have come and not gotten away again. That doesn't mean we've put them all into action. There are too many for that, but all have been noted by the AFA leadership and none of them are just wasted breath.

Then, a few days ago, it got even better. Some of the members decided to form a sort of "think tank" that would ask vital questions: How can we reach out to...What is the best structure to accomplish...What should be our priority in...How can solve the problem of...and so forth. All their recommendations are entirely advisory in nature. Until the Board of Directors approves a particular course of action, the bright ideas remain just that

- ideas, not realities. But when we put the creativity of the think tank together with a Board that is itching to take Asatru somewhere it has never gone before - well, the results promise to be spectacular!

The Asatru Folk Assembly intends to be right there on the cutting edge of the movement. If you share our vision of an Asatru that is many times larger and more influential than today - and if you want to work with energetic and intelligent people to make that happen - then you need to be here with us!

SELLING ON E-BAY? YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE AFA!

E-bay has long had a program by which sellers can contribute a portion of their proceeds to nonprofit organizations. The AFA has signed up as an eligible nonprofit to receive such contributions from sellers. (This is one of those ideas that came out of the Member's list.) If you sell on E-bay, we welcome any contributions you might care to send our way!

SPECIAL EDITION OF CHISHOLM'S EDDA NOW AVAILABLE!

Jim Chisholm has been an active Asa-man since the early 1980's. His Eddas: Keys to the Mysteries of the North is designed specifically to help followers of Asatru use this marvelous document to advance their spiritual understanding. For example, unlike some translators he carefully avoids paraphrasing words carrying religious or magical importance, preferring instead to include the term and to explain it to his reader. Students of Old Norse will be pleased that the original language appears on the page facing the English translation.

Jim's work is expanded by copious notes - again, from the standpoint of a practicing Asatruar - and by three additional chapters on how to use the Eddas as a key to one's religious practice.

This edition is bound in simulated leather, with high-quality stitching. It is designed to last.

Sure, if you look around you can find Jim's work online for downloading. But this edition will be on your grandchildren's shelves someday, rather than in a drawer covered with dust. I ordered mine today. You can go to http://illuminatibooks.net/ad/ad_eddas.htm to get yours.

KENNEWICK MAN BEING STUDIED!

Last week, the formal study of the human remains known as "Kennewick Man" was begun. It starts simply enough, with a precise inventory and description of each of the

bones. The scientists want to take DNA samples, which if successful would forever settle the question of who this man was. However, the US government may not agree to that...for some reason.

The years have rolled by since the AFA was involved in the case. We filed our own suit in court. We acted out of principle; this individual showed every sign of not being an American Indian. In light of oral tradition among many of the tribes regarding tall, light-skinned, red-haired people who were here before them, we felt justified in taking a stand for what might have been people of European stock.

Our position was horribly distorted by the media, but the facts remain: Kennewick Man looked much more Caucasoid than Indian...there was oral tradition among the Indians to support the idea that his people may have been Europeans...his material culture resembled the Solutrean culture of France and Spain more than any other...and to top it off, there is that mysterious "haploid x" that indicates genetic contact between North America and Europe in ancient times.

So was Kennewick Man a European?

We don't know. It's possible. We think it is important to find out, and let the facts speak for themselves.

SAVE THE WOLVES...SAVE THE WILD.

The fate of Norway's remaining wolves - harassed, harried, hunted to the verge of extinction - is symbolic of the state of modern man. If the wild is to survive in our own hearts, it must survive in the world around us. How could we tolerate a world without wolves?

The AFA has instituted our Norwegian wolf project to ensure that these highly endangered animals are with us always.

Help us save the wolves of Norway. Take a look at our Yahoo group, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/norwegian_wolf/. Here you'll find updates on the wolf project as well as photos, various files, and other resources.

We have two petitions online, as well!

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/399085910> and <http://www.gopetition.com/online/6693.html>.

Please take a moment and sign them! And pass them on to as many people as you can.

We now have more than a thousand signatures on our petitions. It's a start, but only a start! Please take a moment to sign them...and drop a line to Kimberley@troi.ws to find

out what else you can do to help. It will take the effort of all of us to save Norway's wolves.

We can make a difference!

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.

AFA MEMBERSHIP

Do you believe in what the AFA stands for? Do you like what we're doing?

If so - we want you as an AFA member!

You can find relevant documents and an application form on our web site at <http://www.runestone.org> or you can contact us at afa@lanset.com.

DONATIONS!

The Asatru Folk Assembly is a 501 c (3) religious organization, and donations to it are tax-deductible. We're trying to change the world on a very limited budget, and your help would be appreciated

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

August 9 - Day of Remembrance for King Radbod. This Frisian king ejected Christian missionaries and upheld our ancestral faith in his land, against great pressure. Pour a libation to the ancient Frisian Goddess Friagabi, "Giver of Freedom" and declare yourself free from alien creeds.

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.

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