

# The Newcastle Courant

St. Matthew's Guild of Historical Actors

April 2001

Making History Fun Since 1565!

## OFFICERS

### **Directors:**

Dan Lewis 447-3423  
Nathan Schmidt 419-1395  
Rebecca Bocchicchio 624-7790

### **President:**

Liz Martin 419-1395

### **Vice-President:**

Mimi Walker 393-0804

### **Treasurer:**

Cathy Rowe (530) 432-7835

### **Secretary:**

Kathy Stefun 483-2642

## COMMITTEE HEADS

### **New Members:**

Rhonda Rumrey 447-3423

### **Education:**

Rhonda Rumrey 447-3423

### **Costume:**

Rebecca Bocchicchio 624-7790

### **Construction:**

Liz Martin 419-1395

### **Plague Rat Dancers:**

Lola Pudinski 836-0837

### **SITCOM:**

Peter Covington 689-6229

### **Scots:**

Lola Pudinski 836-0837

### **Newsletter:**

Nathan Schmidt / Liz Martin  
5160 Gorham Way  
Sacramento, CA 95835  
E-mail:  
nschmidt@sac.sticare.com  
elspeth@sac.sticare.com

### **WebMistress**

Lola Pudinski  
pandora@softcom.net

### **E-mail administrator:**

Nathan Schmidt  
admin@stmatthewsguild.org

## Thoughts From The President

Our beloved President spent the day working in our garden today. When I reminded her that she was supposed to write something for the newsletter, she told me to . . . Wait a minute, kids might read this. Suffice to say, there is no article from the President this month.



## Annual Corporate Meeting/Election

Journeymen, don't forget that this month's meeting, on Saturday, April 21, 2001, will be the Annual Corporate Meeting of St. Matthew's Guild. Included in this newsletter is a copy of the proposed budget for the 2001-2002 fiscal year which we will be discussing and voting on at the meeting. Also enclosed is the appropriate number of ballots for the Journeymen (Journeywomen? Journeyfolk?) in each household for the Directors election. If you will be not be at the meeting, please mark your ballot for up to two candidates, place it in a sealed envelope, sign your name across the flap of the envelope, to prevent tampering, and mail it to the Guild P.O. Box (see return address on this newsletter). If you'll be at the meeting, you can cast your ballot in person.



## Evening Activities At Tulare Faire

The following is from an email from the organizer of the Tulare Renn Faire:

"Due to popular demand, we will be holding the second annual Duke of Earl ball at about 8 PM on Saturday evening. We will also hold our second annual "Blazing Bloomers" contest and first annual "Sir Courtly Codpiece" contest as part of the ball. This is open to both women and men respectively. To those who saw the lighted Codpiece the Duke of Earl wore last year, you have a challenge to top that. Have fun and be creative if you choose to participate in this. We do encourage people to remember that there are children present when they design their Bloomers and Codpieces. We are also working to arrange some children's movies or activities for younger members. Please remind your people that they need to remember that there are children present and that a loose dress code is expected after hours at the Festival. Duck tape over a woman's nipples and saran wrap does not constitute decent apparel (yes we did have this at last year's festival and no it is not acceptable at this year's festival)."

## What You Missed At The March Guild Meeting

Minutes, You want "Minutes?" We had a meeting at Liz and Nathan's, we talked about a bunch of stuff and if you weren't there, you don't know what we talked about - but it was probably all about you. And Liz and Nathan fixed up this GREAT corned beef & cabbage dinner! There, aren't you sorry you missed the meeting? Oooh, you want real minutes from the real meeting? Well, okay.

St. Matthew's Guild Meeting  
Minutes  
February 17,2001

The meeting was called to order by the President, Ms. Martin, at 12:19 in the Martin/Schmidt kitchen. She wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. The agenda was accepted as presented.

The minutes of the previous meeting were presented by the Secretary, Ms. Stefun, and approved by the membership.

The Treasurer, Ms. Rowe, was out of town, so there was no treasurer's report.

A wonderful guest, Ms. Toni Hall, was introduced and welcomed warmly, especially since she had worked her fingers to the bone during the previous several hours building benches, etc.

The meeting was turned over to the noted Director, Ms. Bocchicchio, who requested nominations for two openings on St. Matt's Board of Directors. Ms. Walker nominated Dan Lewis, a current Director (he accepted) and Ms. Pudinski nominated Nathan Schmidt, also a current Director (he also accepted). Ms. Rumrey made a motion to close the nominations. They were closed.

Ballots will be mailed out; voting will be held at the next guild

meeting. That meeting will also be a business meeting where the next year's budget will be presented. A quorum will be required, so everyone is asked to attend if at all possible.

### Committee Reports -

Construction - Some awesome work was accomplished on the new benches. All should be completed by the first away faire. Other possible projects were discussed for future workdays

Costume - A trip to shop for fabric will be planned soon. Ms. Bocchicchio will post directions and exact time. She also asks that anyone who still has some fabric swatches to donate to her collection, to please bring them to her at the next meeting.

Faire Committee - Ms. Walker discussed wine sales and selections

Parish th' Thot - Ms. Walker has songs and tapes to exchange with anyone interested in singing.

Plague Rats - Ms. Pudinski (welcome back!) and other interested dancers will be starting practice again soon. A preferred meeting day was discussed.

Website - The website is up and running again - many thanks to Ms. Pudinski and Mr. Bill Watters!

### OLD BUSINESS

Calaveras Celtic Faire - when and where to meet was discussed

Scottish Games vs. Tulare, etc. Ms. Martin will disclose information on the Tulare faire as soon as she receives any.

CIRGA - Mr. Nunes has graciously agreed to be St. Matt's CIRGA

representative.

Wedding Gig - Ms. Rumrey reported that the marriage couple will be renting banners from us. Ms. Rumrey and Mr. Lewis have referred the wedding party to other "period" entertainers.

### NEW BUSINESS

New Journeyman members were announced: Ms. Margo Wilson, Ms. Yvonne Wilson, Mr. Charlie Cook and Ms. Sandy Cook. Welcome!

### EDUCATION / WORKSHOP

Spent time discussing the "Household" flow chart.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted by the secretary,  
Ms. Kathy Stefun



### Upcoming Events

**Apr 21** Annual Guild Business Meeting/Director Election

**Apr 28-29** Scottish Games

**Apr 28-29** Tulare Tudor Faire

**May 1** Masters Meeting

**May 19** Guild Meeting

# St. Matthew's Guild proposed budget 2000-2001

## INCOME:

Folsom Faire	\$15,000
Small gigs	\$ 500
Membership	\$ 750
Rentals	\$ 500
Wine Garden	<u>\$ 1,300</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>	\$18,050

## OUTFLOWS:

### **Committees:**

CIRGA	\$ 200
Costume	\$ 100
Clan MacAoidh	\$ 50
Education	\$ 200
New Members	\$ 100
Parish th'Thot	\$ 25
Plague Rats	\$ 75
Retreats	\$ 500
Safety & first aid	\$ 100
Sitcom	<u>\$ 100</u>
<b>Total Committees</b>	\$ 1,450
<b>Excluding</b>	
Construction	

### **Construction:**

General	\$ 400
General props	\$ 200
Cloth	\$ 500
<i>Maintenance</i>	
Stage	\$ 200
Tavern	\$ 200
Wine Garden	\$ 200
Towers	\$ 400
Faire Box	\$
Pavilion	\$ 200
Project #1 (stage tarp)	\$ 500
Project #2 (faire box)	\$ 5,000
Project #3 (benches)	<u>\$ 500</u>
<b>Total Construction</b>	\$ 8,300

### **Events:**

Folsom Faire	\$10,000
Take Down (Mon)	500
Other gigs	<u>\$ 150</u>
<b>Total Events</b>	\$10,650

### **Members:**

General	\$ 1,100
Meetings	\$ 100
Newsletter	\$ 600
Internet	<u>\$ 100</u>
<b>Total members</b>	\$ 1,900

### **Executives:**

President	\$ 200
Vice-President	\$ 100
Secretary	\$ 100
Treasurer	\$ 100
Board of Directors	\$ 400
Chairman of Board	<u>\$ 200</u>
<b>Total Executive</b>	\$ 1,100

### **TOTAL**

**OUTFLOW** \$23,400

### **Difference**

**\$-5,350**

This difference is planned to come out of the savings.

# Preview of Tulare/Visalia Fair

Tulare/Visalia fair has become one of the most successful independent fairs in California, from a performer's point of view. The fair organizers are members of a guild themselves and the site lends itself to a variety of interactive skits. The fair site is large enough to support multiple in-street performances as well as several stages while maintaining the village atmosphere. In past years, the fair organizers have been accommodating and reasonable in their dealings with the performers.

## Fair Information Provided by Ed Jost and Michael Butler

1. Year - 1537
2. Location – Holsteinshire
3. Theme – King Henry visits our local shire. Queen Jane is pregnant with the male heir that is so important to the continuation of the Tudor line and all England is rejoicing
4. Main characters and who is playing them:  
King Henry VIII-Michael Butler  
Queen Jane-Carrie Pereira  
Earl of Westmoreland-Scott McQuisten,  
Countess of Westmoreland-Linda Hammer-Brown  
Margaret Dowager Queen of Scots-Georgia McClellen  
Princess/Lady Mary-Brooke Aiello
5. Sub-Plots - What other storylines are going on? Are there any court intrigues which should be played up? Anybody banished from court or just returned? *The Westmorelands have once again spent their tax money that had been saved for repairing the road to London, so pothole jokes are back in vogue.*
6. Why are non-English people at your fair? Do you have a preferred explanation for all the Scots, Ottomans and Germans? *Holsteinshire is a trade center and it is only natural that many different groups would meet here.*

## Acting and Attitude Questions

7. What three things do you want to see from the performing guilds?

*Interaction with the public. So often guilds get caught up in their gigs, that they forget that part of why we are all here is to educate the public on the history we portray. The best way to do this is to interact with them.*

*Responsible behavior. As most know, we had our first drug related arrest last year. While drug use is a personal (al be it illegal) choice, please leave them at home for this weekend. If you are over 21 and choose to drink, do so responsibly. We are trying to keep the festival as a PG. rated faire. Be mindful of costume and behavior (even after hours).*

*Make an effort to keep the modern stuff (cell phones, pages, cigarettes) back stage. It is difficult to portray a convincing re-enactment of history with a cell phone on your period belt.*

8. What will make you wake up Monday morning and think that your fair was a complete success?

*If the reaction of people who come to the festival is one of awe and wonder at watching history come alive for them.*

*If people leave with a hunger for more information about the Renaissance and how it changed history.*

*If the actors and vendors who attend the festival leave with a re-kindling of the magic that is faire and are both tired and refreshed at the same time.*

9. How should the performers treat each other and the main characters? Who is popular and unpopular? What is the state of class relations? What is the state of international relations? Do you want animosity between the English and the Scots or are we all drinking partners? *There is some animosity between English and Scots but there is an effort to be civil as well.*

10. What liberties are you taking with history? We present an historical framework for our readers. To your knowledge, what deviation from history should we expect? This information will help all the performers to "be on the same page." *To the greatest extent possible, we are staying close to history. There are a few liberties (like a 3-ton fire-breathing dragon being on*

*site and people not running away in fear). We are trying to stick close to history as far as events and characters.*

11. What aspects of history would you like the performers to emphasize at your fair? *Queen Jane is pregnant with the male heir that is so important to the continuation of the Tudor line and all England is rejoicing*

## Individuality

12. What sets your fair apart from all the others on the Independent circuit? What is the characteristic that makes your fair unique? How can the performers further this individuality? *The Tulare County Renaissance Festival is a great family festival. Each year, we look for ways to add to the festival to keep it fresh and interesting. The location is wonderful and with any luck there will be some water in the creek this year (not too much though). We are looking forward to an outstanding festival again this year.*

## Events in History – 1537

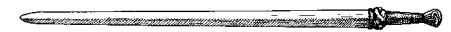
The Pilgrimage of Grace and similar risings are put down in England; Robert Aske is sentenced to death for treason and executed

Queen Jane Seymour dies after birth of Prince Edward (Note: this has not happened yet! The Queen is pregnant and we are happy. No one would dare say anything about her death for fear of spreading bad luck or being accused of practicing witchcraft)

First conservatories of music are founded; in Naples for boys, in Venice for girls

Niccolo Fontana, called "Tartaglia", initiates the science of ballistics (How projectiles fly. The beginning of the science of Artillery)

Paracelsus writes: "Grosse Astronomie," manual of astrology.



*Excerpted from the April 2001 issue of Improvisations.*



## **Tulare County Renaissance Festival Rules and Regulations**

1. Vendors and Guild Masters are responsible for everyone who is included on their gate list at all times. This means from the time the person checks in until the festival is over and they leave the site to go home. The first time that someone violates any of the rules or regulations as set forth herein, they will be returned to the person in charge of the booth or guild with a warning. Anyone who violates the rules repeatedly will be expelled from the festival site. Depending on the severity of the infraction, the entire booth or guild may be asked to leave the site.
2. There will be NO consumption of alcohol on the festival grounds during operating hours EXCEPT for alcoholic beverages purchased AND consumed inside the designated beer garden. Selling, offering or buying alcohol to/for minors is unlawful. ANY minor caught with alcohol will be returned to the person responsible for them, vendor or Guild Master. If the same minor is caught again, or there are a large number of incidents with minors from a particular booth or guild, the ENTIRE booth or guild will be expelled and permanently banished from the Tulare County Renaissance Festival. If the person(s) who provided the minor(s) with the alcohol are caught, they will be immediately removed from the site and will not be allowed to return. They may also face criminal prosecution. If a guild or booth is asked to leave, it will be effective immediately, whether it is during operating hours or after hours. Paid entertainers are expected to be ready, willing and able to perform at their scheduled times. Actors who can't perform due to inebriation will not be invited back.
3. Due to problems at last year's festival Visalia Police Department K-9 units will be on site. **The use or possession of controlled substances will not be tolerated.** Violators will be turned over to the proper authorities. Guild Masters/Mistresses or vendors will be dealt with accordingly. Vendors will not sell or display any type of drug paraphernalia, nor anything that might remotely be perceived as such. Should any vendor not comply they will be ordered to immediately leave the premises, possibly permanently.
4. Gate curfew: Individual check-in will be available from Noon until Midnight on Friday. Then will be available again 7:00-10:00 a.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Saturday. There will not be check-in available on Sunday. A PHOTO I.D. WILL BE REQUIRED. The drive-on gates will be shut and locked at midnight. Group/guild or vendor set-up will be allowed from Noon on Friday until 9:00 am on Saturday. The City of Visalia has said NO vehicles may be on site over night. Vehicles will be allowed on site 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Saturday night, and AFTER 6:00 P.M. on Sunday. COMPLAINTS REGARDING NOT BEING ALLOWED ON SITE PRIOR TO 6PM ON SUNDAY CAN BE REGISTERED WITH ED JOST, FAIR DIRECTOR. DO NOT HASSLE SECURITY WITH THIS ISSUE. SHOULD YOU DO SO, YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN. All vehicles will be off site no later that 9AM on Saturday and Sunday.
5. Participant parking will be in the southeast parking lot, right next to Actors' Camp. **There will be NO participant parking in the north parking lot.** This lot is reserved for handicap parking and event staff **ONLY**. There will be no blocking of fire lanes. Violators will be towed at their own expense.
6. Armbands will be issued to all participants as they sign in. This armband **MUST BE WORN ON YOUR PERSON**, preferably on your arm, but ankles are acceptable. **IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE** for your armband to be carried in a pouch, pocket, etc. (If you feel that wearing an armband is not period, just remember that neither are porta-potties). If you are asked to show your armband and you pull it out of a pouch, be prepared to be escorted to the security/check-in booth to match the armband in your possession to the one issued to you at check-in. Photo ID will be required at check-in. Anyone on site after hours who does not have an armband will be expelled from the festival grounds. Carry photo ID with you at all times, as you may be "carded".
7. A fire extinguisher is mandatory for each and every encampment and booth. Security will be by each encampment starting at 8AM Saturday to check. The Fire Marshall will be there at 9AM. Have them out and ready to show. The city of Visalia requires proof of liability insurance from all vendors and paid entertainment.
8. It is strongly suggested you have a well-stocked first-aid kit: antiseptic, Band-Aids, aspirin, etc. **DRINK PLENTY OF WATER!**
9. Each Guild Master and/or Vendor is responsible to see that each member of their group has read and understands these rules and regulations. A copy will be posted at check-in.
10. Each Guild and Vendor must have a representative at Notes both Saturday and Sunday. Notes will start at 9:00 a.m. at the Main Stage and should conclude by 9:30.

Don't Miss the Next Guild Meeting/Work Day  
at Liz & Nathan's  
on Saturday, April 21, 2001!  
Bench Making begins at 9:00 or so.  
Guild/Corporate Meeting featuring Director  
Election and Budget Discussion at Noon.

**St. Matthew's Guild  
of Historical Actors**  
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**TIME SENSITIVE - ELECTION MATERIAL**