



A Cleftlands (Middle Kingdom) Newsletter - 12/18/2022

Cleftlands News

A Revel “Yule” Not Want to Miss!

by Lady Claricia de la Mere

Every year friends of Cleftlands gather in December to celebrate the season. Some years have a theme related to period observances around that time of year, and have hosted table decorating contests, games, gift exchanges, and more. Above all, it is a reason to come together and recognize another year gone by.

After missing the event in 2020, and celebrating in a limited fashion in 2021, the 2022 Yule Revel was finally back in full. It featured several new activities and some returning favorites. Apart from a table full of delicious treats, the Cleftlands tree made an appearance, and this year the challenge was to bring a favorite site token to decorate it.

The “Everything and a Cookie” Exchange returned for a second year. For this gift-giving experience, participants bring an item or items of the equivalent value of a dozen cookies. Items don’t have to be handmade, or edible, and for every item someone brought, they could take another item of their choice home. Lots of good things showed up, see the photos below!

New for this year, Lord Tarmach created a historical (and delicious) display about Hanukkah. Music also filled the air as the Musica Nebulae performed, along with a holiday-themed sing-along. If you missed it, here’s wishing you a joyful holiday season and wonderful new year.



Above: All the neat things at the “Everything and a Cookie” exchange at Yule Revel.

Right: Dame Elizabethe, the new Cleftlands Minister of Arts & Sciences.



Dessert gnomes as part of the gift exchange.

Below: Musica Nebulae performs.



Congratulations to Dame Elizabethe, Cleftlands MoAS

Dame Elizabethe Alles has been selected to succeed Mistress Angharad as the Cleftlands Minister of Arts and Sciences. Dame Elizabethe has a long history of excellence in both arts AND service and will jump into the role on January 1 when Mistress Angharad steps up to be the Baronial Seneschal.

A Brief History of Hanukkah

by Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari

1. Hanukkah begins this year at sunset on December 18 and ends at nightfall on December 26. It is not a religious holiday – rather it is a minor festival, commemorating the re-dedication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem around 164 BCE. Greek ruler Antiochus IV Epiphanes had invaded the land two years earlier, ordered Judaism outlawed, had an altar to Zeus installed in the Temple, and ordered pigs to be slaughtered on that altar. A revolt, led by a group called the Maccabees, drove out the Greeks. Several sources allude to the events and the celebration, including the New Testament (John 10:22-23).



Hanukkah display at the Cleftlands Yule Revel 2022, featuring Lord Tarmach and Lady Elizabella.

2. The eight days of Hanukkah mark the apocryphal miracle in which sanctified oil to re-light the Temple lamp was sufficient for only one day, but instead lasted the eight days needed for new oil to be made. Each Hanukkah night, a candle or oil-based light is lit, adding one more each night.

3. The overlap with Christmas this year is coincidental – the Hebrew calendar is based on the Lunar cycle. Compared to the modern Gregorian calendar, Jewish holidays shift around from year to year.

4. During the Middle Ages, drinking and eating for pleasure became an acceptable religious obligation during festivals. Pan-fried cakes were made as an association with the miracle of the oil – these evolved into jelly-filled doughnuts (sufganiyot). The Ashkenazis (Eastern European Jews) went with latkes (potato pancakes)(mmm), while the Sephardim (Iberian) and Mizrahi (Middle Eastern) have their own preferred fried dishes.

5. A university professor has commented that Jewish immigrants to America raised the celebration as a kid-centered alternative to Christmas during the 1800s, in part mirroring the ascendancy of Christmas, which also increased in importance in the 1800s. Jewish leaders (particularly of the Reform movement) made effort to rebrand Hanukkah, and started creating children-oriented Hanukkah celebrations. By the 1900s, it started to become a commercial holiday like Christmas, with Hanukkah gifts and decorations appearing in stores, while Jewish women's magazines printed articles on holiday decorations, children's celebrations, and gift giving.

What could be more American? Happy Hanukkah!

News of the Barony

- Congratulations to the multi-talented Forester Muldonny McVriw who won the Cleftlands Rapier Tournament, fighting for the honor of Forester Gwyneth Cole (who also fought for his honor). *Pictured at right with Their Excellencies.*
- There will be no meetings December 21 or December 28. Meetings will resume in 2023 on January 4.
- The Barony is accepting applications for the Minister of Youth position. A background check will be needed at some point, but you do not need it completed to apply. Apply here: <http://www.cleftlands.org/officer-application/> Or read more about what the position does in the last newsletter, on page 5 <http://wiki.cleftlands.org/images/7/7f/Internebbles-Nov20-2022.pdf>
- Bids are being sought for 2023 events, including Regular Event! Interested? Contact seneschal@cleftlands.org.



Archery Practice During the Winter

by Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari

No need to keep your bow in cold storage until spring. Here are a few places where you can nock and shoot in comfort.

Ohio Archery Learning Center: 8051 Mayfield Road, Chester Commons, Chesterland - <https://www.ohioarcherycenter.com/>

- They're open Monday through Friday, 1 to 8 pm, and Saturday, 9 am to 8 pm.
- If there is space available, it's \$10 per hour ("Saturdays get pretty busy"). They offer quarterly membership for \$140. Sunday, the range can be available by advance appointment, meaning we can book a group for two hours at \$10 per hour each.
- Target bales can be moved to 30 yards. Period crossbows are permitted with no surcharge. Standard paper target faces are free.

Parma Armory Shooting Center – 5301 Hauserman Road, Parma - <https://www.theparmaarmory.com>

- Open seven days a week. \$18/hour, \$12/half hour. An extra \$5 is added if you're shooting crossbow.
- Furthest target distance is 35 yards. There's room for 4 on the line, if you're friendly...

Ohio Premier Archery and Sports – 14980 S State Ave., Middlefield - <https://ohiopremierarchery.com/>

- Open Saturday, 9 am to 3 pm. Closed Sunday. Also open varying hours, Monday through Friday.
- A range pass is \$10 a day, first come, first served. There is no added cost if you leave the store and return the same day. Period crossbows are allowed.
- Maximum range is 20 yards, with seven shooting positions on the line.
- From the web page – "When you miss our targets and hit the wall, we will provide you with a sharpie so you can sign your name and memorialize the shot forever! ...Or at least until we paint the wall!"

Bounce Archery – 5676 Manchester Road, Akron - <https://bouncearchery.com/>

- Open Tuesday to Friday, noon to 7 pm. Saturday, noon to 4 pm.
- Maximum range is 20 yards, with 16 lanes available. Period crossbows are allowed.

Hunter's Outlet – 1320 OH-43, Mogadore

- Monday to Friday, 10 am to 8 pm. Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm.
- Cost is \$8/hour, period crossbows are allowed.
- This used to be the winter practice range for Brendoken, but several people have informed me that the owners are using half the lanes for storage space, so there are now only three or four lanes on which to shoot.
- No web page. Phone # is (330) 628-1457.

News of the Kingdom

- Signore Tommaso Franceschi is stepping up as the Pentamere Regional MoAS Minister.
- The Midrealm is soliciting bids for the design and construction of a new Royal Scepter. Bids should include a drawing, the materials used, a budget, and date of completion. Submit bids to Dame Sara Hasenkamp by January 15 at deputyseneschal@midrealm.org
- Sergeant Gilebert le Braceeur de Dijon will be the next Dragon Herald in May 2023.
- The Gwyntarian Winter Challenge shoot started Dec. 1 and will go until May 15. Learn more: <https://www.scores-sca.org/home/index.php?R=19>
- Her Majesty AnneMarie will be hosting a virtual crafters' green on Wednesdays throughout Her reign. See more details and get the Zoom info here: <https://trm.dag-annemarie.com/crafting-with-the-queen-remote>
- There will be a Tournament of the Arts at Pentemere 12th Night January 7, 2023. Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3fYyOCI>

5 Questions for Cleftlanders - Forester Muldonny McVriw (mka Justin Brew)

1.) What was your first SCA event?

NOWM, 2012. I was only there for Friday, I showed up to get authorized in rapier. And fence in the torchlight tournament then I went home. It was a blast. I was hooked. NOWM continues to be one of my favorite events.

2.) You've received recognition for several activities - a Forester and Royal champion for archery, a squire and Baronial champion for heavy combat, a Baronial champion for rapier - how do you balance all of these? Do you consider any of them to be your "main" focus?

It's tough to balance, I've only done one Pennsic where I did everything. Fought all the armored, Fenced all the rapier, and did all the archery war points. It was exhausting but worth it. Now, I tend to choose what I want to focus on at an event or given day.

For my main focus I would say that has shifted throughout my career. Archery was certainly my main focus for my first few years. Then rapier for a bit. Now I am focusing on my path in armor.

3.) What's something in the SCA you'd like to do, but haven't yet, or don't have time for?

So many things! It's tough to pick one. But isn't that the SCA. I think music could be fun. I play mundanely and have picked up a recorder. I have also built a hurdy gurdy. It's just a matter of having time to practice.

4.) What is a particularly memorable shoot you've either organized and/or participated in?

One year for Better War Through Archery I put on an insanely complicated shoot. I wanted a window shoot. But not one like where we normally shoot at a window. I wanted us to shoot out of one. So I bought this roll of paper that was printed to look like a stone wall. And I spend hours unrolling it and cutting out enough arrow slits for the whole line. I put that up on the shooting line and you had to shoot through the arrow slit at the target. It was perhaps a bit too ambitious for my first tournament. But with some last minute ingenuity it worked out. And everyone loved it.

5.) Tell us about something awesome that happened to you at Pennsic.

It's challenging to pick out just one thing. And I think that's the magic of Pennsic. When you think back on it you don't think about how hot it was. Or the countless hours of grueling work it is to set up and tear down a camp. You think about the awesome times around the fire. You think about the awesome, epic battles you get nowhere else. You think about the awesome champions where everyone is the best of the best. You think about the awesomeness that is Pennsic.



News of the Society

- You can gift SCA memberships! If you want to show your SCA friend you care, see more information here: <https://www.sca.org/news/give-the-gift-of-an-sca-membership/>
- Mistress Bricca di Ghelere has been selected as the Director-Elect for Seat A and will step up after the April 2023 quarterly Board meeting: <https://www.sca.org/news/people-on-the-move-director-elect-seat-a/>

December 2022 - January 2023 Cleftlands Events

- Wed. December 21 - No Meeting
- Wed. December 28 - No Meeting
- Wed. January 4, 7:00-9:45pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. January 5, 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Tues., January 10, 7:30pm - **Needleworkers' Guild Virtual Meeting** - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88261643621?pwd=UGx1TTdPcVdNNWtHZFhDZkxYR0d5Zz09>
- Wed. January 11, 7:00-9:45pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. January 12, 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. January 18, 7:00-9:45pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. January 19, 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>
- Wed. January 25, 7:00-9:45pm - **Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Wed. January 25, 7:30pm - **Noblesse Largesse Exchange at Baronial Meeting** - St John of the Cross School, 140 Richmond Rd, Cleveland OH 44143.
- Thurs. January 19, 7:00pm - **Armors' Guild Meeting** - Ealdred & Clairiel's Garage: 234 Adams St, Berea, OH 44017; <https://bit.ly/3vBVzBR>

Society Disclaimer: Although the SCA complies with all applicable laws to ensure the health and safety of our event participants, we cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to infectious diseases during in-person events. By participating in the in-person events of the SCA, you acknowledge and accept the potential risks. You agree to take any additional steps to protect your own health and safety and those under your control as you believe to be necessary.

Random Period Object - Cleveland Museum of Art



Saint Nicholas of Bari; Venice, 15th Century, Carlo Crivelli

<https://www.clevelandart.org/art/1952.111>

Size: About 43 x 16 x 2.5 in.

Oil on wood panel.

This item is not entirely random this month - it is an image of St. Nicholas, the inspiration for Father Christmas. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of children, but also of sailors, merchants, and others.

He was bishop of Myra during the 300s, but his remains were said to be taken to Bari, Italy about 700 years later. He is shown here dressed richly as a bishop.

Painting style was changing away from gold backgrounds and towards more natural landscapes. Crivelli, however, was more conservative and favored Late Gothic design, although he began to develop his own style. around this time.

Upcoming Midrealm Events

January 7 - Twelfth Night in the Middle Marches; Gaming, classes, snowball tournament. Delaware, OH.

<https://middlemarches.midrealm.org/events/twelfth-night/>

January 7 - Pentamere 12th Night; Tournament of Arts, classes, feast. Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.

<https://pentamere12thnight.weebly.com/>

January 21 - Masque of Courtly Love; Tournament of Arts, classes, feast. Canton, OH.

January 21 - Winter Revel; Firelight, music, friends, food. Ionia, MI.

January 28 - Festival of Maidens; Classes, heavy and rapier, bardic. Urbana, IL.

<https://caergwyn.midrealm.org/festival-of-maidens-48/>

January 28 - Winter Wassail; Free evening event of dancing, feasting, and fun. Youngstown, OH.

February 4 - Candlemas XXXIII; Heavy and rapier tournaments, BoD roundtable. Shelbyville, KY.

<https://dragonsmark.midrealm.org/candlemas/>

February 11 - St. Valentine's Day Massacre; Classes, music, dancing, and tbd. Kalama-zoo, MI.

<https://threehills.midrealm.org/home/valday2023/>

Grave of St. Nicholas Found

by Lady Claricia de la Mere

Reported in October, but included here for the December issue due to the obvious synergy, archaeologists in Turkey say they have uncovered the exact place where Saint Nicholas was buried.

While it was already known that his body was originally interred on the grounds of a fourth century church in Demre (then known as Myra), a town in Turkey's coastal Antalya province, the exact location was a mystery. The current church, called the Church of St. Nicholas, was built on top of that one in 520 CE, and Nicholas's body was stolen in 1087, both actions that obscured the site.

A group of "wise and illustrious men of Bari" conspired to break through the church's floor and steal the body away. This was while the area was under the control of the Muslim Seljuk Turks, so a group of merchants felt they were "saving" the saint's remains. They took most of the bones, but left the sarcophagus, which remains. The remaining bones were removed by Venetian sailors during the First Crusade.

Current excavations revealed the floor and foundations of the 4th century church. The discovery of a fresco and markings in the marble floor tiles led the researchers to believe that was where the sarcophagus was originally.

While not much is known of Nicholas's life, there are legends. For example, it is said that he resurrected three murdered children after they were pickled in brine, and that he got into a fist-fight at the First Council of Nicea (325).

However, it was the tales of how he gave away the wealth he inherited from his family to the poor and downtrodden that led to Nicholas being combined with other figures to form the legend of Santa Claus.

<https://www.livescience.com/santa-saint-nicholas-burial-turkey>

This Week in History

- Dec. 18 1577 - After being held captive as an adulteress for 5 years in a walled-up room, [Anna of Saxony](#) dies.
- Dec. 19 1154 - Henry II, first of the House of Plantagenet, is crowned king of England.
- Dec. 20 1192 - King Richard I of England is captured by Leopold V of Austria when returning from the Third Crusade.
- Dec. 21 1598 - The Mapuche inflict a major loss on Spanish troops in southern Chile at the Battle of Curalaba.
- Dec. 22 856 - The 6th deadliest earthquake in known history kills ~200,000 people in the area of Damghan, Persia.
- Dec. 23 962 - Aleppo, Syria, a major city in the Muslim world, is sacked by Byzantines.
- Dec. 24 1263 - Hōjō Tokiyori, regent of the Japanese Kamakura shogunate, dies after becoming a Buddhist priest and traveling the land incognito to inspect conditions and try to improve the lives of the people. According to legend.
- Dec. 25 336 - First documented celebration of Christmas occurs in Rome.

Cleftlands Officers' Contact Information

- Baron: Barone Pietro Nicolo da San Tebaldo; baron@cleftlands.org
- Baroness: Baronessa Aurelia Rosetti; baroness@cleftlands.org
- Seneschal: Lady Claricia de la Mere; seneschal@cleftlands.org
- Exchequer: The Honorable Robert atte Northclyfe; exchequer@cleftlands.org
- Chatelaine/Gold Key: Lady Jaquelinne la Deiciere; chatelaine@cleftlands.org
- Herald: Sergeant Njall Orkneyjarson; herald@cleftlands.org
- Minister Arts & Sciences: Mistress Angharad ferch Tangwystl; moas@cleftlands.org
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- Minister of Youth: Lord Rojhon the Wanderer; youthminister@cleftlands.org
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- Youth Marshal: Sergeant Bastian Eychener; youthmarshal@cleftlands.org
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Call for Content

If you have an idea for content for the newsletter, please contact me: clariciadlm@gmail.com. Thank you and stay well!

- *Photos from the Cleftlands Yule revel 2022, including Lord Tarmach's Hanukkah display, are credited to Lord Hrafnkell inn Raudi Eykelsson.*
- *Photo of Dame Elizabeth is credited to Lady Shahzada al-Zahra.*
- *Photo from the rapier tournament is credited to Lord Tarmach ben Yehuda al-Khazari.*
- *Photo of Forester Muldonny is credited to Forester Cadfan of the Autumn Wood.*

The image of the painting of Saint Nicholas is courtesy of the Cleveland Museum of Art. As of January 23, 2019, the Cleveland Museum of Art is an Open Access institution, using the Creative Commons Zero (CC0) designation for high-resolution images and data related to its collection. This means the public now has the ability to share, collaborate, remix, and reuse images of many as 30,000 public-domain artworks from the CMA's world-renowned collection—all without asking permission. In addition, portions of collections information (metadata) for more than 61,000 artworks, both in the public domain and those works with copyright or other restrictions, are now available.

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