

# The Gatekeeper

Barony of Winter's Gate

## Calendar

**Dec. 22 -- Yule** (Hallbiorn)  
Jan. 4-6, 2013 -- Twelfth Night Coronation (West)  
Jan. 18-20 -- Midwinter Coronet & Investiture (Oertha)  
**Feb. 16 -- Heart Revel** (Margery)  
March 9 -- Collegium (Selviergard)  
**April 20 -- Fools' Revel**  
**June 1-2 -- Spring Captaincy**  
June 8 -- Ice Saints/Beltane (Earngyld)  
**July 20-21 -- Midsummer Coronet**  
**Aug. 3-11 -- Tanana Valley Fair**  
**Aug. 31-Sept. 1 -- Harvest Captaincy**  
Sept. 21 -- Harvest Fest (Earngyld)  
**Oct. 26 -- Michaelmass**  
**Nov. 16-17 -- St. Boniface Collegium**  
**Dec. 21 -- Yule**  
Dec. 21 -- Yule (Earngyld)  
June 17-27, 2016 -- 50 Year Celebration (Midrealm, Danville IN)

Although fighter practice is usually scheduled for Sunday afternoons, we are now in our dead-of-winter, school-is-out period, and no firm practices are scheduled. Any changes to this will be announced in the baronial elist. As always, any practices scheduled welcome the noncombatants to watch, cheer on, bring projects to work on, and schmooze.

Likewise, all other activities (A&S activities, guild meetings, scribal sessions, etc.) are subject to change and will be posted to the baronial email list. The above calendar includes events throughout the principality (if the dates are known), as well as important kingdom events and wars. Those "bold" events without a listed location are local.

If you're interested in the workings of the barony, come to the business meetings! They are usually held on the third Thursday of the month, at 6 pm in the party room at the Pizza Hut on College Road. The next meeting is December 20. Watch the elist for possible changes.

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### From the Seneschal:

I am asking for everyone's help with the issue of signing in at events. On occasion someone forgets, and that happens. There are reasons why this is important: one is the SCA insurance and another is that the attendance is used to help plan for next year's events.

The sign-in area is located as near the main entrance to the event as possible. Not only does this allow one to sign in immediately, but it allows one to ask for assistance if any is needed. The "Gate" where you sign in has all the forms that are needed both for adults and children, who need an additional waiver.

This past Michaelmass I am aware of eight or nine people who didn't sign in. This is not good, especially when we are talking about almost a third of the total who were there.

Thank you, Hallbiorn

### *From the Chronicler:*

Well, we seem to have survived the switch to my new computer. There will not be another newsletter until February, as there is no baronial event in January (we will mostly be attending coronet instead). Be sure to make note of the Coronet copy here, and keep an eye on the baronial and principalities lists for updates.

Most who receive newsletter are members of the barony and its outlying groups, honorary citizens, members now in exile, and friends of the barony. Others receive this because you are our neighbors, including the territorial barons and baronesses, seneschals and chroniclers (and their kingdom counterparts). If sent to you in error, please let me know.

The Gatekeeper now goes out only electronically. If you do not wish to receive it, please email me at [morgana@gci.net](mailto:morgana@gci.net) and you will be removed. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter as an attachment in the future, please also let me know.

Copy for nonlocal events is usually picked up from other newsletters and elist postings. Unless otherwise noted, local event reports were written by the chronicler and corrections and complaints should be addressed thereto. The chronicler welcomes words from any baronial officers, and guildmasters or mistresses, as well as reports of events and activities, as her mind holds only so many details and memories.

--Morgana yr Oerfa

### *Upcoming Events:*

#### **Yule**

#### ***Barony of Winter's Gate (Fairbanks)***

***December 22***

Welcome, one and all to our Annual Celebration of Midwinter Solstice and Yule!! Join us for a day of warmth and merrymaking as we fend off the terrible cold outside. There is space for dancing and both heavy and rapier fighters to play (although perhaps not all at once). This will also be a continuation of the ongoing round-robin cribbage tourney. If you have one, please bring a banner so we may include it in the hall decorations.

To keep active minds busy, there will be fondant available for kids of all ages to sculpt decorations for the dinner tables. And competitions! We must have competitions! The Autocrat's Whim is for edible subtleties. For A&S, it's ornaments. And for the enjoyment of all, there will be a bardic competition during dinner.

In response the request of our Princess Trava for silk roses for coronet's Roses

Tourney, there will be a silk roses class. Ellisif and Morgana will bring lots of supplies so we can all add to the barony's contribution, and to add to Ellisif's challenge to all to match her pledged dozen.

Speaking of dinner, we will have a marvelous potluck, as is traditional. Please bring a dish that will serve about eight, and bring a card that lists the ingredients. (Or track down Ellisif the Food Wrangler, who will have cards available.) For those poor unfortunate souls who missed Michaelmass Feast, this is your chance to partake of a few of those dishes.

After dinner will be the also-traditional 'Chinese auction' Gift Exchange! Please bring a wrapped gift that your persona would be happy with.

Site information: site opens at 11 am and closes at 9 pm. There is no event fee, but donations will be happily accepted to replenish the sorely depleted baronial coffers. We will be gathering in the Exhibit Hall in the Bicentennial Arts Building (Civic Center) at Pioneer Park (Alaskaland), located at the corner of Airport and Peger roads. It is the large round three-story building in the center of the park.

For more information, please contact the autocrats, Hallbiorn (488-3986, parrish@mosquionet.com), Dagmar (bayca27@yahoo.com), or Ellisif (ellisif3@yahoo.com).

## **Midwinter Coronet and Investiture**

### *Principality of Oertha (Anchorage)*

*January 19-20*

As the cold winter winds of the Arctic take hold, Their Highnesses Varyag and Trava, Prince and Princess of Oertha, invite one and all to bear witness to the selection of Their Heirs by right of combat and Their Investiture the following day.

There will be a Roses Tourney for both heavy and rapier fighters after the Selection of the Heirs. Fighting will be inside on carpet. Please prepare accordingly for gear and footwear.

The A&S contest is Heraldic Display in Any Mode. Entries must be new or not previously entered in a contest. Examples are scrolls, tabards, table settings, clothing, jewelry, wood boxes, etc. If you aren't sure of an item, please feel free to contact an autocrat or any A&S officer. Last Winter Coronet had 17 marvelous entries and some very creative ones! As heraldry can be used in so very many ways, this is a great time to make something fun and new for yourself or perhaps even a gift. Documentation showing period examples will garner extra points, and documentation can be as simple as a picture from an illuminated manuscript or as complex as a research paper. Don't let it scare you; let it be a creative "jumping-off" point instead.

His Highness' Whim is the performance of an ORIGINAL bardic piece (song, story, or poem) which depicts battle and creatively glorifies violence.

Her Highness' Whim is for Shortbread Cookies. These will be judged upon taste, presentation, and documentation.

The Autocrats have a whim for Banners! Personal, household, baronial, principality, kingdom or other, which should also be new or never entered in a competition before.

Site information: Dimond Center Suite 230 (the old library on the 2nd floor), 800 East Dimond Blvd., Anchorage, AK 99515. Site is open from 10 am Saturday to 6 pm Sunday. Doors will be locked with security on staff overnight, but valuables should not

be left. Lunch of soups and finger foods will be provided Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. Site is very discreetly wet. Tables and chairs on site are limited; if you have portable ones, please bring them. There is an elevator for hauling.

Event fee: adults \$15 (plus \$5 for non-members), children 5-15 are \$5, and under 5 are free. Family cap \$40. Please make checks payable to SCA, Inc.-Principality of Oertha.

Driving directions: Take the Seward Highway to the Dimond exit. Turn west down Dimond Blvd. Turn left at the Dimond Center Dr. Turn left into the parking lot (by Olive Garden). Best parking for closest access to site is by American Eagle. Take escalators upstairs, and the site is directly ahead. There is access to an elevator for heavy items.

Nearby hotels: the Dimond Center Hotel (<http://www.dimondcenterhotel.com>) is across the parking lot from the site. Nearby restaurants & dining: in the mall are Olive Garden, Subway, Famous Wok/Umi Sushi, L&L Hawaiian BBQ, Charley's Steakhouse, and more. Outside the mall are Gallo's, Red Robin, Haru Sushi, and Sicily's Pizza.

Autocrats: Anna di Caterina Neri (Georgia Pfile) 242-5606, [annahnaie@gmail.com](mailto:annahnaie@gmail.com), AND Syr Viresse de Lighthaven (Kathy Judge), 744-6698, [wingedcup3@yahoo.com](mailto:wingedcup3@yahoo.com).

## **Heart's Revel**

### *Barony of Winter's Gate (Fairbanks)*

*February 16*

The Barony welcomes one and all to a Masquerade of the Heart. The theme is "To Wear Your Heart Upon Your Sleeve." Come join us in the warmth of revelry, friendship and love. There will be dancing, games for all ages, and a bardic later in the evening.

We invite you to dress in your finery and bring a masque to wear. We throw out the challenge to dress as your favorite allegory. There will be a prize for the best costume. The Arts and Sciences competition is for the best masque, and as always, documentation is encouraged.

Please bring a finger food to share that feeds at least eight people, including an ingredient list to accommodate those with food allergies. There will be Digby's cheese (and possibly New World chocolate) for dipping.

The site will be announced later. The site will open at 4 pm and close at 10 pm. Event fee is \$5 for members (\$10 for non-members), with a \$20 family cap. Ages 12 and under are free. Please make checks to "SCA Inc.-Barony of Winter's Gate."

For more information, please contact the autocrat, Margery Garret (Michele Griffin), at 590-0868 (cell), [motherchaos@gci.net](mailto:motherchaos@gci.net).

## Miscellaneous

### Guardian Submissions

The Principality Chronicler, Dagmar, is looking for submissions for the Principality newsletter. If you have something to submit -- a poem, article, song, or otherwise -- please contact her at [chronicler@oertha.westkingdom.org](mailto:chronicler@oertha.westkingdom.org). Any little bit helps compose a newsletter and your thoughts and inspiration can be seen by the entire populace! Make sure to send your submissions in early enough to ensure proper placement in Oertha's finest publication (available at Midwinter Coronet).

In Service, Halfdan "Two Bears" Ozurrson, Deputy Chronicler

## Teachers Needed

To the Peers and Non-peers alike of Oertha,

I am in need of your services teaching various classes for the Selviergard Collegium on March 9. I would like to have a good variety of classes including, but not limited to clothing and other crafts, assorted history, fighting related (drills, rapier forms), and a dance class if possible.

If you are interested in teaching, please reply to beorn\_se\_bacaire@yahoo.com with your class information, prior to the end of January. I will be available in person at Coronet as well.

Brann mac Finnchad, Autocrat

## Wooden Spoon Competition

The Order of the Wooden Spoon competition for 12th Night will be: The No Cook Fancy Feast.

Cooking at 12th Night is not logically possible. Even bringing an already prepared dish can be logically challenging (and who wants to drag their pendulant velvet sleeves through a meat pie or get cake crumbs on their houppelande). Therefore the Wooden Spoon competition will be a feast you do not have to cook -- a feast on paper.

Put on your thinking caps and begin doing your research and then prepare a feast on paper. Your feast may be from any culture or time within our period (pre-1600). The feast must have at least three courses. Each course must contain at least three dishes. You must supply a recipe for each dish (working contemporary version only). No documentation necessary (on the honor system). We are going to assume that you have done your research and know what you are doing. Besides, the judges don't want to spend all of 12th Night reading. We do ask that you supply a list of at least three sources, not for each dish -- just a minimum of three sources from which you gleaned your information and gained your inspiration.

Have fun. Let your knowledge and creativity shine. After all, you don't have to spend a penny on ingredients.

Submission may be sent to me as an attachment to gduncann@yahoo.com if you cannot attend 12th Night, but wish to enter the competition. Please send them before Jan. 1.

Geraldine of Toad Hall, Coordinator

## Oertha Artisans

To my Dear Artisans of Oertha,

As some of you know, I have been trying to put together a database of the members of the populace that teach various subjects. My goal here is to create a source that anyone—whether autocrat, officer, or newcomer—can reference when they want to know who may be willing to teach a given subject. While this is a longer term project, I would like to get started on it as soon as I can and hope that the database will be in use, helping those who wish to learn, for many years.

I'm looking for classes on any subject within the Society, whether it's an Art (or Science), making things, research topics, etc. Fighting related—hitting things, stabbing things, chivalry, etc. Service of Others—autocratting, performing offices, chivalry

again. Providing this information is not a promise that you will teach at a specific event, but just saying what you are willing to share your knowledge at some date, perhaps in the far future. I would be greatly appreciative if you could send this information to me, along with any questions you might have.

Information requested: Name. List of Classes you are willing to teach (whether generic like Basic Jewelry Making or more specific like Styles of Anglo-Saxon Brooches),

I would also like to know your preferred teaching format(s)—i.e. roundtable, one-on-one, small classes, and whether you are willing to spend time teaching at events or would prefer an A&S day dedicated to your subject:

I would also, if possible, like to know what subjects people would be interested in learning and attending—who knows—maybe it'll happen...

Yours in Service,

Bránn mac Finnchad, Deputy Arts Minister, Oertha, beorn\_se\_becaire@yahoo.com.

## Regnum

Rex and Regina Occidentalis: Roger and Zanolbia, crown@westkingdom.org.

Crown Prince and Princess: Obadiah and Ascelin, heirs@westkingdom.org.

Prince and Princess of Oertha: Rurik Varyag and Trava, royals@oertha.westkingdom.org.

## Winter's Gate

Baroness/A&S: Gwyneth Rhiannon of the Sea (Gerri Withers), Box 83013, Fairbanks 99708, 378-0831 (before 9 pm), gmwdcare@yahoo.com.

Captain of the Militia & Heart of Winter's Gate: Thomas Ferret and Genevieve Beauvair.

Commander of the Cavaliers & Light of Winter's Gate: Rafail Vtoroi (Galyn Griffin, 4523 Stanford, Fairbanks 99712, 456-2492) and Aeofa (Thalia Jacobs, deadlynightshade1222@gmail.com).

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*College of St. Boniface:*

Champion and Inspiration: Felix Emmanuel (Daniel Remillard) and Morgana yr Oerfa (452-2274, morgana@gci.net).

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**Principality of Oertha**

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**Barony of Eskalya**

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### **Barony of Selviergard**

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### **Shire of Earngyld**

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### **Shire of Pavlok Gorod**

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*And now for something entirely different:*

### **Du'ad Bob Review**

"I've got music; I've got chessboards;

I've got Black Death, who could ask for anything more?"

Sorry about that! Every once in a while, I end up watching a movie that just gets me started on a line, and if I don't eventually let it out, I feel certain that my head would explode. And we wouldn't want that, would we? I know that I wouldn't, in any case. Anyway, what started this particular line going in my head was the plot of this month's movie review, which is all about ... well, the blurb on the box it came in said that it's the "Allegory of man's search for meaning". And throughout the film, you find one or another of the characters asking lots of questions about the meaning of life, love, and death. All with a game of chess as a running theme through it all. And, unsurprisingly, it left me with a few questions of my own. Though my questions don't appear to be as "deep" as the ones asked in the film. ("On the surface, he's very deep; but way down underneath, he's awfully shallow.") Like, for instance, if you have the incarnation of Death appear on screen, does he count as a dead body, or not? (I finally went with "not", so Death is not included in the body count.) But so it is that this month, Da'ud Bob reviews for you Ingmar Bergman's classic, and dark, film, ***The Seventh Seal***.

Starring Max von Sydow as Antonius Block (a knight back from the Crusades), Gunnar Björnstrand as Jons, his squire, Bengt Ekerot as Death, Nils Poppe as Jof, Bibi Anderson as Mia, Jof's wife, Åke Fridell as the blacksmith, Plog, Inga Gill as Lisa, Plog's wife, Gunnar Olsson as Albertus Pictor, the church painter, Erik Strandmark as Jonas Skat, Anders Ek as the monk, Inga Landgré as Karin, Antonius Block's wife, Gunnel Lindblom as a girl, Bertil Anderberg as Raval, and Maud Hansson as a witch, the basic story is that of our returned knight buying time from Death by playing an ongoing game of chess, all the while getting closer to home and trying to find answers to some of life's greatest questions in a land ravaged by the plague. Much of the movie is taken up the various ways people react to the overall situation in which they live and with which they have to deal, with the threat of death all about them, some with fatalism, some with acceptance, some with forays into alcohol and (implied, not on-screen) promiscuity, some with joy for the current day's life. The end, of course, is a lot like a Shakespeare tragedy; most everyone ends up dead. (As we all do, I suppose. As one wag once

remarked: “No matter how hard I struggle and strive, I’ll never get out of this world alive.”)

Good points: The thatched roofs.

Bad points: Sleeping on the stones at the seashore. Fabric chain mail.

Zero breasts. No blood. Three dead bodies (not including Death, or the dead folks dancing off into the hills following Death at the end of the film). Knife fu. Fire fu. Whip fu. Waves roll. Jof rolls. The blacksmith’s hat rolls. Gratuitous wandering penitents. Gratuitous clouds of incense. Gratuitous squirrel. (No, really!) Gratuitous witch burning. Gratuitous visions. Gratuitous omens. Academy Award nominations to Åke Fridell as the blacksmith Plog for “[Life] is crazy, that’s what it is”; to Gunnar Björnstrand as the squire Jons for “Love is the blackest of all plagues” and “Dry your tears and wrap yourself in a cloak of indifference”; and to Bengt Ekerot as Death for “Nothing escapes me. Nothing. And no one.” A mere 65 on the Vomit Meter. Two stars. Da’ud Bob says, “The moral, I suppose, is that you should enjoy the moment. Death can be everywhere and anywhere, and may come for you at any time, and won’t be delayed for long by a game of chess. Check it out!”

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