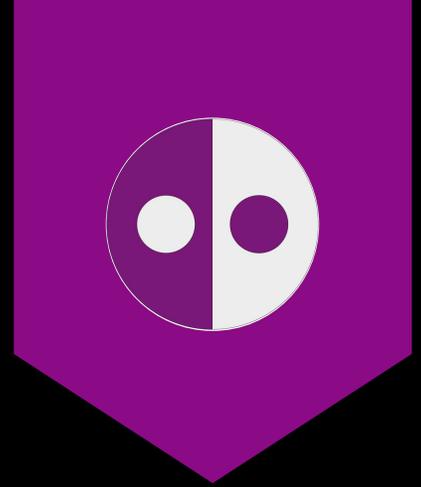


NOVEMBER 2021 ISSUE 4

PENFEATHERS

The official Youth Newsletter of
The Kingdom of Meridies

Please send all contributions to penfeathers@meridies.org



TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT'S
INSIDE:

**An Interview with Magister
Taran the Wayward
Puzzles, Coloring, & More!
Articles written for kids
and teens by kids and
teens.**

HERALDRY !!!

"



Interview with Magister Jaran the Wayward



1. How old are you?

I just had my 49th birthday in August. My persona is roughly from 1460.

2. How tall are you?

I am 5'10" tall

3. How old were you when you joined the SCA?

I went to my first event when I was 22 while I was stationed in Germany with the Air Force (1993 or 1994). I joined shortly thereafter.

4. How long is your hair?

My hair varies in length—it has been as long as between my shoulders or as short as a military buzz cut. I used to donate my hair to places like Locks for Love—so I would grow it out for a couple years and then cut it short. Right now, it is at that “business” length—off the collar and kind of short.

5. Do you have any hobbies outside the SCA?

Many of my hobbies relate to the SCA (because really, it feels like the SCA is a hobby where you collect other hobbies!) I do some blacksmithing and some basic carpentry. I love playing board games too—some classics are from period (Villainous, Settlers of Catan, and Firefly the Game are some of my favorites that are very non-period). I am also a fan of college football—specifically Alabama’s Crimson Tide.



6. Do you do social work for kids or elderly adults?

My experience with social work practice started with teaching adults how to get employment (so not elderly adults), from there I worked with the state agency as an eligibility interviewer for food stamps, cash assistance, and medical assistance, after that I investigated cases of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of vulnerable adults (elderly and/or disabled adults frequently), after that I worked in a community mental health agency where I provided mental health services to intellectually disabled adults as well as other adults with substance abuse issues. At this point, I teach future social workers at the University of Alabama where my experiences help students understand WHY they need to know what we teach them.

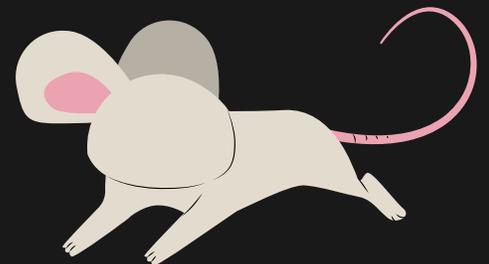
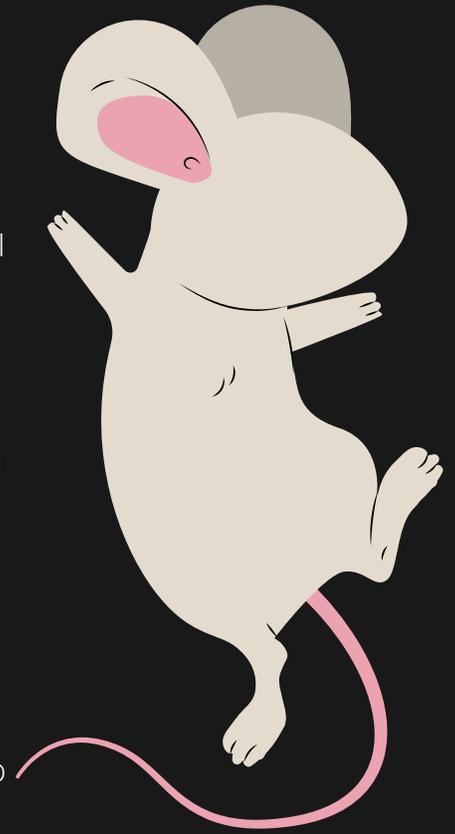
7. Do you have a dog? I had dogs growing up, but my wife has very bad allergies to anything with fur, so we have not had a dog or cat for many years. I love animals, but breathing is important.

8. What drew you to the SCA?

I have always been fascinated with the romanticized idea of the middle ages—King Arthur, Robin Hood, and Ivanhoe for example. The Arnold Schwarzenegger “Conan” movies came out when I was in grade school, so fantasy was very prevalent. I first heard about the SCA when I was at a high school German club convention and was told that I could experience that kind of thing for real. It took me a few years before I could get to my first event, but I was hooked before I even arrived.

9. Do you like chick-Fil A and Starbucks? I think Chick-Fil-A has tasty food, but as a social worker, I have some concerns with where the corporation donates money, so I don't tend to go there. I love my coffee, and Starbucks is pretty much everywhere—I also have seen that they support a lot of causes: they have gone out of their way to actively hire military veterans (and other groups) and have been a socially conscious company.

10. What is your favorite Restaurant? I am a foodie, so that is tough... Growing up in Arizona, I have a love for authentic Southwestern food—my favorite restaurants are locally owned businesses rather than chain restaurants (La Gran Fiesta in Tuscaloosa, AL, and El Palacio in Kingman, AZ). I also have a love for Mediterranean food—one of my absolute favorite Mediterranean restaurants is in Las Vegas—Paymon's (several years ago—shortly after I moved to Meridies--the Known World Herald and Scribal Symposium was held in Vegas. I introduced most of the folks from Meridies to the place)

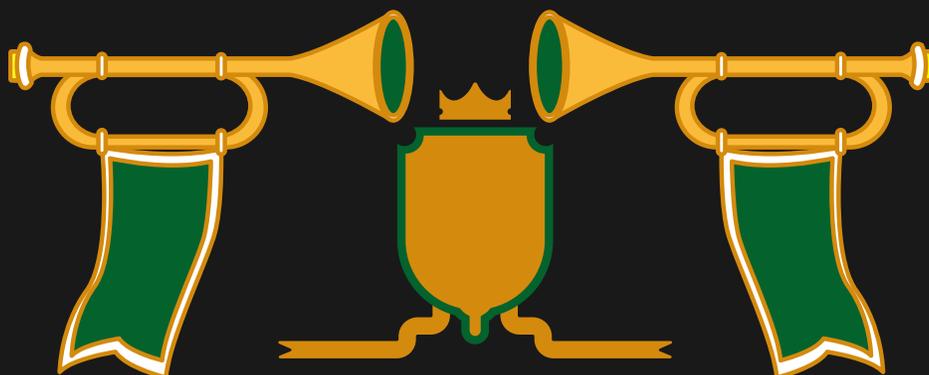


11. What College did you go to? What was your major? and Why did you pick that? How long did it take to get your degree? College has been a long journey for me: I graduated high school and wanted to be an English teacher, so I went to a small community college in my home town in Arizona for a couple semesters—but then the Persian Gulf War happened and I joined the Air Force. I left college for a while and came back to that same school for another semester or so, then met my ex-wife and her infant son. I focused on my family, which meant again leaving school. I got into my first job in social work and realized that was my professional calling, so went back to school for Social Work (luckily my earlier classes were all common core classes, so I didn't lose anything) for another couple of semesters—then had a divorce, so stopped school to get my life in order again and met my wife Katja the Forthright, then back to community college and then FINALLY went to Northern Arizona University for some actual Social Work classes—I had 100 credit hours when things got difficult again and I had to stop classes. We moved to Meridies and I had a lot of work experience, but no bachelor's degree, so could not get a job in social work—so I went BACK to school again to finish the Bachelor's in Social Work at the University of Alabama. I finished it, then went straight into my Master's in Social Work, and then straight into my PhD in Social Work (where I am currently working on my dissertation).

12. What do you consider your greatest achievement? I have always defined success with the poem "Success" by Bessie Anderson Stanley (often misattributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson)

He achieved success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much;
Who has enjoyed the trust of pure women, the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children;
Who has filled his niche and accomplished his task;
Who has never lacked appreciation of Earth's beauty or failed to express it;
Who has left the world better than he found it,
Whether an improved poppy, a perfect poem, or a rescued soul;
Who has always looked for the best in others and given them the best he had;
Whose life was an inspiration;
Whose memory a benediction.

With that in mind, I know that I have helped families in my work as a social worker. I also have helped folks in the SCA—whether that was helping with heraldry, teaching what bits I know in blacksmithing, or just being a good friend. My motto is "So Others May Shine". It was suggested to me as a motto because that is what I do—I try to give others the resources to be their best selves (in the SCA or in the modern world). I've gotten awards and recognitions—both in the SCA and in the modern world—but the things that mean the most to me have been the letters of thanks from families months or years after they were not my clients any more.



13. Favorite Animal?

Gotta be a mouse. My heraldry has a mouse and a falcon on it—I used to be pretty meek, which is why I chose a mouse—but over the years I have had several different “protector mice” be connected to me (Reepicheep from Narnia, Justin from Secret of NIMH, Yellowcloak from Redwall, and my favorite version of Mickey Mouse is the Sorcerer’s Apprentice)

14. As a Social worker do you teach or study black history?

Not directly. As a social worker, advocating for vulnerable populations is a huge part of the job, so there is a lot of looking at different groups who have been under-represented and subjected to various forms of discrimination (race, gender, religious belief, physical ability, sexual identity, or sexual orientation to name just a few). I have studied issues of social injustice (discrimination, preferential treatment, or systemic issues for example). My dissertation looks at issues of disability for example. I have taught classes in the history of social welfare—which talks about a lot of how US Social Work came to be (starting all the way back to the Code of Hammurabi through the Elizabethan Poor Laws before the US came into existence). Once the course moves beyond the Civil War, there is a lot of differences in how laws and policies were applied to different vulnerable groups—often to their detriment.

15. What do you consider the best historical Heraldry? “Best” is a pretty broad term. My feeling is that something should be striking and easy to identify. Something with only two tinctures and a single charge is probably the best—even better if it is easy to reproduce (only straight lines or curves).

One of my favorite historical heraldry pieces comes from the Bellenville Armorial for Casteleysche or Kestelinge –Or, issuant from base a schnecke maintaining on its outer swirl three schneckes sable. It looks like a curlicue spiral with three more spirals coming off of the back of it.

16. What is in your opinion the worst heraldry in history? Not someones but historical heraldry. In the SCA one of my badges is FREQUENTLY pointed out as some of the worst heraldry out there—to the point that people know me as the herald who designs horrible heraldry.

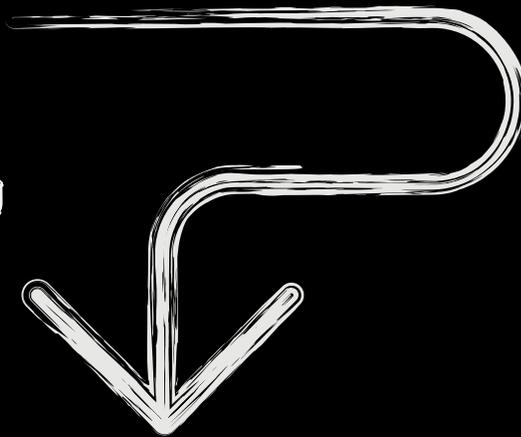
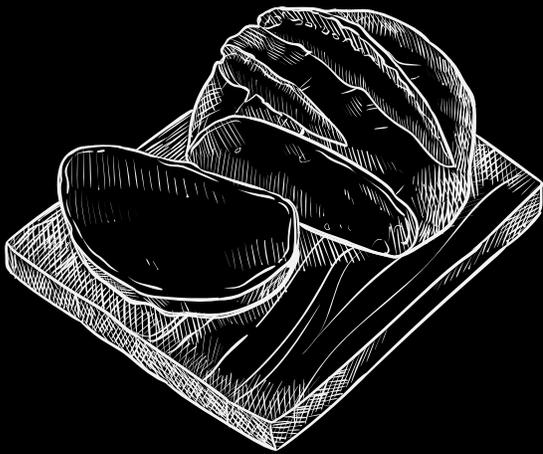
One of the examples from period that I am aware of—I cannot recall the name of the family, but the patriarch made his fortune after inventing a radiator flume or such—something that is very strange, and most folks wouldn’t know it if they saw it—but he wanted it as a charge on his heraldry. Heraldry should be identifiable—so this charge fails most dramatically in that respect.





Food Glorious Food!!!

The Next issue of Penfeathers will be on the art of being Period
Cooking!!!





INTERVIEW



Mistress Aileagan Andhrimnirsdottir

Hi, I'm Mistress Ailleagan Andhrimnirsdottir, but please call me Ailleagan. (It's really easy to pronounce: ale-again.) I've been cooking since I was about six years old. It was only natural that I started researching medieval food after I joined the SCA. Over the years, I received a Scarlet Star, successfully completed a Grand Chef feast, earned my Pelican for organizing, cooking, and serving feasts, awarded my Laurel for researching and preparing historical foods, and founded the Meridian Cooks Guild. I love researching what people of different cultures ate and how they used ingredients and spices. I can't wait to see what questions you have!



IMPORTANT DATES	
Interview Questions	Due by Jan 1st
Articles from the youth	Jan 1st
Art & Science pictures from the youth	Jan 1st

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CORONATION



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MUSIC WITH

Master Mathias



The Duke's Dilemma

No sign of rank, nor painted shield,
Duke William bore on Hastings field,
But in a hauberk plainly dight
He looked like any other knight;
While from his pointed helm projected
A nose-piece that his face protected, Revealing only cheeks and eyes—
That made him hard to recognize.

So when the awful rumor spread,
"The Duke has fallen—he is dead,"
And through the Norman host there ran Cold-ooted fear from man to man,
William some difficulty found
In proving he was still around.

"I live!" He shouted; but his word
Above the tumult was unheard;
Wherefore, the arrows came apiece,
He thrust his guard from off his face,
To cheer his men and daunt his foes
With sight of his portentous nose;
And all the Normans gave a roar:
"Here comes the Conk—the Conqueror!"

Now, had he born a scutcheon famed,
That by some cognizance proclaimed
Him Duke of Normandy—none other—
He had been spared a lot of bother.

But in Ten-sixty-six A.D.

They'd not yet thought of heraldry

"The Fool of Arms" (edited by C.W. Scott-Giles)



COMICS

Quackers

Armorial Aberrations?

When I'm Queen of Meridies I'll need a name and armory, so I'm going to register Asta gullhar and this device. What do you think?

That's the plan.



Don't tell me, it's a maze because you plan to be an amazing Queen?



And have you checked with a herald?

Don't look at me, I'm drawing a blank on this one.



YOUTHFUL EXPRESSION

17 AND UNDER

Gatalop and The Elevation of an MOC

by: Bradlee Lodinson



Last month was our first even back in a long time. Gatalop was very fun, and it was held on Halloween weekend. Its been a while since I've seen a lot of my friends. There were treats, candy, and toys. We also got to have youth activities. We made swords and books and got to play games.

Also, we went to visit Mistress Jane who gave us kites during her vigil. I was happy to see her on vigil. I had a feeling she was going to be elevated one day because of how much she does for the kids of Merdies. I spoke at court for Mistress Jane, asking for her to become a Pelican. There were a lot of people who spoke. I represented the populous and children of Meridies.

This was what I said during court:

Your Majesties, I am Brandulfr Lothinsson and today I come to bear witness for Jane Wolfed. Jane was the Minister of Children and she always made sure the classes were fun. She has taught us much about art and has made custom board games for us to use. She is funny and nice. She is a great teacher. She cares about all of the kids in the kingdom, and that is why we love her. Your Majesties, to us, she is a peer. Thank you.

Heraldry

H M N Q B B Q C S Z H C Z B J
V W W Z R V I O Q B C A D F C
D N W D U B E U I C H P E V V
O Z W N D O R C K U I U X A A
R L F D D Y M H P C E R T A R
M S W E I L I A A H F P E M G
A G H Y S M N N S E A U R W E
N U R Y E S E T S V Z R K M N
T O D A R C E W A R W E P G T
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A D Z C E P N D T N S V L L F
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U F E M Q Y V A T U N D H L Q
I X I S Q H I F H U B W D K E

Couchant

Dormant

Dexter

Sable

Or

Passant

Rampant

Chief

Gules

Chevron

Argent

Fesse

Pale

Purple

Ermine

Azure

Vert

Arts & Science!

Let's work on those skills!

Starting on the next page, Penfeathers is providing you with coloring pages! Practice your scribal skills and send us a picture of the results. Your art will be posted in the next issue of Penfeathers! We are also providing the steps to a science project. Send photos of you working on it with your parents and you will see your mad scientist skills in the next issue!

Send to penfeathers@meridies.org



The coloring pages found on the next two pages are provided by <https://collettedavignon.home.blog/>







Contributions

Photos and Videos Provided
by

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MISTRESS KATHERINE OF RED-FJORD

THL JESSICA OF OSPREY

THL EACHNA OF CLONMAKATE AND THE MOST
PATIENT OF ALL PONIES DRAGON'S LAIR
MAZURKA

CAPTAIN MARIE LA COUSTURIERE
BRUCE NELSON

BARONESS ARIANNE LIGHTHEART OF
WHITEHELD

THL INAN BINT SUFIAN



The Social Media Team of Meridies

merc



THANK YOU!



All videos and photos featured in Penfethers are authorized by the videographer and photographer who captured the images. They are shown with a focus for Families and their children to enjoy. Parents of any child whose features are recognizably captured in a photo or video have given their express consent to have their child included in videos and photos. Any articles, artwork, or questions featured by a child, have permission to use by a parent. All photos and videos follow the Kingdom of Meridies Social Media guidelines.



Edited by **THLady Jane Wolfdan**

Gracias