



The Steppes Letter

February 2023



Barony of the Steppes: February 2023

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This is the February 2023 issue of the Steppes Newsletter, a publication of The Barony of the Steppes of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. The Steppes Letter is available from Kathryn DePalma [chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org]. It is not a corporate publication of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Incorporated, and does not delineate SCA policies.

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Calendar of Events

January 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Culinary Guild	2	3	4
5 Archery Practice	6 Fighter Practice & Business Meeting	7 Chivalric, Rapier, A&S, Newcomers' Academy	8	9	10	11 Laurel's Prize
12	13 Fighter Practice	14 Chivalric, Rapier, & A&S Practice	15	16	17	18 Bryn Gwlad Candlemas
19 Archery Practice	20 Fighter Practice	21 Chivalric, Rapier, A&S, Business Meeting	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Chivalric, Rapier, A&S, Newcomers' Academy	Key: Events Steppes Practice Glaslyn Practice			

[Find all of our events on our website](#)

Photo credit Andrea Stöckel via <https://www.publicdomainpictures.net>



Event Info

January 2023



Laurel's Prize Tourney

Saturday 11th 8AM - 7:30PM
The Bexar Bowling Society
Hall
15681 Bexar Bowling,
Marion, TX 78124
[Website](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Paypal](#)

Bryn Gwlad's

Candlemas

Saturday 18th 8AM - 10PM
Burnet Community Center
401 E Jackson St, Burnet TX
78611
[Paypal](#)

Archery

First & Third Sundays
2PM-5PM
Westlake Sports Center
601 Gross Rd, Mesquite, TX

Chivalric & Rapier

Tuesdays 7PM-9PM
St Luke's Lutheran Church
1210 W Belt Line Rd,
Richardson, TX

Glaslyn Practice &

Business Meeting

Mondays 6PM
North Lakes Park 2001 W.
Windsor Dr., Denton, TX

Steppes Business

Meeting

3rd Thursday 6:30PM
St Luke's Lutheran Church
1210 W Belt Line Rd,
Richardson, TX

Thrown Weapons

On hiatus

Newcomers' Academy

4th Thursday 6:30PM
St Luke's Lutheran Church
1210 W Belt Line Rd,
Richardson, TX

Culinary Guild

1st Wednesday 7PM
901 N US 75-Central Expy
1000, Plano, TX

Scribal Guild

Tuesdays 7PM-9PM
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
1210 W Belt Line Rd,
Richardson, TX

Music Guild

On hiatus

*All SCA Practices and
Meetings are free to attend



Baron

Baudoyne de Lafayette

baron@steppes.ansteorra.org

Baroness

Katerine le Roux d'Anjou

baroness@steppes.ansteorra.org

Salutations,

Steppes has started the year in a sprint. Our first event in the Steppes' 50th year was a spectacular spectacle. Sean and Signy stewarded a super impressive soirée and fun was surely had by all. There was certainly several different activities happening at Steppes 12th Night. A murder mystery, games, vendors, projectiles, feast, and marshmallows, it was not the standard event, it was special and many shambled away from a superb experience that superlatives sorrowfully fall short of describing.

We don't stop at the massive success of 12th Night, for suddenly before we know it, the season will change to spring and the 50th Steppes Warlord will arrive. There are so many activities set for Warlord, there will be something for everyone! Several of our Championships will be decided there, amongst a sea of other stuff that will make your heart soar. So if you enjoy vendors, fighting, archery, thrown weapons, dancing, music, bardic, and so much more be certain not to miss this opportunity for fun under the sun.

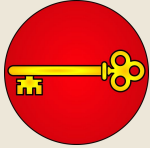
While we slumber and dreams commence, few would have imagined such an amazing start to the year. The Steppes slays, and will continue to push the boundaries to produce scintillating events. We have a lot in steady stream of fun in store for this year. Do not miss out on any of these splendid moments, because sincerely, you would be sad to miss any of these stimulating and satisfying socials.

Sense and Sensibility,

Baudoyne and Katerine

Baron and Baroness of the Steppes

Word from the Baronial Officers



Seneschal

Elsbeth de Stervlen
seneschal@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greeting Steppes,

12th Night was a great event!!! Thank you to everyone that made the event happen. There were many newer friends made, and long term friends that came to say hello!

We are excited for a wonderful 2023 for the Kingdom and the Barony.

Business meetings will be held on the 3rd TUESDAY, of each month, starting in FEBRUARY. At the same place as fighter practice, see web page and Facebook for details. The meeting will be 6:30-7:30pm, then fighter practice will commence. I hope this will help cut down the amount of travel we all have to attend both.

We have excellent A&S, Newcomers Academy, and events coming up. I hope to see you all!!

In Service,

Baroness Elspeth de Stervlen



Exchequer

Lady Astrid Folkadottir
exchequer@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greetings populace,

The bank balance as of 12/31/22 is \$20,074.48. All checks issued in 2022 cleared in 2022 making my job easier. Year end report has been submitted to doomsday. In January we had a wonderful event, Steppes 12th night. We made a total profit of \$1,704.31.

We are still in search of a Quartermaster. Please consider applying for the position. If you have any questions about the job feel free to contact me.

In service

Astrid Flokadottir





Archery Marshal

Eadgyth Beornesdohtor
archery@steppes.ansteorra.org

Unto the populace of the Barony of the Steppes, your Archery Marshal sends greetings.

Archers of the Steppes! We need trained line marshals — people who can help with safety, help inspect weapons and gear, help with range set-up, and help run the line. We're looking for safety-minded individuals ages 18 and up who love archery and want a chance to serve. Contact me at archery@steppes.ansteorra.org if you're interested in getting trained and authorized.

With better weather comes more opportunities to shoot in more places! Upcoming missile events in the Kingdom include:

- 28 Jan: Northkeep Winterkingdom (Kellyville, OK), with target archery, combat archery, and thrown weapons
- 4 Feb: Mooneschadowe's Provincial Games (Stillwater, OK), with combat archery
- 18 Feb Graywood's Battle of the Pines (Carthage, TX), with target archery and thrown weapons
- 24-26 Feb: 1529 Siege of Vienna (Seguin, TX), with target archery and thrown weapons
- 24-26 Feb: A Day in the Forest (Huntsville, TX), with target archery, combat archery, siege, and thrown weapons
- 11-19 Mar: GULF WARS XXXI, with ALL the things!

And, of course, our scheduled baronial ranges are the 1st and 3rd Sundays of February (5 Feb and 19 Feb) at our usual spot: Westlake Park Archery Range, 601 Gross Rd, Mesquite, TX 75149.

See you on the range!

Yours in joyous service,

Lady Eadgyth Beornesdohtor



Rapier Marshal

Lord Sean Tabor
rapier@steppes.ansteorra.org

Unto the Barony of the Steppes,
Ld. Sean Tabor sends greetings!

We have had a historic month with 2 of our own becoming Lions of Ansteorra and Queens Champion being won by it's first female fighter in 87 championships. VIVAT HL Veronica!

Our own Mattias (Andrew Graf) also showed off his excellent skills and was picked as one of the eight finalists. HUZDAH Mattias!

Our fighter practice continues to be well attended and our A&S meeting has been joined by a new recorder music group. The more the merrier!

I will be working on establishing a Patreon type website for the support of our community and keeping us indoors. The site will enable easy contributions and provide a resource library of our fighting talent to preserve our best fighter instructions for future generations. A Steppes Booster Club will soon be forming to support our group through a print on demand site featuring Rapier, Chivalric and Steppes themed gear.

My tenure as Rapier Marshal had been extended due to Covid and will be coming open in March. Applications will be open through February, please contact me or our Baron and Baroness for more information. I look forward to our next Rapier Marshal raising Steppes up to new heights.

YIS,

Ld. Sean



Chivalric Marshal

Centurion Magnus Creppinson
marshal@steppes.ansteorra.org

Magnus here! Another month goes by and we reflect upon the fun and fights we had throughout. Great time to be in The Steppes for fighting. We will continue our Gulf prep as well as continuing training. Notable mention our neighbors to the west, Barony of Elfsea, check out their Thursday practice if you haven't! We still have some donated gear, free to a good home so come on by and check that out if you haven't. See everyone at practice!

Magnus Creppinson

Steppes Knight Marshal



Webminister

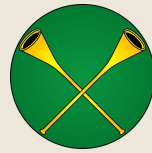
Hákon the Blacksmith
webminister@steppes.ansteorra.org

With all the dangerous weather, I'd like to remind everyone to keep an eye on the front page of the website and to sync to the Barony's Google calendar! It is kept up to date with announcements about any cancellations or closures.

If you have an event that needs updating or adding to the calendar or if you find any other errors or issues with our website, feel free to let me know at webminister@steppes.ansteorra.org.

Yours in service,

Hákon the Blacksmith



Herald

Elionora inghean Ui Cheallaigh
herald@steppes.ansteorra.org

Unto the populace of Steppes and Glaslyn,

I mentioned this last month, but I'm about halfway through my allotted time as Oakenwald Pursuivant. Since it's easier to learn if you have a chance to shadow someone, I'm putting out those feelers for someone (or someones) interested in the role. The local herald position is primarily administrative – most of the book knowledge can be outsourced, and we have a number of excellent resources available.

Planning for Warlord 50 is in full swing and we hope to see many people volunteering in all manner of roles (some of whom I hope will be voice heralds day of?) Please lovingly harass, I mean, recruit your friends for helping as many hands will make light work and a fun event for all.

If voice heraldry isn't for you, please consider assisting our newly reborn scribal group with scroll painting. Eagdyth and Torquil are managing our charter backlog wonderfully but they need people to adopt a scroll (or two, or three!) so we can build up a stock of prepared charters for our baronial awards.

Heraldry Roundup remains in the works, but I should be all caught up on any missives. Please contact me if there is an outstanding matter I haven't responded to as I may not have received it.

In service,

Lady Elionora inghean Ui Cheallaigh

MKA Laura Johnson

Oakenwald Pursuivant



Minister of Arts & Sciences

Hadassah Sarai Bas Yossi
moas@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greeting unto the Barony of the Steppes.

We have some exciting happenings for the start of the new year.

In the month of February, we have a beginning glass bead making class, please see the Steppes page for class details.

We may also have a class on how to make a sublety(soteltie) if a location can be found, again, keep your eye on the Steppes page for details.

In March we will be having an all day sewing day/potluck / GW pity party for those unable to go to Gulf Wars.

Details will be coming up soon on the Steppes page.

There will be some changes to how classes are submitted for teaching. I am asking that you give a month's notice, so that the class may be scheduled and advertised. Please send me all of the details for the class, including how many hours the class will take, cost to those attending, materials needed, the location (if you have one already) and how many you can comfortably teach . It would also be nice to be able to add a bit about your experience as a teacher of the particular project.

Have ideas for a class you would like to see taught? Please send me your suggestions and if you know who teaches the class, that person's information.

Thank you

YIS

HE Hadassah Sarai bas Yossi

MoAS Barony of the Steppes



Hospitaler

Signý Sigurðsdóttir
hospitaler@steppes.ansteorra.org

Newcomer Academy will begin on Tuesday, February 7 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm before Fighter Practice. It will be held on the first Tuesday of every month at the same time.

Lady Signý Sigurðsdóttir



Social Media Officer

Lord Gilli Refsson

Greetings Populace,

January has been a great month for Steppes! Everyone enjoyed 12th Night and we got some awesome pictures from the event. We have a few things coming up soon. The Barony of Namron will be participating in their Medieval Fair Demo at the end of March, and Steppes plans to invade! What does have to do with our social media accounts? It's a great chance for some fun opportunities letting them know Steppes is coming and we mean business! Feel free to show your support for our family up North by uploading photos and videos to show off Steppes might!!! Before our invasion of the North, a lot of us will going out East for Gulf War. I hope to see tons of videos and pictures of everyone at the week long event. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any ideas for our online activities.

In Service,

Gilli Refsson



Chronicler

Rayya al-Ruqay'a
chronicler@steppes.ansteorra.org

Many thanks this month to Esme Malaspina for her knowledge of Catholic saints, a new addition to the Steppes Letter! I'm lucky to have the chance to add persona and research articles to our publication.

Thanks are also due to Cassian Jaskólski, a talented photographer who has brought gorgeous images of 12th Night, Coronation, and Queen's Champion to our social media! The new portrait of our Baron and Baroness on page 4 is his work.

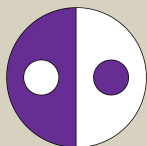
I am always looking for new articles to share far and wide! Do you have research? Photographs? Drawings, poems, historical resources, information about the SCA, or miscellaneous shenaniganery and hooliganism? Send me an email!


In Service to the Dream,
Sanyida Rayya al-Ruqay'a

Baronial Positions Accepting Applications:

Minister of Children, Youth Combat Marshal, & Quartermaster.

[Apply Here](#) to help your Barony do great things!



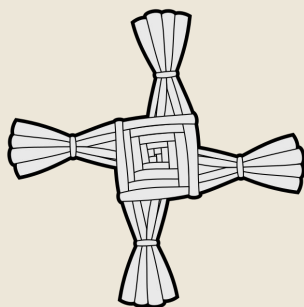


Folklore of February Saints

By Esme Malaspina


It seems like the new year was just a moment ago, and we're already in February. In the medieval period, February was not just about that St. Valentine guy whose legacy has been so appropriated by the greeting card industry. While there were saints for nearly every day of the month, I'd like to concentrate on two of my favorites from the medieval calendar, St. Brigid and St. Blaise, before we get to St. Valentine.

I mean this to spotlight some saints everyone might not have heard of and a few that everyone has heard of, so feel free to send me stories of your favorite saints and tell me who you'd like me to talk about next month.



St. Brigid of Kildare was allegedly born in 451 in County Louth. According to folklore, she was the abbess of a convent in Kildare. Like most saints from the time period, there's not a lot written down in period about her, but there is a large body of legends and stories of miracles about her. The most interesting thing about her is the debate on whether she existed at all^[i]. Scholarship and academic opinions are divided on whether her legends are based on the story of a real woman who founded a large convent in Kildare, or if she was actually a Christianized version of the Celtic goddess Brigid. Goddess or saint (or both), she is honored as a patroness of Ireland, where people still celebrate her feast day of February 1 by making crosses out of straw that, when blessed, are said to protect homes from lightning, and also by groups of young people making corn dolls and parading them around to homes in the neighborhood asking for food or money, much like carolers or the custom of hunting the wren on St. Stephen's day. (We'll get back to him in December.)

[i] <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/research/spotlight-research/will-real-st-brigid-please-stand> retrieved 2/23/2023
<https://irishfolklore.wordpress.com/2017/01/28/saint-brigids-day-traditions/> Retrieved 2/3/2023



St. Blaise, one of my favorites as someone who grew up Catholic, has his feast day celebrated on February 3. He is said to have lived during the reign of the Roman Emperor Licinius, He was reputed to be a healer of legendary capability, healing both humans and animals. Because he was said to have healed a child who was choking on a bone lodged in his throat, he is counted as the patron saint of ailments of the throat[i]. The custom of a priest taking crossed, lit candles to bless the throats of his congregation to protect them from illnesses of the throat survives into the modern period. As children, we were lined up to practice this ceremony with unlit candles the day before in hopes that the priest wouldn't set anyone's hair on fire.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Saint-Blaise>, and a more thorough bibliography can be found here: https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=28 Retrieved 2/3/2023

Finally, let's talk about **St. Valentine**. There are competing life stories for him, with more than one martyred Saint named Valentine sharing the feast day of February 14th. His legends include him marrying young couples who were forbidden from marrying. He also was reputed to have healed a blind girl, and when he was taken to his execution left her a note signed "Your Valentine," thus beginning the tradition of the Valentine card. Finally, his feast day is in mid-February, when according to folklore, birds would begin pairing off in preparation for nesting season, so it's at least a season of love for birds. Aside from being the patron saint of lovers, he is also, among other things, the patron saint of beekeepers.

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=159 Retrieved 2/3/2023, and has a particularly good bibliography at the end of the article

Culinary Guild of Hestia

We have been on Hiatus for the holidays, but will be returning in February. Check the [guild web page](#) for meeting date and time!

COMING TO WARLORD: Food Joust Part Deux! (Second Annual Food Joust)

This year's Warlord is going to be spectacular as it is the 50th Anniversary. The Food Joust will take place over both Saturday and Sunday this year. Teams will be 3-5 (max of 5 per team) ALL team members MUST be present both days. Deadline for entering will be April 15th 2023 (all Team members must be listed at this time, no changes allowed) Recipes will be due no later than May 15th 2023. This is a firm deadline.

Teams must complete 3 courses within the allotted 3 hour time span (including plating and presentation): a main dish, a side dish and a dessert. ANY Dishes not on the presentation table on time will not be judged. NO ADVANCE PREPARATION will be allowed. The following MUST be used: At least one ANIMAL Protein (i.e. Beef, Lamb, Poultry, Pork) You may use more than one. A minimum of 3 vegetables. Salt, Rosemary, Basil, Cinnamon, Garlic, Red Wine, Heavy Cream, Butter.

On Saturday the Teams will be competing for the items they get to use to cook with. They will still plan their menus in advance, and provide the recipes and ingredients lists to us in advance of the event, but how well they do in Saturday's competition can cost them ingredients or gain them an added ingredient bonus, or even extra time to cook, depending on the challenge.

In Service

HL Hadassah Sarai bas Yossi

(MKA Judie Willey)

Minister of Arts and Sciences, Barony of the Steppes

Scribal Guild

Your Barony needs you!!! We still have a backlog of Charters which need to be completed, (Hopefully prior to Warlord).

Please see Hadassah or Torquil to obtain Charters to paint. There have been changes made to the process. You will be required to sign out the charters, so we know who has them in their possession.

YIS
Hadassah

Steppes Loose

Association of Brewers

Greetings Steppes,

Currently no meetings are planned, but keep an eye out here each month for more details. Also join the [Facebook group here.](#)

Music and Vocal Non - Guild

Greetings,

Practice at home until further notice. Watch the Facebook group at St. Romanos Chorale and Oakwood Consort.

Contact Mistress Xene at music@twmarsh.net for addresses and more information.

All music practices are cancelled until further notice.

In Service to Crown and Kingdom,

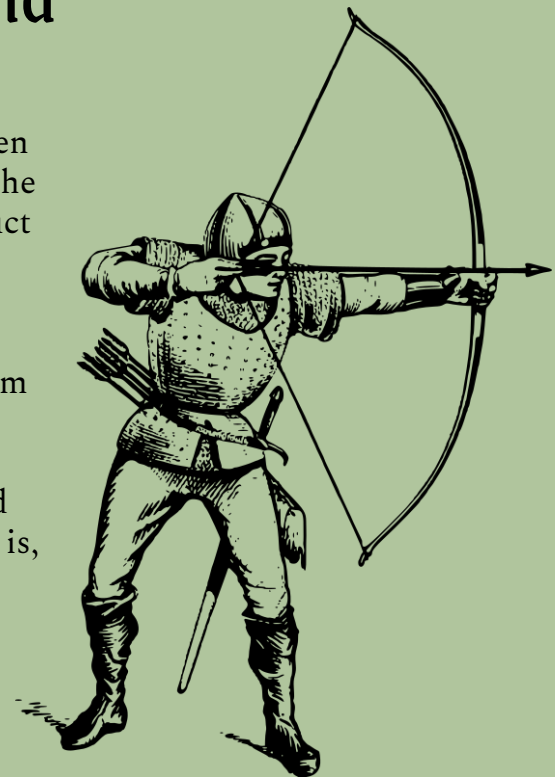
Mistress Xene Theriane, OL, OP



Steppes Bowyer & Fletchers Guild

The Steppes Bowyer and Fletchers Guild is the oldest archery guild within Ansteorra that we know of surviving even the later established now defunct kingdom's archery guild. The Guild exists to share knowledge between members and instruct others how to accomplish all the projects, skills, and items required to round out personal kits for our SCA archery community. We have recently included thrown weapons and siege weapons to our instructional activities since the kingdom has combined all airborne missile activities together.

Guild meetings are a bit sporadic at the moment but ideally we will meet on the last Friday of the month at a guild members' home. If you want to know when the next meeting is, please contact the Steppes archery marshal.
archery@steppes.ansteorra.org





Seneschal

Hákon the Blacksmith
seneschal@glaslyn.ansteorra.org

Exchequer

Lady Machteld van den stienhuse
treasurer@glaslyn.ansteorra.org

Knight Marshal

Mistress Colleen O'Kelly
marshal@glaslyn.ansteorra.org

Hospitaler

Lady Alhdryð ceorlstrang
hospitaler@glaslyn.ansteorra.org

Greetings Steppes!

It was wonderful to see so many of you at a memorable Twelfth Night! Thank you for your hospitality and friendship.

The weather has been icy for us all, and I hope everyone has stayed safe and warm. As things warm up and dry out we'll be back to practice on Monday nights, we hope we'll see you there!

Hákon the Blacksmith

Seneschal, Canton of Glaslyn





Featured Dance Music Ruffy Tufty

New this month, we have a featured piece of music for our barony's musicians! This is chosen to help our up-and-coming recorder choir to get their feet and grow their skills. The Pennsic Pile also has options for other accompanying instruments. Ansteorra's very own Master Avatar has put together this collection of dance music, the [Pennsic Pile](#). It is available to download and print for your own use.

I look forward to practicing this piece with everyone at musical practices in the coming month!

Ranya al-Ruqay'a

Ruffy Tufty is a good place to start. It's on page 92 of the [current pile](#), and the soprano part is in C and relatively easy, especially the first couple of lines. It frequently shows up on set lists for balls here. It's from Playford's *The English Dancing Master*, which is 1651 but we use stuff from it all the time so it's good. It can be heard, in the correct key, [here](#).

I'd kind of like to teach it next, because it's real dance music. Also, I'm thinking if people can hear it, it's easier to learn. Finally, there's no need to panic. The recording is at breakneck speed, and we usually don't play it that fast. We can certainly learn it slow and easy.

Esme Malaspina

Rufty Tufty

John Playford
The English Dancing Master
1st Edition (1651)

For two couples facing

Arranged by Dera Leed, 1999
Edited by Al Cofrin

(AA BB CC) x 3
or (AA B CC) x 3

A

G Am D

1 G 2 G

Sopr

Alto

Bass

B

5 C

1 G C 2 G C

C

11 C

D.C x 3 G C

© Drea Leed, SCA Drea di' Pellegrini
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Come Say Hello!

Barony of the Steppes

[Facebook Group](#) - [Facebook Official](#)

[Discord](#) - Twitter - [Instagram](#) - TikTok

Canton of Glaslyn - [Facebook Group](#)

Kingdom of Ansteorra - [Facebook Group](#)

[Discord](#)



Other SCA Groups

- [Legion of Swashbucklers](#)
(SCA Rapier Fighters)
- [SCA Garb How-To](#)
- [SCA Camping](#)
- [SCA Equestrian](#)
- [Scriptoris of Ansteorra](#)
- [Kingdom of Ansteorra ~
Repository of Class
Handouts](#)
- [Destash](#)
(second-hand gear)

Useful Links

- [SCA Home](#)
- [Ansteorra Home](#)
- [Steppes Home](#)
- [Glaslyn Home](#)
- [Kingdom Calendar](#)
- [Newcomers](#)
- [Recommend
Someone for
an Award](#)



Come one, Come all! Join the Barony of Bryn Gwlad for

Odin's Feast Hall at Candlemas

February 18th, 2023, Site open from 8 am-10 pm

City of Burnet Community Center
401 E Jackson St, Burnet, TX 78611

Art and Science classes
Live Music, Dancing
Feasting

Championships in Cut & Thrust, A&S,
Bardic, Brewing
and MORE!

Adult Event Registration: \$25

Adult Member Discount Event Registration: \$20

Child/Youth - 17 and Under Free

College Student with ID & SCA Membership Free

Sideboard lunch \$5

No flame candles allowed - Site is dry except from 6 pm -10 pm

Feast Pre-registration is Strongly Encouraged

Pre registration Feast: \$14 for adult and \$5 for child

At-the-Door feast: \$15 for adult and \$5 for child

Make Checks payable to: SCA Inc./ Barony of Bryn Gwlad

Event Steward

Mistress Corynne MacLeod

MKA: Leslie Martin

candlemas2023@gmail.com

480.244.8285 text 8-5

Feast Steward

Dona Marie de Girau

MKA: Elayne Hoover

bgfeast@gmail.com

512.905.2609

Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. They may also attend with a 21 year old or older adult with a signed and notarized Minor Event Waiver Form from the parents.

Directions: From Austin - I35 North at Georgetown: Travel west on Hwy 29 to Burnet. Turn left on S Boundary St. Turn left onto E Jackson St. Community Center will be on the right.

From Lampasas - Take Hwy 281 south to Burnet. Turn left on to Hwy 29

Turn right on S Boundary St. Turn left onto E Jackson St. Community Center will be on the right

FROM THE BARONY OF THE STEPPES



STEPPES ^{50TH}
WARLORD

THE OLDEST EVENT IN ANSTEORRA JUST WENT GOLDEN

ARMORED COMBAT CHAMPIONSHIP. RAPIER CHAMPIONSHIP.
BARDIC CHAMPIONSHIP. ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIP. BREWING
CHAMPIONSHIP. THROWN WEAPONS CHAMPIONSHIP.
MELEES. MERCHANTS. CLASSES. HAFLA.

MAY 26-29 2023

SAVE THE DATE