



# The Gatekeeper

Barony of Winter's Gate

## Calendar

April 18 -- Fabric War (Selviergard)

**April 25 -- Fool's Revel (Margery Garret, autocrat)**

May 1-3 -- Beltane Coronation (West)

May 9 -- Cherry Blossom Festival (Eskalya)

May 16-17 -- Feast of St. Breanainn (Ravensfjord)

May 23-25 -- Pas d'Arms (Selviergard)

**May 30-31 -- Spring Captaincy**

June 6-7 -- 3 Barons' Faire Demos (Eskalya)

June 13-14 -- 3 Barons' Faire Demos (Eskalya)

June 19-21 -- June Crown (West)

**June ? -- Games Day & Hunt**

July 17-19 -- Midsummer Coronet (Oertha, in Selviergard)

July 24-Aug. 9 -- Pennsic War (East Kingdom)

Aug. 1 -- Warlord Tourney (Selviergard)

**August -- Tanana Valley Fair Demos**

Aug. 15 -- Baroness' Champion Tourney (Eskalya)

Aug. 21-23 -- Purgatorio (West)

**Sept. 5-6 -- Harvest Captaincy**

Sept. 19 -- Bi-Baronial Harvest Feast (Selviergard-Eskalya)

**Sept. ? -- UAF Club Fair**

Oct. 2-4 -- October Crown (West)

**Oct. 17 -- Michaelmas Feast**

**Nov. 14 -- St. Boniface Collegium**

**Dec. 19 -- Yule**

June 17-27, 2016 -- 50 Year Celebration (Midrealm, Danville IN)

Fight practices are currently on Sundays 1-5 pm at Upark gym. All are welcome to attend fighter practices. If you're a noncombatant, there is a comfy lounge to sit, chat, and work on projects (bring your own chair if you have one). Keep an eye on the elist and Facebook for changes during the holiday school break.

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, as well as important kingdom events and wars. Those events without a listed location and in bold are local.

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*From the Chronicler:*

I hope you are all delighted to see another issue of our baronial newsletter. My apologies for not resurrecting it sooner. I vow to keep it active again from this point on. This issue and the next few will undoubtedly includes some very late reports and thank-yous for previous events. But it's good to have our reports included for the record.)

I am always looking for short articles (A&S projects, history, adventures in period cooking, etc.) and stories of people and events to include in the newsletter. Especially stories! We are losing our history of past events, and current events become past events all too soon. I encourage you to make a contribution to the newsletter from time to time. Send them to me offlist.

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:

### **Fools' Revel -- FoolsCon!**

#### *Winter's Gate*

*April 25*

Come one, come all! Join us as we revel in the foolishness of Fandoms! No matter what your passion may be -- Sherlock, Star Trek, Disney, Star Wars, Firefly, Marve, etc. -- we invite you to create a medieval representation of your favorite character or tale! Let your cabin fever break free and your sense of the ridiculous reign! To add even more fun and frivolity to this event, we have invited our friends from Amptgard to join us, or us to join them. Either works!

The site opens noon and will run until 10 pm, and is located at the Old UPark School on University Avenue (the same place as fighter practice, 1000 University Avenue). We have one classroom, and Amptgard has another classroom just down the hall. We will be sharing the gym throughout the event, with heavy and rapier fools' tourneys earlier in the day and Amptgard melees in the evening.

There will be a joint boffer tourney with Amptgard during the afternoon to determine the Lord or Lady of Misrule for the day. The boffer tourney is open to all individuals ages 14 and up (with the marshal's and regent's approval), and will follow the agreed upon rules that will be determined by both Amptgard and SCA marshals.

For classes and activities, there will be a basic heraldry class held by Master Khevron and a simple banner painting activity by Mistress Margery held after the heraldry class. There will also be a kids' activity of fools/fairy wands, open to all children, but those under age 6 should have a parent present.

There are a few competitions for the event. First, there will be an open (both Amptgard and SCA) competition for the best representation of a fandom in medieval clothing: this can be a Viking stormtrooper, a German Disney character, an Italian Marvel/DC hero or heroine, etc.

Second open contest is for the best created food subtlety. A subtlety is a food dish that is decorative and often looks like something it is not: a cake shaped to look like a fish, a meat dish done up to look like a dragon, or cookies created to look like masks, for some ideas.

The final contest, as this is Fool's Revel, will of course be a competition to see who will be our Baronial Fool for the next year. Can Master Khevron retain his title? Or will there be another taking his hat (literally)? The contest will be held during feast and will involve dramatic arts: be prepared for anything as the rules will be announced at feast.

Feast will be potluck and will be aimed for 5 pm. Please bring a dish that can serve 8 people. As we have varied allergies in both our groups, please bring a list of the dish's ingredients to be placed next to the dish on the serving table.

There is no fee for this fun and frivolity, so there can be no excuse for not coming and playing!

For more information, please contact the autocrat Mistress Margery Garret (Michele Griffin), 4137 Rosebud, Fairbanks 99709, 590-0868 (cell), [motherchaos@gci.net](mailto:motherchaos@gci.net).

**Fabric War**  
*Barony of Selviergard*  
*April 18*

The time has come to gather your unwanted fabric, notions, garb and other SCA-appropriate items and join the Barony for Fabric War! Yes, we know not a single one of those things re truly ever unwanted, but maybe sharing them with someone who may truly use them would give you more room for more stuff? So come join us and re-home your things and bring home other items that meet your fancy! Participate in the Ugliest Fabric Contest or the Fabric Melee!

The site is the Wasilla Boys and Girls Club, 3700 E Bogard Road, Wasilla. Site opens at 11 am and closes at 6 pm. Event fee is \$10 (\$15 non-members), youth 17 and younger are free.

For more information, contact the autocrat Nemonna Vicana (Bobbie Sampson), Box 874416, Wasilla 99667, 312-6169 (cell), [nemonna.vicana@gmail.com](mailto:nemonna.vicana@gmail.com).

**Cherry Blossom Festival**  
*Barony of Eskalya*  
*May 9*

Spring has reached us once more, and it's time to gather to celebrate it! We invite you to join us once again.

It isn't uncommon for idle samurai to duel each other to settle issues of honor or prestige. We offer a prize for the best duel challenge issued by a fighter (heavy and rapier both). You need not win the duel, merely deliver the challenge in the most dramatic, amazing or hilarious way. Contest begins when the site opens, but sign-up is encouraged to be certain that no entries get missed.

We will have a Go tournament, with a prize for the champion. Sign-up will be available any time from site opening until the beginning of the tournament. For the children, there will be paper bead folding for necklace creations.

Finally, on the table there will be provided both flowers and zen gardens. There will be a prize for the best decorated table. Feel free to bring your own supplies, as always, but the provided decorations should be incorporated in some way.

Dinner will be served around five in the afternoon. White rice, miso soup and matcha tea will be provided by the hall. The rest of the meal is potluck style. Bring what you feel like; it was yummy last year. Dessert of daifuku (red bean stuffed mochi cakes) will be provided.

Site is the Jewel Lake Parish, 3833 Strawberry Rd., Anchorage. Take your best route to Strawberry Road. It is at the end closest to Jewel Lake. Site opens at noon and closes at 8 pm. Event fee: adults, \$10; children 6-18, \$5; under 5 are free; family cap, \$40. A \$5 non-member surcharge applies.

For more information, contact the autocrats, Leonia the Mouse (727-5676, [leoniathemouse@gmail.com](mailto:leoniathemouse@gmail.com)) or Adam of Eskalya, ([adam.reddaway@gmail.com](mailto:adam.reddaway@gmail.com), 304-2044).

**Feast of St Breanainn**

*Shire of Ravensfjord*  
*May 16-17*

Word has come that Breanainn of Clonfert has stories of distant lands and it is the wish of Their Highnesses of Oertha that their subjects pilgrimage to the Shire of Ravensfjord to relive these tales. Take heed scholars and artisans, for there will be classes and competitions. Archers, prime your bows and fletch your arrows. Fighters of all types, brace your arms. Cooks, make provision, and dancers lace your gillies, we we shall Geld the Devil for sure!

A lunch of soup and bread will be served for Saturday's lunch and Saturday evening's feast will be potluck with grilled meat provided. Potluck will be by Society name: A-F, breads, spreads and cheeses; G-L fruits and veggies; M-R, starchy dishes (potato goodness); and S-Z, desserts. Note that there is no electricity or potable water on site.

Classes to be taught will include lessons on Traveling Dishes by Clare Elena de Montfort, Painted Bird Feathers by Isabella Hawke, and Wool Paneled Hats by Anna di Caterina Neri.

His Highness' Whim is to be entertained during feast with bardic competition and Her Highness' Whim is to engage in "combat embroidey" with an emphasis toward period versions of "Minions."

Competitoinis abound with Archery to slay the Sea Monster and Rapier Plank battle, Two on Two mised weapons for heavy fighters and a last couple standing dance competition for those looking for physical exertion. For those members of the populace keen on competing using a little less sweat, there will be several A&S competitions. Make your best Shortbread (with documentation), Cordials (added points for Irish Creams), and period eating or drinking vessels from wood, ceramic or metal.

Site is the Centennial Campgrounds, 349 Centennial Park Road, Soldotna 99669. Site opens at 5 pm on Friday, May 15, for set up. Saturday and Sunday start time is 11 am for activities, and the site closes at 5 pm, Sunday. Directions: take AK-1 all the way down until it turns into the Sterling Highway, and continue through Soldotna until you reach Kalifornsky Beach Road. Turn right, and take the next immediate right, which is Centennial Park Road. Continue through gates until you reach the campgrounds.

Event fee is \$10 for adults 18 and up, teens 13-17 are \$5, and those under 12 are free. A family cap is set at \$30. This is a campground and is subject to additional fees *only* if you stay overnight. If you wish to camp, the fee is \$20 per carload per night.

For details on classes and other information, please contact the Event Steward Aldyen of Eskalya (Tom Rheäume), 575-6799 (no calls after 10 pm, please), [tirheume@yahoo.com](mailto:tirheume@yahoo.com).

**Midsummer Coronet**  
*Selviergard*  
*July 17-19*

Greetings!

The returning light and early spring weather now stretching across Oertha has reminded us that winter is ending and summer is on her way! We therefore invite you to join us at Oertha Midsummer Coronet and Investiture, to be held at the France

Equestrian Center within the Palmer Fairgrounds. Come witness the selection and investiture of the Heirs of Their Lupine Highnesses, Shawn and Arabella, Prince and Princess of Oertha.

So that all are aware, no animals other than service animals will be permitted on site. This is a prohibition of the site's owners and therefore will be strictly enforced. Please be aware that the Palmer Fairgrounds fall under the taxing authority of the City of Palmer.

Please also note that the location of the event has changed slightly. Rather than being in the horse arena, we will be across the way in a large grassy field. This will afford us more space and better parking. We will still have access to the small log cabin for classes and meetings.

Please be aware that space around the list field will be reserved for period encampments. Space nearby will be available for modern tents and RVs.

A potluck dinner will be available Saturday night. If you are interested in coordinating this, please contact the event team at [kginalaska@gmail.com](mailto:kginalaska@gmail.com). If your group or guild is interested in hosting a fundraising lunch on Saturday, please also contact the event team (tentatively Ravensfjord is hosting Saturday morning breakfast and Eskalya is doing Sunday morning).

The Stewards' Whim is a period camping accessory (table, chair, bench, lantern, etc.). We look forward to seeing what is created!

There will be archery.

If you wish to set up a merchant booth, please contact Caitriona, our merchant coordinator, at [cathrineheroy@gmail.com](mailto:cathrineheroy@gmail.com).

Event fee will be \$15 for individuals over the age of 17, \$10 for those age 10 to 17, and free for those under 10. The non-member surcharge will be \$5. The family cap is \$50.

We look forward to seeing you all this summer! --Clare Prima et Clare Secunda  
Nifty Nine Largesse Derby

At this summer's coronet, we will be hosting a Nifty Nine Largesse Derby to collect largesse for Their Highnesses. To enter the Derby, bring nine items of a single type (e.g., nine pieces of trim, nine note cards, nine balms, nine sewing kits, etc.), tagged with your name and group.

One item from each entry will be entered into a prize pool and the other eight will be provided to Their Highnesses and Their Heirs to distribute as largesse. Everyone who enters will be given a chance to pick an item from the prize pool, and an additional prize will be given to the Derby winner.

If you would like to mail entries in, please email me offlist at [clairemargery@gmail.com](mailto:clairemargery@gmail.com), and I will help with logistics. Period items with documentation are strongly encouraged, but not required.

Let's show off the skill and bounty of Oertha's artisans!  
--Cynehild

*Event Reports and Thanks:*

OLIO Thanks

Two years ago, the first OLIO was created! Tis a wonderfully laid back event, at which the populace has an opportunity to mingle, gather, talk and informally take a class or two. A wonderful way to welcome in spring!

We also established the Holly Court during a "Come Hither" rather than a formal court. As we sat around the family table, stories of our past are ignited and passed down to new generations. Everything from garb stories and fun from our autocrat Sapphira, who wore Red Boots of Passion, proud garb moments from Lilla when loved ones make our first piece of garb, to the supplying of geese -- you mean, they are alive? -- from Griffin and Elena, to the terrible cooking of the Baroness at her first SCA coronet and principality event. Again, OLIO has provided a fireside moment during our calendar for all of Winter's Gate to connect as we relive those moments in history.

Special thanks to the autocrat Sapphira the Navigator. May her boots never dim.

Special thanks also to those who taught classes, Clare Elena and Marjorie, who drove up from Eskalya and Selvieregard to join us. I have developed a fondness for meat pies and was inspired to learn Celtic art.

Thanks to those who helped with the regalia! Our Winter's Gate regalia is important as it presents a visual image to all about who we are as a Barony and represents the hard work of many people who have donated so many hours. Thanks to those who have assisted in maintaining the regalia, especially Magda and Griffin. Thank to Sapphir and Merewyn, who are assisting in the decorative touches of the Thrones.

We raised a goodly amount of food for the Food Bank and door prizes were given to attendees.

OLIO is a wonderful time to relax some of the propriety, share our stories and remember those who have gone on before. I want to thank all who participated, drove long distances, told stories, relaxed around the table and especially those who served on the Oak Court. I welcome our new Holly Court members: Lady Sitra, Lady of the Chamber; Elizabeth and Ciara, Ladies in Waiting; Cassandra, Court Artisan; Hans, Camshron and Will, Guards; Will, Court Archer; Morgana, Privy Counselor; and Tempest, Minister of Magic and Mayhem.

As we sat around the family table, I noted how our Barony shifts and changes, and those who have recently come into our Barony. Our Treasures are growing and we have a new generation of youth that will take the memories of the Society into their adult lives. I noted the opportunity to share our lives and stories. Most importantly, I felt the warmth of our Society family as we came together, laughed, shared and basked in the Springtime sun and the warmth that is the Barony of Winter's Gate.

Yours in Service,

Cemper and Bran (present in spirit), Baron and Baroness

#### Michalemass Thanks

The hall was full of friendly conversation and the smells of cooking food all day. Many visitors attended, giving the Barony a chance to show off our fun and maintain our cooking reputation. The menu included such tasty foods as "Venison" Stew, Roasted Root Vegetables, Halibut in Beer, Buttered Colleflowre, and finished off with desserts ranging from Blinchiki (crepes) filled with apples, shortbread and fine cakes. Having been tempted by the smells all day, feasters fell to and did justice to all. Her Highness was surprised by gifts for Her birthday, which she celebrated by attending Michaelmas!

As the food settled in our happily-stuffed tummies, the kitchen was cleaned, and courts followed. Then the participants cheerfully finished the kitchen and cleaned the hall. Another great Michaelmas feast!

Honors granted at Michaelmas by Prince Gregor and Princess Isabella were: Raven's Hearts to Kara Blackstar and Tiana Rose, Diamond Willow to Elisheva bint Sitt al-Sirr, Wandering Wolf to Becca of Winter's Gate, Sandhill Crane to Khevron Oktavii Tikhikovich Vorotnikov, and a Rose Leaf to Ellisif a Reikiavik.

Their Excellencies Bran and Cempestra granted Silver Swans to Hannah of Winter's Gate, Elena verch Ruari, Ellisif a Reikiavik and Elisheva bint Sitt al-Sirr.

#### From Their Excellencies

A Great Huzzah for Michaelmas! Thanks to all who came and joined with Winter's Gate to celebrate both Michaelmas and Her Highness' birthday. The food was magnificent, thanks to all the kitchen staff including Ellisif, Cameron, India and Vicanna, who spent hours creating dishes and working in the kitchen.

To all those who assisted, there are so many the list would be long, and thus we would like draw attention and special thanks to our St. Boniface Sisters and Brothers, Rafial, Aoife, Hannah, Erin, Will, Becca, Lilla, Tiana, Elizabeth and Cass.

Thanks also to all who participated in the whim, a gift for Her Highness. Your contributions were most appreciated and beautiful.

Many friends attended from the South and thanks to our Brother and Sister, Baron Halfdan of Selviergard and Baroness Elspeth from Eskalya for making the journey and gracing us with their presence. For all those who traveled, as always, we are honored by your presence.

Mistress Margery's autocrating resulted in a relaxing and friendly atmosphere where friends could "catch up." Thank you for making sure that those who were attending for the first time had clothes and were greeted by warmth and fellowship. The event was two-fold as Mistress Margery planned for the Princess' Birthday and the special annual feast event.

Many new awards were presented. With a heavy heart, we bid farewell to our Winter's Gater, Becca, as she leaves our lands with love and friendship and the Wandering Wolf awarded by Their Highnesses.

Many thanks to Their Highnesses Gregor and Isabella for gracing us with Their presence and adding to our festivities, including us the opportunity to celebrate Her Highness' birthday.

Special thanks to my Ladies in Waiting who attended court, Lady Elena (with a lovely on her back), Lady Aoifa who kept Baroness Cempestra hydrated and healthy, and Lady Greteke who willingly solved various problems for Her Excellency.

As the snow begins to accumulate and the temperatures drop, we all can bask in the warmth that is Oertha and Winter's Gate.

Yours in Service,

*Baron Bran and Baroness Cempestra*

From the Head Cook

My turn to say thank you!

I would like to send my sincerest thanks to everybody who helped make Michaelmas Feast the roaring success that it was. This would not have been possible without so very many people pitching in. This was truly OUR feast.

I would like to specifically thank:

- Cameron, whose equipment-acquiring, service organizing, plating, and crepe-cooking skills are beyond stellar;
  - India, who's responsible for the yumminess that was the entire second course;
  - Cass, an accomplished cooker of great quantities of apples;
  - Grete and Hanna, the peelers and slicers of said apples;
  - Cass and Hannah, who got the joy of cutting up a bucketload of cauliflower;
  - Hannah, the world's most awesome shortbread cookie maker (and gluten-free!);
  - Lilla, the most wonderful reliable "just tell me what needs doing next" person ever;
  - Merewyn, a highly skilled arranger of serving dishes;
  - Vicana, for spending part of the afternoon deep-frying an awesome dessert to present to Her Highness;
  - Cruscillus, for helping assemble the dessert and making sure I remembered to eat;
  - My own family, who valiantly taste-tested everything and offered up ideas to make them better;
  - To the servers (I know of Tiana, Elizabeth, Rafail and Aoife, but there were others, too), without whom no one would have received food;
  - Sapphira, for once again getting us a site with a good kitchen;
  - Everybody, throughout the day, who washed dishes (I think that covers most of the Barony!) -- seriously, having only handwashing available for a feast of 50? You were just as essential as the food!!
  - And lastly, to everyone who attended, especially those who travelled long distances over snowy mountain passes, thank you for coming and helping make it a wonderful time. It was an honor to be able to feed you and know you left happy and full.
- And I almost forgot to mention a couple Very Important Ladies!! Most special, "you-saved-our-butts" thanks go to: Aoifa, who made a special raisin-procuring trip during the event so the stew would be at its best, and Revekka, who made it possible to procure the food, and without whom the entire feast would not have existed.

--*Ellisif a Reikiavik*

## Yule

A huge thank you for all the people who attended and helped at Yule!

Thanks for all those who attended from near and far. Of particular note were our wonderful newcomers, as well as Mistress Clare Elena and Their Highnesses Gregor and Isabella. We were honored with Your Presence.

Thank yous to Sapphira who taught our dance class in the evening, Baroness Cemper who did Reindeer Games and Children's Subtleties, and Mistress Margery who hosted bardic and adopted the gift exchange when the schedule had to be adapted.

Congratulations to Ciera for winning the Winter Traditions in Any Mode contest.

There are so many to thank, and I apologize profusely if your name is not listed. Please know that you were noticed and your work valued: Viscount Nathan for the beautiful site tokens; the set-up crew (Her Excellency Cempter, Baron Bran, Ellisif, Nathan, Floyd, Althea and their girls, Margery, Sibylla, Richard, India and Elizabeth); the cooking crew (Sibylla, Corey, India, Hannah and Althea); servers Tiana, Elizabeth, Clare Elena, Sapphira and Maia; kitchen and food clean-up (Sapphira, India, Johanna, Will, Maia, Joanna, Cameron, Sibylla, Floyd, Kolskeggr and Ciera); and last, but not

least, site clean-up (Hannah, Cameron, Floyd, Tiana, India, Gwyneth, Richard, Maia, Rebecca, Joanna, Their Excellencies Bran and Cemper, Elisheva, Their Highnesses Gregor and Isabella, Sapphira and Ellisif).

Special thanks to our wonderful chef for the evening, Lord Cameron and his amazing Holiday Gift. The food was amazing!

It was a wonderful treat to autocrat in Winter's Gate for the very first time for one of my favorite events. Thank you to *everyone* for being flexible with our schedule and meeting the needs of the site and our Royal Guests.

Yours in Service!

Lilla aet Sceaphylle

### Miscellaneous

#### Midrealm Baronial Visit Rumor

It is rumored that Maximillian and Caroline, Baron and Baroness of Shattered Crystal, will be visiting our fair Northern lands this summer and attending Midsummer Coronet. It is also a possibility that Baron Maximillian, who fights both heavy and rapier, may be traveling to Winter's Gate for the weekend preceding coronet, and will be bringing his armor. So keep that weekend free.

#### Coronet Commentary Requested

Greetings Unto the Populace of Oertha,

We have received two artisan bids for the completion of the new Coronets for Oertha. In the files section of the Oertha group (on Facebook, one assumes), you will find a folder labeled "2015 New Coronet Bids."

Please review both the bid details and the drawings that accompany them and send any comments you may have to myself at [annahnaie@gmail.com](mailto:annahnaie@gmail.com) or Alienor at [fishfood43@yahoo.com](mailto:fishfood43@yahoo.com). Comments should be kept respectful and constructive.

In Service,

Anna di Caterina Neri, Oertha Seneschale

Alienor Fitzhenry, Oertha Exchequer

#### **Pas d'Armes Arts Display**

To the great Artists, Fighters, and Worker Bees of this wonderful Principality,

The autocrats of the Selvieregard Pas d'Armes (May 23-25) and I would like to have a display table of items representing the theme of the event: the Courtly and Chivalric Virtues. Should you have something on hand which represents this topic to *you*, or even wish to start a new project for the event, please write up a brief description on the subject (index card sized) for the display and contact myself or Isabella Hawke to ensure space. The display will be in the small log cabin on site, and safe from any sunshine we may get.

For more information, please contact me at [beorn.se.bacaire@gmail.com](mailto:beorn.se.bacaire@gmail.com). Thank you in advance, and I am looking forward to seeing what contributions Oerthans come up with.

In Service,

Brann mac Finnchad, Principality Arts & Sciences Minister

## Submissions Herald

Khevron, Wolfhound Herald (principality submissions deputy) would like to help anyone who needs it with their name and device development and submissions. Contact email: [khevron@warppmail.net](mailto:khevron@warppmail.net).

## Oertha History Guild

The Oertha History Guild is active and we're collecting any details of past events, and ask members to submit a review, recap, thoughts of one event per year, recent or ancient. The Oertha History Guild is active and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/OerthaHistory/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/OerthaHistory/).

Photos posted to the West Kingdom History Pages are encouraged. <http://history.westkingdom.org>.

Everyone should check their information on the Who's Who website as well, and you can add to your SCA resume, including offices (primary or deputy) held and events hosted or cooked for, and other achievements.

*--Khevron Oktavii Tikhikovich Vorotnikov*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Regnum

Rex and Regina Occidentalis: Miles and Æsa, [crown@westkingdom.org](mailto:crown@westkingdom.org).

Prince and Princess of Oertha: Shawn and Arabella, [oerthan@oertha.westkingdom.org](mailto:oerthan@oertha.westkingdom.org).

## Winter's Gate

Baron and Baroness: Bran and Cempestra (Boyd Robinson and Alys Johns-Robinson, Box 56642, North Pole 99705, 385-1084 home, [boydrobinson@yahoo.com](mailto:boydrobinson@yahoo.com) (Braun), [tolkienscholar@yahoo.com](mailto:tolkienscholar@yahoo.com) (Cemper).

Captain of the Militia & Heart of Winter's Gate: Fergus and Greteke.

Commander of the Cavaliers & Light of Winter's Gate: Sevastian Agafangilovich Golyitsia and Sibylla.

Baroness' Champion: Hallbiorn Erlændar son.

Seneschale: Sapphira the Navigator (Vicki Wyan), 1308 Hampstead Ave., Fairbanks 99701, 374-0212 home, 910-723-6793 cell, [vicwyan@hotmail.com](mailto:vicwyan@hotmail.com).

Estuille Pursuivant/Chronicler/Lists Deputy: Morgana yr Oerfa (Sharron Albert), 1717 Tamarack Street, Fairbanks 99709, 452-2274 home, [morgana@gci.net](mailto:morgana@gci.net). Chronicler deputy: Greteke inn Little.

Exchequer: Hallbiorn Erlændar son (Dan Parrish), 2477 Sunflower Loop, North Pole 99705, [parrish@mosquionet.com](mailto:parrish@mosquionet.com), 488-3986 home.

A&S/Lists: Margery Garret (Mikki Griffin), 4523 Stanford, Fairbanks 99712, 456-2492, [motherchaos@gci.net](mailto:motherchaos@gci.net).

Regalia: Griffin Garret (Gary Griffin), 4523 Stanford, Fairbanks 99712, 456-2492, [motherchaos@gci.net](mailto:motherchaos@gci.net).

Marshal: Nathan Hartman (Nate Webb), 4730 Princeton Dr., Fairbanks 99709, 515-7717 (cell), [nwebb@alumni.unity.ed](mailto:nwebb@alumni.unity.ed).

Rapier Marshal/A&S Deputy: Ellisif a Reikiavik (Kaari Parrish), 2477 Sunflower Loop, North Pole 99705, 488-3986 (not before 9 am), kparrish@mosquitonet.com.

Constable: Ellisif a Reikiavik (Kaari Parrish), 2477 Sunflower Loop, North Pole 99705, ellisif3@yahoo.com, 488-3986 home

Chatelaine/Gold Key: Elena verch Rhys (Jessica Grahn), jessicaeringrahn@yahoo.com, 687-4012. Deputy Elisheva bint Sitt al-Sirr (Sheva Corning), 888-0040 cell, elishevacorning@yahoo.com.

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### *College of St. Boniface:*

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*And now for something entirely different:*

### Du'ad Bob Review

So there it was again. This time, sitting in the list of "On Demand" movies on the cable menu. And I was really not especially looking forward to it. I mean, I generally like Japanese movies, but this wasn't really a Japanese movie. Oh, it had a lot of Japanese actors in it. And it was a story that originated in Japan. But it was done Hollywood-style, and the lead actor was not even remotely Japanese. So I had my doubts. Which were not alleviated by some of the comments by others who had already seen it. The one which stuck most in my mind was: "Real events regurgitated as fantasy freak show." So you can see where I might have some trepidation. Still, our motto is, and remains, "We watch 'em so you don't have to." So you can see that I felt obligated, if only on behalf of you, my loyal readers. So I sat myself down in my big La-Z-Bubba recliner, pulled out my pen and notepad, and pushed "Play." And so it is that this month, Da'ud Bob reviews for you the 2013 Hollywoodized version of **47 Ronin**.

Starring Keanu (no, I'm not Japanese) Reeves as the half-breed raised by demons in the forest, Kai, Hiroyuki Sanada as Oishi, Ko Shibasaki as Mika, Tadanobu Asano as Lord Kira, Min Tanaka as Lord Asano, Jin Akianishi as Chikara, Masayoshi Haneda as Yasuno, Hiroshi Sogabe as Hazama, Takato Yonemoto as Basho, Cary-Hiroyuki as the Shogun Tsunayoshi, Rinko Kikuchi as the Witch, and Neil Fingleton as the "Lovecraftian

Samurai" (I kid you not! That's how his character is named in the credits), this is a take on the well-known story of the 47 former samurai who seek vengeance for their dishonored lord, no matter that they know beforehand that it can only lead to their own deaths. Which this version of the story tries to jazz up by adding a shape-shifting witch, a huge armored samurai, demons (who remind me a lot of UFO aliens), and a half-breed foundling with some demonic powers of his own. And which they try also to turn into a love story between Kai and Mika.

Good points: The red armor. Mika's cloak. Some of the costuming. The CGI dragon. (I did mention that the witch was a shape-shifter, right?)

Bad points: Some of the costuming. The collars on Mika's kimonos. The tattoos. The witch using her hair as chopsticks. The bride wearing white. Way too much magical stuff. And did I mention that they tried to turn it into a love story?

Zero breasts. 1 gallon of blood. 48 dead bodies. (And a bunch more off-screen.) Arrow fu. Antler fu. Katana fu. Musket fu. Ball on chain fu. Fire fu. Garrote fu. Dagger fu. Samurai roll. Heads roll. Gratuitous Japanese Balrog. (Well, I'm really not quite sure how else to describe this huge monster.) Gratuitous hallucinogenic spider. Gratuitous beatings. Gratuitous ghosts. Gratuitous changeling witch. Gratuitous imaginary rape. Academy Award nomination to 7' 7½" tall Neil Fingleton as the "Lovecraftian Samurai" for pretty much dominating every scene he's in (obviously!). A 72 on the Vomit Meter. Two stars. Da'ud Bob says, "It's a great tale, and they tried to turn it into a love story. It isn't a love story, and it doesn't need to be. It's a story of honor, and the lengths these forty-seven masterless samurai, these "ronin," were willing to go to in avenging the wrong done to their former master, which had led to his ritual suicide. Check it out!"

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