

# THE GATEKEEPER

Newsletter of the Barony of Winter's Gate,  
Principality of Oertha, Kingdom of the West



Solstice, Anno Societatus LVIII  
(2023 Gregorian)

# Words of the Prince and Princess of Oertha

Good people of Oertha, do We Lucius and Anne, send our greetings! When we started our Reign, we took up the challenge laid to us at Coronet by Cruscillus and Eillis, and we have traveled through these lands entrusted to us. In that travel we have found in all places it is in good hands and have formed new friendships. From the blue blue waters in the Shire of Hrafnafjördr to the Island splendors of the Shire of Pavlok Gorod we have been welcomed warmly and shown such Hospitality.



Our Baronies of Eskalya, Selviergard and Winter's Gate, too have provided delightful welcome and good cheer. We are looking forward with great anticipation to the Yule feasts at the Bi-Baronial Yule with Eskalya and Selveirgard, and at the Yule Feast in Winter's Gate. We hear amazing food is planned at both events. We look forward to see all who are there.

We have one last stop for our Reign before Winter Coronet: that is in the Shire of Earngyld for their 12th Night festivities to share with them good cheer as we welcome in our new King and Queen of the West.

It is with bittersweet joy we anticipate the choosing of our Heirs at Winter Coronet. Our time serving you as your Prince and Princess has been truly a joyous service and we have each of you to thank for it. As we prepare to retire to our Estates help us celebrate Our Heirs and compete in the Palio! The Entry fee is an Item of Largess. If you are not so fleet of foot, you may pay the entry fee for a Jockey to race in your colors! Top 3 finishers of each race will be eligible to Pick from the items of Largess as prizes. All remaining items will be used to fill the coffers for our Heirs! Long Live the People of Oertha!

Lucius, Princeps  
Anne, Princepsa

Royal Progress for the remainder of our Reign. BiBaronial Yule, Winter's Gate Yule, Earngyld 12th Night, then Coronet.

## Calendar of Events

All events tentative - Be sure to Verify  
More at [www.westkingdom.org/calendar](http://www.westkingdom.org/calendar)

### Anno Societatus LVIII (58) 2023

—★ November 11-12 Winter's Gate Collegium —★  
December 2 Eskalya/Selviergard Yule  
—★ December 9 Yule —★  
**2024**

★ January 19-21 Winter Coronet (Oertha) ★  
—★ February 3-4 Fairbanks ComiCon —★  
February 5-12 War of the Phoenix (Atenvendlt)  
—★ February 24 Baronial 40 Year Celebration —★  
—★ March 9 Collegium —★  
March 9-17 Gulf Wars (Gleann Abhann)

### Anno Societatus LIX (59)

May 3-12 Double Wars (Drachenwald)  
—★ June 1 Spring Championships —★  
June War of the Lilies (Calontir)  
★ June 21-23 June Crown Tournament (Oertha) ★  
June 2-7 An Tir West War (An Tir)  
June Battlemoor (Outlands)  
★ July 19-21 Summer Coronet (Oertha) ★  
July-August Pennsic War LI (Æthelmearc)  
—★ August 31 Autumn Tournaments —★  
October Great Western War (Caid)  
—★ October 12 Michaelmas Feast —★  
—★ December 7 Yule —★

Baron & Baroness Plan to Attend  
See official Calendar at [www.westkingdom.org](http://www.westkingdom.org) Local in bold



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## WINTER CORONET

Jan 19 - 21st, 2024

Camp Singing Hills (26410 Paradis Ln, Chugiak)

### Arts and Sciences Activities:

All activities accept entries in three categories: Laurel, Artisan, Youth

\*To chase winter away: warmth in any mode, i.e., cloaks, hats, etc

\*Hot beverages: non-alcoholic (ingredients must be listed)

\*Fighting gear on any mode.

\*Youth specific: Winter in any mode

\*Bardic: Winter in any mode performed during pot-luck

The spinning guild is hosting a UFO (Unfinished Objects) competition, contact Ellisif for further details.

### Site Fee:

Adult Non-Member Registration (\$): 30; Member (\$): 25

Adult Non-Member Single Day Registration (\$): 20; Member (\$): 15

Youth 11 to 17: \$10; Children under 11 - free; Family Cap (\$): 70

Site: Camp Singing Hills (Girl Scouts of Alaska)

Event Starts: Jan 19, 2024 at 6:00 PM and Ends: Jan 21, 2024 at 4:00 PM  
the hall will close by 9pm Friday and Saturday.

Event Steward: Kinehild le librari (Claire Knudsen-Latta) — Email:

[cynehild@westkingdom.org](mailto:cynehild@westkingdom.org)

Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/857806795654465>

## HORSE RACE FOR WINTER CORONET

Their Highnesses have announced a horse race for Winter Coronet! The entry fee is a piece of largesse that you might like to receive. The top three racers will win largesse and the rest of the largesse will go to the heirs.

You can make your own horse or rent one (they will have some there). Be creative: moose, unicorn, etc.

There just may be some side-betting on the winners!

### IVORY SPOON COMPETITION

Ivory Spoon will be Basic Meat Pies in a Coffin. Basically any meat in a pastry container. Beef, pork, chicken, fish. Participant judged, bring recipe.

### The Wreath of Hephaestus:



The Oerthan branch of the Company of the Golden Distaff is sponsoring the Wreath of Hephaestus, to be conducted at Oerthan Winter Coronet.

It is modeled after the Wreath of Athena, an A&S display held at Crown Events. The goal is to provide a welcoming opportunity for artisans to display their work, and for the populace to see the wonderful projects and themselves be inspired.

The Wreath of Hephaestus will begin Saturday morning of Coronet and run throughout the day. Location, drop-off, and pick-up times will be announced at the event.

--ALL artisans and crafters are invited to display their A&S projects.

--Projects need not be completed.

--Projects need not be accompanied by documentation.

--Projects will be kept guarded and safe.

--The populace will be polled for their favorite item.

--There will be no judging sheets, but entrants may put out comment cards if they wish feedback.

Participation:

--This is open to all, so please feel free to enter!!

--Everyone should drop by and see the fabulous items created and participate in the polling.

### Recognition:

--The artisans responsible for the top 3 highest scoring pieces will be called into court with their items so that all may see their work.

--The top scoring artisan will receive a handspun, nalbound hat in Oerthan colors displaying a "wreath" around the middle, to keep.

We hope you will join us.

# Words of the Baron and Baroness, Khevron and Merewyn

Greetings from your Baron and Baroness!

The cold white stuff has covered our lands once again and much has happened and is soon to happen!

A wonderful time camping and playing was had at Fall Hastilude, and the Michaelmas Feast was delicious and successful. Collegium had some last minute changes and issues with the site, but went off well!

Next event is Yule!

We'll be polling your opinion at Yule on the Charter Update, especially on New Awards added - See special Charter Edition of the Gatekeeper or this Issue for the New Awards.

A Month after Coronet, we're celebrating the 40 year anniversary of the Barony! The Province of Winter's Gate was made a barony on January 29, 1984. Details soon on what and where. When is February 24, 2024.

Between events, please take some time to attend Fighter Practice, both for combat and arts and sciences! now at UAF U-Park Gym 1000 University Avenue.

Watch the "io" mailing list, Facebook and this newsletter for activities! The will be more crafts, bardics, and special meetings at private residences. Coordinate with the Baroness if you want to host!

Time to prepare for Winter Coronet in Chugiak! Support Our own Prince and Princess and Their Heirs!

Please send us award recommendations!

What cool stuff are people doing?

See you soon!

*Baron Khevron and Baroness Merewyn*



## Proposed new Awards

- ☐ Baron/ess' Champions (Heavy, Rapier, Archery, A&S) recognized annually by contest or appointment by the Baronage.
- ☐ The Company of Winter's Gate, given to those who have gone to war or served as Baronial Champion: Fighter, Archer, A&S or Service.
- ☐ Order of the Aspen Tree, to recognize those recruiting and inspiring newcomers. Can be bestowed multiple times.
- ☐ Order of the Lynx Kit, to acknowledge and welcome newcomers who have settled into the Barony
- ☐ Stewards Annulet, for Service as Event Steward. Can be bestowed multiple times.
- ☐ Baron's Recognition, for any service deemed worthy by the Baron. Can be bestowed multiple times.
- ☐ The Order of the Silver/Bronze/Iron Moose – For excellence in the fields of Service, Arts and Sciences, and Martial Activity (resp.) within the Barony.

## Should these awards be added?

Questions to ask yourself of each award:

Is this award redundant or unnecessary?

Is it inspiring? Would you like to receive it?

Is the name good or is there a better idea?

Can you think of anyone to recommend it to?

You can check ones you like and not others.

We will only adopt ones with clear affirmation by you.

Awards needing further development/discussion can be pended for later.

The final update will likely be arranged differently, but the information will be consistent.





# YULE

December 9th

At the Masonic Hall (402 11th. Ave.)

Sharpen your feasting fork and fluff your Yule frock because the Barony of Winter's Gate is hosting its annual Yule celebration and feast! And it's not just a feast. Fun and activities will be going all afternoon, so come for the merriment, and stay for the arts and crafts.

**VIKING GIFT EXCHANGE.** Bring a gift to enter. Everyone draws a number and gets to unwrap a gift or steal a gift already opened. Gift can only be stolen twice! Gift should cost less than \$25.

**SILENT AUCTION.** Please bring a donation to Yule for the silent auction Barony fundraiser. It could be new, or something that you've made or that you've had a while and want to find a new home for, basically anything that someone in our group might want.

**FEAST TICKET.** Cost is \$15 (children 9 and under eat for free). Please RSVP for the feast by Dec 1st to Fionnghuala / Jenny White-Teets, [jencargle@aol.com](mailto:jencargle@aol.com).

## MENU

Chicken thighs  
whole top round of beef  
rice pilaf  
roasted potatoes  
fresh green beans  
sautéed carrots w/leeks  
green salad  
Rolls

# YULE

## **SCHEDULE:** (all times approximate)

12:00 Site opens  
1:00 Soup and bread served  
2:00 Ornament making (all ages)  
3:00 Felt animal making (all ages)  
4:00 Opening Court  
5:30 Feast served  
7:30 Gift exchange with cake!  
8:00 Closing Court

Thorgrimm the Dane is cooking the feast.  
Fionnghuala (Jenny White-Teets) is the event steward.  
Adult "Non-Member" Registration (\$): 20  
Adult Member Registration (\$): 15  
Minors are free, No Family Cap

## *The Michaelmas Letters, #3*

(parts 1 and 2 were posted in the last Gatekeeper)

Greetings, children:

Travel is uneventful so far, and the weather has been in our favor, which always helps. We encountered some ne'er-do-wells a few days ago who fancied themselves to be terrifying brigands. They were no challenge for your father and his men, and they fled crying and bleeding.

We have passed several villages with talented weavers; I look forward to visiting some of them on the way home. Your father is being most unreasonable about refusing to stop for anything until he reaches his cousin.

As a special request, there is some brown fabric folded near my usual sewing spot. Please do not encourage the dogs to nest on it, nor use it as a blanket for any of the horses, even your father's favorite. It is intended to be used for a Yule gift for him, and I would rather not have to remove dog hair from it again.

May your days be peaceful ones and the farm run smoothly.

--Ellisif

# EVENT REPORT: MICHAELMAS

We would like to thank Hallbiorn for the Michaelmas Event and Ellisif and Fionnghuala for the amazing Feast, and fun story behind it (Wagonloads of spices! ...Horses and Kamuls, oh my!).

The feast was delicious, especially the apricot beef and pasties. See our new recipe corner in the newsletter for the Buttered Cauliflower recipe!

The site was actually cool due to a heating pump failure (rather than the usual broil) but not uncomfortable!

Due to 2 of the 4 horsemen, Plague and War, (happily not Death), attendance was lighter than expected, but that meant there certainly was no Famine! Toasts to the Queen, Princess, Baroness and Iron Fist were accomplished!

The Light Axe throwing target was a HUGE success and lots of fun, as was other activities, Spoon and Eye, piñatas and Patrick's wonderful Norse stories, magic and soothsaying entertainments! Hakim won the axe throwing competition.

Thank you to Young Newcomer Elizabeth for helping in the Kitchen, and her newcomer dad Otto, and all others who attended. I saw some Baronial regalia out there!!

There was no court - we'll see you at Yule, we hope, for that. Collegium is coming! We'll post the Baronial Charter updates we spoke about at dinner soon.

In Service,  
-Baron Khevron and Baroness Merewyn.



## MORE MICHAELMAS LETTERS?

A fragment of a letter was found that a few scholars believe is related to the Michaelmas Letters.

Greetings Co..in Hallb.....n

There have been ....cious acti...ns in the ...

The Bishop may have .....en(d) word of our ....g ...

His eyes (spyes?) are a ...

Return with haste ... b ...

L ...

End of letter fragment





## Collegium: Report

We'd like to thank all those who came out to the Winter's Gate Collegium at the Fairgrounds yesterday (might have had 28 people). A special thanks to Ellisif for wrangling all the teachers. We had a great class schedule! And thanks to Hallbiorn for helping with building arrangements and for handling constab- and for finally having them get the heat on. (Funny story: they decided to save money by taking the oil off auto refill, and there was no oil for the furnace; hopefully they learned a valuable lesson). So sorry it was so cold.

Thanks to all our teachers: Ellisif, Anne, Fearghus, Margery, Hildegard, Gisla, and Elena. Even the Baroness taught a class! And a special thanks to the three teachers who came up long distance to teach classes: Hrothi, Lyneya, and Kinehild! Fun was had by all, and sewing, headwear, cooking, weaving (including Inkle & Viking wire), embroidery, illumination & paints, and sling-making skills were improved!

We missed Baron Khevron who stayed home sick and missed teaching his Heraldry Class, but hopefully he'll teach it at our next Winter's Gate Collegium on March 9th next year! Speaking of which: if you want to teach a class, please contact Ellisif at [ellisif3@yahoo.com](mailto:ellisif3@yahoo.com).



## Dark Winter Nights

This was a night of Alaskan story telling November 18 at the Hering Auditorium. They asked our Barony to come out of a TARDIS and Chris and Hallbiorn did a rapier battle onstage and killed each other. Then we introduced our group. We had a lot of fun!

<https://darkwinternights.com/>





## Event Report: Fall Hastilude

Fall Hastilude! That's one for the memory banks.

I think everyone made it home by now (or will), with all their wheels still circular and batteries charged.

I have to thank House Tundra Weasel for scouting ahead, and reporting conditions Friday! and feeding and keeping us warm!

Conditions... Frankly, anyone who overnighted Friday needs a special award, and a day off to make up some sleep (today!). Rain was off and on, but the wind was all over the place and just short of strong enough to... nope, 2 tents were damaged, one permanently, the other reparably (we hope), and one more just wouldn't stand upright to the gale. (15-20 with gusts of 30-35mph I think is being kind). Recommend good non- OEM tent pegs!

Vehicles had a hard time, not necessarily due to weather conditions. 2 needed jumps, and 2 got flat tires on the way to site. Rescues and assistance happened, and we didn't lose anyone!

We're sad our Tavern Brawls didn't happen, for a few reasons, but we have a New Captain and Heart - Hans and Gisla, and a new Commander and Light - Kollr and Katla! We thank our outgoing Captain and Heart, Lucius and Anne, and our outgoing Commander and Light, Bernadette and Hakim.

Most royalty present got very temporary (.08 sec) upgrades of rank, which was fun. I am now "Khevron Brackenbane" (Video tbp).

Also due to the Al Fresco Lounge's dedication, their tent walls went up around the permanent pavilion to block wind (or a good portion of it) and had the Wood burning Fireplace and Their gas Fire-pit going for personal warmth, so we didn't die. Speaking of portions, their libations and offerings of breakfasts must be mentioned.



## Fall Hastilude Report, Cont'd

Saturday was quite windy, though lessening throughout the afternoon, but the sun shown, and temperatures were tolerable, at least with good cloaks and other woollens. We had an excellent and entertaining Captaincy list, and Courts were fun, and the company was excellent, and eating, light drinking and bardic happened! Their Highness' elevated Ariel to be Lady Ariel of Winter's Gate! \* Baroness' Archery Champion will have to be another day as the wind didn't really calm til mid-evening.

Thanks to Her Highness and Margery for Listkeeping, Lena for Heralding! and Ellisif and Talorc Marshalling the lists, and Lena, Elena and Talorc Heralding at Courts. Thanks to Stephen for treking up and making Ellisif an Archery Marshal!

Sunday was cloudy but nicer than we worried, and the Commander Tournament was held, and lots of fun! With the consensus of the fighters, the Tavern Brawls were postponed to a future time tba, and we decided, having discussed it with nearly everyone, to break camp after Court, as people were worn out and a Monday break-down would be in the rain all morning.

Thanks to Ash for wrangling the (5!) treasures all weekend! Please Zoom in on Thursday for the Business meeting so we can gather your thoughts about holding events at Anderson camp in the future, and perhaps how much we should schedule into any one event (less or more?) and more topics which we'll post about later!

-Baron Khevron, tire(d) Event Steward.



## Business Meeting, Sept. 7th, 2023

Seneschal. Hallbiorn

Collegium Badger/Gasser HALL. Contract says no alcohol, unless we have a separate agreement with them for that. So maybe check on that.

Fairgrounds / Patrick is contact. Gave us a little price-break. In Badger Hall (Gasser Bldg - working on kitchen this winter to make commercial). Can't have fighting, but could have some drills or slow work class. Possibility of good weather

Leatherworking, pounding? Arngrim is going to do a shaped pouch class for us.

Amtgard. What kind of classes? Beginning how to do a super simple tunic. Anne said she'd like to do a class on how to do the simple yoke around the neck. Maybe put them together.

-Fighter practice Sunday now at Growden Park. Noon to 4. (1-3)

Fall Hastilude report. The camp host didn't know we were coming? No longer have the music festival.

Maybe look into Ester Park for Spring Championship.

Appreciate Tundra Weasel's tavern.

Michaelmas. Have Masonic Hall. Going to invite Amtgard.

Spammed Oertha with info.

Bardic 30th Sept. A & S during day and Bardic that evening.

Marshmallows and roasting sticks - fire-pit in backyard.

Events for 2024 -dates for next year have not yet gotten onto calendar. -Comicon (Hallbiorn), checking with them about getting a table

Constable. Ellisif Everything balanced at the event. \$235 brought in. Sign-ins went well.

Heavy Marshal. Had a tourney. She will work on turning over heavy marshal to Arngrim. Elena is also authorized as a heavy marshal. Can be back up for Arngrim.

Rapier. Had a tourney. Two new rapier marshal: Hallbiorn & Chris, might turn some duties over to them.

A & S is now back in Fearghus's hands. Fearghus needs to talk to Baron/ Baroness about whims and upcoming A & S stuff.

Exchequer. Elena. Hastilude came close to breaking even. Got budget for Michaelmas; might be short if we do an auction then it would make it up.

Chronicler Gatekeeper. Merewyn is just finishing the gatekeeper.

## Business Meeting, Sept 7th, 2023, Cont'd

Herald. Elena heralded her first court and almost died. Report is submitted already. Will not be here for Michaelmas, need another herald

Gold Key. Need to get it back to Baron & Baroness.

Yule. (Fionnghuala) needs to talk with us about the possible site for Yule. Thorngrim will do the feast.

Think about JP Jones. Hallbiorn said that Badger (Gasser) hall is available. Agricultural museum at Fairground (but no kitchen). Find out when Badger/Gasser kitchen is torn apart for renovation.

Largesse party 9/16 at Fearghus'.

Facebook. No, cannot make event page except in kingdom. Can make your personal event on your page.

Populace vote on new awards at Michaelmas? Is that in the works? Khevron is working on it.

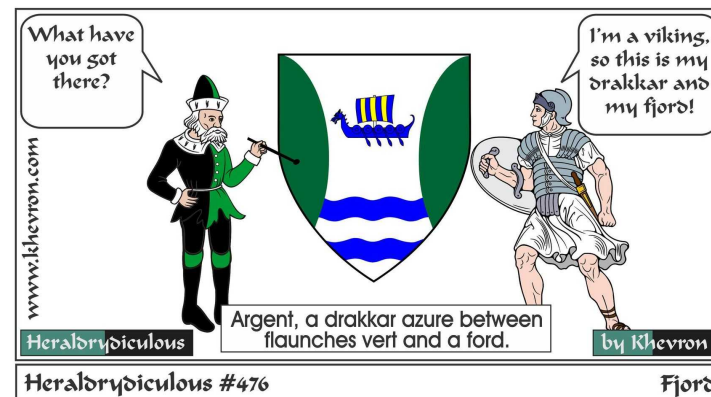
Upcoming Business Meetings:

(Held at 6:45 pm via Zoom)

Jan. 11th, Feb. 8th & March 7th

Everyone welcome to attend.

Watch the Facebook page for the zoom link or  
Write: Daniel Parrish <[wgseneschal@gmail.com](mailto:wgseneschal@gmail.com)>





## RECIPE CORNER

This edition's recipe provided by Ellisif y Reykyavik

Welcome to our new feature, a recipe corner! This spot will give you period recipes from many times and places to try yourself. All of these will have been tested locally and most will have been served at feasts or potlucks. You will notice that in the originals, there aren't quantities of ingredients given, or cooking times, and are often easier to understand if you read them out loud. They were more like reminders to experienced cooks, rather than complete instructions. The great thing is that this leaves room to adjust things to your own liking. Later on, the recipes will be found in the "files" section of the Baronial Facebook page.

Happy munching!

### Honors in Winter's Gate

Captain & Heart  
Hans and Gisla

Commander & Light  
Kollr and Katla

Baroness' Heavy Champion  
Hans Shaffer

Baroness' Rapier Champion  
Hallbiorn Erlandar son

Baroness' Guardsman:  
Gisla

Fool of Winter's Gate:  
Merewyn of Ynys Taltraeth

Artisans:  
Fionnghuala inghean Raghnaill

Attendants/Ladies:  
Aurelia daCanal  
Ceara ingen Ailchon  
Ellisif í Reykiarvik  
Kaye of Winter's Gate

Pages:  
Alex, Calliope, Thomas

## RECIPE CORNER

### BUTTERED CAULIFLOWER

This dish was served at Michaelmas 2014, themed as a Family Dinner, and at Winter Coronet in Juneau about 2012.

Original recipe: Buttered Colleflowre (from A Booke of Cookerie, John Murrell, 1617.

Take a ripe Colle-floure and cut off the buddes, boyle them in milke with a little Mace until they be very tender, then poure them into a Cullender, and let the Milke runne cleane from them, then take a ladle full of Creame, being boyled with a little whole Mace, putting to it a Ladlefull of thicke butter, mingle them together with a little Sugar, dish up your flowres upon sippets, poure your butter and cream hot upon it strowing on a little slicst Nutmeg and salt, and serve it to the Table hot.

Note: A sippet is a piece of toasted or fried bread, used to soak up the sauce from dishes like this.

Modern version:

Heat 3 cups milk. As it gets warm, add ¼ teaspoon mace and 1 cut-up cauliflower. Simmer (try not to let it boil, or the milk curdles) until the cauliflower is tender (or to your preferred doneness), 12-15 minutes.

In a separate pot, heat ½ cup heavy cream, 1 Tablespoon butter, ¼ teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon nutmeg, and ¼ teaspoon sugar until hot but don't let it boil.

When the cauliflower's done, strain it out of the milk, pile it on top of crisp toast, and pour the sauce over it. Alternately, put the cauliflower in a bowl and add the sauce.

--Ellisif y Reykyavik



## The 4th Michaelmas Letter.

(The first 2 having been published in the last newsletter.)

### The Michaelmas Letters, #4 of 8

Greetings, children:

We have arrived in Greece, which is a very bizarre country. It is so hot that the very ground refuses to grow plants in places, where it is dry and dusty. I will be happy to leave for home and cooler weather.

There are strange creatures here called "kamuls". They look much like a female moose but have no antlers and are much more grouchy. One of Cousin Peite's spat at your father yesterday when he tried to make it carry a burden it did not want. It was very funny.

The kamuls actually shed like the dogs! The fur is long and very soft. I'm sure it would make extremely warm cloth, and I am determined to bring some home.

Ellisif

## Help Wanted

Please attend Baronial Business Meetings  
and have influence on future activities!

Actively seeking successors:

Chalelaine, Gold Key

All Officer Positions are in need of  
deputies, not *necessarily* to inherit,  
but to train or help.

Need Deputies:

Herald, Exchequer	Contact the
Chatelaine	current
Chronicler	Officer or the
Arts & Sciences	Seneschal
Heavy/Rapier	
& Archery Marshal	
Constable, Lists	

## The Michaelmas Letters, #5 of 8

Hello, children:

Your mother has found a kindred spirit in Darya, Peite's wife. She's a local girl he married after he retired from the Guard.

They have been going shopping in the local marketplaces. We're still negotiating how much fabric and spices we can reasonably bring back. She even has some strange idea about bringing home some of the hair that the filthy kamuls shed! I am doing my best to convince her this is a bad idea. There are many kinds of kamuls here but they are all bad tempered and they smell and spit!!

Peite should be able to have his affairs taken care of in about another month, but I doubt our wives can. They are enjoying themselves too much for my liking. A dozen of Peite's men and their families have chosen to come with us. I despair of being able to return quickly, but I will do what I can.

Hallbiorn

## The Michaelmas Letters #6 Of 8

Greetings, children:

We're on the way back to Sweden at last! It has been utter chaos getting everything organized and packed, but we're finally ready to leave. Unfortunately, we've got ourselves a convoy.

I count it a major victory that I limited your mother to only 3 extra wagons. Darya has a whole wagon of just spices and dried food (as if we don't have such things at home!) Between the two of them and the rubbish they just "can't live without", this is going to be a slow trip.

I told your mother the wagons will slow us down and she sweetly suggested Kamuls instead of wagons.

May the gods grant me patience.

## Business Meeting, Oct. 19th, 2023

### REVIEW OF MICHAELMAS

Not as good attendance as anticipated. 27 had said they wanted feast. Plus 7 kids, but we had 18 adults and 3 kids. Lot of people got sick.

Circulating pump for city steam failed so no hot water or heat, but not too cold. Now it is taken care of. (But they've always had trouble getting hot water in the kitchen). Brought in \$385 (half from gate and half from feast). (Still tallying feast costs). (May have cost \$250 for food/ plus site of \$300; short \$200).

DARK WINTER NIGHTS (Cemper is interested). Story telling event. Nov 18th. Wants ushers to get people back to seats) and then 15 mins to talk about Barony/ discuss. Cemper called Brittany and invited her to fighter practice and Collegium.

### CHARTER MODIFICATIONS

- Have a special edition of the Gatekeeper before Yule
- Polling at Yule? Or maybe later?
- Or have an in person biz meeting to vote, or electronic polling
- at collegium, could there be a table set aside for info about the charter?

### COLLEGIUM

- need to get from teachers how much time they need for their class so she can do the schedule
- Morgana offered to do a class /what was it? Ellisif will call her.

Bjarnarstrond. Going to Seviergard Sawain (Marybeth); wanted to get warranted there, but Elena says that it is a Kingdom form. (Hallbiorn will get in touch with them).

COMICON. They do want us back, very positive. But didn't get much info.

### OFFICER REPORTS.

Exchequer. (Elena). About to do 3rd quarter reports; all is balancing. Khevron added grommets to the sunshade (cost \$100 grommets, mildew stain remover to clean with \$42.50 – total 142.50 ). Elena needs copy of the receipt.

Moved by Merewyn to cover cost, Ellisif 2nd. Passes unanimously.

Constable. CHRISTOPHER can take over at Yule to be Constable. (Thinking about adding him as deputy constable) He will be Baronial Rapier Marshal. Arngrim is now the baronial Heavy fighting Marshal.

Herald. No court at Michaelmas.

## Business Meeting, Oct. 19th, 2023

A & S Day at Ellsif and Hallbiorn's on Saturday:

Sunday: Ribbon Roses how-to class at Fighter Practice. Ellisif will keep posting reminders.

Merewyn will send out an email

Chronicler. Gatekeeper. Special edition. Might just be digital. Put it out before Collegium

–Then Winter edition.

Discussion table at Collegium for the changes to the Charter.

Official meeting at Yule. Just do the vote at Yule.

(Elena) Maybe agrees it should be specific to items and not just "yay" or "nay". Zip codes vs. new awards.

Dark Winter Nights / Brittany

Brittany got on the zoom call and told us about the production and we worked out some details, asked questions. They needed 4-8 people and we would enter stage through a TARDIS. Too cool! The show is about Alaskans telling their stories. We'd do a sword fight, then tell about our group.

DEI (Cemper).

Working on getting DEI handbook, not cumbersome.

–Q, Historical lands at beginning of events. Are we still doing that?

–A/ Still is extremely encouraged to do that. We are on Athabaskan lands (largely). Not required but encouraged.

–Q. (Hallbiorn) Should we do it as modern ancestral lands or medieval? (500-1600 A.D.) –A.. Maybe keep it simple.

– Q.(Khevron) When during event should we do it? / –A.

Encouraging ppl to do it at beginning. Maybe at first announcements

– Q.(Hallbiorn). Should we just post it at the Gate? / –A. Yes, great idea, can include more information. DEI officer can do it.

COLLEGIUM. (Ellisif) We have many classes. Ellisif will get the final list of classes. Then she'll start putting schedule together (maybe Monday). LUNCH: Soup and maybe rolls.

INVITE AMPGARD. Send them link to the event and also list of classes and invite. Both Jason and Hildegard and also their leader.

YULE. Dec 9th. Now at Masonic Lodge. Jenny is event steward.

Pinned down alcohol ok with Mike (Hallbiorn). Not in contract.

(Hallbiorn said he could take it out). They have an insurance policy that allows alcohol on premises (\$2 million rider).



## Winter's Gate 40 Year Celebration!

When: February 24, 2024

Site: TBA

Winter's Gate became a Barony January 29, 1984.

Come celebrate the Barony's 40th year!

Wear the oldest garb you have (that fits).

Baronial Artifacts Exhibit.

A&S Champion Contest: Something using the Baronial Colors and/or Estoiles/indented division. Extra points for

Documentation.

Bear Pit Prize Tourney for Heavy and Rapier!

Round Table: Share a story from your time in the SCA!

Feast: Bring a Potluck contribution to feed 8-10

Further details TBA!

Event Steward Baron Khevron



## Michaelmas Letters, #7 of 8

Greetings Children,

The wagons your mother and Darya brought have slowed us down a bit but Peite decided we will begin early each day and camp late. There were a few times brigands decided we needed to pay travel taxes to safely pass through their lands. As your mother would say, we showed them the error of their ways.



Your mother is well but she is not happy with me. I had hoped that as we traveled she would realize she was bringing too much stuff. I innocently pointed out that she could very easily sell all this unnecessary stuff and make a nice profit. There have been a surprising lot of broken chicken bones in my food lately, which is strange ...

I still can't believe what happened next. We met up with a small Mongolian merchant train. Instead of selling stuff, your mother and Darya did more shopping! I pointed out that we do not have room for any more stuff, so she bought 2 of those gods-forsaken kamuls to carry the additional fabric.

I really hate kamuls, nasty, smelly, spitting, kicking ... they even tried to bite me! The other men hate them too. Praise the gods, one morning we woke up and the kamuls were gone! Your mother is convinced I had something to do with their escape, but I am totally innocent (really). The women refused to leave behind any of the new stuff they bought, so I was forced to buy another cursed, overpriced wagon.

May the gods help me survive the rest of this trip.  
--Hallbiorn

## Business Meeting, Nov. 16th, 2023

**YULE:** Khevron to pick up key.. Khevron and Elena will get together about check.

Chris will stand in as constable. Merewyn volunteered to handle the silent auction.

Discussed the Viking gift exchange and details for the building. FEAST. Cut off date for feast reservations: Dec 1st. But pay the day of, at the gate.

Bank statement in, Hallbiorn signed and sent to Elena

**BARONY 40th Anniversary** is Jan 29th. Khevron proposed doing an event and dates were discussed. February 24th was later settled on. Looking for site.

### **EVENT REVIEW COLLEGIUM:**

-oil ran out. -Tables. Ask for twice as many tables as you think you might need. We should have more like 20 tables (we had 12)  
-Place cleaned up and ovens usable as promised. -noise level wasn't too bad, even with 4 or 5 classes at once. -\$235 brought in at Gate, donations.

Who is main contact now at Fairgrounds? Open Tue-Thurs, 9-12. Best way to contact is to walk in. Grounds / maintenance guy came to fighter practice. Josue (Hoe sway).

### **DARK WINTER NIGHTS.**

-TARDIS before the break, so people know who we are? When is the drawing?

**CALENDAR.** All 2024 events are on the calendar.

**CHANGES TO CHARTER.** Special Gatekeeper was published and available at Collegium, also emailed to Barony members.

### **BJARNARSTROND:**

-Mary Beth has sent in request to Kinehild to renew the Bjarnarstrond charter.

July 31st Bjarnarstrond had a meeting to renew charter and they sent those minutes to Kinehild.

-They are meeting monthly but haven't put up minutes. They had a demo,

-They might send an article for the gatekeeper.

## Business Meeting, Nov. 16th, 2023, Cont'd

### **OFFICER REPORTS.**

**CONSTABLE.** Collegium made \$235, Kingdom wants different reporting if it is donation only event.

21 adults and 3 children (24 people).

**CHATELAINE /DEIB.** (Cemper). DEIB aspect. We had volunteered to be a test barony. Khevron and Merewyn should be part of this conversation. Cemper wants to be chatelaine.

**MARSHAL.** (Ellisif). Arngrim will be heavy marshal and Arngrim is rapier. 10 people at fighter practice last week at U-park.

**CHRONICLER.** (Merewyn) Sent Special Baronial Charter Issue. Next Gatekeeper end of Nov.

**EXCHEQUER.** (Elena). We have money. Around \$5800, still some expenditures going out. (closer to \$5200 after those). No need to overprice events.

**GOLD KEY.** Maybe have a day for Gold Key repair (on Saturday?); need larger men's tunics. Maybe more generic plain tunics of various size. Need accessories.

**ARTS AND SCIENCES.** (Fearghus). Would like whims from Baron /Baroness for Yule. Khevron - show off what you made after Collegium. Krumpus, the anti-Santa.

### **WINTER FIGHTER PRACTICES**

**Every Sunday 1:00 - 3:00**

The days have turned cold and snowy! And the good news is that we now have an indoor location for fighter practices / and Arts & Sciences: every Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00 P.M. (once again) at the U-Park gym (1000 University Ave). So come on Sunday and bring your arts & crafts to do while the fighters practice, or just hang out and visit. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge (and medieval garb is not required).

## DIGITAL GATEKEEPER ARCHIVE:

Find digital color copies of the latest newsletters and some additional materials. Also, historical scanned copies.  
<https://khevron.tripod.com/wgnewsletters/>  
or from [www.khevron.com](http://www.khevron.com)

### Web- Links:

Society for Creative Anachronism  
[www.sca.org](http://www.sca.org)

Barony of Winter's Gate  
[www.wintersgate.org](http://www.wintersgate.org)

New Members of the West Kingdom  
<https://www.westkingdom.org/content/new-members>

SCA Research Links  
<https://www.sca.org/resources/research-links/>

Modar's Heraldry pages  
<http://www.modaruniversity.org/Heraldry.htm>

SCA Merchant Mall  
<https://scamerchantmall.com/merchants-2/>

Stefan's Florilegium  
<http://www.florilegium.org/>

The Academy of Saint Gabriel - Medieval Name Assistance  
<https://www.s-gabriel.org/>

Khevron's Heraldry pages & Heraldrydiculous AND the Oertha Newsletter Archives AND Oertha Armorial  
[www.khevron.com](http://www.khevron.com)

## The Michaelmas Letters, #8 of 8

My dearest children, whom I have missed greatly: Travel has gone smoothly, and we should be arriving home in a few days! Please make sure all the tables are in good condition for a feast to welcome home Peite and his family. Peite's wife Darya is bringing a wagon full of spices and several scrolls of her mama's recipes. I look forward to including some of her exotic foods in the feast.

I am very sad to have to tell you that I tried, but was unable to bring you home a kamul. Darya and I bought 2 of them from a caravan we met along the way. They're very strong and can carry great loads. But one morning they were gone, and I found their tethering ropes frayed and broken. I hope they chewed their way free and can find their way to their homeland. (I do have some suspicions, as none of the men could tolerate them. Your own father was the worst with the poor kamuls, especially after one of them bit him and the other trod on his foot. He even refused to call them by the names I gave to them!)

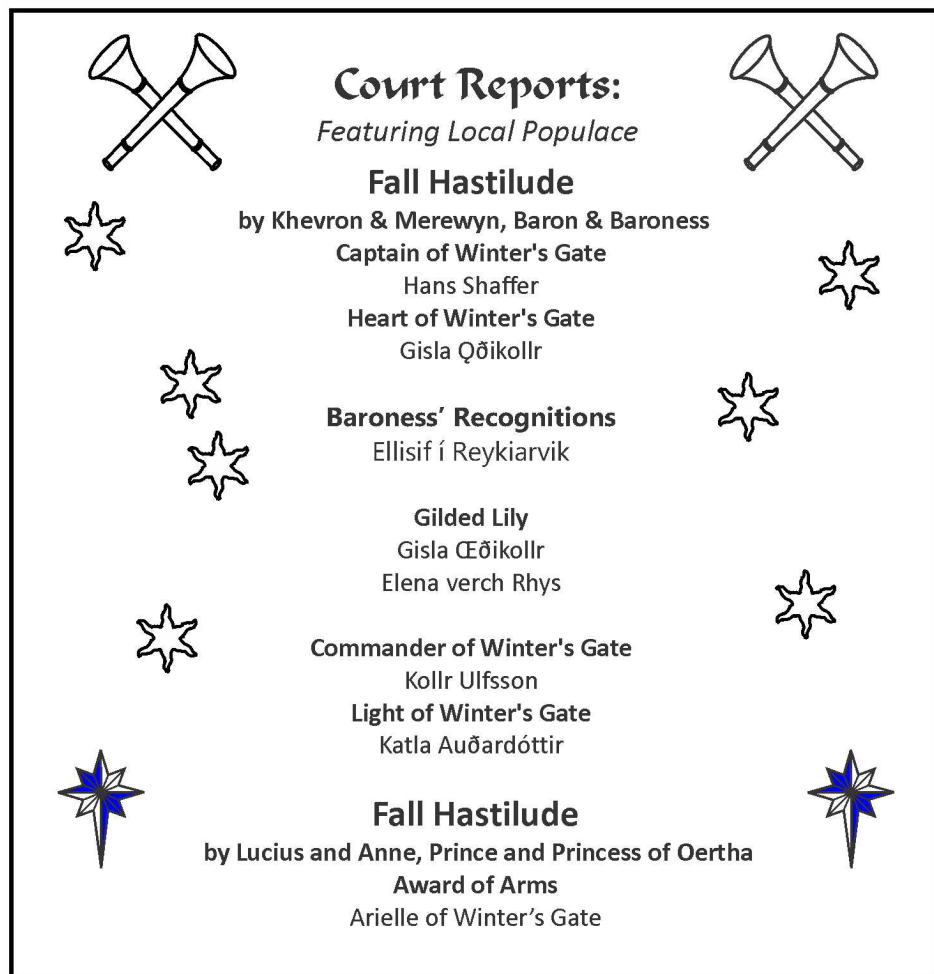
To me they were the sweetest creatures, with large eyes and long eyelashes that look sad when they don't get a treat. I was looking forward to seeing how the long, soft fur they shed would weave into extra-warm blankets.

We had to buy another wagon to carry what the kamuls had. It irritated your father greatly. He keeps muttering about extra expenses and the idiocy of going shopping when on a long journey. I smile to myself.

I am looking forward to seeing you soon.  
Ellisif







SCA Discord server

## Last Michaelmas Letter

*Greetings one and all,*

Another letter was found a few years back but only recently have scholars linked it to the Michaelmas Letters. Below is the Darya Letter.

Greetings Mama,

We arrived in the lands of my husband with little adventure. Peite's family and friends held a welcoming feast that was quite good. Ellisif said some of your recipes would go well with their northern ingredients. I think the success is due to the genius of your recipes since they can be easily adapted.

Speaking of adapting, my husband is very easily adapting back into his native lands, especially with a drink called mead. I fully blame his cousin Hallbiorn, he is so very uncouth!

To be fair to Hallbiorn, he was correct that my husband was needed here. The local bishop is as bad as Hallbiorn said, very typical of the Roman priests who keep showing up acting as if they are God's gift to mankind! The bishop's plans were thwarted by our arrival and we arrived with little time to spare. Three days after our arrival, the day after the feast, the bishop arrived with a cavalcade of priests and some guards. He thought to take over all the lands of my husband's family. God has such a sense of humor! The bishop became so red and sputtered like a horse whinnying, with his eyes bulging out so much I thought they would pop. He had the cutest artery in his forehead that started pulsing. He left in abject defeat when learning my husband, his mother, and others as witnesses had gone to the local magistrate two days previous and transferred everything over.

Dearest Mama, please send to me more spices and dried foods as early in the next trading season as possible. I added the list I need on the next three pages. Also, as a very special surprise, send a kamul for my dear friend Ellisif.  
 Your loving daughter,  
 Darya

# Regnum & Branch Groups

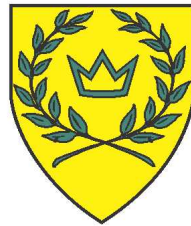
## West Kingdom

(Northern CA, NV, AK  
and Pacific Rim)  
Miles Rex, Jitka Regina  
[www.westkingdom.org/](http://www.westkingdom.org/)



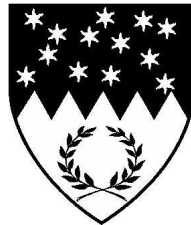
## Principality of Oertha (Alaska)

Lucius & Anne  
Prince and Princess  
[oertha.westkingdom.org/](http://oertha.westkingdom.org/)



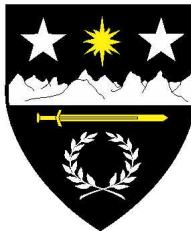
## Barony of Winter's Gate (Northern Alaska)

Khevron & Merewyn  
Baron and Baroness  
[wintersgate.org/](http://wintersgate.org/)



## Barony of Eskalya (Anchorage, AK)

Gavin and Celestria  
Baron and Baroness  
[eskalya.westkingdom.org/](http://eskalya.westkingdom.org/)



## Barony of Selviergard (Mat-Su Valley, AK)

Colum & Vicana  
Baron & Baroness  
[www.selviergard.westkingdom.org/](http://www.selviergard.westkingdom.org/)



## Shire of Earngyld (Juneau, AK)

[www.facebook.com/groups/earngyld](http://www.facebook.com/groups/earngyld)



## Shire of Hrafnafjörðr (Kenai, AK)

[www.facebook.com/groups/ravensfjord/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ravensfjord/)

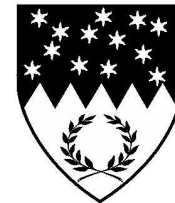


## Shire of Pavlok Gorod (Kodiak Island, AK)

[www.facebook.com/groups/50573874639](http://www.facebook.com/groups/50573874639)



# Local Winter's Gate Officers



## Barony of Winter's Gate Northern (Fairbanks) AK

**Knight Marshal**  
Arngrim of the North  
[jclfronin@gmail.com](mailto:jclfronin@gmail.com)

**Youth Heavy Marshal**  
Floki inn Irski  
[irishboylan@yahoo.com](mailto:irishboylan@yahoo.com)

## Baron & Baroness of Winter's Gate

Khevron Oktavii & Merewyn of Ynys Taltraeth  
(Donovan & Lareena Goertz)  
(907) 347-2632 & 347-4269

[Khevron@warppmail.net](mailto:Khevron@warppmail.net) & [Lareena@warppmail.net](mailto:Lareena@warppmail.net)

**Seneschal:** Hallbiorn Erlaender son  
(Dan Parrish)

[wgseneschal@gmail.com](mailto:wgseneschal@gmail.com)

**Exchequer & Estoile Pursuivant Herald:**

Elena verch Rhys

(Jessica Duncan)

[wgexchequer@gmail.com](mailto:wgexchequer@gmail.com)

Arts & Sciences

Fearghus mac Gylfynnan

(Glenn Teets)

[Glenn.teets@rocketmail.com](mailto:Glenn.teets@rocketmail.com)

**Constable:** Elisif a Reikiavik  
(Kari Parrish)

[ellisif3@yahoo.com](mailto:ellisif3@yahoo.com)

**Rapier & Youth Rapier Marshal**

Chris of Pavlok Gorod

[Christopher.perkins.j@gmail.com](mailto:Christopher.perkins.j@gmail.com)

**Chronicler:** Merewyn of Ynys Taltraeth  
(Lareena Goertz)

[lareena@warppmail.net](mailto:lareena@warppmail.net)

**Chatelaine, DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion):**

Cempestra of Winter's Gate

(Cemper Yggdrasill)

[cemper@westkingdom.org](mailto:cemper@westkingdom.org)

## Canton of Bjarnarströnd

**Seneschal:**

Valka of Bjarnarströnd

[mbfuesting@gmail.com](mailto:mbfuesting@gmail.com)

**Exchequer**

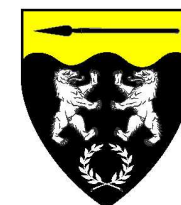
Jacqueline de Lioncourt

**Herald**

Kate

**Marshal**  
Madog Drfrys

**Arts & Sciences**  
Aefre Flodmere



## Canton of Bjarnarströnd (Nome, Alaska), Coastal Winter's Gate

## FROM THE CHRONICLER'S PEN:

Greetings,

Winter is coming! Snow is here already but it is not yet nearly as cold this year as in previous years, seemingly. Winter's Gate will be coming up on it's 40th Anniversary, so we have that to look



forward to in the next issue!

My trip to Falll Hastilude.



Please send me any memories you have of the early days or past days of our fair Barony! And early photos, if you have them.

As we go into the next year, we look forward to learning and growing together with our Barony.

At Michaelmas

Best,  
Baroness Merewyn

This is the Solstice 2023 (December), issue of the GATEKEEPER, a publication of the Barony of Winter's Gate (Northern Alaska), and Bjarnsarstrond (Coastal AK), of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The GATEKEEPER is available from Lareena Goertz: 607 Old Steese Hwy. Suite B-353, Fairbanks, AK 99701. It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies.

Copyright ©2023 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.

## Principality Officers Listing

**Seneschale:** Kinehild le librari (Claire Knudsen-Latta)  
(907) 575-1983; e-mail: cynehild@westkingdom.org

**Knight Marshal:** Hans Shaffer (John Duncan)

(907) 687-3032; e-mail: primesupreme@yahoo.com

**Stellanordica Herald:** Caitriona inghean us Chionadha (Cathe Heroy)  
(510) 918-0633; e-mail: catherineaheroy@gmail.com

**Exchequer & Equestrian:** Clare Elena de Montfort (Kerri Geppert)  
(907) 301-3393; email: clareelena@westkingdom.org

**Arts & Sciences:** Cempestrae of Winter's Gate (Cempestrae Yggdrasill)  
(907) 688-4483; email: emster@alaska.net

**Chronicler:** Nemonna Vicana (Bobbie Sampson)

(907) 203-0793; e-mail: vicana@westkingdom.org

**Rapier Marshal:** Tama Katerina Evstokh'eva (Tami Fogle)  
(907) 539-5259; email: tamfogle@gci.net

**Constable:** Ciara Der Alcan (Jennifer Rynerson)

(907) 317-1089; e-mail: ciara.deralcan@gmail.com

**Lists:** Eilis O'Boirne (Lee Forgue)

email: baroness\_eilis@juno.com

**Stellanordica Scribe:** Hraði Köttr (Jason Notter)

(907) 202 4823; e-mail: jasonnotter@outlook.com

**Archery Marshal:** Stephen de la Bere (Steven Linkart),  
(907) 355-8695; email: stevel@mtaonline.net

**Chatelaine:** Elspeth Bouchannane (Jacki Frederick)

907 240-3759; email: edenwild205@gmail.com

**Web-Minister:** Soren j'Alborg (Leon Ayers II),

(907) 575-1924; e-mail: leonayers2@yahoo.com

**Social Media:** Elena verch Rhys

(907) 687-4012; e-mail: jessicaeringrahn@yahoo.com

## JOIN THE E-MAIL LIST FOR WINTER'S GATE!!

It's like Yahoo Groups. Don't need FB.

Please join our e-mail list on groups.io. This is not Facebook! For Local (Northern Alaska) SCA interested folk only, active, semi-active or lurking, all welcome. Don't have to be a member.

[wintersgate@groups.io](mailto:wintersgate@groups.io) find it at

<https://groups.io/groups>

If you need an invite, contact Khevron at  
[khevron@warppmail.net](mailto:khevron@warppmail.net)