

The Benevolent Order of Scurrilious Monks

Abbot's Report

Summer Solstice, 2017

Makanda Eclipse!

According to an article entitled *The Most Hippy Towns in All 50 States*, the most hippy town in Illinois is Makanda. That historic town has long been the home of Brother Day V.O. (Dave Dardis) and his Rainmaker Trading Company. On August 21, 2017, at 1:21 pm, the line that traces the central path of a total solar eclipse will pass right through Dave's front door on the somewhat famous Makanda boardwalk. Scientists and eclipse chasers from all over the world will be converging upon Makanda. Ozzie Osbourne will be playing music at the Moonstock Festival in nearby Carterville. All Scurrilious Monks are invited to bring



sleeping bags and join the party. In the early days of American Renaissance Faires, Rainmaker Bronze Jewelry and Sculpture booths were popular gathering places at Faires in Wisconsin, Texas, Kansas, Illinois and elsewhere. Dave still has a shop at the Michigan Renaissance Festival. He knows how to throw a party. An interesting YouTube

video entitled "Dave of Makanda" can be found here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=98YFrUW8Lw The Official Website for the August 21, 2017 Solar Eclipse in Makanda, Illinois can be found here: www.makandaeclipse2017.com That website features a page entitled, *Dave Dardis: How This Makanda Artist Lines Up*. On that page, as well as on this page and on the website's home page, there is a photo of the line that Dave painted along the path of the eclipse. Being in the path of a total eclipse is a fairly rare event. The most remarkable part of this Makanda eclipse story is that Makanda will be in the path of another total solar eclipse seven years from now on April 8, 2024. The paths



of the two eclipses are shown intersecting on this map. X marks the spot where The Rainmaker Bronze and Copper Art Studio is located.

Johnny Fox Defies The Grim Reaper!!

Kimberly Dulka, better known as Farmer Kim, was one of the many people responsible for saving the life of Brother Swallow (Johnny Fox). She set up a GoFundMe account and a large Facebook Group that manifested some very powerful magic. At this writing, the Facebook group "Friends of Johnny Fox" has 2,233 members. That is a magic number in a few different ways. The group was formed to support Brother Swallow in his battle with cancer of the liver. At the top of the group page, there is a pinned post which shows a link to a GoFundMe campaign. In the short time that the campaign was running, it raised \$55,673. The GoFundMe is no longer active but on June 22, 2017, there will be (was, by the time you read this) a benefit variety show at the Chesapeake Arts Center in Baltimore, Maryland. The show will feature about a dozen "A list" Renaissance Festival acts including Hey Nunnie Nunnie, Puke and Snot and Hilby the Skinny German Juggle Boy.

Tickets are selling for \$25 in advance and a few may still be available for \$35 at the door. All of the entertainers are performing without pay and all proceeds will go to pay for Johnny's medical expenses. Here is a picture of Johnny



with falconer Ray Pena who has also been battling cancer. So many things have happened since Farmer Kim began reporting that our Abbot had forgotten that Johnny had been lying in a hospital bed in an induced coma when the Facebook group was started on March 27, 2017. Farmer Kim reported that nine days earlier, on Saturday, March 18, Johnny had attended a wellness expo in NYC where his friends had a hard time keeping up with him. He was vibrant, excited and in high spirits. Two days later, on Monday, March 20, Johnny fell on a patch of black ice while taking the garbage out and his body went haywire. Later that week, he was admitted into the hospital. On Saturday, March 25, Johnny was sedated and put on a respirator. The next day, his doctors were saying that he had only hours to live. Farmer Kim signed onto Facebook and put out a call for help which quickly traveled around the world. She told us that Johnny had been diagnosed with an illness a couple of months earlier. The word "cancer" was still not being mentioned. The Facebook group and the GoFundMe campaign quickly went viral. The next day, Brother Billious (Bill Jezzard) who was in Bali, asked his Balinese shaman friend, Manik, to empower Johnny to be able to choose his path. A day later, Brother Mama Woman (Toni Lamberti) was driving along a Virginia highway. At the top of a mountain, she felt Johnny's presence. She told her friend that Johnny had

made the decision to either stay or go. The same day, Farmer Kim posted that Johnny had awoken from his coma. He was talking and he had brushed his teeth. Tammy Colvert said that he had been laughing hysterically. Later that afternoon, Arsene Dupin posted that he had spoken with Johnny on the phone. On March 31, Johnny Fox made his first post on his Facebook group page. He told us that Gabriel Q had stopped by the hospital for a visit. He also said that the reaper was not allowed in for at least 25 years. On April 3, Fa Peckham posted that she had also visited Johnny at the Yale medical center in New Haven, She posted some pictures of Johnny in his hospital bed. Four



days later, Farmer Kim posted that Johnny was going home after having spent nearly two weeks in the hospital. Johnny's son, Kelly, wheeled him out and we thought that Johnny was out of the woods. A week later, she posted that Johnny was envisioning his perfect health and that he was asking all of his friends to do the same. At that time, very few of us had any idea of how very sick he still was. Johnny

finally told Farmer Kim to go ahead and tell everyone that he had Stage 2 Liver Cancer. He had a big 10.3 centimeter tumor on his liver along with 5 or 6 smaller tumors. Earlier, several blood vessel ruptures had resulted in massive internal bleeding. Because of the size of the big tumor, he was not a candidate for chemo, radiation, surgery or transplant. Yale Medical Center had set him up with Hospice Care at his home in Connecticut. Farmer Kim asked us for suggestions on alternative cancer centers, for donations to his GoFundMe campaign and for prayers. On April 21, she shared a link to a newspaper article in the *Capital Gazette* which informed many of his fans from the Maryland Renaissance Festival of his illness. A few days later, Johnny did a Skype interview which appeared on Fox News Baltimore. His Facebook support group grew again. Johnny posted, "Happy Earth Day friends! I'm extremely humbled and grateful for the amazing outpouring of love I've received. Please believe me when I tell you that your love is being received and I feel it. I have nothing but positive intentions on getting past this hurdle, as I have been working on making tumors disappear. I am researching options for treatments and plan on starting soon. I'm being taken care of in the greatest company of

friends. THANK YOU, johnny". Johnny and his friends researched cancer treatment centers in California, Nevada, Texas, Canada and elsewhere. After conducting a Skype interview with Doctor Thomas Lodi in Arizona, Johnny decided he wanted to go there. On April 27, Farmer Kim posted that they were exploring options to travel from Connecticut to Arizona. They were checking with Medical Van companies and Air Ambulance Services. The cost of a ride in a medical transport van would have been \$14,500. An Air Ambulance Service quoted them a discounted price of \$30,000 for the four hour flight. They decided to rent a motor home instead. Before they set out on their trip, Johnny posted, "Can hardly believe I got a call from England and it was the Real Patch Adams. WoW!"



Legendary Clown Doctor Patch Adams called Johnny for the 2nd time later that night with more words of wisdom. He advised Johnny to "STAY FIERCELY POSITIVE, PLAYFUL AND LOVING - NO GLOOM or DOOM." On May 2nd, Johnny embarked upon a whirlwind cross country journey from Seymour, Connecticut to Phoenix, Arizona along with Glenn Singer, Scott Houghton, Tammy Calvert, Tomas Kubinek and Kimberly Dulka. The RV had four beds and four drivers so they were able to complete the trip in just 58 hours. Johnny wheeled into the Oasis of Healing on the fifth of May, 4 minutes before his scheduled appointment. Three days later, Kristi Bigsmiles stopped by for a visit. On May 15, Johnny started on a juice diet and people from all over the country joined him from their homes. On May 24, Johnny visited a Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix. He was able to walk for more than a mile without a cane, walker or wheelchair. On June 15, he posted a picture of himself doing Yoga by the pool at The Oasis of Healing. He reports that he is growing stronger every day. He is planning to perform magic and swallow swords at the Maryland Renaissance Festival in the Fall.

Our Abbot is a Criminal!!!

In January of 2016, the Benevolent Order held a monastic retreat at the Nuevo Chile monastery in southern Texas. Our Abbot thoroughly enjoyed four days of meetings, meals and monastic fellowship. Sometimes, exceptionally good days have to be followed by exceptionally bad days to bring things back into a normal state of balance. At this writing, marijuana is, in one form or another, legal in thirty of our fifty United States. Unfortunately, Texas remains one of the less fortunate states. There were miles and miles of Texas that needed to be traversed before our Abbot could return to the safety of his monastery in the Ozarks. Our Abbot was nearly to Oklahoma when he was waylaid by a municipal Texan highwayman who took all of his money and his new bag of pot and then threw him into the Grayson County jail. After spending a sleepless night in the company of a dozen other unhappy miscreants in a crowded holding cell, our Abbot was allowed to call a bail bondsman who was reluctantly convinced to accept an out of town check for \$1500. Said bondsman was kind enough to drive our Abbot to an ATM where he was able to withdraw 300 more dollars. That was barely enough to satisfy a kindhearted tow truck driver who had hauled our Abbot's minivan to a distant impound lot. After a return to the jail house to retrieve his laptop and his telephone from the arresting officer, our Abbot was able to use his debit card to buy a sandwich from a Wal-Mart that gave him enough cash back to complete the trip back home to Missouri. Although the most traumatic part of the adventure was over, the legal battle dragged on for well over a year and the ramifications are ongoing. The aforementioned bail bondsman recommended a highly respected local attorney who assured us that, due to his many years of experience and his highly placed connections, he would be able to have the case dismissed. The arresting officer had no probable cause to make the traffic stop or conduct the search of the vehicle. Our Abbot made the 800 mile round trip to Texas four more times. He donned a jacket and tie and endured the sanctimonious indignation of court officials four times before finally being sentenced to four years of probation. A week later, our Abbot made the acquaintance of his probation officer, Ms. Tammy Freeman. She informed him that because he had possessed a bag of marijuana in Texas fifteen months earlier, he would no longer be allowed to leave the State of Missouri. All of his festival contracts for 2017 had to be canceled. Brother Donald will be keeping monthly appointments with his probation officer for the next two to four years. After 38 years of traveling cross country to tell stories at far flung renaissance faires, our

scurrilous Abbot has been forced into retirement. At age 65, he now lives on Social Security.

Big vs. Small

Our Abbot would like to see large Scurrilous Monk monasteries at all of the major renaissance faires. He likes to dream big. He envisions massive stone buildings reminiscent of Baroque Gothic Cathedrals. Ideally, monasteries would each be equipped with large and small indoor theaters, restaurants, art studios, recording and television studios, laundry rooms, barns, garages, medical facilities, living quarters and more. This is an idea that he has been trying to plant in people's minds for more than thirty years. There have been many variations on this theme.



This year, we heard about a Masonic Temple for sale. It is in the village of Little Falls, New York, about a two hour drive from the Sterling Renaissance Faire. Our Abbot wants monasteries at or adjacent to faires so this is not exactly what we are looking for. But the \$325,000 price tag on this beautiful building presented a tempting opportunity. We could probably write a grant to buy something like this. The old Lodge provides a model for some of the things that we might be able to build at a renaissance faire. It has two great halls which could be used for



theaters or retail spaces. It has two kitchens. One is equipped for commercial purposes while the other is better suited for residents. There are four bedrooms. At least one of those is a round tower room. Old mansions, castles, resorts hotels, hospitals, churches, department stores, colleges and the like



are always available on the real estate market. They often sell at bargain prices because very few individuals are able to maintain or utilize humongous estates. Property taxes often make large properties cost prohibitive. Non profit religious organizations like the Benevolent Order have the advantage of being tax exempt. Another alternative to large monasteries is a group of tiny houses. In many ways, a community of small residences would be simpler and more practical than a grandiose edifice. Unexpectedly, a tiny house recently popped up on our Abbot's three acre plot in the Missouri Ozarks. Our friend Suzan Stewart



is buying a storage shed / tiny house on a rent to own basis. After making just one low monthly payment, the 12' x 20' building was delivered and set up in about an hour's time. Monks are always encouraged to imagine and envision more possibilities.

Financial News

Our Abbot is trying to diminish his internet addiction. He is no longer allowed to travel so Facebook remains as one of his windows to the world. It is an important venue for him to keep track of his friends. There are several other wise people who he likes to follow on the www. Among those people who he has never met are Simon Parkes and Clif High. Both of those gentlemen have predicted that the value of dollars will soon decrease and that the value of silver will soon increase. This reversal has not happened as rapidly as we might have expected. Nonetheless, our Abbot still believes that the shift will occur sooner or later. On March 13, 2017, he converted nearly all of the Benevolent Order's dollars, 15,000 of them, into silver. He left a mere one hundred dollars in the hands of bankers just to maintain our account. At the time, silver was selling for less than twenty dollars an ounce. It still is. One day, we hope that our silver will be worth much more than it is now. It seems unlikely that the value of our silver will decrease below the price that we paid for it. Others wishing to convert their dollars into precious metal can easily do so at www.sdbullion.com.