Benevolent Order of Scurrilious Monks

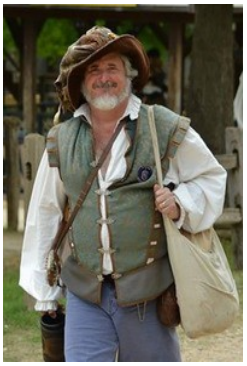
Abbot's Report

Winter Solstice 2025

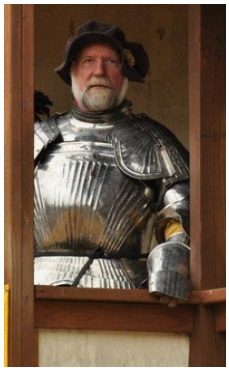
New Monks Appointed!

Brother Wiz (Don White) has been lobbying for new monks for a few years now. On October 14, he tried again. He wrote, “We REALLY need new monks...so many newbies need guidance out here.” Brother Runs With Scissors (Mary Lee) pointed out that we need more monks because monks are dying faster than new monks are being appointed. Our Abbot appointed seven new monks on 11/11/2025. Congratulations or condolences go to our newest appointees:

Audine Umbricht



Terry Foy



Roy Cox

Linda Demian

Dreamie Walker

Cedric Fithelere

Kimbelle Kimbelle

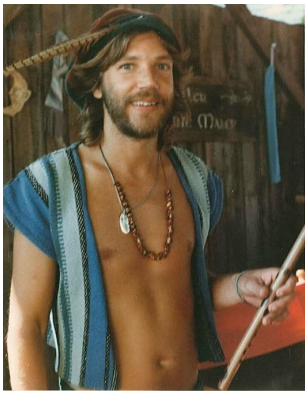
Renaissance Faires Had a Renaissance!

Recently, our Abbot has been reading and reviewing old *Abbot's Reports*. In the winter of 2019, our Abbot wrote that a television series called *American Princess* had appeared on the Lifetime Channel. It was a television series about renaissance festivals. Many of us expected that the next festival season would experience record growth since millions of people had learned about renaissance faires for the first time. In the Summer of 2020, our Abbot reported that the Florida Renaissance Festival had been forced to shut down after its fifth weekend in March because of the COVID plannedemic. Subsequently, the Tennessee Renaissance Festival, the Sterling Renaissance Faire, The Siouxland Renaissance Festival, The New York Renaissance Faire, the Bristol Renaissance Faire and many others canceled their 2020 seasons. Ardent festival goers were extremely disappointed. For many, an annual renaissance faire had been the highlight of their dreary, mundane existence. They talked about it. In 2021 and 2022 the faires experienced a resurgence although many festival patrons and participants were still wearing "protective" masks. In the Summer of 2024, our Abbot reported that the *New Yorker* magazine had published a story about another upcoming television series called *Renfaire*. This one focused on the crotchety 86 year old creator of the Texas Renaissance Festival, George Coulam, better known as King George. The HBO docu-series was highly rated, popular and entertaining. Our Abbot has memories of the early days of festivals when participants often outnumbered patrons. He considered himself fortunate if he could gather a crowd of a half a dozen people to sit down and listen to his foolish old stories. So he was somewhat taken aback when he heard that the Maryland and Bristol Renaissance Faires had been turning patrons away because their fairgrounds were already too crowded with festival goers. He consulted with his artificially intelligent friend Grok and asked if this could possibly be true. Grok replied, "Several American Renaissance and medieval-themed fairs and festivals have reached daily capacity limits. This has become more common in recent

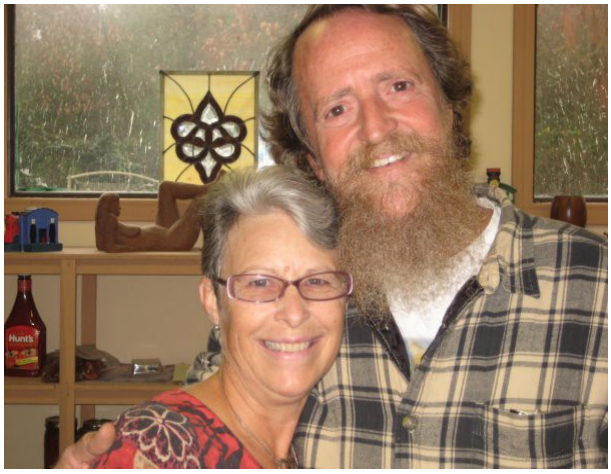
years due to surging popularity, with many events now capping advance ticket sales to manage crowds and avoid overcrowding." Grok went on to provide some examples: "The Maryland Renaissance Festival frequently sells out weekends in advance due to record demand. Non-ticket holders are turned away and gate sales are unavailable on high-capacity days. In 2022, the Michigan Renaissance Festival refused entry to additional attendees in the afternoon after hitting capacity even on cooler or rainy days. In 2023, the Spokane Renaissance reached capacity on a Saturday around 1:30 PM. The fire marshal ordered closure to new entrants, and the staff turned people away despite lines and new arrivals. The Ohio Renaissance Festival turned attendees away prior to 2024. It now caps ticket sales in advance; once capacity is reached, gate and online sales close, though pre-purchased ticket holders are still admitted. Other large events like the Texas Renaissance Festival, the Minnesota Renaissance Festival and the Carolina Renaissance Festival often hit near-capacity crowds or sell out spacific dates. Many festivals explicitly have policies limiting daily attendance for safety and enjoyment, meaning walk-up entry is not guaranteed (or possible) on peak days."

Obituaries

Billy Miller died in Florida sometime in late August or early September. He played music at several renaissance faires for many years. His main instruments were flutes, saxophones and guitars. He also made and sold bamboo flutes. He started an after hours Full Moon Jam at the Bristol Renaissance Faire in 1987 and that tradition is still carried on after all these years.



Brother Love and Light's (Jan Elliot's) husband, Ed Elliot died on August 29, 2025 after suffering complications following major surgery for lung cancer. Ed was a true hero of the Texas Renaissance Festival and of its neighboring community, better known as Toon Town. He was a stained glass artist, a carpenter and a gardener. He had experience as a train conductor, a fireman and police man and he played a major roll keeping the city of Todd Mission safe. Anyone who ever had occasion to move a bench at TRF will tell you those concrete benches are all remarkably heavy. Ed had a hand in pouring nearly every one of those benches. There are probably thousands. Ed



and Jan lived together in a big blue school bus in Toon Town. Ed donated the house he built next door to the bus to the community as a multi use community center. For many years, they hosted a huge Thanksgiving dinner with multiple turkeys and all the fixings. Jan will be hosting a Celebration of Ed's Life on January 10th from 11:30am til 2:30 pm at the Paola Senior Center in Paola, Kansas. Lunch will be served at noon. She'll be cooking fried chicken, mashed potatoes and green beans. Potluck dishes and deserts will be welcomed. The Paola Senior Center is at 121 W. Wea Street. Jan incurred several unexpected expenses during and after Ed's hospitalization. Two of her friends set up a GoFundMe to help defray those costs and they also set up the Ed Elliot Celebration and Memorial Fund. Those wishing to donate to the fund can visit https://gofund.me/a512ed525.

Astrological Forecast

The Order's official astrologer, Brother Francis (David Doyle) has sent a forecast for next year: The alignments of Sun, Mercury, Venus, and Mars with Pluto in January portend cycles of Healing, from the individual level to the World level. The zodiac degree in which these alignments occur indicates self-discipline, purity of motive, compassion, faith in the divine order -- and FOCUSING OF SPIRITUAL ENERGY are required. The esoteric image is A HINDU YOGI DEMONSTRATES HIS HEALING POWERS.