

# The Benevolent Order of Scurrilious Monks

## Abbot's Report

### Summer Solstice, 2016

#### Monastic Retreat

As advertised in last December's *Abbot's Report*, The Benevolent Order of Scurrilious Monks held a monastic retreat in Texas over the course of a four day weekend that officially began on Thursday, January 7. Most of the



monks attending were already in Texas but Brother Ted the Head (Ted King) traveled all the way from Michigan, Brother Nom de Plume (Sean Poole) traveled from South Carolina, and our Abbot traveled from Missouri. We were also pleased to welcome Brother Costello (David Roe) who left New Orleans for the first time in several years to attend the event at our Nuevo Chile Monastery. Brother Blue (Rio Blue) and other local residents provided various living accommodations for out of town guests. Brother Capt'n Joe delivered and set up a luxurious travel trailer for our Abbot to enjoy. Of course, there was a weenie roast but that paled in comparison to the rest of the food that we happily devoured during our stay. Brother Geek (Joni Massengale) kept the pots warm and the smorgasbord filled and she was ably assisted by Brother Dances With Scissors (Mary Lee) and other neighbors who prepared all manner of delicacies. Brother Bothered (Clark Orwick) supplied games and Brother Marx (Owl Morrison) provided fireworks. There was music throughout the long weekend, both recorded and live. We spent most of our time together sitting around the campfire, catching up and reminiscing. We finally got down to business starting at 1:11 on Sunday afternoon. Back in 1981, our Abbot started dreaming of building monasteries at renaissance faires. Monasteries can provide living accommodations for rennies who

travel from one show to another as well as providing homes for elderly monks during their golden years. We have already waited too long. Brother Babi (Mary Palmer) is already living in a nursing home with people who have no concept of what her life in the renaissance festival industry may have been like. At age 82, Brother Peter Rabbi (Mitch Cohen) is probably not far behind. Brother Time (Dick Sheridan) recently celebrated his 80th birthday. They are the vanguard and the rest of us are following in their footsteps. Our Abbot stopped in Arlington, Texas to visit with Brother Babi on his way to Toon Town. Her husband, David, died in 2014 and she moved into the nursing home soon after. Mary spends every day in bed. She seldom has visitors and she misses her husband and her friends. Her phone number is (682) 429-6264. Our Abbot regrets that we have not yet provided a place where monks can receive geriatric medical care in the company of kindred spirits. This became our main subject of discussion during our January business meeting. At the time, there were 34 monks who lived somewhere in Texas. We soon added nine or ten more. A group of 44 Texan monks represents a powerful force. We might be able to build something nice in Texas. 17 monks live in Grimes County, home of the Texas Renaissance Festival. Our Board of Trustees agreed several years ago to submit plans to King George to build a monastery on the Festival grounds. Things have changed since then. King George is no longer the sole monarch in charge of his kingdom. The Texas Renaissance Festival is now run by a corporation. The corporation, it seems, is more interested in profit than it is in people. The consensus around the campfire was that the festival is no longer rennie friendly. We discussed alternatives. Brother Capt'n Joe (Joe Babcock) suggested that we look at property near Dobbin, twenty or thirty miles away from the Festival. Our Abbot insists that our monasteries should be in or adjacent to renaissance festivals. However, he realizes that Capt'n Joe is a creative genius and he probably has something in mind that the rest of us have not yet envisioned. Brother Wiz (Don White) suggested that we may or may not be able to buy a five acre plot across the river from his estate. A

number of us later meandered down Renfair Drive to explore the property in question. We also discussed the possibility of building a monastery at the Sherwood Forest Faire, which is a newer show, closer to Austin. Oddly enough, no one mentioned building anything at Scarborough Renaissance Festival, closer to Dallas. We also discussed what a monastery might look like. Our Abbot has a traditional view. He thinks a monastery should be built of stone and it should have arches, columns, towers and stained glass windows. A monastery might also include theaters, TV studios, artist studios, a wood shop, a mechanic's garage, livestock barns, a brewery, gardens, a greenhouse, medical facilities, a sauna next to a swimming pool, a communal kitchen and dining room as well as living facilities with flushing toilets and hot and cold running water. An alternative is something more like we already have, comparable to our Nuevo Chile Monastery in Texas and our Blue Moon Monastery in Florida. This plan is much simpler. We can simply buy a piece of land and start building individual housing units, one at a time. Our Abbot is hoping for something grand but is willing to settle for something modest. The plans need to be conceived, or at least approved, by women. If the men think of something and build it, we'll have to tear it down and start over again if the women don't like it. We can manifest anything we can imagine. The most important thing we did at our retreat was to inspire more monks to imagine what our next monastery might look like. Then we appointed some new monks. For the first time in the Order's history, our Abbot allowed discussion on the appointment of new monks. Some of our new monks are people that our Abbot has not yet met. Brother Bothered (Clark Orwick) was a strong advocate for appointing some younger monks and he came up with a number of suggestions. Our Abbot, thinking of how many envelopes he will have to stuff on the solstices, did his best to reject as many candidates as he could. We finally agreed on 15 new monks and two more were added after consultation with Mother Superior (Julia Sutter). Our 17 new brothers are pictured on the last page of this report. We send each of them congratulations or condolences, whichever may seem most appropriate. New monks may or may not wish to review a history of the Benevolent Order which can be found in the 2009 winter solstice Abbot's Report.

<http://boosm.org/reports/BOOSM41.pdf> In the 2008 winter solstice *Abbot's Report*, there is an article that

contains information that may or may not be of interest for new monks under the headline, "What Does This All Mean?" <http://boosm.org/reports/BOOSM39.pdf>

## Money

Although our Abbot has personally chosen a life of relative poverty, he wishes great abundance for the Benevolent Order. During our monastery discussion at our monastic retreat, he urged everyone to assume that the Benevolent Order has ten million dollars to spend on building monasteries. He wants everyone to think big. There is plenty of evidence to suggest that our Abbot is losing his mind. One need look no further than his Facebook posts to see that this may be the case. He thinks that NESARA, the Global Collateral Accounts and St. Germaine's trust fund are more real than imaginary. He has faith in Neil Keenan and his two football fields stacked high with gold bricks. He thinks that the Chinese Dragon families' plans to eliminate war, starvation and poverty might be for real. He suspects that the concepts of global abundance and prosperity are more likely to be legitimate than the program of austerity that we are currently living under. He hopes that Sheldon Nidle knows what he's talking about when he says we're all going to be given \$600,000 with access to 6 million more for everyone who can come up with a good plan on how to spend it. Sheldon also says that everyone's monthly Social Security payments will be increased to \$2500. Our Abbot is probably a gullible old cockeyed optimist. In fact, the Benevolent Order's bank account holds only \$14,886.21. In the event that windfalls are not forthcoming, Brother Bacchus (Dennis Fitzpatrick) has recently put us in touch with Rosie Lynn Roberts who seems willing and able to help us apply for grants. Grants for housing and medical facilities for old people are available for 501(c)(3) non profit organizations like ours. We've never gotten any grants before, mostly because we've never applied for any. Grants are way better than loans. We need to have business and building plans in order to apply for grants.





## Toon Town is a Disaster Area!

During our monastic gathering, Brother Blue's back yard had a pond that hadn't been there before and it was kind of pretty. Four months later, large portions of Toon Town were completely submerged. On April 18, the high water mark was seven feet, six inches. On April 25, President Obama declared Renfair Drive a federal disaster area. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Red Cross brought in supplies and helped with the clean up. A month later, on May 27, it rained again and this time, the water rose two feet higher. The high water mark was nine feet, six inches. It rained again in June and on June 11, Toon Town was declared a Federal Disaster Area again. Trailers, vehicles and shipping containers floated downstream. Brother Bothered's trailer



looked like this. Homes were destroyed. Tent dwellers lost all of their possessions and became more homeless than they had been before. During the not so merry month of May, 25 trillion gallons of rain fell on Texas,



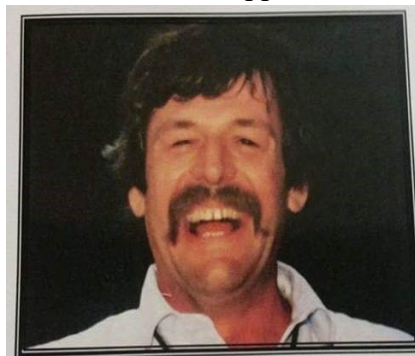
enough to cover the entire state with eight inches of water. Brother Troll (Bevan Iredell) set up a Facebook page to keep everyone informed about the 2016 floods.

He posted several videos and photos that give a good idea of what happened. The page can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/588409137993572/>  
Although there has been help from FEMA, The Red Cross, various local church groups, The Plantersville and Magnolia fire departments, the Texas Renaissance Festival, a few other renaissance faires, and many other groups and individuals, the recovery is by no means complete. Donations are still being accepted via a GoFundMe campaign. That page can be found here: <https://www.gofundme.com/ToddMissionFlood>

## Obituary

Brother Piece o' Cake (Terry Boquist), aka Big T, kicked the bucket on Monday, May 23, 2016. He was sixty years old when he died from an inoperable cancerous tumor that had wrapped around his aorta. He was a wood



*"Goin' up to the spirit in the sky  
That's where I'm gonna go when I die  
When I die and they lay me to rest  
Gonna go to the place that's the best."*

butcher by trade. He built shops and sold wood carvings at renaissance faires in Minnesota, North Carolina, Kansas, New York, Maryland, Arizona, and Texas. We remember him as a charismatic character who was always a lot of fun to be around. Terri Koithan, aka Little T, is the mother of his

two daughters, Hollea and Aliza. She kept us updated during the last two months of his life. Her Facebook page contains a treasure trove of pictures of Terry and his artwork. She recently posted this: *We will be firing up the Bro Bogey Best Ball Bash in honor of Big T this summer in Sterling. Planned so far during the last half of the faire in late July (mid week) Watch for updates.* The day after Big T died, Little T posted this: *As he was dying he looked at us and asked us not to be sad and not to cry. His request is that his life be celebrated with good stories about the times he shared. He has left us with a loss for words but they will come. In the last few months he has been surrounded by love and laughter. That was his gift. That's how we need to honor him. His artwork is our reminder.*



**Welcome to our New Brothers!!**



**Amoreena Hunt**



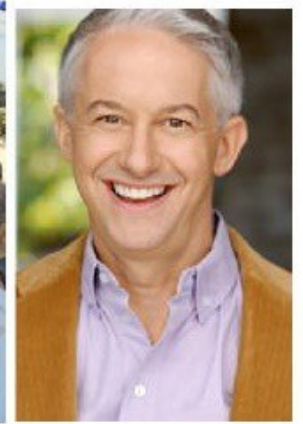
**Bryan Toranzo**



**John Coiner**



**Marshall Davis**



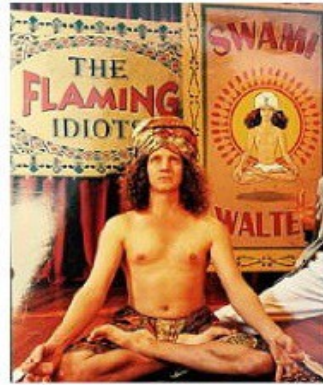
**Rob Williams**



**Chris Puente**



**Gaea Yard**



**Kevin Hunt**



**Mark Carboni**



**Gayle French**



**Heather Moon-Whinnery**



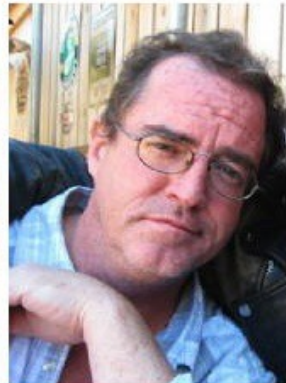
**Mark Gauvin**



**Martin Hill**



**John Myers**



**Jon O'Connor**



**Paula Rossman**



**Terri Koithan**