

Lady Meg the Mad!!!

(Megan Coriale)

1024 Maple Street

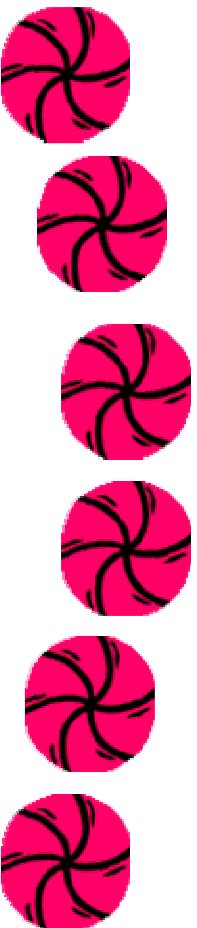
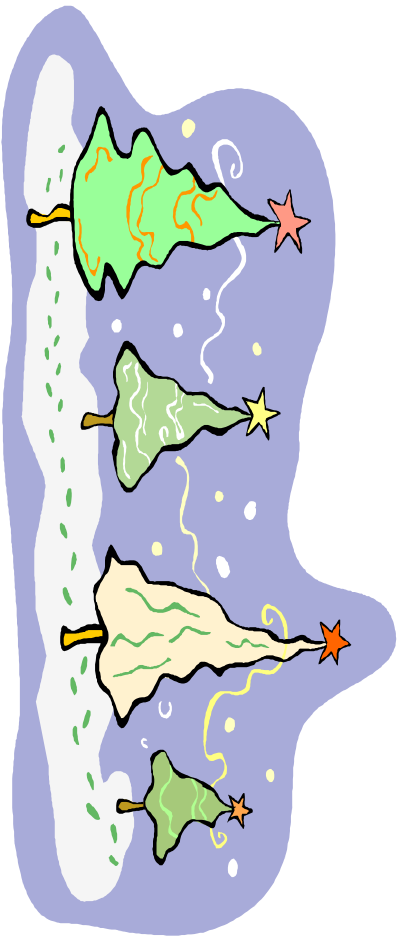
Natrona Heights, PA 15065

Newsletter of the Shire of Sunderoak

A.S. XLII (2006)

# *At Branches Beach*

*Newsletter of the Shire of Sunderoak*



# December 2006

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<p>DEPUTY SENESCHAL</p> <p>Lord Geoffrey Montgomery (Jeff Montgomery) 724-282-2261 2921 Old 422 East Fenelton, PA 16034 alchemytech@juno.com 7/07</p>	<p>ARTS AND SCIENCES</p> <p>Lord Sigeric the Quiet (Patrick Santella) 724-738-9367 105 West Water Street Slippery Rock, PA 16057 sigericas@hotmail.com 11/06</p>	<p>CHATELAINE</p> <p>Vacant—Please contact the Seneschal if interested 6/07</p>
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<p>CHIRURGEON</p> <p>Chrysty Tanski 105 Crestwood Drive Evans City, PA 16033</p>	<p>KNIGHT MARSHAL</p> <p>Vladimir Mechnik (Daniel Carpenter) 910-547-3338 (call after 5) 307 South Eberhart Drive Butler, PA 16001 sliver187@earthlink.net 10/07</p>	<p>CAPTAIN OF FENCE/ CHRONICLER</p> <p>Lady Meg the Mad!!! (Megan Coriale) 724-226-1350 1024 Maple Street Natrona Heights, PA 15065 megancoriale@yahoo.com 12/07—4/08</p>
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<p>CAPTAIN OF ARCHERS</p> <p>Vacant—Please contact the Seneschal if interested</p>	<p>MISTRESS OF THE LISTS</p> <p>Lady Ailleann ingen Proinnsias (Diane Leary) 724-910-3833 4756B State Route 66 Apollo, PA 15613 ailleann1949@yahoo.com</p>	<p>WEBMISTRESS</p> <p>(See Herald above)</p>
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CURRENT ROYALTY

KING AND QUEEN OF AETHELMEARC

Sir Christopher Rawlyns and Lady Morgen of Rye  
(Chadd Nesbit & Morgen Kelly)  
5638 Callowhill Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
[king@aethelmearc.org](mailto:king@aethelmearc.org) and [queen@aethelmearc.org](mailto:queen@aethelmearc.org)

PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF AETHELMEARC

Rurik Longsword and Angelik Chastellain de Beauvais  
( Jason B. Frederick & Tracey K. Carrol )  
57 Clarksville Street  
Greenville, PA 16125  
[prince@aethelmearc.org](mailto:prince@aethelmearc.org) and [princess@aethelmearc.org](mailto:princess@aethelmearc.org)

SUNDEROAK WEBSITE

<http://www.geocities.com/Sunderoak/>

The Shire of Sunderoak comprises Butler, Armstrong, and Indiana counties, PA. Regular business meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month from 7-9 PM. No meeting is held in August. For information regarding the group or its activities, please contact the persons listed as “Seneschal” or “Chatelaine” inside the front cover.

This is *At Branches Reach*, a publication of the Shire of Sunderoak of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc., and does not delineate any SCA policies. *At Branches Reach* is available from the Chronicler (Megan Coriale, 1024 Maple Street, Natrona Heights PA 15065.) Subscriptions are free and available at monthly meetings, or by arrangement with the Chronicler. Extras are not archived. **Submission deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month of intended publication.**

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LEGAL NAME

DATE

# February 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Seven Deadlies, Medieval Faire, BMDL Academy
18	19	20	21	22	23 Tournament of the White Hart, Col- lege of 3 Ravens	24 Tournament of the White Hart
25 Tournament of the White Hart	26	27	28			

## MIRRORMASK

The illustrated film script of the Motion Picture from the Jim Henson Company

ISBN: 0060821094

Harper Collins Publishing

### Review by Lord Po Silvertop...

But this is a book review, you say? Whatever I'm telling you about had better have pages and words and be bound between two covers? Ok- so be it... You \*asked\* for it.

For those who wanted more than just the DVD, HarperCollins has released this lavishly illustrated coffee-table book film script of Mirrormask. Words (descriptions and dialog and notes ) by Neil Gaiman- the man responsible for DC's long running classic comic Sandman, winner of just about every literary award there is- screenwriter for the BBC mini-series Neverwhere, author of American Gods -and the just about to be release Anansi Boys (due out in October!) teams up with visual visionary Dave McKean (whose experimental film "The Week Before" \*still\* blows me away- after years of repeated viewing).

Sit back- open the book- and produce the film in your mind- see the illustrations, hear the characters speak. Meet Helena- Her parents have been running the same tiny always-about-to-close circus for longer than she's been alive- you'd think she's had enough of fantasy, right? Time to try and find a link to the real world? Watch her spend her time drawing.. places, people.. a bit of everything... But her Mom has gotten deadly ill.. and all of a sudden neither the circus or real life is where she wants to be...

And just like that.. she \*isn't\*.

All of a sudden... Helena's found herself trapped in a twisted, almost-makes-sense-similar-to-home world- and only a quest for a hidden mask and a trapped queen can free her to go back home...

..and while she's trapped elsewhere- a twisted creature everyone thinks is her is living her life- making it more difficult for Helena to ever return...

This is one book you'll return to again and again.. even after watching the movie. Thumbnail artwork details every single shot- allowing you to see just how Gaiman and McKean want you to experience Helena's world. Extensive notes on the dialog changes make sure that you go \*beyond\* what you'd have seen in the theater... What was cut for content, what was cut for time...all placed back in- where the interested reader can inhale it. Forewords and afterwards and addendums are offered- read the original concept, follow it with the correspondence between writer and artist- watch them play tennis with ideas, back and forth. It's \*all\* there.

What are you waiting for? Go put up some popcorn..

Get comfortable. Time to read a movie!

# MONTHLY MEETINGS

## Business Meeting

The Shire of Sunderoak has regular business meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Carousel in Alameda Park, Butler from 7-9 PM. (No August meeting)

The meetings are informal (no special dress or admission fees required)

If you would like to make contact with a member who will greet you at a meeting and make other introductions, please contact our Chatelaine or Seneschal.

## Officer's Meeting

Officers' meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at Thorgrim's house - 7

# ACTIVITIES

■ **A&S classes** - Monday evenings from 6-?

■ Contact Katla for directions

■ **Scribal Arts** - Monday evenings from 6-?

■ Contact Katla for more info

■ Can't make Monday or evening meetings? Contact Yvianne for possible alternatives.

■ **Heavy Weapons** (armored combat)- Friday evenings 6-9

■ Alameda Park at the Carousel

■ For more information, contact Vladimir Mechnik

■ **Rapier Combat Practice**—Friday evenings 6-?

■ Alameda Park at the Carousel

■ For more information, contact Meg the Mad!!!

## Christmas Trees and Plants

The tree was an important symbol to every Pagan culture. The oak in particular was venerated by the Druids. Evergreens, which in ancient Rome were thought to have special powers and were used for decoration, symbolized the promised return of life in the spring and came to symbolize eternal life for Christians. The Vikings hung fir and ash trees with war trophies for good luck.

In the middle ages, the Church would decorate trees with apples on Christmas Eve, which they called "Adam and Eve Day." However, the trees remained outdoors. In sixteenth-century Germany, it was the custom for a fir tree decorated with paper flowers to be carried through the streets on Christmas Eve to the town square, where, after a great feast and celebration that included dancing around the tree, it would be ceremonially burned.

Holly, ivy, and mistletoe were all important plants to the Druids. It was believed that good spirits lived in the branches of holly. Christians believed that the berries had been white before they were turned red by Christ's blood when He was made to wear the crown of thorns. Ivy was associated with the Roman god Bacchus and was not allowed by the Church as decoration until later in the middle ages, when a superstition that it could help recognize witches and protect against plague arose.

## Entertainment

Christmas may owe its popularity in medieval times to [liturgical dramas and mysteries](#) presented in the church. The most popular subject for such dramas and [tropes](#) was the Holy Family, particularly the Nativity. As interest in the Nativity grew, so did Christmas as a holiday.

[Carols](#), though very popular in the later middle ages, were at first frowned on by the Church. But, as with most popular entertainment, they eventually evolved to a suitable format, and the Church relented.

*The Twelve Days of Christmas* may have been a game set to music. One person would sing a stanza, and another would add his own lines to the song, repeating the first person's verse. Another version states it was a Catholic "catechism memory song" that helped oppressed Catholics in England during the [Reformation](#) remember facts about God and Jesus at a time when practicing their faith could get them killed. (If you would like to read more about this [theory](#), please be warned that it contains graphic descriptions of the violent nature in which Catholics were executed by the Protestant government and has been refuted as an [Urban Legend](#).)

Pantomimes and mumming were another form of popular Christmas entertainment, particularly in England. These casual plays without words usually involved dressing up as a member of the opposite gender and acting out comic stories.

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<http://historymedren.about.com/library/blxmas.htm>

## Medieval Christmas Traditions

From About.com by Melissa Snell

Among the Pagan traditions that have become part of Christmas is burning the yule log. This custom springs from many different cultures, but in all of them its significance seems to lie in the *iul* or "wheel" of the year. The Druids would bless a log and keep it burning for 12 days during the winter solstice; part of the log was kept for the following year, when it would be used to light the new yule log. For the Vikings, the yule log was an integral part of their celebration of the solstice, the *julfest*; on the log they would carve runes representing unwanted traits (such as ill fortune or poor honor) that they wanted the gods to take from them.

Wassail comes from the Old English words *waes hael*, which means "be well," "be hale," or "good health." A strong, hot drink (usually a mixture of ale, honey, and spices) would be put in a large bowl, and the host would lift it and greet his companions with "waes hael," to which they would reply "drinc hael," which meant "drink and be well." Over the centuries some non-alcoholic versions of wassail evolved.

Other customs developed as part of Christian belief. For example, Mince Pies (so called because they contained shredded or minced meat) were baked in oblong casings to represent Jesus' crib, and it was important to add three spices (cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg) for the three gifts given to the Christ child by the Magi. The pies were not very large, and it was thought lucky to eat one mince pie on each of the twelve days of Christmas (ending with Epiphany, the 6th of January).

### Food

The ever-present threat of hunger was triumphantly overcome with a feast, and in addition to the significant fare mentioned above, all manner of food would be served at Christmas. The most popular main course was goose, but many other meats were also served. Around 1520 turkey was first brought to Europe from the Americas, and because it was inexpensive and quick to fatten, it rose in popularity as a Christmas feast food.

Humble (or 'umble) pie was made from the "humbles" of a deer -- the heart, liver, brains and so forth. While the lords and ladies ate the choice cuts, the servants baked the humbles into a pie (which of course made them go further as a source of food). This appears to be the origin of the phrase, "to eat humble pie." By the seventeenth century Humble Pie had become a trademark Christmas food, as evidenced when it was outlawed along with other Christmas traditions by Oliver Cromwell and the Puritan government.

The Christmas pudding of Victorian and modern times evolved from the medieval dish of [frumenty](#) -- a spicy, wheat-based dessert. Many other desserts were made as welcome treats for children and adults alike.

# Officer's Meeting Minutes



## Announcement

### **RATTAN FIGHTERS SOUGHT FOR CHALLENGING CAREER!**

- Does the feel of leather next to your skin cause your blood to boil?
- Does a sword at your hip and a shield in your hand make you feel more balanced?
- When you see a steel helm, are you immediately drawn to it and find yourself caressing it as you whisper, “My pretty...”?
- Does the thought of killing your friends again and again and again and again and.. bring a gleam to your eye?

**If you can answer “YES!” to any of these questions, you have what it takes to be a Rattan Fighter!**

**\*\*No experience or equipment necessary!\*\***

Contact Vladimir Mechnik at [sliver187@earthlink.net](mailto:sliver187@earthlink.net) for more information.

Practices begin at 6PM on Wednesday and some Friday evenings at the Carousel in Alameda Park.

This announcement stolen from the Chronicler of "Across the Hills" the monthly newsletter of the Barony of Endless Hills. Shhhhhh! Don't tell her - she'll kill me!



## *From Your Chronicler*

I'm sorry, but I have been unable to attend the Shire meetings the last two months and having nothing but doodles to fill in this space...

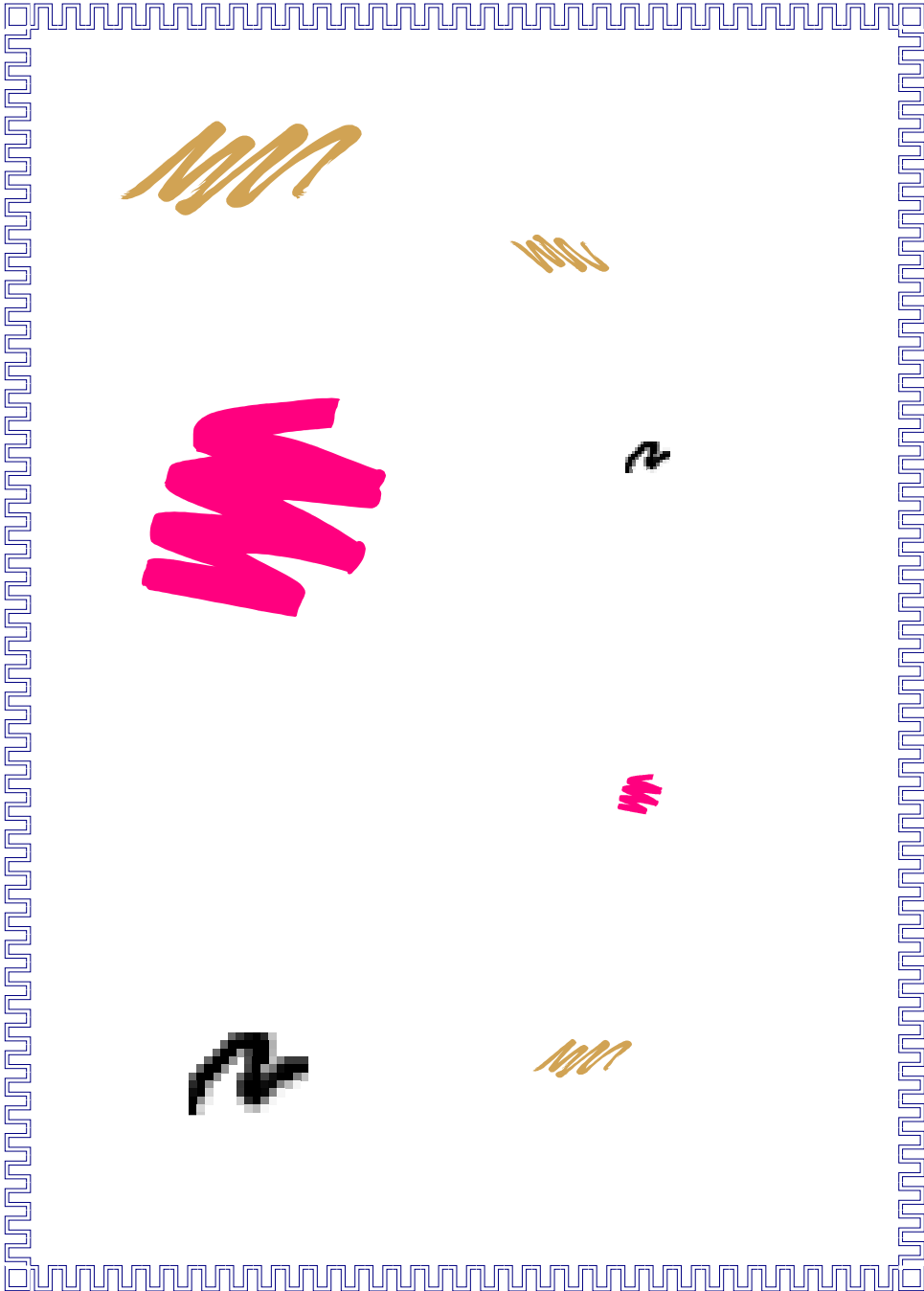
If everything falls into place, I will be going back to college starting this January. I will do my best to juggle all the hats I now wear. If it starts to look like I cannot juggle them all, I will notify the correct authorities so that they may drag me away to a rubber room... Uhm... I mean I will do my best to recognize that fact and pass some of my hats on.

Thank you,

Lady Meg the Mad!!!



# Shire Meeting Minutes



## Announcement

### SWASHBUCKLERS WANTED!

- Is 'swagger' your natural stride?
- Do you feel naked without a rapier hanging from your hip?
- When insulted, do you immediately call out the insulter and insist on a duel?
- Do the words "Hello! My name is Inigo (Duckie) Montoya. You killed my father (duck pond)... Prepare to die!" roll trippingly off your tongue?

**If you've answered yes to any of the above questions, Sunderoak Fencing is for you!**

**\*\*No experience or equipment necessary\*\***

Contact Meg the Mad!!! at [megancorale@yahoo.com](mailto:megancorale@yahoo.com) for more information.  
Practices begin at 6PM at the Carousel in Alameda Park. Qualified marshals and teachers are standing by!

This announcement stolen from the Chronicler of "Across the Hills" the monthly newsletter of the Barony of Endless Hills. Shhhhhh! Don't tell her - she'll kill me!

# January 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8  <b>A&amp;S / Scribal</b>	9	10	11	12	13 Kingdom Twelfth Nights— Hartstone, Wellsville NY
14 Curia—Hartstone, Wellsville NY	15  <b>A&amp;S / Scribal</b>	16	17	18	19	20 St. Swithin's Bog Twelfth Night—St. Swithin's Bog, Johnstown PA
21	22  <b>A&amp;S / Scribal</b>	23	24	25	26	27 King's Crossing Twelfth Night Celebration—King's Crossing, Washington PA
28	29  <b>A&amp;S / Scribal</b>	30  <b>Officer's Meeting Populace Meeting</b>	31			