

# The Newsletter

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## IO SATURNALIA

Published on behalf of the shire of Falcon's Keep and  
student members of Falcon's Gate

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Submissions are accepted until the 15th of the previous month, preferably as a Word document inserted into an email. Send to both the Chronicler and Deputy Chronicler. The last Thursday of the previous month is the mailing date. Submissions are the property of the contributor and may not be used without permission of the author or artist. Contact the Chronicler for further information.

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## Greetings from the Seneschal

Greetings to all!!



Winter projects, I hope, are progressing nicely for everyone. :) Next sewing night will be at Jennifer's house in Marshfield, December 9th. The next moot will be December 13th at 1pm at the Momma house in Wisconsin Rapids. Hope to see you all there!! Bring your favorite Christmas food for the potluck!

Haire Affaire is tentatively set for February 13th pending approval from the crown. We will need many volunteers. So please give your time...events don't run themselves. We will need help with troll and feast and serving and set up and clean up and classes.

One thing I would like the shire to consider is hosting another event next year. Perhaps a regional fighter practice or a crown tourney or coronation. If anyone has any suggestions for a place or which event we'd like to host please bring them to the next moot.

See you next time!

Arianna

### Cover Story

This picture from a painting on a wall in Pompeii shows Romans partying, possibly celebrating Saturnalia, a holiday at the winter solstice when slaves and masters switched roles. Obviously this is a forerunner of the "Lord of Mistrule"

## *The Chronicler's Quill*

Greetings unto the folk  
of the Shire of Falcon's Keep,



I am delighted to report that my deputy, Pedro de Benavides is helping with this issue and will be taking over as chronicler in February. I hope that you will treat him well by getting everything to him on time, especially next month when he will be doing his first Mewsletter on his computer.

YIS,  
Ealasaïd

Buenos dias! I am Pedro de Benavides. I am under the tutelage of Mistress Ealasaïd for this and the following issue of the Mewsletter. I will then become the new Chronicler officially for the February issue . I am looking forward to serving the Shire in this endeavor. Please bear with me as I learn the rules and regulations of the office, as well as your names. As no one can replace Mistress Ealasaïd and her worthy efforts, I can only hope to succeed her.

Salud!

Pedro de Benavides

## Anachronists Book Review:

### Lady Eve of Lynn

I had to depend on my local friendly librarian to gather books for me this last few of months, to make things a little easier for her I decided take a big gulp, and tackle as many of Dorothy Dunnets books as they could find for me. I finished the *House of Niccolo* Series I had started in August and finished the series the end of October.

It was quite an undertaking as the action takes place all over the Known World of the mid 15th century. I found myself awash in the many languages that are sprinkled throughout the eight books in the series. Many odd words are used without any translation. I was able to work out most of the meanings .

The eight books in the series are *Niccolo Rising* published in 1992 followed by *Spring of the Ram*; *Race of Scorpions*; *Scales of Gold* ;*The Unicorn Hunt*; *To Lie With Lions*; *Caprice and Rondo*, Last but not least, *Gemini* published in 2000 brings the series to its conclusion.

When I was able to look through the stacks once again by myself, I came across a book by Alexander Dumas that I had somehow missed: *Queen Margot* First published in the U.S. in 1994 I had read his other well known works in High School and given my eldest son *The Three Musketeers* for Christmas the year he was in 8th grade, and his brothers the following years received in turn *The Count of Monte Cristo* and *The Man in the Iron Mask*.



## Ask Alex

Is Christmas period?

Christmas has celebrated the birth of Jesus on December 25<sup>th</sup> since 354, but the earliest English reference is in 1043. Since ancient times there have been mid winter celebrations throughout the world. In Rome, Saturnalia, honoring Saturn, the god of agriculture, began the week before solstice and lasted an entire month. It was time when food and drink was plentiful and the normal social order was turned upside down. Peasants were in command of the city and slaves became masters. Business and schools were closed so everyone could participate.



In Scandinavia, the Norse celebrated Yule from December 21 through January. This was the celebration of the return of the sun. Large logs would be brought home and set afire. People would feast until the logs burned out. In most of Europe there were festivities at the end of December. It was a time where there was little farm work to do, and the cattle were slaughtered so they would not need to be fed over winter. This meant it was one of the few times there was a supply of fresh meat. It was also a time when the wine and beer that had been prepared earlier were fermented and ready to drink.

It is commonly believed Christianity set December 25<sup>th</sup> as the birth of Christ to adopt and absorb the earlier pagan holidays. Originally called the feast of the Nativity, it had spread to England by the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century. By the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century it had reached Scandinavia. While the actual birthday of Jesus is not known, December 25<sup>th</sup> is the most widely celebrated festival the world over.

By the middle ages, the Christmas season became a time for the upper class to repay real or imagined debts to society by entertaining less fortunate citizens. Many of the traditions we uphold today began in the late middle ages. Gift giving, caroling, and feasts became an important part of the celebration.

If you look at the SCA calendar, you will see several 12<sup>th</sup> night events. 12<sup>th</sup> night marks the end of the Christmas festivities. The twelve days of Christmas begins on Christmas day and ends twelve days later on Epiphany, Jan 6<sup>th</sup>. This celebrates when the three kings came to the birthplace of Christ. It was a part of the year end festivities in Britain and France. In the middle ages, 12<sup>th</sup> night was more popular and festive than Christmas. The tradition of gifts given lives on today.

No matter when or where your persona is, there was some sort of end of year celebration. So have a merry Christmas season, no matter how you celebrate it!

Greetings unto the shire from Lady Emelye Ambroys.

The following missive are the minutes from the meeting held at Lord Alessandro and Lady Mary's home on November 15.

Haire Affaire is tentatively scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup>, but does conflict with Fighter's School on that date (this was found out after the meeting). We are now looking at changing the date to February 13<sup>th</sup>, but are waiting on permission from the Crown because it would be the second weekend of the month.

The theme for Haire Affaire this year is: A Historical Haire Affaire: Gods & Goddesses. The co-autocrats for the event are Elena de Braci and myself, Lady Emelye. Jennifer will be in charge of merchants and classes. Falcon's Gate will be creating our site tokens. We are in need of a Royalty Liason.

Grimr is interested in becoming the group Chiurgen. The paper work is submitted for him to become a Chiurgen in Training.

Falcon's Gate has started a Facebook group.

Fighter practice is now back in the balcony after a brief hiatus to different areas of the campus. They will continue there until the end of the semester. Finals week for the university is the week of December 14<sup>th</sup>. Starting on Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> and going until school resumes, there will be fighter practice in Wisconsin Rapids from 10 – 6 at the Four Stools bar. If you need more information, contact Lord Vincent or Lord Justinian.

On Wednesday nights from 5 - 10, Robert the Mailer is holding an open armor shop at his home. Please contribute \$5.00 to cover the cost of supplies.

On Wednesday night December 9<sup>th</sup>, Jennifer will be holding an Arts & Sciences get together at her home. We will start at about 6:00 and go until about 10:00. Her address is ??? E 6<sup>th</sup> St in Marshfield.

Arianna would like to see Falcon's Keep host another event this next year besides Haire Affaire and Poor Man's. Some possibilities would be a regional fighter practice, crown tournament, or a coronation.

Our Chatelaine, Marie, is in need of more interviews for her Mewletter column, Members in the Candlelight.

The Mewsletter will have a new care taker shortly, Pedro de Benavides will be taking over for Mistress Ealasaid in January. Please see his introduction in this issue. Thank you to Mistress Ealasaid for all of your hard work on the Mewsletter these past years.

# Members in the Candle Light

By: Marie Dudely

**SCA Name:** Desdemona Di Rosa

**Modern Name:** Gwynndolynn  
Kawski

**Years in SCA:** Participated once in  
a while since 1999

**Awards Earned:** None as of yet.

**Offices Held:** Present Deputy of  
Arts & Science.

**Fighting/A&S Preference:** She  
likes jewelry making, garb making,  
drawing, ceramics, book making,  
finger weaving, and embroidery. She wants to try to make  
necklaces from 1400 – 1800's for the A&S 50 Challenge.

**How you found out about the SCA:** Gwyn knew Tabitha  
through a UWSP Trivia team. Tabitha has been involved in the  
SCA at the time, and decided to invite Gwyn to come to a Poor  
Man's event.

**What you like about the SCA:** She likes the family aspect  
that the SCA brings. She also likes the arts and crafts she can  
make.



## CALENDAR

### December 2009

- 5 Boars Head [Caer Antherth-West Bend WI]
- 12 Yuletide Revel [Border Downs-Sioux Falls SD]

### January 2010

- 2 12th Night:Medieval Winters [Schattentor –Rapid City SD]
- 9 Much Ado about 12th Night [Nordskogen-Columbia Hghts MN]
- 23 It's Only a Flesh Wound [Jararvellir-Jefferson WI]
- 30 12th Night 1192 [Castel Rouge-\Winnipeg]

### February 2010

- 13-14 Une Fete d'Amour [Midewinde-Minot ND]
- 13 Hertzkreig [Syaty Sebesta-Vermillion SD]
- 20 Fighter School [Jararvellir-Jefferson WI]
- 20 Historic Haire Affaiure [Falcons Keep-Wausau WI]??
- 27 Bardic Madness [Windhave-DePere WI]
- 27 Lupercalia [Rivenwood Tower-Nicollet MN]

### March 2010

- 14-21 Gulf Wars

### April 2010

- 10 Spring Coronation [OPEN FOR BIDS]
- 17 Provost Challenge [Coldedernhale-Pierre SD]
- 24 Armored combat Event [Nordskogen-St Paul MN]
- 24 Feast of Fools [Korsvag-Fargo ND]

### May 2010

- 8 Spring Crown Tournament { OPEN FOR BIDS}
- 13-15 Quest for Camelot [Schattentor-Nemo SD]
- 15 Beltaine by the Bay [Darkstone-Mason WI]

### June 2010

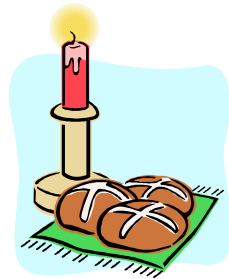
- 4-6 Mermaids Attacks [Turm am See-Valders WI]
- 17-20 Rabid Yale Hunt [Coldedernhale-White River SD]
- 24-27 Moorish Tavern [Midewinde-Bottineau ND]

**Fighting/Rapier and Armroed practice is held on Monday  
Evenings at 6pm. at UW Stevens Point Quandt Balcony.**

**December Moot**  
**Sunday December 13, 1 pm**  
At the Momma's House  
4321 80th St S, Wisconsin Rapids

From Marshfield, Take Hwy 13 into town. Turn right onto the Riverview Expressway. Go all the way through town and out to the Stop Sign. (You will pass several stoplights, just keep going straight) Turn Right onto County Trk U (80th St.) The house is on the left directly across from Conley's supper club. From Wausau, Take Hwy 51 South to the Plover exit. (Hwy B) Turn Right onto B. Continue straight onto Hwy 54. Follow 54 for about 20 miles. You will see signs for South Wood County Park and County Trunk U. Turn left onto Cty Trk U (80th St.) Continue on 80th for about 5 miles. The house is on the left directly across from Conley's supper club. Hope to see you then!!!

This is St Lucia's Day  
Celebrate the start of the holiday season



**Web pages of interest:**

[www.sca.org](http://www.sca.org)

[www.northshield.org](http://www.northshield.org)

[www.falconskeep.org](http://www.falconskeep.org)

[www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/falcon/index.htm](http://www.uwsp.edu/stuorg/falcon/index.htm)

## *Officers of Falcon's Keep*

Seneschal: Arianna da Lucca (MKA Dona Panter)  
 551 13th St So Wisc. Rapids WI 54494  
 715-421-2331 arianna\_rogan@yahoo.com

Deputy Seneschal: vacant

Pursuivant: Lord Grimr inn Harfagri (MKA Dennis Russell)  
 851 East Rd, Rib Lake, WI 54470  
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Deputy Pursuivant: vacant

Exchequer: Lady Asli McCaran (MKAMary Alnes)  
 3511 AirportAve, Wisc Rapids WI 54494  
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Deputy Exchequer: : vacant

Knights Marshall: Lord Justinian of Cherson (MKA Martin Wissmueller)  
 1307 E 19th St, Marshfield WI 54449  
 justinian@tznet.com 715-387-3356

Marshall of Fence: Lord Vincent Palmer (MKA Conan James)  
 630 Kickbush, Wausau WI  
 715-693-7369 nomed72@charter.net

Marshall of Archery: vacant

Minister of Arts & Sciences:  
 Lady Emelye Ambroys (MKA Tabitha Forman)  
 620 N Ash Ave, Marshfield WI 54449  
 ladyemelyeambroys@gmail.com

Deputy Minister of Arts & Sciences: Damona and Averi

Minister of Youth: vacant

Chronicler:  
 Mistress Ealasaid nic Phearsoinn (MKA Elspeth Christianson)  
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Deputy Chronicler: Pedro de Benavides

Chatelaine: Marie Dudely  
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 715-387-4203 azeidler03@yahoo.com

Deputy Chatelaines:

Web Minister: Lord Robert the Mailer (MKA Robert Brainard)  
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 715-213-0924 robertb11777@gmail.com

Deputy Web Minister: vacant

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