

VOX CYNAGUAE

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE PRINCIPALITY
OF CYNAGUA
KINGDOM OF THE WEST
WINTER INVESTITURE AS LV



COVER IMAGE BY MISTRESS DANAE FITZROBERTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

2/13 Queen's QuaranTea
2/13-14 Service Symposium (Virtual)

MARCH

3/13 Queen's QuaranTea

APRIL

4/2-4 West Coast Culinary Symposium (Virtual)
4/10 Queen's QuaranTea



**THE SCA PROHIBITS HARASSMENT AND BULLYING
OF ALL INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS.**

Participants engaging in this behavior are subject to appropriate sanctions. If you are subjected to harassment, bullying or retaliation, or if you become aware of anyone being harassed or bullied, contact a seneschal, President of the SCA, or your Kingdom's Board Ombudsman.

HELP WANTED

This is a list of Officers who need a deputy or a successor. Please consider volunteering; it's a lot of fun and a great way to keep Our Principality going. Please Contact the Officers directly for more information. Details on how to contact them can be found in Regnum at the back of the Vox.

Chatelaine: Deputy

Chronicler: Deputy/Successor

Constable: Deputy/Successor

Copper Spoon: Successor ASAP

Exchequer: Deputy/Successor

Equestrian: Deputy

Lists: Deputy

Minister of the Bow: Deputy

Seneschal: Deputy

Sable Swan Scribe: Clerk of the College

Regalia: Deputy/Successor

Youth Point Minister: Successor/Deputy
ASAP

FROM THEIR HIGHNESSES OF CYNAGUA



Greetings!

Cynagua, the nights have grown cold and long but our hearths glow with not only warmth, but also with love. We have been truly awestruck by those within this principality who have taken time out of their busy schedules in order to serve. We would like to take this time in advance to personally thank you all in advance, for your time, your patience, and most importantly the compassion you have all shown.

YIS

Ragnarr and Brynhildr Prince and Princess of Cynagua.



ART BY JOCELYN D'ORLEANS

FROM THE CYNAGUAN ARTS AND SCIENCES OFFICER

Dear Citizens of Cynagua,

Thorkatla Yngvarsdottir is your new Arts & Sciences Officer for the Principality of Cynagua. She will do a great job in this office. I have had a wonderful time as your A&S Officer and I hope you will be as wonderful to Lady Thorkatla, as you have been for me.

En servicio,

THL Agnes berengarii de Girona

FROM THE CYNAGUAN CHRONICLER

Greetings Cynagua! It has been my pleasure to serve as your Chronicler during these interesting times, but now the search for my successor must begin. Responsibilities of the office include quarterly creation of the Principality newsletter, assisting local Chroniclers as needed, and reporting on the state of the office during Principality business meetings. Please contact me directly at chronicler@cynagua.westkingdom.org with any questions you may have.

Yours In Service,

Baroness Fionnghuala of Cynagua
Cynaguan Chronicler



QUEEN'S QUARANTEA

Her Majesty Vera is hosting a Tea!

Dear West Kingdom, in this time of trial and uncertainty, We must all do our part to keep connected and engaged. To that end, join Us for new monthly tea to gather and connect. We will post details and zoom link each month, so be on the lookout!

It will be on 2nd Saturday of each month from 10-11AM through May

Zoom link to be provided close to the event.

Start Time:

Tea begins at 10 AM and ends at 11 AM



Service at all levels impacts us all

...and yet, we often remain isolated and apart while engaging in or benefitting from service.

Service Folk breeze past each other moving to the next activity. Sometimes their acts remain unseen, other times they call attention to themselves to direct attention where needed. Throughout a typical day, they offer on-the-job training while they spin the world.

Service Folk can lack time to express deeper philosophies, unseen hacks, and the love foundational to their work. Our current world provides opportunity and time.

- Come spend a weekend virtually sharing your real-life experiences and your personal passions.
- Come indulge in learning from others and teaching yourself.
- Come expand your skills and maybe your world view.

Just Come! No Pre-registration needed.

Disclaimer: Please note that, by participating, you are agreeing to be recorded and granting permission to have the video posted/streamed to SCA Social Media Channels.



Facebook event page link:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/318058702599770/>

The Kingdoms of Caid, the West, and An-Tir are proud to host the Society for Creative Anachronism's West Coast Culinary Symposium, virtually on April 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 2021.

This multi-Kingdom, 3-day event will be a chance for like-minded and enthusiastic people to get together and share their love and knowledge of pre-1600 period cooking, brewing and practices and share the tasty results. It is also a time to gather as friends, make new ones, share ideas, and teach our skills to others hoping to learn.

The WCCS welcomes all of those that are interested in the historical culinary arts of all levels of experience. From beginners to advanced, there will be classes and tracks for all. This is a completely free event.

We will be taking reservations for WCCS starting in January 4, 2021 in order to make sure we have enough Zoom links and room availability. Please use this link to register for yourself: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdf9m-jKJpDFxAO9ItF-ADhW8HYa-rw...>

Interested in sharing your knowledge and wanting to teach? Class submissions will begin in January 4, 2021. Please use this link to register for teaching: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfu_PcP5vEBoBx3mBt1legQmUkEofHn...

Information on how to join the event will be shared to registered participants closer to the event.

If you have any questions regarding registration, classes, or for anything else pertaining to the event, please contact the event steward.

This event is sponsored by the Kingdoms of Caid, the West, and An-Tir, which are all a part of the Society for Creative Anachronism. More information can be found on our website here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1755383067972665/>

Event Steward: Asakura Machime (Mercy Neumark) —

E-mail: wccscaid@gmail.com or seneschal@lyondemere.org

Start Time:

Starts Friday April 2 at 11 AM and ends at 2 PM Sunday April 4

Site Fee: \$0.00



Carols once were dances, round.
Doubles: Four upon the ground.
Six bransles left then toss or jump,
What in Arbeau's work is found?

Answer: Official Bransle/ Bransle l'Official.

To do Official Bransle, also known as Bransle l'Official--

Lords and Ladies stand side by side, with the lord's partner to his right.

In a larger group, the lord will have another lady to his left, standing as Lord, Lady, Lord, Lady and so on in a circle.

Begin by stepping sideways to the left and bring your right foot close to it.

Transfer your weight onto the right foot to free up your left.

Take another traveling step to your left in the manner similar to the first.

Congratulations, you have done a Double Bransle Left.

Next, step sideways to the right and bring your left foot close to it.

Transfer your weight onto the left foot, and free up your right.

Take another sideways step to the right.

Yay! You have done a Double Bransle Right!

Repeat that until the performance of Double Left, Right, Left, Right has been achieved. Most Bransles that have Doubles one after another will have you alternating directions.

However when it comes to singles, they can go on in one direction indefinitely, and in the case of Official Bransle, there are six singles to the left.

To do a single bransle to the left, simply step sideways to the left.

Bring your right foot next to your left and transfer your weight. Your left foot should be now free to take another step to the left

Repeat this move, bransling in a circle until you have taken six traveling steps to the left.

As for the toss or jump, this is because while Official Bransle is sometimes called Toss the Duchess, you aren't actually supposed to toss the lady. After the lord puts his hands on the lady's waist, she is supposed to jump and let him guide her across to his left side.

The whole dance repeats from the top for however long the musicians want it to go on for.

When in a larger group, the lord would now have a new lady to his left.

It can also be done in a single couple, which is where the "fear of heights" modification comes in handy.

"Fear of Heights" -- Not everyone is trusting of others "tossing" them in the air, and the lady should signal this by offering her outside, right, hand to her partner. The lord should then take the lady's hand with his own outside, left, hand, and steady her as she walks across.

RIDDLE AND ARTICLE BY RUDABA AL-NAHDIYA

And so when done with only one lord and lady, the lady can get tossed across. On the next repeat of the dance, she can guide the lord to walk in front of her. Technically, they would have changed gender roles for the even repeats because when side by side, the lords stand on the left and the ladies on the right.

Thank you,
Rudaba al-Nahdiya,
Muse of Rivenoak

A TALE BY BARON JONATHAN BLACKBOW

I am an old man, now.
My eyesight is dim, and my feet falter.
But they have managed to carry my tales throughout the Known World, even unto the Barony of Riven Oak.
I know, mind you, that the Barony of Riven Oak is spelled with one word, as far as the locals are concerned: therefore, Rivenoak.

But the name flows so quickly off the tongue.
The tavern I heard the story of the Shire of Great Oak was known as the Oaken Bucket Tavern. It was built from the wood provided by the Great Oak when ...

Ah, but I'm getting ahead of myself.
Long, long ago, so long ago, in fact, that the Known World was but the Known Kingdom of the West, there lived a tree in that very Kingdom. It shaded acres under its leaves. Seven thousand people could stand together under it

(yes, this was back before the Great Plague drove us apart) with room to move. Truly, it was magnificent. It was so large, and stood on its own, in the middle of a massive field, that people simply called it - what else?- the Great Oak.

This tree had been there in its place since before the dawn of recorded time, and everyone assumed that it would stand until the end of time. Visitors to the tree said, in fact, that it seemed to exist merely to drive home the fact that time was a human concept, not a concept of the world humanity lived in. The tree had no goal, no end; it simply **was**.

It drew the attention of the famed Robin Hood, who used it as a base of operations for some time. Nay, I see you shaking your head in disbelief, for surely Robin Hood was based in Sherwood Forest in England, not the Kingdom of the West; but I tell you truly, he was here. Robin Hood, as far as I can tell, is akin to King Arthur, in that he is one of those timeless heroes that shows up when he is needed most, and leaves when he is no longer needed. And such was the case with this incarnation of the famed outlaw.

But of course, heroes always show up to solve problems created by...

Villains.

And our villain of this piece was, of course, the one you would expect.

...the Sheriff.

the town nearest the tree was named...Chico. I know, not a grand name or a name that sticks in the mind, like...Sherwood, or Yorktown, or Nottingham. Just Chico. But there it was.

The Sheriff (we will call him simply The Sheriff, because The Sheriff of Chico just doesn't sound imposing) sought to shut down the lifeblood of Chico, which, frankly, was entertainment. Indeed, it was known as a rock-the-clock, no-holds-barred, party town, and that simply couldn't be borne by The Sheriff. Robin Hood showed up several months after The Sheriff had ground the town under his heel, and promptly began his well-known, anti-establishment, anti-authoritarian tactics. Within weeks, The Sheriff had been reduced to a laughingstock, along with his few remaining followers.

The Sheriff, it seems, didn't give up easily. He took a few hostages and let the public know that he was taking them to, of all places, The Great Oak. Needless to say, Robin couldn't let this pass.

The confrontation was its usual epic self, my eager listeners. Witty verbal interplay mixed with dazzling displays of swordsmanship. I'm told there's even a movie about it. (wink wink)

Robin had defeated The Sheriff; his men had been driven off, and Robin was in the midst of freeing the hostages when The Sheriff played his final card. Unbeknownst to anyone, he had secreted several barrels of gunpowder around the Great Oak, and, upon his defeat, stumbled off into the darkness. Everyone assumed he was running away from his proper denouement, including Robin. But no, he was running to light the fuse.

The explosion was epic. The Great Oak was blasted completely out of the ground and into several pieces. The Sheriff was raving mad when they found him; all he could say was "I won, I won" over and over.

And truly, it seemed he had won. The Great Oak was no more. In sorrow, the Shire of Great Oak changed its name to the Shire of Riven Oak, which was inevitably shortened to Rivenoak, as it is now known by the locals.

And time passed, as time does. The town of Chico dwindled to a hamlet, and the previous party atmosphere just sort of...drifted away. Not with a bang, as you would say, but with a whimper.

Then one day, Robin returned. The populace begged him not to stay, because they knew he would simply bring more strife with him. Robin smiled and begged the people's indulgence for three days. "At the end of three days," he said, "I will leave, rather than bring misery to you once again. But your town will once again know its atmosphere return; for it is my fault that your camaraderie left, and I shall return it."

And he turned to the woods nearest where the shattered remains of the Great Oak lay, and whistled, and from those very woods came a host clad in Lincoln green; and they set to work on the ruins of the Great Oak.

And, true to his word, three days later a tavern rose from the wreckage of the Great Oak, and the sign overhead read Riven Oak Tavern.

And upon the bar inside the tavern sat a squat jug, that poured whatever liquid it was asked to pour, at whatever temperature it was asked. People came from entire countries away just to see the wonderment of The Jug In The Tavern, as it became known.

And Chico's atmosphere, and fun loving attitude, and rock-the-clock party, returned almost overnight.

And you would think that would be enough. But Robin was not done. No one has figured out how he did it; but if you have not heard of Chico, or the Riven Oak Tavern, or The Jug, it is simply because you either do not need it, or are not worthy of it.

I myself have seen The Riven Oak Tavern. I have puzzled over its magic for years, until one day I gave up and asked the proprietor, a gentleman by the name of Jacob. He smiled, and said "go read the sign."

And I said "I HAVE read the sign."

He said "go look at it ...closely."

So I wandered outside and stared at the sign for what seemed like forever. Finally, at the bottom, in the smallest print, I saw the words that explained it all. I don't mind telling you what they are, because even knowing will do you no good. You either find The Riven Oak Tavern, or you don't.

The words were
Jacob Stonebender, Prop. for
Michael Callahan, Esq.

Believe me or not, as you will.

Salud.
Baron Jonathan Blackbow



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*(Note: All Seneschalate changes **MUST** be approved by the Principality seneschal and be listed in the Page prior to publication.)*

- Belogor, Shire:** (Siskiyou & Modoc Cos.): Contact Principality Seneschal
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- Baronial Yahoo Group: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rivenoak /
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There is a strong and deep history of bardic excellence in the people of Cynagua.

Now is the time to put those skills into service.

Please send your articles, stories, songs, poems, drawings, photos (or anything else that you think might be of any use) to the Chronicler of Cynagua. chronicler@cynagua.westkingdom.org

The *Vox Cynaguae* is Cynagua's voice; not just that of Her royalty or officers, but that of Her people as well. Make your voice heard!

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