

# Two Towers

Newsletter of The Barony of The Stargate  
September 2005

## From the Baron & Baroness,

Greetings to Ansteorra's premier populace

Balthazar of Endor had the right of it when he penned:

*Now, the Ansteorran summers are seven months in length.  
The rivers lose their waters and the fighters lose their strength.  
With swooning in the tourney, and fainting in the war,  
We long for cool November by the rising of the Star!*

This is the hottest, most humid summer in our recollection and we're look forward to 'cool November' – or October or September, should the powers be gracious.

By the time this hits the web, our final weekend at the Lord of the Rings Demo will be over. So many people have gone into making this a tremendous demo – organizers, fighters, artisans, water-bearers, crowd control, and just plain color. A demo of this magnitude is much like an event and we owe a great debt to not only our own Stargaters and Westgaters but to the many folks from Bordermarch, Bjornsborg, Gate's Edge, Greywood, Loch Soillier, Ravensfort, the Shadowlands, -- even Atlantia -- and probably others who we have failed to recall. Many from these groups took on leadership roles. We are blessed by our many friends. Of course, part of the payoff for us is we get to help with their events as well. We are fortunate to share this region with such wonderful neighbors.

We wish to thank everyone that came out for the first Sunday in the Park in many years. September's first Sunday is Labor Day weekend and we hope that everyone comes out for "Picnic in the Park." We're not planning to cook anything at the Park but rather bring our favorite dishes to eat and share. The time will be 2-5 p.m. and the place is Memorial Park across from the **north side** tennis courts. If you enter from Washington, simply stay to the right and you'll see the courts on your left. If you enter on West or East Memorial Loop, simply continue circling around the Golf Course until you reach the north side tennis courts. Showers are available (at \$0.75) as well as lockers (\$at 0.50). Horses are welcome (as long as we clean up and stay off the jogging path).

September's Populace Meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. at Ryan's Steak House, 34<sup>th</sup> Street just southwest of Hwy 290. Please come at 7:00 p.m. if you have business with the Seneschal, Exchequer or us. We hope to have a presentation on Persona Development by a special guest (who, as of this writing may have a scheduling conflict). If not, we'll have something else of special interest.

We've been looking for a new site for Populace and many of our officers favor the YWCA on Willia (close to the old Garden in the Heights – Willia is a continuation of Feagan north of Heights Blvd.). The YWCA is convenient to I-10 and is fairly centrally located in Houston. If you have strong feelings about the location of populace, please let us know.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the demo and at Picnic in the Park!

Yours in Service,

ihon & Isabzau

Baron & Baroness

## From the Seneschal,

Greetings to Stargate!!

Recently at the Stargate business meeting we were talking about the bountiful support you give to the officers serving you in this wonderful dream. When any one is asked to do something, you jump up and the job gets done very quickly! Your support makes our burdens lighter and our jobs easier! You are truly appreciated!!

Do you wish to serve the great Barony of Stargate but are unsure how? Have I got the solution for you!! The Barony of Stargate needs a water bearer. As a water bearer you will be in charge of making sure there is drinking water available at Stargate events and at Sunday afternoon fighter practices. The barony has water coolers available in our storage room.

As the water bearer you will also recruit people to help you distribute water to fighters. You may also at times have cold citrus fruit and pickles available. The fighters will LOVE you!! The populace will LOVE you!! You will be popular because your service will be indispensable.

If you are interested in finding out more, or better yet are considering applying for this very needed service to our barony, please contact Lady Vasilisa (see officers page)

Stargate wants YOU!  
In service to the dream,  
Lady Vasilisa,  
Stargate Seneschal

## From the Herald,

Greetings, good Gentles of Stargate!

Heraldic Consultation Nights will resume on the second Thursday of each month, from 7:00pm to 10:00pm, or by appointment. Please contact me by email or phone for directions. It is an honor and a privilege to be your new Herald.

Yours in Service,  
Dietrich Strobelbart

## From the Chronicler

Greetings unto the populace,

I would everyone to welcome my new Deputy, Ly Caitlin ferch Gwynnora. She recently came to Stargate from Northshield.

I have set a deadline of the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month to have your submissions for the Two Towers; this includes event ads and Officer reports. Officers, we have lots of newcomer's coming in I would love to see a missive from each officer every month.

The collection of data for the next domesday has started. It will be arranged Alpha by SCA name. Please send me as much or as little info you want included. SCA Name, Mundane Name, Primary Phone, Secondary Phone, Email address, Postal address, Birthday.

*Nel servizio che rimango,  
Signora Lisabetta Micola da Monte*

### *Grztings from the Hospitaler.*

The Demo turned out really well. We got a number of names from the demo for interested people. I'm sending out the information to them and will be starting Newcomers meetings again at the YWCA.

The Newcomer's Revel went well. The newcomers had a blast. And we told stories of our first events to make them feel welcome.

Newcomer's meetings will be starting again as I said. I'm planning to have them on Wednesday nights only though. I'll do the concentrated meetings then I'm thinking I'll have monthly meetings the first Wednesday of the month at the YWCA. I'm looking forward to starting the Monthly meetings up again. I'm also looking for teachers for any classes. So, if you teach a class, please let me know what it is and I'll schedule the classes.

Thanks to everyone for coming to the Newcomers Revel and the Demo.

In Service To The Dream,  
Lady Elizabetta de Medici  
Hospitaler - Shirz of Gatz's Edge  
Hospitaler - Barony of the Stargate

## From the Virtual Scribe,

Greetings from your Virtual Scribe! After a bit o' vacation, I'm back to updating the site pretty much in real-time. If you have an event to announce - including a local unofficial happening that you think would be of interest to your fellow SCAdians, please e-mail me at merewyn AT att.net with the specifics. You can also post it yourself to the interactive baronial calendar, using the link on the home page. I invite your suggestions for additions to the Links page - if you know of a website you think might be of interest to your fellow SCAdians, please send it along. Finally, if you notice something you think is missing or in error, please let me know about it - I try to keep everything accurate and up-to-date, but I don't always have all the information I need.

Yours in Service,  
Merewyn de Laugharne  
Stargate Virtual Scribe

## Dance Guild

**There will be Fall Ball on 9/11.**

**Time: 2-4pm**

**Place: Oaks Presbyterian,  
1576 Chantilly.**

**Bring a goodie and come in garb  
ready to dance your favorites.**

Classes are informal and are open to beginners and experienced dancers alike.

We focus on English Country Dance primarily from Playford's first edition, Court dances, 15th and 16th century Italian dance, and French dances from Arbeau.

We meet on the second and fourth Sunday of each month from 2pm - 4pm at Oaks Presbyterian Church, 1576 Chantilly. This is near W 43rd and Ella in northwest Houston.

Contact Antonello (email [antonello@integrity.com](mailto:antonello@integrity.com) or cell 281-850-2443) for directions and inquiries.

There is also a Dance Guild in southwest Houston each Thursday night from 7pm - 9pm. Contact Perronnelle for information: 281-277-4055 (no calls after 9pm).

Lord Antonello

## Stargate Scribes Guild:

Stargate Scribes 'Charter Paint' meetings:

Time: 7-9pm,

Sept. 6th - Tuesday

Sept. 20th - Tuesday

Held at the Chapel of Univ. of Houston, 2nd floor lobby, adjacent to fighter practice at UH. Entrance #13 parking lot, on Cullen, between Elgin and Wheeler.

Held rain or shine, if you can 'Paint by Numbers' then you can paint charters. Bring your scribal paint supplies, or some will be provided for you. Novices welcome, SCA garb not required.

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**Wordfame:** Stargaters taught at the recent Ansteorran Heraldic and Scribes Symposium, on August 20th. Thomas atte Wood taught 'Cutting Feather Quills', Hillary Greenslade taught two illumination classes, Kathri de Feltre had a workshop on 'Pattern making for heraldic display', while many local scribes and heralds attended.

Star Principal, HL Etienne, presented Master Francois le Flamme with a personal heraldic title, gifted to those who have done extraordinary service (i.e., Herald Extraordinary rank) to the College of Arms. Francois has served the barony, kingdom and knowne world for more years than I can count, as a herald and administrator. Once paperwork is transferred, Francois will henceforth be known as 'Estencelé Herald Extraordinary'.  
VIVAT Francois!!

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### **Scribal Class: 'Scribal Tools and Materials'**

Save Sept. 18th, Sunday, 2-4pm, for a class on 'Scribal Tools and Materials', taught by Mistress Rose Stewart Cathan at the home of Godwin and Lissa (3003 Bernadette Lane, Houston, Tx. 77043 - found on mapquest, call 713-690-5434 if lost). All levels of scribes are welcome; SCA-garb is not required. This is a not to be missed event.

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### **Scribes Guild Principal Office is open for bids.**

It has been my intent to hold the post of Stargate Scribes Guild Principal for one year; and that term is to come up in November. Applications for the office will need to be sent by Nov. 1st, to the Regional Scribe, Lady Aylwin, who will make the selection; with a copy to myself, Stargate Seneschal (Lady Vasalisa), and Stargate Baron and Baroness (Ihon and Isabeau). The office will change hands in December, though I will be responsible for award scrolls for Stargate Yule. If you have questions about being the Stargate Guild Principal, please contact me.

Keep Scribing,  
Hillary Greenslade,  
Stargate Scribes Guild Principal  
[hillaryrg@yahoo.com](mailto:hillaryrg@yahoo.com)

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## From the Historian~~~~

### **History....what is it and why keep it? Simple questions with tough answers.**

History is what you are living through right now. At this moment, it seems very common and unremarkable. However, the fact is that those coming after you are very curious about the common everyday things you are doing right now. What was your first piece of garb? What mistakes did \*you\* make at your first court? What lessons have \*you\* learned about camping SCA style?

What obstacles did you learn to overcome as a new Event/Feast/Gate Steward, Or a coordinator/officer? What wonders did you live through at the various events you have witnessed? What word fame do you have about people you have encountered?

These are the things that make our history and which answers the second question of "Why Keep History?"

Because those who join us later want to \*learn\* from what we have encountered, Learned, and lived through.

It helps them to avoid the same mistakes and to understand why our society has the culture that makes it so unique.

This leads to one more question. Who should keep our history? Why....the historian, of course, you might answer. While as historian, I agree this is so the sad fact remains that I am neither omnipotent nor omniscient.

I can not be everywhere and see everything. I rely on you to tell me your experiences. So I beg you to write your stories for our newsletter. If you are too shy for that, write your stories to \*me\* and I will lovingly keep them for you. I live but to serve and I serve you and our future members Write, write, write, call, call, and call. I await your stories.

Until then,

I remain....

Forever in Service,

Mesterinde Annes Clotilde von Bamburg  
Stargate Historian

## From the Minister of Arts & Sciences

Greetings to the populace of the Stargate!

**To all guild principals:** I need to include guild reports in my monthly reports to the coastal regional MOAS. Please send me your reports by the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month. They only have to be very, very brief. I just need to know how many meetings you had, approximately how many were in attendance, and a short description of what was done. I'll start sending out email reminders around the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**To the populace:** I also would like to report personal accomplishments. If you are working on anything, please let me know. If you want to send pictures, that would be fantastic, but, of course, not necessary.

### Guild Information:

Charter Painting usually held on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 PM  
European Dance held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month from 2:00 - 4:00 PM  
Madrigal and Polyphonic singing held on the fourth Sunday of the month at 4:00 PM  
Weaving held on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00  
Chivalric Armoring held on Monday and Wednesday evenings between 8:00 and 11:00 PM

If you would like to start another guild, please let me know. At one point, there was interest in a sewing guild and a cooking guild. If that interest is still there, let's get it started!! Any others?

I'm also looking for a deputy. If you love the arts and are interested, please, please volunteer.

If you need to contact me, please feel free to do so.

Email: [cindy.gottlieb@springbranchisd.com](mailto:cindy.gottlieb@springbranchisd.com) Phone: 832-567-0177

Wishing you all well,

Arianwen

## Notes & Challenges

Come one; come all to the Toys for Tots Raffle and Toy drive at Raven's Fort's Defender of The Fort. Bring a toy, new or gently used, and receive a ticket for a raffle for a prize. You will receive a ticket for every toy you bring.

Lady Valeria Marcella Martinez

[vbrown@houston.rr.com](mailto:vbrown@houston.rr.com)

Toys for Tots is also looking for some volunteers to attend the tables, and provide prizes for the raffle, at various events. Please contact me for more information.

We will be at the following events: Defender of the Fort, Harvest Faire, Tourney by the Loch, Stargate Yule

Lady Brenna MacDonald

[jen@clancircle.com](mailto:jen@clancircle.com)

<http://toys.clancircle.com>

### Applications are being accepted for the following offices:

- Waterbearer - contact [Lady Vasilisa](#)
- Knight Marshall - contact [Andrew Scarhart](#)
- Exchequer - contact [Brenna Clare](#)
  - Deputy exchequer -to attend meetings (see Brenna Clare)

To the good folks of Stargate, fair greetings to you this late summer's day! I have long promised a series of articles to the Stargate Chronicler's office. This is the first in that series.

## Herb of the Month: Mint

I chose mint as our "Herb of the Month" because it is familiar, and grows easily here in Stargate. As a matter of fact, I recommend growing it in pots, so that it does not become invasive. You can buy little plants in the Spring, or you can get a cutting from a friend. If you choose to grow your mint from a cutting, simply place the cutting in a glass of water on a sunny windowsill, and watch as it develops roots. After a week or so, you can plant your mint in a pot, and stand back! It will take off. It likes a lot of water, so be sure to keep the soil moist. It is not, however, actually a swamp plant, so try not to let it stand in water for days on end. Mint is a heavy feeder, so a little fresh potting soil or some plant food from time to time will keep it very happy. Be sure you use food for indoor plants rather than for flowering plants. The indoor plant food will encourage lots of healthy green leaves, and that's the part of the mint plant that we most commonly use. If you choose to keep your mint outside be prepared for it to die back at first frost. It will come back from the roots and seeds of the previous year. Remember not to use poisons (insecticides) of any sort near the plants, for your own health as well as for that of the butterflies and bees who love to visit the flowers.

Now that you have your mint comfortably established, and you have lots of fragrant, pretty, fresh mint leaves, you can use them in lots of ways! The Herb Book lists the following properties for mint: "Anodyne, antispasmodic, carminative, cholagogue, refrigerant, stomachic and tonic" (Lust, 275). Don't be intimidated; those are just big words that mean that it can relieve pain, help with cramps, and generally be really good for your digestive system. "Refrigerant", of course, means that it makes you feel cooler.

A small sprig in iced tea smells pleasant, and will make us feel cooler. For cramps or any kind of stomach discomfort, I recommend a cup of mint tea made by steeping a tablespoon or so of fresh mint leaves in a cup of boiling water for 5 minutes. Strain it and drink it hot or iced. This is so mild that it can be given (at appropriate temperature) to infants for colic. [Caution – do not add honey if you are going to give this to a baby less than a year old. The tea is fine for babies. The honey is not.] A cup of this tea is excellent for morning sickness associated with pregnancy. It really helped me. If you add a little honey and lemon it makes a soothing treatment for sore throats. It contains antioxidants (Duke, 58). Try adding a few mint leaves to your salad. A casual scan of the internet using keywords "mint, recipes" reveals many, many recipes using mint, including syrups, tonics, salads, jellies, juleps, sauces, etc. I often add just a little to vegetables as I cook them. You can even float a tied bundle of mint sprigs in your bath to treat slightly itchy skin, or just for the nice scent. If you pour your own candles, or make your own soaps, mint can add a special freshness. Feel free to experiment!

If you have an overabundance of mint, freeze it in plastic bags, or dry it by tying the stems together and hanging it upside down in a dry place out of the direct sun (your back porch, perhaps). For small Yule gifts, start new plants from cuttings in the fall and keep them growing in that sunny window. The bright, brave green is a welcome sight on a bleak mid-winter day.

If you go to a plant store in the Spring, you may be overwhelmed by the varieties of mint available. I have seen chocolate mint, pineapple mint, apple mint, and many other varieties. Try just plain mint (botanical name *mentha piperita*) to start with, and branch out from there.

Let me know how you do with this plant! It is the most forgiving of herbs. As with all herbal treats and treatments, moderation is key. Try a little at first, to see if you like it and to see how your body responds. Add more as you are comfortable with it. If you have acute symptoms, call your doctor or hospital immediately.

God bless you and keep you safe,

Lissa

Work cited:

Lust, John. The Herb Book. New York: Bantam, 1980

Duke, James A., Ph. D. The Green Pharmacy. Pennsylvania: Rodale, 1997

Recommended reading:

Lust, John. The Herb Book. New York: Bantam, 1980

Duke, James A., Ph. D. The Green Pharmacy. Pennsylvania: Rodale, 1997

Gerard, John (1545 – 1612). Gerard's Herball. Hungary: Crescent Books, 1985



The populace of The Shire of Gate's Edge  
invites you to attend

## Harvest Faire

October 8th

Champions will be selected for  
Armored Combat, Rapier Combat  
Target Archery, Thrown Weapons,  
and Bardic Arts, and Arts and  
Science as well as an overall Champion  
Please come and join us in our celebration.

# Harvest Faire

October 7-9, 2005

The Shire of Gate's Edge will be hosting our annual Faire to find Champions for the Shire.

Champions will be chosen for the following endeavors:

Archery    Arts & Sciences    Armored Combat  
Bardic Arts    Thrown Weapons    Rapier Combat

An overall Faire Champion will also be chosen. The Faire Champion will be chosen from those participants who enter at least 4 of the individual competitions.

Lord Carluccio di Baia promises a delicious Italian style feast. Feast is limited so reservations are encouraged. Please contact the Feast Steward. For reservations or if you have special food requirements.

Site fee is \$8 for adults, children 5 and under are free, ages 12 and under are half price. There is a family maximum of \$24 for site fees. Feast fee is \$6. Make Checks Payable to SCA Inc. /

Shire of Gates Edge. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. They may also attend with a 21 year or older adult with a signed and notarized Minor Even Waiver Form from the parents. Site opens 5PM Fri. and closes 1PM Sun.

Our site is again beautiful Camp Camwood, a Girl Scout camp at the corner of Magnolia and Clear Creek roads in the rural Magnolia/Hockley area. Beer and Wine in period containers only. Pets are NOT allowed, service animals only.

Directions: See <http://gatesedge.ansteorra.org> for maps and more detailed directions. From Tomball take FM2920 west approx 8 miles to Roberts Cemetery Road. Turn Right on the Roberts Cemetery and go 3 miles to the STOP sign. Turn Left on Magnolia/Nichols Sawmill road and go 1.5 miles to entrance on Right.

**Event Steward**  
HL Eadric Anstapa  
mka Scott Mills  
eadric@scabrewer.com  
281-356-5220

**Feast Steward**  
Lord Carluccio di Baia  
mka Chad Sweeten  
Carluccio@hotmail.com  
281-259-2430

# Stargate Officers

## Baron and Baroness

Their Excellencies  
Master Ihon Vinson MacFergus &  
HL Isabeau Quiquandon  
John & Terri Hirling  
(713) 896-0026  
bandb\_stargate@ev1.net

## Exchequer

*Accepting applications*  
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Penny Roberts  
pennyrobertsho@yahoo.com

## Chronicler

Lady Lisabetta Micola daMonte  
Kimberly Wells  
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## Knight Marshal

*Accepting applications*  
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Scott Jernigan  
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(832) 524-4444 (cell)  
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## Rapier Marshal

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Jay Madan  
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## Youth Rapier Marshal

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## Virtual Scribe

Lady Merewyn de Laugharne  
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## Senzschal

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## Minister of Arts & Sciences

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## Herald

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mka Steve Scott  
281-731-7726 cell  
No calls after 10:00pm, please.  
dietrichstrobelbart@myway.com

## Hospitaler

Lady Elizabetha "Maria" de Medici  
Maria Buchanan  
281-433-0347  
hospitaler@sbcglobal.net

## Castellan

Lord Thomas & Lady Kemma  
(Awaiting information)

## Chirurgion & Equestrian Marshal

Lady Annalies Pferdehirt  
Linda Bratina  
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lancastercommunity@sbcglobal.net

## Historian

HL Annes Clotilde von Bamberg  
Darlene Vandever  
(281) 259-0322 no calls after 9 pm, please  
hlannes@ev1.net

## Minister of Children

Lady Michelle (pending)

## Waterbearer

Open - accepting applications

### Disclaimer & Copyright

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