



The Steppes Letter




September 2023



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09 September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
key					1	2
 Glaslyn  Steppes  Events					War of Legends	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
War of Legends	Fighter practice	Scribal, A&S, fighter practice				Kingdom Arts and Sciences
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Fighter practice	Sewing, A&S, fighter practice				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Fighter practice	A&S, fighter practice, business meeting				Elfsea Baronial College
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Fighter practice	A&S, fighter practice			War of Ages	



Event Information

All SCA practices and meetings are free to attend

Steppes Regular Meetings

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

Steppes Business Meeting

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

Archery

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

Newcomers Academy

First Tuesday at 6:30 PM
St Luke's Lutheran Church
1210 W Belt Line Rd,
Richardson, TX

Thrown Weapons and Music Guild

On hiatus

Culinary Guild

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

Scribal Guild

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

Glaslyn Practice and Business Meeting

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

Check us out!





Upcoming Events

War of Legends

September 1st to the 4th

Fort Concho National Historical Landmark
630 Oakes St, San Angelo TX, 76903

Distance from Steppes: 270 miles

[Facebook event](#)

Kingdom Arts and Sciences

September 9th at 8 AM

14100 Memorial Dr
Houston, TX 77079

Distance from Steppes: 260 miles

[Facebook event](#)

Elfsea Baronial College

September 23rd from 8 AM to 7 PM

First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church
1959 Sandy Ln, Fort Worth, TX 76112

Distance from Steppes: 37 miles

[Facebook event](#)

War of Ages

September 29 at 5 PM to October 1st at 1 PM

Nolte Island Recreation Center
2220 FM 466, Seguin, TX 78155

Distance from Steppes: 264 miles

[Facebook event](#)

Words from the Baron and Baroness

Salutations All,

It has been a busy time in these lands over the last month starting off with Steppes Artisan and ending with Glaslyn Artisan. We are just ecstatic about these events, highlighting the arts and the artisans.

Steppes Artisan was an event to remember. Rayya and Sean did an amazing job and the barony really came together to host a fantastic day. It was an amazing day of art as well as a momentous day where a wrong had been addressed. We are proud to have the populace be so strong in their support of recognizing Poul and Edwin both as landed nobility of the Steppes together. Representation is important, and we are glad to have our history changed to reflect more accurate representation.

It has been our pleasure to have Masina as our Steppes Artisan this past year. The competition was fierce, with many worthy entrants. We welcome the new Artisan, Elizabeth de Salisbury.

Our canton of Glaslyn are excellent hosts and Glaslyn Artisan was a delight. Thanks to Colleen and Tereysa for their time and work as autocrats. It was a lot of fun to walk around talking to the artisans and listening to them explain their displays. Throughout the day, we heard many talking about classes they were rushing off to, classes they were excited about, and classes they loved attending. This past year, we have seen our canton find great success at their events and their ever growing practice. We could not be happier for their growth, and it is a joy to have them a part of the Steppes.

In the not so distant future, 12th Night awaits. It will be an event for all, and we have a lot of things planned for a day of fun. The theme is Tale as Old as Time, which will be reflected in the Murder Mystery and in the greatly anticipated French themed feast. It is an event that will inspire regret to all those that miss it! We hope to see many of you there to partake in the festivities!

Glad for Glaslyn,

Baudoyne and Katherine

Lord and Lady of Glaslyn,
Baron and Baroness of the Steppes





Words from Glaslyn

Greetings Steppes!

We were happy to see so many of your faces at Artisan of the Flame! It was a day full of beautiful artistry and learning, with many exciting entrants and over 20 classes!

We congratulate Åsa in blinda for their Boar's Tusk, Kathryn for their Award of Arms, Alhdryð ceorlstrang for her induction into the Order of the Oak, and Mistress Colleen O'Kelly for receiving the honor of the Heart of the Oak!

We also congratulate our artisans: Artisan of the Flame HL Kenneth MacAlister, Novice Artisan Maerwynn of Bryn Gwlad, and Keeper of the Flame of Arts Alhdryð ceorlstrang.

Our deepest thanks to all of our teachers, volunteers, Their Excellencies, Her Highness, Their Majesties, and to all of our guests for making it another memorable event. If you missed out, we can only hope we see you next year!

Our regular practices continue to flourish despite the oppressive weather. As always, visitors from near and far are welcome to our combined practice and populace nights Monday evenings at Northlakes Park in Denton.

Þákon the Blacksmith

Seneschal, Canton of Glaslyn



Seneschal

Antigone of York
seneschal@steppes.ansteorra.org

To the greatest Barony,
Artisan has come and gone!
Congratulations to our new artisan and their muse on such a spectacular showing. I also am grateful to our preceding artisan for her service to the barony with her arts/teaching. We had so many volunteers for setup, tear down, and teachers!

On the horizon comes 12th-Night 2024. The financial committee accepted the bid proposed by Esme and Margery with the delightful dinner by Taly. 12th-Night will include a murder mystery "A tale as old as time", largesse derby, pride fashion show, and other activities! Make sure to mark your calendars for January 6th 2024. The event ad is forthcoming.

We will be posting the opening of the Warlord 2024 bid this month. If you are interested in submitting a bid please contact me so I can give you historical data for your bid. The financial committee is very excited about this coming Warlord and looking forward to new ideas for the event.

A special shout out to my ER deputy Margery for stepping in to handle various tasks while mundane life attacks me. I always know the barony is in good hands if I have to travel or do other life things. On that note, the SMO office has now "grown up" into its own office. As such Margery is a full officer rather than a deputy. Congratulations! Make sure to give Margery a crisp high-five this month.

Last but certainly not least, the financial committee held a long session to discuss the financial policy changes submitted. This review is ongoing but we expect a final version for 2024 to be made public after the next session in September. This is just in time for the great budget shuffle in October.

Antigone

Steppes Seneschal



Exchequer

Lady Astrid Flokadottir
exchequer@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greeting to the Populace,
As of July 31st the bank balance was \$20,998.14.

In August we hosted Steppes Artisans. It was a wonderful event. We made a total profit of \$564.45.

We finally have a new quartermaster.

In Service,
Astrid Flokadottir



Chivalric Marshal

Centurion Magnus Creppinson
marshal@steppes.ansteorra.org

Another Stellar (and very hot) month has gone by, but the training and fighting has continued. The prowess level has been universally raised in The Steppes due to the continued and constant training of our warriors. No major new developments to be stated, same time, same place, same fights. Be on the lookout for Armory Day 2 to be announced in the coming months. And as always if there's any questions please let me know.

See y'all out on the List Field!

Magnus
Steppes Knight Marshal



Archery Marshal

Eadgyth Beornesdohtor
archery@steppes.ansteorra.org

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

Alas, the inferno that is Ansteorra in August burned too hot for us to safely shoot this month. Thankfully, there are other opportunities for archery later this month and for the rest of the year!

Besides our twice monthly baronial archery practices (1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, weather permitting), Elfsea holds their archery practices on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, weather permitting.

Other archery events listed on the Kingdom calendar:

1-4 Sep, War of Legends: Target Archery

15-17 Sep, Raven's Fort 36th Defender of the Fort: Target Archery

29 Sep-1 Oct, War of Ages 100 Years War: Target Archery

20-22 Oct, Wyldewode Northern Border Skirmishes: Target Archery (possibly Combat Archery)

16-19 Nov, BAM, aka Bordermarch War of the Rams: Target Archery and Combat Archery in and around an amazing castle structure. You don't want to miss this!

Stay cool, and stay hydrated — hope to see you on the range soon!

Yours in joyous service,

Lady Eadgyth Beornesdohtor



Rapier Marshal

Mathias Grunwalt
rapier@steppes.ansteorra.org

This July has been absolutely scorching outside, but our wonderful space at St. Luke's Lutheran Church keeps us cool enough to train.

Our attendance remains high with newcomers nearly every week. Drills to work on foundational rapier skills continue to be held at each practice. Experienced rapier fighters from other regions have attended our practices to hone their skills.

September is nearly upon us and with it so will be the beginning of the fall tournament season in Rapier here in Ansteorra. The next several months will have many events that include rapier tournaments, both for single combat and melee. If you want to compete in these tournaments and are not yet authorized in rapier combat please come see me or other authorized marshals at practice.

Lord Mathias Grunwalt



Minister of Arts and Sciences

Hadassah Sari Bas Yossi
moas@steppes.ansteorra.org

Greetings,

Wow! It's hot ! hot! Hot!

Congratulations to the winner of Steppes Artisan Elizabeth de Salisbiry and many thanks to all of those who taught classes. Beginning in September there are changes to the weekly A&S.

Scribal will be the First Tuesday of the month. Many thanks to Lady Eagdyth who will now be handling Scribal for me so I can do other A&S stuff.

The Second Tuesday of each month will be sewing night, Run by Lady Rayya, and Katherine. We will have a few machines available, or bring your own or work on hand sewing.

The Third and Fourth Tuesdays will be for special arts classes.

My time as MoAS will be drawing to a close in March, and I am looking for deputies who will be in training to take over the office. In conversation with the Kingdom MoAS we are looking for people who will keep the momentum of the last 18 months (and months to come) going, as we have strived to bring A&S back to pre-Covid levels. We are still in need of classes for the last two weeks of September.

Mark your Calendar's!! In October, we have our "Messy Arts Day slated for Sunday October 22. Please see the details on our Facebook page. I am extending the closing date on the Poll to 5 PM on September 5th. Please make sure to vote for what you want to participate in, so that I can order the supplies. We are making a day of it... bring lunch, wear garb if you want, and we are doing competition for the best soup and bread for dinner! See You Soon

YIS

ThL hadassah Sarai bas Yossi
MoAS. Steppes



hospitaler

Wilhelm vom Bruck
hospitaler@steppes.ansteorra.org

Hello everyone!

Can you believe that summer is over? It seems like it went by so fast. With the end of summer comes the return of our Hospitaler, Wilhelm, from his yearly pilgrimage to the north! Make sure to give him a warm welcome home.

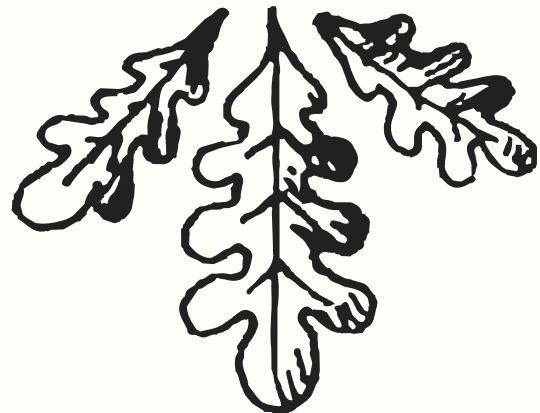
For September Newcomers Academy on 9/5/23 at 6:30pm at St Luke's Lutheran Church, HL Sean Tabor is going to help with running a class about running events, how to get involved, etc.

You don't have to be a newcomer to attend newcomers academy, all are welcome. We have had a huge boost in numbers this summer and I'm excited to see all of the people that attend our September Newcomers Academy.

If you have any questions about upcoming newcomers academy, suggestions on classes you'd like to see, or any other things I can help with, don't hesitate to reach out!

Mhearai Saoirse Hamelin

Deputy to the Hospitaler





Webminister

Hákon the Blacksmith
webminister@steppes.ansteorra.org

Hello everyone!

To anyone who missed the announcement, we have scanned several years' worth of Steppes Letters from decades past and are in the process of scrubbing them of personal information such as addresses and phone numbers. We have most of the issues between 1985 and 1998, as well as ones from August and November 1982. If you happen to have any physical copies of the Steppes Letter from before 1985 or between 1999 and 2006, we would love to borrow them! We'll just need them for a short while to scan them and then they will be returned to you. Archives for 1982, 1985, and 1986 are now available on the Steppes website in the newsletter section, and hopefully we will have more to share with you soon!

As always, make sure you keep an eye on the front page of the website for any announcements, and sync to our calendar using the button on the Calendar of Events page.

If you see an event that needs updating, have something that needs 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
Webminister



Herald

Elionora inghean Ui Cheallaigh
herald@steppes.ansteorra.org

Unto the populace of Steppes and Glaslyn,
Greetings:

I'm certain we had a lovely Glaslyn Artisan (though I wrote this missive just before the event, so I'll be unfortunately vague about the details until next newsletter.) Steppes Artisan was certainly excellent, and we had lovely displays from many people. Huzzah for our newest Artisan, the Honorable Lady Elizabeth De Salisbury, who bears "Quarterly gules and sable, two unicorns combatant Or." which is absolutely elegant in its simplicity.

As a reminder, I'm always on the lookout for heraldic deputies and people who are interested in learning about the submissions process. Let me know if that is something that tickles your fancy and we'll talk. There are some whispers of a herald's retreat coming to the Central Region, so keep your ears open and let me know if you'd like to be looped in on that. You don't have to be an expert to get started as a herald-at-large.

I should be mostly caught up on submissions, or at least in communication with you if we've stalled somewhere. As always, Please always feel free to poke, remind, message, DM, or carrier pigeon me if you would like an update on your status.

In service,

Elionora inghean Uí Cheallaigh



Social Media Officer

Centurion Margery Heron
webminister@steppes.ansteorra.org



Chronicler

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

Greeting Steppes!

I am thrilled to be back as the local SMO for the best Barony in the SCA! As some of you may have seen, the Social Media Officer is now a fully fledged, warranted office! I am also excited to see social media growing in the SCA.

We have a large team of deputies in the Social Media Office who are working on a variety of project from content creation to marketing! In particular, our TikTok has really taken off! If you'd like to be part of the Social Media team, please reach out to me! We are always accepting contributions, like photos and videos, to make posts on our feeds.

Make sure you are following us so you never miss an update!

[Facebook: Barony of the Steppes](#)
[Instagram: @baronyofthesteppes](#)
[TikTok: @baronyofthesteppes](#)

In Service,
Centurion Margery Heron
social-media@steppes.ansteorra.org

I would like to invite everyone to give a hearty welcome to Ade Eszes, the new Deputy Chronicler! Ade and I will be working together on new material, and possibly a new layout. I'm looking forward to seeing the new ideas and energy that they bring to the role as we spread the fame of our artisana, the infamy of our fighters, and the glory of the Steppes entire throughout the known world.

In Service to the Dream,

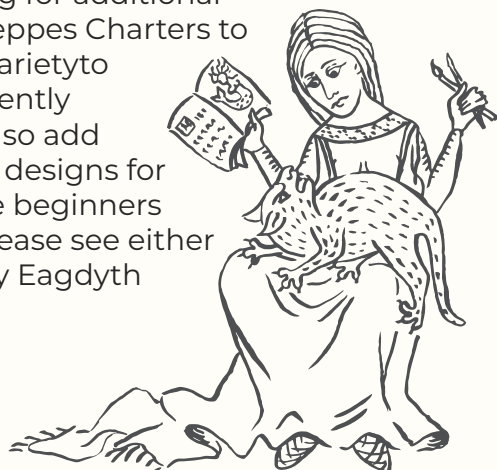
Sayyida Rayya al-Ruqay'a





Scribal Guild

We are looking for additional designs for Steppes Charters to not only add variety to what we currently have, but to also add some simpler designs for those who are beginners to work on. Please see either myself or Lady Eagdyth for details.



Steppes Bowyer and Fletcher's 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 at archery@steppes.ansteorra.com

Culinary Guild of Hestia

Finally, we are back from hiatus! Wednesday September 13 we will meet in person, to grill dinner and discuss upcoming meetings and what we want to learn. Details on Hestia's fb page and in discord. See you there
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

Da'ud Bob

movie review

Sometimes movies are, as Forrest Gump's mama so succinctly stated, "like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're going to get." And musical movies are an even more mixed bag. I have seen musicals that I dearly love! And I have seen musicals that, if every copy were to be removed from the face of the earth, I would not consider a loss to humanity. And then we come to the sub-genre of musicals classified as "rock opera". Such movies can often be low-budget, sloppily produced, and often lack the production values of more mainstream films. And so it was with some trepidation that I approached this month's movie review. I mean, it was based on a Shakespeare play, which left me somewhat optimistic. On the other hand, it had sunk into obscurity practically from its release, thus siphoning away some of that optimism. On the other hand, many of its musical numbers were written by well-known songwriters. On the other hand, quasi-independent productions like this are often not very good. On the other hand, it was directed by a well-known actor of the time. On the other hand, the director didn't have a lot of directing experience. On the other hand... Well, you get the idea. I had mixed feelings about it, but I am always interested in seeing new interpretations of Shakespeare's plays, and so it is that this month, having finally hunted down a hard-to-find (and expensive!) DVD, Da'ud Bob reviews for you the 1973 rock opera version of Othello, *Catch My Soul*.

Like *Hair: The American Tribal Love-Rock Musical*, *Catch My Soul* had a run as a play before being transferred to film. Directed by Patrick McGoohan (*The Prisoner*, *Secret Agent*) and starring Richie Havens



("Freedom", "Motherless Child") as Othello, Lance LeGault as Iago, Season Hubley as Desdemona, Tony Joe White ("Polk Salad Annie") as Cassio, Susan Tyrrell as Emilia, with Bonnie Bramlett, Delaney Bramlett, Raleigh Gardenhire, Billy Joe Royal ("Down in the Boondocks"), and Wayne Waterhouse, this is the story of Othello, only set in a 1967 religious-based commune near Santa Fe, New Mexico. (You may recognize the titles of some of the songs, none included in the play, listed above with their authors who had roles in this movie.) Othello, of course, is a story about jealousy and ambition, and this movie follows the original fairly closely despite the change in venue and period. Though at 90 minutes, it does leave out a fair bit: Roderigo is completely missing ("put money in thy purse," Iago says to him), as is Desdemona's father and the Doge, and a number of other well-known passages ("who steals my purse steals trash") are not included, also.

Good points: The soundtrack; that is to say, both the music and the songs. The songs match well with the storyline, and help to move it along. A lot of the dialogue comes directly from Shakespeare's Othello, and Shakespeare is credited as co-author of the script.

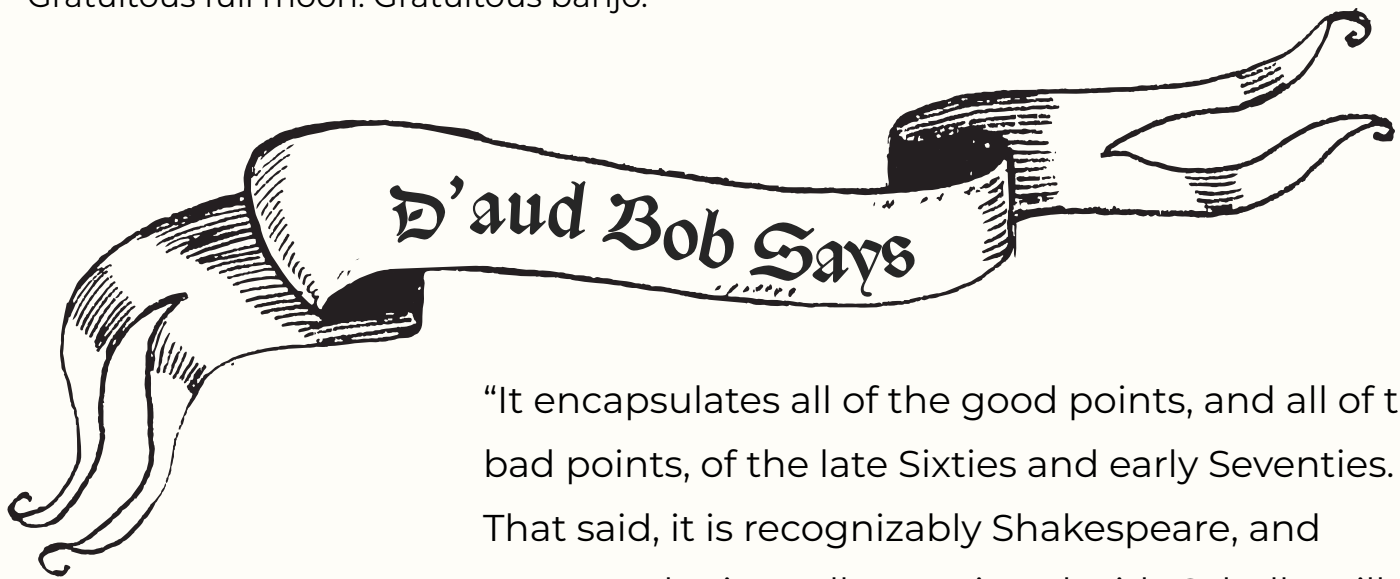
Bad points: A lot of the voiceovers by Iago were more jarring than helpful. Iago is a little too openly a villain. Using a drawknife as a measuring tape. This was a low-budget movie, and it shows throughout.

Zero breasts. One gallon of blood. Two dead bodies. Wine fu. Handkerchief fu. Converted school bus fu. Hatchet fu. Strangulation fu. Knife fu. River rolls. Converted school bus rolls. Gratuitous donkey. Gratuitous burning adobe church. Gratuitous flute. Gratuitous turquoise and silver rings. Gratuitous silver bracelets. Gratuitous full moon. Gratuitous banjo.

71 on the vomit meter



2 out of 5 stars



"It encapsulates all of the good points, and all of the bad points, of the late Sixties and early Seventies. That said, it is recognizably Shakespeare, and anyone who is at all acquainted with Othello will plainly see that. Check it out!"

Credits and Notices

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