

## AFA UPDATE

### A PROJECT OF THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY

Issue 53

Odin's Day, October 27, 2004

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

.

### STEVE AND SHEILA ON THE ROAD

We've been on the road a lot lately - Pagan Pride events in Reno and Sacramento, the Asatru Alliance Althing in Arizona, and the Aegir Feast down at Big Sur. Most recently we went to the Rune Gild Moot, in Austin.

Why have we spent so much time and money, almost all of which came out of our own pockets? Well, there are two reasons. The first is that we like visiting inspiring and intelligent friends from coast to coast. There are plenty of other gatherings we'd have liked to have attended, of course, but for one reason or another (job conflicts and limited personal pocketbooks, for example) we were not able to do so.

But there is a deeper reason for our wanderings, as always. We want to learn what is happening out there, among men and women who are a part of "this thing of ours." The times are changing, and we want to change with them - indeed, we want to help them change, as rapidly as possible! When we go to these events as honored guests and often as leading participants, we do two things: We keep our fingers on the pulse of Asatru, and we argue our own vision of what the future should be. We share our latest flyer, talk about my latest writing, and swap ideas around the campfire.

We are always reassessing the role of the AFA, striving to see what most needs to be done to accomplish our mission. These trips are an integral part of that process...and they will bear fruit in the weeks and months to come.

### THE AFA MISSION STATEMENT

In our survey of the AFA's role, we decided to compose an official mission statement. After running it past some of our local associates for input and advice, we came up with the following: "The mission of the AFA 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.”

“Practice” is self-evident; we “do” Asatru.

“Promote” means making our Folk aware that Asatru is an option, and thus greatly expanding the number of people who follow the Germanic Way.

“Evolve” tells us that nothing is static. We evolve within our organic framework, in accordance with our innate pattern, to meet the needs of this age. Paradoxically, such evolution is profoundly Traditional.

“Building” implies a positive, constructive, and idealistic outlook.

## HOW IS THE ASATRU FOLK ASSEMBLY DIFFERENT?

One question we constantly ask ourselves is this: How are we different from all the other groups out there?

The AFA is committed to the idea that the number of people who follow Asatru can be exponentially increased. We can have ten times, a hundred times, a thousand times the people we now have - people of quality, who can help make a difference. To do this, we will have to explain our message in a way that can be understood by ordinary people. We want to find men and women who have never heard of Asatru, who know nothing of the Gods, but who will respond to our message because it makes sense to them and gives them what they need in their lives. I believe we at the AFA have the writing and speaking skills to do that, and we are in the process of obtaining the managerial and business skills to make our plans a reality.

The AFA is not in competition with any other group within the Germanic religious revival. The Asatru Alliance? We encourage kindreds to affiliate with this fine organization, and my own kindred has been a part of the Alliance for many years now. The Troth? The Troth is far from being a monolithic organization, and there are many fine individuals there. Every group has its place in the scheme of things.

Our role is different from these other bodies. The AFA’s niche is still being defined, but you can be sure it will be a prominent one. We have published this free email update for three years. For more than a year, we have stuck to a schedule of an AFA Update every other week. Often we have exceeded that level - scores of pages of commentary, news items, book and movie reviews delivered to (as of this afternoon) 602 email addresses! This is something of an accomplishment, but it is only the beginning...as the coming months and years will demonstrate.

## LOCAL ACTION

In northern California, the AFA has been quite active. Our recent Winter Nights gathering drew almost thirty adults, and many young folk ranging from toddlers to teens. Our goal is to build a core of supporters locally that will help us implement tasks with a much larger geographical reach - nationally and internationally. Anyone who was present at our last event would have to say we were well on the way!

Our next gathering is Einheriar, set for November 14<sup>th</sup>. We will honor Odin's chosen heroes and give tribute to veterans, but the focus will be on life, not death! Einheriar is a day to celebrate overcoming, transcendence, and apotheosis - what the early Indo-Europeans called the Way of the Gods, or devayana.

## 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

October 31 - Samhain, the Celtic New Year. The Celts among us will honor the ancestors on this day and celebrate the unity of the clan, which transcends time, space and mortality. In many ways this is the equivalent of the Germanic feast of Winter Nights.

November 9 - Day of Remembrance for Queen Sigríð of Sweden. Sigríð was offered marriage to Olaf Trygvason, the Christianizer of Norway. The condition was that she give up the religion of her ancestors. She refused to do this, and Olaf ignobly slapped her across the face. She played a key role in his downfall to pay him back. Today, meditate on the glory of strong women who will not compromise on matters of honor.

November 11 - Feast of the Einheriar. The chosen heroes who sit in Odin's hall are called the Einheriar, and we honor them on this day. Lift a toast to those who fell bravely in battle for our Way, our people, and for noble causes. Think on the sacrifices of our veterans, and visit their graves. Remember, also, all who transcend, overcome, and transform themselves into higher beings by courage or sacrifice or wisdom; all those who walk the Way of the Gods!

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](mailto:info@runestone.com) and we will send him or her an invitation.

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