

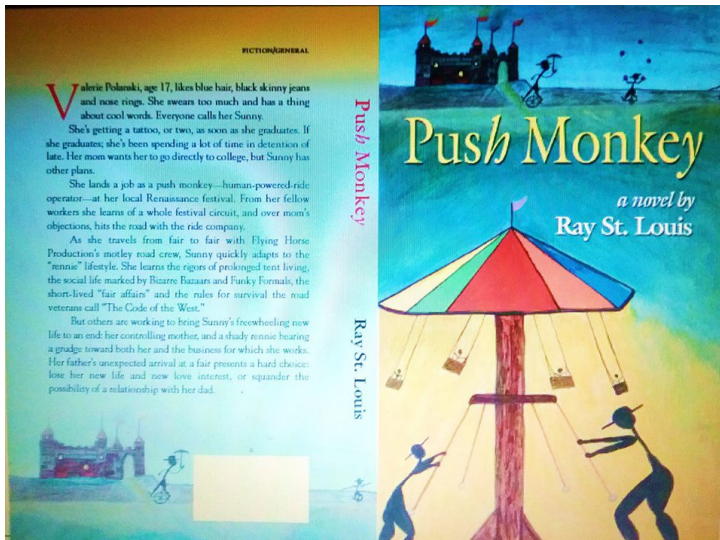
The Benevolent Order of Scurrilous Monks

Abbot's Report

Winter Solstice, 2015

Push Monkey

Brother Can-you-spare-a-dime (Ray St. Louis) has written a new novel which might be available by the time this *Report* arrives in your mailbox. The book is entitled *Push Monkey* and it is based upon Ray's career as a builder and operator of human powered rides at renaissance faires. The cover art for the book has been



rendered by Brother Nom de Plume (Sean Poole). Ray recently wrote, "I think Sean's artwork worked perfectly for this cover. It was just the touch I had in mind. I told the designer at Booklocker I wanted it to be playful, like going to the circus." Sean replied, "A few phone calls with Ray, a re-read of 'The Road Dog Diary' and the piece flowed from my Muse onto the paper with ease. This was a fun one to paint." As soon as the publisher does whatever publishers do, we'll be able to find *Push Monkey* along with Ray's other books on his Amazon Author's page here: http://smile.amazon.com/Ray-St.-Louis/e/B00MB36940/ref=ntt_dp_epwbk_0

Monastic Retreat in January

Brother Blue (Rio Blue) once told our Abbot that he wouldn't have a house if he didn't need a place to have parties. He and the ladies of the Nuevo Chile Monastery will be throwing one of these parties in Toon Town, Texas on January 8, 9 and 10, 2016. Brother Geek (Joni Massengale) recently posted an

article to let us know what we might expect if we can muster the courage to travel to Todd Mission, Texas during the Mercury retrograde to attend this gathering. *Here's what's in store:*

Friday - arrivals

Friday evening - dinner

Friday night - electric parade ELECTRIC PARADE - Parading on Renfaire Drive to the Monky Formal location. Brother Hutzpah (Cindy Wexler) is the coordinator. and "Monky Formal"

Saturday morning - breakfast

Saturday afternoon - Weenie Roast and games GAMES - Bocce, board games, interactive games (charades, pictionary, etc.) We need a volunteer to coordinate games.

Saturday evening - pot luck dinner

Saturday night - Variety Show

Sunday morning - brunch

Sunday afternoon - Monks of the Round Table discussion group

Sunday & Monday - departures

This three-day event is an opportunity to get together to share food, fun and friendship. Here's an idea to go along with Sunday's brunch: maybe a little Bizarre Bazaar? Perhaps if Brother Can-You-Spare-a-Dime (Ray St. Louis) is here and has his latest book in from the publisher he could set up a table, I wouldn't mind having my quote pins available, we got horns and wizards and jewelry... SATURDAY NIGHT VARIETY SHOW - Participation is mandatory! We're all creative; we can come up with some way to entertain each other. Poetry, music, dance, impersonations, speech, comedy, juggling... Coordinator TBA. Know that participation may be as small as greeting and a bow, and as long as - the stage manager will allow. HOUSING - We don't have a coordinator per se, but contacts can be made through Brother Blue (Rio Blue) and through the secret BOOSM Facebook page. Have or need a space for a houseguest, tent or trailer/RV? Let everyone know on our Facebook page or privately through Rio. SUNDAY AFTERNOON ROUND TABLE - A chance to

brainstorm and discuss ideas such as using our group status for insurance, building plans & ideas for monastery(ies), the future of Ren Faires, whatever sort of topic might be of interest to our hive collective. Our Abbot will be moderating this event. He wants to discuss the appointment of new monks, Brother Hermes' (Doug Kondziolka's) plan to acquire a Weenie Mobile and plans to finance and build monasteries. There may be a slide show. TRANSPORTATION - Need a ride to/from airport? Want to carpool with someone? Brother Pluck (Martha Gay) is the transportation coordinator. The Facebook group page is also convenient for setting up ride shares, etc.

FOOD - We have three meals to cover: Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and Sunday lunch. The ideal situation is for a person/couple/group to serve as host for a meal, seeing to the cooking, serving and cleaning. Brother Geek (Joni) is the overall food coordinator and can make sure you have what you need for cooking in the Nuevo Chile kitchen. The kitchen will also be on hand for cooking items for the Saturday pot luck.

CLEAN UP - We're a reasonably civilized bunch so we shouldn't need much in the way of picking up after ourselves but we could use a volunteer to make certain that cans are emptied and bags make it to the street.

Brother Doctor Wins Big at GoFundMe

Brother Doctor (Danny Lord) is a comedic genius who lives a life full of adventure. Last October, he was driving his van from Minnesota to Colorado. He was pulling his box trailer. His girlfriend, Angela, was following him in her little car. When Danny's drive shaft broke, she had to swerve to avoid it as it went spinning across I-70. Danny pulled over to the shoulder as smoke poured out from under the van and Angela pulled in behind him. There was a moment of panic as Danny's van and trailer started rolling backwards and Angela had to shift into reverse in an attempt to avoid the unavoidable but, thankfully, gentle collision. Danny gave Angela his phone and told her to call AAA and 911 as he walked off down the interstate to decompress and look for his drive shaft. The police came. A firetruck came. Finally, a tow truck arrived after having been stuck in traffic. The van was declared Dead On Arrival. They had friends nearby who offered the couple and their cat and their

goose a place to stay while they figured out what to do next.

The mechanical breakdown happened while Danny was also dealing with health problems. He has had an irregular heart beat since he was a boy. Now that he is an old man, his heart has been demanding attention. He'd had heart surgery last summer and his doctors wanted to keep an eye on his progress. During their extended stay in Colorado, Danny was keeping appointments with his cardiologist at the same time he was trying to replace his vehicle. Being practically broke was making dealing with the physical and mechanical problems difficult. Angela stepped up to the plate and hit a home run. Danny didn't want to ask his friends for money so she did it for him. She set up a GoFundMe campaign. To make the long story a little bit shorter, within the next two months, 87 of their



friends contributed \$6,152 to put Danny and Angela back on the road. They are now wintering in Arizona in their (somewhat) new one ton Chevy van.

Crystal Pavilions

Our Abbot has taken a great interest in Brother Rock's(?) (Rock Ridgeway's) newest entrepreneurial enterprise. Most of us are familiar with the multi functional garments known as Chameleons that Rock has been making and selling at renaissance faires forever and a day. He has now expanded his business to include Crystal Pavilions. Rock has invented several unique designs for modular tents, domes and pavilions. The designs are simple, easy to build



structures based on sacred geometry imitating nature. Most of his structures are skinned with canvas but recently, he has been posting pictures of a Crystal Pavilion that will be sheeted with plywood.

Brother Sister is Influential!

Earlier this year, Brother Sister (Gale Tallis) was named one of *Kansas City's Most Influential Business Women of 2015*. She used to be the General Manager of the Kansas City Renaissance Festival. We shamelessly stole this story from *KC Magazine's* website, thisiskc.com.

There's never a dull moment for Gale Tallis, executive director of downtown's historic Folly Theater. Much of her job involves collaborating with the board of directors to secure funding for the maintenance and preservation of the 115-year-old building, which began as a vaudeville and burlesque hall and hosted greats like the Marx Brothers and Humphrey Bogart.

Thanks to their efforts, the theater has a marquee sign for the first time since 1974, the building has been

painted and refurbished inside and out and sponsorships have made Cyprus Avenue Live! at the Folly, the Folly Jazz Series and the Folly Kids' Series successes.

Tallis helps book entertainment for select shows as well as serving as the project manager for building products that ensure "The Grand Lady of 12th Street" will be around for Kansas Citians to enjoy for years to come. Part of that future includes playing a vital role in the



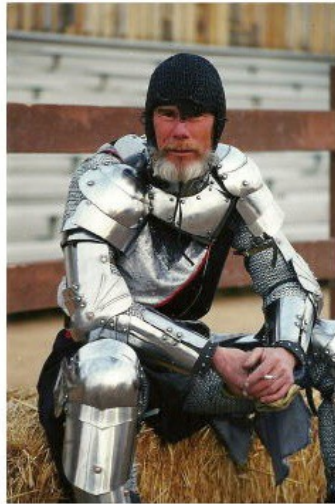
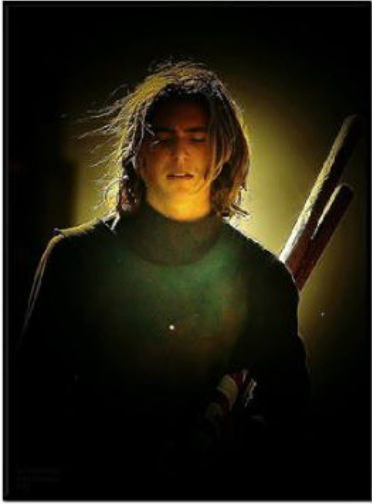
revitalization of downtown KC, in part by partnering with charter school Crossroads Academy, UMKC conservatory and the Kansas City Art Institute under Tallis' direction.

Obituaries

2015 was a deadly year for rennies. Brother Chutzpah (Cindy Wexler) maintains a database on Facebook that lists people associated with the renaissance festival industry who are no longer among the living. The *Dead Wren Singing and Dancing Society* added at least 53 new members in 2015. Larry Daniel Kaufman, who



had worked at faires in California for twenty years, was one of the 14 people killed in the San Bernardino shootings on December 2. Gus Stravakis and Stephen



Ommerle (Omms) were both jousters. Bob Dilger had jewelry shops in Florida and New York along with his widow, Gayle Balcon. Ryan French was the son of hair braider Gayle French. Most of the rest were relatively unknown to our Abbot.

As far as we know, Brother Charles (Chuck Dixon) was the only Scurrilious Monk to pass away this year. Chuck had been a close friend of our Abbot's for more than thirty years. He grew up in Macombe, Illinois. After a brief career as a drummer for a rockabilly band called the *Rainbow Riders*, Chuck went on to work with Brother Day V.O. (Dave Dardis) at the Rainmaker Trading Company. Rainmaker had bronze sculpture



and jewelry shops in Illinois, Wisconsin, Texas, Kansas and elsewhere. Rainmaker shops always ended up being centers of social activities because Dave and Chuck were a couple of very sociable fellows. They were among the first to build a shop at Scarborough

Faire in Texas. During those early years, a cup of beer cost a dollar. When last call was announced at the end of the day, Chuck would often slap fifty bucks down on the bar and he would announce, "I'll have fifty beers!" He never wanted the party to end just because the faire was closing. Later on, Chuck became an apprentice to willow furniture maker Brother Ronald. He built and sold willow chairs, tables and love seats at most of the same shows he had worked at when he had been a



Rainmaker and he opened shops in Georgia and Arizona as well. He also worked on site crews in Texas and Arizona. Somewhere along the way, he met and married the love of his life, Marsha (Murf) Murphy. Murf had art prints and cards for sale in some of Chuck's willow shops and the two operated a consignment craft shop for a while near the Rainmaker Trading Company in Makanda, Illinois. Chuck finally copped an attitude about renaissance faires and he walked away from them, leaving a few booths behind without bothering about trying to sell them. Once Chuck copped an attitude about anything, there was no changing his mind. He and Murf moved into a mobile home park in Lawrence, Kansas and he spent several years working as an apartment manager and maintenance man. When Murf's parents got old and sick, Chuck and Murf moved into Murf's childhood home outside of Lawrence to help care for them up until the time they died. Chuck developed a cancerous tumor on his butt and had his entire left leg amputated. He spent a few years in a wheelchair before he succumbed to lung cancer. He died peacefully at home, under hospice care, on July 15, 2015.

