



The Barony

Being the Newsletter of the Barony of Three Rivers

Summer A.S. LVII

Oyez, oyez, oyez, my lovelies

"The rest of the kingdom tends to
defend its queer folk."

"The Cowboy of Calontir" by Mellitus

THE CAPTIONING:

Announcing the triumphant return of "Caption This.."

www.b3r.org

The Barony of Three Rivers Presents

Gryphons at Sea

September 16-18, 2022



Registration

Adult - \$30

Adult, Member Discount - \$25

Under 18 - FREE

Make checks payable to:

SCA Inc. - Barony of Three Rivers

Location

Puddleford

18683 State Hwy CC

Warrenton, MO 63383

Site Opens: 5:00pm Friday Site Closes: 12:00pm Sunday

Event Stewards

Jon Chesey

MKA: Jon Voisey

VoijaRisa@gmail.com

(314) 503-2988

Lawrence Withers

MKA: Larry Weathers

Larrygee@gmail.com

(314) 650-6977

Explore how the sea connected nations!

Equestrian

Archery

Combat

Arts & Sciences

Youth Activities

Auction

Although the SCA complies with all applicable laws to ensure the health and safety of our event participants, we cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to infectious diseases during in-person events. By participating in the in-person events of the SCA, you acknowledge and accept the potential risks. You agree to take any additional steps to protect your own health and safety and those under your control as you believe to be necessary.

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A statement from Their Majesties

"Rainbow goes with everything."



- "Respect others' pronouns."

We felt so strongly about supporting and protecting the LGBTQ+ members of our kingdom that we included this edict... and this whim:

We believe that by raising up our queer community, we are raising up the entire community. Inclusiveness benefits everyone.

We are dedicated to creating a Society that is safe and welcoming for everyone who is kind.

Another of our whims is that kindness is key. Kindness for everyone.

We love you. We hope everyone feels loved and welcome.

Peace. Love. Calontir.

King Hirsch and Queen Magdalena



A Statement from their Excellencies

To the populace of Three Rivers:

Our beloved barony has quite a varied population. We have people of many ethnicities, backgrounds, sexual orientations, and gender identities. As your Baron and Baroness, we are proud to have a veritable kaleidoscope of people in Three Rivers.

We believe that the SCA is meant for all people. Any person that has an interest in the Middle Ages should be able to find a place in the SCA where they can indulge that interest. The baronages of the past laid the foundations for inclusiveness in our barony. Our forebears did their best to build a Three Rivers that is a safe place, free from discrimination, where anyone can enjoy our hobby.

We, your Baron and Baroness, work to continue that legacy of inclusion. The more diverse our population, the more interesting Three Rivers will be. When we look out at the wonderful barony that is Three Rivers, we see a family. We believe that all people - regardless of age, race, religion, economic status, sexual orientation, or gender identity - are of equal value. We support our family, and it is our goal to make all of our members feel welcome and safe within our lands.

Yours in service,
Baron Giacomo and Baronessa Nadya



Your paragraph text
Kingdom Calendar

Gryphons at Sea

September 16th - September 18th

Barony of Three Rivers

Autumn Arrows 30: Fairy Tale Forest

September 30th-October 2nd

Shire of Calanais Nuadh

Fall Coronation

October 8th

Barony of Lonely Tower

Southern Regional Practice

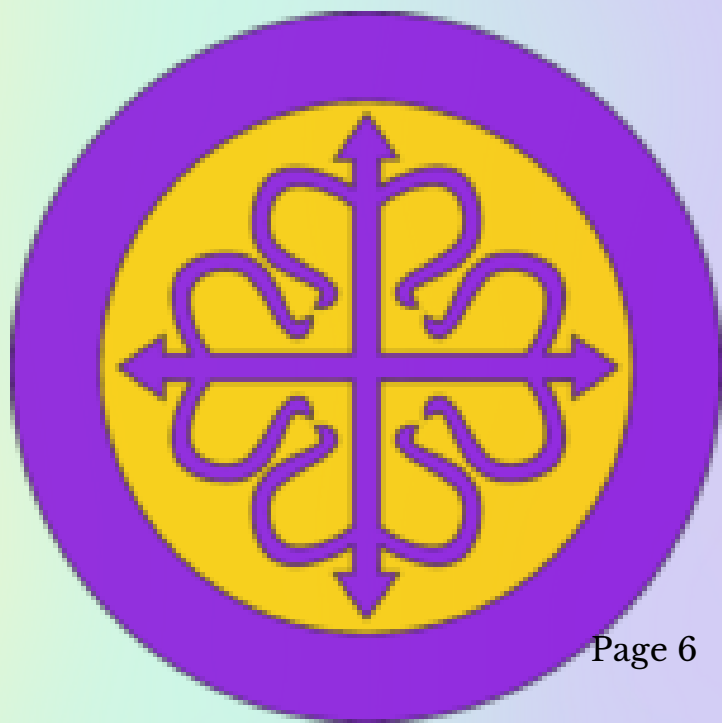
October 22nd

Crystal Mynes

CalonCon

October 29th

If you know, you know.





Midrealm

Calendar

Vikings Come Home
September 16th-18th
Barony of Donnershafen

Pferdestadt Rapier Classic
September 17th
Canton of Pferdestadt

Fall Coronation
September 24th
Barony of Ayreton

Courtiers Tourney & Clown Tournament
September 30th-October 2nd
Shire of Narrental

Rendezvous at the Bridge
September 30th-October 2nd
Shire of Riviere Constelle





LILIES

2022



The rain got a little ridiculous. Fortunately,, the golf carts were obedient, helpful, and well-behaved... as far as you know.



Gwendolyn verch Morgaine performed her Laurel vigil
Rhianwen ferch Bran ap Gruffydd was formally inducted into the Order of Chivalry
Syele Pfeifferin received her Stile Fyrd

Birthday Bash

Page 4



A relaxed affair, with a couple score attending. Scattered rain made for frequent groupings under two or three rain flies, but spirits were warm, company pleasant, food and drink plentiful, and Baronial Court a delight.

Recorder music courtesy of Sancha and Shoshanah.



Court Report

Margaret of Three Rivers – Order of the Fledgling
Shoshanah bas Nachmann – Tributary
Rivka bat Zakarriyya – Leather Garter
Elisabetta di Tres Fiumi – Leather Garter
Jon Cheseey – Order of the Lamp
Ellien Chadway – Special accommodation for her service
Gwynneth wraig Rhys proclaimed Barony Seneschal
Bero von Wustenbrunner proclaimed Baronial Exchequer
Malcor Eichmann – Order of Gallantry
Michael Leger – Order of Gallantry
Sancha LeStrange – Order of Three Rivers





BEST IN SHOW



THE WEBSTER GROVES FOURTH of JULY PARADE

The participation of the Barony in the Webster Groves July 4th parade was nothing short of spectacular. Not only did we have the coolest banner; not only did we have heavy fighting as we paraded; not only did we have a splendid array of period clothing; not only did we have a king in his splendour waving constantly to the crowds and a queen in her magnanimity hugging every willing dog in sight, and both coming up close and inviting individual members to come to our demo afterwards ("Join us in the Middle Ages!"); we even won first place in the Novelty Category.



The weather was hot, the sun relentless; but with logistics well-planned. We traveled with our provisions (water bottles) tracked amidst us ("Look! She's filling the queen's cup, like a proper servant!").

Two miles of sun-and-shade-dappled streets, lined with thousands of cheering onlookers, with an hour's demo following: a small crowd, mostly Masons, but appreciative.



Parade as proper, the populace inviting:
enduring the dazzle, in shadows diving,
wealth of water easing our worries.
King and our queen, the summit of Calon;
the Baronage of bounty, bearing our dignity;
flowers of finery, flourishing for all:
New and yet noble, nigh to our lands,
new honor for annals: Glory for all!

Shoshanah bas Nachrman

Here Comes the Law: Chitting and Chatting with Our Lovely New Seneschal

(with some pictorial assistance from
the furry contingent)



The Barge: What's it been like for you to be in a woman-woman relationship within the Barony? Have you always been open about it?

Seneschal Gwynneth: As far as I can tell, when we were able to join the Barony as regular members, there never was any adverse reaction from folks I met in the group regarding my spouse. We made a conscious decision, back in 1999 when we moved from Mississippi, to never be closeted about our relationship in any situation.

We have stuck to that through moves to two different kingdoms, Atenveldt and Calontir.



(B) Have things changed over the years in your perspective? Any difference here vs. other places, either in the Society or in the wider world?

G: In the early days (1997 - 2000), there was probably some trepidation when we would be open with strangers or new acquaintances but, to my knowledge, we were never ostracized or penalized in any way for our relationship. We had a Commitment Ceremony in 1998 with both of our sets of parents, children and siblings, plus a large shire's worth of friends. We felt like we had backup, emotional and physical, wherever we went!

Now, I don't even think about it when asked about a spouse or partner; it's as natural to me as breathing to talk about her!

(B) Any advice for anyone? Any wider thoughts?

G: I don't really have advice, as everyone's experience and comfort level is different, but I will say that I have found the SCA as a whole, to be very much a safe place to be who I am as wholly as I am able. And I, myself, love seeing others who experience that same acceptance and can wholeheartedly enjoy this SCA fellowship without fear of being rejected or judged for who they authentically are.

(We were legally married in Iowa in 2010, five years before it would be recognized in Missouri.)

For the curious, the *Barge* has included our new Seneschal's letter of intent. It's quite a ride!)

Greetings to Your Excellencies Duncan and Gwendolyn, Ealdorman and Baroness of Three Rivers, and Mistress Ellien Chadway, Seneschal, from Gwynneth wraig Rhys, GoA, CACM, OMC.

I would like to put forth my desire to aid Mistress Ellien as a Deputy Seneschal of the Barony of Three Rivers, Kingdom of Calontir, and for such, I offer this information below.

My persona, Gwynneth wraig Rhys, is a late 11th C. Welsh widow who is running a small land holding, given to me by my mother. I've been in the SCA since the mid-1990s, beginning in the kingdom of Meridies, where I served the large Shire (former Barony) of Hammerhold as Seneschal several times from 1996 -1999. During that time, I worked with many others to create the region, Principality, and finally Kingdom of Gleann Abhann.

I also served the greater SCA as Clerk of the Grand Council from 1997 – 1999, responsible for all correspondence between the Council and the Crowns and Seneschals of the “Known World”. After that, I lived for a quick year in Atenveldt (Shire of Burning Hands) before moving into the Barony of Three Rivers. I am an associate of Mistress Brigid Mhor ingen Mhurichada, OP. Although I was not able to be active in the SCA for the previous ten years, I am now happily retired and have been more involved with the Barony and look forward to participating more in the Kingdom.

Before my retirement from Saint Louis University in Aug. 2020, I was the senior Post-award Grant Specialist (and the only level III in SLU) in The Office of the Vice President for Research. I administered all post-award grant financial and HR activities in the School of Nursing, the School of Education, and for several departments and the administration of the College of Arts and Sciences, including maintaining all budgets, up-to-date job assignments and payroll, executing contracts and sub-awards, purchasing research and laboratory equipment, completing financial reconciliations and close-outs, for approx. fifty-five (55) Federal and private research grants and contracts with award amounts of approx. \$7.1M.

Also, for the two years prior to my retirement, I was the Chair of the SLU Staff Council (SAC), and as such, I was a member of the President's Coordination Committee, the University Leadership Council, and several other university steering committees. I was the official representative for all classified and unclassified staff within the University and worked with the President, Provost and Vice-Presidents on all initiatives concerning or affecting Staff. I served as the Staff Representative on several Board of Trustees sub-committees including The Business and Administration Committee and the Development Committee.

I am extremely happy to have found my SCA family again, after a long period of Life interfering with my participation. I hope that you will look kindly on this application, and I will gladly give more information or clarification, at your pleasure.

Most sincerely,
HL Gwynneth wraig Rhys
Cyn Wise



OVER THE RAINBOW...BRIDGE

by Lynn Blackstone (she/her)
(Elizabeth Lynn Blackson)

I suppose I should start by establishing my LGBT+ credentials. I'm... ugh... I'm a post-operative male-to-female transsexual. I'm also demisexual and pansexual. If I had a personal pride flag, it would be pretty crowded, that's all I'm saying.

I grew up in rural Ohio, brought up going to a Pentecostal church. To be accepted, I buried myself behind masks.

I hid in worlds of fantasy, where, if even for a short time, I could imagine myself as a hero. There aren't many role models for people like me. Not in comics, not on TV. But I read Greek mythology, and that led me into Norse mythology. And of course, that led to D&D. In 1984, the previously-released *Deities and Demigods* was re-released with new cover art, legal issues dealt with, and the title changed to assuage the 'Satanic Panic' crowd. Now it was *Legends and Lore*. That cover art featured Odin riding his eight-legged horse Sleipnir, with his wolves Geri and Freki, and his ravens Huginn and Muninn.

D&D led me to read about siege engines, the evolution of castle construction, and the treasures of Sutton Hoo. I fell in love with the Oseberg ship, the tactics of the battle of Agincourt, and it kindled a fire in me to ask, "When did humans learn how to spin fibers?", "When did we figure out how to make pottery?"



So, from my earliest memories of the stop-motion monsters of Ray Harryhausen and *Jason and the Argonauts* to seeing the evolution of written language from Linear A at Knossos, mythology has led me to a love of history.

Living in my head only got me into my late 20's. The mask I wore for acceptance crumbled, and I was forced to confront those lies. My life disintegrated. In wake of this, I suppose I "built" a new family. That core of people became my entire world, socially speaking.

And into that little social group walked a big Viking-looking guy, Bryn. And the next thing I knew, our little cluster had wandered into the SCA.

I have been extremely reluctant to move into new social circles. Even in the LGBT community, I found a lot of hate.... or just grudging tolerance.

(cont. on pg. 14)

(con't from "Bridge," pg. 13)

I never know how well I pass. I never know how I'm read, or how well my weirdness is tolerated. So into this organization I go, expecting things to go... not well.

And what happened, frankly, shocked me. In wondering how much of an issue it would be, I expected having to gauge when I'd taken enough hurt, and wondering when I would have to walk away from another toxic social situation, and...

... it was such a non-issue that I was frankly puzzled. In my self-imposed social exile, I guess something happened, where I crossed a line of "passable," or acceptable. Or the world shifted under my feet while I wasn't paying attention.

don't hide that I'm trans. I also don't broadcast it. It just ... IS. If it comes up, it does. It seems like a lot of people don't know, but when it comes up, the issue is met with, at most, mild interest. Such a non-issue that it startles me, having felt rejected for decades.

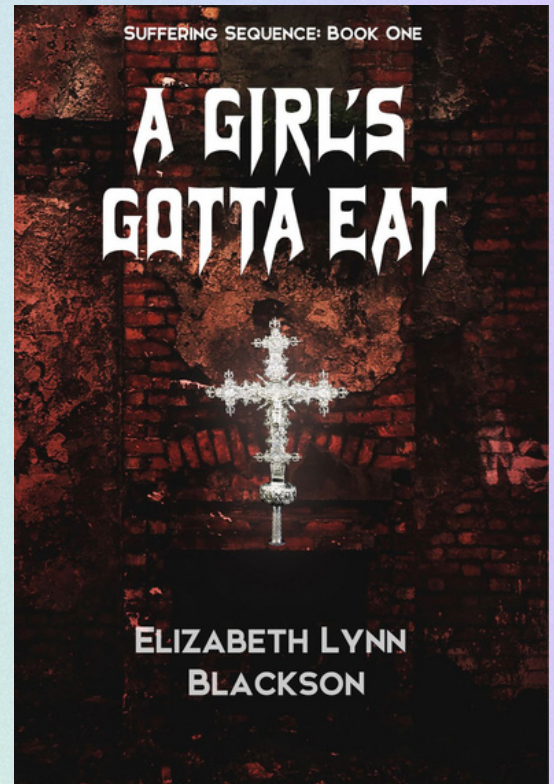
I have an SCA persona, "Lynn Blackstone." I can trace my ancestors back to the boundaries of Scandinavian Scotland, and what I have determined of my SCA Persona is that she is from that region. "Norse," I suppose, or the collision of Norse and Celt.

I said earlier that there weren't many role models for people like me. From Greek mythology, There is Tiresias, and from Norse myth, Loki. I mentioned earlier that D&D book Legends and Lore, with Odin. His horse is Sleipnir. Loki is the father of Jormangandr, Fenrir, and Hel, but MOTHER of Sleipnir. I think I have to wander to Hindu deities and Ardhanarishvara before I can do better in looking for transsexual gods.

There aren't a lot of remaining writings from the Norse. Among them is the *Voluspa*, or Prose Edda. Part of that was called The Lokakenningar. A kenning is a clever way to refer to someone without using their name. The Lokakenningar was a list of kennings for Loki. As I have been trying new things in the SCA, working through the 'Quest' book, I decided to inscribe the Lokakenningar on a walking stick. The inscription is done in the form of two intertwined spiraling lines, one in the original Norse, and one the English translation.

It's hard to find a comfortable place in any organization of historical reenactment when you're LGBT. History has not exactly been kind to us. But the Barony of Three Rivers has been kind and accepting in a way that frankly baffles me.

Elizabeth Lynn Blackson is the author of A Girl's Gotta Eat



Summer Song

by Shoshanah bas Nachman

Softly sing the summer breezes:
meadows immersed in honey-murmurs.
Agelessly azure arches the welkin
enfolding the furrows, in fields there and there,
of foemen and friends in final repose.
Invaders vanquished, victory ours!
Safety in sight, solace retaken
for one more weaving over the world.

The slain lie sleeping, slowing our thoughts
till the skill of the skald tells of the skein
that binds our bounty and all of our band:
heart and hearth, health of our land,
our fate, our future, forging us all
to a stalwart steel, standing as one.
Sing in the circle, savor the mead!
Hale to our heroes keeping us whole!

Grandeur is growing rich in the grain.
Milking, mulching, mead from the hives,
all of the earth's work: The world that is ours
heals the torn harp strings entwined in the heart.
The ravens' roost, with flowers enriched,
sweetly and swiftly swells the air
with finely wrought feelings of fabled memory.
In the long summer light the living endure.



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Calendar page for August with a miniature of laborers harvesting grain and resting in the fields, from the *Golf Book* (Book of Hours, Use of Rome), workshop of Simon Bening, Netherlands (Bruges), c. 1540, Additional MS 24098, f. 25v. British Library, used with permission.



A story of early Calontir

The Cowboy of Calontir

Written by Mellitus Rouncivale

Here is an important story for the Queer culture of Calontir:

Robert Sartor van Pays-Buy

I believe it was Pennsic XII when Robert Sartor van Pays-Buy loaded up his VW Beetle with the arts and sciences projects he had created. He arrived to Pennsic 30 minutes after the cut-off time for entry into A&S contests at Pennsic.

Robert was dressed in jeans, a t-shirt, and cowboy boots. He pitched a fit when he was told that he wasn't going to be allowed to enter. Finally, the East Kingdom Minister of Arts said "Let the cowboy in, what harm can it do?"

Robert won over a dozen competitions that year. About a year later, Robert would be elevated to the Order of the Laurel. He was the first citizen of Calontir to be made a peer.

This was long before we were a kingdom. Robert, in case you hadn't figured out, is gay and was an early members of the Shire of Three Rivers. He may have been a founder of that group.

So, the first-ever bestowed peer of Calontir was an out gay man. Countess Arwynn, who was the first Baroness of Three Rivers, once told me that while Robert did not make an issue of his sexuality, he made no effort to hide it. Arwynn said, if someone had a problem with Robert being gay, Robert felt it was their problem, not his.

I think that having the first peer in the region be a gay man set Calontir on the path of greater acceptance for its LGBTQ+ members. We, as an SCA community were ahead of others in this. While there were (and still are) individuals who may have a problem with the queer community, they either learn at least tolerance (*continued next page*)



(cont. from previous page) or they don't last long. The rest of the kingdom tends to defend its queer folk.

I remember Baron Joshua from Atlantia telling me once that they had to move an early meeting of Blue Feather to a secret location because they'd learned that some Pennsic attendees had planned to disrupt the gathering. I can't see that ever happening in Calontir. Calontir has had several queer peers and royalty. I can come up with three queer royals off the top of my head: it was a Calontir knight, Tomeeki, who (as King of Caid), elevated the first gay man to the Order of the Chivalry in Caid.

But basically, in Calontir, the early A&S ideas were shaped by Master Robert. He set a high standard and was instrumental in a lot of Calontir's developing early culture.

"The rest of the kingdom tends to defend its queer folk. "

”

Pronouns 101

A quick guide to using pronouns in the SCA



“Hi, I’m Mistress Luckie Glasbrenner. I use she/her and I’ve been in the SCA for 22 years.”

A simple introduction with the addition of pronouns can make the world of difference toward being more inclusive. The use and inclusion of correct pronouns can seem hard at first, but with a little practice, it can make gender-diverse people feel included, welcomed, and valued.

The basics: what is a pronoun?

Simply put, “[a] pronoun is how you refer to a noun when you don’t use a name.”

For example:

“Luckie taught an A&S class and she gave me a really cool handout!”

“I saw him shooting archery today”

“Did you hear they got an award today?”

Why should we care about pronouns?

You cannot always know what someone's pronouns are by looking at them. Asking and correctly using someone's pronouns is one of the most basic ways to show your respect for their gender identity. When someone is referred to with the wrong pronoun, it can make them feel disrespected, invalidated, dismissed, alienated, or dysphoric (often all of the above). [Editor's note: for me, Sil (they/them), the experience falls somewhere between being called "it" by seventh-grade bullies and being repeatedly referred to as "Barbara," depending upon the speaker's intention and relationship to me.]

Four easy ways to incorporate inclusive pronoun use into your life:

01.

Lead by example and add your pronouns when you introduce yourself. Example: "Hi, my name is Luckie. I use she/her pronouns. You?"

FYI- If they don't follow your lead and/or give you their pronouns when they introduce themselves, that's okay! There are multiple reasons why someone may not. Default to using their name in place of pronouns or use gender-neutral pronouns until they let you know otherwise.

If you are past the introduction stage but can't remember which pronouns they use, just ask: "Can you remind me what pronouns you are using?" Or "I forgot to ask. I use she/her pronouns. You?"

02.

FYI- This potentially is better done when you are one-on-one or in a small group. Some people aren't comfortable publicly declaring their pronouns or only use certain pronouns in familiar groups/situations.

03.

Follow their lead... and others' lead. If you hear someone use a pronoun for someone and it doesn't match the one you are using, inquire and possibly correct yours. Example: "You used she/her for Luckie, is that correct?"

04.

In general, if you aren't sure...? Default to using they/them, use their name in place of the pronoun, or use a gender-neutral title if you are unsure or unable to ask. Example: "Luckie does rapier and loves to teach. Do you want to go meet Luckie (instead of her/him/them)?" Or "I see Luckie over there. I wonder if they are (instead of she/he is) going to court this evening."



"Mucho gusto, Mistress Luckie. I'm a detail from Michaelangelo's 'Creation of Adam,' via Wikimedia Commons (Public domain). They/ them. I would love to stay and chat, but I hear they have truffles on page 23."

What about SCA titles?



Here are some quick gender-neutral title options for addressing people in the SCA. For more documented period titles, <http://heraldry.sca.org/titles.html> is a delight.

Rank	Gender-neutral title	Example
Crown	Your Majesty	Your Majesty Magdalena
Duchy	Your Grace	Your Grace Anton
County/Viscounty	Your Excellency	Your Excellency Yseult
Barony	Your Excellency	Your Excellency Nadya
Peerages	Knight or Syr /Laureate/Pelican /Defender	Knight or Syr Duncan/ Laureate Luckie/ Pelican Emeline/ Defender Ravasz
Grant of Arms (GoA)	Honorable Noble	Honorable Noble Amba
Award of Arms (AoA)	Noble/ Armiger	Noble Angus ; Angus, Armiger

What if I mess up?

First, don't stress! Everyone makes mistakes.

Second, don't make a big deal about it. Just correct yourself and move on.

If someone corrects you, thank them, correct yourself, and move on. Generally, apologizing isn't necessary and can get into the rocky waters of putting the onus on the gender-diverse population by having them reassure you for misgendering them. Additionally, misgendering can draw more attention to a person who may not want the focus on them or their identity. Finally, if someone else is using a wrong pronoun, gently correct them and move on.

For instance:

Person A: "Yseult is in charge of children's activities. She is doing a great job...."

Person B: "Actually, Yseult goes by they/them."

Person A: "Ah. Thanks. They are doing a great job."

-or-

Person A: "Luckie will be teaching a class in the Falcon Pavilion."

Person B: "Awesome! I love his classes... Sorry, her classes."

Person A: "Cool, I've never taken one of her classes."

Final takeaway:

Practice, practice, practice. Using correct pronouns is easier the more you do it. Pronoun use can seem daunting and is a small part of the larger complex spheres of allyship, gender identity, sexual orientation, etc. However, any small step is a good step. Using correct pronouns is great way to be respectful to everyone, creates safe, positive spaces, and helps everyone live the SCA dream.

In service, Luckie

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Pronouns 101. LGBT Resource Center, University of Colorado- Colorado Springs, <https://lgbtresourcecenter.uccs.edu/pronouns-101>. Accessed 7/2/2022.

Other internet resources:

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Pronouns 101. Human Rights Campaign International, <https://www.thehrcfoundation.org/professional-resources/all-children-all-families-pronouns-101>.



Personal Statements from Your Editorial Staff

I have spent long years dancing along a gender tightrope. My personal level of uncertainty is part of why I shied from the Society in the early 90s — did I really want to portray myself in *that* gender role in the Barony, when I was ambiguating things more and more in my professional life? Back then, I didn't have a role model for how to do that in the Society.

What a difference three decades make...

Shortly after taking legal steps to "officially" transition, I rejoined the Society. And was amazed at, not the tolerance, but the full-throated acceptance and welcoming of the Barony to me, to other trans people, to non-binary folk, literally more than I can keep track of--and not just locally: Kingdom Seneschal Master Galen is a strong proponent of all sorts of inclusion, and our own Count Yseult a fearless fighter for inclusive titles. And King Hirsch and Queen Magdalena make me, personally, feel safer and appreciated for who I am.

These things make a difference! Our Barony shines brightly in a Kingdom that leads the Knowne World on some of these fronts. There is still much work to do in Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (particularly in under-represented racial minorities). But all our rainbow makes our light shine brighter.

Shoshanah bas Nachman



"Political correctness has run amock!" cry the men of snow, so white, fragile, and prone to thumpity-thump-thumps...

This happens. It's happened before, it will happen again, I could point to the Arthurian romance of the knight Silence. I could gesture significantly at the Aarne-Thompson-Uther Index, branch 514, a whole tree of folk tales labeled, "the change of sex." I could (and we did!) dedicate a column inch or two to the many voices talking about how the LGBTQIA+ community has shaped the dream of the SCA (and vise versa). Or I could tell you that I'm ancient enough to remember when "political correctness" was called "common courtesy."

But in the end, gender bending in antiquity was simple as this:

Achilles showed up one day in men's clothing, and said, "My pronouns are he/ him now."

And the Greeks said, "Cool. Let's go change the face of western civilization."

Let's go change the face of western civilization.

~S

A RECIPE FROM THE GOBLINS OF THE HOB

VEGAN TRUFFLES

(Nota bene: this recipe is delicious, but unapologetically out-of-period.)

Heat 9-12 ounces coconut cream (not the sugared kind, the kind that's just coconut milk and thickener, from a can) in a saucepan until it just starts to boil.

Add ~12 ounces of vegan chocolate chips to the saucepan. On an electric stovetop, turn off heat but leave the pan on the burner. On a gas stovetop, turn allllllll the way down. Mutter a mild curse under your breath because the flame has gone out. Relight burner, repeat but spell "all" with about three fewer l's. Stir until completely blended.

Add too much vanilla. You will realize it's not too much when you taste the final product. Throw in a pinch of salt, coarse grain is better. Mutter darkly to yourself because there is no REASON for this to be true, but it very much is. Add one to three glugs (1.5- 4 tbsp.) of strong green olive oil. Stir until fully blended. Turn off your gas burner. Add whiskey or other flavorings to taste: I like chili paste but I'm in therapy for a reason. Espresso powder is good. Walnut oil is nice. I appreciate various strongly-brewed teas, and yes that absolutely includes Earl Grey because I'm a bergamot-obsessed goblin and not a true connoisseuse by any stretch of the imagination. Dried cherries? Apricots? Sure, why not?

Chill the resulting paste in the fridge for a couple of hours. Roll into balls. Oh, sorry, roll the GANACHE into balls, get off the floor, you weirdos. Roll in cocoa powder, leave naked, garnish with candied ginger or violets, drizzle with honey, sprinkle with matcha if you've used tea, cover in melted, er, melting chocolate or brandied sugar... it is clear I'm still talking about the chocolates, right? Oh. Okay. You do you. Chill for at least two hours, but place truffles in the fridge first.

Makes about twenty-four small truffles. I recommend making a few practice batches. If they don't set up, you can reheat and add more chocolate, or you can pretend it was on purpose, throw it in a ramekin with one of those weird little fetal-looking knives they make for cheeseballs, and serve it with ginger snaps or shortbread as a "dessert spread."

Caption pisne ✧



Winner:

"Go out in the nature," they said. "It will be fun," they said..."

— Rivka bat Zakarriyya

Other captions:

Ah yes, Spring. The season when trees attack. — Tali Essen

Damn yellowjackets!!! — Kerry Johnson

Sheep: I told them not to swat that nest

Cow: Yeah, but when have they ever listened? — Amba Allrasystir

Killer Bees! — Duncan Fearnach MacLeod

Whose idea was it to camp by the tree? — Brigid Ingen Donngaile

William Shakespeare's "The Birds" — Mike Griesheimer

In which Duncan Fearnach introduces Rochwen to beekeeping. — Rochwen Morwenna*

*Editor's choice.

Curia Baronis

Baron: <u>Giacomo dalla Fattoria dello Stato</u>	Baroness: <u>Nadya Helming</u>
Seneschal: <u>Gwynneth wraig Rhys</u>	Herald: <u>Brynjolfr Inn Eyverski</u>
Exchequer: <u>Bero von Wüstenbrunner</u>	Quartermaster: <u>Matthew Pedersen</u>
Knights' Marshal: <u>Jack Banyard</u>	Minister of Arts & Sciences: <u>Syele Pfeifferin</u>
Chatelaine: <u>Kenda Óttarsdóttir</u>	Social Media Coordinator: <u>Fiondel Songspinner</u>
Webminister: <u>Jon Chesey</u>	Gold Key: <u>Jon Chesey</u>
Archery <u>Marshal Emeline de Moulineaux</u>	Chroniclers: <u>Shoshanah bas Nachman, Zilia di Silvestri</u>
Minister of Youth: <u>Yseult de Michel</u>	Demo Coordinator: <u>Rhoda Clifton</u>



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Errata:

In an earlier edition of this issue, a painting of Mary, mother of Christ, looking somewhat dramatic, was identified as *The Extra Virgin*. It is in fact Carlo Maratta's *Immaculate Conception*.

It is also out of period.

The *Barge* apologizes for this error and any confusion this has caused, and the Bilge Rat responsible has been sent to bed without any cheesies.

Carlo Maratta, *Immaculate Conception*, Brandenburg Museum.
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All attempts have been made to properly spell and title all the people mentioned in this issue. If there are errors, please let the chroniclers know so they can be corrected.

You're still reading?

Wow.

Just wow.



Thank you. We love you..