

The Benevolent Order of Scurritious Monks

Abbot's Report

Winter Solstice, 2011

Baby, Baby, Baby!

Brother Mutha (Al Olson) became a grandfather when his daughter, Gracie, gave birth to Roxi Jane Rivera Olson-Henderson on January 25th of this year. Far from being frightened like many children her age might be, Roxi



looks like she *owns* the big, scary executioner. A few months later, on June 26, 2011, Brother Jones (Maria Jones) gave birth to a bouncing baby boy in Pennsylvania.



Robert James Emmanuel Jones is already looking like a young executive. Brother Curious (Bret Blackshear) and his wife Kathleen Finnegan were a bit late arriving at the

New York Renaissance Faire this summer. Naomi Maurin Blackshear was born on August 7. She and her



family blew into the Renaissance Faire a couple of weeks later, right along with Hurricane Irene. Welcome to the babies and congratulations to the proud Mamas and Papas! Apologies to any babies we may have neglected to mention.

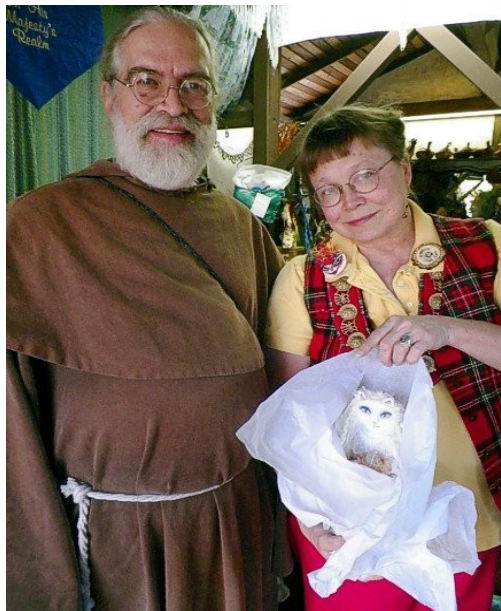
11/11/11 Deep in the Heart of Texas

Our Abbot traveled to Texas in November to attend a Weenie Roast near the Texas Renaissance Festival. Thanks go to all of the monks who contributed money to help make the trip possible. Brother Doctor (Danny Lord)



was our Abbot's right hand man as the first weenie hit the grill precisely at 11:11 on 11/11/11. Two hours later,

when it was 11:11 on the west coast, a Grand Council of Mayan elders performed a ceremony in Los Angeles to mark a spiritual reawakening as thirteen ancient crystal skulls were brought together for the first time. At the same time, our Abbot announced the appointment of 19 new Scurrilious Monks. The next day, he made his first visit to the Texas Renaissance Festival in ten years and spent a pleasant afternoon with Brother Hack of the Perpetual Spin Cycle (Ellen Horr). She celebrated an



auspicious birthday as she entered through the festival's front gate along with 42,087 other people. That was the largest number of people ever to attend any renaissance festival anywhere, at any time during our currently acknowledged human history.

Returning to Texas, after a long absence, reminds one of what a foreign country it is and how very different it is from any other place on earth. We still dream of acquiring the 78 acre plot that lies between the festival and Toon Town and we still dream of building a grand and glorious monastery on that land and if enough of us truly believe that the idea is a good one, the idea will eventually manifest. Our Abbot, a damned Yankee, is not the ramrod required to head up the project. In Texas, there are some things that you just can't do if you're not a Texan. In Texas, The Benevolent Order is being run by women. This is an intelligent model for a monastery if ever there was one. It will be Texan women who will create and design the Texas monastery. If the men do it, and if the women don't like it, they're going to have to tear it down and start all over again. We could not help noticing that there were no less than nine Scurrilious Monks living in Nuevo Chile in November. We do not urgently need a new monastery in Texas. There already *is* a monastery in Texas. All it needs is a bit of recognition and, eventually, a major addition on the adjacent lot. Our Abbot hereby

recognizes Nuevo Chile as a Monastery of the Benevolent Order of Scurrilious Monks. Behold the awesome power of our Abbot.

Old Men have Health Issues!!

As most of us progress into our sixties, health issues start popping up all over. We can't hope to write about all of them but here are a few we've heard about lately. Brother Doctor was feeling weak and tired this summer when he popped in for the last half hour of the Tuxedo Weenie Roast. When he got home to Minnesota, he stopped in to visit the Almquist family and Tama thought that he might be having some heart problems. She called Lloyd Brant and the next morning, Lloyd dragged Danny to the hospital. They drained out some dirty fluids, checked his pressure, cleaned his glasses, gave him some medicine and some good advice and sent him home. Now he feels better than he's felt in years and he is up to all of his old tricks again. Sometimes, going to the doctor can be a good thing. When our Abbot traveled to Texas in November, the first guy he went to visit was Brother Capt'n Joe (Joe Babcock). Capt'n Joe has used his body hard for more than sixty years and his knees have about given out and his neck isn't quite right, either. He rides around in electric wheel chairs now. Since he has a couple of extras, our Abbot got to take one for a test drive. Joe's house and shops are all wheelchair accessible but it's not easy for a novice wheelchair operator to keep up with him as he zooms around the estate on the guided tour. The light house in the front yard is an ongoing project. He's building museum displays for the Heavener Rune Stone's museum near his home town of Heavener, Oklahoma. The state park there is being turned over to a private group and Joe believes that the property has some potential for development as a tourist destination. He's also building a tug boat in his boat shop. He gets around faster now than he did when he was walking. After spending a few hours with Capt'n Joe, our Abbot spent the next two nights a few miles further down the road at the home of Brother Lee's (Ashley Nichols') parents. Jerry and Kathy Nichols have been managing many of the games and rides at the Texas Renaissance Festival for the past twenty or thirty years. Jerry was recently diagnosed with ALS, better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. He can still walk and do most every thing else but his ability to speak has been severely impaired which is kind of a bummer since Jerry Nichols has always been a guy who has plenty of interesting things to say. Kathy takes up the slack in the conversation department and we all enjoyed our time together. Meanwhile, back home in Missouri, Brother Ozark (Bill Pierce) had cataract surgery and he reports that he can see again! Our astrologer, Brother Francis (David Doyle), remains incommunicado in an undisclosed location. Occasionally, he manages to slip us

a message through labyrinthine machinations and we gladly received another one only days ago. Here it is, excepted in full, minus some mysterious machinations: *When the astrologer was hospitalized for electrical burns in Houston in October 2008, physicians noticed physiological anomalies. While the burn injuries required only a couple of days hospital treatment, the doctors kept him to study the multiple abnormalities. Several x-rays were taken, also several sonograms of heart and kidneys, two MRI scans, and numerous blood tests. Their findings: The cause of the deformities and abnormalities is a MUTATED GENE, FBN1, ON CHROMOSOME 15. The mutant astrologer lives yet. (end of message.)* A



quick Google search reveals that a mutated FBN1 gene on chromosome 15 is indicative of Marfan Syndrome, a rare disease that certain scientists are very interested in studying and observing. Other tall, thin, holy men who have been born with mutated FBN1 genes are Abraham Lincoln and Osama Bin Laden. Brother Francis predicted the chaos of 2011 a few years ago and he reminds us that it is likely to continue until at least 2013.

Obituaries

Jim Darsey Nelson was one of the many Scurrilious Monks whose Holy Name our Abbot did not know. He might have been Brother Pointillist to describe his artistic style. Although he was a Texan by birth, many of us met him during the very early years of the Sterling, New York Renaissance Pleasure Faire where he sold prints and cards from the very beginning of our shared renaissance adventure. Jim's body was cremated shortly after his passing. Here is some information Kristen Meaders shared on The Dead Wren Singing and Dancing Society's Facebook page on December 19: *I just received a lovely letter from [Jim D. Nelson](#)'s mom, Maxine. She included several of Jim's prints including his last piece called "Rolling Home." What an unexpected surprise, something I'll always treasure. She really appreciates hearing from his friends so please write or call. She also mentioned: "I literally have hundreds/thousands of his prints. If you know of other friends who might want prints, please feel free to pass my name and address on to them. I know Jim*

would want me to share them."

Maxine Nelson

4402 Pleasant Drive

Midland, TX 79703 432-694-7620



On August 22 of this year, there was a fire at The Scarborough Renaissance Festival near Waxahachie, Texas. Seven buildings were destroyed including a rest room, The House of Dra and The Legendary Candle Shop. The Candle Shop was three stories of well seasoned solid oak and made for a very hot fire. Six fire departments were called in to help and after the flames were doused, the remains of Will Ross were found among the ashes. Will was a pickle salesman and a member of the site crew who lived in one of the burned buildings.

Reverend Brother Doctor Merlin's (Bill Palmer's) wife, died nine days later. She passed away after spending a month in the hospital suffering from lung cancer. She played the part of Queen Anne Boleyn at the Texas Renaissance Festival for a time and later, performed there with her Scottish Dance Troupe, *Clanfolk*. Our Condolences go out to Reverend Brother Doctor Merlin.

Betty Farrell died on September 23 at the age of 83. She was best known to most of us as the owner and Chief Executive Officer of *Rosie's Posies* with shops in Texas, Maryland, New York and Georgia. Before she started selling flowered garlands at renaissance faires, she worked for a while as "Bunny Mother" at the Baltimore Playboy Club.

David Clauss had a rough year. His wife, Maria died in July. She was the mother of his two children and we can remember her selling CDs for David's band *Celtic Stone* in the early 80s. David also lost his Mother in Law, his Mother and his Father this year.



After Kandra Niagra's house burnt down, she found one of Brother Wiz's White Wizards standing tall among the ashes.