



# The Moonstone

Spring 2024

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Photo by Aesa

*Dear Malagentia.*

**If you attended this year's** Malagentian Test Kitchen, I'd like you to take a moment and reflect on your experience.

Did you catch up with old friends, maybe make a few new ones? Were you able to share a quiet conversation or two at camp, sitting in the dappled sunlight with the quiet sounds of forest surrounding you? If you close your eyes, can still smell the woodsmoke, marbled with the scent of amazing food being prepared throughout the site?

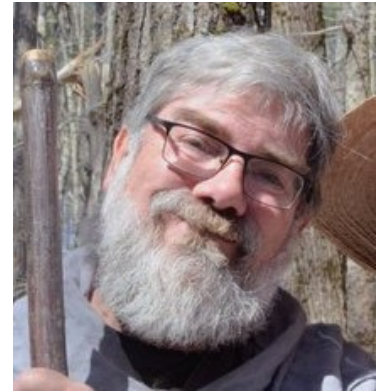


Photo by Collette

**Do you remember how you felt? The peace? The welcomeness?**

**The lack of pressure?**

**Did you feel the community?**

The original goal of the Kitchen event was to offer a venue where we could focus on outdoor cooking in a convenient venue with easy access to multiple, closely spaced camps with firepits. While many events offer a variety of activities, the Kitchen was not meant to be that.

I think we've succeeded in that goal, and the Kitchen has become something more, as well. Probably the best (and often heard) descriptor would be "chill." There's a distinct lack of stress at the Kitchen – despite the fact that people are experimenting with recipes, cooking over open fires, coals, etc.

In my mind, it's a wonderful example of what I think the SCA can be, ideally. Yes, I love our big events – there's so much to do! We host one of the premier and storied East Kingdom events, Great Northeastern War, and it is an absolute blast.

But the Kitchen seems distilled of moments of connection, that feeling of community in a chill environment that many of us need and treasure.

I'd challenge each of you to hold dear to those moments, whether experienced at the Kitchen or elsewhere, and celebrate them for the magic they are. When you're stressed in the world – be it for real-world concerns or for the latest bit of SCA-related drama, use those moments to help re-center and recall what's important.

YIS,

*Wyck*

# From the Chronicler:



**Dear Malagentia,**

It's been a busy few months since our last newsletter, and it looks to be busier still as the summer event season gets underway. For a while it seemed like winter wasn't going to let us go, giving space to a few mild days that teased spring, only to turn back around—and *another thing!*—with a late season ice storm. But Malagentians, being who we are, didn't let that stop us from holding some of our favourite local events, coming together to cook, teach, create, laugh and make memories. I'm only able to capture a small piece of what we've been up to in these pages, which is a good problem to have and one that I hope continues in the coming months.

With so much going on, and with me being only one person, I'm continuously thankful for those who have contributed articles, images and other information to the newsletter. As always, if you have something you'd like to share or an idea you'd like to see included, please get in touch with me directly at [chronicler@malagentia.eastkingdom.org](mailto:chronicler@malagentia.eastkingdom.org) and if you have questions about anything included in this issue, feel free to reach out to myself or any of the officers at the addresses listed.

In service to community,

Aesa



Hanging out at Spring's Inspirations

Photo by Aesa

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# What Have We Been Up To: Otzi's, Inspirations, Kitchens and More

Summer may be peak time for a lot of people in the SCA, with options for multi-day wars and camping and travel practically every weekend. But here in Malagentia, winter into spring is when some of the most beloved and well-attended events take place. Whether you're a Forester, an artisan, a cook, a teacher, a fighter or someone who just loves coming out and spending time with friends, there's always plenty of things to take part in. Here's a quick look at some of the events the Province has hosted since the last issue:



A great turnout at Otzi's Paradise

Photo by Mat

## Otzi's Paradise

Organisers: The Forest Court of Malagentia

Ostensibly a Foresters' Workshop, Otzi's Paradise is open and welcoming to all, Foresters, non-Foresters and friends-of-Foresters alike. Taking place on Bradbury Mountain State Park in the middle of February, camping is available to those with cold-weather experience, but for the most part people come from all over for the day to practice their wintry Forestry skills, hike and snowshoe and then enjoy a meal around the fire. We were fortunate

to have some stellar weather this year, and people are already looking forward to the next one!



Learning to start a fire

Photo by Mat

## Spring's Inspirations



Octavia works on embroidery

Photo by Aesa

Event Stewards: Aurelia Colleoni a'Buccafurno and Aesa Ormstunga

Dayboard: Lydia Webbe

Malagentia's own little arts & sciences event, Spring's Inspirations (not to be confused with its late year counterpart, Autumn's Inspirations) is a recurring, class-based event focused on A&S in all its forms. With over a dozen class offerings that covered topics from bardic to fibre arts to persona studies to

melee tactics to a history of coffee (with a practical portion with tasting, of course), a Middle Eastern focused dayboard and a place to hang out outside by the fire, it was a great day of teaching, learning, skill-sharing and catching up with what everyone's been up to over the winter months.



Simulating melee tactics with Einarr

Photo by Aesa

## Fighting and Fencing at the Church



Get 'em!

Photo by Mat

**Organiser:** Mat Wyck

We saw a great turnout at the extra practice held at the First Baptist Church in Portland—nearly 45 heavy fighters, fencers and cut and thrust practitioners. Motivating for our normal Tuesday night practices can be hard in the winter between the cold and the early dark, so it was nice to have this bonus time on a Friday night to get some martial activity in.

## Malagentia Test Kitchen



Mmmm...

Photo by Collette

**Event Steward:** Lydia Webbe

**Deputy Steward:** Octavia Valeria

For four years running, the Test Kitchen is a collaboration between the Foresters and the Cooks' Guild. Held at Bradbury Mountain State Park, this opportunity to get together with like-minded folk and learn more about cooking over an open fire has proven to be wildly popular, attracting folk from all over the East.

One of the highlights of the event is without a doubt the Northern Chef Competition. Competing chefs are provided with a surprise ingredient that they must use to create a dish good enough to win over a panel of judges. This year's ingredient was eggs, which resulted in a combined win for Frances Hastings and Sarah, who presented ginger stewed pork and spiced pears with meringue. What's extra impressive? Finding out you don't have a whisk and building one on-site, out of sticks. Vivant!



An award winning whisk! Photo by Collette

# Re-Introducing the Malagentian Cook's Guild

*Savillum. Tree splies. Subtleties. Garum.  
Sekanjabin. Sarma.*

**You may have heard** a few of those words thrown around at recent events, and if so, it's generally a good indicator that a member of the Malagentian Cooks' Guild is nearby.

Malagentians have been involved in the culinary aspect of the SCA since as far back as anyone can remember. But the guild as we know it now really kicked-off last spring and has since grown into an active group of people who meet (mostly) once a month on all manner of topics. Past activities have ranged from tapping local trees, to a Roman potluck featuring stuffed grape leaves, to learning hands-on how to salt and preserve meat. Whatever the theme of the month, all the gatherings have one thing in common: good food.

But the cooks of Malagentia don't just meet on their own. Guild members can be seen doing their thing all over the Province—whether it's putting together the dayboard at events, organising cooking competitions alongside the Foresters or feeding dozens of hungry fencers and fighters while they shelter from the rain. In many ways, food is

community and community is food, and the Guild does an amazing job in bringing them both together under the cheerful guidance of Lydia Webbe.



Cooking over an open fire Photo by Collette

*The Cook's Guild was how I dipped my toe into the SCA back in Maryland. It was a fun group that was into working with food and they remembered that the SCA is a game and should be playful.*

*When I moved to Maine, one of the first questions I had was: is there an active Cooks' Guild up here? After a few weeks of being in the area, we found there wasn't really anything active at the moment. But then fast forward to spring 2023. I had been chatting with a few people about how to get this going again. Our current iteration is an off-shoot of our wonderful Forest Court, where there are always people cooking over fires and sharing meals. With such excellent cooks as Octavia Valeria, and food historians like Meara MacNeil, it didn't take long for us to decide we wanted to cook together. We had a quick virtual meeting open to the populace of Malagentia in order to gauge interest and set up our first meeting in June. We were overwhelmed with how many folx showed up with enthusiasm!*

*If you like to cook and eat, please join us! Future topics include foraging for mushrooms, working with local game meats, chocolate, setting up mushroom logs and more! Our goal is to rotate between Saturdays and Sundays, in both Northern and Southern locations. Suggestions for topics and locations are encouraged! Have a project you want to investigate or a process to try? Send in your ideas and we'll see how to set them up!*

*-Lydia Webbe, Malagentia Cooks' Guild  
Mischief- Maker and Guild Mistress*

No experience is needed to join the guild, just an interest and appreciation for the culinary arts. So keep an eye out for the next gathering and come hang out with a group of like-minded folk, swap recipes, research historical cooking methods, discuss technique and of course—eat.

*More information on the Cooks' Guild can be found on FB and Discord, or feel free to contact Lydia directly at [234315@members.eastkingdom.org](mailto:234315@members.eastkingdom.org) or [@KaeKnits](https://discord.com/users/KaeKnits) on Discord.*

# A Note on Dances: Lorayne Almayn

By Mickel von Salm, Province Dancemeisterin



All lined up and ready to go

Photo by Aesa

**Lorayne Almayn** is one of the dances habitually reviewed at the Province's monthly RenDance practice. It is a simple processional dance, with couples lined up one behind the other as everyone does a relatively easy choreography, and it serves well as a relatively easy introductory dance to newcomers, and a warmup for everyone present. My habit has become to also use Lorayne Almayn as the opening dance to most balles that I organize. It allows the partners to visit with each other while not tripping over remembering which foot goes where.

The description of the dance is recorded in a manuscript from about 1570, that manuscript contains information connected with the winter revels held in London at the various Inns of Court. Several almayns became part of a core of dances that the residents of the Inns were expected to know and participate in during the revels, though it seems likely that people's dance instruction was expected to occur beyond the walls of the Inns themselves.

That the Lorayne Almayn appears as a reference in only one surviving manuscript (unlike

the other almayns, which are mentioned across various documents over time) makes one wonder if Lorayne was less favoured than the others, or if it was a dance specific to one locale or one timeframe. Whatever its fate, record of it has survived to present day, for which we are thankful.

*Malagentia's RenDance practice takes place from 7-9pm on the second Thursday of every month, at the First Parish Congregational Church in Gorham (downstairs in the Fellowship Hall). No experience is necessary, bring water and comfy shoes!*

Example dance set:

Lorayne Almayn  
Queens Almayn  
Black Almayn  
Pinagay Bransle  
Maltese Bransle  
Petit Reins  
Belfiore  
Horses Bransle  
Gathering Peascods  
Sellengers Round  
Korobushka



Living it up at the Black Rose Ball

Photo by Aesa

# Remembering Lady Rose Coppersteel



Photo by Brenden

**Last winter**, the world became a little colder, the day a little dimmer when Malagentia sadly lost one of our own. Lady Rose Coppersteel, known to many as Cece, was a familiar sight at local events and there were few among us who weren't well acquainted with her hospitality, and it's inarguable the impact she had on our lives.

I think I met Cece close to when I first started in the SCA—it's hard to say for certain, because it seems like she was always there. When I was young and foolish and terrible at taking care of myself, she was sure to pop up with a snack and a smile. When I was older and foolish and still terrible at taking care of myself, she'd pop up with a snack and a look of loving sternness. She caught me once after a week of rushing around trying to coordinate one of my first event dayboards and said, "you seem stressed."

"I'm not stressed!" I said, in what I'm sure was a calm and completely unstressed tone.

First, she gave me a look that let me know I wasn't fooling anyone. Then, a gift of dried lavender and lavender oil to help with, yes, the stress. It was her knack—knowing how to take care of you before you even knew to ask. She taught me how to accept help and how to offer it back in return.

Cece embodied so many of the best things in the SCA and I'm grateful to have known her. She was

generous, she was caring, and most of all, she was kind. She will be missed.

-Aesa Ormstunga

A Rose by any other name would still be as sweet. Lady Rose, Mom, Waterbearer, but most lovingly, Cookie Lady. She of the delightful laugh and cheerful countenance. Always ready with a brilliant smile and tin of cookies or tub of salsa or fresh baked bread or exactly the thing that you didn't know you needed till you needed it. Like the battery powered bug racket on The Night of the Mosquito one Great Northeastern War many years ago, to the delight of Mickel, who ducked inside the pavilion from which we heard 'zap' 'zap' 'zap' interspersed with fits of giggling as it was made habitable again.

Her Elizabethan lemon cakes won at least a couple A&S competitions. She made an amazing apple oatmeal breakfast biscuit that kept me alive through several GNEs. Her salsa was a bright zing on even the warmest days. The burst of laughter the first time I called her 'Cookie Lady' from across the field at Hebron Pines because I drew a complete blank on her name. And she was Cookie Lady from then on. Fond memories of the first time we returned a "broken" (empty) cookie tin to her, along with several others that had been collected over the months, so they could be "fixed" and joy spread again. We returned the broken ones filled with ingredients too, so the burden of joy could be more easily shared, and there was always her laughter.

Having a lousy day? Rose was there with a hug. Having a good day? Rose was there with a hug. Happen to meet on the road going from here to there? Rose was ready with hugs. And laughter. And probably cookies. And water. Did you drink enough water today? Have another glass. For Lady Rose.

Oak leaves and the bright blue of a summer sky and the sweet lemony sunshine of a smile, may all these things keep her in our hearts.

- Camille des Jardins



In our life we come across many different people. Some leave a lasting, indelible memory etched upon our hearts and souls for all eternity, Cecilia was one such person for me. I met her back at The Great Northeastern War in 2010. She was handing out Sansas lemon cakes and quickly took me under her wing, showed me around and made me feel at home. This was my first Great Northeastern War and that entire weekend Cece checked in with me to make sure that I felt included, welcomed and safe.

Throughout the years, she attended many of Hadchester's—my home Shire's—events, including Orchard Wars and Tournay on a Summer's Day. Cece was always with her tin of cookies, a hug and a listening ear for anyone who needed her. She is a friend that you know you could count on. She is someone that I will always remember fondly. And I will never, ever forget the love that she had for our shared mutual dream and for her fellow humans.

*-Lady Symmone aus chevaux d'Or*

The first time I met Lady Rose and her household was at my first GNEW. I had set up my tent and was exploring the site. The unmistakable sounds of a swordfight led me down a hill and across a road to one of the most impressive camp entrances I had seen up to that point. There, just off the road I saw two children sparring with foam weapons. Lady Rose saw me watching from a short distance and invited me over, for it was her family's camp that I had just stumbled upon. Almost immediately after introductions had been made, she was already offering me food and drink. The children invited me to spar with them. After a few passes, one of them managed to land a very solid blow on my chest that actually bent the pewter amulet I was using to hold my cape closed. Lady Rose was mortified and tried to apologize, but I told her it was my own consequence for stepping into the list. And anyway, it was pewter; I could bend it right back into shape. At Lady Rose's invitation, I returned for a second visit the following

night. It was during this visit that I first heard the story of House Pink Fuzzy Bunny.

Every year after that, whenever I went to GNEW, I always made time to visit Lady Rose and her household, and I always made sure to bring a gift of some kind, usually either food or alcohol. The first time I had visited her camp, she and her family had given me food, drink, hospitality, even entertainment (I think I still have the bent amulet somewhere), and I had had nothing to offer them in return. I resolved to make sure that never happened again. Lady Rose, in turn, always insisted I have something to eat or drink before I left her camp.

*-Tobias Troa*

She was a thoughtful and spontaneous giver. Her cookie tins were like bags of holding, they seemed endlessly full. She always knew who loved the hot salsa and who liked the mild, who loved which kind of cookie, who loved which kind of bread. She let people know that she thought of them and cared about them through her gifts of service and self. She was thrifty, in a spectacularly New England kind of way, and figured out a use for pretty much anything, or knew was just the right person to receive something.

Even when she was frustrated or angry about something, she had a smile and the sparkle of mischief for those she cared for.

She was a loving friend. She was part of my SCA life as long as I can remember, and I'm really sure that I'll catch a glimpse of her from far away, just out of sight at the Great Northeastern War or at Pennsic. And I'll think of her every time I have really good fresh salsa or see a cookie tin.

*-Aneleda Falconbridge*

# VIVANT!

While we may not have hosted Royal Court at any of our own many and varied events, word of the great deeds of our Province members has reached the ears of Their Majesties and by Their hand and wisdom have many of our own been seen, summoned and celebrated throughout the Kingdom. To wit:

At the gathering in l’Ile du Dragon Dormant to name new Bardic Champions, **Camille des Jardins** was called up before Her Majesty and awarded the **Consort’s Cypher** for her service as Signet in support of the Crown.

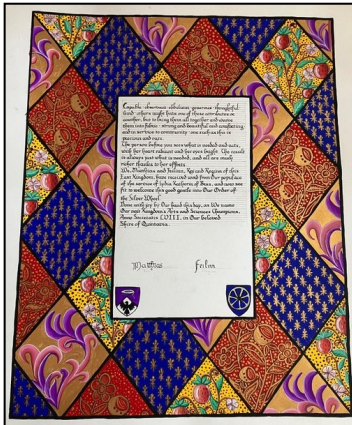


Photo by Aesa

Having assembled the populace in the Shire of Quintavia to select Their Champions of Arts & Sciences, Their Majesties requested the presence of **Lydia Webbe** and inducted her into the **Order of the Silver Wheel**, memorialised by a

scroll done by Octavia Valeria.

At this same event, **Olalla Tristana** was called forth and recognised for her efforts in the coordinating the creation and distribution of Her Majesty’s favours throughout the reign, and presented the **Consort’s Award of Esteem**, along with a token representing said award.

At the Black Rose Ball held in the Barony of the Bridge (by way of Quintavia), **Ulfrik Viglundarson** was summoned before the throne and in recognition of his contributions to the Society through service and art, was awarded **these Arms: per pale**



Photo by Aesa

or and azure, a wolf rampant argent, maintaining a hammer sable. Said recognition was accompanied by a scroll illuminated by Sulicena Vassura, with words by Trian.

For her great service as a Sign Herald, providing increased accessibility in the Courts of Their Majesties throughout Their reign, and for her efforts towards improving the field of sign heralding as a whole, **Lydia Webbe** was called forth at this same event to be presented with the **Consort’s Award of Esteem**, accompanied by a token thereof.

One short week later, in preparation of

stepping down from the Tyger Thrones to make way for the Coronation of Their Heirs, Their Majesties held a final Court in which the **Province of Malagentia**, represented by Molly Schofield, was lauded for the hospitality shown to Their Majesties and the populace at the



Photo by Molly

time of Their Coronation, and as such was inducted into the **Order of the Fellowship** and presented with a banner bearing the badge of said Company, made by the hand of Antonio Patrasso.

But before she could depart the dais with said banner, **Molly Schofield** was called before Her Majesty and for her good work as Event Liaison over the course of the reign, was honoured with the **Consort’s Cypher**, along with a representative token.

**Aesa Ormstunga** was then likewise summoned and, for their service as a Deputy Captain of Her Majesty’s Guard, was endowed with the **Consort’s Award of Esteem** with corresponding token (and Gold Star).



## Upcoming Events:

After a few false starts, it seems like winter is gone for real this time. Here's a look at what's coming up for the spring and summer as event season hits full swing.

- Huginn & Muninn's Viking Camp II:** The riding of Ravensbridge invites you to join them for some local camping to kick-off the season, from June 14th - June 16th. Located on private property in Leeds, Maine, there are plans to have thrown weapons, archery (including, maybe, a woods walk), fencing, Forester activities, games and general hang out. Feel free to camp or daytrip, whatever your preference!
- Great Northeastern War,** Malagentia's own little backyard event, will be taking place July 11th through July 14th. Fencing, fighting, arts, science, archery, thrown weapons, bardic, merchants—everything you've come to expect from us and more! Come camp with us at the largest war event in the East Kingdom.
- Heavy armour and fencing practices** have moved outside! We are now located at (Edward) Payson Park off Baxter Blvd., still on Tuesdays. Start time is around 5-5:30 and goes until dark. Even if you're not doing martial stuff, come hang out!
- Dance, Scribal and Craft nights** continue to be held on their respective evenings. Please visit the website at [malagentia.eastkingdom.org](http://malagentia.eastkingdom.org) for more information.

**Hope to see you soon!**

## May - July

- May 30** - Game Night (Standish) 7pm - 9pm
- June 5** - Craft Night (Gorham) 7pm - 9pm
- June 6** - Province Meeting (Virtual) 7pm - 8pm
- June 13** - Dance Practice (Gorham) 7pm - 9pm
- June 11** - Huginn & Muninn
- June 20** - Scribal Class (Gorham) 7pm - 9pm
- June 22** - Baronial Muster Demo (Endewearde)
- June 27** - Game Night (Standish) 7pm - 9pm
- July 3** - Craft Night (Gorham) 7pm - 9pm
- July 11** - Great North-eastern War XXXVI (Hebron)

**Further events pending summer scheduling**

*This is the May 2024 issue of The Moonstone, a quarterly publication of the Province of Malagentia of the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (SCA, Inc.). The Moonstone is available from Jess Horowitz at [chronicler@malagentia.eastkingdom.org](mailto:chronicler@malagentia.eastkingdom.org). It is not a corporate publication of SCA, Inc., and does not delineate SCA, Inc. policies. Copyright © 2024 Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. For information on reprinting photographs, articles, or artwork from this publication, please contact the Chronicler, who will assist you in contacting the original creator of the piece. Please respect the legal rights of our contributors.*