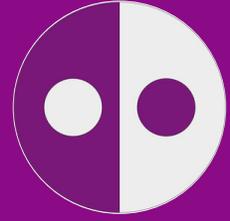


APRIL 2021 ISSUE 2

PENFEATHERS

The official Youth Newsletter of
The Kingdom of Meridies

Please send all contributions to penfeathers@meridies.org



MERCY AND GENEROSITY

TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT'S
INSIDE:

**An Interview with THLady
Justina Di Silvestri**

**Puzzles, Coloring, Comics
and Games**

**Articles written for kids
and teens by kids and
teens.**



Interview with TFLady Justina Di Silvestri

What is your definition of Mercy and Generosity?

To me, mercy is choosing to show compassion and grant social forgiveness, sometimes when someone behaves in error. This can be a small kindness, like downplaying something embarrassing that someone else has done instead of laughing at their expense (We've all gone somewhere in public with our shirt inside out, right? Just me?? Well it's merciful to let someone know and play it cool, and not bring it up later to humiliate them). Or mercy can be substantial, like giving someone who has been mean to you forgiveness when they have apologized and are working to be better. Mercy is also being kind to ourselves when we feel we have done something embarrassing or have been rude and want to be better. It's sometimes easier to be kind to others, but it's important to remember we deserve kindness and compassion too.

Generosity is another manifestation of kindness. It is freely giving, without expectation of anything in return, and can take form in many ways. Generosity is sometimes only associated with the giving of things like money or objects. But there are other ways to share your kindness too. It is an act of generosity to spend time with friends and family while they enthuse about their interests, cheer them at sports and other competitions, and play with them. Your time and encouragement is one of the most valuable gifts you have, it's powerful in how much you can change lives by encouraging what other people are doing. Of course, there are physical ways of generosity, like sharing meals, games, and giving presents, and some people find having small tokens like largess to be physical reminders of a friendship.



What is the most generous thing anyone has done for you?

While I thoroughly appreciate physical gifts, and am always delighted when someone thinks of me when making something or buying something, the biggest act of generosity I appreciate so, so much is physically helping me get to events. I have a lot of anxiety about traveling alone, and also about driving, so I am so incredibly grateful when someone is able to take that anxiety off my plate and drive or travel with me when going new places. Going to events as a single person can be stressful, so it is the best when people are looking out for each other.

Do you think it is hard or easy to show mercy?

Small mercies, especially when you are an awkward person like me and know what it's like to accidentally socially embarrass yourself, are easy for me to give. So many of us have experienced embarrassment, that when we see it in others, it's a kindness to help diffuse it. What I find hard is forgiving meanness and deliberate cruelty. If a person apologizes to those they harmed and show that they are working on improving behavior, learning, and growing, then it is an opportunity for a lot of people to learn and do better. If a person has been cruel to me and shows no sign of wanting to improve, then I allow myself mercy and remember that I am not responsible for managing other people's behavior, and what they say and do is a reflection of them, not me.

Have you ever had to show someone mercy?

Yes, and something I remind myself is that things are so much different than they were 20-30 years ago. The resources and vocabulary people have now with mental health and better conflict management are fantastic. Adults in my life did not have access to those when I was a kid, like I as an adult have access now, and I have had to be merciful of that or I would become angry and bitter at circumstances in my childhood that could have been different.

What is your favorite part of being in the SCA?

I love, love, love wearing fancy clothes and spending time with people who share my love of living history. Something special about the SCA is the encouragement and thanks we give and receive and the absolute delight shared in helping each other out. Being a member of the SCA has helped me grow as a person, and I try to take the social skills I've learned into the modern world.



Where is the line between showing Mercy and Generosity and allowing yourself to be taken advantage of?

This is a very important question. Mercy and generosity should never be given without limitation. It feels awful to be taken for granted, so practicing boundaries is healthy and important. Everyone's line is going to look a little different. For mercy, I will do everything I can to make it possible for someone to grow and do better as a person. If someone has been unkind and is willing to do better when they have been told where they have erred, then I feel it is important to give that space to grow. I have monumentally said and done unkind things that I regret, and I learned and did better after. However, if someone does not improve after they have been made aware and continues a pattern of hurtful behavior, it is reasonable to no longer give them that social forgiveness.

For generosity, practicing saying no can be so hard when it comes to people asking us nicely, because we want to make others happy, but if we are burning ourselves out through service and emotional workloads, it can leave less time for us to rest and care for ourselves. "That looks exciting! Can you show me later, though? I need to take a few minutes to relax", "Thank you so much for asking me to help with _____, I appreciate the opportunity but I can't commit to that at this time", etc.

**What are some ways that teens can be generous to others, specifically at events?
(Besides the standard carrying of stuff.)**

Show your interest in what people are working on, if you see something really cool, ask to know more! We are all a bunch of history nerds and getting to share that love of topics is so fun. If you are comfortable talking to newcomers about what it is that you like about the SCA, you can help make their experience memorable. As a kid in the SCA, I was really intimidated by the older kids and teens, because I really didn't know them well, so introducing yourself and introducing younger kids around can help them feel comfortable. If you like making things, donating largesse to the kingdom or local groups is a huge help as well.

What are ways younger children can be generous?

Much like teens, keep an eye out for other kids who may need help or give people working on projects encouragement. Ask if they are interested in learning what you are doing. Your projects and interests are an exciting part of the SCA too!



What made you choose your persona?

Like many others, I watched *Ever After* and fell in love with the costumes, as I learned more about the Italian Renaissance that inspired them, I decided to focus on 15th and 16th century Venice. My main persona is an entrepreneurial woman with a keen sense of politics. Through "La Onesta Signora Justina di Silvestri" (The Honest Lady), I get to explore the niche roles a woman in public was allowed during this time as well as wear fashionable and extravagant gowns and play with hair and makeup, which I love and they help make me feel immersed in my persona. My second persona is an ancestor of my main persona, Ambrosius di Silvestri. Through him, I get to have fun with elegant menswear and study the lifestyle of a man living in the 15th century. The Italian renaissance is a lot of fun because there are so many resources available for garb, and I am a bit of a clothes horse.

Is there a different name for a knight, lord, lady King and Queen in your persona's time and place?

The listed Venetian titles on SCA heraldry are:

Knight: Chavalier

Lord: Signor

Lady: Dona

King: Re

Queen: Raina

Prince: Principo

Princess: Principesa

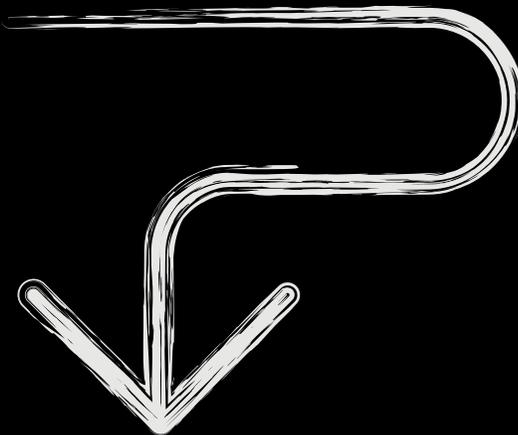
I am a fan of adjusting "official" titles to be most suitable to one's own persona (which is why I used the historical Venetian Courtesan Onesta title to suit my Honorable Lady title). During my own time period, the Republic of Venice was not ruled by a king, but by an elected "Doge", so a possible title for a Venetian Persona King and Queen in SCA could be Doge and Dogressa.



Faith, Nobility, & Hope



The Next issue of Penfeathers will be on the Knightly virtues of Faith, Nobility, & Hope. See below who we will be interviewing!



NEXT

INTERVIEW



SAVE

THE

DATE

IMPORTANT DATES

Interview Questions	Due by June 1st
Articles from the youth	June 1st
Art & Science pictures from the youth	June 1st

THLord Thorhall Wulfstanson

"Hi, I'm Thorhall Wulfstanson, and I'm a Owl, Bear, and Sable Sword member who likes to do things in a late 14th century persona. My sisters and I grew up around the SCA, since both of our parents were members well before we were born, so it's always been a part of my life. Which works out great, because I really enjoy things like fighting, dancing, and trying to make whatever cool looking medieval thing I happen to be fixated on. Mostly I'm known for making armor, but I drift off to other projects pretty regularly. I tend to be kinda quiet, but I'll be glad to answer any questions you have for me."

Story Time

With the Ministers of Children



Androcles and The Lion

An Aesop's Fable Retold By Lady Deedre Turner, KMOC

The earliest traces of Aesop, state he was born around 620 BCE in Thrace. Aesop was a slave in Samos. Later in his life he was freed. Many accounts describe how terrible he looked. He supposedly prayed to the Gods for help. They granted him the gift of the ability of great speech. This led him to know as a great storyteller and collector of great tales. Now he is known for his fables.

This is one such fable. I have as many others retold in my in my own way.

In ancient Greece there was a slave named Androcles. His master treated him very poorly. One day Androcles got in it in head to run away. He ran as fast and as far as he could, night was closing in around him. He thought that he would need a place to sleep, and he knew of a cave nearby. He went there to



A woodcut of Aesop surrounded by events from his life from La Vida del Yncuet con sus Fabulas historialdas Españ. 1489)

rest. As he approached the cave he heard a terrible noise, as he got closer it grew louder and louder. Androcles saw a giant lion it was rolling on the ground. Androcles was afraid. He wanted to flee, but he didn't. He watched the lion for a moment. He noticed he was in great pain. Androcles summoned all of his courage and went to help the mighty lion. Androcles began to pet him, talk to him, he soon found the source of the lions pain. A giant thorn was stuck in his big paw. It made his foot swell and bleed. Androcles removed it. He found herbs made medicine and after several day he healed the poor lion. The lion was so grateful he hunted food and brought it back to Androcles. This went on for days and their friendship grew.



Until one day fate would have it, hunters were looking for something to bring back to the King and they found the cave with Androcles and the lion. They caught them both. Androcles being a runaway slave would make a great meal for a hungry lion. So, the King thought it would make a great spectacle to see this lion tear poor Androcles apart. After three days with no food the lion was starving. Now King sat in his stadium where he drew a big crowd to see the lion eat Androcles. They put Androcles in the middle of the sand, they turned the great king of beasts out. He was hungry, his teeth and claws were out for all to see.

He charged, he leaped into the air, as he prepared to eat Androcles, he stopped. He recognized Androcles. he began to rub himself all over him, he butted his big furry head against his hands like a puppy or kitten. The King was so surprised by this he stopped the whole thing. He called Androcles over and asked him why the lion treated him that way. Androcles told him of how he treated the lion and how lion treated him. The King was so impressed he freed Androcles and returned the lion back to his cave never to be bothered by hunters again.



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An Aesop's Fable Retold By Lady Deedre Turner, KMOC



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The Big Bad Wolf: A Symbol of Mercy in Paintings.

By : Lady Dædræ Turnær, KMOC and Steward of the Painters Guild of Meridies

In the middle ages most were not able to read or write. Pictures and paintings had special meanings. Many paintings told stories and moral lessons. The use of color and animals could have symbolism. For instance, when you see the color purple it was for royalty, grays and browns could mean that the person was poor. Animals, such as a dove could mean peace or a snake slyness or trickery.

As strange as it might sound a wolf was considered a symbol of mercy. Mercy is the ability to have compassion or forgiveness.

The reason the wolf is a symbol of mercy is because of a story about St. Francis of Assisi.



Stefano di Giovanni di Consolo da Cortona (1392-1450) The Wolf of Gubbio

In Italy there was a small town called Gubbio where St. Francis was living at the time. A very large wolf just happened to be terrorizing the lands just outside its gate. The wolf ate the sheep, he ate the cattle and the pigs. His appetite was so vast he even started eating people! The people of Gubbio were at their wit's end. They had tried everything and now they had no other option but to go and try to kill the wolf. St. Francis heard of what they were planning on doing. Prayed to God, then he went to the townsfolk and told him his plan. He told them god would protect him and he would go and talk to the wolf directly. Naturally, the townspeople thought him mad. St. Francis walked out the gates and went to the wolf directly. He talked with the wolf he told him what bad things he had done. St. Francis told him, he was to be delivered to be strung up and hung in the tree like the villagers wanted. But he also told the wolf that he prayed to God and God told him to offer him mercy. He told him that he would have the townspeople spare his life and he would have them take care of him. They would feed him, and he would stop the killings. The wolf agreed. He followed St. Francis back to the town. The whole town was amazed to see the wolf. St. Francis told the town of what God told him about showing the wolf mercy. They quickly agreed. They kept the wolf fed and the wolf help keep the town safe. This is why in paintings the wolf is a symbol of mercy.

YOUTH COMBAT
ARTICLE ON THE

Chivalric Values of Mercy & Generosity

BY LADY MAIRGHREAD WILSON



Greetings from the Kingdom Youth Marshal! I would like to continue discussing the various chivalric values in the series. This month we will look at mercy and generosity. These two values go hand in hand in showing compassion. One shows compassion when punishment would be appropriate. The other shows compassion to those in need. In our previous article, we discussed how revenge is not justice. Mercy is akin to justice.

Mercy is exceedingly difficult for many because it is contrary to our nature. Our natural human instinct is to punish or hurt those who have wronged us. This can lead to a path of revenge. Mercy requires forgiveness. Oddly enough, revenge does not satisfy our thirst for vengeance and does not give us the satisfaction we hope for. Mercy, on the other hand, can bring peace to a troubled soul. To some degree, it gives the person receiving the mercy a clean slate to start again, and hopefully to make better choices going forward. It is usually best to give people the benefit of the doubt, because we do not always know what their personal circumstances are or their reasons for doing things. Showing compassion to those around us can also be shown through generosity.

Generosity can take many forms. Many people think generosity is measured in terms of money, because people often give money to those in need. However, sometimes generosity can also be sharing our resources or our precious time. Many years ago, I waited tables in a restaurant. I did not have a lot of money, and a local homeless shelter was in need. One of the things on their list was office supplies, and I had a surplus of ink pens. So, I filled up a small box and mailed it to them. They were pleasantly surprised, and incredibly grateful for my unusual gift. Youth do not usually have many resources or money to share, but you can always give of your time. Volunteer to help around the house or at an event, help a neighbor rake some leaves, or use your skills and natural talents to assist others whether that is music, artistry, technology, etc.

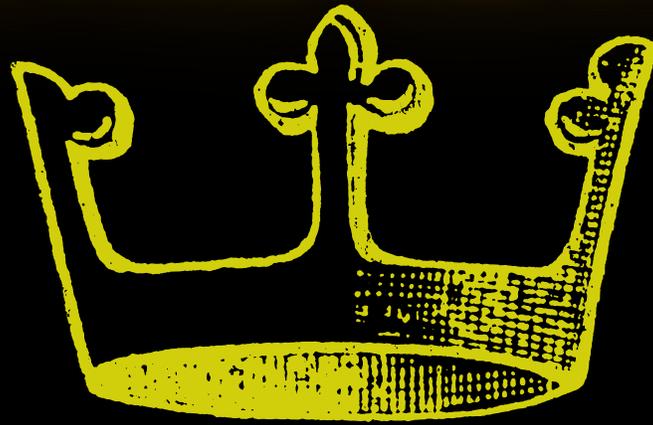
Continued on Next Page

Be compassionate and generous to those around you. A closed fist keeps your resources close at hand, but neither does it allow anything in. An open hand of generosity allows things to flow from you to others, but it also comes back to you tenfold. Showing mercy to others can have a snowball effect as well. If you are merciful in your actions, others will tend to show you mercy even when you may not deserve it. Go forth my youth warriors, armed with compassion for humankind, and "Be the change you want to see in the world."



*Photo Credit: Mistress Ellen
DeLacey*

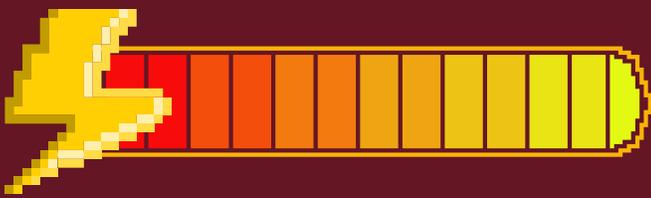
A ROYAL LESSON



IN PAIN

player **one**





KIDS

ONLY



Find The Modern Objects



12 items should not be in this famous painting by artist Pieter Bruegel Titled "The Fight Between Carnival and Lent" .

TACO, LOST CELL PHONE,
SELFIE STICK, BASKETBALL,
COOLER, CEILING FAN,
MICROPHONE, PHONE BOOTH,
TOURIST COUPLE, PARTY HAT,
TOY PLANE, MAILMAN,

LEVEL

UP

With the Gaming Guild of Meridies

BACKGAMMON

To Set Up-

Two sets of 15 pieces, different colors (black/white easiest to follow, written as B/W on set up). Checkers, buttons, stones, anything will work, as long as you can easily tell who's pieces are who's.

Two six-sided dice

One board, drawn as described below

How to Win-

Be the first to get all 15 of your pieces off the board

The Board-

The board has four sets of six spaces, set up in two rows of 12 with a dividing line in the middle, as such:



How to Play-

To determine who goes first, each player rolls a die. Highest number goes first. For any subsequent games, loser goes first.

To move your pieces, you roll both dice, and must, if able, move a piece in one of two ways. Example- a roll of 1 and 4 means that you can move one piece one space and another four spaces, or one piece five spaces. If a double is rolled, you may make four moves. Example- if you roll a pair of 3's, you may move up to four pieces three spaces each, or any combination of fewer pieces in an interval of 3. If you cannot make a legal move with the die rolled, you forfeit that die and must use the other one.

Your piece may land on one of three types of spaces- an empty one, one with your pieces already on it, or one with exactly one of your opponent's pieces on it (blot). If you land on a blot, it is captured and placed on the central dividing line (bar).

To get a piece off the bar, you must roll to place it in your starting area (in the above example, black would place in the bottom left, white in the bottom right).

You cannot move any other pieces until you have removed your pieces from the bar. You may only place a piece coming in from the bar on an empty space or a blot.

To remove your piece from the board, you must first have all of your pieces in the opponent's starting area. Once you have this, you move pieces as normal into the goal, starting with the highest number possible on your roll. Example- you have three pieces left on the board, set 1, 4, and 6 spaces away from the goal. You roll a 3 and 6. The 6 must be used to move your piece 6 spaces away into the goal, but you may choose to either score with the 1 or move three spaces closer from the 4.

Special Scoring

If you get all 15 of your pieces off before your opponent gets any of theirs, your win counts as double.

If you do the above AND have some of your opponent's pieces still on the bar, your win counts as triple.

Word Search

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

Philanthropy

Compassion

Generosity

Empathy

Largess

Clemency

Mercy

Charity

Grace

Bounty

YOUTHFUL EXPRESSION

17 AND UNDER

Art from the Not so Middle Aged

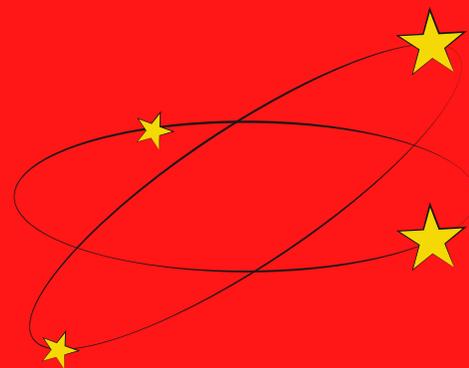
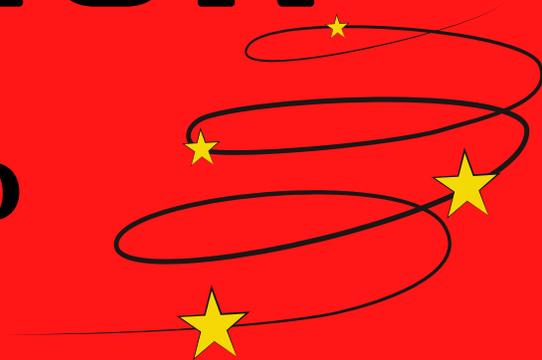
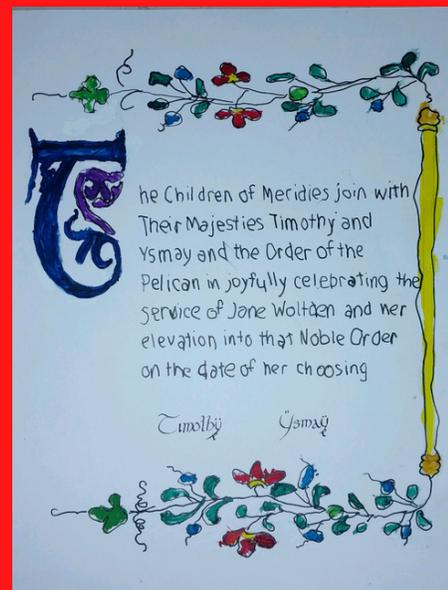
Author: Brandulfr Lodinsson

One part of the SCA that I like to be involved in is making Scrolls. My scrolls even get used by the Kingdom. I have even been selected to make scrolls for Writs, which are the announcements that someone is going to be a Peer.

When making a scroll I use Bristol paper to do my scrollwork. I like scrollwork because you get to draw cool pictures and you write it in fancy medieval writing. That writing is called calligraphy. Scribes are the ones who add calligraphy writing on scrollwork.

First I sketch out what I'm going to draw onto the Bristol paper. Then, I outline my drawing with a fine point black pen or you can use a small black marker. Then what I do is paint with watercolor paint. I used to use gouache paint, but I prefer watercolor. Then, for me, my mom helps me clean up any lines that I messed up. But it is ok to mess up sometimes because it's just a mistake, and mistakes happen. Then you need to sign your name on it so they know what artist to credit.

I can't wait until I get to do scrolls again!



BAM!

COMICS



Adventures in Society



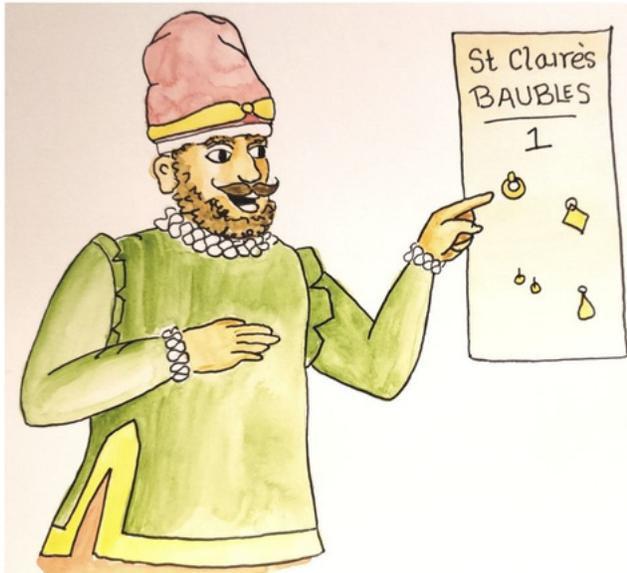
Adventures in Society - Generosity



Punny Pages



How much does it cost a pirate to get their ears pierced?



About a buccaneer!

The earliest pirates were the Sea Peoples. They lived in the Mediterranean during the late Bronze Age.

Humans have been wearing earrings forever! We don't know how much the earliest ones cost, though...

Quackers

QUACKERS

Generosity & Mercy

My mother says volunteering is a great way for me to show generosity, and it also helps me to make new friends.



My father says I can show generosity by making things for others to use and to enjoy



My uncle says I can show generosity by loaning my extra sword to a friend before I hit him with my own.



And mercy by bathing regularly.



One for the Leaving ~ Garraed Galbraith

Come gather round ye ladies, come listen to my song.
My story it's a simply tale, and it wont delay you long
On how to choose a Mistress, the true love of your life
If you list right well to the tale I tell it'll save you all some
strife!

Chorus

I'd always been a rover, could never settle down
I had a lass in every port, a girl in every town
but when they tried to claim me, I had to tell them no
for the Northern Sea would beckon me, and off to her I'd
go

Chorus

And then one day I saw her, that lass I'd call me own
although she loved another who beside her sat the
thrown
I entered in her service, she sent me far away
so now I roam the Northern Sea, and to ya all I'd say:

Chorus

So when you find your Lady, make sure her love is free
and pray she loves no other man, or soon ya all may see,
that love it can be fickle, just like the ocean green,
my tale is done, now I must run, to serve my Northern
Queen.

The Chorus

*And it's one for the
leaving.*

Two, I must go.

*Three for the wishing. Ah,
what for you'll never know
and at five o'clock we hit
the dock*

*we'll never more be seen
as we sail away by break
of day*

*to serve our Northern
Queen*

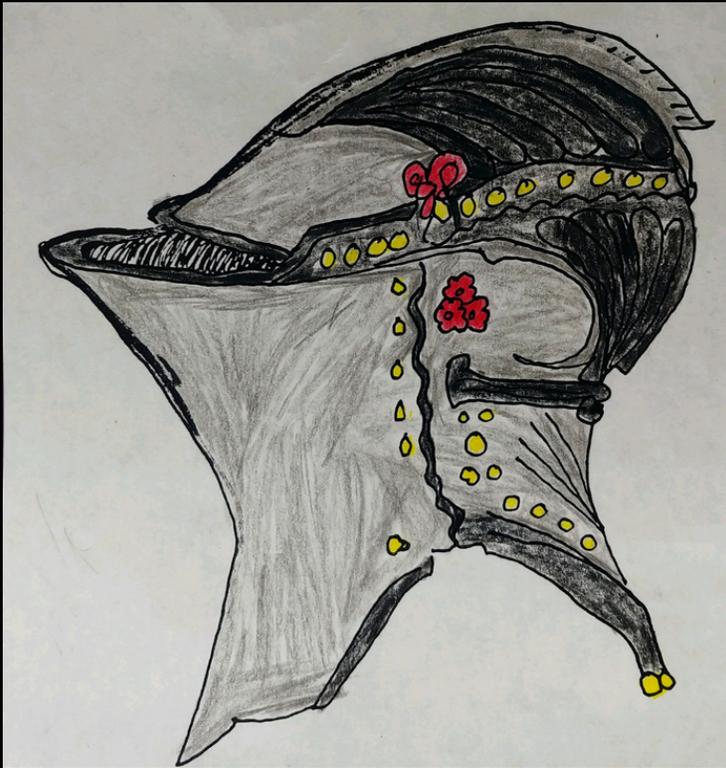
Arts & Science!

Let's work on those skills!

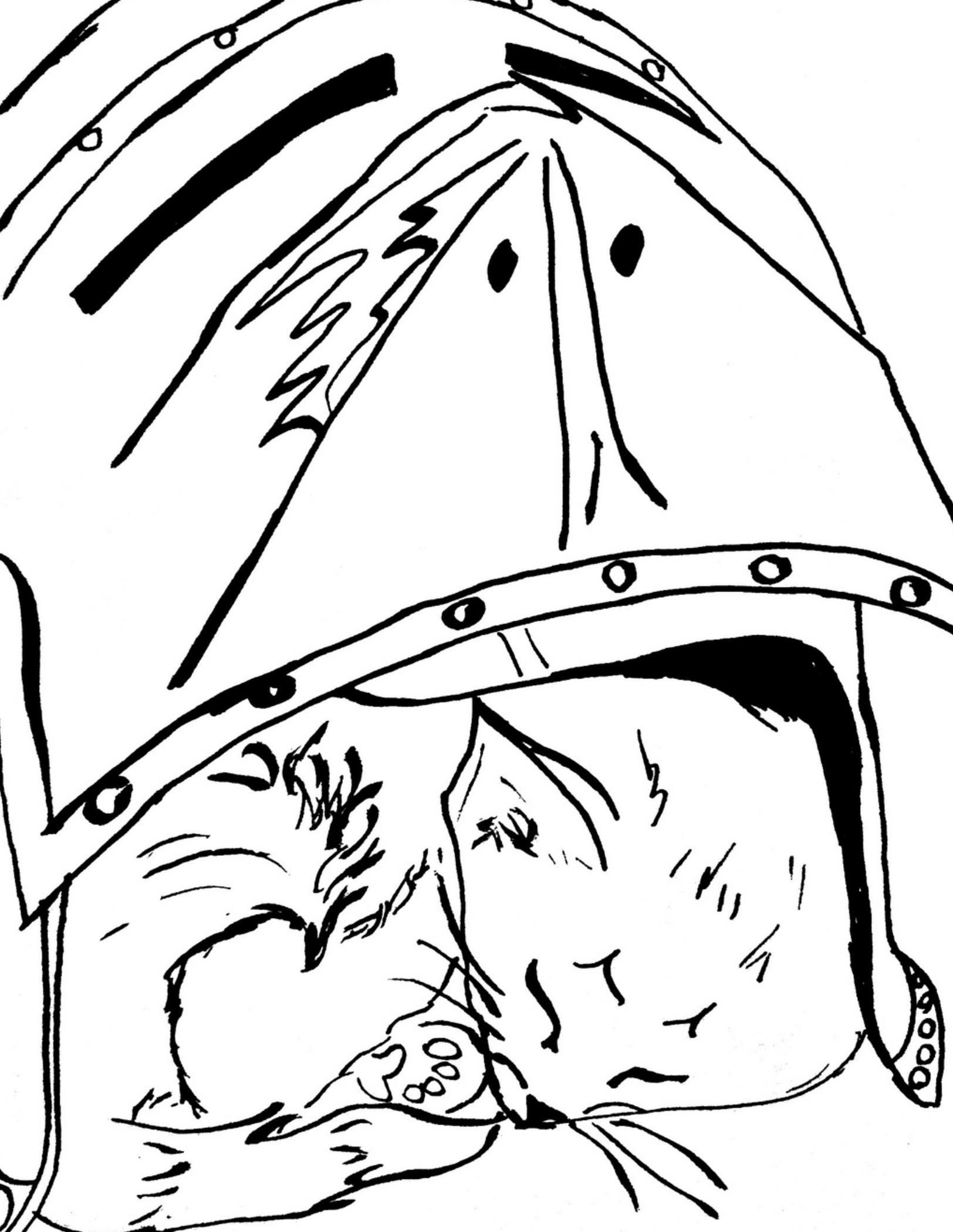
Starting on the next page, Penfeathers is providing you with coloring pages! Practice your scribal skills and send us a picture of the results. Your art will be posted in the next issue of Penfeathers! We are also providing the steps to a science project. Send photos of you working on it with your parents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

Send to penfeathers@meridies.org

A&S Spotlight



Send your art to Penfeathers@meridies.org





SCIENCE

HOW TO MAKE A COMPASS

You will need:

- Sewing Needle (use a larger sewing needle)
- Magnets (the stronger the better)
- Cork
- A medium to large-sized bowl
- Water
- Pliers

Part 1

1. **Magnetize the needle:** Hold the needle, and take your magnet, and run it down the length of your needle about 50 times. If you are using a weaker magnet you may need to do this more than 50 times.
2. **Magnetize the other end with the reverse:** Now, this next step is very important, REMEMBER which side of the magnet you were using. Flip the needle around so you are holding the other end, and flip over the magnet so you are using the other side of the magnet. Now repeat on the non-magnetized end of the needle.

Part 2

1. **Prepare the cork:** Cut a cork so it is about 1 to 2 cm thick.
2. **Insert the needle:** Carefully push the needle through the cork. Help from an adult with a pair of pliers is highly recommended. You want the cork to be centered on the needle.
3. **Fill a bowl with water:** Set out your bowl and fill it with a few inches of water.
4. **Test the compass:** Place your cork and needle in the water and see how it moves. It should align itself so it points North.



Contributions

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



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Edited by THLady Jane Wolfdon

Gracias